"Navigator"

HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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Remembering the fallen

A visitor to the Pacific Aviation Museum observes military boots displayed in memory of fallen service members during the 5th Annual Biggest Little Airshow on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Daniel Barker

University of Hawaii Warriors honor those lost on USS Arizona

MC2 Tiarra Fulgham

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Detachment Hawaii

The University of Hawaii Warrior football team took some time out from their practice sessions at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to honor those who were lost on the USS Arizona in the attack of Dec. 7, 1941.

The Warriors took a break from training camp and participated in a private boat tour Aug. 15 around Pearl Harbor and Ford Island, then visited the USS Arizona Memorial. Many of the players are from the continental United States, and many had never visited the Arizona Memorial.

"I'm sure everybody's lives have been touched by what went on 1941," said head coach Norm Chow. "I grew up here, my father always told me the story of an uncle that I didn't know that was lost in a war here, so it's just the significance I think is overwhelming. I'm glad our guys had a chance to experience that," said Chow.

During their visit to various historical sites in and around Pearl Harbor, the players learned not only the importance of Pearl Harbor but also the history behind the events that took place on Dec. 7, 1941 and the numbers of lives lost.

"It's just been very humbling. What a tremendous experience it is for these young people and makes you realize there's a lot more to life than the game of football," Chow said.

The team's first game is Sept. 1 at University of Southern California. They have a special Military Appreciation Night scheduled for Nov. 24 at Aloha Stadium.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

UH Warriors visit the USS Arizona Memorial

Military children 'get ready' at Operation 'Hele On'

Story and photos by MC3 Sean Furey

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West Det. Hawaii

Children of active duty and retired service members participated in the 9th annual Operation "Hele On" held Aug. 17 at Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The mission of Operation "Hele On," which translates from Hawaiian to "ready go," is to acclimate military youth to some of the day-to-day activities their parents go through while on deployment in hopes of helping them better cope with the separation from their parents.

Senior Master Sgt. Darius Drummond teaches military maneuvers to children of active duty and retired service members during the 9th annual Operation "Hele On."

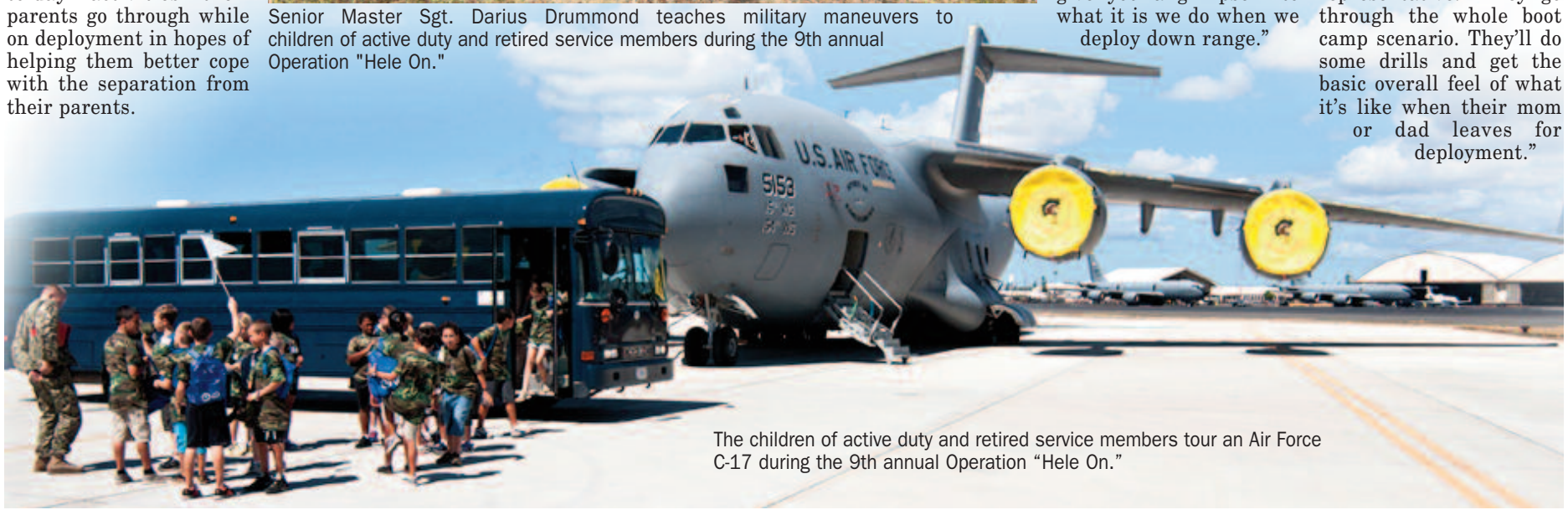
Since 2004, Operation "Hele On" has given children of service members a chance to experience mock deployments.

"That's the whole idea to this event. It gives you an opportunity to kind of see what it is your parents go through on a daily basis, what they went through a little bit in training," said Col. Dann Carlson, deputy commander at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"What a great opportunity for us to be able to share that with you, to give you a glimpse into what it is we do when we deploy down range."

