

Hawai'i Sailor remembered

Navy Region Hawai'i
Public Affairs

A memorial service honoring Petty Officer 3rd Class John D. House was held yesterday at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

House was assigned to the Naval Health Clinic Hawai'i, Branch Medical Annex at Camp Smith. He deployed Aug. 30, 2004 with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment and died in a helicopter crash in Iraq on Jan. 26.

"This has been an extremely difficult time for our family and the outpouring of support and condolences has been greatly appreciated," said House's widow, Melaine. "I am proud of the job my husband did. He was always hard working and dedicated to serving his country. He was a good Sailor and a committed Navy corpsman. John was also a wonderful husband and I know he loved our son. Although the two never had the chance to meet, I know John will be with him every day of his life," said House.

"John's family has been helping me, but it's good to know the military and civilian community is with us and wishes us well. That kind of support has been crucial for me during this difficult time. While I do appreciate the support, I also ask for some privacy. I'm sure everyone can understand the need for personal reflection at a time like this," she asked.

House was born Nov. 19, 1976 in Rochester, Pa. He attended Moorpark High School in Moorpark, Calif. and graduated in 1995. Following high school, he joined the Navy on Dec. 22, 1998 and attended recruit training. Upon completion he was stationed at Hospital Corpsman School, Great Lakes, Ill. and graduated in August 1999.

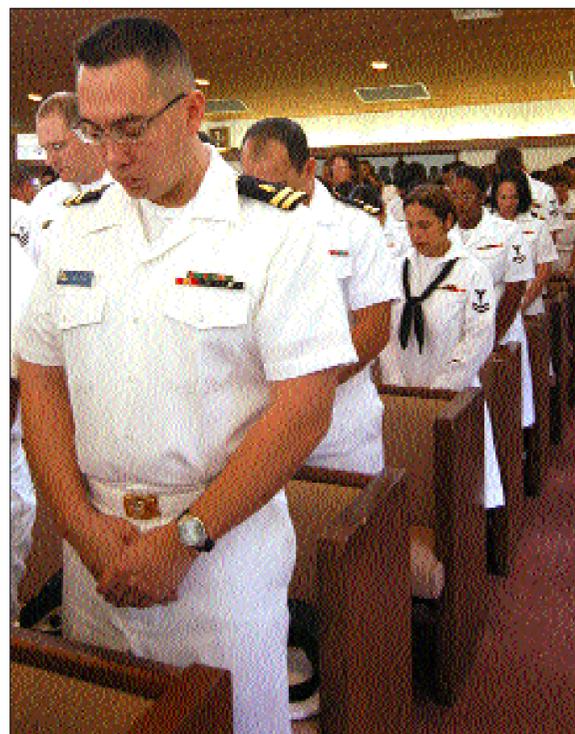
After completion of Corps School, Petty Officer House was assigned to Field Medical Service School, Camp Pendleton, Calif. from August through September 1999. Upon completion, he did a one-year unaccompanied tour to Okinawa, Japan with 3rd FSSG, Fleet Marine Force (FMF) which ended in September 2000. Following

this assignment, House received orders to 1st FSSG, FMF, Camp Pendleton, Calif. from September 2000 to March 2003.

After a successful tour with the Marines, he reported to Naval Health Clinic Hawai'i in March 2003. Because of his FMF qualification, House was selected to augment with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe and deploy to Iraq.

House is survived by his wife, Melaine; son, James (born Dec. 24, 2004); parents, Larry and Susan; sister, Elizabeth, and brother, James. During HM3 House's distinguished naval career, he was awarded the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (with one star), Pistol Qualification and Overseas Service Ribbon.

Petty Officer House is pending awards received in Iraq, specifically in the Battle for Fallujah. In addition, he earned the FMF Qualification Pin.



U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Victoria Tullock

More than 500 service members and civilians mourn the loss of HM3 John D. House during a memorial service held at Naval Station, Pearl Harbor Chapel. House died in a helicopter crash in Iraq on Jan. 26, along with 26 Marines from Kaneohe Bay.



Adopt a Highway

Volunteer Sailors keeping Hawai'i clean. See story on page A-2.



Ocean Concepts

New MWR program helps Sailors explore Hawaiian waters. See story on page B-1.

Hawai'i Navy News Briefs

Kitty Hawk F/A-18F aircraft mishap

An F/A-18F Super Hornet assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 102 was involved in an accident at approximately 6:30 p.m. Japan Standard Time Jan. 29 on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) approximately 100 miles southeast of Yokosuka, Japan. Two pilots were safely recovered. There were six injuries to crew members. None are life threatening.

VFA-102 operates from Atsugi, Japan.

The incident is currently under investigation.

Naval officer killed in embassy attack

The Department of Defense announced Jan. 31 the death of a Sailor who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lt. Cmdr Keith E. Taylor, 47, of Irvine, Calif. died Jan. 29 in a rocket attack on the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

Taylor was assigned to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, Iraq Detachment.

Guestbook for fallen Sailor

Machinist's Mate 2nd Class (SS) Joseph Allen Ashley suffered massive trauma to the head Jan. 8, when USS San Francisco grounded 350 miles south of Guam.

Despite the intense efforts of so many to save his life, he died 26 hours later. His loss has been felt throughout the entire submarine force.

Petty Officer Ashley's hometown newspaper, The Akron Beacon Journal, has established a guestbook on their web site for those who wish to send messages to the Ashley family.

