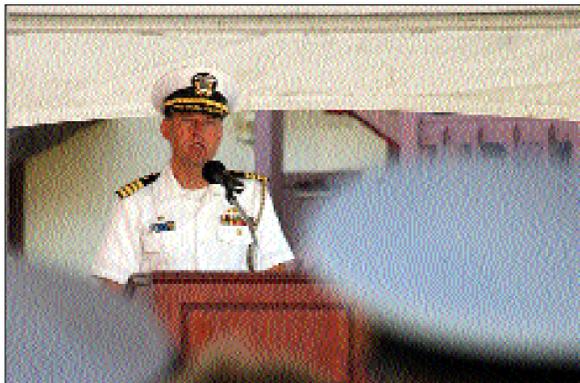


Taking aim

NavMag Sailors keep ships, subs safe. See story on page A-4.

PWC Pearl Harbor combines with NAVFAC



US Navy photo by JO2 Devin Wright

Capt. Ronald Cox, Naval Station Pearl Harbor commanding officer, speaks at a disestablish, reestablishment ceremony at NAVFAC Thursday.

Denise Emsley
NAVFAC Hawai'i
Public Affairs

With a fond "aloha," the employees of Navy Public Works Center, Pearl Harbor (PWC Pearl Harbor) said goodbye to their command Thursday.

With more than 50 years of service to Navy, Marine Corps, Department of Defense, and various other customers in Hawai'i, PWC Pearl Harbor was disestablished during a ceremony staged in front of its command offices.

"Today we recognize not only the disestablishment of

PWC Pearl, but the creation of Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawai'i (NAVFAC Hawai'i)," said Capt. Richard E. Roth, NAVFAC Hawai'i commanding officer. "With renewed optimism, under our new command structure, we will better serve the Navy of the future."

The new organization will integrate employees from PWC Pearl Harbor, Resident Officer in Charge of (ROICC) Construction Pearl Harbor and Kaneohe (contracting personnel), Navy Region Hawai'i facilities and environmental departments, and Naval Facilities Engineering

Command, Pacific Integrated Process Team Hawai'i.

NAVFAC Hawai'i will be led by Roth, Civil Engineer Corps, U. S. Navy, who was PWC Pearl Harbor's commanding officer.

"Our combined workforce will total approximately 1,150 people and provide a single point of contact for engineering, acquisition and public works support to our clients in Hawai'i," said Roth.

The ceremony was attended by both employees and customers. Rear Adm. Christopher Weaver,

▼ See NAVFAC, A-8



Calling all card sharks

Beeman Center hosts poker tournament. See story on page B-1.

Students remember World War II heroes

JO3 Ryan C. McGinley
Staff Writer

More than 100 sophomore students from the Hawai'i Baptist Academy held a memorial at the USS Utah March 4 as part of their history lesson on World War II, paying tribute to those who served for freedom and democracy.

"We are studying World War II and focusing on 'why remember,' honoring the people who have lived through some of these experiences," said Lynne Nakano, teacher at Hawai'i Baptist Academy. "This is one event we can get up close and personal with, so we don't want to miss that opportunity."

The ceremony featured a student reading an excerpt from Franklin D. Roosevelt's Jan. 6, 1941 speech, a month after declaring war.

"We honor those men who paid with their lives here on that day, Dec. 7, 1941, those on the USS Utah, the USS Arizona and others," said a student.

Ten students also wrote and read a few sentences to pay tribute to their family members who served in past wars.

"I would like to honor my grandfather who fought during World War II in the 442nd Regiment," said Chelsey Mukaida, a student at Hawai'i Baptist Academy. "My grandpa has always exemplified strength to me and to my family, and to this day continues to be a fighter."

Nakano said the idea of letting the students conduct the memorial service allows them to better understand the sacrifices and impact of such an event.

"I've found when we get the students involved in a student led memorial like this, and they can honor a family member, there is just a little deeper level of reflection," she said.

The ceremony also featured four students playing "Taps" and the singing of "Amazing Grace."

"I hope that the students would gain character themselves from learning about people's past experiences, the hardships they have been through, and yet how they were able to survive those things and serve through those things," said Nakano. "If they remember, I am hoping they will draw strength from that memory from those people who lived during the time period."



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

Students from Hawai'i Baptist Academy read tributes to World War II fighters during a memorial service March 4 at the Utah Memorial.

Family, friends mourn lost loved ones



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

A mourner touches the name of a fallen Marine during the First Battalion Third Marine's Memorial Service at the Hawai'i State Capitol building. The ceremony honored the 27 Marines and one Sailor who died in a helicopter crash near Ar Rutbah, Iraq on Jan. 26. The memorial service included remarks from Hawai'i Governor Linda Lingle and Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson Jr., commander, U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific, a two-bell ceremony and a rifle volley by the Marine Corps Base Hawai'i Honor Guard.

Sailors volunteer for Red Cross

JO1 Daniel J. Calderón
Editor

Nearly 20 Sailors from Naval Station Pearl Harbor were on the corner of Kamehameha Highway and Kaonohi Street, March 5 to raise money for the American Red Cross.

The fundraiser, called Hats off to America Red Cross, is an annual event. March is officially designated as National Red Cross Month. During the fundraiser, off-duty police officers, fire fighters, civil defense personnel, civilian volunteers and military members "take off their hats" in salute to the Red Cross. The volunteers also enter the community to raise money from the public.

"As far as I know, this is the first time the Red Cross has used military volunteers to help in the fund drive," said Senior Chief Culinary Specialist (SW/AW) Felicitia Cruz, region bachelor housing leading chief petty officer and volunteer coordinator for Saturday's event. "We, in the military, have asked to participate in the neighborhood donation drives."

The Sailors were among 15 groups participating in the fund drive statewide that day.

"It was fabulous," said Coralie Chun Matayoshi, CEO for American Red Cross Hawai'i State Chapter. "We raised a total of around \$45,000 statewide on Saturday."

The Sailors stood on the corner and collected money in hard hats from motorists as they were stopped at red lights. Cruz said



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

CSCS(SW/AW) Felicitia Cruz, LCPO for Navy Region Hawai'i bachelor housing, takes a donation from a motorist on Kamehameha during the March 5 "Hats off to America Red Cross" fund drive.

this year's drive was especially significant.

"The Red Cross has been hit hard providing funds for tsunami relief," she said, referring to the December tsunami that hit Thailand and Southeast Asia. "The Hawai'i chapter has provided their contribution and that has depleted their reserves. If Hawai'i was hit with an emergency, they would probably be short so this is a chance to build up their reserves."

Matayoshi said she appreciated the Sailors' participation during the fund drive.

"We are so happy and gratified for all their support," she said. Capt. Ronald Cox, Naval Station

Pearl Harbor commanding officer and chief of staff for Navy Region Hawai'i, was on hand for the fund drive. He said he was proud to be able to help the organization that does so much for so many.

"The Red Cross provides an incredible amount of disaster relief support," he began, "not only locally, but around the world."

The Red Cross has had a presence in Hawai'i since 1898, when some 300 women, including Princess Kaiulani, organized a Red Cross society to aid the sick and wounded soldiers stopping here on transports from the Philippines during the Spanish-

▼ See RED CROSS, A-3

Hawai'i Navy News Briefs

Utah Memorial to be closed for construction

Beginning March 14, the Utah Memorial on Ford Island will be closed for repair work. The road leading to the memorial will be blocked off and there will be a fence around the memorial itself.

A contracted company will be conducting a structural repair of the pier at the memorial. No work will be done to the Utah itself.

The construction is scheduled to be completed in July but the final date will be determined once the extent of the deterioration of the pier is assessed at the initial phase of construction.

Annual HECO Electron Marathon next week

The annual HECO Electron Marathon will be held March 19 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Ford Island. The Navy team will be defending its championship title during the inter-service race at 9 a.m.

Hawai'i High Schools will then put their electric cars to the test. Schools will try to complete the maximum number of laps in a timed run.

Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

Upcoming Pearl Harbor Commissary closures

On April 6, the Pearl Harbor Commissary will close at 3 p.m. for store wide inventory. The commissary will reopen April 7, during its normal working hours.

In June, the Pearl Harbor Commissary will add additional shelf spaces to provide patrons with a better flow of product throughout the day.