The children were split into nine groups and led through various exercises such as an intelligence brief, a visit to an Air Force C-17, an obstacle course and a drill competition among others.

"Operation 'Hele On' is basically preparing kids for deployments. Like what our spouses do when they leave, it kind of gives them a scenario of what they do on the other side instead of what we do at home," said Cori Sheilds, a military spouse and Fleet and Family Services representative. "They go through the whole boot camp scenario. They'll do some drills and get the basic overall feel of what it's like when their mom or dad leaves for deployment."



The children of active duty and retired service members tour an Air Force C-17 during the 9th annual Operation "Hele On."

Community meetings scheduled Sept. 6 and 13

Military housing residents can meet with Navy leadership and Forest City representatives at upcoming community meetings scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Sept. 6 and Sept. 13, both at Moanalua Community Center. Residents will have an opportunity to ask questions and address concerns. Information will also be provided on the Resident Energy Conservation Program which will implement a 10 percent buffer beginning Oct. 1.

USS Crommelin Sailors build homes on Kauai
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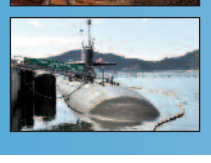

Olympia visits Yokosuka during western Pacific deployment
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Hawaii Warriors get the ball rolling at JBPHH
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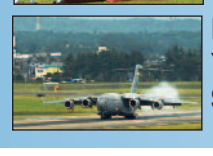

PACAF demo team participates at Yokota Friendship Festival, Japan
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Warriors football touches down at Earhart Field
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Pacific Aviation Museum hosts 'Biggest Little Airshow'
See page B-2

USS O'Kane Sailors offer assistance to Porter

MC2 Alex R. Forster

Enterprise Carrier Strike Group Public Affairs

USS O'KANE, At Sea (NNS) – Sailors from guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77), homeported at Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, are assisting the crew of guided-missile destroyer USS Porter (DDG 78) to recover from damage sustained in a collision Aug. 12 with a large Japanese-owned merchant vessel near the Strait of Hormuz.

Porter transited under its own power to Jebel Ali, United Arab Emirates, and is now pierside for assessment and repair. O'Kane, moored nearby, is offering meals, showers and temporary berthing to Porter Sailors while they conduct repairs.

U.S. Navy photo by courtesy of USS O'Kane

One of the many deck landing qualifications conducted on board the USS O'Kane in the Arabian Gulf.

"When we were escorted into port and moored, some of my first questions had to do with where we [the crew] were going to sleep and eat," said Fire Controlman 2nd Class Nick Anderson, a tomahawk missile technician aboard Porter. "Within hours of being pierside, O'Kane opened her doors to us for assistance. I think all of us here were visibly relieved."

O'Kane Sailors have also volunteered their time and assistance to Porter, whether it be taking ammunition magazine temperatures, or simply lending a hand to help bring ship systems back online.

"When we hear of others in need, I think we feel a natural human desire to assist," said Cmdr. Michael Ray, O'Kane's commanding officer. "The opportunity to lend a hand to fellow Sailors has given my crew a chance to proudly help their shipmates."

For the duration of their stay pierside, O'Kane and its Sailors will be ready to help, Ray said.

"Porter's crew has shown remarkable resilience and commitment—to their ship and each other. O'Kane will gladly assist in any way we can until we are no longer needed," said Ray.

Porter and O'Kane are on scheduled deployments to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts.

JBPHH celebrates Women's Equality Day, seminar planned Aug. 28

1st Lt. Kathleen Eisenbrey

15th Medical Group

The Federal Women's Program (FWP) at Pearl Harbor-Hickam celebrated Women's Equality Day on Aug. 14 with a brown bag luncheon highlighting the history of voting rights and the voter registration process.

Col. Eva Jenkins, commander of the 692d Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Group, was the keynote speaker for the event. Capt. Eric Ziessler of the 735th Airlift Squadron, the installation assistant voting action officer at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, provided integral advice related to voting at the upcoming national elections.

"We are fortunate to live in the greatest nation in the world," Jenkins said. "It is our responsibility as daughters, mothers, sisters, mentors and leaders to ensure that the United States of America remains strong, democratic and free ... and that it upholds the ideals of equality for all. Exercising our right to vote is one way in which we can make our voices heard."

Women's Equality Day was established to commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which granted women the right to vote in 1920. It is federally celebrated on Aug. 26.

According to Jenny Crippen, the special events coordinator for FWP, "Every president has published a proclamation for Women's Equality Day ... since legislation was first introduced in Congress by Bella Abzug [in 1971]."

In an effort to honor and embrace women's equality as it relates to the federal workplace, Jenkins will sponsor a Professional Development Seminar for women titled "How to Reach Your Highest Potential ... and Help Others Reach Theirs."

