

## Winter sworn in as SECNAV

### Navy News Service

Dr. Donald C. Winter was sworn in as the 74th Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) during a ceremony at the Pentagon on Jan. 3.

Deputy Secretary of Defense (acting), the Honorable Gordon England, administered the oath.

In his first message as SECNAV, Winter outlined his five priorities: people, the Global War on Terror, shipbuilding, 2005 QDR Implementation and BRAC implementation.

Winter also praised the Navy and Marine Corps team, and expressed his pride in serving as secretary.

The full text of the secretary's message follows.

Today, I was sworn in as your 74th Secretary of the Navy.

At a time when we find ourselves at war, with Marines and Sailors in "harm's way" in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is a challenge that I accept with a keen awareness of solemn responsibilities of this office.

In the wake of Sept. 11, 2001, President Bush declared, "The best defense against terrorism is a strong offensive against terrorists."

The Navy/Marine Corps team is engaged in an aggressive campaign to defeat terrorist enemies not only in Iraq and Afghanistan, but globally.

Protecting America against threats will remain our primary mission, a task that will require the service of warfighters who will never lose focus on the drive to victory.

The world has seen momentous changes in

recent decades, and the Navy and Marine Corps must adapt to changing conditions.

Throughout history, nations have been surprised by threats that emerged without adequate warning. Democracies, in particular, are reluctant to acknowledge the existence of threats.

But all of human history shows that weakness invites aggression and that strength deters war. We must remain prepared, strong and ready to meet the challenges of the future.

In my confirmation hearings before Congress this past October, I mentioned five priorities: people, the Global War on Terror, shipbuilding, 2005 QDR Implementation and BRAC implementation.

I will have much to say about all of these items in the months ahead. Today, I will only mention one: People our most valuable asset.

Since the early days of the republic, Americans have relied on a strong Navy and Marine Corps team to defend them against her enemies. Nothing can play so decisive a role as well-trained, highly motivated Sailors and Marines who believe in their mission.

You should feel honor — honor in knowing that today, during this time of war, the American people turn to you to keep our country safe.

You have chosen a noble profession, and you join a long-honored tradition as guardians of our liberty, and defenders of a great nation.

I am honored to serve you as your secretary.



The Honorable Dr. Donald C. Winter takes the oath of office as the 74th Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) in a ceremony held in the SECNAV's office at the Pentagon. Deputy Secretary of Defense (acting), the Honorable Gordon England, at left, administered the oath accompanied by Secretary Winter's wife Linda.

U.S. Navy Photo by JOC Craig P. Strawser



### Boy's tour of a lifetime

Navy Region Hawaii makes boy's wish come true. Page A-4.

### Combat Comics at Pearl Harbor

Free comedy show for service members and families. Page B-1.

## Farewell message from former SECNAV

### U.S. Department of Defense

Acting Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England has relinquished his post as secretary of the Navy, Defense Department officials announced on Dec. 29.

He will continue to serve as acting deputy secretary of defense, officials said.

England has served as Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's deputy since May, when former Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz left the Pentagon to head up the World Bank.

With over two terms as Navy secretary, England served a total of 48 months. His terms were separated by service as the first deputy secretary of the Homeland Security Department.

For the past eight months, he has served in both the Navy post and as acting deputy secretary of defense.

England's farewell message follows.

As I relinquish my duties as your Secretary for a second time, I count myself doubly blessed for having had the opportunity to serve as both the 72nd and 73rd Secretary of the Navy.

It has been a profound honor to serve with the magnificent men and women of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

You are members of the finest military in the world. For 230 years, our Naval Services have built a proud history.

During the past five years, I have personally witnessed your

service, sacrifice and courage. You have added to this legacy of excellence and victory in the defense of freedom and liberty.

Since the attacks of 9/11, you have been part of a joint military force that has liberated 50 million people from the brutal, totalitarian rule of the Taliban and Saddam.

The compassion you have shown to millions following tsunamis, hurricanes and earthquakes has showcased the highest ideals and generosity of America.

Like all of your fellow Americans, I am proud of your service and also privileged to have served with you.

Fortunately, I will continue to serve the Department of Defense and all of our armed forces as the

Deputy Secretary of Defense. It is a great honor and privilege for me to serve as the deputy to Secretary Rumsfeld.

While I will miss working day to day with the Naval Services, together we will carry on the noble work of defending our freedom and liberties.

God bless each of you and your families.