To accomplish this, the Pearl Harbor Commissary will close at 3 p.m. June 20. It will be closed through June 22 and will reopen for normal business on June 23 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Patrons should plan their shopping accordingly.

Salvor sailor takes his lucky turn on 'Wheel of Fortune'

JO3 Ryan C. McGinley
Commander, Navy Region
Hawaii Public Affairs

A Hawai'i-based Sailor stationed aboard USS Salvor (ARS 52) was a contestant and winner on the television show "Wheel of Fortune" Dec. 8, which aired nationally March 2.

Personnelman 1st Class (SW) Drew Breeden from Enola, Ark. tried out for the show on a whim and ended up winning more than \$27,000 cash, a 10-day trip to Belize and a \$1,000 gift certificate.

"It was a lot of fun and a good experience," said Breeden. "It's something that most people will probably never get a chance to do, because they only select a small percentage to compete."

Breeden was stationed at the Navy Recruit Processing Station in Springfield, Mass. when he tried out for the show. He and his wife were lodging at a casino which was holding auditions so he decided to try out.

"My wife and I watch the show a lot so when I found out they were going to be there, I thought I would go and try out," he said. "I never expected to make it and actually be on the show."

After three unsuccessful auditions where names were drawn randomly, Breeden was called back for an invitation-only audition three weeks later.

"I went back and one of the first things that you had to do was take a test, which consisted of 15 different puzzles," he said. "I got all of those except for two and made it to the next round."

For the next round, Breeden had to actually pretend he was playing the game, spinning an imaginary wheel, so judges could determine how each contestant would perform on television. About two weeks after the audition, he received a letter in the mail saying he was selected to be a contestant within an 18-month window.

Breeden was called to participate on the show while he was on temporary duty in San Diego at Career Counselor School. Most contestants must fly to Los Angeles to participate on their selected date, but Breeden said it worked out perfectly for him.

"About a week before I graduated, they called me and asked me if I could be in Los Angeles the day after I graduated," he said. "You couldn't have planned it any better than the way it just happened to work out."

Breeden, wearing his dress blue uniform, then competed in the game show, and said there were many differences from watching it at home on television.

"You can watch the show at home and it just looks like they're playing the game and having fun, but everything happens so fast,"



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

PN1 Drew Breeden, assigned to USS Salvor (ARS 52), his wife and two sons watch a tape of Breeden playing the "Wheel of Fortune" game show. Breeden was a contestant and winner on the television show March 2.

he said. "You only have five seconds to think about everything. Five seconds is not a long time when you're trying to figure out what this big puzzle is. But when you're at home, it's always your turn and you have all the time to think about it."

Breeden said his wife attended the taping of the show with him, and she was more tense than he was.

"It was really nerve wracking for my wife, because she was in the audience and she was on pins and needles the whole time," he said. "She was more nervous than I was."

Despite tension from both him and his wife, Breeden won the

game and had fun, even though he was stumped on the final puzzle.

"At the end of the game, I really had no idea how much I had won," he said. "I didn't have a clue because you don't even have time to think about it. Everything happens so fast."

Breeden noted the whole experience was enjoyable and said the most interesting part was learning how the show is made.

"The biggest thing I learned from the experience was how the whole show comes together. You don't think about something like that until you actually see it happen," he explained. "Everything is so organized, and every person that's there has a certain thing

that they have to do, and it has to happen at a certain time. I never dreamed that there was so much about putting together a game show."

Breeden said he and his family would use the money to pay off bills and put a down payment on a new house.

"We will take a little bit and have some fun with it, though," he added.

Editor's Note:
Military personnel who participate in non-government video or film productions must first obtain command permission for such participation. Guidance can be found in DoD instruction 5410.16.

Dual-military unaware of extra FSGLI premiums

JO2 Jessica B. Davis
U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Some military couples may be getting charged an extra \$6 to \$54 per month for unintentional enrollment in both the Servicemember Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Family Servicemember Group Life Insurance (FSGLI), unless they declined the coverage.

Dual-military families who are not aware and did not decline coverage may owe on average \$400 per spouse covered under FSGLI as of March and are strongly urged to contact their personnel office or local Personnel Support Detachment. If the Sailors' Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) information is updated, a leave and earnings statement (LES) will show the deduction.

As a result of NAVADMIN 281/01, some dual-military couples were given the impression that they only needed to update the Defense

Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System DEERS to elect or decline coverage.

Personnel support activities (PSA) in the Pacific are re-clarifying steps for the automatic enrollment of spouses and children for FSGLI because some dual-military couples are unknowingly being charged for two policies.

The recent message clarifies that dual-military spouses are automatically covered by FSGLI, unless coverage was declined. To decline FSGLI coverage, Sailors must sign the SGLV Form 8286A and return it their local PSA. The form can be downloaded at <http://www.psdph.navy.mil/> or <http://www.insurance.va.gov/sglisite/forms/forms.htm>.

According to Chief Disbursing Clerk (SW) Angelo Abellada, PSA Pacific's customer service leading chief petty officer, many dual-military couples were unaware of the SGLI and FSGLI coverage. It came to PSA's attention because of the war.

"We've had more casualties,"

Abellada said. "More people are collecting their life insurance and some are realizing they had FSGLI as well."

The two life insurance policies are Congressionally-mandated, but SGLI can only be used for the active duty member. Family SGLI covers immediate family members of servicemembers participating in the SGLI program. For FSGLI purposes, active duty spouse are also included in this benefit.

"As of now, the only way to check if premiums are adding up is to come into PSA and check with DEERS," Abellada said.

Ignorance of the coverage does not waive military members from premiums that have accrued since the program began November 2001.

"A failure to register a military spouse in DEERS as a spouse results in an indebtedness to the government upon separation or retirement of one of the military spouses," Abellada said. Just because premiums aren't being paid by the Sailor, Defense Finance

and Accounting Service (DFAS) is paying for them. When a Sailors gets out of the Navy, they have to pay that money back."

Keeping DEERS information updated is important because that's where DFAS is getting the family member information for the amount due for premium payments. If DEERS isn't current, premiums can't be deducted, or may be deducted incorrectly from a Sailor's pay. But once the spouse is entered in DEERS, premium payments are retroactive from the date of marriage or November 2001, whichever is soonest.

"A dual-military member can be covered up to \$350,000," said Sandy Dubois, head of the casualty case settlement branch of Naval Personnel Command in Millington, Tenn. "We've had situations where servicemembers weren't sure if they were covered or not. Then the worst happens, the claims were processed and sent to SGLI for payment. Some spouses have received \$350,000 in life insur-

ance for their loss, minus the unpaid premiums."

Premiums for children are free, who are covered in the amount of \$10,000. However, premiums are assessed for spouses and range from \$6 to \$54 a month, depending on age. Spouse coverage is available up to \$100,000 of coverage or less than \$100,000 in increments of \$10,000.

For dual-military couples, spouses can be enrolled in DEERS showing no benefits because they're already receiving active duty benefits. In order to decline coverage, the SGLV form must be filled out and turned in to PSA immediately.

Sailors may also decide to keep the extra \$100,000 in coverage for an average of only \$6 per month in comparison to higher premiums from commercial insurance companies. Sailors choosing to keep both policies can cover themselves for a total of \$350,000.

NAVMAG helping put ordnance on target

JO2 Devin Wright
Staff Writer

Naval Magazine (NAVMAG) Pearl Harbor is making renovations throughout the base, including the restructuring of their piers, dredging out the harbor to accommodate larger vessels and state-of-the-art guard shacks.

The renovations are being made to help NAVMAG adapt to the Navy's growing demand to house and equip ships with ordnance.

"Pearl Harbor NAVMAG has been around for a long time," said Lt. Lawrence McLin, security officer for NAVMAG Pearl Harbor. "We're just trying to upgrade our security facility out here. We house and guard ordnance for our ships and we need the tools to do that job safely and effectively," said McLin.

Ordnance stored at NAVMAG includes Tomahawk cruise missiles, torpedoes, Sidewinders, Harpoons, C-4 explosives and detonators for explosive ordnance disposal and Navy SEAL teams.

