



On target
USS Crommelin friends, family cruise to Maui. See story on page A-5.



Stay on the beach
Barbers Point cottages provide beachfront accommodations. See story on page B-1.

Aloha to Dick Fiske - Pearl Harbor survivor

Karen S. Spangler
Assistant Editor

In his green and white flowered aloha shirt and jaunty Pearl Harbor Survivor's cap, Dick Fiske was a familiar face at the Arizona Memorial and around Pearl Harbor. His notoriety was far-reaching - a grizzled, mustached World War II veteran who was often recognized from documentaries or books about the Pearl Harbor attack.

For each annual Dec. 7 commemorative ceremony and numerous events that honored Pearl Harbor survivors, Fiske was there - sharing his recollections of the day that the Navy's fleet, moored in the waters of Pearl Harbor, was attacked by the Japanese.

The 82-year-old war veteran, who had survived the attack on Pearl Harbor and the Battle of Iwo Jima, died peacefully in his sleep at his home on Oahu on April 2.

Born in Boston, Mass. on March 26, 1922, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in February 1940. After field

music school, he was assigned to the USS West Virginia (BB-48) as a Marine private bugler in July 1940.

Fiske was a Marine bugler on the USS West Virginia on the morning of the Japanese attack and had just finished playing "To the Colors" when the attack began. As Japanese torpedoes and aerial bombs rained down on the battleship and the order came to abandon ship, Fiske swam to Ford Island. In 12 minutes, the West Virginia sank.

He was assigned to the ship, which was salvaged from the bottom of Pearl Harbor, until January 1944 when he was promoted to field musician sergeant and was then transferred to the 5th Marine Division. In February 1945, he was with the 5th Marine Division as the battle for Iwo Jima was fought. The loss in American lives was huge as 6,800 Americans died and more than 19,000 were wounded. Fiske survived the battle on Iwo Jima and in 1948, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force.

Assigned as a crew chief, he served during the Korean and

▼ See FISKE, A-5



Photo by J01 Daniel J. Calderon
Richard Fiske plays Taps behind the "John Wayne house" on Ford Island in August, 2002, in memory of the Sailors killed during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

Puppy Love: MWR offers pet care for military personnel

J03 Devin Wright
Staff Writer

Morale, Welfare and Recreation opened a pet kennel for dogs and cats March 24 at the state quarantine site in Halawa Valley.

"If service members find themselves in an emergency situation or want to travel back to the mainland, our service provides quality animal care for their pets," said Katrina Cedotam, an animal caretaker at the kennel. "We cater to military. So when someone comes to us and says, 'Hey I'm being deployed or I'm going TDY,' we understand that language. We don't ask 20 questions and I think that sets the service member at ease when it comes to their pet."

Limited spaces are available for eligible patrons. Patrons include active duty military members, retired and reservist personnel, service members on deployment, personnel housed in transient quarters, temporary duty assignment, or on leave.

According to Cedotam, some of the requirements for pets to be considered for boarding at the kennel are, "If they're overly aggressive or we think we won't be able to handle them, we can't accept them. They also need a clean bill of health prior to boarding. All shots must be current within one year and proof is required upon registration," she explained.

In addition, all pets must have a health certificate at least 12 months before boarding and health clearance no less than 30 days prior to boarding. All dogs and cats must also have proper documentation of vaccinations.

MWR charges a fee of \$12 a day to board a dog at the kennel. If a second family dog can fit in the same kennel, the fee is half the price for the second dog. Cats are \$10 per day. If a second family cat can fit in the same cattery, fee is half the price for the second cat.

For more information on the MWR pet kennels, call 368-3456.



Photo by J03 Devin Wright

Katrina Cedotam, an animal care taker at the new Morale, Welfare and Recreation pet kennel, walks two dalmatians. The new kennel opened March 24 at the Hawai'i State Pet Quarantine. The kennel is meant to ease the stresses of finding pet care while military members are deployed, housed in transient quarters, assigned to temporary duty, on emergency leave or on vacation.

PMRF - Gets new rules for beach and fishing access

Vida Mossman
PMRF Public Affairs

Effective immediately, Kauai residents possessing a PMRF-approved beach access pass may now enjoy recreation at Major's Bay from 6 a.m. to sunset plus 30 minutes, seven days a week. Official sunset times will be posted at the housing gate at PMRF.

Kauai fishermen will continue to be able to fish the shoreline from Major's Bay to the Kawaele ditch from 6 a.m. until 30 minutes after sunset, seven days a week. On weekends and federal holidays, fishing access to this special use area will be permitted during the same hours. This allows PMRF security personnel to ensure the base recreation areas are clear before dark.

"We met with several community groups and fishermen to listen and understand their needs and desires and explain to them the security measures, environmental constraints and safety concerns that PMRF must address in a post 9/11 world," said Capt. Jeff Connelly, PMRF commanding officer. "These very fruitful discussions, along with the Navy's strong desire to make fair and reasonable decisions, has resulted in policy changes that support the fishermen and beach enthusiasts in the community - without compromising PMRF's ability to support Navy training and national testing missions."

The new policy expands upon the existing rules that will remain in effect (with the exception of the new hours) and states that:

- The defined special use fishing area is from "Kawaele Ditch northwards up to the southern-most windsock adjacent to the runway."

- A maximum of 25 persons will be authorized access into the special use fishing area for the purpose of fishing, on a first-come-first served basis. Access to the fishing area will be controlled by passes issued at the housing security gate. These passes will include a photo of the authorized area and a copy of the rules and regulations.

- Fishing must be from the beach. Boaters, surfers and watercraft operators - for their safety - are requested to remain outside the aircraft ap-

proach zone. This is an area approximately 1,500 feet either side of the runway centerline and extending 3,000 feet offshore from the approach end of the runway.

- Personal gear authorized are fishing poles, tackle boxes and coolers. Spear guns are not allowed aboard the PMRF.

- Access to the special use fishing area will be from the Major's Bay parking lot only.

- Fishermen must observe Hawai'i state laws for fishing.

- Surfing/water sport activities are not permitted in the fishing area.

- For safety and security purposes, fishermen within the special use fishing area must be prepared to immediately vacate the fishing area upon notification by PMRF security personnel or signaling device.

