

USS Sante Fe returns from deployment



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Devin Wright

USS Sante Fe (SSN 763) returns to Pearl Harbor on Feb. 9 after a six-month deployment.

JO2 Devin Wright

Editor

Family and friends gathered on the pier S-9 Feb. 9 to welcome more than 130 crew members of the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Sante Fe (SSN 763) back to Pearl Harbor after a six-month deployment.

Chief of the Boat Master Chief Electronics Technician (SS) Rafael Perez said the deployment was highly successful.

"We started out with a deployment schedule that we

thought was firm," said Perez. "It ended up that we had significant schedule changes and they all went very well, and that is really a testament to the crew. We prepared and executed well. This is without a doubt the toughest crew that I have ever served with," said Perez.

While this deployment was Perez's sixth it was the first for some Sante Fe crew members.

"I really enjoyed seeing different countries," said Seaman Store Clerk Hector Sanchez. "Being

underway was also a great experience for me. I think that I have really grown as a person. I also feel that I have a better understanding of how the Navy operates and the Navy's mission. I think I've adapted pretty well. It all depends on your outlook and your state of mind," he said.

While on deployment, Sante Fe participated in Malabar 2005, a joint maritime exercise with the Indian navy. The submarine was also called off station to participate in two

CNO-directed missions in the Seventh Fleet. During their deployment, Sante Fe was the first submarine to cross Andaman Sea submerged. The crew made port visits to a variety of countries including India and Thailand. Sante Fe traveled more than 40,000 miles during this deployment. She is the Navy's 52nd Los Angeles-class fast attack nuclear-powered submarine. Santa Fe is the second ship to be named in honor of the capital city of New Mexico.

Navy's first female boxing champion
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Navy football challenge
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Town hall meetings planned to provide PPV updates

Karen S. Spangler

Assistant Editor

A town hall meeting to update Navy family housing residents on the Navy's plan for phases two and three of housing privatization on Oahu will be held at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Pearl City Community Center. The meeting is geared for residents in the Pearl City Peninsula and Manana communities.

Representatives from Navy management and the community development management team from Hawai'i Military Communities, LLC (HMC) will provide an overview and timeline for the next phases of public-private venture (PPV) housing.

Phase one of PPV kicked off with a groundbreaking ceremony in July 2004. The first phase of PPV included 1,952 homes in five neighborhoods: McGrew Point, Hokulani, Moanalua Terrace, Halsey Terrace and Radford Terrace. That process involves new construction as well as maintaining and management of the properties.

The first of the Navy's new homes on Oahu constructed under PPV were unveiled at a lei untying and blessing ceremony on July 6, 2005 at McGrew Point family housing.

The ceremony marked the first increment of homes completed as part of phase one of PPV in Hawai'i and represented a significant step in enhancing quality of life for Navy Sailors and their

families.

The departure from the traditional military construction (MILCON) way of doing business to PPV allows the Navy to replace its inadequate housing inventory at a much faster pace and for much less money than would be required under MILCON. Navy officials see PPV as a "win-win" situation for everyone – greatly enhancing the quality of life for Sailors and their families, replacing the Navy's deteriorating homes at a much faster rate, and pumping millions of dollars into the local economy. Another benefit of PPV is that the homes are managed and maintained by a professional property management company with the sole focus of providing the highest quality customer service.

Topics to be discussed at the town hall meeting will include the general plan, timeline and transition plan. A question and answer session will be held at the conclusion of the presentation. Town hall meetings for other Navy neighborhoods which will be included in phases two and three of PPV will be held in upcoming weeks. Residents who are living in the neighborhoods included in phases two and three of PPV are strongly encouraged to attend the town hall meetings.

The next phases of PPV are scheduled to begin in late 2006. The total scope of the PPV project will include about 7,000 Navy and Marine homes and will evolve over several years.

ESG-1 arrives at Pearl Harbor



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Ryan C. McGinley

The amphibious transport dock ship USS Cleveland (LPD 7) prepares to moor at Pearl Harbor for a brief port visit on its return from a seven month deployment in support of the global war on terrorism. Cleveland is part of Expeditionary Strike Group One (ESG-1) deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom, humanitarian operations in Pakistan and the Philippines as well as maritime security operations in the Persian Gulf.