"All that stuff is guarded by the security force out here," Lawrence said. "So it is important that these guys are in a safe environment and it's our responsibility to ensure these Sailors have the resources to do their job. This is the last stop for most of these ships before they head over to the gulf. So we also need to be able to provide these ships with a safe environment. Sometimes we load ships with more than a million pounds of arms, ammunition and explosives. Needless to say, safety is paramount," said McLin.

In addition to the renovations of NAVMAG piers, the Navy is also installing three state-of-the-art guard shacks throughout NAVMAG Pearl Harbor.

These shacks have been rated to withstand the impact of a M-16 bullet. They are air conditioned with tinted windows.

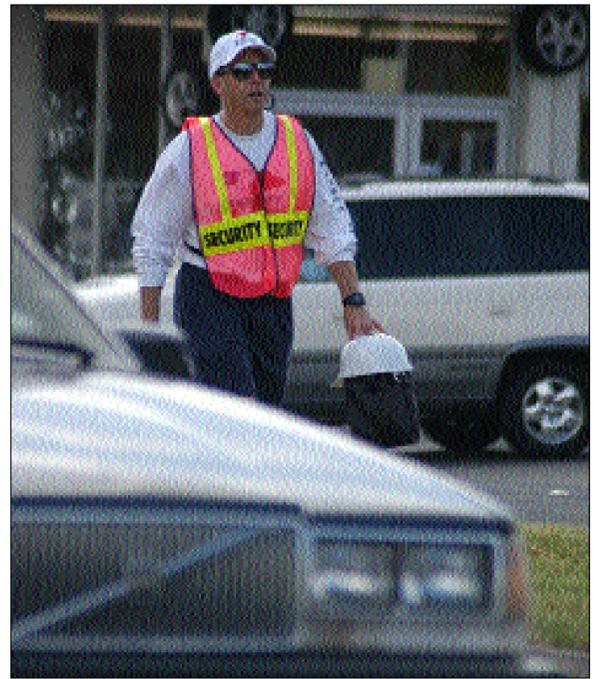
"It is important to keep guards protected in case something were to happen out here," said Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Christine Lockhart of NAVMAG Pearl Harbor. "We are NAVMAG's first line of defense. If we go down, the base goes down. We need to feel safe. Bulletproof guard shacks are a good way to accomplish that. The air conditioning is nice, too," she added.

The completion of the harbor dredging and renovations to the piers is pending. The state-of-the-art guard shacks are scheduled to be installed by the end of



this month.

MA2 Christine Lockhart of Naval Magazine Pearl Harbor takes aim with a weapon mounted atop a humvee at NAVMAG. Lockhart is a member of the NAVMAG security force.



U.S. Navy photo by JO1 Daniel J. Calderón
Capt. Ronald Cox, Naval Station Pearl Harbor commanding officer and chief of staff for Navy Region Hawai'i, walks Kamehameha Highway as he gathers donations for Red Cross March 5.

Red Cross: Volunteers net \$60,000 statewide

Continued from A-1

American War. Among the missions of the Red Cross are disaster relief services, health and safety courses and Armed Forces emergency services. Cruz said the Red Cross has been available to help individuals for so long, she and the other volunteers didn't hesitate when the chance came up to help the organization.

"The opportunity came up at one of our morning meetings," she explained. "Lots of people asked where the money was going because they know the Red Cross had provided funds for the relief in Thailand. Once we got the information, we knew it was

the right thing to do."

"This is a good cause. It really helps a lot of people," said CS2 Tanya Sylvester who participated in the fund drive. "I'm out here to support Red Cross and to support my command. The goal is to get as much money as possible to help people get their lives back together."

Cox said he was pleased to see so many Sailors participating and praised the community for their involvement.

"I'm proud of the Sailors who are out here and willing to give their time off to volunteer for a cause like this," he said. "I'm also impressed with the generosity of the people in the community."

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Make sure to help Sailors keep their 'Bearings'

Commentary
FLTCM(AW/SW)

Jon Thompson
U.S. Fleet Forces Command
Command Master Chief



Did you ever get off track? Did you ever lose focus of what's important in the Navy, or in your life, and wish someone could have helped you get back on track?

I'm sure the answer is yes, but for our youngest Sailors, those in their first enlistment, it's sometimes difficult to keep focus and digest an entirely new culture. For those Sailors, staying on track is often difficult.

Many first-term Sailors lose their way. As a matter of fact, in fiscal year 2004, almost 4,400 Sailors departed the Navy prior to their end of active obligated service date (EAOS).

The monetary loss to the Navy

was more than \$87 million dollars.

While it's true the Navy isn't for everyone, and we'll probably never achieve 100 percent first-term enlistment completion, there is hope. The Navy has an intervention program called Bearings that makes a significant impact.

Created in 2000, Bearings is a retention initiative that provides training on life management skills to Sailors who are considered to be "at risk" for completing their first enlistment. The two-week program is responsible for helping save the Navy more than \$23 million in fiscal year '04 alone by helping more than 1,100 Sailors successfully navigate their way to the end of their enlistment.

The reason I want to discuss this program is because I'm not sure everyone in the fleet truly understands Bearings, or at what stage commands should send Sailors to this program.

First and foremost, Bearings is not punishment. Bearings is not for habitual troublemakers, or a "last ditch effort" to keep a Sailor in the Navy. Rather, Bearings is for those

Sailors who have started to lose their way, before they begin a pattern of misconduct. Most leaders recognize some symptoms early. Bearings is most effective when administered shortly after a Sailor starts to get off track, but prior to captain's mast or serious trouble that might make it impossible for him or her to complete their first enlistment.

The top 10 reasons Sailors are sent to Bearings include: military bearing issues, lack of coping/adapting skills, financial problems, prior unauthorized absence (UA); lack of motivation, attitude/anger/stress issues, alcohol-related issues, prior disciplinary review board or executive officer's inquiry, disrespect and substandard performance.

Whether Sailors need help with one or several of the above issues, sending them to Bearings might help ensure they overcome the issue and are more productive in the future.

Exit interviews with Sailors who complete Bearings are amazing. Most graduating students are delighted they had the opportunity

to learn so much about themselves and why it's so important for them to perform at their best for the good of the Navy team.

Almost all of them say they wish they had gone to the program earlier and also say they think it would be a good idea for all first-term Sailors to go to Bearings.

Why is this program so successful? It's actually quite simple. Bearings is sort of like a super Navy indoctrination.

The two-week program exposes Sailors to a whole host of information from many organizations. Throughout the course, Sailors learn from representatives from the Navy Family Support Center, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) program, Drug and Alcohol Program Management Activity (DAPMA) and Navy College.

Additionally, the Chaplain's Religious Enrichment Development Operation (CREDO) facilitates a self-introspective personal growth retreat.

In addition to the education, Sailors are instructed through musters, personnel inspections,

physical training (three complete PFAs) and have required reading assignments. The program keeps Sailors busy and continually moves them forward, learning more and more about their individual strengths and how they help the Navy.

The Bearings program is worth our support. We, as leaders, should closely screen our people and know when to enter them into this program. It's in all of our best interests to help Sailors help themselves. Bearings allows Sailors to build life skills that promote both successful professional and personal lives.

What a great investment! Keep in mind Bearings is a tool, and is not an alternative to providing daily leadership, counseling and mentorship to our Sailors.

Nothing is more important than learning as much as possible about your people and what their skills and interests are.

As you learn about them, you'll better recognize when they may need a little boost from some outside help. Bearings might be that boost.

Free classified advertising for military in Hawai'i Navy News

Active duty and retired military, civil service and dependent personnel can advertise the sale of their personal property (including real estate) and services in HNN at no charge. The details are as follows:

Classified items and services must represent an incidental exchange between the aforementioned personnel and not business operations. Requests for three-line free classified advertisements can be submitted via email, if from a ".mil" address submit to lkaneshi@honolulu.gannett.com, by phone at 521-9111 or by visiting www.honoluluadvertiser.com and clicking on "classified ads." More lines of advertising can be purchased at an additional fee. Requesters should include their military ID number and a call-back phone number.

Hawai'i Navy News

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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

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Students team with local business for Red Cross



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

John Fujieki, CEO of Star Market, presents a check for \$2,050 to Jill Becker, director of fund development for American Red Cross Hawai'i State Chapter, during an assembly Wednesday at Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School. The students of Pearl Harbor Kai collected \$1,050 for tsunami relief and Star Market matched \$1,000 of those funds. The funds are intended for the local Red Cross to aid survivors of the December tsunami in Southeast Asia .