Residents interested in obtaining beach access passes should apply for a background check from the Kauai Police Department ID and records division located on the ground floor of the new police headquarters in Lihue.

Once it is determined by KPD that the applicant has no felony convictions, the certified application may be presented to PMRF's main gate for issuance of an identification card Monday - Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. with the exception of holidays. The entire process may take seven to 10 days.

Current beach access card holders, desiring access to the special use fishing area, must complete an amended memorandum of agreement form. Forms will be available at the pass and identification office from 1 to 3 p.m. Monday through Fridays, except for federal holidays. The pass and identification office is located on the left just inside PMRF's main gate.

"The new hours and access to designated fishing area expand access to PMRF to the maximum extent practicable and are the result of the hard work of many at PMRF and within the community - particularly on the west side of Kauai," shared Connelly. "I'm banking on the fact that visitors to PMRF will abide by the rules, treat the recreation areas and one another with the respect and care all so richly deserve."

Reuben James rescues 149 migrants

Reuben James Public Affairs

Pearl Harbor-based frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) transported 149 Ecuadorian migrants to Manta, Ecuador after rescuing them at sea March 30.

Spotted by naval aircraft during normal reconnaissance operations, fishing vessel Margyl Margarita was reported as having numerous men, women and children on deck. The Navy ship located M/V Margyl Margarita after sunset and released a Navy boarding team to investigate. The

boarding team reported the ship to be non-operational with 98 men, 38 women and 13 adolescent-aged children onboard.

After the migrants were safely evacuated to the Reuben James, a San Diego-based U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement detachment boarded the Margyl Margarita and discovered the ship was slowly sinking, had no operational lighting and minimal supplies of food and water. Consequently, the decision was made to provide refuge for the migrants and transport them back to Ecuador.

Tents and makeshift facilities were erected on the decks of the Reuben James to provide shelter for the Ecuadorian citizens. Cryptologic Technician (technical) 1st Class (SW) Jeremy Hamilton who assisted in the rescue noted, "They knew that had [Reuben James] not come along, they surely would have perished. They were very appreciative of all the comforts that were given them from the blankets, towels, toiletries and meals to the courtesy and

▼ See RESCUES, A-4

Security tests new weapons issuance program

JOSN Ryan C. McGinley
Staff Writer

Region security recently installed a new weapons issuance program for the Pearl Harbor precinct that saves man-hours and paperwork.

Maximus, a contracting company, developed the prototype in 1999. Commander, Pacific Fleet, and Commander, Navy Installation's common access card (CAC) program management office provided funds to procure hardware and implement the system with state of the art Minitonix touch screen computers. The program allows personnel to check in and check out weapons, ammunitions and radios for their shifts in a three-window format by using their CAC and PIN, said Calvin C. Beale, Jr., information systems training specialist.

"This is a prototype system," said Chief Gunner's Mate (SW) Tony Hall, regional weapons officer. "To do three windows [and] to do a little over 300 people any given day is miraculous. Pearl Harbor alone supports over 400 Naval Security Force personnel.

Originally, security was manually recording all activity on paper, which proved to be not only time consuming, but nearly impossible to track and file.

"One of our biggest problems was trying to issue weapons, ammunitions, radios and everything else in a timely manner," said Hall.

Hall said the new program saves an average of 30 minutes per shift, leaving time for personnel to get to their posts. Before implementing the program, checking weapons in and out would cut into liberty time and create paperwork that was difficult to organize.

The number one reason for implementing the system was accountability for all weapons, equipment and ammunitions.

"Coming back and actually knowing the exact location of every piece of arms, ammunition and explosive, that's the end result I look at," he said.

"Accountability is the bottom line because you can walk in there right now and hit a button and know exactly how many weapons have been issued," said GM2 Brad Owens, assistant weapons administrator.

The program allows security to maintain a database restricting what types of weapons are issued to certain personnel and flag individuals whose weapons qualifications are expired.

"This system actually holds each individual operator [and]



GM2 Brad Owens checks in a weapon from Lt. Toney Rice using the new weapons issuance program.

each individual user more accountable for what they have," said Hall.

Owens said the program is extremely user-friendly and it takes about 10 to 15 minutes to train someone to operate the system. The prototype relies on touch screens and keypads that also allow for easy use.

Bob Nering, Commander, Pacific Fleet CAC technical advisor, said the prototype is being implemented region wide at West Loch, Pacific Missile Range Facility, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station and Lu-

alualei. San Diego area Navy facilities have also requested information on the prototype; however, Nering hopes to bring the program up to 2004 standards before it's used Navy wide.

Security is hoping that this program will revolutionize the way weapons and ammunition are distributed, yielding increased responsibility throughout the Navy.

"You have to move out from yesterday," said Hall. "You have to move into the future. And to be able to move into the future, you have to take steps."

Photo by JOSN Ryan C. McGinley

Commentary

Fireside Chat

Navy Region Federal Fire Dept.

Extension cords: The shocking truth

Victor Flint
Federal Fire Dept.

Most people use extension cords as a convenience without knowing how dangerous they could be.

Misuse or abuse of extension cords causes numerous fires in government housing every year.

The Federal Fire Department recommends the following precautions:

- Use the right extension cord for the right job - light duty, heavy duty, inside, outside. Check to see which one is right for you.
- Use only an approved type of extension cord. UL (Underwriters Laboratories) or FM (Factory Mutual) are the good ones.
- Avoid coiling cords to prevent heating and cracking.
- Use only three-prong plugged type of extension cords. This is a grounded type of cord - much safer. Never remove the third prong; you could get shocked.



Photo by JO1 Daniel J Calderon

People who are not careful can burn out their extension cords and cause house fires.

• Inspect your extension cord frequently. If your cord is cracked, pitted, crushed or frayed, then get rid of it.

• Do not nail or staple extension cords to the wall or ceiling.

• Do not run extension cords under carpets, over driveways, through windows or doors. That's how the cords get smashed and short out.

• Do not run extension cords through a puddle of water or under water or attached to a metal fence.

• But one thing is for sure. Extension cords are to be used as temporary wiring only. Use extension cords as a convenience - we all do. But when you are finished, unplug the extension cord at the power end (plug to outlet).

For more information, call the Federal Fire Department's prevention division at 474-7785.