U.S. Navy photo by Damon J. Moritz  
The outgoing SECNAV, Gordon England, views San Francisco Bay and the surrounding area from the vantage point of The Lone Sailor Memorial at Vista Point Outlook.



### Fed units fight fires



Federal Fire Department firefighters and fire equipment assisted the Honolulu Fire Department in fighting the brush fire that burned through Makaha Valley earlier this week. Twelve firefighters from stations 15 (Schofield), 5 (Manana) and 11 (Lualualei), and six firetrucks, were involved in the firefighting effort since Tuesday evening. Fire crews were able to put the fire out by Wednesday morning. About 500 acres were affected by the blaze.

U.S. Navy photo by J02 Ryan C. McGinley

## USS Ronald Reagan departs West Coast on maiden deployment

### USS Ronald Reagan Public Affairs

On Jan. 4, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) departed San Diego on a deployment to conduct naval operations in support of the global war on terrorism, as well as national and theater cooperative security commitments in the western Pacific.

This will be the maiden deployment for the Navy's newest Nimitz-class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

"During both COMPTUEX (Composite Unit Training Exercise) and JTFEX (Joint Task Force Exercise), Ronald Reagan and CVW (Carrier Air Wing) 14 proved to be a formida-

ble fighting force," said Rear Adm. Michael H. Miller, Ronald Reagan Strike Group commander.

"Both of these major exercise, as well as the other training events leading up to deployment, have proved that we have the speed and agility to quickly execute operations around the world in support of the war on terror. When we deploy for real-world operations, Carrier Strike Group 7 will be an example of how the Navy is able to carry out our mission anytime, anywhere in the world," said Miller.

According to Ronald Reagan

See USS REAGAN, A-3



U.S. Navy photo by PH1 Daniel N. Woods

USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) Sailors man the rails as the ship departs its homeport. Reagan is deploying to conduct naval operations in support of the global war on terrorism, as well as national and theater cooperative security commitments in the western Pacific. This is the maiden deployment for the Navy's newest Nimitz-class nuclear powered aircraft carrier.

## Hawai'i Navy News Briefs

### Construction delays on Ford Island

Motorists are advised of road detours on Ford Island on Saratoga Road and Kamehameha Loop.

A one-lane traffic detour has been set up along Saratoga Road near the Navy Lodge. The detour will continue through Jan. 13.

A second one-lane traffic detour will be placed on Kamehameha Loop housing road from Jan. 9 to 20.

During those intervals, contractors will be backfilling trenches and patching the pavement as part of the installation of a new underground power line to Ford Island.

Access to traffic will be maintained on one lane at all times.

Road work will begin at 8 a.m. each day and all lanes will be reopened by 3:30 p.m. Signs and flagmen will be positioned to direct drivers.

Drivers should expect minor traffic delays.

# Defensive driving...drive to survive

Karen S. Spangler

Assistant Editor

Hardly a day goes by that Hawaii's highways aren't littered with fender benders and minor traffic mishaps. Frequently, drivers and their passengers are seriously injured or killed in motor vehicle accidents.

In order to drive to survive, defensive driving is vital.

The cardinal rule for all drivers is: Don't drink and drive. But, despite the cautions that have been issued and the grim statistics, this important rule is frequently ignored. To protect yourself from such drivers, you need to practice defensive driving.

Drivers who drive defensively can greatly increase their potential for avoiding accidents. As drivers navigate the roads and highways, defensive driving offers some protection against other drivers who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or who are operating their vehicles recklessly or carelessly.

The Naval Safety Center offers the following guidelines for defensive driving:

- Know how to get where you're going. This will help you avoid being distracted by having to look for street names or hard-to-see landmarks.
- Don't tailgate, and if some-



Photo illustration

one is tailgating you, stay calm and let them pass.

- Under good conditions, the two-second rule provides enough distance between cars. Increase this distance to three or four seconds when it is raining or foggy.

- Many things can distract you while you drive. Pull over if you have to eat, talk on a cell phone or write notes.

- Watch out for other drivers who are weaving, going too fast or too slow, and ignoring signals. If someone like this is behind you, turn off as soon as you can and let them move on.

- If you have to turn, get in the correct lane well in advance. Don't wait until the last minute.

- Always use your turn sig-

nals in traffic and when getting on or off a highway.

- When passing, check your mirrors but don't trust them entirely — look over your shoulder, too.

- Be patient. Leave a little early so you aren't in a hurry.

