

Cardless gas system in place

JO2 Devin Wright
Staff Writer

Public Works Center, Pearl Harbor has begun an upgrade of its government fuel system on seven military fuel station sites. The upgrade is in preparation for a fuel distribution turnover to the Defense Energy Support Center (DESC).

Charles MacNiven, transportation assistant at PWC Pearl Harbor, said the change is expected to uncompliment the distribution of fuel.

"In the past, there were four or five different organizations handling fuel for the Army, Marines, Air Force and Navy," MacNiven said. "When you consider the logistics of war fighting, 60 percent is the distribution of fuel, the other 40 is your ships, tanks and things of that sort. That can get confusing when you are dealing with different fuel distributors. With the DESC, you have everything under one umbrella. Now we have one simple control of the fuel commodity," said MacNiven.

Pearl Harbor has already seen a change at the Navy Public Works fuel station. Other than a visual change, patrons won't see much difference when fueling a government vehicle.

"These changes won't affect the customer," said MacNiven. "The only difference are the pumps and the customer now uses a key rather than the card."

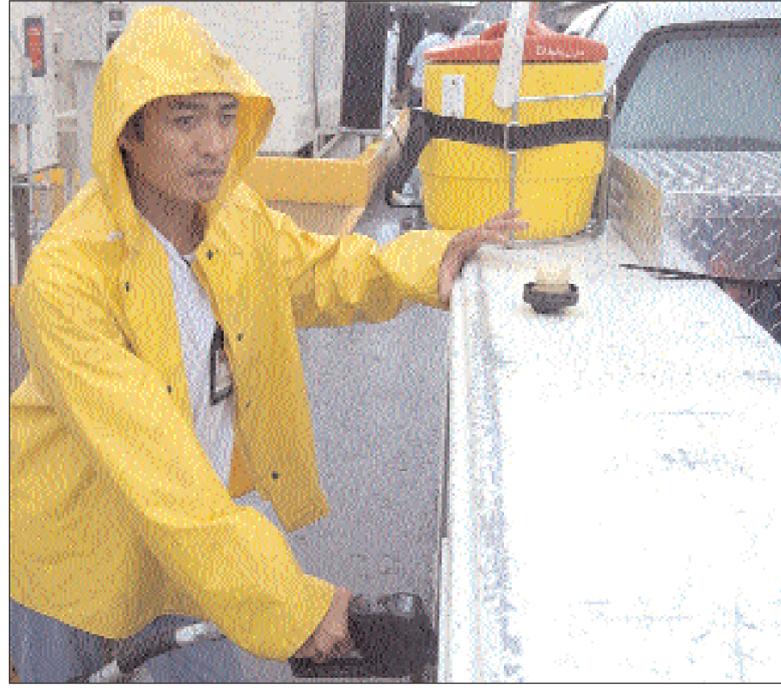
For some regular users of the government gas pumps, the changes are significant.

"I fuel a government vehicle at the Navy fuel station about once a week and sometimes the card wouldn't work," said Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Michael Brandon of Naval Station Pearl Harbor. "It would say that it wasn't able to read the card so you would have to try over and over and you were basically stuck over there until the card reader decided it was ready to work for you."

"I've used the new key about three times now and it is dead on," Brandon said. "As soon as you stick the key in, it recognizes it and you punch in the mileage and you're on your way. Ultimately, if you add up the time saved at the pump due to the key, I'm sure we've saved a lot of man hours."

DESC will take over fuel distribution for the armed forces Nov. 1.

For more information or to obtain a government vehicle fuel key, contact PWC Pearl Harbor Transportation at 474-3134, ext 221.

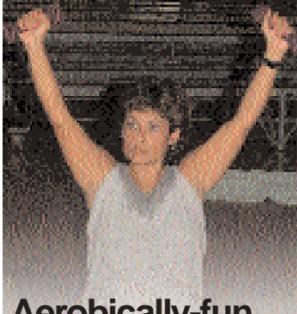


U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Devin Wright. Electrician/high voltage worker Norm Tabije of Public Works fuels a government vehicle at the Naval Station Pearl Harbor fuel station. DESC is taking over fuel distribution for the Armed Forces in Hawai'i beginning Nov. 1.



All smiles

Fed Fire welcomes 15 new firefighters. See story on page A-2.



Aerobically-fun

Jazzercise helps keep folks fit while having fun. See story on page B-1.

Hawai'i Navy News Briefs

Vitale to command Navy Region Hawai'i

Capt. Michael C. Vitale is slated to assume command of Navy Region Hawai'i and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific Aug. 13. Vitale, who was nominated in March for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half), has served since August 2003 as director, Navy Senate Liaison, Office of Legislative Affairs in Washington D.C. Vitale's first Navy assignment was aboard the Pearl Harbor-based USS Reeves from 1978 to 1980. He has also had assignments on the Joint Staff, command of the Pearl Harbor-based USS John S. McCain, command of Destroyer Squadron 24 and chief of staff for Carrier Group 4.

Two indicted on drug charges

A federal grand jury indicted two men last week on three counts each of manufacturing ice and maintaining a meth lab at Radford Terrace Navy home. Jimmy Yasay and Faleu Liilii could face 20 years in prison on each count if convicted. A Navy Sailor also arrested in the July 15 raid is in pre-trial confinement at the Ford Island Brig awaiting charges.

Tripler removes social worker

A civilian contractor for Tripler Army Medical Center who works at Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School was removed from his job last week after a 7-year-old girl complained that he had touched her inappropriately. A Tripler spokeswoman said the man was employed by Tripler's Project ASSIST program. Parents with concerns should call the Tripler project office at 433-7372.

Sailors can get early-out

Sailors interested in leaving the Navy up to 12 months before their EAOS will get their chance under the latest Early Transition program. For more information, see NAVADMIN 151/04.

Prospective chiefs brave the rain



U.S. Navy photo by JOC(SW) Joe Kane

Oahu-area chief selectees make a morning run in the rain Tuesday at Quick Field on Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Around the Navy, new selectees are participating in initiation ceremonies before pinning on the fouled anchor of the Navy chief petty officer.

MDSU-1 ends RIMPAC 2004

MDSU-1 Public Affairs

Deploying three detachments (DETs 1, 5 and 7), a command and control (C2) cell, equipment technicians and a training cell, Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) One, commanded by Cmdr. "Bette" Bolivar Bush, worked with Canadian divers and personnel from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 17 on a myriad of diving assignments during exercise RIMPAC 2004.

Tasked with three separate, but vital, salvage and harbor clearance missions,



U.S. Navy photo. CWO2 Eric MacDonald and MRC Timothy O'Neal rest before continuing salvage operations of a barge in Ke'ehi Lagoon.

Teachers learn from survivors



U.S. Navy photo by JO1 Daniel J. Calderon

George A. Brown, a survivor who was aboard USS Oklahoma during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, talks with Dan Fouts, Maine West High School in Des Plaines, Ill., at the Hickam Air Force Base Officers' Club Tuesday.

Pearl Harbor veterans share war memories

Lacy Lynn
Staff Writer

Pearl Harbor survivors ate lunch and shared their experiences with 100 history and social studies teachers from across the United States on Tuesday as part of a week-long "Remembering Pearl Harbor: History, Memory and Memorial" workshop.

Pearl Harbor participated for the first time this year as a venue for a "Landmarks of American History" teacher workshop, one of 17 funded by the Nation Endowment for the Humanities. The workshop was sponsored locally by the East-West Center (EWC), the Arizona Memorial Museum Association (AMMA) and the National Park Service at the USS Arizona Memorial.

Held at historic sites across the country, the workshops are meant to introduce middle school and high school teachers to the "living history" of each location.

At Pearl Harbor, this living history is embodied in the survivors, both military and civilian, who lived through World War II.

"As our survivors get older and many pass on each year, it's become imperative that we share their oral histories with those who can pass on

this important information to future generations," said Tom Shaw, executive director of the AMMA.

Ray Emory, one of 11 survivors at the luncheon, was a veteran on board USS Honolulu during the attack.

As historian for the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association for nearly 40 years, it is important to Emory that the stories of all ships involved in Pearl Harbor are told.

By sharing his knowledge, Emory hopes to ensure that when the teachers "leave this island they don't just go 100 different ways and forget about what happened."

According to organizers, the Pearl Harbor workshop was the most popular site offered.