The site's address is <http://www.ohio.com/mld/ohio/news/obituaries>.

MCPON holds Q & A with Pearl Harbor Sailors



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Jennifer L. Bailey

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Terry Scott speaks to Sailors assigned to the guided missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) about how fleet surveys affected the concept of the new Task Force Uniform. MCPON Terry Scott visited various bases in Hawai'i to speak to Sailors about education, training, and the new Task Force Uniform concept.



U.S. Navy photo by J02 Devin Wright

Blaise Atabay, a Hui O Ka Ko security officer, checks a motorist identification card at the Nimitz gate Feb. 2.

Civilian security at Navy Region Hawai'i gates

J02 Devin Wright
Staff Writer

Beginning Feb. 1 Navy Region Hawai'i contracted a civilian security company to stand perimeter watches at Naval installations throughout Hawai'i.

Hui O Ka Koa Security Company has been hired to help the Navy support the global war on terrorism.

"By hiring civilian gate guards it helps us free up our master-at-arms

so that they can be deployed to areas of concern," said Cmdr. Douglas Holderman, Navy Region Hawai'i Public Safety Officer. "We've already had somewhere in the neighborhood of 40 MA's deployed from this region in the last couple of months and we can expect a lot more. Not all of our MA's have been deployed so while they are still here having these civilian gate guards free up their

▼ See CIVILIANS, A-2

Pearl Harbor ships get 'MOBI'

JO3 Ryan C. McGinley
Staff Writer

Two Pearl Harbor-based guided missile frigates will next deploy with Man Overboard Identification (MOBI) Systems, a new system intended to provide immediate notification and rapid recovery of a Sailor or Marine who has fallen overboard.

USS Crommelin (FFG 37) and USS Reuben James (FFG 57) were the first two Pearl Harbor-based ships to be fitted with the system Jan. 25, which is being installed in ships throughout the Navy.

"We're very proficient at retrieving a [crew member] in the water, when we know there's a [crew member] in the water," said Operations Specialist 1st Class (SW) Daniel Roberts, stationed aboard Crommelin. "But this

system will greatly enhance our ability to know that someone has fallen over the side, especially at night."

According to William Dull, owner of Briar Tek Incorporated, the company that designed and manufactured the system, the MOBI is a water-activated pager-size transmitter worn by Sailors.

The system alerts shipboard personnel not only that an overboard incident has occurred, but also immediately identifies the Sailor in distress.

In an overboard emergency, three to five seconds of salt-water immersion automatically activates the unit, sending out a VHF signal via a flexible antenna.

The antenna locates the transmitter's VHF signal within a normal surface-to-surface range of one-two nautical miles, said Dull.

Transmitters can be tracked up to 18 nautical miles. The transmitter's signal triggers an audible alarm at the bridge-mounted receiver. The screen immediately displays the Sailor's identification. A bridge mounted unit allows immediate and coordinated rescue to be directed from the ship. A portable unit installed on the ship's rigid hull inflatable boat speeds search and rescue personnel directly to the victim.

"Anything we can do to improve the odds of recovering a [crew member] overboard, we definitely want that capability on board," said Ensign Eric Turner, stationed aboard Crommelin. "Safety is always the most important thing we do on board. With everything we do, safety always comes first."

The MOBI is a new system, used commercially for the

first time in 1999. The Navy selected the system for use in early 2001 and the first installation was aboard USS Nassau (LHA 4) in March 2002, followed by 20 additional ships for a field evaluation. During this evaluation, while on deployment in the Persian Gulf, the MOBI system aided in the successful recovery of a Sailor who had fallen from USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72).

"It's all about safety and saving our shipmates' lives," said Roberts. "As long as we know someone has fallen over and we can find him, then we've got an incredible chance at saving him."

Permanent installations on all U.S. Navy ships began in late 2004. Fleet installations will continue over the next three years until all Navy Sailors and Marines on all U.S. naval ships are afforded this added protection.



U.S. Navy photo by JO3 Ryan C. McGinley

ET3 (SW) Jonathan Hooper, assigned to USS Crommelin (FFG 37), displays the new MOBI transmitter.

Civilians: helping the Navy to fight the global war on terrorism

Continued from A-1

time to do more training for their upcoming deployments. So this is a win-win situation for the Department of Defense and the Navy."

"The new security guards have been given Navy certified training, meet all of the Navy's physical fitness requirements, and have been trained in the different types of weapons used by MA's," said Holderman. "These security guards understand how security is run at our gates and piers."

Hui O Ka Koa Security Company employs many security officers with military backgrounds.

"Most of the supervisors of our company are retired military or local police officers, so we understand the intricacies of both the military and law enforcement," said Richard Wong, Hui O Ka Koa Security Company shift supervisor. "We are

going to have our growing pains, but people are already getting use to seeing us on the gates instead of the master-at-arms or DoD police," he said.

Blaise Atabay, a Hui O Ka Koa security officer, stood his first gate guard duty Feb. 1 at Pearl Harbor and said he has noticed a difference between working with civilian companies and the military.

"I was a former police officer with the Honolulu Police Department," said Atabay. "There are noticeable differences between working with the police department and the military."

"There is a lot of protocol in the military, knowing the rates and ranks of everyone who comes through gates is important and we are quickly learning that," he continued. "The most important thing is keeping the bad guys out, and we know how to do that."