Hawai'i Navy News

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Hawai'i Navy News is a free unofficial paper published every Thursday by The Honolulu Advertiser, 605 Kapiolani Blvd., Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96813, a private firm in no way connected with DoD, the U. S. Navy or Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i.

All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com World Wide Web address: www.hnn.navy.mil.

This civilian enterprise newspa-

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Hawaii Navy News

Customer service prioritized at family housing office

Karen S. Spangler
Assistant Editor

The new housing military liaison at the Navy Aloha Center has already set a priority for Navy housing in Hawai'i. "Our number one goal is to improve customer service to our Navy families," said Master Chief Anthony Hintz, housing military liaison at the Navy Aloha Center (NAC) as he assumed his new duties.

Stepping into the housing position as Master Chief Bob Scheeler retires, Hintz will also play an active role in addressing customers' housing concerns and resolving issues that may arise.

Hintz has become very familiar with the issues of Sailors and their families in Hawai'i over the past years. He served as command master chief for Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific, USS Russell (DDG 59) and Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet before his assignment as military liaison for Navy family housing at Pearl Harbor.

Family housing residents can ask questions about a variety of issues, such as policy concerns or even to praise someone who was particularly helpful, by contacting the Navy Aloha Center and can be assured that their questions and concerns will be addressed - and in a timely manner.

Discussing their housing matters with staff at NAC will also alert housing personnel to areas that are of particular concern.

"We at Navy family housing encourage good communications between our residents and hope that they can develop lifetime relationships that continue well after completion of naval service," said Hintz. "Some of my best friends in the Navy have also been my neighbors. How many people get to live next to - and work with - their best friends?" he added.

Housing residents also have an opportunity to provide inputs to the Navy Region Ohana Survey as well as the residents' satisfaction survey which is prepared by Naval Facilities Engineering Command. Feedback from the surveys provide Navy housing management with information on specific areas that housing customers would like to see improved. The surveys are valuable tools in making improvements and addressing resident concerns.

Customers are asked to address basic questions to their housing area inspectors as these are the front line personnel who are most familiar with their respective areas and concerns.

However, residents who do not receive an answer that satisfies their concerns from the first point of contact can always take the issue higher up the chain. Residents can call Hintz directly on any concern that has not been resolved.

Capt. Norman T. Ho, assistant chief of staff for housing for Navy Region Hawai'i, emphasized that housing is dedicated to improving customer service and the quality of life for military members and their families. "We strive to provide exceptional customer service," he said. "We are always looking for ways to do an even better job in the customer service we provide to our housing customers," he said.

Comments, questions and concerns from housing customers are not only welcome, but strongly encouraged. When visiting the Navy Aloha Center, customers may also opt to complete a Navy family housing customer survey card to provide feedback to the housing staff.

To reach Master Chief Hintz, call 474-1804 or email him at anthony.hintz@navy.mil.

To reach the Navy Aloha Center and/or your area inspector or other housing personnel call 474-1800.

Boutiki donates thousands to local charities



Photo by J03 Devin Wright

Capt. Ronald Cox, chief of staff for Navy Region Hawai'i and commanding officer for Naval Station Pearl Harbor presents a check for \$100 from the Boutiki gift shop to a representative from SAFE Cat House Rescue Program. The Boutiki Gift Shop raised more than \$8,500 for local military and civilian charities. The shop is staffed by volunteers from all branches of the Armed Forces.

Friends, neighbors to dedicate memorial to Charlotte Schaefer

Friends and neighbors of five-year-old Charlotte Paige Schaefer will plant a permanent memorial in her honor at the site where she drowned Feb. 28 in an apparent attempt to save a friend.

The ceremony will take place today at 5 p.m. During the event, friends and neighbors will also share their favorite stories about Charlotte.

An Easter egg hunt and community potluck will be held following the ceremony.

A temporary memorial of flowers, leis, cards and stuffed animals has collected near the site of Charlotte's drowning since the tragedy.

Free Classified advertising for military in Hawaii Navy News

Active duty and retired military, civil service and dependent personnel can advertise the sale of their personal property (including real estate) and services in HNN at no charge. The details are as follows: Classified items and services must represent an incidental exchange between the aforementioned personnel and not business operations. Requests for three-line free classified advertisements can be submitted via email, if from a ".mil" address (submit to lkanshi@honolulu.gannett.com), by phone at 521-9111 or by visiting www.honoluluadvertiser.com and clicking on "classified ads." More lines of advertising can be purchased at an additional fee. Requesters should include their military ID number and a call-back phone number.

PACOM commander outlines concerns, priorities

Rudi Williams
American Forces
Press Service



US Navy Photo
 Adm. Thomas B. Fargo

Calling transformation his primary concern, Navy Adm. Thomas B. Fargo told the House Armed Services Committee on March 31 that sustaining and supporting the war on terrorism is the U.S. Pacific Command's highest priority.

But Fargo, the Pacific Command commander, told the house representatives in a prepared statement that he's "keenly focused on the Korean peninsula."

"Although I believe the likelihood of war is low, the stakes would be very high if war occurred – and even higher if North Korea continues to pursue nuclear weapons capabilities," Fargo said.

Preventing miscalculations that could result in conflict between India and Pakistan or in the Taiwan Strait also is a Pacific Command priority, the admiral said. "Recent dialogue between India and Pakistan and the resulting relaxation in tensions are very positive signs," he noted. "Our modest but constructive military-to-military relationship with China features high-level exchanges like Defense Minister Cao (Gangchuan)'s visit to Wash-

ington and Hawaii last year."

Taiwan is the largest source of friction in the U.S. relationship with China, the admiral said. But he added the United States remains prepared and committed to meet its obligations under the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979.

Transnational threats are a major concern in the Pacific region, the admiral noted. "Despite recent and notable successes in the war on terrorism, we remain deeply concerned about transnational terror organizations including al Qaeda and Jemaah Islamiyah and by more localized groups like the Abu Sayyaf group in the southern Philippines," Fargo told lawmakers.

"We also sense increasing synergy between transnational threats like terrorism, illicit drugs, trafficking in humans, piracy and especially the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," he said.

Pacific Command's efforts toward transformation include coordinating with friends and allies in the region to effect enduring improvements while strengthening the command's ability to respond to emerging threats, Fargo said.