Hawai'i Navy News Briefs

Great Aloha Run gate closure

In support of the 22nd annual Great Aloha Run, Borcher's Gate will be closed and Luapele Gate will be open from 4:30-10 a.m. on President's Day, Feb. 20. Additionally, Center Drive will not be accessible via Kamehameha Highway during the race. The 8.15 mile race will start at sunrise from the Aloha Tower Marketplace, wind down Nimitz and Kamehameha Highways and end at the Aloha Stadium. Several water aid stations will be available along the route, which includes a water aid station on Kamehameha Highway near Borcher's Gate. More than 10,000 participants are expected and a portion of the proceeds will benefit MWR programs.

Learn from the Leaders

Navy Region Hawai'i's Workforce Development Office is sponsoring a Learn from the Leaders speaking event featuring Constance Lau. Lau has been president and CEO of American Savings Bank, Hawai'i's third largest bank with \$6.9 billion in assets. The event will be held March 8 from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at The Banyans Conference Center at Pearl Harbor.

Hawai'i's newest destroyer hosts visiting dignitaries

Lt. j.g. Valerie Van Ho
USS Chung-Hoon
Public Affairs

Hawai'i's newest guided missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) currently embarked on her maiden deployment hosted five visiting officers from the Armed Forces Philippine (AFP) navy, including Capt. Roberto Santos, commodore of Naval Forces Western Mindanao Task Force 61.

The officers agreed as they watched Chung-Hoon perform a connected replenishment receiving both

fuel and cargo Feb. 6, that the ship was an impressive sight.

Chung-Hoon is conducting Extended Maritime Interdiction Operations (EMIO) in the Western Pacific. A portion of the ship's role in EMIO is to increase cooperation and interoperability with the armed forces of the Philippines and to perform duties as ambassadors of the U.S. Navy. Included in the AFP visiting dignitaries' party was Cmdr. Antonio Mendoza, commanding officer of the flagship for Balikatan 2006, a joint exercise focused on increasing

cooperation between the U.S. forces and AFP.

"We are sharing the same waters," said Operations Officer, Lt. Mark Stefanik. "We want to be able to work together and help each other achieve common goals."

The visit highlighted the strengths of the crew of the guided missile destroyer in performing sustained operations at sea with a spirit of safety, professionalism and unity.

The visiting members of the AFP said they found the connected replenishment to be educational and that they enjoyed their time aboard Chung-Hoon.



Update on construction projects at Pearl Harbor

Lt. Cmdr. Joe Simpkins

*Naval Facilities Engineering Command,
Hawai'i and Naval Station Pearl Harbor
Public Works*

At Navy bases worldwide, there are always more repairs needed than funding available. This is a big problem when trying to balance the facilities budget. A way to combat need versus funding is to offset the unfunded requirements by using self-help.

Traditional self-help is just that. You are provided with the material and tools, but you provide the labor to accomplish the job. While this is a very worthwhile program, it is limited due to the limited construction knowledge of the average Navy Sailor or civilian.

At Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i (NAVFAC), there are 37 Seabees trained and experienced in the construction and repair of facilities. With this manpower, the command offers traditional self-help services/ materials, but can also provide an experienced work leader option and, in some cases, a 100 percent Seabee executed project. There is a modest budget to purchase materials for approved projects, along with an impressive central tool room stocked with everything needed to execute almost any small to medium-sized renovation job.

If your command/department has a repair or renovation project that cannot be completed with routine service and is currently not funded, then self-help may be the answer. Call BUC

(SCW) Stewart Selden at 474-9038. He will be able to walk you through the process and get your project on the list. (Please note: This program is not the family housing self-help store and does not have items for the home.)

Other projects of interest:

Parking lot "C" repair: Parking lot "C," on the corner of Lake Erie Street and Central Avenue, will be closed until March 3 for construction. This project will improve the parking area and provide much needed parking for shipyard personnel. Alternate parking for lot "C" will be in the surrounding authorized parking areas. Parking lot "C" annex (off South Avenue near buildings 1674/1675 and 393) will not be closed for construction and will remain open for parking.