Photo courtesy of Col. Eva Jenkins

Col. Eva Jenkins, commander of the 692d Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Group at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

The seminar will focus on topics to promote empowerment in the workplace, including 10 activities to maximize one's potential for success, synergistic success effects employed by successful leaders, tips for implementing a goal setting action plan, and exploring the female factor with questions such as, "do women lead differently?"

The Professional Development Seminar for Women will be held from 8 to 11 a.m. Aug. 28 in the Aloha Conference Center on Hickam. The seminar is open to all people, regardless of gender, rank or military/civilian status. Seating is limited to 86 persons.

To register for the seminar, call (808) 448-1400 or email eva.jenkins@us.af.mil.

"We have a responsibility to mentor and inspire each other to achieve more than we had ever imagined," Jenkins said.

USS Crommelin Sailors build homes on Kauai

Story and photos by MC2 (NAO/AW) Mathew J. Diendorf

Pacific Missile Range Facility Public Affairs

PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE FACILITY – USS Crommelin (FFG 37) Sailors partnered Aug. 19 with Kauai Habitat for Humanity in building houses on Hawaiian Homelands in Anahola, Kauai, Hawaii.

Throughout the day-long event, 12 Sailors assisted the Habitat for Humanity team by preparing a carport to be poured with concrete and raising wood framed walls into place.

"This is what I love doing. Giving back to the community is one of the things I really enjoy," said Operations Specialist Seaman T.J. Purcell from Chicago, Ill. "I was a carpenter by trade before I joined the Navy, so I try to take advantage of any opportunity I have to get back to it."

Kauai Habitat for Humanity is a local affiliate of the non-profit Habitat for Humanity International. Kauai Habitat seeks to alleviate poverty and homelessness around the world, starting here on Kauai, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.

"Our mission is to provide safe and affordable housing and the opportunity for home ownership," said Jessica Clabo, Kauai Habitat for Humanity volunteer program coordinator. "All of the homes are built by volunteers except for where we need a contractor by law, such as plumbing and electrical work."

(Top left) Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Joey Mangahis from Harmon, Guam, assigned to the guided missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37), hammers a board into place during a volunteer project Aug. 19 with Kauai Habitat for Humanity. (Top right) Logistics Specialist 1st Class Keshawn Spence (left) from Berlin, Md., assigned to the guided missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37), moves gravel during a volunteer project with Kauai Habitat for Humanity. Twelve Sailors from Crommelin assisted the Kauai Habitat team in constructing one of five homes built in cooperation with the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. (Bottom) The guided missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) pulls into Nawiliwili port in Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii on Aug. 18.

Kauai Habitat is currently building homes on various sites throughout the island. The site the Sailors assisted with is part of a build with the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. A total of five homes are being built in Anahola.

"It's always good to get off the ship and come out to help and give back to the community," said Logistics Specialist 1st Class Keshawn Spence from Berlin, Md. "We try to stay involved and do our part in our off-time to help the community."

Kauai Habitat was founded in 1993, a year after Hurricane Iniki devastated much of the island. Since then it has built 106 houses, providing 550 people with safe, decent, affordable homes.

Kauai is the last port of call for Crommelin. The ship is scheduled to be decommissioned Oct. 31.

Olympia visits Yokosuka during western Pacific deployment

Lt. Lara Bollinger

Submarine Group 7 Public Affairs

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 David Mercil

The Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Olympia (SSN 717) is moored at Fleet Activities Yokosuka as part of its deployment to the western Pacific region.

YOKOSUKA, Japan (NNS) – The Los Angeles class fast attack submarine USS Olympia (SSN 717), homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, arrived Aug. 20 at Fleet Activities Yokosuka for a visit as part of its deployment to the western Pacific.

With a crew of approximately 140 Sailors, Olympia will conduct a multitude of missions and showcase the latest capabilities of the U.S. submarine force.

"Olympia's crew is enthusiastic and ready to conduct deployed operations," said Cmdr. Michael Boone, Olympia's commanding officer. "Our Sailors are excited to enjoy the unique culture and hospitality of the Japanese people and are especially pleased to have an opportunity to climb to the summit of Mt. Fuji, an experience I was able to enjoy more than 17 years ago on my first visit to Japan."

Measuring more than 370 feet long and weighing more than 9,600 tons when submerged, Olympia is one of the stealthiest submarines in the world. The submarine is capable of supporting a multitude of missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike, naval special warfare involving special operations forces, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, irregular warfare and mine warfare.

"The Sailors aboard this fine submarine have worked hard to take on the task of embarking on this six-month deployment," said Master Chief Machinist's Mate Richard J. Salisbury, chief of the boat.

"Japan is a magnificent country to visit, full of unique traditions and so much history. The crew is excited and eager to visit all the local popular cultural sites. We are so grateful for this opportunity to explore Japan and strengthen the military ties between our countries," Salisbury said.

For many of the crew members, this is their first time visiting Japan.