"Our relationships in the region, including five treaty allies and numerous friendships, are as strong as ever," he emphasized. "Nations within our region are making smart and generous contributions to regional and global security, including Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom."

Fargo said since 9/11, nations in the region are more aware of the interdependent vulnerabilities

and the need for cooperation for security reasons. "This mutually supportive environment facilitates both our forward presence in theater and the security programs necessary to promote a peaceful, stable and prosperous Asia-Pacific region," he said.

Fargo listed the Pacific Command's five top priorities as sustaining and supporting the war on terrorism, improving readiness and joint warfighting capability of Pacific Command forces, reinforcing the constants in Asia-Pacific security, promoting change and improving the Asia-Pacific defense posture for the future, and improving the quality of service of the command's men and women.

"In addition to addressing terror threats in the Pacific area of responsibility," the admiral said, "the command is also a primary force provider to Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom."

As an example of how nations in the region are cooperating against terror threats, Fargo said Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines have detained and arrested more than 200 members of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror group.

But he said regional and local terrorist groups with ties to the al Qaeda network continue to pose dangerous threats to the United States and its friends, especially in Southeast Asia.

Calling Southeast Asia a crucial front in the war on terror, Fargo said destabilization of the governments of that region – moderate, secular, legitimately elected, with large Muslim populations –

would sentence the region to decades of danger and chaos. "We have to stop the violence," Fargo said.

The Pacific Command, with headquarters at Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii, hopes to do that with its near-term and long-term plan to deal with terror threats, he noted. "In the near term, we have to stop immediate threats against our citizens, our friends, property and vital infrastructure," Fargo said. "This near-term effort includes defeating actual attacks, disrupting the enemy's plans and proactive defensive measures."

"We don't see military action as the sole or even primary instrument of national power in this fight," the admiral noted. "Intelligence sharing and law enforcement lead much of this effort."

Fargo pointed out that these near-term efforts are an essential but incomplete solution because the war on terrorism, like the fight against other transnational threats, can't be won by attrition alone.

"Terrorists can multiply faster than they can be captured or killed," he emphasized.

The command's long-term effort is focused on strengthening the region's democratic institutions, such as education, law enforcement and basic services that provide security at the economic, social and physical levels, Fargo explained.

"Many of our efforts directly support this long-term goal," Fargo noted. "We believe we'll reach a tipping point in the war on terrorism when sound governance prevails and citizens value their institutions more than they fear the terrorists."

Navy News asks: Why is Pearl Harbor the Navy's best homeport?



FC2(SW) Sean Myers
USS O'Kane (DDG 77)

There is so much to do for families, and you can't beat the weather. All the opportunities for Sailors on and off base are unbeatable.



STS2(SS) Brain Woydziak
USS Louisville (SSN 724)

'Cause you're living in paradise plain and simple.



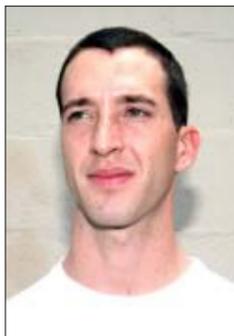
CS2 James Hayes
Naval Station Pearl Harbor

The environment.



RP3 Bonnie Gutierrez
Navy Region Hawai'i

I'm new here but it's true this really is paradise.



MU3 Timothy Hendrix
Commander Pacific Fleet

Beautiful weather, great place to go surfing.

Rescues: Mission was 'special'

Continued from A-1

respect that they were shown."

After the migrants were evacuated and a thorough investigation of the ship was conducted, Margyl Margarita was deemed as a hazard to navigation. Reuben James was ordered to sink the ship using the close in weapons system.

Gunner's Mate 1st Class (SW) Oswaldo Cora, who served as one of the Navy boarding team members, said, "Being a part of this whole chain of events was special to me. Never before have I had the opportunity to do a mission like this."

On April 1, Reuben James returned to Mantua, Ecuador, a port call the ship had recently made, to offload the migrants. After the citizens debarked and were released into Ecuadorian custody, Reuben James returned to sea to continue with its assigned mission of counter-narcotic operations.

Reuben James has been deployed to the eastern Pacific Ocean since February and is scheduled to return to Pearl Harbor later this month.

Fiske: Survivor was 'treasured'

Continued from A-1

Vietnam Wars and retired from the Air Force in 1973.

Fiske had been a volunteer at the Arizona Memorial since 1986. In January 2003, he was among 10 volunteers who were honored by U.S. Interior Secretary Gale Norton and Hawai'i Gov. Linda Lingle for contributing more than 3,000 hours of his time to the memorial.

"Dick Fiske was a valuable and treasured part of the Arizona Memorial family. He joined us in 1986 as a volunteer in the parks (VIP) and for 17 years, he greeted millions of visitors," said Dan Martinez, National Park Service historian at the USS Arizona Memorial Visitors' Center. "Those who got to know him were very touched by him."

"Pearl Harbor survivors are treasures that we have come to appreciate and we're saddened with the passing of the World War II generation," Martinez continued. "Their stories are important to telling about America's past. Dick was one of those who told the stories and made Pearl Harbor real to visitors who came here," he said. According to Martinez, four Pearl Harbor survivors who were volunteers at the USS Arizona Memorial have been lost in the past year.

Martinez explained that the Arizona Memorial is unique because of the contributions of



Photo courtesy of USS Arizona Memorial Visitors Center
Richard Fiske in his Marine uniform, circa early 1940s.

Pearl Harbor survivors. "The Arizona Memorial is special because you can't always go to a park and talk to someone who was there," he explained.

For decades after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Pearl Harbor survivor harbored a hatred against the Japanese attackers for the deaths of his friends and fellow Sailors. But that came to a close in 1991 when Fiske met Zenji Abe, a pilot of one of the Japanese Zeroes. At a reunion for World War II veterans, Fiske gave Abe a bear hug and the start of a long friendship between the two wartime veterans began.

It was also the start of a tradition. Every year, Abe would

send Fiske money to buy roses. And in a one-man ceremony that took place every month, Fiske would place the flowers at the Arizona Memorial and play Taps to his fallen comrades. Fiske promised Abe that he would continue the tribute as long as he lived – and he kept his word.