CPF Sailors clean up Kamehameha Highway

PH3 Lindsay R. Minturn
Commander United States Pacific Fleet

In the early morning hours of Jan. 26, Sailors from Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) gathered in front of the compound's main gate to "adopt" their stretch of highway.

In a large group of a solely volunteer effort, Sailors from the staff of COMPACFLT picked up rubbish from Kamehameha Highway. The two and a half mile stretch runs from Personnel Support Detachment, Pearl Harbor to Aloha Stadium.

"It's my first time volunteering for Adopt-a-Highway," said Postal Clerk 2nd Class Matthew Jourden. "I think this is great to help the community and it helps to keep Hawai'i clean." According to Cryptological Technician 1st Class Wilmarie Alomar, the clean-up is about giving back. "It's my third time doing this and I feel good about helping and contributing, even if it's just a little bit," she said.

Yeoman 1st Class Lahaunn Moore, who has

been coordinating the Adopt-a-Highway project for the past four months, was also out helping and made sure safety aspects were taken into consideration.

"COMPACFLT has been involved in Adopt-a-Highway for the past three years and it's always great to see the volunteer effort," said Moore.

All of the participants received an orange "Adopt-a-Highway" T-shirt so they would be highly visible to motorists along the stretch of road.

"There is a definite sense of satisfaction volunteering for Adopt-a-Highway because I like living in Hawai'i. It's beautiful here," said YN3 Kristina Grant. "We need to keep it that way. You also get to help and see people from other shops helping that you would not normally see."

The Sailors of COMPACFLT participate in the Adopt-a-Highway program about once a month.

The Department of Transportation is always looking for more volunteers to adopt a highway. To find out more, contact DOT at (808) 831-6712.



U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Lindsay R. Minturn

PC2 Matthew Jourden of Houston, picks up rubbish along a stretch of highway in front of Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Jourden and other Sailors from Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet volunteered to help clean up a stretch of highway for the monthly Adopt-a-Highway program.

STORY IDEAS?

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

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Hawaii Navy News

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Taxes, taxes taxes



U.S. Navy photo

Filing taxes in 1945. Here's part of the line that formed at the entrance of the CHA3 Library as Pearl Harbor workers filed their Federal Income taxes. Mr. Chang Yau is the representative from the Federal Tax Office in Honolulu who came to the area to assist residents here. Taxpaying takes both money and time.

Message to the Armed Forces on the Iraqi elections

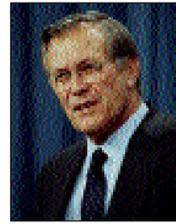
American Forces Press Service

On Jan. 30 in Iraq, the world witnessed an important moment in the global struggle against tyranny, a moment that historians might one day call a major turning point. America's men and women in uniform, who were instrumental in the liberation of Iraq, were there to witness this moment as well.

During the struggle to bring freedom to Iraq, many of you have faced difficult times far from home. I suspect there have been moments along the way when some of you may have wondered whether or not the effort would be worth the cost, or whether, even, the people you were trying to help truly stood with you.

Last Sunday, the Iraqi people answered those understandable questions in a resounding way, just as voters had in Afghanistan last October. The world is experiencing a global struggle between freedom and fear -- and you are on the side of freedom. That's the side to be on. And the people of Afghanistan, and now the people of Iraq, have chosen to stand with you.

Consider the courage it took for the Iraqi people to go to the polls when they had been warned that the act of voting could cost



them and their family members their lives. Think of the determination they must have possessed to risk becoming targets for bombings or beheadings.

And yet the Iraqis voted - millions of them.

Voters arrived on crutches and donkey carts, passing by graffiti warnings on the walls that said: "You vote, you die"; Iraqis came to a polling station to vote even after a rocket attack had killed three people several hours earlier; children waved Iraqi flags as they witnessed the birth of their new, free system; elderly women with tears in their eyes held up their voting cards; and voters displayed their ink-stained fingers as badges of honor in the fight against extremism.

Iraq's security forces also deserve recognition for their bravery and their willingness, despite the threats, to wear their country's uniforms and to provide security on Sunday for both the millions of voters and the thousands of election workers.

These are times of consequence. In the past few months, 50 million free people in Afghanistan and

Iraq have begun to build new futures. They have rejected the extremism that fuels attacks on civilized people. And you have made that possible. Have no doubt: the courage and sacrifices of U.S. forces have helped to create the environment in which Afghans and Iraqis are developing the ability to take hold of their countries.

Now these free people continue to seek your help in building free, democratic and peaceful nations in some of the world's most violent regions. No one treasures peace more than you who have endured the horrors of war.

So to all of you who are serving on freedom's front lines, and to your families, I offer my deepest appreciation and respect. To those who have lost friends or loved ones during this conflict or who have been injured in defense of our freedom, find comfort in knowing that your sacrifices have historic meaning. And know that one day, the people of Iraq and Afghanistan will find a way to thank you, as I do, from the bottom of my heart.

May God bless you and may God bless the United States.

Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense

Commentary

Chapel Pennant

'The sacrifice of praise'

Lt. Commander Fred McGuffin

NSSC Chaplain

The Bible tells us that David danced before the Lord. We are designed to give praise to God and many times we fail to live up to our design. God desires for us to give "the sacrifice of praise." Our society doesn't speak of sacrifice much anymore and I think we have lost something in not living sacrificially.