"One of the reasons I love the Navy so much is because they give you a chance to see the world," said Yeoman 2nd Class Victor Diaz-Incle. "I've been places many people would only dream of going, and now I get to add Japan to my list of experiences."

The submarine is named for the city of Olympia, Wash..

PMRF assists with Kokee wildfire

Pacific Missile Range Facility Public Affairs

PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE FACILITY, Kauai – The Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) at Barking Sands, Kauai assisted the County of Kauai's fire department and the Department of Land and Natural Resources with efforts to extinguish a wildfire that endangered the area above the town of Kekaha.

At approximately 6:54 a.m. Aug. 18, PMRF received a request from the County of Kauai emergency services to help combat a wildfire that originated in Kokee. PMRF immediately dispatched a fire truck, a fire command unit and four civilian firefighters from Manu Kai, PMRF's contract fire department, to assist with the blaze.

The trucks and crew were used for boundary firefighting and the direct defense of the residents and property in the town of Kekaha. According to Sarah Blane, the County of Kauai's public information assistant, there was no immediate threat to the people and the homes of Kekaha.

PMRF's airfield was also opened for the refueling support for the county's firefighting helicopters. PMRF's contract helicopter company, Croman Corp., has two helicopters with firefighting capabilities and was standing by to provide assistance if requested.

PMRF maintains a Memorandum of Understanding with the county to render emergency assistance when called upon.

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Diverse Views

"Why is it important to vote?"

Airman 1st Class Christopher Austin
8th Intelligence Squadron

"As members of this great democratic society, it is our right and privilege to choose our representatives in government. Voting is the power of uniting as one and voicing our opinion on how we want our nation to move forward. To not vote is to surrender this gift and subsequently leave our fate in the hands of the inept."

Maureen Angelico
Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange Mall

"Every vote counts. You have to vote to have a say or make changes. It's like the bumper sticker on my car: No Vote, No Grumble."

Lt. Col. John Waite
13th Air Force

"The country was founded on the theory that it would be governed by the people. As a representative democracy, voting is the opportunity for the people to choose the government that speaks for them."

Batswain's Mate 1st Class Andrea Guerra
U.S. Pacific Fleet

"It's especially important for those in the military to vote since politicians make decisions about us. You can't complain if you don't take an active part."

Master Sgt. Terry Miller
647th Security Forces Squadron

"To do your part in order to make a difference. If you want to complain in your daily life, you should take the opportunity to voice your choices and opinions and take advantage of something so many others are not allowed to."

Electrician's Mate 1st Class Matthew Lyons
Pearl Harbor Navy Shipyard

"It is important to vote because voting allows the democratic process to function as intended."

(Provided by Brandon Bosworth and David Underwood Jr.)

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views? Got opinions to share?

Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

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Contact the Ho'okele editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements
Phone: (808) 473-2888
Email: editor@hookelenews.com
HO'OKELE Pearl Harbor · Hickam News

Ground personnel work on 'Key to the Pacific'

Photo courtesy of T. Merrill

This 1948 photo shows ground personnel at the former Hickam Air Force Base working on a 199th Fighter Squadron F-47N "Thunderbolt" fighter assigned to the Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG). The photo shows the distinctive "Key to the Pacific" logo that was used on 199th FS aircraft for a brief period after the inception of the HIANG, until the familiar "star and bars" emblem became standard on all ANG aircraft in the late 1940s.

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Hawaii Warriors get the ball rolling at JBPHH

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

(Above) University of Hawaii football players run drills during the Warriors' practice Aug. 13 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (Right) University of Hawaii head football coach Norm Chow directs the Warriors' practice.

Loud music boomed across the practice field. High-pitched whistles blasted. The distinctive smack of helmet-on-helmet collisions popped between the whistle blasts, which were followed by shouts of frustration or maybe elation. The sound of jet engines momentarily drowned all of it out.

While the University of Hawaii dormitories were being cleaned and prepared for the start of the fall season, the Warriors had to seek accommodations elsewhere to continue their training camp Aug. 13-17. They found a new home for a week at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"This is a humbling experience," said Mike Edwards, junior defensive back. "We are very lucky and very blessed to be here around this live base and be around guys (who live) this life."

Earhart Field, the same piece of grass the NFL's Pro Bowl practiced on in January, overlooks the Hickam flight line where active military jets and commercial aircraft are constantly on the move.

Edwards said he couldn't stop looking back at the military aircraft sitting only a few yards away from the practice field. He believes there are a lot of correlations between football life and military life, just different playing fields.

"We do have a lot of similarities," Edwards said. "We take our hats off to you guys. This is y'alls life and y'all lay it down for us. Though there are some similarities, we're just playing football and having fun. The discipline, leadership and integrity is all the same."

Coaches pointed out the military dormitories during the end-of-practice huddle, explaining that Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines all over the country live in buildings similar to the ones next to the field. They leave their friends and families behind to go to war, serving their country.

"It's humbling, to say the least," said Sean Schroeder, junior starting quarterback. "We have so much respect for all of our armed forces, here and across the world. You guys allow us to have fun out here and play this great game."