Fiske spent his later years working to build bonds between Japanese and American veterans of World War II. During his narrations at the Arizona Memorial, he emphasized the good relations between the United States and Japan and was chronicled in a number of books and articles for his efforts. In 1996, he received the Order of the Rising Sun with Silver Rays from the Japanese emperor.

"He was one of the first who believed there should be reconciliation with the enemy," stated Martinez and explained that the Order of the Rising Sun is the highest award a civilian can receive in Japan.

In an interview with Hawai'i Navy News in August 2001, Fiske said, "Some of those who bombed us are now my very close friends. We are so close that we call each other family. Can you believe that?"

Through the years, countless visitors to the Arizona Memorial have listened to Fiske tell about the attack on Pearl Har-

bor. His stories were often sprinkled with humor. In a Hawai'i Navy News interview in May 2001, Fiske recounted, "People say we were sleeping. That's completely false. We weren't. Everybody was up – because I sounded reveille at 5:30 and buddy, when I sound reveille, nobody sleeps on my ship. Why they've got that idea, I don't know."

Frequently, his eyes filled with tears and his voice was heavy with emotion as he remembered the sinking of the Arizona. "I remember three torpedoes coming at us and we thought they were dummies. That was our first mistake," he related. "The most profound thing was when I saw the Arizona blow up. I was never so scared in my life," he remembered.

Always modest, Fiske – the hero of another generation – was quick to tell people, "People call us heroes, but we were far from being heroes. We just did our jobs," he said.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Carmen; a son, Richard E. Fiske; two daughters, Peggy Bundeck and Ginny Kawamura; a granddaughter and a grandson.

The funeral for Richard I. "Dick" Fiske will be held Tuesday at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, or "Punchbowl," at 3 p.m.

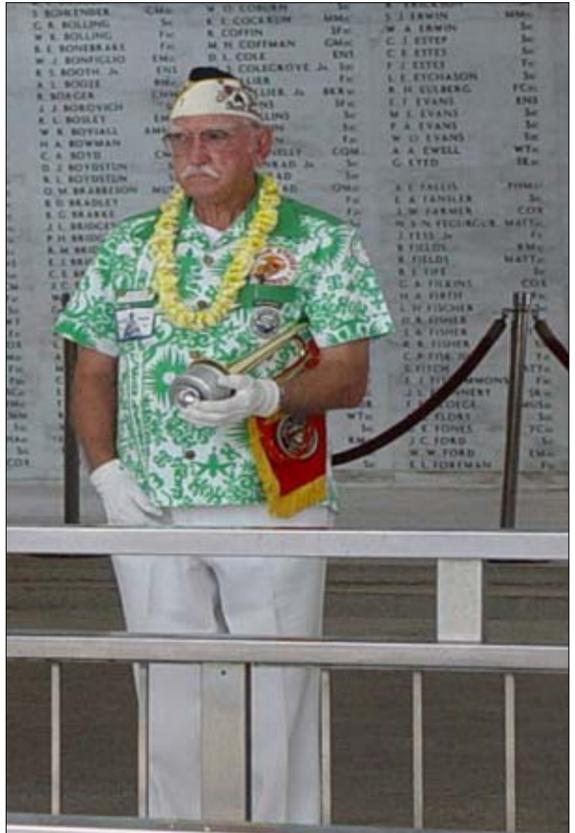


Photo courtesy of USS Arizona Memorial Visitors Center
Richard Fiske stands with his bugle just outside the shrine room at the USS Arizona Memorial. Fiske would lay roses at the memorial once a month to honor the Sailors who lost their lives in the Dec. 7, 1941 attack. The monthly tribute was a joint effort between Fiske and Zenji Abe. Abe was one of the Japanese attackers in 1941. The two struck up a friendship after meeting in 1991.

Crommelin hosts friends and family cruise



Photo by JOSN Ryan C. McGinley
Tom Hayden, whose son is stationed aboard USS Crommelin (FFG 37), explains to his grandson and Fire Controlman 2nd Class (SW) Charlie Romero how guns have changed since he served in the Navy during World War II.

JOSN Ryan C. McGinley
Staff Writer

USS Crommelin (FFG 37) hosted a cruise to Maui April 2-5 for family members, the Navy League and teachers from Holomua Elementary School, providing educational demonstrations performed by the crew.

More than 200 guests were invited aboard to learn the responsibilities and rewards of being a United States Navy Sailor.

"It's a time for our crew to show to their families ... what they do for a living and help share that with them," said Cmdr. Don Hodge, Crommelin's commanding officer. Crommelin has a partnership in education with Holomua Elementary School in which Sailors provide tutoring and help maintain the school's appearance.

"We love it," said Colleen Hokutan, a Holomua Elementary School teacher. "They always come to the school and help us and now it's really nice to see what they do."

Hodge said the Navy League provides tremendous support in the civilian community by communicating Navy plans and programs to the public and elected officials.

"I think it's important that they see what their efforts result in and our guys have had a wonderful time showing [them] around," he said.

On the trip to Maui, Crommelin's crew demonstrated shipboard life to its guests in various ways. After setting a course for the tropical island, Crommelin introduced its capabilities during a high-speed evasive maneuver demonstration that left some guests feeling a bit queasy. The

guided missile frigate made quick and acute turns, rocking the ship back and forth while some guests cheered and others held on for dear life.

"I like when we went really fast and then we reversed and then we did those maneuvers and turns," said Hokutan. "I like that part. It was fun."

Next, the crew showed guests the importance of quick response to emergencies. Damage Controlman 1st Class (SW) Robert McGregor gave a class on the necessities of damage control as well as equipment used to fight fires.

The crew then demonstrated dressing out in firefighting ensembles and water hose techniques.

An SH-60B Seahawk helicopter flew by the ship numerous times demonstrating aerial maneuvers before landing on the flight deck. Guests pointed and snapped photographs of the aerial display before getting a close look at the helicopter on the flight deck.

"When the helicopter buzzed us that was really exciting because it really seemed to have a lot of flair," said John Thorvaldson, Navy League member. "The pilot really had a lot of panache."

Crommelin's culinary specialists also prepared a steel beach picnic for the guests, which included hamburgers and hot dogs.