We hear of our comrades in arms sacrificing in Iraq and Afghanistan, but how much do we really sacrifice here at home? We should give of ourselves on a daily basis. We might do this by encouraging a shipmate who is down, a family awaiting the return of their deployed loved one, or a homeless person as we walk downtown. There are people all around us who are in need. Let's redouble our efforts in sacrificial living.

The opportunity to serve God and offer the sacrifice of praise is available here on Pearl Harbor as well. We offer worship

services that are diverse and exciting.

Over the past few weeks, you may have seen numerous messages saying something like: "The Surf is Up" or "A Swell is Building." There is something new happening at Submarine Memorial Chapel. "The Wave," a new, non-traditional worship service, begins this Sunday Feb. 6 at 10:30 a.m. This service is designed to appeal to those looking for something different in a chapel service. All of our Pearl Harbor chapel services are designed for the needs of each faith group and this service adds a new dimension for the Protestant community.

"The Wave" is a worship service about being part of something much bigger than ourselves. We come together to experience God and leave with a life-changing encounter that will help us surf God's Wave in our lives. And we hope this service will excite you in such a way that you draw closer to God. I encourage you to join us in the service of your choice this Sunday at Pearl Harbor.

Vince Lombardi could have been an admiral

Commentary

FLTCM(AW/SW) Jon Thompson

U.S. Fleet Forces Command

Command Master Chief

I can't tell you how many times I have heard people compare sports to the military, sports to leadership, sports to life. No matter what sport you enjoy, one thing is clear—the coach is the leader and that coach makes or breaks a team. There have been many successful coaches in sports, but the one who seemed to inspire the best was Coach Vince Lombardi. With Super bowl Sunday just a few days away, I can think of no better time to add my two cents about coaching and the military. Vince Lombardi is widely viewed as one of the most successful coaches and inspirational leaders of the 20th century. He would have made an excellent admiral.

As you look in the mirror and take stock of what you personally bring to our Navy, I'd like to share with you some of the philosophy that Vince Lombardi brought to his string of winning football teams, most notably the Green Bay Packers. Read his words carefully and then ask yourself if you believe as he believed.

"Football is a great deal like life in that it teaches work, sacrifice, competitive drive, selflessness and respect for authority is the price that each and every one of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile," Lombardi said.

I would argue you could say the same about serving one's country. The contract each of us has with our country is to achieve the same things



Coach Lombardi expected of his players. "Unless a man believes in himself and makes a total commitment to his career and puts everything he has into it - his mind, his body and his heart - what is life worth to him? If I were a salesman, I would make this commitment to my company, to the product and most of all, to myself," Lombardi remarked.

How are you feeling? Do you measure up? Are you this type of person?

When it comes to character, Lombardi was a class act. He could look into the future and see that, in the end, effort mattered.

"They may not love you at the time, but they will later," he said.

Think about this for a moment. Consider for a moment our efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq. At this time, many people in the world criticize our efforts. However, our optimistic leaders see the future as Lombardi might have. Today's leaders offer - history books will record, years from now, that those countries (and hopefully the world's population) will respect us for taking the leadership role and liberating people who, before we stepped in, had futures full of despair.

"Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

Do you see yourself as a small fish in a big pool? Do you think your effort matters? I know - it's one of those glass half full hypothetical questions.

But here's the deal, if you truly believe your work doesn't matter in the Navy, you run the risk of becoming a defeatist. Here's what Lombardi offered about that:

"Winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all the time thing. You don't win once in a while; you don't do the right thing once in a while; you do them right all the time. Winning is a habit. Unfortunately, so is losing."

Lombardi re-wrote the book on teamwork. He embodied all the traits today's best coaches strive for. Deep inside, I think Lombardi knew people and he realized that the will to succeed was in every person and that every person counted.

"People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses, or the problems of modern society." "What's more," he added, "the achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual."

Shipmates, I could go on for pages and pages about how inspiring Lombardi was, and still is, to leaders in almost every industry, including sports, the military and business.

If you watch this year's Super bowl, try to pay a little attention to the coaches. One of them will be victorious. It will be, on that particular day, the person who inspires his team to greatness on that day. Both teams will be capable of winning going into the game, but only one will get the job done.

Our Navy needs great leaders much the same as sports. Who will be our Vince Lombardi? Someone has to lead...why not you!

Thanks, shipmates, and enjoy the game.

Hawai'i Navy News

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Public Affairs Officer - Lt. Barbara Mertz
Deputy Public Affairs Officer - Agnes Tauyan

Managing Editor - JOC(SW) Joe Kane

Editor - JO1 Daniel J. Calderón

Assistant Editor - Karen Spangler

Staff Writer - JO2 Devin Wright

Staff Writer - JO3 Ryan C. McGinley

Staff Writer - Lacy Lynn

Technical Adviser - Joe Novotny

Layout/Design - Leah Young

Layout/Design - Angie Batula

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DoD photo by Tech. Sgt. Andy Dunaway

Aerial view of the river entrance of the Pentagon. Pentagon leaders and Capitol Hill legislators want to increase the current available combined government death benefit.

Pentagon, Senate seek doubling of G.I. survivors' benefit

Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces
Press Service

Pentagon leaders and Capitol Hill legislators want to increase the current available combined government death benefit for families of fallen service members by about \$250,000.