- Don't get emotional. Driving somewhere is a neutral task like anything else. The goal is to arrive safely. Idiot drivers are a hazard, but don't take them personally.

Honolulu Police Department officials stress the important of "driving with aloha" for motor vehicle operators in Hawaii.

They advise drivers to "cage the rage" and show the "aloha spirit" when driving by being courteous and kind, and obeying all traffic laws.

# Be aware of credit card fees and traps

Accredited Financial Counselors

Pearl Harbor Fleet and Family Support Center

With a rising number of late payments and pressure on revenues from too many zero-interest balance-transfer promotions, credit card companies are finding creative ways to take more money from your wallet.

Interest paid by consumers to credit card companies is approximately \$80 billion annually. It is estimated that credit card fees cost consumers about \$31 billion a year. Knowing how credit card companies work is important, but you need to know the many different types of fees and what trigger them.

- Over the limit fee: These fees are added to the cost of each purchase while the card is over its limit, and they are usually \$35 for each transaction. Credit card companies don't have a problem ap-

proving the purchase and charging you the fee, even if you have no idea your card is over the limit.

- Late fee: Late payments on most credit cards will cost an additional \$15 to \$39, depending on the overall balance owed. Another trap is that payments not sent in the card issuer's preprinted envelope are posted five days after they are received.

- Cash advance fee: Cash advances will cost you. Fees are typically three percent of the cash advance, but not less than a set minimum of about \$5. You are then charged interest on the advance and a charge by the ATM owner.

- Minimum finance charge: Annual fees may be a thing of the past for many companies, but what they are now doing is charging a minimum monthly finance fee of \$2 to \$6, which is charged to your account regardless if you pay your balance in full. That means they are charging cardholders a monthly fee instead of an annual fee.

- Automatic credit downgrade: A credit card issuer can use your late payments on another credit card or loan against you. Credit card companies say that they hike interest rates charged to current cardholders who pay late on other accounts.

The best solution is to pay your balance early, in full and to use online bill payment, if you can. If you cannot do this, then pay at least the minimum early, use the preprinted envelopes and try to never exceed your credit limit. Read your credit card statements, and look for extra fees and charges. If you find charges you think are unfair, call the credit card company and ask for the fees to be refunded.

If you have questions or would like some assistance, the financial counselors at the Pearl Harbor Fleet and Family Support Center are available for free, confidential appointments. To schedule an appointment, call 473-4222, extension 1.

# Welcome home, Dad



U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 2nd Class Devin Wright

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Shannon Fisher, who is assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor Security Department (NAVSTA), is greeted with a lei by his son on Dec. 19 at the Honolulu Airport. Ten Sailors from NAVSTA Security Department returned to Hawaii after a nine-month deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as part of the Joint Detainee Operation at Camp Delta.

## STORY IDEAS?

Contact the HNN editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements

Phone: (808) 473-2888

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**Hawaii Navy News**

# USO show is a hit on the 'Big Stick'

JO2 Michael Cokos

*USS Theodore Roosevelt Public Affairs*

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, came aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt, the "Big Stick" (CVN 71), on Dec. 29 for the Chairman's Holiday Troop Visit.

Pace brought along a trio of entertainers: comedian Reggie McFadden, American Idol star Diana DeGarmo and country music artist Michael Peterson, along with retired Army Colonel and Medal of Honor recipient Jack Jacobs.

After sailors gathered in Hangar Bay 2, Pace kicked off the show by dedicating a few words of appreciation to the crew.

"It's tough spending the holidays away from home," Pace said. "And, you don't always get the level of appreciation you deserve for the work you do. We are making serious breakthroughs in providing freedom in Iraq while still defending our own freedom. That is what we are honoring today."

Following singing performances by DeGarmo and Peterson, McFadden livened up the crowd even more with a top-notch comedy routine. A humorous speech by Jacobs about his life and military experiences rounded out the show.

"I have never stopped feeling like a kid inside," said Jacobs. "And it's really the young kids who keep old guys like us free and who bring freedom to lots of other people who have never had it before."

This was the group's second show with future stops in Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Kuwait and Djibouti, Africa, for a total of 13 shows in less than two weeks.

"I had a really good time," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate Equipment 1st Class (AW) Demetrius A. Rushin. "It offered an opportunity to relax, take a break and have some fun."