The team's players are from as far as Florida and Australia, a mixed company similar to that of the military way of life. The coach's goal was to bring them together as a team.

"(The joint base) is treating us so well. I wanted a tough Spartan-like camp, but this is like the Ritz-Carlton," joked Norm Chow, Warriors' head coach. "We want to come together as a team. We are a diverse group. We've had a couple of exercises to help bond as a football team, and we are going continue to do that as we go along."

The UH football team is scheduled to be on the road for their opener Sept. 1 in Los Angeles against the University of Southern California Trojans.

Warriors get 'boot camp' wake-up call

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

Senior Master Guillory, 56th Air and Space Communications Squadron and former military training instructor, motivates Tony Grimes, University of Hawaii junior defensive back, during the physical training session after their 5 a.m. basic training style wake-up call Aug. 14, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. *(See additional photos on page A-5.)*

The quiet Hawaii morning was interrupted by the sound of shouting and the constant boom of someone banging on doors for a very surprised group of Warriors.

Former Air Force and Navy basic military training instructors gave a very special wake-up call to the University of Hawaii football team shortly after 5 a.m. Aug. 14 during day two of the team's stay at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"I was just lying in bed, and I heard pounding and thought it was a joke," said senior defensive end Paipai Falemalu. "Then I heard all the people yelling and I thought, 'This is gonna be fun.'"

In a scene that made the members of the football team feel like they joined the military versus a football team, most of the players didn't know which voice to listen to as shouting men in uniforms ran up and down the halls waking up the players.

"Get up, get up, get up and get outside this room and stand against this wall," repeatedly yelled Master Sgt. John Mascolo, 647th Security Forces Squadron. "Do you not understand my instructions? Huh! Do you not understand 'get up against this wall?'"

Players sprang from beds and tried to get their bearings, stumbling bleary-eyed into the lit hallway. Most players emerged with no socks, no shoes or no shirts, which gave the military training instructors more reason to spit fire.

"We got them up this morning military style, basic training style, got 'em up and got 'em motivated, got 'em fired up and ready to start a brand new season," Mascolo said. "We wanted them to start off right and give 'em a little taste of the military. They've never seen anything like this."

The Warriors were rallied outside the dormitory in a pair of lines facing each other. The military training instructors walked up and down the lines taking inventory of the team's workout uniforms, stopping and confronting players who were still without socks or shoes. Several were sent back to their rooms. The rest of the team performed pushups while waiting for those who lagged behind.

"I ran outside (my door) and saw all the guys in uniform and the guys with those hats on yelling at us," said Kamalani Alo, junior linebacker. "They told me, 'Go back in, get a shirt and put on shoes.' It was a big surprise. I felt like it was something on TV. I didn't really think that was what the military is all about, but I guess it's true."

With many voices yelling at once, the confusion continued for the players. But this is nothing new to the military members who were present as they have lived it on a daily basis for as many as eight straight weeks.

"This wake-up call is just a couple-hour taste of what service members actually go through during basic military training," said Senior Master Sgt. Theodore Guillory, 56th Air and Space Communications Squadron. "Day-in and day-out, most are pushed to the limit to get them ready to serve their country."

The former military training instructor explained that, similar to zero-week at the beginning of basic training, the team starts out as a bunch of individuals with very little team spirit. But as time marches on, the individuals become a team.

"They need that discipline and teamwork to come together, just like it is in basic training," Mascolo said. "We start building upon that in the beginning. It's the same thing with a football team. They don't have that teamwork to begin with. We're trying to get that teamwork together to get 'em all fired up and motivated and ready for the season, just like we prepare our (Air Force) trainees to go to tech school and then go on and fight the war."

It was obvious the players didn't like being yelled at, especially before the sun woke up this side of the world.

"I'm not going to say it was fun, but it was different," Falemalu said. "It was a lot of hard work and took a little getting used to, but at the end it was good."

But the Warriors fell in line and after a few minutes understood what was going on. They were marched, to a marching cadence, across the street to a field where they were put to the test physically for an hour.

"I think it's going to make us work as a unit," Falemalu said. "When we first got started, they were yelling at us because we weren't doing anything in sync. I think it's only going to make us better. We're going to be one team and work to a common goal."

The coaches stood in the background, watching the reaction and evaluating the attitudes and commitment of the players.

"We understand the discipline that's necessary, just as our military does," said Warrior head coach Norm Chow. "We understand the teamwork. We understand all those characteristics that go along with being successful."

It was working to obtain team unity that caused the coaches to originally come up with the idea of involving Airmen and Sailors in the physical training session.

"I have a hard time containing myself. What a great idea we had," Chow said. "It's a real honor. Hopefully these young men will appreciate the lessons they are learning here."