Ensign Kristen Christensen, anti-submarine warfare officer and cruise director, posed trivia questions for the family and friends on the commissioning and size of the ship.

While anchored off the coast of Maui, crewmembers performed community service to Kihei Elementary School by painting quiet zone signs and playground equipment. Crommelin has also adopted an elementary school from



Photo by JOSN Ryan C. McGinley
Dick Schnacke, a visitor with the Navy League, looks at an SH-60B Seahawk Helicopter aboard USS Crommelin (FFG 37).

Ecuador to assist on its upcoming deployment to South America.

On the return home from Maui, some guests took in the sun on the flight deck, while others witnessed static displays of various weaponry and areas of the ship. Guests were also treated to a 50-caliber gunfire display.

"It was loud and powerful," said Thorvaldson. "I like to see the power that [the ship] has."

Hodge said the purpose of the cruise was for family and friends to see the way a Navy ship operates.

"I think it sends the message that we're not only concerned about the service member," said Chief Storekeeper (SW/AW) Rodrick Barrow, supply leading chief petty officer. "We are interested in the families, too, [and] any time you get an opportunity to do this, it's good for the Navy and good for the families. It's a win-win for everybody."

With its upcoming deployment only a month away, Crommelin crewmembers got to spend time

with their families while showing them what they do while at sea.

"I think it's important ... so the families can understand what their mom or dad or brother or sister does in the Navy, understand why they're here," said Christensen.

Throughout the four-day adventure, guests of the Crommelin developed an understanding of the danger and excitement of shipboard life aboard a U.S. Navy ship.

"It's very enjoyable and everyone's really polite," said Sally Messbarger, Navy League spouse. "Any question I ask, they answer."

Friends and family of the Crommelin expressed an overwhelming response to the cruise reiterating the ship's importance and also the significance of the Navy as a whole.

"It's a real good feeling, a proud to be American feeling," said Hokutan. "It's a very good experience."

Crommelin continues community service partnership with Maui elementary school

JOSN Ryan C. McGinley
Staff Writer

Sailors aboard USS Crommelin (FFG 37) participated in a community outreach activity Saturday at Kihei Elementary School on Maui, painting sidewalks, quiet zones and playground equipment.

"We consider education to be vital to the youth of America," said Cmdr. Don Hodge, Crommelin's commanding officer. "Our Sailors get an incredibly warm and wonderful feeling whenever they're able to volunteer in these kinds of events."

Approximately 20 Sailors volunteered Saturday morning to help out with the project, assisting 10 teachers and other personnel from the school.

"It's always good for the com-

mand's morale [and] togetherness. ... the extra service that we do," said Storekeeper 2nd Class Ron Pimentel.

Alvin Shima, principal of Kihei Elementary School, said the school was very appreciative of Crommelin's help and hopes more partnerships can be made with the Navy and the schools of Hawai'i.

"It's beyond what I expected," he said. "The people that are here are very personable and willing to do whatever it takes."

Crommelin also has a partnership with Holomua Elementary School on the island of Oahu. The crew provides tutoring as well as labor for the school.

Recent manual labor projects Crommelin has helped with include the painting of a mural at the school and removing carpet,

which saved almost \$23,000.

Approximately 20 Sailors from Crommelin also provide tutoring to children on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Hodge said the relationship that the Sailors make with the kids resembles a big brother or sister connection.

"The kids really look forward to the Navy people coming," said Norman Pang, principal of Holomua Elementary School. "That shows a tremendous amount of bonding that goes on."

Crommelin will go on deployment in May to South America, and they have lined up a partnership with an elementary school in Ecuador as well, said Hodge. The project will be mostly labor intensive because of the language barrier. The ship will also transport furniture donated by Holomua Elementary School

to the school in Ecuador.

Pang said Crommelin initiated the idea of bringing furniture to the school in Ecuador and contacted Holomua Elementary School for aid with the project.

"The people of the Crommelin are very proactive," said Pang.

In addition, Crommelin will utilize technology by videotaping its Sailors reading while on deployment to send back to the kids, helping sustain the relationships it has made with the Holomua children, said Hodge.

The school will then send video back to the ship showing the children's reactions to the tape.

Hodge said that Sailors aboard the ship enjoy and look forward to the opportunity to reach out to the community whether it's in Hawai'i or wherever they might be in the world.



Photo by JOSN Ryan C. McGinley
DC3 Chad Harbin helps paint playground equipment at Kihei Elementary School on Maui. USS Crommelin (FFG 37) volunteered to paint sidewalks and other areas as part of their community outreach program.

Convenience: Hawai'i implements door-to-door service

Terri Kojima

599th Transportation Group

Full implementation of door-to-door service for military ocean shipments to and from Hawai'i began April 1, following successful test shipments and negotiations with Matson Navigation and Horizon Lines.

Hawai'i's two major private industry ocean carriers, contracted by the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, expanded their service to include container drayage and ultimately provide door-to-door service for approximately 10,000 military containers per year.

"Historically, Hawai'i was a 'port-to-port' trade that required separate arrangements for the drayage of military containers to and from ocean carrier terminals in Honolulu," said Gordon Lowe, chief of the 599th Transportation Group's universal service contract management office in the Pacific. "This proved to be a fragmented and problematic process that inhibited the efficient movement of military cargo."

Normally, the delivery process involves an exchange whereby a container full of goods is delivered to the customer's yard and an empty container is picked up and returned to its owner. In the past, this was not always the case.

"The rate that containers were being picked up did not keep up with the number of new containers being delivered," said Jason Rakestraw, who is the distribution center manager for Hawai'i's Army and Air Force Exchange Service. "As a result, we sometimes encountered a pileup of empty containers sitting in the yard which impeded delivery of additional goods."

599th Transportation Group's commander, Col. Tom Harvey, acknowledged the problem and called for a door-to-door service test solution.

"There was an urgent need to unplug the distribution pipeline for containers being shipped to our military customers in Hawaii," said Harvey. "We can't afford to put up with poor container management that often results in wasteful detention



U.S. Navy photo

Matson trucks like these will now deliver military containers "door to door" under a new contract. This will enable military shipments to be processed and delivered faster than ever.

fees and lesser service to our customers."