The USO performers were just as excited about the show. "I love doing this, it's that simple," said DeGarmo. "I have had family members in the service, one of whom is in Iraq right now. I would do this a hundred times over if the invitation was there."

After the show, Pace, Jacobs and the entertainers stayed for an autograph and photo session, had lunch, and then headed to Bahrain for another show.



U.S. Navy photo by PHAN Javier Capella

Singer Diana DeGarmo performs for crew members aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) as part of a tour courtesy of the United Service Organization (USO). Roosevelt and embarked Carrier Air Wing Eight (CVW-

8) are currently under way on a regularly scheduled deployment supporting maritime security operations.

## Nimitz hosts Holiday Bowl festivities

JO2 Chris Edilson

*USS Nimitz Public Affairs*

USS Nimitz (CVN 68) hosted a Pacific Life Holiday Bowl pre-game event for more than 1,000 guests, including players, students, faculty and alumni from the University of Oregon and the University of Oklahoma on Dec. 27.

A "Battle of the Bands" on the pier kicked off the festivities. The two university marching bands proudly showed off their skills while receiving encouragement from alumni and crew members alike.

"I have a cousin stationed on the Nimitz," said Brice Robinson, a tuba player for the University of Ore-

gon marching band. "It was great to come out here, compete against Oklahoma and get ready for the game."

After the band competition, guests were treated to the Navy and Marine Corps Luncheon, sponsored by Lockheed Martin, in the cavernous hangar bay of the aircraft carrier.

Among those in attendance were Vice Adm. James Zortman, commander of the Naval Air Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, and the ship's commanding officer, Capt. Ted Branch.

"On behalf of the crew, congratulations for getting here, and we wish you the best of luck," Branch told members of the opposing Oregon Ducks and the Oklahoma Soon-

ers during the luncheon.

"This was a great time to learn about the schools, and also to listen to the coaches speak about their season and upcoming game," said Chuck Hansen, a board member of the Pacific Life Holiday Bowl.

Later, guests toured the ship, and observed military aircraft and firefighting displays.

"This is our most popular event," said Hansen. "It's one of our most well-attended ones due to the Navy being our host."

The Pacific Life Holiday Bowl was played Dec. 29 in San Diego's Qualcomm Stadium.

Nimitz is the flagship for Rear Adm. Peter Daly, commander, Carrier Strike Group 11.

## USS Reagan: On course in support of the global war on terrorism

**Continued from A-1**

Commanding Officer Capt. Terry B. Kraft, the ship was made ready for the deployment through the hard work and dedication of the officers and crew.

"It was great watching the way the crew of the ship and the air wing came together during work-ups to make the ship ready for deployment," said Kraft. "I know this crew is ready to carry out any mission that will be asked of us during the upcoming deployment."

The Ronald Reagan Strike

Group is comprised of CVW-14, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 7, the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Reagan, the guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Champlain (CG 57), the guided-missile destroyers USS McCampbell (DDG 85) and USS Decatur (DDG 73), the fast-combat support ship USS Rainier (AOE 7), and Explosives Ordnance Disposal Unit 11, Det. 15.

The squadrons of CVW-14 include the "Redcocks" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 22, the "Fist of the Fleet" of VFA-25, the "Stingers" of VFA-113, the "Eagles" of VFA-115, the "Black Ea-

gles" of Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 113, the "Cougars" of Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (VAQ) 139, the "Providers" of Carrier Logistics Support (VRC) 30, and the "Black Knights" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 4.

Reagan was commissioned in July 2003, making it the ninth Nimitz-class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

The ship is named after the 40th U.S. president, and carries the motto of "Peace through Strength," a recurrent theme during the Reagan presidency.

# Boy, 9, gets wish of a lifetime



U.S. Navy photo by J02 Corwin M. Colbert

Kyle White, 9, looks through the scope of a 50-caliber gun aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial during a tour Dec. 20. White is a child diagnosed with Cystic fibrosis and — thanks to the Make-a-Wish Foundation, Navy Region Hawaii, Arizona Memorial and Battleship Missouri Memorial — got his wish to tour Pearl Harbor.

J02 Corwin Colbert

Staff Writer

Navy Region Hawaii made a wish come true for 9-year-old Kyle White and his family when it hosted a Make-A-Wish tour to the Arizona Memorial and the Battleship Missouri Memorial for the youngster on Dec. 20.

White is diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, a genetic disease affecting approximately 30,000 children and adults in the nation.