Although the workshop is a shared experience, each teacher has his or her own personal reasons for wanting to learn more about the unique history of Pearl Harbor.

Susan Mitchell, a Middle School teacher from San Diego, lived at Pearl Harbor when she was a girl, and attributed her time in Hawai'i with developing her love of history.

Mitchell's father is a retired Navy captain, and her family lived in the old quarters near the hospital.

"Living on base you really get a sense of the history," said Mitchell, who can remember sitting on a bench outside her home, reading Walter Lord's "Day of

Federal Fire Department welcomes newest cadets



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

New Federal Fire Department graduates smile for a photo after completing 16 weeks of physical and classroom training as part of the the FFD's fire recruit training program. The recruits are nationally certified as emergency medical technicians. They are also certified in firefighting one and two, aircraft firefighting and hazardous material awareness and operations.

Recruits complete 16-week training program, join firefighter ranks

JOSN Ryan C. McGinley

Staff Writer

The Federal Fire Department (FFD) graduated 15 new federal firefighting recruits, who completed 16 weeks of physical and classroom training in the FFD's fire recruit training program, in a ceremony held July 30 at the Pagoda Hotel.

"Ever since I was young, growing up around a fire station, it's been a dream of mine," said John Fahling, a graduate. "My goal is to be there for the military and their families and be efficient in firefighting."

The 16-week training program included instruction in how to handle many different types of emergencies to which the FFD responds. The recruits are nationally certified as emergency medical technicians. They are also certified in firefighting one and two, aircraft firefighting and hazardous material awareness and operations.

"We try to give them the training and give them the discipline when they first come in and then we embrace them with our arms and we let them know that they are part of the ohana," said Michael Jones, chief of Federal Fire Department.

The recruits described the training as tough and rigorous, but Fahling said no one was alone and they worked together to succeed.

"The training was pretty tough," said Fahling. "It was definitely a challenge for

me and for all of us, but because we all pulled together and worked hard, we made it. We looked out for each other like family. We were just there for each other every minute of the training."

"There is always a point in the training, I think for everybody, where you just feel like you might not make it," said Kawika Kuana, another graduate, "but you push through it."

Jones said he started the training program five years ago to give recruits the knowledge they need to do well in their jobs.

"The old days of firemen running in and breaking the door down and putting the wet stuff on the hot stuff is long gone," said Jones. "They have to now know and understand what they are dealing with."

Some types of situations the new firefighters might have to deal with includes: structural, shipboard, submarine, aircraft, high-rise, high angle, confined space, ordnance and rescue.

Jones said they understand the importance of a positive relationship between FFD and the military.

"Federal firefighters are not active duty military," said Jones. "They're civilian employees that are employed by the military. We live in your communities. Our children go to your schools. We go to your churches. We're here as part of your ohana."

After the ceremony, the new firefighters received their station assignments at one of FFD's 13 fire stations around Oahu. The graduates said they were excited to start working the front lines in making Hawai'i a safer place to live.

"It's an honorable job," said Kuana. "I think the duty we have supercedes any other kind of job out there."

Environmental workshop celebrates successful decade

Terri Kojima

Navy Region Hawai'i

Environmental

Public Affairs

A combination of training, sharing information and collaboration to develop solutions to complex environmental challenges served as a continuing theme at this year's Navy and Marine Corps Restoration Advisory Board national workshop.

More than 100 installation restoration advisory board managers and community leaders from across the country, including Hawai'i's military and three community co-chairs, took advantage of the training, July 22-25, at Salt Lake City, Utah.

This year's workshop, which was sponsored by the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), marked the tenth anniversary of the Navy's restoration advisory boards, more commonly referred to as RABs. The boards provide a forum through which local community members, the military and regulatory agencies work together to encourage discussion and exchange of information on the Navy's environmental activities.

Today, the Navy takes a comprehensive view of environmental issues affecting the air, sea and land as it executes its primary mission to provide a strong, cutting-edge military fleet in a national environment, said the workshop's keynote speaker, Rear Adm. (select) Mark S. Boensel, who is director of CNO's environmental readiness division.

"Today's Navy is attuned to the environmental culture," added Boensel. "It's the way we do business, now."

"The Navy's [environmental cleanup] success over the past decade is largely based on your active participation," said Boensel, during his address to the group. "You (community representatives) ask the hard questions. . . You are the unknown heroes to the community who have taken the time and put in long days and nights" to work toward a cleaner and safer environment.

"The Navy is 70 percent complete with the cleanup of restoration sites at all Navy and Marine Corp installations," continued Boensel. "That is more than halfway toward meeting our goal to complete cleanup at all of our [Navy and Marine Corps] installations by the end of fiscal year 2014."

The Navy co-chair for Hawai'i's three RABs, John Muraoka, echoed Boensel's value assessment of community involvement in the

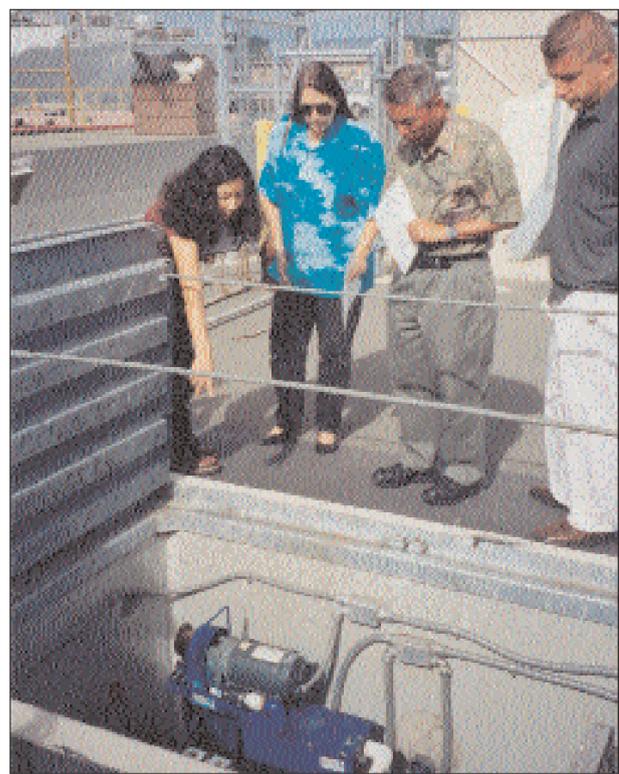


Photo by Terri Kojima

Michelle Yoshioka (left), Navy environmental remedial project manager, informs RAB community members how equipment in place prevents fuel oil from migrating into Pearl Harbor. Community visits like this one to cleanup sites promotes increased understanding of the Navy's restoration initiatives.

cleanup process.

According to Muraoka, who works at the Region's environmental office, Hawai'i's community co-chairs are committed to the Navy's cleanup initiatives. These leaders are not only engaged in the Navy boards, but they are also proactive in the local neighborhood boards and other community forums.

"We depend on our community co-chairs to be Navy Region Hawai'i ambassadors to the larger community," said Muraoka.

Both Navy and community representatives from Hawai'i agreed on the tremendous value of the workshop.

Cliff Jenkins, community co-chair for the Central Oahu board, was impressed with the breakout sessions that offered training on the latest remediation technologies, investigation techniques and how regulatory standards are set, among others.

"There was something [training subject] for everyone," said Jenkins. "The workshop provides a great way for military and civilians engaged in a joint effort to share information across the nation. This is a rare opportunity," added Jenkins.

Peter Nakamura, the Region's RAB coordinator, gained new perspectives by meeting face-to-face with his counterparts throughout the nation.

"There are varying degrees of complexities in addressing cleanup concerns, depending on how contentious issues may affect the community," said Nakamura.

For Cynthia Rezentes, from the Waianae Coast/Navy Lualualei board, information shared by other co-chairs from across the nation and including Guam and Puerto Rico, helped her conclude that she chairs a relatively healthy board.

The open forum provided opportunities for direct and open dialogue between community members and environmental directors from the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Office of the Secretary of Navy. Hawai'i's community co-chairs actively voiced their concerns during these brainstorming and general sessions.

The next meeting of the Pearl Harbor Restoration Advisory Board, which is open to the public, is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sept. 14 (location to be determined). The next meetings for the Waianae Coast/Lualualei and Central Oahu boards are tentatively scheduled for November. For more information about Navy Region Hawai'i's installation restoration program, individuals are encouraged to call the Navy Region Public Affairs Office at 473-2926 or email terri.kojima@navy.mil.