If enacted, the proposed change essentially would double the \$262,000 now available to families of service members killed in wartime operations, David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said during testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee. The issue has been under study for two years.

Senior defense leaders "believe that sum ought to be nearer to \$500,000," Chu told the panel, by increasing the maximum coverage offered by the Service members' Group Life Insurance program and raising the separate death gratuity payment.

The current survivor's death gratuity payment, which is tax-free, is about \$12,420. Survivors of service members killed in war operations also can now receive

\$250,000 in maximum SGLI coverage, if they'd elected to do so.

DoD and Senate proposals would increase the death gratuity payment to \$100,000, and boost maximum SGLI coverage to \$400,000. The Pentagon would pay the premiums for the extra \$150,000 in SGLI coverage when participating service members are deployed in a combat zone.

A plan under discussion, if approved by Congress and the president, would be retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001, the day Operation Enduring Freedom began in Afghanistan.

The U.S. government "already provides a significant set of programs to help the families of those who give their lives in service to the country," Chu said. Current compensation programs now available to surviving spouses with children, he added, approximately provide "dollar-for-dollar, what the military member was earning on active service."

DoD also provides transitional housing assistance for surviving spouses and children, Chu said, as well as access to the Tricare health system and com-

missary and exchange systems, and surviving spouse and children's education benefits.

The proposed increase in survivor's monetary benefits would also provide "greater recognition" of the sacrifices America's service members have made during the global war on terrorism, noted Sen. John Warner of Virginia, chairman of the SASC. DoD officials reported Feb. 1 that 1,415 Americans have died in Iraq and 156 others died in Afghanistan and other wartime theaters during the global war on terror.

During the hearing, some Senate members noted that survivors of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks were paid an average of \$2 million per family. The proposed changes to G.I. death benefits for survivors wouldn't apply to families of service members killed during those terrorist attacks.

"There is nothing in the financial sense," Chu pointed out, "that we can do to replace a lost service member." Yet, the government can provide "the appropriate financial tools," he noted, to comfort surviving spouses and families so they can go forward.

Tax center opens

JO3 Ryan C. McGinley
Staff Writer

The annual Navy tax center at Pearl Harbor opened Jan. 31 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at building 669, providing Sailors and family members with a free service to complete their taxes.

The center, which is open to all active duty military members, their family members and retirees will be open through April 15, providing an alternative to hiring an accountant in the civilian sector.

"Out in town you might expect to pay between \$100 and \$300 to do your tax returns," said Lt. Amy Sanders, tax officer for the center. "That money might be better spent saving or paying off any debts. The Navy tax center is really great service."

Over 30 volunteers have donated their time to helping file returns this season and commands around Pearl Harbor donated all of the materials used in the center.

"We've had a great response, especially with volunteers," said Sanders. "Those wishing to volun-



U.S. Navy photo by JO3 Ryan C. McGinley
Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale, Commander Navy Region Hawai'i and Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, files the first tax return at the tax center.



U.S. Navy photo by JO3 Ryan C. McGinley

Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale, Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, cuts the ribbon opening the tax center for the 2005 season.

teer at the tax center can take the basic course online at www.irs.gov (search 'link and learn')."

Sailors and their family members should bring a copy of last year's tax return, all income information, a list of itemized deductions, Social Security cards for all individuals, identification card, and child and disabled dependent information if you qualify. If your spouse is away, you must bring a power of attorney

form with you.

The center is set up every year for basic tax returns. Complicated returns such as small business, partnership, corporate, farm, state, trust, deceased tax payers or day trader returns will not be conducted at the center.

Last year the tax center helped over 3,000 service members and their family members, filing 6,980 tax returns.

The effort saved service members almost \$800,000 in fees. Sanders said the goal of this year's season was to break 7,000 tax returns.

"The tax center is important because it provides quality of life for Sailors and their families," said Sanders.

The center will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information on the tax center or to make an appointment, call 473-4112.

Free advancement tips, advice available online

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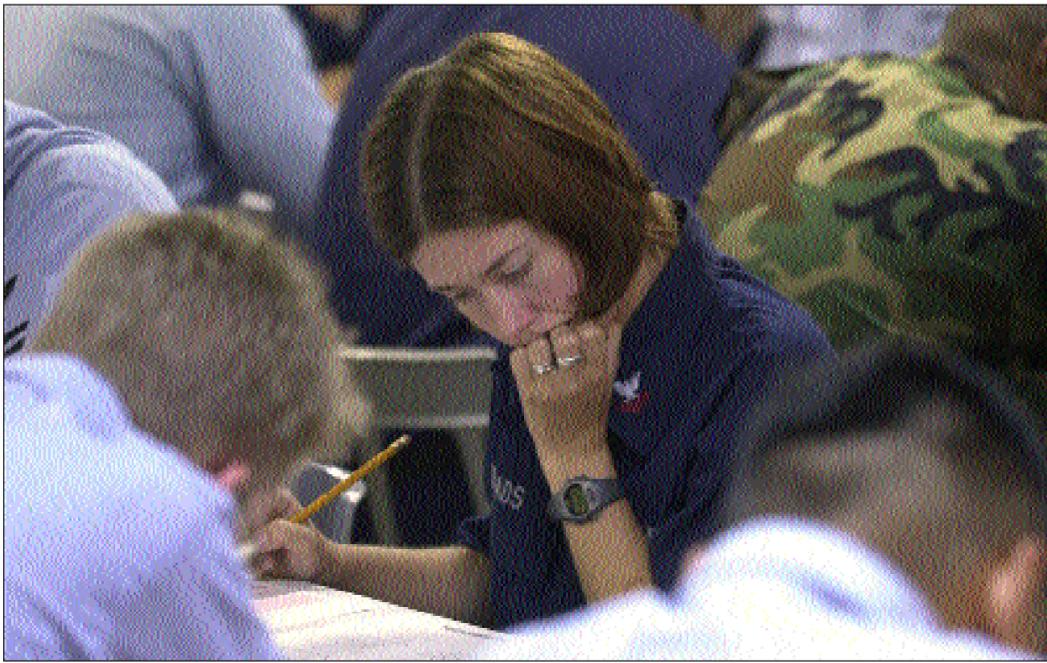
Active-duty and Reserve Sailors can obtain answers to advancement questions by going online to a variety of Navy-sponsored Web sites.