Road closures on Ford Island: Various roadways on Ford Island will be closed to traffic for the construction and repair from Jan. 25 – April 14. Proper detours, signage and safety precautions will be in place. Please allow extra time to get to and from your destinations on Ford Island during this period.

Parking lot closure, Makalapa:

There will be a partial closure of a parking lot south of building 352 from 11 p.m. Feb. 17 until 6 a.m. Feb. 19. This outage is necessary for staging a concrete pump truck to deliver concrete into building 352. Please look for alternate parking during this time.

(Editor's Note: The update on construction projects on Naval Station Pearl Harbor will be an ongoing feature of Hawai'i Navy News.)

Hawai'i engineer selected as a planning fellow

Naval Facilities
Engineering Command,
Pacific

Byrnes Yamashita, base development division Director for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific (NAVFAC Pacific), was selected as an American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Fellow.

Election to fellow is one of the highest honors that the AICP bestows upon a member. This honor is recognition of the achievements of the planner as an individual, elevating the fellow before the public and the profession as a model planner who has made significant contributions to planning and society.

"This recognition from the AICP is obviously a great honor, recognizing not a single achievement, but rather a body of work over the past 25 years, all of it spent within the NAVFAC family," remarked Yamashita. "I was especially flattered to have been nominated by the Hawai'i State Chapter of the American Planning Association, which is made up primarily of planners in the civilian community who have very little insight into what we military planners do."

"I am extremely grateful to them and the previous planning fellows from Hawai'i that offered their support and advice in pursuing this nomination. Letters of support from

many senior military and civilian leaders, including Rear Adm. Engle [NAVFAC Pacific commander], Steve Iselin from NAVFAC headquarters, and several of our former commanders, such as Admirals Fort and Dames, were instrumental in my selection. I am indebted to them all.

"Lastly, I am humbled by this recognition, as I am aware that I am reaping the benefits of the hard work of many hands. I am very proud and honored to represent the planners within the NAVFAC organization, as well as the planning professionals from Hawai'i," Yamashita stated while reflecting on his nomination.

www.hnn.navy.mil

Hawaii Navy News

Online

Energy tip:

Use solar walkway and patio lights for outdoor accent lights.

These are widely available and easy to install. You can install them yourself in a few minutes, since they don't require any wiring.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Driving and insurance – The two go hand in hand

FLTCM(AW/SW) Jon R. Thompson



FLTCM(AW/SW)
Jon R. Thompson

Do you drive? If you do, you need insurance. Even if you think you're a safe and responsible driver, accidents happen. What's more, if you need a DoD sticker on your car, you must prove you have the state's minimum liability insurance levels to obtain the stickers. There are no exceptions!

Depending on your age and your driving record, automobile insurance can be quite expensive. Nonetheless, you must have insurance.

I've heard too many cases of uninsured Sailors turning to the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society for financial assistance, either to pay a fine for lapsed insurance or to help cover the costs of an accident when they had no insurance. This has to stop. While every state varies, Virginia (as an example) requires insurance carriers to notify the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) when a person alters their insurance. If you let your insurance lapse, DMV is notified and if your vehicle is still registered, you incur a \$500 fine for having an uninsured,

registered vehicle (whether you are driving the vehicle or not). Remember, it's the registration of the vehicle that is tied to your insurance, not the miles you drive. In addition, if you fail to maintain insurance, in addition to the fine, you could be required to then purchase SR-22 insurance (which is essentially high-risk insurance) for a period of three years. The cost of SR-22 insurance is much higher than normal insurance.

Here's what I suspect is happening. Some of you purchase vehicles that are not only expensive, but are expensive to insure. Again, depending on your age and driving record, there are cases where you can pay much more in insurance than the actual payment of the vehicle. Some of you probably purchase a vehicle, purchase the insurance, register your vehicle and get your license plates, then obtain your DoD stickers, and then when all that is done,

cancel the insurance because you can't afford it (or worse, don't wish to pay it). While I'm hoping none of you ever do this, I'm not naive enough to think none of you do.

Before any of you purchase a vehicle, there are some things you should do first:

- Check with your insurance provider to see how much it will cost to insure the vehicle you want.

- Do some research to learn what vehicles are the most affordable to insure.

- Research those cars that are most susceptible to theft.