A defective gene causes the body to produce abnormally thick, sticky mucous that clogs the lungs and leads to life-threatening infections. These

thick secretions also obstruct the pancreas, preventing digestive enzymes from reaching the intestines to help break down and absorb food.

While on vacation in Hawaii, the Whites requested a tour of Pearl Harbor based on their son's wishes.

"Kyle is interested in anything military," said father Jeffrey. "He is very much into history. He has books on Pearl Harbor. While other kids his age watch cartoons, he watches the History Channel.

The tour started at the USS Utah Memorial, where Kyle, his parents and two siblings saw — for the first time — the wreckage of a World War II warship.

The group headed to the USS Battleship Missouri Memorial, where the family was greeted by Sam Lowe, director of education and visitor programs.

Lowe gave the group an informative one-and-a-half-hour tour of the ship, which included everything from 350,000 pounds of blueprints to 350 miles of wiring.

The White clan was able to see the many spaces aboard the World War II battleship, including the crew and officers' berthing, the chaplain's office, galleys, radio central, captain's quarters and surrender deck.

In radio central, Kyle and six-year-old sister Halley enjoyed playing with the Morse code instrument. While in the captain's bedroom, they asked for the code to the old captain's safe, where Lowe told them the captain kept important documents.

In the display room, where photos of the ship and documented photos and paperwork of the history of the ship were displayed, Kyle was excited by the large model of the "Mighty Mo."

"My uncle made and painted a model of the Missouri and two other planes," said White. "He is making another one so soon I will have four models," he said.

After looking through the scope of a 50-caliber gun added during Operation Desert Storm, the family had lunch at the memorial's cafeteria before making final rounds and ending the tour.

"This tour was pretty incredible and very special," said Jeffrey White. "Sam [Lowe] is very knowledgeable."

"Everyone has been very nice and polite," said wife Victoria.

Heading to the old seaplane ramps as the tour came to an end, Kyle White couldn't pinpoint a specific moment that was his favorite part of the tour.

"The tour was cool! The best part of the tour was — everything!" he exclaimed.



U.S. Navy photo by J02 Corwin M. Colbert

Kyle White, in foreground, and his family salute before coming aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial during a tour on Dec. 20.

## Got Questions?

Write to us at [hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com](mailto:hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com)

# USS Pearl Harbor team builds bridges in Persian Gulf

CT3 Karen Moore

Expeditionary Strike Group  
One Public Affairs

The amphibious dock landing ship USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) conducted maritime security operations (MSO) in the Persian Gulf from Nov. 20 to Dec. 26.

During this time, Pearl Harbor's Visit, Board, Search and Seizure Team has been a key component in the MSO as well as building a bridge between the U.S. service members and local merchants and fishermen.

Pearl Harbor's 17-man VBSS team has spent much of this deployment training on or conducting these vital operations. When Pearl Harbor locates a vessel of interest, the ship's bridge team will query the contact. Depending on the response, the ship will launch the VBSS team.

The team approaches the vessel in a rigid-hull inflatable boat (RHIB), and communicates with the vessel's master. Once consent from the master is granted, the Sailors board the vessel.

On board, Pearl Harbor Sailors search the vessel for il-



U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Randall Damm

The dock landing ship USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) serves as a floating command center for Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) operations while underway in the Persian Gulf.

legal cargo and contraband, and ensure that no terrorists are aboard. By pressurizing the maritime environment through VBSS, the Navy deters international terrorist organizations

from using the seas as a highway.

Another less publicized benefit of the VBSS teams, according to the Sailors performing the mission, has been

the goodwill fostered between coalition naval forces and the merchants and fishermen in the Persian Gulf.

According to Chief Operations Specialist (SW) Christo-

pher Pierce, his VBSS team has gained a valuable understanding of how fishermen live and conduct business. He believes the fishermen are relieved to see the VBSS teams in the vicinity.

"The majority of them say they feel safer knowing that they can contact us if they run into problems," said Pierce, who has conducted VBSS missions since 1998 while stationed aboard USS Crommelin (FFG 37) and now aboard Pearl Harbor.

Coalition VBSS teams like Pearl Harbor's provide regional vessels with information they can use to contact naval vessels via bridge-to-bridge radio communication, should they ever require assistance.

The boardings have been well-received by the merchants and fishermen, Pierce said. "I think on both ends it is a positive situation," he said.

Dhows, which range from 18 to 50 feet in length with typically five or six crewmembers aboard, are the primary fishing vessel seen throughout the Gulf.