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Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

(Left) Sean Schroeder, University of Hawaii junior quarterback, signs an autograph for John, 7, son of Staff Sgt. Tommy Hazlewood, after a Warriors practice Aug. 16 at Earhart Field, Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

(Below) University of Hawaii Warriors football team performs a *haka* for the Air Force and Navy members who gave them a early morning basic training style wake-up call Aug. 14 at Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

Former military training instructors Master Sgt. Gregory Wasson (left), Senior Master Sgt. Theodore Guillory and Master Sgt. John Mascolo (right) motivate a University of Hawaii football player during the physical training session after their 5 a.m. basic training style wake-up call.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

(Right) Japanese guests wait to board a C-17 Globemaster III static display at Yokota Air Base, Japan, during the Japanese-American Friendship Festival, held Aug. 18-19.

U.S. Air Force photo by Sr. Airman Lauren Main

(Below) The children of active duty and retired service members try on military gear during the 9th annual Operation "Hele On."

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Sean Furey

(Right) The children of active duty and retired service members get a hands-on look at military life during the 9th annual Operation "Hele On." The mission of Operation "Hele On," which means "ready go" in Hawaiian, is to acclimate military youth to some of the day-to-day activities their parents go through while on deployment to help them better cope with the separation from their parents.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Sean Furey

PACAF demo team participates at Yokota Friendship Festival, Japan

Story and photos by Sr Airman Lauren Main

15th Wing Public Affairs

The Pacific Air Forces C-17 demonstration team touches down at Yokota Air Base, Japan, after performing a practice-run of the aerial demonstration Aug. 18-19 in preparation for the Japanese-American Friendship Festival at Yokota Air Base, Japan. (Inset) Capt. Chris Ross and Capt. Adrian Martin, Pacific Air Forces C-17 Demonstration Team pilots, fly over Tokyo, Japan following the Japanese-American Friendship Festival at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan – Crowds of Japanese citizens and aviation enthusiasts flooded the flightline of Yokota Air Base, Japan to partake in the annual Japanese-American Friendship Festival from Aug. 18 to 19.

More than 200,000 people enjoyed the festival held at the Yokota Air Base flightline.

Thousands of people passed through the static display of the C-17 Globemaster III Pacific Air Forces demonstration aircraft, based at the 535th Airlift Squadron (AS) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

An elite selection of pilots and loadmasters from the 535th AS were selected to demonstrate the capabilities of the 15th Wing's primary aircraft as the only C-17 demonstration team in the Pacific Air Forces.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the team was unable to perform the aerial demonstration which was initially planned. However, that gave people more time to view the aircraft and appreciate firsthand its size and power as well as the Airmen who support it.

"I had a lot of people ask about Operation Tomodachi," said Capt. Brian Carran, C-17 pilot and demonstration team lead. "They wanted to know if I flew during Operation Tomodachi, which I did, and they were very grateful. I must have taken hundreds of photos with people."

All of the pilots and crew members were eagerly welcomed by the Japanese public, who were both hospitable and curious.

"I got a lot of questions about the capabilities of the aircraft," said Capt. Brandon Dewey, C-17 pilot and demonstration team videographer. "They asked about the squadron motto, 'Go for Broke,' and about our airdrop capabilities. I even had one guy who wanted to take a picture with me while shaking my hand as a sign of friendship."

Despite the pressure from the large crowds, the team maintained their cool in the 95-degree weather and ensured that the people were able to experience the C-17 Globemaster III as much as possible.

"Even though we didn't get to fly, I think overall the experience was very positive," said Dewey.

Pacific Partnership arrives in Guam, headed for Hawaii

MC3 Clay M. Whaley

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Michael Feddersen

Photo by Kristopher Radder

(Top left) World Vets volunteer Helle Hydeskov inspects a local Cambodian boyâs dog at a veterinary civic action project (VETCAP) Aug. 9 (Top right) HOPE Worldwide volunteer Dr. Cornelia Haner (left) and Capt. William Brunner (right) perform surgery together as an informational exchange aboard the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) during Pacific Partnership 2012. (Below) The Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) sits off the coast of Sihanoukville following the ship's arrival to commence its two-week humanitarian civic assistance mission.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Stephen Votaw

GUAM (NNS) – Pacific Partnership 2012 (PP12), embarked aboard Military Sealift Command's hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), arrived in Apra Harbor on Aug. 20 as it nears the completion of its nearly five-month deployment on the largest annual humanitarian civic assistance (HCA) mission in the Asia Pacific.

The ship is scheduled to spend four days in Guam, then head to Hawaii before it reaches its homeport of San Diego in mid-September.

While in Guam, the Mercy will detach personnel and unload equipment that played a critical role in providing medical, dental, engineering and veterinary services to the four host nations of Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia during PP12.

As a former resident of Guam, Capt. Timothy Hinman, the commanding officer of the hospital or medical treatment facility aboard Mercy, said he enjoyed seeing the reunions that took place on the pier with family members, but will also miss the camaraderie of the many medical staff taking flights back home.

"This mission has accomplished a lot in a short amount of time. We built up some very strong bonds with each other and our counterparts in the host nations and with our foreign military and NGO partners," said Hinman. "Everyone welcoming home their service member or loved one from Pacific Partnership 2012 can be tremendously proud of what they achieved during this mission."