- Create a budget and make sure you can afford both the vehicle loan and the insurance premiums.

Shipmates, insurance isn't cheap. It's expensive enough if you're under 21 with a clean driving record, but if you have some tickets or accidents on your record, the price of insurance can skyrocket, regardless of age or gender. Nonetheless, you still have to maintain insurance to drive.

Look at it like this. If you are involved in an accident that is your fault and you have insurance, you are generally only liable for your deductible payment. That's why you have insurance. If you don't have

insurance, you may (and probably will) be sued by the other driver. If someone is hurt, the amount of money you could be liable for could easily cripple you financially. I wouldn't recommend taking that gamble.

I truly believe anyone with a driver's license knows the rules. You have to know the state's insurance requirements when you take your drivers license exam. To willingly ignore the law and cancel your insurance is reprehensible behavior - you put yourself and others at great financial risk and no matter your financial situation, you can't afford this.

My challenge to each of you is to carefully evaluate where you stand when it comes to insurance. Generally speaking, the younger you are, the more insurance costs. Why? Because statistics prove younger drivers are less experienced and are more prone to tickets and accidents. That's a clear fact. If you are a great driver, all you need to overcome is the age factor. That will happen in time.

One thing many of you probably don't want to do is purchase a safe car that is cheap to insure. Many of

you prefer the flashy sports car or high-priced SUV that is extremely expensive to insure. When you're young, purchasing an automobile can be a huge financial investment. My advice is to think beyond the appearance and focus on your true need, balancing it against your age, driving record, income, financial goals and other financial needs. I'm certainly not telling anyone what type of vehicle to purchase, but I will say that whatever you purchase, you need to have the financial ability to pay for the insurance premiums.

A final recommendation is that you each need to understand the insurance minimum requirements for the state you live in. Each base pass and ID office conforms to the state rules in which the base is located. There are some big state-to-state differences. If you don't take the time to educate yourself and make sure your insurance meets the state minimums, you could find yourself in a financial bind if you are in an accident. Don't let that happen - know the law and I'll say it again, if you drive you must have insurance.

Commentary

Chapel Pennant

Great Expectations

Lt. Cmdr. David Stroud,
CHC, USNR

Deputy Chaplain, Navy
Region Hawai'i

"My husband just isn't the man I married anymore." "I really thought I would be a chief by now." "Being a parent is a lot harder than I thought it would be." "I thought living in Hawai'i would be more like vacation." "I never dreamed my wife would ask for a divorce."

These are all statements that I have heard since I have been on active duty. It seems that all of us approach life with a certain idea of what it is going to be like and what we are going to accomplish. We gather all of these expectations from different sources.

We saw our parents when we were children and thought, "I want to be just like that," or maybe, "I will never be like them." We see our friends and want to be like them. We see movies and television shows and we wish we could be more like the characters. And maybe, just maybe, there are even a few people reading this article whose recruiter painted a slightly better picture of life in the Navy than they have experienced so far.

Expectations in life that do not come into being are one of the hardest things that anyone must overcome. Everyone has ideas of how our life should look and when it doesn't actually look like that, people get disappointed. What sets a person apart is his or her response to this situation. One can choose to complain and get depressed or one can choose to make the best with the cards one has.

In my experience, many

people think that God is there to take care of this situation. They think that God will make their problems go away and they will be happy again. While God may choose to do this occasionally, it is certainly the exception and not the rule. Throughout scripture, there are people who are forced to deal with extremely difficult situations. There is war, famine, adultery, murder, betrayal and the like. Most of the time, God does not take away the pain - rather, he carries people through the pain. He gives us the grace to persevere in the midst of our trial.

Now please don't misunderstand, this does not mean that we should just mindlessly accept troubles that come our way. God has also given us the ability to shape our existence. But in those times that we cannot change our circumstance or perhaps it would be best in the long run to persevere, we can trust in God to provide the courage to walk through the trial. Romans 5:2b-5a says, "And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character and hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit..."

It is difficult to persevere in the midst of expectations that have come up short. But in the midst of that, we gain a new perspective on the hope that we have in God, a hope outside ourselves. We learn that we can overcome and that is a lesson that will take us a long way toward peace and contentment.

General quarters, general quarters!