Traditionally constructed of teak wood, the bowed construction and lightweight frame

of a dhow makes traveling into shallow waters a key feature — something that steel-hull commercial vessels are unable to do.

"Most of them are just fishing," said Gunner's Mate 2nd Class (SW) Larry Baker. "These guys are out here trying to make a living — we are showing them support."

During this deployment, Pearl Harbor's VBSS team has trained with teams from several of its coalition counterparts, sharing best practices and lessons learned. The Sailors say they take pride in performing such a vital mission.

"We are keeping the waters safe — one approach, one boarding at a time," said Pierce.

Pearl Harbor, assigned to Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 1, is on a regularly scheduled deployment to the 5th Fleet area of responsibility conducting MSO.

MSO set the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment, as well as deny international terrorists use of the oceans as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons or other material.

## Allowances for '06 housing are announced

U.S. Department of Defense

With respect to Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates for fiscal year (FY) 2006, the Department of Defense has announced that service members will receive an average housing allowance increase of 5.9 percent.

An estimated \$13.9 billion will be paid to nearly 950,000 service members in 2006. In total, the planned increase in housing allowance funds for FY 2006 above the FY 2005 amount is about \$1.6 billion.

Three components are included in the BAH computation: 1) median current market rent; 2) average utilities, including electricity, heat, and water and sewer; and 3) average renter's insurance.

Total housing costs are calculated for six housing profiles, which are based on dwelling type and the number of bedrooms, in each Military Housing Area (MHA).

BAH rates are then calculated for each pay grade, both with and without dependents.

Data is collected annually for about 400 MHAs in the U.S., including Hawaii and Alaska. An important part of the BAH process is the cooperation from the services and local military housing offices in the data collection effort.

Input from local commands is used to determine in what neighborhoods data is collected, and to direct the data collection effort toward adequate apartment complexes and individual housing units.

For members with dependents, average increases in the BAH is about \$53 per month. A typical E-4 with dependents, for example, will find his/her BAH about \$45 per month higher than last year, while an E-8 with dependents will receive about \$56 more than last year.

As explained in a July 7 press release last year, geographic rate protection was instituted in 2000 and expires at the end of 2005.

However, an integral part of the BAH program is the provision of individual rate protection to all members. No matter what happens to measured housing costs, an individual member in a given location will never see his/her BAH rate decrease.

This policy assures that members who have made long-term commitments in the form of a lease or contract are not penalized if the area's housing costs decrease.

Changes to the BAH Differential also go into effect for 2006. Members who live in government quarters and pay child support will continue to receive the BAH Differential, while members paying child support who live off base will not receive BAH at the "without dependents" rate plus BAH Differential and will instead receive BAH at the "with dependents" rate.

The continual improvement in housing allowances represent our commitment to the preservation of a compensation and benefit structure, which will provide members with a suitable and secure standard of living that will sustain a trained, experienced and ready force in the future.

# Giving blood gives the gift of life to fellow service members

Karen S. Spangler  
Assistant Editor

When the call goes out for blood — whether it is needed for trauma patients, preemie babies, surgeries or at the battlefield for those injured in wartime hostilities — the Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) is committed to answering that call.

Through blood drives that are held at military installations throughout Oahu, the vital resource is collected from donors.

Fleet Industrial Support Center (FISC) at Naval Station Pearl Harbor hosted a blood drive on June 15. Justin Metz, blood donor recruiter for Hawaii's Military Blood Program, noted that FISC has been one of the consistent supporters of the Armed Services Blood Program.

"The Fleet Industrial Supply Center blood drives have made it possible for many patients to be taken care of in their time of need," said Metz.

"FISC was responsible for the collection of over 65 units of blood this quarter. We are very grateful to the Sailors, dependents and civilian employees who choose to donate blood, the gift of life," he continued.

ASBP donor centers are the only centers that provide blood supplies for military service members, dependents, veterans and



U.S. Navy photo by PH3s Douglas G. Morrison

Spc. Jeffrey Potts, a member of the Armed Services Blood Bank Center, draws blood from the arm of a donor during a blood drive held on board Naval Station Everett, Washington.

other military-affiliated personnel such as retirees and reservists, and DoD civilians. The local center, located at Tripler Army Medical Center, and another in Okinawa are responsible for collecting blood for the entire Pacific region, according to Metz.