Vets: Survivors make history 'come alive'

Continued from A-1

Infamy" and matching places in the book to their actual locations.

"You can always find information in a book, and on the Internet nowadays," said Namji Steinemann, director of the EWC's AsiaPacificEd Program, "but how do you...make it come alive to students?"

This workshop, added Steinemann, was seen "as an opportunity to bring in multiple perspectives looking at the history of Pearl Harbor."

In addition to lunch with Pearl Harbor survivors, teachers were given guided tours of the USS Arizona Memorial and other attack sites throughout Oahu, and heard Japanese and Japanese-American perspectives about the attack and its repercussions.



U.S. Navy photo by JO1 Daniel J. Calderon

Yuel Chandler, who was an Army sergeant at Fort Kamehameha during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, talks with Susan Mitchell, a U.S. history teacher from Jefferson Middle School in San Diego, Calif., at the Hickam Air Force Base Officers' Club Tuesday. Pearl Harbor survivors talked with teachers from around the nation during a "Remembering Pearl Harbor: History, Memory and Memorial" workshop. The workshop was one of 17 teacher workshops held at historic sites across the United States.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Why we are in Iraq

Commentary
Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense

More than 15 months ago, a global coalition ended the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein and liberated the people of Iraq. As in all conflicts, this has come at a cost in lives. Some of your comrades made the ultimate sacrifice. For your sacrifices, our country and the president are deeply grateful.



Donald H. Rumsfeld

In a free, democratic country we have vigorous debates over important public policy issues - none more heated than a decision to go to war. But this should not distract us from the mission at hand or lessen the magnitude of your accomplishments.

The threat we face must be confronted. And you are doing so exceedingly well. Indeed it has been an historic demonstration of skill and military power.

On Sept. 11, 3,000 citizens were killed by extremists determined to frighten and intimidate our people and civilized societies. The future danger is that, if the extremists gain the potential, the number of casualties would be far higher. Terrorists are continuing to plot attacks against the American people and against other civilized societies. This is a different kind of enemy and a different kind of world. And we must think and act differently in this new century.

These extremists think nothing of cutting off innocent people's heads to try to intimidate great nations. They have murdered citizens from many countries - South Korea, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom and others - hoping to strike fear in the hearts of free people. Theirs is an ideology of oppres-

sion and subjugation of women. They seek to create radical systems that impose their views on others. And they will accept no armistice with those who choose free systems.

They see the governments of the Middle East, the United States and our stalwart allies all as targets.

Consider the background. In the span of 20 years, Hussein's Iraq invaded two neighbors, Iran and Kuwait, and launched ballistic missiles at two more. He employed poison gas against soldiers in Iran and against Kurdish villagers in his own country.

The United Nations and the U.S. Congress shared the view that Saddam's regime was a threat to the region and the world. Indeed, in 1998, our Congress passed a resolution calling for the removal of the regime. And over the years the U.N. passed 17 resolutions condemning Saddam's regime and calling on him to tell the UN about his weapons programs. He ignored every one.

Information gathered since the defeat of Saddam's regime last year confirms that his last declaration to the United Nations about his weapons programs was falsified. The U.N. resolutions had called for "serious consequences" should Saddam not comply. He did not.

The president issued a final ultimatum to Saddam to relinquish power to avoid war. Saddam chose war instead.

By your skill and courage, you have put a brutal dictator in the dock to be tried by the Iraqi people and restored freedom to 25 million people. By helping to repair infrastructure, rebuild schools, encourage democratic institutions and delivering educational and medical supplies, you have shown America's true character and given Iraq a chance at a new start.

But most importantly, your fight - and ultimate victory - against the forces of terror and extremism in Iraq and the Middle East will have made America safer and more secure.

You are accomplishing something noble and historic - and future generations of Americans will remember and thank you for it.

Commentary

Ohana Line

I am newly married and new to the Navy. I will be leaving on deployment soon. My wife and I have never really been apart for very long. What services are available for my wife and myself to help us prepare emotionally for this deployment?

Prior to deployment, the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) and Chaplain Corps provide Sailors and their families information and education to help them anticipate and deal with the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the family during the weeks before the deployment.

During the deployment, the FFSC offers family members access to support groups, counseling, information and referral services and workshops to address issues of deployment.

FFSCs also support the ombudsman program that provides a communication link between the families and the command.

While the intent is to be proactive and offer support, encouragement and assistance to prevent emergencies, the FFSC also stands ready to help family members resolve problems when emergencies occur during the servicemember's absence.

To reach the FFSC, call their main line at 473-4222 or visit them in building 193 which is just behind Wentworth Pro Shop, across from the tennis courts on Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

What are the hours of operation for the family housing office?

The hours of operation for the Navy Aloha Center are 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 7-11:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

There are two locations for Forest City Management which maintains homes in PPV neighborhoods. Hours of operation for the Navy Aloha Center location are 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and closed on Sunday.

Hours of operation for the Moanalua Community Center location are 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed on Saturday and Sunday

I just bought a car and I want to bring it on base. What do I do?

To drive on base you need a military base decal by registering at the Pass and Identification Office.

When registering you will need your military identification card, vehicle registration with the state of Hawai'i or a state tax exemption certificate, a valid drivers license for an automobile, motorcycle or scooter, Hawai'i safety check receipt and proof of Hawai'i no-fault insurance.

The Pass and Identification Office is located on the corner of the Nimitz and Center Drive, just before the Nimitz gate entrance to Pearl Harbor.

SECNAV reminds all Sailors, Marines to vote in '04 elections

Special message from Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England



U.S. Navy photo The Honorable Gordon R. England

Every day, around the world, Sailors and Marines dedicate themselves to protecting and serving our great nation.

This is part of the proud her-

itage of our renowned Navy/Marine Corps team. It is your daily dedication to America that ensures our liberty and allows us to enjoy many unsurpassed privileges.

The right to vote is one such privilege - a privilege earned by American patriots, like you, who believe in the ideals of a democratic system.

The very cornerstone of our democracy is the hard-won right to vote.

By exercising your right to vote, you help make our nation a shining beacon of democracy

and self-government to all other people in the world.

I encourage all eligible Sailors, Marines and their family members to vote. I also remind you to register early, and above all, be assured that your vote counts.

Contact your command's voting assistance officer for absentee voter registration materials and any additional assistance you may need.

Thank you for your faithful service to our great nation. God bless you and your families, and God bless America.

STORY IDEAS?

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

Hawai'i Navy News

Email: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com Phone: (808) 473-2888

Commentary

Chapel Pennant

P.R.A.Y. important

Chaplain Cynthia K. McKenzie
Navy Region Hawai'i

There is a prayer that goes like this: "Dear God, so far today I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper; I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or overindulgent.

I'm very thankful for that. But, in the next few minutes, I'm going to be getting out of bed, and from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot more help. Amen."

In the Christian scriptures, Jesus teaches his disciples about prayer. His method was very simple and used everyday examples to illustrate his point. I found an acronym that is helpful to keep in mind in order to learn about prayer. The acronym is PRAY. Jesus taught that we are to PERSEVERE in prayer.

Perseverance helps us to realize that the world isn't centered around us and that we are not ultimately in control of the universe. Also, sometimes we don't know what we want or need.

God looks at the big picture. The value of persistent prayer is not that God will hear us, but that we will hear God.

Secondly, we learn to

listen for God's REPLY. God always answers prayers. If the request is wrong, God says "no."

If the timing is wrong, God says "slow." If you are wrong, God says, "grow." However, if the request is right, the timing is right and you are right, God says, "go!"

The third thing we need to remember about prayer is that God is APPROACHABLE. When Jesus prayed to God, he talked to him as if he was his daddy.

Jesus shows us that God is intimately related to us as close as a parent and child. Actually, God's love is beyond human love. As strong as that is, we can approach God with anything.

Which brings us to y. The fourth thing we can learn about prayer is to YIELD to God. God always wants the best for us.

Jesus reminds us that even evil parents want to give their children good things. How much more so will God give us the best he as to offer.

Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but aligning my will to God. Prayer is yielding to God, trading in our own hopes and desires for God's hopes and desires. PRAY which stands for Perseverance, Reply, Approachable, Yield.