Military members from Pennsylvania eligible for up to \$2,500 in school loan relief

Special to Hawai'i Navy News

The Armed Forces Loan Forgiveness Program was created to recognize the bravery, dedication, and loyalty of Pennsylvania servicemen and women who served in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on our nation.

This program will provide a one-time loan forgiveness benefit up to \$2,500 for student borrowers who served in the Armed Forces in an active duty status between Sept. 11, 2001 and June 30, 2005, provided they have an eligible loan and meet eligibility requirements.

Eligibility requirements

- Must have served in the Armed Forces in an active duty status between 9/11/01 and 06/30/05 (excluding the annual two-week training period).
- Must have an eligible, non-defaulted loan(s): PHEAA Guaranteed and/or AES-owned loans serviced by AES which are either Stafford, consolidation,

PLUS, SLS, HEAL, or KeystoneEXTRA. These loans must be disbursed on or before June 30.

- Must hold one of four connections to Pennsylvania:

- (1) Currently a resident of Pennsylvania.
- (2) A non-resident of Pennsylvania who left a PA approved institution of post-secondary education due to a call to active duty.
- (3) A non-resident of Pennsylvania who was living in Pennsylvania at the time of enlistment.
- (4) A non-resident of Pennsylvania who enlisted in the military immediately after attending a PA approved institution of post-secondary education.

How to Apply

To apply, complete and return an Armed Forces Loan Forgiveness application. It can be found online at http://www.aessuccess.org/mange/cant_make_payment/alfp_app.pdf and sent to the following address by Dec. 31:

AES Lender School Team
PO Box 2461
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2461

Commander in Chief praises troops' dedication

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

American servicemembers are undertaking difficult missions in some of the most dangerous and desolate parts of the world in support of the war on terror, their commander in chief said in a Tuesday speech.

"These volunteers know the risk they face, and they know the

cause they serve," President Bush said during a speech at the National Defense University on Fort McNair in Washington, D.C.

"As one Marine sergeant put it," the president said, "I never want my children to experience what we saw in New York, at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania.

"If I can eliminate whatever threat we can on foreign soil, I would rather do it there than have it come home to us."

The cost of this dedication is high, Bush acknowledged. "In this vital cause, some of our men and women in uniform have fallen. Some have returned home with terrible injuries," he said. "And all who sacrifice will have the permanent gratitude of the United States of America."

America's military is serving "at a time of great consequence for the security of our nation," the president said.

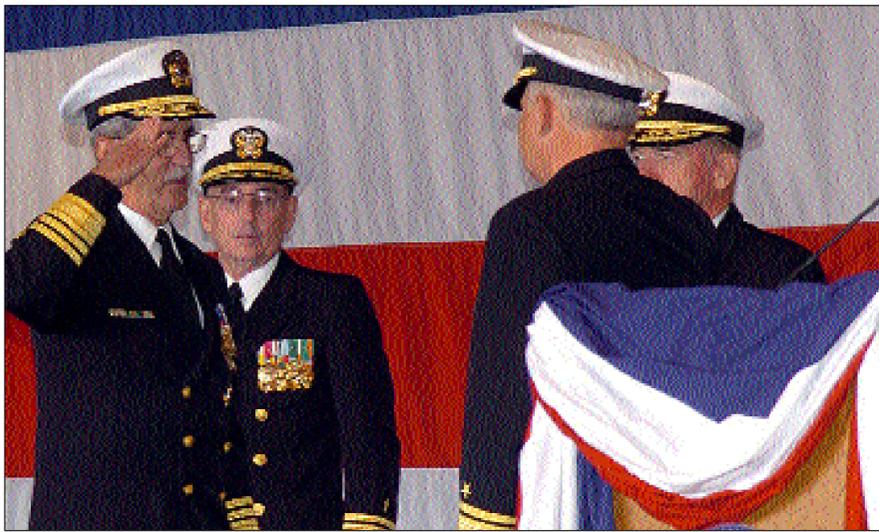
He called the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, "the culmination of decades of escalating violence" that provided "a warning of future dangers." These, he said, include terror networks aided by outlaw regimes, ideologies that incite murder, and weapons of mass destruction with the potential to kill millions.

Just as it did after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor

six decades ago, the United States rallied after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 and has steadily moved against those that threaten it, Bush said.

"Like an earlier generation, America is answering new dangers with firm resolve," the president said. "No matter how long it takes, no matter how difficult the task, we will fight the enemy and lift the shadow of fear and lead free nations to victory."

Commander, Naval Surface Forces holds change of command



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Erich J. Ryland

Rear Adm. Terrance T. Etnyre, right, relieves Vice Adm. Timothy W. LaFleur, left, as Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet during a change of command ceremony aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Belleau Wood (LHA 3).

JO1 Heather W. Hines
Naval Surface Force, U.S.
Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Terry Etnyre relieved Vice Adm. Tim LaFleur as Commander, Naval Surface Forces (COMNAVSURFOR) and Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMNAVSURFPAC) March 4 in a ceremony held aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Belleau Wood (LHA 3) at Naval Station San Diego.

Secretary of the Navy Gordon England, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark and Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Adm. Walter Doran were in attendance.

The ceremony also marked the end of LaFleur's 35-year naval career. The U.S. Naval Academy graduate initiated a business approach with

metrics-based standards to the surface warfare community.

"I took my career one job at a time and stayed in this long because I love Sailors," said LaFleur. "We recruit fabulous people from all walks of life. In many cases, their backgrounds don't encourage them to be successful or they don't create the opportunities for them. We are able to get them in the Navy and very quickly develop a sense of responsibility, a sense of family and make them believe they can do great things."

"It's exciting to watch the transition of a Sailor," he said. "We've created winners and that's a wonderful thing to be part of."

As the leading surface type commander, COMNAVSURFOR is responsible for 83,000 personnel and the

manning, training, maintenance and logistical support for 184 surface combatants. Initiatives like Sea Swap, optimal manning, ship maintenance and ship training serve as the driving forces to shape the surface warfare community for the future.

Recommended for promotion to vice admiral in March, Etnyre reports to San Diego from his job as Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, based in Norfolk, Va.

"I am honored to follow Vice Adm. Tim LaFleur as COMNAVSURFOR and as the surface warfare community leader," Etnyre said. "The transformation and accomplishments that have been so dramatic during his tenure have changed the course of surface warfare and I intend to continue his good work."

Submariner awarded Bronze Star

JO3 Steven Feller
Commander, Navy Region
Northeast Public Affairs

Senior Chief Electronics Technician (SS) Jason D. Taggart made his log entry into the submarine force history books when he received the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" March 4 at the Submarine Force Library and Museum in Groton, Conn.

Currently a crew member aboard USS Dallas (SSN 700), the Wellsville, Ohio native earned the award during his tour as the coalition military assistance team's (CMAT) personnel security detachment (PSD) team commander from August 2003 to March 2004 in Iraq.

During the ceremony, Rear Adm. Mark W. Kenny, commander, Submarine Group 2, praised Taggart for his work overseas.

"Our (submarine force) record of success comes from the ideals that our submariners all embody courage, commitment, innovation and initiative in the face of new missions and challenging environments," said Kenny. "Senior Chief Jason Taggart represents all of these ideals and today, we add his unique chapter to our story."

Taggart said he was sent to Iraq because his experience as a communications specialist was something the military needed. Eventually, Taggart's expertise would play even further when the need arose for more security detachments.

"They (military leaders) looked and saw I had law enforcement experience and offered me a job to take over as personnel security detachment team commander," he said. "I accepted the job and started the first of my two five-man teams."

As team commander, Taggart was responsible for the formation, training and



U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Kyle McCloud

Commander, Submarine Group Two, Rear Adm. Mark W. Kenny, right, presents Senior Chief Electronics Technician Jason Taggart with a Bronze Star with Combat "V" award citation.

deployment of the PSD teams. He completed more than 200 missions from Iraq's border with Turkey and Syria all the way to Kuwait. During these missions, Taggart twice discovered roadside improvised explosive devices (IED), cleared the area, set up security and waited for explosive ordnance disposal teams to declare it safe. In one incident, Taggart was wounded by an IED and continued his duties, refusing to leave the area until the mission was complete. Taggart was also involved in four separate fire-fights.