Under the new arrangement, Matson Navigation and Horizon Lines subcontracts the trucking company that will deliver the containers from the port to the customer's yard. Customers such as the Navy Exchange and Army and Air Force Exchange Service will deal directly with the ocean carriers by accessing an automated system owned by the Navy's Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Pearl Harbor. The Web-based technology, known as the container routing information system or CRIS, provides distribution managers with information on the availabilities of all containers that the ocean carriers have identified for clearance to access the port.

"Being hooked up to the system enables us to log in and identify the status of all the containers for AAFES (Army and Air Force Exchange Service)," said Rakestraw.

"We can identify which containers are empty or full, which are sitting, and which are in use or not being used. The information helps us to improve scheduling for deliveries, pickups and promotes timely in-and-out movement of containers," he said.

While the administrative responsibilities for door-to-door

service has shifted from the Navy at Pearl Harbor to the ocean carriers, representatives from Matson Navigation and Horizon Lines recognized an immediate benefit to the ocean carriers.

"This provides us the opportunity to gain better control of the movement of our containers and our equipment," said Charlie Battiato, Horizon Lines' strategic account director.

Vic Angoco, manager of container operations at Matson Navigation Company, was in total agreement.

"Under the old arrangement, we had no visibility of our containers once they left the pier," said Angoco.

"With door-to-door service, we (Matson Navigation) can use our containers and chassis more efficiently. It doesn't make much sense to have our containers sitting empty in the customer's yard. Now, with increased visibility, if I do see it (containers) empty, I can arrange for pickup and make more efficient use of the equipment," explained Angoco.

"Hawai'i customers can now enjoy the same high level of surface distribution service as experienced in Korea, Japan, Guam and Okinawa, where the service is already in place," said Lowe.

Former P.O.W. Goes 'Beyond Survival'

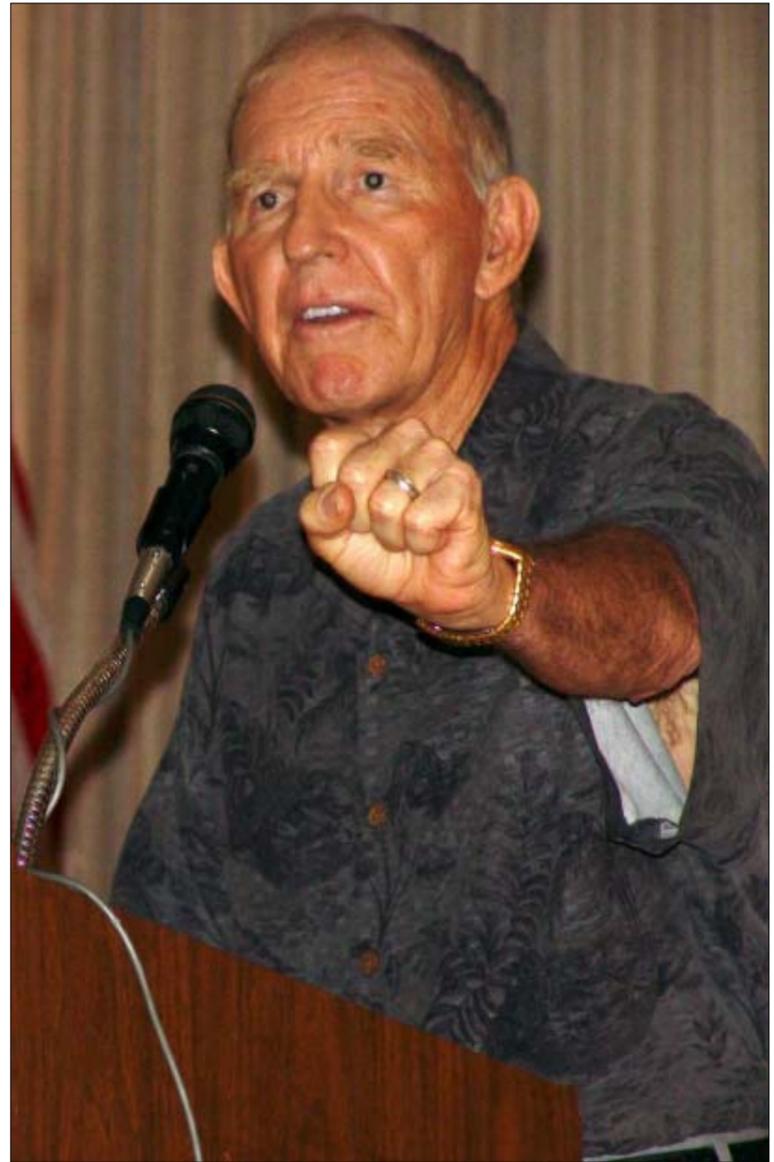


Photo by JOC Joe Kane

Retired Navy Capt. Gerald Coffee speaks to the Surface Navy Association at the Pearl Harbor Banyans Club April 6. Coffee spent more than seven years as a P.O.W. after being shot down during a combat mission over North Vietnam in 1966. Coffee was attached to USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) at the time and after his release, returned to active service completing 28 years in the Navy. The success of his book, "Beyond Survival," and his ability to communicate to audiences have made him one of the most popular keynote speakers in the U.S.

O'Kane completes evaluation

USS O'Kane Public Affairs

USS O'Kane (DDG 77) was recently certified emergency surge ready upon completion of its final evaluation problem (FEP).

FEP marks the end of the basic phase of the inter-deployment training cycle (IDTC) for O'Kane which returned from deployment on July 28. While most ships unwind after a six-month deployment, O'Kane tackled the IDTC and achieved "training level one" in almost every warfare area evaluated by the Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific, all part of the new Fleet Response Plan.

O'Kane deployed Jan. 17, 2003, to support Operation Enduring Freedom more than seven months earlier than scheduled. While overseas, O'Kane used every moment as an opportunity to train. The crew ran combat systems training team drills twice a week, even after launching 19 Tomahawk land-attack missiles in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. O'Kane retrieved a recoverable exercise torpedo near the Red Sea. In addition, the ship ran integrated training team scenarios.

The return trip included a successful engineering mid-cycle assessment and various other drills to maintain proficiency. This sustained level of training and readiness, even in the midst of a deployment, made the transition easier.

"We made training a way of life on O'Kane," said Lt. Jg. Matthew Cox, the ship's damage control assistant during deployment.