Hawai'i Sailors 'talk story'

Fireman Aisha Ousley

Fireman Aisha Ousley has only just turned 20, but she has already overcome a difficult past to become more successful than she once thought possible.

"When I was a kid, my life was so traumatized," said Ousley, who grew up, as she describes, in a home full of neglect and abuse.

Her father was an alcoholic and drug addict. Even after her parents separated, Ousley's mother had abusive boyfriends. Ousley was often in trouble and got into a lot of fights at school.

She moved from house to house, living with her mother after her parents separated; living with a family friend in Colorado for awhile; then moving into a group home, and eventually living with foster parents.

"I always thought I was going to drop out of high school," said Ousley.

But instead she kept her grades up and got a job, and

said she achieved success by "vowing to myself I'd never be like my parents."

A turning point in her life, according to Ousley, was when she met a Navy recruiter while she was taking emancipation classes.

Ousley signed up for the Navy when she was 17 years old, and joined when she was 18.

"When I came into the Navy, it was like a whole different perspective," said Ousley. She added that she likes being in the military and enjoys the travel and other benefits it offers.

She is the second of four children, and despite the way they grew up, Ousley said, "We have a tight bond."

She joined the Navy not long after her older brother Michael, who is now a Navy corpsman stationed in Jacksonville, Fla., and specializes in infant care.

Ousley looks forward to a future with a family of her

Vital statistics

Name:
Aisha Ousley

Hometown:
Chicago, Ill.

Duty station:
Naval Station Pearl Harbor

Job:
Temporary Light Duty

Favorite part of the job:
traveling

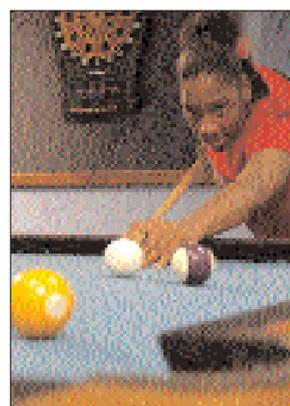


Photo by Lacy Lynn

FN Aisha Ousley lines up a shot at Beeman Center on Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

added she has picked up a few new techniques here at Pearl Harbor.

Ousley has been in Hawai'i for about eight months, and she was previously stationed aboard the USS Chafee. She plans to make a career of the Navy and would like to become an officer.

Hawai'i Navy News

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Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary undergoing renovation

JO1 Daniel J. Calderón
Editor

Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School is undergoing renovation that school officials say will help reduce the crunch for office space at the school.

"It's a long-awaited project," said Elyne Chung, Pearl Harbor Kai's principal. "We're all really happy to see it being done."

Contractors are re-configuring a former bomb shelter into space usable for offices and instruction areas for transient teachers such as after-school music teachers and reading tutors. Because of the configuration, the new space will not be used for regular classrooms.

"It's just going to be gutted so we can get more usable space out of it," Chung explained. "We'd been using the building as a resource room for teachers and for district offices."

Since opening in 1943, the school has served the residents of Navy housing outside Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Currently, 95 percent of the students who attend Pearl Harbor Kai are classified as "federally con-



U.S. Navy photo by JO1 Daniel J. Calderón
This building will be re-configured into office space for Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School.

nected," with parents on active duty in the Navy, Marines or the Army.

Allan Yamada, a building inspector for the Department of General Accounting and General Services, is one of two state building inspectors responsible for ensuring the contractors follow the design guidelines and timeline set for the renovation.

"One of us is out there [at the school] daily to make sure this is going according to plan," Yamada said. "The contractors are being very cooperative and the school is

being very helpful."

He also believes the school is making the best use of available funding with the project.

"From what we can see and what the school has, it's a nice way to maintain utilization of an old building," Yamada began. "There will be an ADA-accessible bathroom, air conditioning and room for agencies from the state DOE [Department of Education]."

Although the space may have been better served with more classroom space,



U.S. Navy photo by JO1 Daniel J. Calderón
Students at Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School walk past the plywood barrier separating them from the construction on the other side. The current project is scheduled for completion by the end of the next school year.

Chung feels the new configuration will be an asset to the school. She also said the room is being renovated instead of being rebuilt because the walls are too thick to be taken down.

The \$1 million project began in early July. Both Yamada and Chung believe the renovation will be completed by the end of the next school year. Yamada said he is pleased with the progress

of the project.

"So far, it has been really smooth going," he said. "The contractor is very good and they haven't had any kind of bog down. It's just moving along."

CNO calls for accelerated R&D, acquisition processes

JOC Walter T. Ham IV
Chief of Naval Operations
Public Affairs

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark challenged Navy and defense industry leaders to help speed up the acquisition process and get new technology to the fleet and to the fight faster, during his Aug. 5 address to the Naval Industry Research and Development Partnership Conference.

"What I've come to believe is that speed will be more important in the battlespace in the future than it ever has been in the past," the CNO said. "When we think about future warfare, we must think, first and foremost, about speed. I also think that we've got to talk about speed in the marketplace."

Clark said the Navy's Sea Power 21 vision has matured since he outlined it at the same conference two years ago, but he added "there are always those who would like to see the ideas mature faster, and I'm among them."

Sea Power 21 is not an end state, the CNO noted, but a framework to create a post-

Industrial Age Navy capable of delivering the right capabilities to the right place at the right time in response to Information Age threats.

"Sea Power 21 laid out an ideal, and the global war on terrorism, I believe, has identified the requirement," the CNO said.

To get these Sea Power 21 capabilities to the fleet more quickly, Clark said the Navy and its industrial partners need to capture innovations in science and technology, and move them into research and development more quickly. He called the Silver Fox Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and Littoral Combat Ship victories in the speed of acquisition.

With the nation at war, the stakes couldn't be higher as the Navy combats terrorism around the globe, he concluded.

"I believe that our challenge is clear. We face a determined enemy," Clark said. "But you know, they were surprised that they got a hold of a determined enemy. We're not only resilient, we're determined - and this is a fight that we're not going to lose."

Navy focuses efforts on mission-oriented reconstructive, not elective cosmetic surgery

Ellen Maurer
Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
Public Affairs

Naval Medicine leaders are focusing resources to inform patients that elective cosmetic surgeries are performed occasionally, on a "not-to-interfere" basis, and the mission of the Navy's plastic surgeons continues to support reconstructive surgeries.

This effort to educate comes after recent media reports that suggest the military's health care system offers military members and their families free plastic surgeries, which DoD officials say isn't true.

Officials explain that the Navy's plastic surgeons have been especially mission-oriented during Operation Iraqi Freedom, performing dozens of reconstructive operations for injured Sailors and Marines being treated at facilities like the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) in Bethesda, Md.

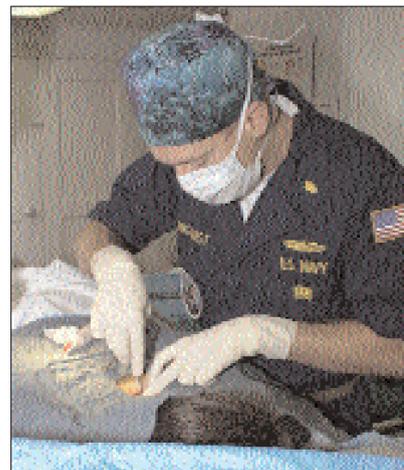
The hospital's two plastic surgeons also perform regular reconstructive surgeries for breast cancer patients who have had mastectomies, as well as children born with birth defects.

"The Navy's policy on elective cosmetic surgery is that some procedures are available on a 'space available' basis to active duty and non-active duty beneficiaries. However, the Navy does not

operate cosmetic surgery centers," cited Capt. Mark Honig, specialty leader for plastic and reconstructive surgery at Naval Medical Center (NMC) Portsmouth, Va. "The Navy does make elective cosmetic surgery available to beneficiaries, on a not-to-interfere basis, primarily to allow Navy surgeons to collect cases for board certification and to maintain their reconstructive surgery skills."

The Navy does not charge active-duty members for the cost of elective cosmetic surgeries. Service members, however, are required to pay for implants and other associated material for certain procedures. Family members must pay for the entire cost of elective cosmetic surgery. The payment rate is established annually by the DoD comptroller.