Professional military knowledge and rating-specific references and bibliographies for advancement (bibs), along with other information to help Sailors climb the ladder to success, are just a simple click away.

"Virtually everything you have to buy from the commercial sites is available for free from the Navy," said Chief Electronics Technician Shane Drinkwater, Electronics Technician (submarines) examination writer, Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center (NETPDTTC), Pensacola, Fla. "There are a lot of tools out there to help you get advanced, but the best tool we generate is the Advancement Exam Strategy Guide, which can be accessed at <https://www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil>.

According to Drinkwater, the Navy Web site has a specific "how to take an advancement test" section, as well as information on exam strategies and examination development. To help Sailors understand what skills and knowledge exam developers are assessing, specific rating information is broken down by rank into topic and subject areas.

"A Sailor can go to the exam



U.S. Navy photo by PHAN Jason A. Johnston

Sailors assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) take the Navy-wide First Class (E-6) Advancement Exam during the September 2004 cycle. Active-duty and Reserve Sailors can now obtain answers to advancement questions by going online to a variety of Navy-sponsored Web sites.

section, look up their specialty and we give them what references we use for exam questions," said Drinkwater. "We give them practice exam questions that they can try and tell them if they are correct or not. And if they're wrong, we tell them where they need to look to find that answer."

Senior Chief Journalist Tom Updike, journalist examination writer at NETPDTTC, explained that there are many other Navy-

sponsored Web sites Sailors can visit to help with their advancement needs.

"Since just about everything has gone electronic, any OPNAV, SECNAV or DoD instruction is available through the Web," said Updike. "These people on the other side of the fence that run advancement information sites not sponsored by the Navy just aren't in the know like the exam writers. Why pay for that outdat-

ed information when we give Sailors an updated list of reference material used to develop the very exam they are about to take, for free?"

Drinkwater and Updike both agree that the advancement exam strategy guides available on the NETPDTTC's Web site are a great study tool for Sailors. This professionally developed online advancement guide gives detailed information on exam preparation,

how to take an exam, background on the Navy enlisted advancement system, professional military knowledge and rating-specific master reference lists, as well as sample and practice exams for each pay grade.

"Sailors can also use our site to access profile sheets, exam statistics by rating, non-resident training courses, final multiple computations charts, and many other helpful tools to better prepare for upcoming exams," said Updike.

Sailors seeking additional advancement and career information can visit Navy Knowledge Online at <https://www.nko.navy.mil>. This site allows Sailors to work with their respective 5 Vector Models (5VM).

The 5VM breaks down into five categories the skills and knowledge that Sailors need to be successful: professional development, personal development, military education and leadership, certifications and qualifications, and performance. More sites available for information include: Navy Electronic Directive System at <http://ned.s.daps.dla.mil>, Defense Technology Information Center at <http://www.dtic.mil> and NETPDTTC's <https://www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil/>.

Sailors without access to a computer may see their education services officer or command career counselor for ordering instructions or information they will need for their next advancement exam.

For more information on naval education and training, visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil>.

Ronald Reagan Sailors enjoy Hawai'i port visit

JO3 Stephanie Senn

USS Ronald Reagan Public Affairs

USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) pulled into Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, Jan. 22 for a three-day port visit after spending 12 days underway on a mission supporting Operation Unified Assistance.

The ship was scheduled for a short underway period at the beginning of January, but at the last minute, was assigned to deliver two Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 30 C-2A Greyhound aircraft to Hawai'i. This gave Capt. James A. Symonds, Ronald Reagan's commanding officer, a chance to give his crew liberty in Hawai'i.

"Hawai'i is a beautiful place to visit," said Symonds. "I'm glad we had the opportunity to take part in this important mission and give the crew liberty they have earned."

Among the various activities available in Pearl Harbor, many Ronald Reagan Sailors visited the USS Arizona Memorial. The memorial doesn't normally open for ceremonies on the weekend, but made an

exception for four Reagan Sailors who wanted to re-enlist at the historical site.

Many Sailors from Ronald Reagan also took advantage of Naval Station Pearl Harbor's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) discounted ticket program for tours and attractions all over the island. Because of the last-minute nature of this port call, the ship's MWR division wasn't able to provide a large number of recreational activities prior to pulling into port. Naval Station Pearl Harbor's MWR jumped in and set up a kiosk on the pier that gave Sailors the opportunity to take full advantage of their services.