By December, O'Kane had already passed several certifications months ahead of schedule, including cruise missile tactical qualification and visit board search and seizure certification, while simultaneously completing its enabling objectives and terminal objectives.

As FEP neared, O'Kane ran dozens of integrated training team drills to practice its war fighting. The crew conducted evolutions, such as a nighttime refueling at sea, mooring to a buoy, anti-terrorism/force protection scenarios, towing exercises, flight operations and medical emergency drills.

O'Kane's preparation allowed the ship to tackle FEP during the first week of March. The two-day scenario, which included simulated missile launches, enemy attacks, torpedo evasions, engineering casualties, main space fire drills and medical emergencies all occurring simultaneously. After pulling back into Pearl Harbor, O'Kane was declared emergency surge ready for any potential overseas operation.

Wrapping up from the final sea and anchor detail of the basic phase of training, Senior Chief Bill Reed commented, "The last 13 weeks have been intense, but this crew has responded like it always has...it's truly motivating for me to come to work every day and see how even the most junior Sailor in O'Kane responds to the crucible of shipboard life. We are emergency surge ready now because of O'Kane's Sailors, who each and every day breathe life into the ship's motto - "A tradition of honor."

Hydrant heroes

Navy PWC helps preschool open for community children

JO1 Daniel J. Calderón
Editor

The Navy has saved Aiea Elementary School almost \$200,000 by repairing and re-opening a water line to a fire hydrant in front of the school said school principal Art Kaneshiro.

Aiea Elementary is preparing to open a new preschool facility next to its existing elementary school facility. According to Honolulu Board of Water Supply officials, hydrants in school areas must be no more than 250 feet apart. This differs from a regular hydrant spacing of 350 feet because of safety concerns. Officials say hydrants must be closer together for the protection of the children.

"We've been trying to get this done for around the last two years," said Kaneshiro.

In that time, the school contacted the Navy Public Works Center for help. The lots next door to the school previously housed a Navy laundry facility from the 1950s to 1998. When the Navy tore the buildings down in 1998, it retained ownership of the property and the fire hydrant there. Since there was no need for water, the Navy shut off the hydrant.

According to Paul Eyre, water commodity engineer for the Navy Public Works Center at Pearl Harbor, the Navy had a legal obligation to leave the water main turned off since it would compete with civilian agencies

that could provide the same service. However, since the school could not afford to pay the Board of Water Supply's costs to extend an existing line and install a new hydrant to comply with city codes, the Navy stepped in to assist.

"We provided water when the city and state wouldn't," Eyre said. "The Board of Water wouldn't put in a hydrant without being paid. Essentially, we had to shut one valve and open another."

The situation even drew the attention of State Representative Blake Oshiro.

"Representative Oshiro is very concerned with this," said a staffer. "Our office is watching the situation."

Aiea Elementary is situated outside Oshiro's district; however, many of the students live inside and cross over the district lines to get to the school.

PWC completed their repairs and testing of the water line and has had the hydrant operational for two weeks. The State Department of Accounting and General Services paid the Navy \$5,000 to complete the repair. The actual repairs cost less than the amount paid and officials are assessing the final costs to give the State back the overage. Since federal law requires the Navy to receive fair market value for any costs incurred for services provided to the community, the state will also pay \$150 a year to cover annual testing and flushing.



Photo by JO1 Daniel J. Calderón

The Navy saved Aiea Elementary School nearly \$200,000 when it repaired this fire hydrant located across the street from the school.

Additionally, the school is not on Navy property and many of the children who will benefit from the Navy's efforts are not affiliated with the military in any way.

"We're not a military school, so I'm even more grateful for the Navy's support," Kaneshiro said. "I'm not surprised the Navy was cooperative. I knew they would want to help. The Navy has always been supportive."

The school has a partnership with Sailors from USS Reuben James (FFG 57). Sailors visit the school on a regular basis to tutor students and provide labor for assorted projects. Kaneshiro said the preschool facility will help 20 new students prepare for school.

"Years ago, kindergarten was enough to help prepare students for first grade," he said. "Now, kinder is more academic. At my school, the number of kids getting into kinder that have attended preschool is low so there are many children who need this [facility]."

With the fire hydrant operational, Kaneshiro said the plan is to open the new facility this fall with 20 preschoolers.

Navy names two local commands safety award winners for fiscal year 2003

Derek Nelson
Naval Safety Center
Public Affairs

Winners of the Fiscal Year '03 Secretary of the Navy Awards for Achievement in Safety Ashore and of the 2003 Adm. Vern Clark and Gen. James L. Jones Safety Awards were announced April 2.

The Secretary of the Navy Awards for Achievement in Safety Ashore are presented annually to Navy and Marine Corps shore activities and fleet operational/support units located ashore, based on the overall quality of their occupational safety and health programs.

Awards are presented for nine categories, based on the mission and size of the respective activity.

An abbreviated list of the award recipients follows:

Large industrial activity award: Winner, Naval Air Depot, Jacksonville.

Medium industrial activity award: Winner, Naval Intermediate Maintenance Facility, Pacific Northwest.

Small industrial activity award: Winner, Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity, Pascagoula, Miss.

Industrial activity award (outside CONUS): Winner, U.S. Navy Public Works Center, Japan.

Large non-industrial activity award: Winner, Marine Corps

Air Station, Miramar, Calif. Small Non-Industrial Activity Award: Winner, Naval Medical Clinic, Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i

Fleet operational/support unit ashore: Winner, Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific, Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i.

"The nominations for this year's safety awards reflect the difference that can be made by senior leaders getting involved in the safety process," said Secretary of the Navy Gordon England. "The Navy and Marine Corps team is a family, and we should take more responsibility for the safety of our Sailors and Marines, just as we would for a member of our own family. Bravo Zulu to each of the winners and runners-up for a job well done."

These annual awards, administered by the Navy League of the United States, are intended to stimulate safety through ideas and programs that will reduce avoidable injuries and fatalities by providing special recognition to individuals, units or organizations who best exemplify and advance a culture of safety.

The awards were presented at the Navy League's annual Sea-Air-Space Exposition in Washington, D.C. during the Secretary of the Navy luncheon April 6.

Winners each received a cash award and a plaque.