"Cosmetic surgical procedures are only offered as space permits. These procedures are distributed as equitably as possible between active-duty members and their dependents and between enlisted and officers with no preference to rank," added Honig. "Both active-duty members and their dependents who are selected are responsible for transportation and housing to and from the facility performing the procedures, and active-duty members must have their local command's approval for the procedure and recovery time, which may be charged on their personal leave time."



U.S. Navy photo by PHAN Wes Marquis
Lt. John Ringquist performs minor surgery on a Sailor assigned to the submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) while underway.

Not all Navy hospitals offer reconstructive and cosmetic surgery procedures, due to the fact that the Navy currently has only seven board-certified reconstructive surgeons.

The only Navy medical facilities capable of performing reconstructive and cosmetic surgeries are NNMC, as well as NMC Portsmouth and NMC San Diego.

USS Crommelin reaches one-third mark for deployment

OS1 Daniel W. Roberts

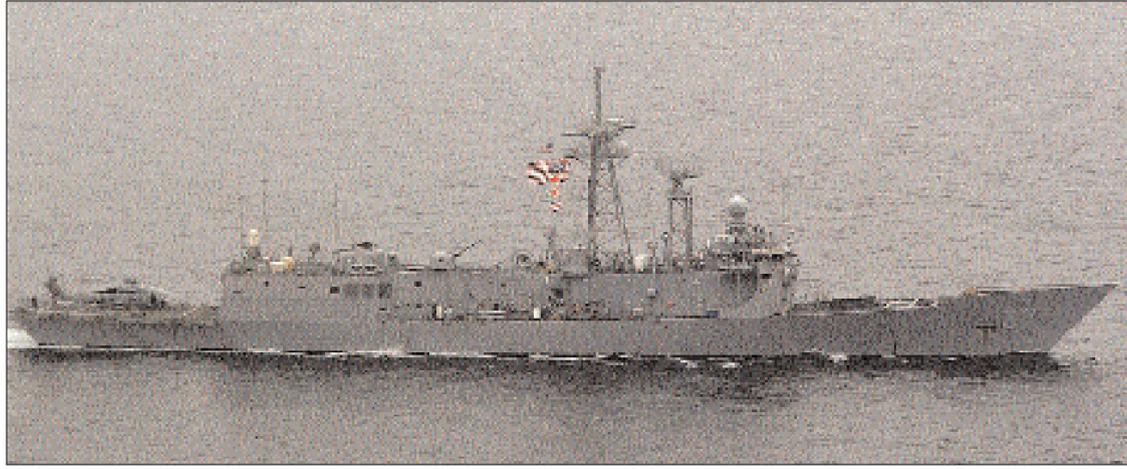
USS Crommelin Public Affairs

USS Crommelin (FFG 37) has completed one-third of her six-month deployment in the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility.

Crommelin set sail from her homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i May 12 for the eastern Pacific, Central and South America in support of counter drug operations. In the first two months of deployment, Crommelin has traveled more than 10,000 nautical miles. During this time, the ship has conducted operations off the coast of Central and South America and has coordinated with numerous other U.S. and foreign Navy and Coast Guard units to intercept drug runners.

The day Crommelin reported on station for duty in the SOUTHCOM area of responsibility she stopped and detained a vessel for refueling "go-fast" drug-boats and turned the vessel over to Mexican law enforcement authorities. Approximately two weeks later, she rescued three fishermen that had been adrift at sea for 17 days.

In her first month on station, Crommelin was involved in numerous anti-narcotics cases, including the interception of 15 vessels suspected of supporting narcotics traffickers, the boarding and search of three suspect vessels, and the apprehension and detaining of 10 smugglers. Crommelin was also



U.S. Navy photo

USS Crommelin (FFG 37) transits through the eastern Pacific during exercise United Americas. The ship participated in maritime exercises with 10 South American countries.

credited with the disruption of three smuggling operations with one go-fast crew forced to jettison its illegal cargo and run to Costa Rican waters. In another instance, a go-fast beached itself in Panama and then ran away on foot empty-handed.

On June 22, just over a month since reporting for duty, Crommelin working in conjunction with USS Ticonderoga (CG 47) stopped a smuggling operation in progress and recovered 1.8 tons of illegal narcotics (cocaine), equal to an estimated \$150 million. One week later, Crommelin assisted in the

interdiction of a second "go-fast," which resulted in the recovery of 1.1 tons of cocaine.

Crommelin's focus then turned south to Peru and the exercise United Americas (UNITAS). In numerous complex maritime exercises with ships and submarines from 10 South American countries, Crommelin is showing her warrior spirit.

"I don't think it's possible to fit more exercises into a two-week period," said Chief Operations Specialist William Morgan of North Pole, Alaska. "Every warfare has been worked, the training value for

Crommelin is immeasurable... excellent control time across multiple air frames for my ASTACs (anti-submarine tactical air controllers) and great formation steaming for junior operational specialists, and a nice refresher for us gray-haired goats."

Crommelin also took time out from her normal routine to honor an ancient tradition of the sea and introduce new Sailors into the solemn and ancient order of the deep.

"The ship is in a pollywog training environment, all words passed over the 1MC [ship's intercom sys-

tem] are for initiation purposes only."

These were the words passed over Crommelin's general announcing system on the morning of July 9.

Anyone who has never sailed south of the equator is dubbed a pollywog. Crommelin's pollywogs sang songs and performed skits for the amusement of the Sailors who had already passed south of the equator and were dubbed shellbacks on a previous ship or deployment.

After a night of amusement, the pollywogs awoke early for a morning of exercise and direction through a watery and slimy obstacle course to eventually kneel before the Royal Court of King Neptune (the most senior shellback aboard Crommelin) and face "charges" of the most egregious nature. Having "fessed up" to the Royal Court and begged for quarter, the pollywogs became "honorable shellbacks."

Crommelin's near term schedule includes a Panama Canal defense exercise (PANAMAX) which involves a two-week, multi-national exercise with ships from eight other countries and a transit through the Panama Canal.

With two months and 10,000 nautical miles in the rearview mirror and four months away from home, neither USS Crommelin, nor her crew, show any signs of slowing down.

Airmen, Sailors can 'Go Army'

Special release from the U.S. Department of Defense

The Department of Defense announced July 29 that Sailors and Airmen are now able to "Go Army" under a new program intended to rebalance the size of the military.

The program will generate new opportunities for continued service and career advancement for those willing to transfer into the Army from other services.

Under "Operation Blue to Green," the Army will reach out to Sailors and Airmen and underscore the advantages of swapping their present uniform for Army green.

Among them is the faster pace of Army promotions. For example, a Soldier pins on the rank of E-6 at least four years more quickly than an Airman holding the same skill.

"We admire everyone who serves in the nation's uniform," said Lt. Gen. Buster Hagenbeck, the Army's uniformed personnel chief. "But I know that anyone who looks closely at today's Army will find a lot to be excited about. We are growing and we need experienced people to lead that transition."

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have shown an interest in increasing the Army's strength over the next few years. In fiscal year 2005, the Army is planning a force reduction of 8,000, while the

Air Force will trim more than 20,000 over the same period.

The Army plans to use bonuses to stimulate the needed accessions and to carefully guide the experience mix so that promotions stay strong.

The focus of the effort centers on grades E-1 to E-5, but other grades will be considered in meeting Army needs. For example, the Army will continue to have a sizeable demand in the areas of law enforcement, health care, communications and intelligence.

"There are 120 Air Force specialty codes that will transfer into 37 Army military occupational specialties (MOSs) and the Navy has 112 ratings that will transfer into 42 Army MOSs," said Col. Norvel Dillard, the chief of the Army's enlisted accessions division. "Those are job one, but we're looking at others as well. We're also looking for junior officers."

In the past few weeks, more than 1,000 Sailors and Airmen have gone to www.goarmy.com/btg/index.jsp, answered a questionnaire and indicated intent to transfer. Nearly three-fourths of those exploring the option say they are "very interested" or "ready to transfer."

The Army's recruiting goal for the next fiscal year is about 80,000. Of that number, the Army hopes to recruit at least 8,000 prior service troops.

FISC Pearl Harbor changes hands



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

Capt. Robert C. Bronson accepts his first salute as the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Pearl Harbor commanding officer during the change of command ceremony July 30. The center has been in operation on Naval Station Pearl Harbor since 1942.

Submarine Texas christened at Newport News

Lt. Cmdr.