U.S. Navy Historical Photo

African American Sailors man a 20mm machine gun in a gun tub beside the flight deck of USS Copahoe (ACV-12) on Sept. 9, 1942. The carrier was then en route from Alameda, Calif. to the Southwest Pacific. In December 1942, the African-American presence in the armed forces increased when President Roosevelt issued an executive order requiring that African-Americans make up 10 percent of all draftees. By July 1943, 12,000 African-Americans were inducted monthly. By December 1943, 101,573 African-Americans had joined the Navy as non-commissioned officers.

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ESG 3 deploys in support of global war on terrorism

PH2(AW) Regina L. Brown and JO2 Zack Baddorf

USS Peleliu Public Affairs

Nearly 6,000 Sailors and Marines and six ships of Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 3 departed San Diego Feb. 15 for a six-month deployment in support of the global war on terrorism.

The strike group completed their last training work-up, Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX), Jan. 26 and its two other required exercises, ESG Integration Exercise (ESGINT) and Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX), late last year. Collectively, these exercises prepared the group for the difficult challenges that a deployment presents.

"The magnificent Sailors and Marines of ESG 3 will do their duty as a vital part of America's forward deployed combat forces," said Marine Brig. Gen. Carl B. Jensen, ESG 3 commander, who is embarked aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5), the strike group's flagship. "I expect ESG 3 to make a positive difference wherever she sails, whether that involves actual combat operations, maritime security operations, humanitarian assistance operations, or anything in between. We bring a lot of capability to the table and are ready to perform an incredibly diverse mission set."

While in the Persian Gulf, ESG 3 will conduct maritime security operations (MSO), which set the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment, as well as complement the counter-terrorism and security efforts of regional nations. MSO also deny international terrorists use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons or other material.

"Maritime security operations are critical not only to the economy of the region but to the world. The oil shipments coming in and out of this region are critical to the world's economy and furthermore, are very critical to the economic development of many of the countries here including Iraq," said Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter on a recent five-day visit to the Middle East.

Rear Adm. Christopher C. Ames, commander, Amphibious Group (COMPHIBGRU) 3, said the strike group has a "heavy responsibility" but is up to the challenge.

"If you look back at every prior ESG, you will find that they have conducted an operation of some sort," said Ames. "They have been employed, not standing off and looking. The nation has touched them for some mission, and the Sailors and Marines of ESG 3 should therefore expect that when they leave, that the nation at some moment during their six-month deployment will look to them for the leadership and



U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Nathaniel J. Karl

The amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) and the guided missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73) sails towards the Military Sealift Command (MSC) underway replenishment oiler USNS Guadalupe (T-AO 200). Peleliu and Expeditionary Strike Group Three (ESG-3) are underway off the coast of Southern California conducting their Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) in preparation for an upcoming scheduled deployment.

the warfighting skills to execute the task," said Ames.

Actively participating in a deployment gives many Sailors and Marines a great sense of patriotism and pride.

"It makes me feel pretty good to know I'm supporting what many of us believe in, the freedom of our country," said Marine Gunnery Sgt. Michael Hounshell, who will work for Peleliu's combat cargo during the deployment.

Jensen said he recognizes the devotion to duty and sacrifices of the Sailors and Marines under his command.

"Like every Sailor and Marine on board, I'm tremendously proud of this opportunity to serve our nation in a combat area. ESG 3 is mindful that America is depending upon us to successfully accomplish our mission and to bring America's sons and daughters home safely when the deployment is over," said Jensen.

Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate (AW) Jonathan Sison, a native of the Philippines who will deploy aboard Peleliu, extended his enlistment just so he could stay for the entire deployment.

"I can't even put into words how proud I am to be serving my country. [Going on deployment] is a big sacrifice as I'm leaving my family behind," said Sison, a division officer in one of Peleliu's intermediate maintenance shops.

ESG 3 is comprised of Amphibious Squadron (COMPHIBRON) 3, the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), Peleliu, the guided-missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57), the guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73), the guided-missile destroyer USS Gonzales (DDG 66), the amphibious transport dock USS Ogden (LPD 5), the dock landing ship USS Germantown (LSD 42), Tactical Air Control Squadron (TACRON) 11, and the "Black Jacks" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 21.