For most submariners, getting into firefights, securing areas around roadside bombs and logging thousands of miles across Iraq are not something they envision doing while patrolling the seas. But for Taggart, this experience was expected.

"That (experience) was a goal," said Taggart. "Throughout my military career, I volunteered to go to many places. When I was on shore duty, I went to Japan and Korea and I once complet-

ed two NATO operations on Chilean submarines. I've been trying to do something different than just submarines."

While earning the Bronze Star is a very rare experience, especially for a submariner, Taggart's humility illustrates his complete focus on the mission and not accolades.

"I was going there to do the job I was assigned to do," said Taggart. "It was quite a surprise when I learned about the award."

Since September, Taggart has been spending his days aboard Dallas as the 3M coordinator.

While working aboard the submarine, training junior Sailors and soaking up every bit of experience along the way, Taggart said he would jump at the chance of returning to his days in the sand.

"I've been trying since I got back to re-deploy," said Taggart. "I would love to go back and work. The ladies and gentlemen I worked with are outstanding, well respected and highly professional, and I believe in what we're doing over there."



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Roman Yurek

U.S. Navy hospital corpsmen assigned to the Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Support Group Two Six, 26th MEU, receive information about a simulated casualty so they can apply proper treatment.

Naval Surface Force names 2004's top sea, shore Sailors

JO1 Heather W. Hines
Naval Surface Forces,
U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (SURFPAC) and the San Diego Chapter of the Surface Navy Association announced the 2004 SURFPAC Sailors of the Year on Feb. 24 during a luncheon held at the Hotel del Coronado.

Yeoman 1st Class (SW) Jessica Christiansen and Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Mechanical) 1st Class (SW) Robert Whynot were named Shore and Sea Sailors of the Year, respectively.

"To be the representative of the excellence of your command and the professionalism of your peers, at every level, is a great compliment to each and every Sailor involved and a testament to their dedication to the Navy and the core values of honor, courage and commitment," said Naval Surface Forces Command Master Chief Karen O'Connor.

Christiansen, the leading petty officer of the administrative department at SURFPAC, has been in the Navy eight years.

"This is the first time I've been recognized at this level for my efforts," said the Louisville, Ky. native. "It was an honor to be amongst the other extremely well qualified finalists."

"Just being selected as a finalist was an honor for me," said Whynot, who hails from Weston,

Mass. "The effort that so many people put into making it a great experience was overwhelming. The opportunity to meet with my peers and share all the great ideas and accomplishments is extremely valuable, and I will never forget it," said the 13-year Navy veteran.

Whynot is assigned to the engineering department of the San Diego-based guided-missile destroyer USS Benfold (DDG 65).

Prior to the announcement, the three shore and three sea finalists participated in "Selection Week." All of the candidates were interviewed, observed and judged in areas including military bearing, professional performance and leadership. Vice Adm. Tim LaFleur, who retired recently as Naval Surface Forces commander, was the principal speaker for the Hotel del Coronado-hosted event.

Each of the honorees received a framed, commemorative certificate signed by LaFleur and Capt. Faris Farwell, president of the San Diego chapter of the Surface Navy Association, and a number of gift certificates from local vendors.

The next step of the competition is in Hawai'i, and will pit Christiansen and Whynot against nominees vying for Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) Sailor of the Year. The sea- and shore-based commands of COMPACFLT represent more than 200,000 Sailors. Once selected, those Sailors will move on to Washington, D.C., where they will compete for the ultimate prize of 2004 Sailor of the Year.

Corpsmen serve as first responders in Iraq

PH1 Shane T. McCoy
Navy News Service

Navy hospital corpsmen are serving with Marine combat units in Iraq, treating combat injuries and also providing day-to-day care.

Corpsmen deployed with 1st Marine Division (1MarDiv) at Camp Blue Diamond in Ramadi, one of Iraq's most dangerous cities, serve as first responders to casualties and are often the difference between life and death.

"When you are out in the field, you make decisions that affect peoples lives," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Kwan Chen with 1MarDiv Headquarters Battalion. "In a fleet hospital, a triage doctor makes most of those decisions. A corpsman in the field does not have the luxury of time. Even if there are multiple injuries, you have only minutes to stabilize troops for (medical evacuation)."

In addition to treating Marines in combat, corpsmen run the battalion aid station (BAS). The BAS is the base's

medical facility, used for sick call and other day-to-day medical needs, and is the first place wounded are brought for treatment of life-threatening injuries.

"To our Marines, we are a true lifeline," said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Baker Cummings. "In every battalion, the corpsmen are not seen by rank, or called HM (hospitalman) or petty officer. We are simply 'doc.'"

Corpsmen also join the Marines in patrols and convoys. In many cases, the corpsmen on these patrols are third class petty officers at most.

"It is a huge responsibility for such young Sailors, but thankfully, they are handling it well," said Chen. "So far, everyone has been doing great."

During patrols, the Marines and corpsmen may find themselves under fire. After contact with insurgents, it is often the job of corpsmen to give medical aid to the very people who were just trying to kill them.

"We take an oath to help all who are sick and injured so,

at times, we are caring for a person who was just shooting at us," said Chen. "But it's our oath and we will live by that."

Aside from "A" school, most corpsmen who deploy with Marine units attend a combat trauma management course to learn the basics for rapid treatment of casualties and massive injury to a victim.

"The training we get really prepares us for what needs to be done," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Brent Turner. "Before coming to Iraq, the most I had seen was heat casualties. It was nothing like I have seen out here, as far as what a mortar or IED (improvised explosive device) can do to a person."

The corpsmen are taking their hands-on experience and passing that along to those corpsmen who have just arrived in country.

"We are currently training the Sailors who just arrived on how to care for the types of injuries they might see," said Chen.

The Sailors and Marines of 1MarDiv deployed to Iraq in August and are preparing to return home.

New school liaison officer joins FFSC

JO1 Daniel J. Calderón
Editor

Although only in the office for a little more than a week, Kathy Wooldridge, Navy Region Hawai'i's school liaison officer, has a focus in mind – awareness.

"The big push is for awareness," Wooldridge said. "We want people to know we're here to help."

One of Wooldridge's main responsibilities is helping maintain relationships between Navy commands here and area schools. When Navy commands form a partnership with a school, Wooldridge helps ensure the partnership is maintained and both the command and the school continue regular contact.

"Hopefully, I'll be recruiting more commands because not all the schools here have partnerships," she explained. "It's mostly schools in outlying Oahu that don't have partners."

Currently, there are 42 Navy commands that have active partnership agreements with local schools. The partnership involves Sailors going to the school and tutoring or mentoring students. There are also service projects at the schools. The money for these projects come from the Joint Venture Education Forum.

"This is a bonus for the schools," Wooldridge said. "The Sailors get the chance to go out and install things like playground equipment, air conditioners or other improvements for the school."



U.S Navy photo by JO1 Daniel J. Calderón

Partnerships between Navy commands and local schools provide a means for Sailors to positively interact with members of the local community.

She said the process to enter into a partnership begins with the individual command. Commands must choose representatives to visit a school and contact officials there.

Then the command should set up a meeting and discuss what the school needs and whether the school and the command would be a good fit together. The next step is to contact Wooldridge at 473-4222, ext. 277 or electronically by e-mail at kathy.wooldridge@navy.mil.

Another responsibility for Wooldridge is ensuring families who are coming to Oahu have accurate information about Hawaii's public schools.

"There are a lot of myths out there about the schools here," she explained. "My experiences have been great with public schools in Hawai'i. I want to give them

the best information available."

Wooldridge also wants to make sure families who are here on island are aware she is available to give them information and assistance with schools here. She is working with Morale, Welfare and Recreation to put information on their Web site at www.greatlife.hawaii.com.

"I want to make sure families stay informed," Wooldridge said. "I also want to encourage parent involvement. I work on behalf of the Navy and for the Navy families."

Wooldridge said families who have questions regarding issues at Hawai'i public schools can call her at her office or e-mail her.

"It's awareness," she said. "We want to make sure our constituency knows that we're here."