Jamie Morrison

Secretary of the Navy Public Affairs

First Lady Laura Bush smashed a bottle of champagne to christen the Navy's newest nuclear-powered submarine Texas (SSN 775) in front of a cheering crowd of 4,500 people at Newport News Shipyard on July 31.

Secretary of the Navy Gordon England joined a number of dignitaries, including Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, who delivered the ceremony's principal address.

"It is entirely fitting that USS Texas will become the latest bulwark, and one of the most powerful, in our arsenal of democracy," said Hutchison. "When she sets sail, she will do so with 22 million Texans and our nation's first lady at her side. Mr. Secretary, it doesn't get any better than that!"

Named to honor the 28th state admitted to the union, Texas is the fourth ship of the U.S. Navy to carry the name since the original Texas was commissioned in 1895.

It is the second submarine of the Virginia class and the first submarine of its class to be built at the Newport

News Shipyard.

Texas will be able to attack targets ashore with highly accurate Tomahawk cruise missiles and conduct covert long-term surveillance of land areas, littoral waters or other sea forces.

Texas will also have a number of additional capabilities, to include superior anti-submarine and anti-ship warfare enhancements, special forces delivery and support, and mine delivery/minfield mapping.

With enhanced communications connectivity, the submarine also will provide important strike group and joint task force support, with full integration into carrier strike group operations.

"It's the first submarine - first major naval weapon system of any kind - designed for the post-Cold War," said Cmdr. John J. Litherland, the ship's prospective commanding officer. "She adds significant new capabilities in the areas of special warfare, sensors and information processing that will allow her to serve on the front lines for decades to come."

The ceremony marked the first christening of a submarine at the shipyard since 1995 when USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) was launched.



U.S. Navy photo by J02 Christina M. Shaw

First Lady Laura Bush christens PCU Texas (SSN 775) during a ceremony at Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipyard with President Tom Shivelbein and Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas. PCU Texas is the second Virginia-Class Submarine to be christened and will be delivered to the U.S. Navy in 2005.

Guam celebrates 60th anniversary of liberation

JO1(SW) Jeff Craig, USNR

Mobile Public Affairs Team,

Det. 220

The U.S. Territory of Guam celebrated the 60th anniversary of its liberation from occupying Japanese forces July 21.

The people of Guam cheered and waved U.S. and Guam flags as military units from all services marched down the main thoroughfare, which was renamed that morning "Marine Corps Drive" in honor of the liberators.

Spectators camped, some for weeks, under miles of canopies to reserve the best viewing areas beside the parade route. Music and smoke from hundreds of barbecue grills wafted through the steamy, tropical air, as tens of thousands of people gathered to see and be seen at Guam's largest annual celebration.

Guam has the distinction of having a local population of now-U.S. citizens who endured enemy occupation in World War II. Within hours of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. Territory of Guam, like Wake Island and the Philippines, was bombarded and then invaded by Japanese troops. The "Day of Infamy" on Guam stretched to 31 months.

The Americans returned to wage a fierce battle in 1944 to recapture the island. This battle has not received the attention of many of the world's historians or filmmakers, as have the battles for Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Iwo Jima or Okinawa. But the elation of being made free again is relived each and every anniversary of the American landings by the grateful citizens on Guam.

Liberation Day, or W-Day, as the Americans called it in 1944 was "indelibly stamped" in the mind of Col. Fraser West, USMC, parade grand marshal and one of 80 returning liberators.

"We landed on the right [at Asan Beach] and our battalion was the one that took Nimitz Hill," West

said. He led "G" Company, 2nd Battalion of the 9th Marine Regiment, 3rd Division as they were brought ashore to reinforce the first waves of the attack.

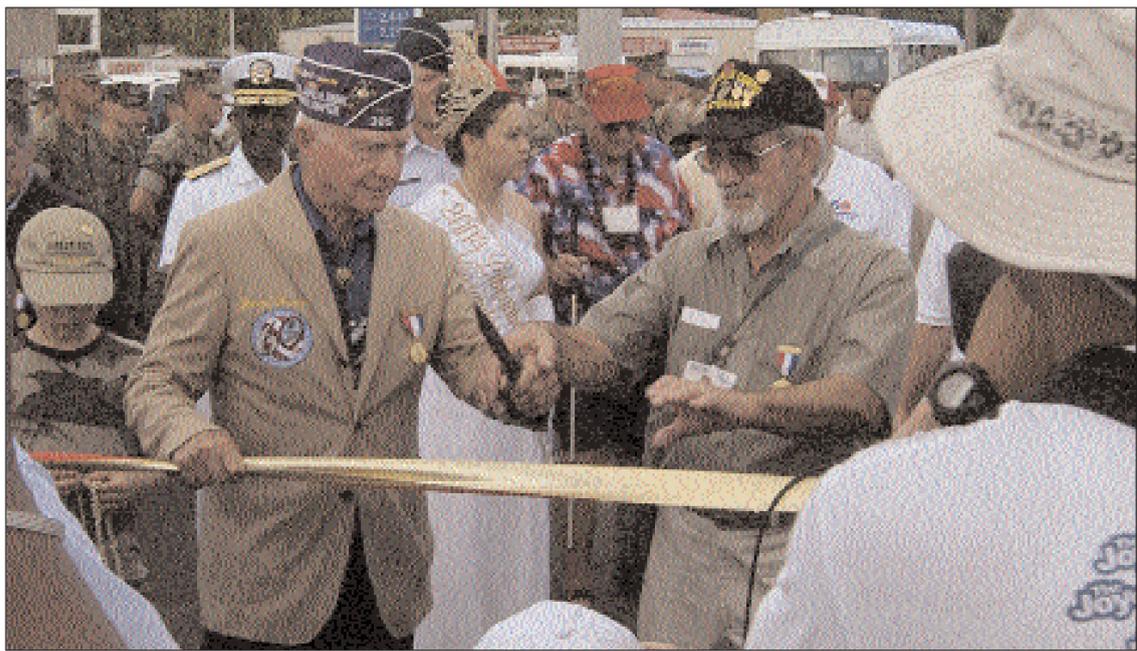
West said he feels fortunate to be alive and back for the 60th. "It's been very nice and the people have been so gracious...we really appreciate it. They're so nice, all the Guamanian people, the Chamorros, and I'm happy to come."

Along with viewing the five-hour-long parade of well-wishers, liberators attended a sunrise breakfast on Nimitz Hill and a ceremony at Asan Beach, one of two landing sites, where they were recognized by Adm. Thomas B. Fargo, Commander, Pacific Command, and Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee, Commander, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force, and honored with salutes from members of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and musical selections from the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force Band.

Liberators were treated to tours of Naval Base Guam, including its historic exhibit and the site of the village of Sumay, which was wiped out during the occupation, and an unexpected treat: a tracked landing vehicle of the type used by the liberators to come ashore, which was unearthed during construction on the base two weeks prior.

A memorial service was held to remember the people of Guam who were massacred by the Japanese when the liberation landings appeared imminent. Memorials and markers throughout Guam were polished and painted by community volunteers, including several Navy commands, in time for the anniversary. Naval Base Guam's military working dogs unit prepared the War Dog Memorial, which was rededicated in honor of dogs that were trained to act as messengers and sentries in battle, and to lead patrols in seeking out the enemy, but that died in service.

Between official events and ceremonies, the liberators were also guests of several families on Guam,



Retired Marine Corps Col. Fraser West, left, prepares to cut the ribbon officially renaming Guam's Route 1 "Marine Corps Drive" from the older "Marine Drive" as a part of a project to recognize the veterans the street is named for. Col. West led G Company of the 3rd Marine Division's 2nd Battalion during the 1944 liberation of Guam. This year's celebrations marked the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Guam from Japanese control by U.S. forces during World War II.

including many retired Marines, who invited them to "fiestas," an island tradition of feasting and celebration.

Dawn Marie Aguon Perez, a schoolteacher and a member of the Liberation Day court, was excited about the anniversary. "It feels very good," she said. "It's an honor, and it's something that I've always waited for since I was a little girl ... it's a great honor that I'm here to represent the island as a royal princess for those who have fought for us, survived, and lived for us."

According to Juan Perez of Hagatna, "What we experience today started as an outlet for families to express their joy with the Marines and vent their anger about the occupation in the early years," he said. "We are too young [to remember the occupation], but we saw what it did to our grandparents."