PRO BOWL 2006



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Dennis Cantrell

(Right) Sailors from various commands in Hawai'i re-enlist on the field in front of hundreds of spectators at Aloha Stadium during Ohana Day as part of the Pro Bowl festivities. The Pro Bowl featured all-star football players from the National Football Conference (NFC) and the American Football Conference (AFC) in a game which was played for the 27th consecutive year at Aloha Stadium.



U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Ben Gonzales

(Right) Rear Adm. Michael Vitale, Commander Navy Region Hawai'i, presents the Most Valuable Player Award to Tampa Bay Buccaneers linebacker, Derrick Brooks. This is Brooks' eighth consecutive Pro Bowl and his first Pro Bowl MVP award.



(Above) Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald gets ready to sample an entree at the culinary arts cook off. NFL players judged the cook off while in Hawai'i for the National Football League Pro Bowl.



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Dennis Cantrell

(Left) Sailors stationed at various commands in Hawai'i assist in carrying the AFC flag during the pre-game show at the 2006 Pro Bowl. The Pro Bowl featured All-Star football players from the National Football Conference (NFC) and the American Football Conference (AFC) in a game which was played for the 27th consecutive year at Aloha Stadium.

Riders gear up for Motorcycle Safety Day

PH1(AW/SW) James Foehl

Staff Photojournalist

Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i (CNRH) safety department sponsored a Motorcycle Safety Day, Saturday at the Navy Exchange Mall. Motorcycle vendors, dealers and motorcycle clubs were on hand to promote motorcycle safety and awareness to regional motorcyclists.

"Other bases have done similar events with great success," said Bill Maxwell, CNRH traffic safety specialist. "We want to show that we encourage motorcycle safety."

Base motorcycle safety representatives provided a field test exercise at the event that emphasized riders focusing on their critical motorcycle riding skills. Riders received a certificate of participation for the event.

"There's five major tests here [for the exercise]: the slow ride, two types of tight turns, an offset swerve and a slalom ride," said Maxwell.

According to Maxwell, the combination of tests shows a rider their capability to lean the motorcycle, handle the motorcycle at extremely low speeds and utilize motorcycle control and stability to negotiate obstacles that could cause them to become involved in accidents.

In addition to the riders attending the event, the Honolulu Police Department and base safety representatives from the Navy, Air Force,



U.S. Navy photo by PH1(AW/SW) James E. Foehl

Brent Hayes, Air Force staff sergeant, and squadron motorcycle safety representative from the 15th Civil Engineer Squadron at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawai'i, briefs Senior Chief Hull Maintenance Technician (SW) Wally Trevains from Seal Delivery Vehicle Team One (SDVT 1) on a motorcycle field test exercise during Navy Region Hawai'i Motorcycle Safety Day at the Navy Exchange Mall, Pearl Harbor.

Marine Corps and Army also attended to help contribute to safety awareness.

"We wanted to be here to answer questions [such as] what our policies are for riding, what [people] can do to their motorcycles, what's legal and what's not," said Sgt. James Causey, solo bike sergeant of the Honolulu Police Department Solo Bike Division.

Vendors provided a variety of personal protective motorcycle riding gear

such as helmets, vests and jackets as well as information on products. Local motorcycle dealers, displayed various types of motorcycles for riders interested in purchasing bikes.