Schools on Oahu available for Partnership in Education

The following schools currently do not have any partnership with agreements with any Navy commands. Commands interested in beginning a partnership should contact the school and meet with officials there. Once the command is ready to begin an official partnership, contact Navy Region Hawai'i's school liaison officer, Kathy Wooldridge, at 473-4222, ext. 277 or via e-mail at kathy.wooldridge@navy.mil.

Ewa Beach Elementary School
Kapolei Elementary School
Kapolei Middle School
Mauka Lani Elementary School
Kaleiapu'u Elementary School
Waipahu High School
Castle High School
King Intermediate School
Hau'ula Elementary School
Ka'a'awa Elementary School
Kahuku Elementary School

Laie Elementary School
Haha'oine Elementary School
Kaiser High School
Kamiloiki Elementary School
Koko Head Elementary School
Niu Valley Middle School
Dole Middle School
Kalakaua Middle School
Kalihi-kai Elementary School
Kalihi-uka Elementary School
Kapalama Elementary School
Linapuni Elementary School
Pu'uhale Elementary School
Central Middle School
Ka'ahumanu Elementary School
Luluwela Elementary School
Likelike Elementary School
Royal Elementary School
Anuenue School

Kawanakoa Middle School
Maemae Elementary School
Nu'uuanu Elementary School
Pauoa Elementary School
Stevenson Middle School
Ala Wai Elementary School
Ali'iolani Elementary School
Hokulani Elementary School
Jarrett Middle School
Jefferson Elementary School
Kuhio Elementary School
Lunalilo Elementary School
Aina Haina Elementary School
Kahala Elementary School
Kaimuki Middle School
Kalani High School
Liholiho Elementary School
Wailupe Valley Elementary School
Wilson Elementary School
Hawai'i Center for the Deaf and Blind
Jefferson Ortho Unit
Pohukaina

States let taxpayers donate refunds to military families

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

Illinois led the charge last year when it began letting taxpayers check a box on their state tax returns to donate their tax refunds to families of deployed guardsmen and reservists.

Illinois' example -- which has paid out \$2.7 million so far to more than 5,000 military families -- is quickly catching on nationwide. Nine other states now offer similar programs, and 21 more are pushing bills through their legislatures to set up their own programs, many with help from Illinois, according to Eric Schuller, senior policy advisor for Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn.

Illinois' Military Family Relief Fund, established in 2003, provides \$500 grants to help families of the state's lower-paid Guard and Reserve members cover expenses after their family member is called to active duty -- often taking a big pay cut in the process, Schuller explained.

The program also provides grants up to \$2,000 for families in financial need due to a military deployment and \$2,000 grants to troops injured or killed in combat or as a result of terrorist activity. So far, the state has paid out more than 100 of the casualty-based grants, Schuller said.

To qualify for grants under the Military Family Relief Fund, servicemembers must be in pay grades no higher than O-3 or W-3.

"This program is really well received by the Guard and Reserve," Schuller said. "A lot of them are taking a huge cut in pay, and this is one way the state is showing its support and helping them out."

Among those helped through the program was a Marine reservist who used his casualty-based grant to pay for his family's travel to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, where he was being treated for serious burns, Schuller said.

In Michigan, Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm established the state's Military Family Relief Fund in October. "There's a tremendous need out there" for this program, Army National Guard 1st Lt. Evalynn Chapp said of Michigan's fund. "Some of our soldiers suffer rough times and need a little helping hand," she said.

Another recipient of the Illinois Family Relief Fund, Marine Corps Reservist Sgt. Josh Horton, learned he had become the father of quintuplets as he was being treated for shrapnel wounds received during a mortar attack in Iraq. In addition to two grants from the Illinois Military Family Relief Fund, Horton received a tremendous outpouring of support from throughout the nation, including 25,000 diapers and a new, five-bedroom house.

In a Feb. 8 press event in Chicago, Horton joined the state's lieutenant governor, who champi-



U.S. Navy photo by J03 Ryan C. McGinley
Lt. William Smith helps a tax center volunteer with a return on Pearl Harbor. Several states are instituting programs to allow their taxpayers to donate the refunds to military members.

oned Illinois' program, to encourage taxpayers to "check the box" and donate to the fund this income tax season to support other Guardsmen and Reservists.

"Our duty on the home front is to support the families of our citizen-soldiers as they are called to defend our freedoms," Quinn said of the Military Family Relief Fund.

Last year, tax donations raised

more than \$200,000 for the program, and Schuller said he expects that number to increase this year. The fund also receives money through private donations and fundraisers ranging from lollipop sales to coloring contests. Schuller said some of the state's municipalities have started sending out brochures about the program and details about how to contribute along with their water bills.

Quinn traveled to here last month to meet with other lieutenant governors and members of Congress to encourage every state to create its own Military Family Relief Fund. Schuller said those meetings stirred up strong interest and support.

Last year, the National Lieutenant Governor's Association passed a resolution urging states to ensure that their reserve-component families are provided for during deployments.

"We cannot allow the citizens of our states who are serving their country to fall into financial ruin while they are in Iraq, facing harm ... while they are protecting us," said Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante of California, whose state began its own Military Family Relief Fund in September.

Rhode Island Lt. Gov. Charles Fogarty, whose state enacted its program in July, said there's a tremendous need for the program among deployed Guardsmen and Reservists. "One third of our Guard members make less in the military

than at their civilian jobs, and they are worrying about making ends meet," he said.

To help promote the program and encourage other states to join in, Illinois established its Operation Home Front website, which tracks efforts under way around the country. A link from the site spells out exactly what states need to do to set up their own programs.

"We've got the blueprint," Schuller said. "Now all they have to do is follow it."

States with Military Family Relief Fund programs are California, Delaware, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont and Wyoming.

In addition, 21 states have introduced legislation to create programs: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

The National Guard Bureau is a strong supporter of the efforts. "We welcome the interest and efforts of the citizens of the several states, working with elected officials to support National Guard and military families," said spokesman Mark Allen. "These efforts have a potential to reduce the financial hardships that may occur when a military family member is deployed."

**Free
classified
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for military
in Hawaii
Navy News**

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Classified items and services must represent an incidental exchange between the aforementioned personnel and not business operations. Requests for three-line free classified advertisements can be submitted via email, if from a ".mil" address (submit to lkaneshi@honolulu.gannett.com), by phone at 521-9111 or by visiting www.honoluluadvertiser.com and clicking on "classified ads." More lines of advertising can be purchased at an additional fee. Requesters should include their military ID number and a call-back phone number.



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Sonia E. Honda

Wally "Famous Amos" talks to the crew aboard USS Chafee (DDG 90) during the ship's African-American history month celebration.

USS Chafee Sailors celebrate African-American history month

Ensign Sonia E. Honda
USS Chafee Public Affairs

Throughout the month of February, USS Chafee (DDG 90) observed African American History Month which culminated in a ceremony with distinguished guests.

Four first generation Tuskegee Airmen visited Chafee and spoke about their experiences in World War II and the life lessons they have learned as a result. At the end of the day, another distinguished guest offered inspirational words: Wally Amos, who founded Famous Amos cookies in 1975.

Members of the Chafee crew crowded onto the mess decks Feb. 25 to hear the Tuskegee Airmen speak. All of the officers and Sailors were excited to hear about the Airmen's experiences flying with the Tuskegee "Red Tails" during World War II.

The Tuskegee Airmen flew P-51s with the 332nd Fighter Squadron during the war and escorted B-17 and B-24 bombers as they made their bombing runs. They got their name "Red Tails" from their bright red spinners and tails on their planes. Although the Tuskegee Airmen sometimes lost one of their own during missions, they never lost a single bomber. They became well-respected in the aviation community and sought after by bomber squadrons for escort missions during World War II.

One of the guest speakers was retired USAF Gen. Lucius Theus, who spent 36 years in the Air Force and was one of the only three Tuskegee Airmen to be appointed a general in the United States Air Force. He shared his thoughts on the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and the messages that they left behind.

"These young men demonstrated very clearly that if given an opportunity, that individuals regardless of how maligned or downtrodden they may be....that they could and they would rise to complete heights literally in defense of freedom, even though not enjoying all of those freedoms at those time themselves," Theus explained.