At the invitation of the host nations, PP12 brought the expertise of U.S. service members and personnel from 13 partner nation militaries and 23 non-governmental organizations (NGO) to treat and evaluate more than 49,000 people.

Numerous academic and professional subject matter expert exchanges took place this year from surgeries, to veterinary care, to culinary and cultural learning. Additionally, 887 surgeries were performed on board Mercy or ashore in host nation hospitals, approximately 7,000 animals were treated, 13 buildings were built or refurbished and 104 community service projects were completed, including donations of 244 pallets of supplies requested by the host nations.

Capt. Jim Morgan PP12 mission commander, said during the closing ceremony in Cambodia that the really important parts about this mission are the professional and cultural exchanges that go on between militaries, governments, health departments, medical practitioners, engineers, non-government organizations and volunteers, as well as the local populations.

"It's through increased understanding and trust that we will all work better and more efficiently together – not if, but when – a natural disaster strikes," said Morgan.

Pacific Partnership, an annual U.S. Pacific Fleet sponsored humanitarian and civic assistance mission now in its seventh year, brings together U.S. military personnel, host and partner nations, non-government organizations and international agencies to build stronger relationships and develop disaster response capabilities throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Hispanic Heritage Month celebration planned for Sept. 21

A Hispanic Heritage Month celebration will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sept. 21 at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel.

Planned activities include a speech by the keynote speaker, Capt. Robert A. Espinosa, chief of staff, Navy Region Hawaii.

The national anthem will be performed by vocalist Sr. Airman Letha Brown.

The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam ceremonial guard will parade and retire the colors.

Capt. Sal Aguilera will perform the invocation and benediction. Following the official ceremony, refreshments and a dance exhibition will take place at the chapel lanai.

For more information and to participate, call committee chairman QM1 (SW) Julian Pardal at 474-0302 or email julian.pardal1@navy.mil.

New facilities service desk to open Aug. 27

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii

The new 24/7/365 Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Facilities Service Desk will open for business at 7 a.m. Aug. 27.

In line with transitioning into a more efficient joint installation, the Navy and Air Force individual emergency service desks will combine into one.

The consolidated operations will operate from building 1202 located on the Hickam side of the joint base.

Other than work deemed an emergency, the new joint base facilities service desk will only accept requests from assigned primary or alternate building managers.

The new number for the service desk is 449-3100.

Directions to building 1202 are:

- From Hickam main gate: merge onto Vandenberg Boulevard, keep left onto Fox Boulevard, keep left onto Vickers Avenue, and turn left onto H Street to arrive at destination.
- From Porter Avenue Gate: Head southeast on 11th Street, at traffic circle continue straight on 11th Street, turn left on Vickers Avenue, take the second right on H Street to Arrive at destination.

For more information, contact Lt. Cmdr. Mike O'Donnell, mike.o'donnell@navy.mil, or call 449-3122.

Pearl Harbor shipyard trades workers advance careers through apprentice to engineer program

Story and photo by ET3 (SS/DV) Rory H. Teehan

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

Travis Miwa of Aiea (left), Michael Fitzgerald of Kaneohe and Alika Spahn Naihe of Kalihi, trades workers at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY & IMF), are the 2012 Apprentice to Engineer (A2E) program participants.

A college classroom has replaced a ship in dry dock as the regular job site for a trio of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY & IMF) craftsmen. Starting Aug. 20, Sheet Metal Mechanic Travis Miwa, Electrician Alika Spahn Naihe and Electronic Measurement Equipment Mechanic Michael Fitzgerald began their pursuit of engineering degrees by taking classes full-time at University of Hawaii (UH) campuses.

The three trades workers are the most recent participants in the shipyard-sponsored apprentice to engineer (A2E) program. The program pays for their tuition, books, students and lab fees, and other education-related expenses.

Miwa and Spahn Naihe just graduated from the apprentice program Aug. 10. Miwa is attending UH Manoa and plans to earn a degree in civil engineering. "My motivation to apply for A2E was knowing that it's a great opportunity to advance myself professionally while still earning a living to support my family," he said.

Spahn Naihe, enrolled at Kapiolani Community College, intends to become an electrical engineer. He hopes his experience as a production worker will enhance his engineering skills and the work flow between planning and production.

Fitzgerald is taking pre-engineering courses at Leeward Community College and will transfer later to UH Manoa to finish up his courses in electrical engineering. When asked why he applied for the A2E program, Fitzgerald replied, "I want to gain more knowledge and then be able to contribute what I know to help improve the shipyard."

The A2E program started in 2009 and produced its first graduate last May. There are currently 11 participants, including Miwa, Spahn Naihe and Fitzgerald. Upon completion of the program, A2E graduates transition to engineering positions at the shipyard, furthering the command's production engineering or "productioneering" construct designed to maximize efficiency and minimize seams between planning and execution.