According to Personnelman 2nd Class Nicole Slovinec, administration department, the port visit was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

"Even though we had to extend the underway for this mission, it was worth it," said Slovinec. "We accomplished our mission and we got to see Hawai'i. Nothing is better than that."

For related news, visit the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/cvn76.

A bundle of joy at USS Charlotte's homecoming



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Corwin Colbert

MM3 William Bircher holds his two-month year old daughter for the first time. The nuclear-powered attack submarine returned from a six-month Western Pacific deployment Jan. 27.



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Ken Horne

IT3 Christopher Pang, assigned to the reserve detachment aboard USS Crommelin (FFG 37), disembarks the guide missile frigate via a rope ladder to a ridged hull inflatable boat. The reservists completed their first extended underway drill weekend aboard the ship, where they completed small arms training, updated their damage control qualifications and completed basic watch standing requirements.

Navy Reserve Recruiters help others succeed

JO3 Ray Flores

Honolulu Reserve Center Public Affairs

The Honolulu Reserve Center (HONRESCEN) recruiting team received four national and 46 regional awards for their work in 2004, including unit, individual and recruiters of the year awards.

The team says they are proud of their ever-growing trophy case, but they point out that their jobs are about more than awards.

"You have to be a people person; you have to care for your applicants," said Navy Counselor 1st Class Robert Fendler, a Baltimore native. "I see recruiting as caring about people, wanting people to succeed and achieve what they want - helping the individual."

The HONRESCEN has four enlisted and one officer recruiter, and there are approximately 640 Navy reservists in Honolulu.

Fendler, who estimates bringing 120-140 people into the Naval Reserve from all walks of life over the past five years as a recruiter, and the rest of the HONRESCEN recruiting team, say that each person they engage has their own story.

According to Navy Counselor 1st Class

Gary Yu, another member of the HONRESCEN recruiting team, of the 15-20 prospective reservists they meet, approximately five will come in and four out of the five will join.

Since Yu started recruiting - about the same time as Fendler - he has brought in approximately 175 people. Yu said the HONRESCEN team puts in about 100 people per year, whereas a comparable medium size recruiting station puts in around 90 per year.

The team also attributes its success in the high rate of recruitment in Hawai'i to the state's high cost of living, where the median home price is approximately \$490,000, and a gallon of milk can cost \$6 or more.

"It's very expensive to live here and savings on groceries and other items at the commissary and exchange - and throw in 10 to 15 cents savings on gas - it can all add up," said Fendler about one of the many reasons people join the Navy Reserve.

"When you help those who want to join, just to see them be able to serve their country or to continue after getting out of the active-duty military after they didn't think they could continue, it's very rewarding," he said.

Mexican Navy visits Pearl Harbor

JO2 Devin Wright

Staff Writer

Two Mexican Navy armada ships arrived in Pearl Harbor on Jan. 27 for a short port visit before deploying to Indonesia in support of tsunami humanitarian aid efforts.

While in Pearl Harbor, ARM Usumacinta (A 412) and ARM Zapoteco (AMP 02) ordered supplies for the relief efforts and received fuel before getting underway Jan. 30.

"Mexico is a neighbor of the United States obviously," said Lt. Brian Donohue, Navy Region Hawai'i's foreign ship liaison officer. "It is important our navies work together. We want to continue to build our relationship with them. By helping them as much as possible when they come through our ports is one way we can add to our foundation of friendship," he added.

Some of the supplies the Mexican Navy is transporting to Indonesia include food, clothing and electrical supplies.

"The most important thing about this mission is that we are helping people in need," said Rear Adm. Daniel Flores Bello, Commander ARM Usumacinta. "In 1985, Mexico suffered a devastating blow by an earthquake in Mexico City. There were many killed and we had support from other nations. So this is our opportunity to pay back what others have given us," said Bello.

For many of the ship's crew, this is the first time that they



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Devin Wright

ARM Usumacinta (A 412) of the Mexican Navy pulls into Pearl Harbor, Jan. 27 for a short port visit before deploying to Indonesia in support of tsunami humanitarian aid efforts. While in Pearl Harbor, the ship ordered supplies for the relief efforts and received fuel before getting underway Jan. 30. Some of the supplies the Mexican Navy is transporting to Indonesia include food, clothing and electrical supplies.

have been to a country outside South America.

"This is a great experience for me and the entire crew," said Aviation Technician 3rd Class Carlos Hernandez from Usumacinta.

"I am a little nervous about being so far from home, but my excitement distracts me from those feelings. I feel good about helping people who are in need. Not only am I excited to be going to

Indonesia, but it is a thrill to be in Hawai'i," said Hernandez. "I haven't been off the boat yet, but from what I can see the land looks very beautiful. My family would not believe it."

The Mexican Navy is scheduled to be in Indonesia for a month.

When the Mexican Navy reaches Indonesia, it will be the farthest they have traveled in 30 years.

Hawai'i Navy News Sports

Thursday, February 10

- 10a.m.** NFC All Stars practice at Aloha Stadium. Watch the NFL's biggest stars practice for this year's Pro Bowl. Official Pro Bowl merchandise. All practices at Aloha Stadium are free and open to the public. Enter through gate 4 for all practices.