He passed on another piece of wisdom, saying, "The obstacles that you encounter today are not as great as those in the past. We know the playing field may not be completely level for all of you, but that if you are willing to work hard and to dedicate yourselves, you will make your contributions....and in so doing, you will be appropriately rewarded for those contributions."

The Tuskegee Airmen visit concluded with one-on-one questions and pictures with members of the Chafee crew.

The celebration did not end there for Chafee. Wally Amos was the guest speaker at the ship's African American Heritage ceremony in the early afternoon. The ceremony kicked off with a short speech by the Cmdr John M. Clausen, Commanding officer.

"Today we are celebrating remarkable accomplishments in the history of black Americans and also to our country," Clausen began. "The goal for today is to allow us to stop and reflect on these achievements. It also encourages us to take some time and learn about each of the diverse groups that make up our crew. Today also takes us to a point where we can look back and make sure we will never again tolerate the injustices of the past, and continue to work toward greater harmony in everything we do in our lives," Clausen continued.

Clausen's remarks were followed with presentations on various historical and present African American leaders, given by Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (SW) Gina M. Dantonio, Seaman Ebony N. Thompson, Cryptologic Technician-Collection 2nd Class James W. Hodge and Ship's Serviceman 3rd Class Taurean James. Some of the leaders that were mentioned included Condoleeza Rice, Martin Luther King Jr. and the first African American officers in the United States Navy, the "Golden Thirteen."

Damage Controlman 1st Class (SW) Byron Reynolds introduced the guest speaker, Wally Amos, a former Air Force member. Amos stood in front his audience wearing a colorful shirt decorated with hearts.

During his comments, he shared his thoughts on African American History Month and its relevance to different people, groups and places. Amos also challenged the crew to reflect on the progress we have made, and also to contemplate how much further we may still have to go.

"To deny someone the basic rights and privileges because of the color of their skin....It is just the color of my skin," Amos noted. "Prejudice is a horrible thing. It is a cancer not only in our society, but in the world. Why can't we respect one another, support one another, and love one another?"

NAVFAC: Transformation now underway

Continued from A-1

Commander Naval Installations and Rear Adm. Michael Loose, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, were present to mark this occasion. Rear Adm. Gary Engle, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific and Capt. Ronald Cox, chief of staff for Navy Region Hawai'i, and Naval Station Pearl Harbor commanding officer participated and spoke at today's event along with Capt. Roth.

Pastor John L. Parish, a PWC Pearl Harbor Trouble Desk employee, gave the ceremony's invocation and benediction. Mr. Felix Dalida and Mr. Rodney Omalza, also PWC Pearl

Harbor employees, assisted with farewells by accepting a disestablishment plaque and singing Hawai'i Aloha with event attendees.

Senior civilian representatives from each of the four organizations integrated into NAVFAC Hawai'i, participated by accepting and unfurling the new command's Colors. To ensure a bright future for this new organization, Kahu David Kaupu, retired Chaplain Kamehameha Schools, was invited and chanted a Hawaiian blessing.

The creation of NAVFAC Hawai'i is part of a massive transformation underway within the Naval Facilities Engineering Command organization to reshape,

enhance efficiency and effectiveness, and improve its products and services.

The new command will eliminate duplication, generate long-term savings, and deliver products more effectively and efficiently to NAVFAC Clients.

"This new organization's future success is the result of personal contributions from each employee," said Roth. "It's important that we not lose sight of our individual efforts as we move collectively forward with this transformation," Roth added.

NAVFAC Hawai'i personnel say they stand ready with courage, determination and kokua to face future challenges and support the Navy of tomorrow.



US Navy photo by J02 Devin Wright
Representatives pass a ceremonial flag to complete Thursday's disestablishment and re-establishment ceremony at NAVFAC Hawai'i.

Program offers Guard, Reserve subsidized child care

Samantha L. Quigley

American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department has joined forces with national agencies to help Guard and Reserve families in finding and affording child care while Mom or Dad is deployed in support of the global war on terrorism.

"Child care, as you know, is one of the top [concerns] voiced by families, as well as by commands on what's needed," said Jan Witte, director of the Pentagon's Office of Children and Youth. Her office monitors the new program, dubbed Operation Military Child Care (OMCC).

DoD, in partnership with the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA), which administers the program, designed this initiative to benefit those who do not live near military installations, Witte said.

"We have a contract with NACCRRRA to assist us in finding spaces outside the military community for those Guard and Reserve [members] who are deployed and active duty [people] who are not near a military installation," Witte said. "We also hope to assist in reducing the out-of-pocket expense to the service member."

When a parent is deployed, she said, the remaining parent may discover that child care is something the couple had-

n't had to think of before. And need is not the only consideration. The extra expense can be shocking.

While OMCC doesn't fully subsidize child care, it does work to reduce the financial burden, Witte said. The fees are based on a sliding scale that takes into consideration total family income and the care provider's actual cost, among other things.

To take part in the program, a family member would apply through NACCRRRA via a special Web site or by a toll-free call to (800) 424-2246. The child-care provider also must apply - an important step because of how the subsidy, which comes through the Children and Youth office, is paid out, Witte noted.

"The subsidy goes to the program, not to the individual," she said.

The program officially kicked off March 3, but has been operational as a pilot program since late November 2004, Witte said. About 40 families have gone through the application process.

"We feel like this is one area to provide assistance for the total force," she said. "We had not been doing much prior to this time for the Guard and Reserve as far as child care and school-age programs have gone." She said the new program could get about 5,000 Guard and Reserve service members' children into child care.

But that number could fluctuate if there is a change in the funding, she pointed out, which comes in the form of supplemental funding through Congress. Congress has funded the program for \$7 million, Witte said, though officials hope to expand the program in the future to try and accommodate some of the 38,000 children of active-duty service members in need of child care.

NACCRRRA also supports the Guard and Reserve through a program called Operation Child Care (OCC). OCC is a voluntary NACCRRRA program that provides up to six hours of free child care to Guard and Reserve families whose deployed service member is returning home for rest and recuperation.

"[NACCRRRA] felt it was service back to the nation to thank the service members for their sacrifices," Witte said.

Witte said NACCRRRA is a very well-respected alliance of all the child-care resource and referral agencies in the nation.

For more information on Operation Military Child Care, visit www.naccrra.org/MilitaryPrograms/index.php?program=omcc.

To apply for Operation Military Child Care, visit www.childcareaware.org/en/. For more information on the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, visit www.naccrra.org.

Navy symposium to look at civilian workforce development

Civilian Community Management Directorate, Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

The first Navy-wide symposium designed to take a close look at how to better develop its more than 180,000-member civilian workforce will be held May 2-3 at the Sheraton Reston Hotel in Reston, Va.

"The Navy Civilian Community Management Symposium: Aligning Systems and Resources," sponsored by the Chief of Naval Personnel's Civilian Community Management Directorate, is open to civilians and uniformed members involved in Navy's human capital management and development.

"One of the main goals of the symposium is to help Navy people understand and align with the objectives for workforce and human performance management," said Cyndi Mays, deputy director, civilian community management. "This will be an opportunity for workforce development best business practices sharing."

Scheduled speakers include Rear Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, director of the Navy's new Task Force Total Force; Rick Guzzo and Haig Nalbantian, co-authors of "Play to Your Strengths: Managing Your Internal Labor Markets for Lasting Competitive Advantage;" and Stephen Goldsmith and William D. Eggers, co-authors of "Governing by Network: The New Shape of the Public Sector."

Additionally, the Partnership for Public Service, a nonprofit organization dedicated to revitalizing federal employment, will present the results of its

"extreme recruitment makeover," which helps agencies recruit the best and the brightest expeditiously.

Navy Civilian Community Management will also unveil the newest civilian community 5 Vector Models, user-friendly, graphic career "roadmaps" that will help civilians pinpoint what education, skills, training and professional experiences they need to be competitive for promotion.

The symposium is part of a larger effort to develop "community" within the Navy's civilian workforce and inform civilians about new initiatives. In January, the first of a series of conferences for specific civilian communities was held for practitioners for the media and public affairs community.

A conference for the training and education community will be held March 16-17 in Norfolk, Va. Conferences for other communities are scheduled throughout spring and early summer in and around Washington, D.C., including logistics, legal, IT/IM, community support family, administration and human resources.