Anthony Brewer of the village of Umatac summed up much of the local sentiment behind Liberation Day. "Other holidays are for family,"

he said. "This one is for our people."

As a formation of Marines from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit marched past in their camouflage uniforms and desert boots, the crowds cheered them and their sister group, the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force Band. The spectators applauded, whistled and shouted, "God bless the Marines!"

"This is a great response," said Lance Cpl. Garrett Stollfus of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. "One thing is for sure, the world might have changed over the last 60 years, but between us Marines and the people of Guam, time has not changed their feeling: they love us."

"This is my first time back and I can't believe the reception we got here. It's absolutely heartwarming," said Bob Weinberg, a Marine reconnaissance pilot during the liberation. "The people have been so nice and so grateful. They have come over and shook my hand and said, 'Thank you.' It really is so warm and so wonderful."

Robert Riebe was a tank driver with the 3rd Tank Battalion of the 3rd Marine Division during the liberation. He couldn't wait to come back again. "I want to get this island afloat and bring it back to the states so that we can come here every day," Riebe said.

Riebe recalled the 50th anniversary when many more veterans visited. "The celebration in '94 was really something; I really enjoyed it," he said. "That's why I came back, I loved that one so much. This is a real experience, a very moving one."

While the number of active duty Sailors, Airmen, Soldiers, Marines and Coast Guardsmen has since been reduced to 6,000 today, the U.S. has held this strategic forward base since the war and the community of Guam has demonstrated its gratitude for their presence.

The Pacific Navigator staff writer Kelly Nicholas and Petty Officer 2nd Class Larry Harnden of Naval Reserve Mobile Public Affairs Team, Det. 220 contributed to this article.

MDSU: Detachments tout their successes during RIMPAC 2004

Continued from A-1

the harbor clearance task group operated from the waters off Honolulu to Kaneohe Bay. DET 1, based in San Diego, conducted mixed gas diving operations to recover equipment from a simulated downed aircraft off the Honolulu International Airport runway.

Aboard the USNS Sioux for six days, DET 1 divers utilized Mk-21 and a mix of helium and oxygen to increase their operating time at depth.

"Although not diving to the extremes of depth for which mixed gas allows a diver, the training and experience gained by actually using this system is immeasurable," said Lt. Debra Kauffman, DET 1 officer in charge. "It's not something we use every day, but is definitely a capability that is needed if the Navy wants to salvage something as deep [as] 300 feet. Without our mixed gas ability, we'd only be able to dive to 190 feet."

In Ke'ehi Lagoon near Sand Island, DET 5, joined by the Canadian Fleet diving unit Pacific battle damage repair (BDR) unit, conducted salvage operations on a sunken barge. Abandoned in the lagoon in the early eighties by a civilian business owner, the barge had been a longstanding underwater hazard to shipping.

Divers spent 10 days preparing the barge for recovery, installing 34 patches and removing some 20 tons of debris from the deck.

On July 21, the barge was successfully re-floated at high tide using hydraulic power units and four four-inch pumps.

It was towed clear of the channel and turned over to the state of Hawai'i to be sold for scrap.

"This was a project that MDSU One is primed for. Many have tried to raise this barge in the past and failed because of weather and other problems, but this time it went very smoothly," said CW02 David Williams, DET 5 officer in charge. "Removing this barge was a big challenge for our guys, but we learned a lot of great lessons on doing it right. Practicing salvage is nothing like actually doing it. It was great for MDSU One. It's also nice to have helped the state of Hawai'i out with something that's been a problem for so long," said Williams.

DET 7, EODMU 17 and the MDSU One C2 Cell established a forward operating base (FOB) on Ford Island. Tasked with being ready to conduct missions ranging from hull searches to combat harbor clearance, DET 7 packed not only dive gear, but also M-16s, gas masks, flak vests and MREs. Set to prove themselves capable of operating in a 'semi-permissive' combat environment, DET 7 'deployed' from MDSU One in their light service support vehicles (LSSVs).

"We've been building up to our FEP (final evaluation period) for months. All the training on [mission] briefs, weapons, basic field tactics,

convoy ops, comms and just surviving field life finally paid off," said Chief Gunner's Mate Joshua Dumke, Det 7 leading chief petty officer. "We proved beyond a shadow of doubt that our det can walk out the door knowing that we're prepared to move into a semi-permissive combat environment and complete our assigned missions."

DET 7's first assignment was to demonstrate the mobility of MDSU detachments. DET 7 deployed a four-man scuba team and its equipment aboard a SH-60 Sea Hawk to simulate rendering diving assistance to a vessel at sea.

DET 7 also conducted multiple hull searches looking for limpet mines or other foreign devices.

"Hull searches are a vital element of force protection where we have scuba divers visually verify that ships at harbor haven't had explosive devices applied to them by enemy swimmers," said Senior Chief Information Systems Technician (MDV) David Gove, DET 7 officer in charge.

EODMU 17 supplied explosive ordnance expertise with its ordnance clearance detachment (OCD) and aided DET 7 with underwater searches in Kaneohe Bay.

Assigned to locate an object in the bay, the EODMU 17 area search detachment (ASD) used a side scan sonar to provide a digital picture of the sea floor.

ASD, in conjunction with DET 7, successfully located and recovered the lost item.

Hawaii Navy News Sports

Softball season ends this weekend

Captain's Cup to be awarded

MM3 Greg Bookout
Staff Writer

This weekend the top teams from the ashore and afloat intramural softball leagues will meet in a double elimination tournament at Millican Field to decide the softball Captain's Cup champion.

The league is separated into two divisions—one fielding teams from commands ashore and a second made up of teams from afloat commands.

The top four teams from each division, based on

overall winning percentage, will be seeded according to position in their respective divisions and battle each other for the Captain's Cup.

Wayde Ichiyama assistant athletic director explained that team seeding was selected based on winning percentage due to the fact that some afloat commands may not get in the same amount of games as a result of their schedules.

"I try to work around afloat commands schedules to give them the opportuni-

ty to play as many games as everyone else," said Ichiyama. "When teams come to me ahead of time to get games in, I try to schedule double headers for them."

The top team in the tournament, team 'Deluxe 247' from Kunia, comes into the tourney at 18-0. Joining them from the ashore teams are teams 'SDVT-1' from SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team One at 15-2, 'Medical' at 16-3, and team 'JICPAC' from Joint Intelligence Center Pacific comes in at 13-6.

The top afloat team, team 'O'Kane' enters the tourney with a 16-2 mark. Joining them are teams 'Going Yard' from the USS Chafee entering the tourney also with a 16-2 record, team 'Chosin-A' at 14-3, and team 'Paul Hamilton-A' at 14-4.

Each intramural sport played follows nationally recognized regulatory committees. Flag football rules are those set by the National Intramural Recreational Sports Association, softball is played under the Amateur Softball Association rules, basketball follows regulations set by the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and soccer by the National High School Federation.

The Captain's Cup' softball tournament kicks off this Saturday morning at 9 a.m. All games will be played at Naval Station Pearl Harbor's Millican Field.

For more information, contact Wayde Ichiyama at 473-2437.

Reuben James hoops team wins RIMPAC championship title

Lt. j.g. Nathan Christensen

USS Reuben James
Public Affairs

From Aug. 2-6, members of the Reuben James (FFG 57) basketball team participated in the RIMPAC basketball tournament and won the championship.

While over 20 teams from different countries participated in the tournament, it was the team from the local frigate from Pearl Harbor that emerged victorious.

Reuben James' basketball team is comprised of 11 members: Brandon Jackson, Larry Anderson, Dominique Birch, Charles Wesley, Thomas McDaniel, Antoine Salik, Kevin Johnson, Antoine Yourse, Kawaski Lewis, Vidal Whitlow and Travis Carter who is a member of HSL-37 Det 4 and deployed with Reuben James on its last deployment to Central and South America. Reginald McCallum and Damien Williams coached the team to victory.

During the tournament, the team played a total of five games against other teams from other ships, including Team John C. Stennis, Team John Paul Jones, Team Ford and Team Rushmore.

"It was great to see the team pull together like

this," Jackson noted. "We all played as a team and no one person won the game for us. It was definitely a team effort."

Head Coach McCallum told his team before the championship game that they "are only as good as the weakest link and they all needed to play together to win."