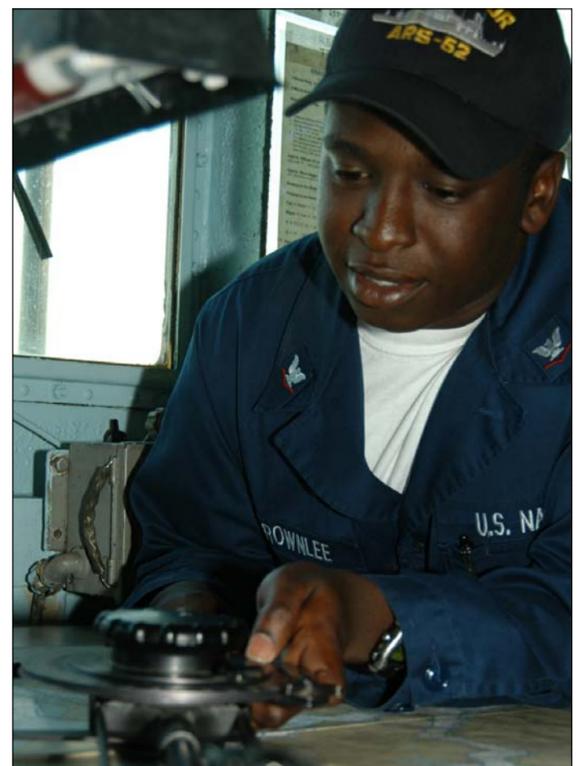
"Being a sales person for motorcycles, we encounter a lot of different [rider] experience levels. We emphasize participating in motorcycle [safety] programs and have access to the application forms for those interested," said Andre Charpentier, motorcycle sales representative from Cycle City, Honolulu.

Several local motorcycle riding clubs, including the Armed Forces of America Motorcycle Club, Oahu Chapter, were represented at the event.

"Our club is 100 percent military. We're all active duty, reserve or retired military," said Chief Hull Maintenance Technician (SW) Lynn Miller, president of the Armed Forces of America Motorcycle Club, Oahu Chapter. "There are a lot of people in the military who want to be involved in motorcycling. If they're not involved in a positive aspect, they could bring discredit to themselves and the Navy."

"Ultimately, the end goal is safe riding for all of our Marines, Sailors, Airmen, Soldiers and Coast Guardsmen," said Mario Diprete, safety specialist and Motorcycle Safety Foundation rider coach trainer for the Marine Corps Base Kaneohe in Hawai'i.

Staying the course



U.S. Navy photo by J02 Corwin Colbert

Operations Specialist 3rd Class Deante Brown-Lee plots a course during USS Salvor's (ARS 52) rescue and salvage exercise off the coast of Hawai'i.

Hawai'i Navy News Sports

USS Port Royal (CG 73) Sailor is Navy's first female Armed Forces Champion boxer

JO1 (SCW/SS) James Pinsky

Navy News Service

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (SW) Triva Pino made the Navy's first-ever female boxing debut and won the 2006 Armed Forces Championship on Feb. 8 in a packed Warfield Gymnasium aboard Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) Port Hueneme.

"I knew I could win before I stepped into the ring," said the USS Port Royal (CG 73) Sailor.

Pino's opponent, Air Force Senior Airman LaJoyce Grossett, disagreed with Pino for four two-minute rounds, leaving the match and the championship up to three judges from USA boxing. They agreed with Pino.

"I owe this championship to my teammates and coach Sylva," said Pino. "Coach told me if I would just listen to him, follow his directions, I'd be right where I am, the champion."

The Navy team is coached by 10-year Navy veteran George Sylva, owner of Sylva's Boxing Gym in Ventura where the all-Navy boxing team has trained since December. Sylva knows what it's like to be champion. In 2004 at age 42, Sylva won a title at the Ringside World Championship.

"One of the main things I tell my boxers is to visualize their fights, to visualize winning," said Sylva. "They have to go into that ring knowing they can win, or they won't."

On Feb. 10, three more of Sylva's boxers and Pino's teammates will fight for the championship, including Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5's own Utilitiesman 3rd Class Sonia Deputee, the Navy's second female boxer. Joining Deputee is Antisubmarine Warfare Operator 2nd Class Adam Fusinato, HS 15, NAS Jacksonville, Fla. and Aviation Electrician's Mate 1st Class Everett Montgomery, VX 30, NAS Point Mugu, Calif., who both won their first round fights Feb. 7 to advance to the finals.

The Armed Forces Boxing Championships is a single-elimination format tournament. There are 11 weight classes, ranging from 106 pounds to 201-plus pounds.



U.S. Navy Photo by JO1 (SCW/SS) James Pinsky

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (SW) Triva Pino, left, assigned to the guided missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73), won the 2006 U.S. Armed Forces Boxing Championship (145-pounds) at Warfield Gymnasium onboard Naval Base Ventura County, Calif. Pino is the Navy's first female boxer and won the championship in her first match as a member of the All-Navy boxing team. She won by decision against Air Force Senior Airman Joyce Grossett.