Metz explained that the blood

that is collected here is used for trauma patients, preemie babies, surgeries and leukemia patients, just to name a few. The Armed Services Blood Program at Tripler also sends 350 to 450 units of blood per week to the Middle East, where it is forwarded to combat support hospitals, special

force units, ships and forward surgical team to make sure no service member is ever without this life-saving supply.

When the USNS Mercy visited Pearl Harbor in early June, the ASVB at Tripler provided units of blood as well as giving units of blood to the USS Bonhomme Richard for its journey back to San Diego on June 6.

According to information provided by Metz, blood is always in great demand and donors are always needed. He explained that every year, military hospitals transfuse more than 54,000 units of red cells, 20,000 units of plasma and 5,000 units of platelets.

Red blood cells last just 35-42 days. Platelets last only five days. Purchased blood from other blood banks, such as those in the civilian community, costs approximately \$250 per unit and may not be available when urgently needed.

The ASVB also provides guidelines for blood donors. Donors can give blood every eight weeks and give platelets every 15 days.

The ASVB program notes that blood donors can save up to three people with one donation. And, by giving blood, can help fellow service members when they need it most.

For more information about scheduling a blood drive or donating blood, call the Armed Services Blood Program center at 433-6148 or 433-6195.

## You cannot donate blood if:

- You have traveled to or lived in the United Kingdom from 1980 to 1996 for a cumulative period of three months or longer.
- You were stationed in Europe from 1980 to 1996 for a cumulative period of six months or longer.
- You have traveled to or lived in Europe from 1980 to present for a cumulative period of five years (applies to DoD personnel after Jan. 1, 1997).
- You received a transfusion of blood or blood product in the United Kingdom since 1980.
- You have been deployed in the global war on terrorism, specifically to Afghanistan, Iraq or Pakistan (1) less than six months, deferred for one year upon return to the U.S. (2) more than six months, deferred for three years upon return to the U.S.
- You have been stationed north of

Seoul (1) less than five years, deferred for two years upon return to the U.S. (2) more than five years, deferred for three years upon return to the U.S.

## Other issues for blood donors:

- You are participating in airborne operations in the next 72 hours.
- You have donated blood in the last 55 days. At 56 days, you can again donate.
- You have had a tattoo or brand, or your ears or any part of your body pierced, or had acupuncture in the past 12 months.
- You have a cold, flu or flu-like symptoms, or do not feel well.
- You are pregnant, or have been in the last six weeks.
- You are taking certain medications. Be sure to advise the blood bank interviewer of what and how much.
- You must be at least 17 years old and weigh at least 110 lbs

## Blood types:

There are eight different blood types. While the frequency of each type will vary in a given community, the general United States population is made up of the following donor types:

O positive: 38 percent	B positive: 9 percent
O negative: 7 percent	B negative: 2 percent
A positive: 34 percent	AB positive: 3 percent
A negative: 6 percent	AB negative: 1 percent

People with type O blood are known as "universal donors" because their blood can be given to anyone in an emergency. This makes type O blood very valuable in trauma situations when there is not time to determine the injured person's blood type. Once a person's blood type is determined, it is best that they receive their exact blood type, so all types are needed.

## Surfin' Santa

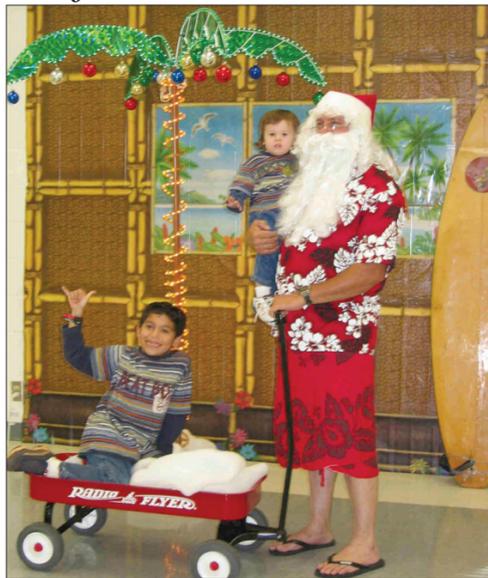


Photo courtesy of Forest City Residential Management

More than 50 Navy families from the Hokulani community visited with Surfin' Santa and had their pictures taken on Dec. 9 at the Hokulani Community Center. The families were able to select festive hats and hula attire, then had their photos taken with Santa — complete with a coconut Christmas tree and Hawaiian backdrop.