Some communities' conferences will be held in collaboration with related events. The safety community will hold presentations and workshops in collaboration with the Safety Professional Development Conference on April 4-8 in San Diego. The financial management community will meet concurrently with the Association of Military Comptrollers Professional Development Institute from June 1-3 in Salt Lake City.

In all, there are 21 civilian communities, ranging in size from less than 1,000 to more than 36,000.

Navy commissions latest high-tech destroyer

JO2 Matt Grills

Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Public Affairs

The Navy commissioned its most advanced guided-missile destroyer to date, USS Nitze (DDG 94), in a March 5 ceremony at Naval Station Norfolk, Va.

Cmdr. Michael Hegarty took command of Nitze in a ceremony that included remarks from former Secretary of the Navy John Lehman; Undersecretary of the Navy Dionel Aviles; Rear Adm. Charles Hamilton II, program executive officer - ships; and Rear Adm. Michael Nowakowski, commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. U.S. Reps. Bobby Scott, Third District of Virginia, and Randy Forbes, Fourth District, were among the honored guests.

Lehman congratulated Nitze's inaugural crew, saying they are privileged to serve on a ship that will project U.S. power during wartime.

"Our enemies seek weapons of mass destruction to kill as many Americans as possible," he said. "In 90 percent of cases, we will have to act from the sea. This ship will play a major part in that."

Calling Nitze the most technologically advanced warship ever put to sea, Hamilton praised Sailors for their hard work preparing Nitze for commission.

"Never before has such a Navy crew taken on the spirit of its namesake," said Hamilton.

Named for former Secretary of the Navy and presidential adviser Paul H. Nitze, the ship is the newest of the Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, boasting the Aegis weapons system and a



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Laurie L. Wood

Sailors board the U.S. Navy's newest Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Nitze (DDG 94) as they "bring her to life," during the ship's commissioning ceremony held at Naval Station Norfolk, Va. Nitze is the 44th ship in the Arleigh Burke-class of guided missile destroyers and honors former Secretary of the Navy Paul H. Nitze. This highly capable multi-mission ship can conduct a variety of operations, from peacetime presence and crisis management to sea control and power projection, in support of the national military strategy. Nitze is capable of fighting air, surface and subsurface battles simultaneously.

MK 41 vertical launch system that fires a combination of up to 96 surface-to-air and Tomahawk missiles, as well as vertically launched ASROC torpedoes. In addition, Nitze is outfitted with a remote control mine-hunting vehicle able to operate without a tether to detect, localize and identify mines in deep and shallow water.

"It is perhaps the first ship built from the keel up with the Sailor in mind," Lehman said. "This ship can go into harm's way and not only survive, but see that all its Sailors survive."

Home to a crew of 300, Nitze is a flight IIA Aegis destroyer. Significant upgrades include the addition of two helicopter

hangars to house the SH-60 Seahawk light airborne multi-purpose helicopter. The new design also features a zonal electrical distribution system and other shipboard improvements.

Homeported in Norfolk, Va., the 509.5-foot, 9,300-ton vessel is equipped with four gas turbine propulsion plants that power the ship to speeds above 30 knots.

"This warship bears the name of a true American hero," Nowakowski said. "We honor his memory here today. Welcome, Nitze, to the U.S. Atlantic Fleet."

Elisabeth Scott Porter, Nitze's wife and ship's sponsor, said her late husband was quite proud of the vessel. During its construction

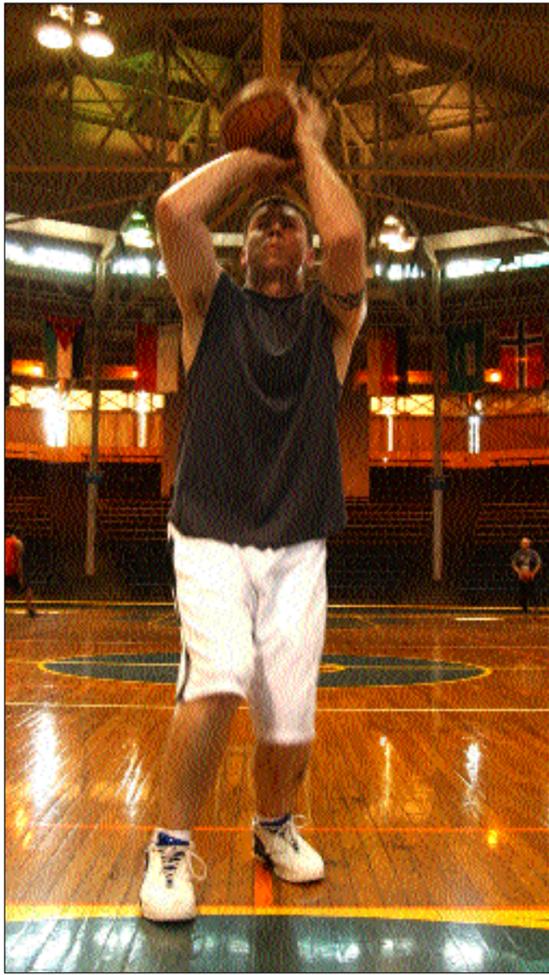
in Bath, Maine, Nitze often visited the shipyard, signing autographs for workers.

"His strong spirit is with her today," Porter said, urging the ship's crew to man the rails and "bring her to life."

Nitze, who died Oct. 20, advised eight presidents and, for more than 40 years, was one of the chief architects of U.S. policy toward the Soviet Union. As secretary of the Navy from 1963 to 1967, Nitze is credited with lengthening commanding officer tours and greatly improving quality of life for Sailors and Marines. He is also the primary founder of the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Hawai'i Navy News Sports

Hoop it up at the Bloch



U.S. Navy photo by J02 Devin Wright

Jonathan Henderson of USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) shoots from beyond the arch at Bloch Arena on Wednesday. Authorized MWR patrons can enjoy Bloch Arena facilities seven days a week.

What makes NCTAMS PAC run?

CWO2 Joseph T. Monaghan

Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific

For some Sailors, the semi-annual, 1.5 mile PFA is more running than they would like to do. There are, however, challenges that need to be faced and Sailors crazy enough to face them. In February of every year, on the island of Oahu, Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and civilians face off against one another in a 135-mile, seven-runner relay race around the perimeter of Oahu.

In the face of 135 miles of excruciating pain, torrential downpours, searing heat, grouchy cops, cranky residents and impatient motorists, 92 teams squared off this year at Richardson Field across from the Aloha Stadium.

The Army was well represented and so were the Marines and Air Force, but this year's Navy representation was particularly strong. There were teams from ships and commands throughout Hawai'i and beyond. One command, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific

(NCTAMS PAC), was very well represented with four teams at the starting line and the same four teams at the finishing line.

This year, once again, the communicators from Wahiawa stepped onto the long road with 28 runners. There were some victories and some failures, joys and pains, cheering and groaning, but in the end the two blue-shirt teams, the goat locker team and the officer's team, completed a four-team combined mileage of 540 miles in the 2005 Oahu Perimeter Run.

Just what makes NCTAMS PAC run? The example set by its leaders. Scott Teves, NCTAMS command master chief, "is an animal in sneakers," said Mark Labaire. Definitely "going the way," the master chief blazed a path up Makapu'u hill, almost a 45-degree incline, at the end of a tough six-mile stretch.

His head was down and his arms pumped the night air as he crested the hill at a seven-minute mile pace. Here's one master chief, "Who goes the way, all the way!" said Joe Speegele, NCTAMS' executive officer.

Capt. Mary McLendon, the commanding officer, "shows the way" with her indomitable spirit and drive.



U.S. Navy photo

CWO2 Joseph Monaghan from NCTAMS PAC takes his turn during the February Oahu Perimeter Run. Monaghan was one of 28 Sailors who participated in this year's 135-mile relay run.

This year, just like last year, she pushed on at an eight-minute mile pace in the blazing heat of the Ewa Plain after 20 miles and 18 hours on the road.

"So just what is it that makes NCTAMS PAC run?"

asked Bill Waters, one of the team's drivers. "The Sailors are, Bill," answered Lt. Rick Hall. "They set a standard of achievement and commitment hard to match with leaders who inspire commitment and effort."



GOT SPORTS?
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