HO'OKELE Online
http://www.hookelenews.com or https://www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii

Refueling crew brings spirit of *aloha*, fuel to fight

Staff Sgt.
Alexandria Mosness

Air Forces Central Public Affairs

(Above) A U.S. Air Force 22nd Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron KC-135 Stratotanker refuels a U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt over Afghanistan on Aug 2.

(Below) A U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon (Viper) is refueled over Afghanistan during overseas contingency operations.

U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Alexandria Mosness

TRANSIT CENTER AT MANAS, Kyrgyzstan – Being from Hawaii, the three-man refueling crew likes to bring the spirit of *aloha* with them on each deployment. On a previous deployment to Turkey, the 203rd Air Refueling Squadron members from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii brought crates of fresh pineapple to give out.

On this deployment with the 22nd Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron (EARS), they brought another Hawaiian tradition-chocolate-covered macadamia nuts.

"Wherever we go, we always want to have something to give," said Capt. Michael Curtis, aircraft commander. "Our guys always get to know everybody, and I don't know if it's because we are from Hawaii, but we are pretty laid back and easy going. We just want to show those who are helping us out that we appreciate them. It is as simple as the Airman who gave us a ride to the flightline. Eric ran back and gave her the box of candies."

However, it is not just random acts of Hawaii kindness the Airmen are performing on their deployment.

1st Lt. Josh Ishiki, co-pilot, and Master Sgt. Eric Faurott, boom operator, are all members of the Hawaii Air National Guard (ANG) who work together to fuel the fight for Operation Enduring Freedom. The group is one of the many 22nd EARS crews who fly the KC-135 Stratotanker over Afghanistan to provide aerial refueling support to Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and allied nation aircraft.

"Basically, we take off over the country, and we have certain refueling areas," Curtis said. "We provide fuel to the aircraft that are in those areas."

It starts with the troops with the boots on the ground. If they are having a bad day, the joint terminal attack controller coordinates with the fighter pilots who provide armed overwatch or strikes if needed.

"But those planes burn fuel fast and in order to stay in the air, they need more fuel. And that is where we come in," the aircraft commander added.

On this deployment, they have flown 43 sorties in 60 days and logged nearly 300 flying hours, Faurott said.

Curtis has worked with Faurott for seven years and Ishiki for one.

While the three all joined the military for different reasons, one common theme led them to the Hawaii ANG: their families.

Curtis joined the military because it was always in his family.

"From all the way back to the Revolutionary War, a member of my family has served in every war," the Fayetteville, Ark. native said.

Curtis has an extensive military resume. He was in the Navy for six years, the Air Force Reserves for three and has currently served 11 years in the Air National Guard.

He ended up becoming a permanent resident of Hawaii after he met his wife and couldn't convince her to move to Arkansas.

"Snakes, swamps and hunting just didn't do it for her," he said with a laugh.

Ishiki joined the military to go to college. He was active duty for six years as a jet mechanic, but he always wanted to fly.

"I received my wings in October 2010, and it has been awesome," said Ishiki who is on his third deployment.

The co-pilot said he also knew he would always return home to his family in Hawaii.

"We are real family-oriented," said Ishiki, a Kaneohe, Hawaii native. "I actually live on the same street as my grandpa, mom and sister.

Faurott joined the military because it was in his family to serve, he said.

"My father was infantry in the Marines, and I followed him in his footsteps and joined the Army as infantry at the beginning of my military career."

Faurott has been a boom operator since 1996.

"As a flying line boom, my job is to give the other aircraft gas—one contact and one offload," he said. "It has to be simple and fast in the combat support role. What people don't realize is the tanker's weapon is fuel. What we bring to our fight is our fuel."

The crew not olny brings the fuel but their positive attitude as well.

"The 203rd ARS crew has the Hawaiian spirit," said Lt. Col. Russell Davis, 22nd EARS commander.

"But most importantly they bring an atmosphere of *ohana*, which means family in Hawaiian," he continued. "You can tell they are all family. Showing up for a flight, they always warmly greet their maintainers and have a short conversation."

There is always a handshake or shoulder bump, which is unique to a Hawaii unit. A lot of my crews have that teamwork, but the Hawaii crew has a high level of cohesion and teamwork that you don't see in most units. They are family and are connected," David said.

The same connection is what keeps them safe on their flying missions.

"We have flown together for a while, and you are able to know the guy next to you's limits and capabilities," Curtis said.

Curtis relies on Faurott's expertise on hazmat and cargo and his 16 years of experience as an integral part of the safety on missions, he said.

The team always has to keep talking to each other to keep everyone on the same page.

"We all have to work together," Ishiki said. "Everyone has an equal setting. There is no rank per-se. We each have our specific jobs, and we always have a line of communication."

It is the same family mentality that helps keeps each other motivated.

"I look to my crew to bring me up and for me to bring them up when they need it," Faurott said. "If we work as a crew, not as an individual, there is nothing we can't overcome."