In the championship game Sunday afternoon, Reuben James took on the mighty Stennis VS Team. Although aircraft carriers provide a much larger talent pool from which to draw, the "Frigate That Could" surprised many and earned a decisive victory over Stennis.

"This is not only a good victory for the basketball team, it is an even greater victory and experience for the ship itself," said Yourse. "I'm glad that I was able to be a part of such a great team and championship victory."

Reuben James practices once a week and now has a 6-2 record.

The team expects great things to come for the rest of the summer and hopes to emerge with another championship under their belt at the conclusion of Pearl Harbor summer basketball league play.

Jackson summed up the team's feelings when he said that "as long as we keep playing together as a team, the best is definitely yet to come."



U.S. Navy photo by MM3 Greg Bookout
A Sailor participating in the RIMPAC softball tournament makes a warm up throw prior to starting an inning of play.



U.S. Navy photo by MM3 Greg Bookout
A member of the USS Chafee team 'Going Yard' takes a swing during the recent RIMPAC softball tournament. The team enters this weekend's Captain's Cup Tourney with a 16-2 record.

Admiral's Cup winners announced at command picnic

JO2 Jessica B. Davis

U.S. Pacific Fleet, Public Affairs

A smoking grill piled with hot dogs and hamburger patties, children laughing as they played water balloon toss and splashes from naval officers and the command master chief falling into the dunk tank were some of the sights and sounds of U.S. Pacific Fleet's annual command picnic July 30.

About 500 staff and family members took part in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation sponsored event at the Makalapa compound pavilion. Winners of the second annual Admiral's Cup were announced and trophies presented by Rear Adm. (sel) Cecil Haney, deputy chief of staff for fleet warfare requirements, programming force structure, analysis.

Admiral's Cup is a series of sporting events, sponsored by MWR, where teams of civilian and military personnel compete for that distinguished honor of being the best.

"During these tournaments, there was an abundance of morale and teamwork that I haven't seen since reporting here," said Personnelman 1st Class (SW/AW) Patricia Aughtry, Admiral's Cup chairman. "The unity and sportsmanship displayed throughout the course of the tournament was truly awesome."

Many different departments participated, and they competed in basketball, bowling, softball, volleyball, golf and two four-man, three-mile relays. The winners in each event received a trophy for that event.

"Ironically, this year's champions didn't place first in any of these events," said Aughtry, a native of Jersey City, N.J. "They did stay consistent throughout this year's tournament by placing second and third in each event. This proves that as long as you show consistency, you're bound to come out on top."

This year's winners will display the Admiral's Cup trophy in their office for a month, then the trophy will be moved in front of Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Adm. Walter F. Doran's office for viewing.

"Praise to the event coordinators and all of



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Jessica B. Davis
Operations Specialist 2nd Class Jeffrey Kenney holds his son Tyler, who seconds later hit the target and dunked the unsuspecting Capt. Joseph Skinner. The U.S. Pacific Fleet staff command picnic ended with a presentation of the Admiral's Cup trophy.

the MWR committee members. Their hard work made this a top-notch, quality event," said Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/FMF) Cory Sant, MWR committee president.

"The staff's continued dedication to supporting MWR has made all of this year's events possible, demonstrating one of many reasons Pacific Fleet is such a great command to serve at," said Sant, a native of Ogden, Utah. "All the positive feedback tells me the Pacific Fleet staff had a terrific time at this event."

Online courses complement training for CPO transition

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy
Public Affairs

In a partnership with an online business skills training provider, Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) is once again delivering computer-based leadership courses to newly-selected chief petty officers for completion during their transition season. Two additional courses are being included in this year's training program.

The additional four hours of courses offered by the Ninth House Network include Optimizing Team Performance and Navigating Change. These courses have been added to the previous year's list of Situational Leadership II, Managing Change and Resolving Interpersonal Issues, for a total of 14 hours of Web-based learning.

Naval Education and Training Command Force Master Chief Michael McCalip said that last year's program was a tremendous success. Approximately 98 percent of the 5,418 active-duty, Reserve and TAR chief-selects enrolled and completed the program during the

past year. He said considering last year's operational requirements, that number was higher than anticipated.

McCalip said there have been key changes made from last year's training cycle. The delivery method of the CDs, as well as how course completion is recorded, are the two most significant.

This year, to receive their Ninth House CDs, NKO users can log on and order their discs by clicking on the leadership tab and scrolling down to click on the corresponding link. Selectees can have the CDs mailed to either home or work, and can expect to receive them within two weeks if mailed to a stateside location. If the Sailors already have their CDs, the courses can be accessed from the same area on NKO.

An additional improvement is that Sailors do not need to worry about entering these courses into their training record. Upon completion of the courses, their electronic training jacket and the Navy Training Management & Planning System (NTMPS) database will automatically be updated.

"What we've wanted to do

is continue to better prepare our new CPOs for 21st century leadership," said McCalip. "These programs are focused on them and are more education-based than training. It exposes them to a different type of learning and shows our chief-selects one of the many education options out there."

The courses are delivered through a combination of both the Internet and NetCD® packets. NKO provides the portal for Sailors to access and log in for the training. The NetCD® packets also help with bandwidth limitations by providing each course's multimedia files, avoiding the need to download the files.

"Our chief petty officers have taken ownership of this mission and are devoted to its success," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/AW) Terry Scott. "Continuing to invest in our future leaders by providing them the proper training they need to be successful is only the beginning of the Navy's investment in its future leaders. By continuing to provide knowledge and sharpen their skills, it will serve these chiefs well into their future as deckplate leaders," said Scott.

COMSUBPAC implements campaign to reduce mishaps

JOC(SW/AW)

David Rush

COMSUBPAC

Public Affairs

In May 2003, the Secretary of Defense challenged the Department of Defense to reduce the number of mishaps and accident rates by at least 50 percent in the next two years.

He stated, "These goals are achievable, and will directly increase our operational readiness. We owe no less to the men and women who defend our nation."

The submariners assigned to the 17 attack submarines homeported in Pearl Harbor, along with the hundreds of other military and civilian personnel at Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC), are getting the word about this goal.

According to Capt. Mark Haskin, COMSUBPAC Director for Maintenance and Material Readiness and co-chair for the afloat safety committee, the time has come for leadership to step up to the plate.

"I think the most important thing is that they should provide that positive backup to their fellow shipmates," said Haskin. "It's very important that they impress upon their personnel the important safety principles for off duty as well as on duty. We need to get

away from the mindset that an individual has gone home and it's not our problem. It has to be our problem all of the time. It's part of being a family and providing caring leadership," said Haskin.

Although the campaign is directed at personnel of all ages, there is a higher degree of effort aimed at those who are younger.

"We're targeting Sailors 26 years old and younger," said Haskin. "One of the biggest ways of reducing the off duty fatalities is to make sure we get the command involved. I would hope that we use caring leadership, something that a family would do for a family member, to influence what they might do on their off duty hours," Haskin said.

In July, a submariner stationed in Pearl Harbor died as a result of a motorcycle crash while departing the naval station.

The Sailor had taken the motorcycle safety course and was wearing the appropriate safety gear.

According to the report, excessive speed and loss of control were the primary factors for the Sailor's untimely death.

Since the introduction of Operational Risk Management (ORM) in April 1997, mishaps aboard ships and squadrons have been reduced.

Haskin said in order to meet the 50 percent reduction in mishaps, the

principle of ORM must be applied to off duty activities as well as it is on the job.

"To the credit of the surface and submarine forces, the continued efforts with ORM and applying it to daily operations, on ships and submarines, has been effective in reducing class 'A' mishaps," said Haskin.

When you look at our afloat forces, on duty fatalities are minimal," Haskin said.

According to statistics, privately-owned vehicles, off and on-road, account for the majority of off-duty, active-duty fatalities, nearly all of them preventable.

Of the 95 Navy fatalities as of July 28, 63 occurred as a result of accidents in privately-owned vehicles.

According to Haskin, the evidence is clear. When personnel leave their respective installations, they need to use common sense and slow down.

"People rarely have an accident on base, fatality or otherwise," said Haskin. "They occur off base because that's where people are exceeding the speed limit. We are working hard at getting the commands involved to police their people and encourage their people to be safe," Haskin concluded.

For more safety information, visit the Naval Safety Center web site at www.safetycenter.navy.mil.