Friday, February 11

- 9a.m.** AFC All-Stars practice at Aloha Stadium.
9a.m.-6p.m. Pro Bowl Football Festival at Kapiolani Park. Presented by the Paradise Yellow Pages in cooperation with the City and County of Honolulu. Football fun for the entire family: autographs, games, souvenirs and entertainment, free.
12:30p.m. Pro Bowl Charity Golf Tournament at Waialae Country Club. To register contact Nick Nicholosi at (201) 489-0049 or n.nicolosi@verizon.com.
3p.m.-5p.m. NFL Military Challenge at Kapiolani Park. Teams from each branch compete in football skills events at the Pro Bowl Football Festival, free.
7p.m.-midnight Pro Bowl Block Party at Aloha Tower Marketplace. Hot bands, cheerleaders, great food, free.

Saturday, February 12

- 6:45a.m.** Pro Bowl Prayer Breakfast at Richardson Field. Hear and meet Pro Bowl players as they talk about how they got the win over life's hardships. Tickets for \$5 available through Pearl Harbor Chapel, bldg. 1600 across from McDonalds, 473-3972.
9a.m. AFC All-Stars practice at Aloha Stadium.
10a.m. NFC All-Stars practice at Aloha Stadium.
10a.m.-6p.m. Pro Bowl Football Festival at Kapiolani Park. Presented by the Paradise Yellow Pages in cooperation with the City and County of Honolulu, free.
6p.m. Sunset on the Beach – Pro Bowl style at Queen's Beach. Football movie and contests on the beach, free.
7p.m. Hawaiian Airlines Pro Bowl concert at Waikiki Shell. Presented by KINE & KCCN Radio. Hawai'i's hottest bands. Tickets available through Ticketmaster.

Sunday, February 13

- 10a.m.-2p.m.** "Aloha Zone" tailgate party at Aloha Stadium. Parking lot near gate 4. Tickets available at the door.
11:30a.m.-2p.m. Official Pro Bowl tailgate party "Magic of the Sea" at Richardson Field. Advance tickets required. Available through Ticketmaster.
1:45p.m. Pro Bowl pregame show at Aloha Stadium.
2:30p.m. 2005 NFL Pro Bowl game at Aloha Stadium. Tickets available through Ticketmaster.



Military Pro Bowl Week events:

JOINT SERVICES:

Tripler Army Medical Center, Feb. 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. Pro Bowl player Terrance McGee, a kick return specialist for the Buffalo Bills, will visit with military patients.

Sam Snead's Tavern at the Navy-Marine Golf Course, Feb. 11 from 5 to 7 p.m. Interact with Pro Bowl players over dinner and drinks.

Pro Bowl Prayer Breakfast at Richardson Field, Feb. 12 starting at 6:45 a.m. Hear testimonials from NFL players. Program includes a breakfast buffet, giveaways and music from local bands. Tickets for \$5 available now at the Pearl Harbor Chapel, bldg. 1600 across from McDonalds. For information, call 473-3972.

Camp H.M. Smith tour, Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to noon. Mike Singletary, NFL Hall of Famer from Chicago, and linebacker coach San Francisco 49ers, tour the military base and meet with service members.

NAVY:

Ship visit on the USS Hopper, Feb. 9 from 2 to 4 p.m. Marco Rivera, a Green Bay guard, mingles with Sailors aboard the USS Hopper.

Submarine visit, Feb. 10 from noon to 2 p.m.

Navy's Air Wing Squadron visit, Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, Pro Bowl Player Drew Bees, quarterback, SD Chargers has expressed interest in visiting the Navy personnel stationed at MCBH on Feb. 11 from 2 to 4 p.m.

MARINES:

Youth Morale Visit, Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, Feb. 9, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Pro Bowl player Ed Reed, strong safety for the Baltimore Ravens, is tentatively scheduled to visit Mokapu Elementary School.

Marine Corps Base Hawai'i tour, Feb. 11, from 2 to 4 p.m. Pro Bowl player Ahman Green, running back, Green Bay Packers will visit Kaneohe Bay for a round robin of units on base.

ARMY:

Engagement Skills Trainer (EST) Aaron Smith, defensive end, and Alan Faneca, guard, Pittsburgh Steelers is scheduled to fire various types of computer weapons under different conditions; weapons include hand weapons, rifles, machine guns, etc. on Feb 8, from 2 to 3 pm.

Tropics Family Entertainment Center at Schofield Barracks, Feb. 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. A meet and greet opportunity for Pro Bowl players and Soldiers.

Aliamanu Military Reservation visit, Feb. 10, from 5 to 6 p.m. Eddie Drummond, a kick return specialist for Detroit, visits military families at the housing area.

AIR FORCE:

Hickam Air Force Base visit, Feb. 9, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Pro Bowl player Drew Bees, quarterback, San Diego Chargers, has expressed interest in a flight on a KC-135 jet refueling flight followed by an inspirational visit with youth athletes.

COAST GUARD:

U.S. Coast Guard District 14 visit, Feb. 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. Eddie Drummond of Detroit will visit a USCG cutter and tour the base.

To purchase 2005 Pro Bowl Game or tailgate tickets, call Ticketmaster at (877) 750-4400 or visit any Ticketmaster Ticket Center. For complete, up-to-the-minute NFL and Pro Bowl information, log on to www.NFL.com or call the Pro Bowl hotline at (808) 233-4NFL. (Most of the information above came from NFL Pro Bowl flyers available at MWR locations. Information on military-only events will be made available separately by Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs Office.). Events and personnel attendance are subject to change.