



Running for heroes
Service members sweat it out for Memorial Day. See story on page A-11.



Veterans remembered
Service members and civilians pay their respects to fallen heroes.

Hawai'i Navy News Briefs

Military Appreciation Day tomorrow

The USO, the city and county of Honolulu, and the Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring a special event for military personnel and their families tomorrow at the Honolulu Zoo. Admission will be free to all military ID card holders: active, Reserve, Guard, retired and dependents. The first 5,000 military card-holders will receive a free lunch. Free parking and shuttle bus service will be available to the zoo from Kapiolani Community College, beginning at 9 a.m.

Operation Paperback

Outrigger Hotels in Waikiki working in conjunction with the Navy League donated more than 600 books to ships deploying from Pearl Harbor. Outrigger military liaison Mildred Courtney and other volunteers gathered together used books in good condition and sent them to the ship's libraries and bookshelves of deploying units where they can be put to use on long deployments. The latest batch went to USS Chafee (DDG 90) as she headed out on her maiden deployment with the USS Nimitz Carrier Strike Group in May.

To donate books for Operation Paperback contact Mildred Courtney at 923-8767.

Mercy visits Pearl Harbor

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) arrived in Pearl Harbor on May 30, bringing home members of a Pearl Harbor unit that helped prevent the spread of disease among survivors of the tsunami and earthquake that killed hundreds of thousands in Southeast Asia.

Family members of Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit (NEPMU) 6 watched the San Diego-based ship pull into port while the Pacific Fleet Band played and hula dancers welcomed the ship home. USNS Mercy departed Hawai'i in January after a port visit to pick up supplies, prior to departing in support of Operation Unified Assistance, the humanitarian relief effort to aid the victims of the Dec. 26 tsunami.

"It's just superb," said Rear Adm. Douglas McClain, Pacific Fleet deputy chief of staff for operations, plans and policy. "I would like to give you a hearty aloha on this day that we celebrate those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for freedom.

"What you all did to symbolize America - to aid and comfort people around the world - is one of the strongest messages we've sent in a long time. It's amazing, the things you accomplished on this five-month period," he added.

"It is hard to describe the impact of



U.S. Navy photo by JOC (SW) Joe Kane
The San Diego-based Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) enters Pearl Harbor, escorted by the MWR Ladies Ho'okahi Canoe Club and the Honolulu Pearl Canoe Club.

a disaster until you see it," said Capt. David Llewellyn, the military commanding officer of the hospital ship, "but we were heartened by the people of Banda Aceh.

"We know we touched many people ... but we made an impact on so many more," Llewellyn remarked.

Twenty-three men and women from NEPMU-6 deployed Jan. 11 to Thailand and the areas hit hardest by the tsunami, including Aceh Province on the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

The team included epidemiologists, entomologists, industrial hygienists, lab technicians, and environmental health and preventive medicine specialists. They were there for disease assessment and treatment, monitoring water quality, food sanitation and mosquitoes. Team members worked closely with their host nations, as well as with international relief organizations and medical personnel aboard Mercy, which deployed from San Diego Jan. 5.

After tsunami relief efforts had

concluded, some team members continued aboard Mercy to Dili, East Timor for a humanitarian aid mission there before returning to Nias, Indonesia to help survivors of the devastating March 28 earthquake.

While in Nias, NEPMU-6 analyzed water quality for about 120,000 residents, assessed the safety of 285 public buildings, and conducted malaria and infectious disease clinical diagnostics as part of a public health collaborative effort on the island.

Most recently, Mercy and the NEPMU-6 team arrived off Madang, Papua New Guinea on May 16 for humanitarian assistance operations in the vicinity of Modilon General Hospital the following day. Between May 17 and 20, Mercy's staff completed 27,931 medical procedures, conducted 27 surgeries, performed 114 dental examinations, 148 dental extractions and prescribed more than 1,000 pairs of glasses.

Additionally, NEPMU-6 personnel ensured the health and well-being of 6,000 displaced individuals by conducting public health assessments of two internally displaced population (IDP) camps located 110 miles northwest of Madang, near the town of Bogia. These IDP camps housed individuals displaced by a volcano eruption on the island of Manum.

Reuben James sails with pride after successful INSURV

Ensign Jon Derges

The Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) arrived on board USS Reuben James (FFG-57) on May 16 to conduct a Congressionally-mandated, comprehensive, material inspection of the ship. After five full days of inport equipment tests and underway demonstrations, the senior inspector pronounced the results as a "home run."

The INSURV board conducts material inspections of all naval ships at least once every five years for the purpose of determining a ship's fitness for further service and capability to carry out assigned missions. The inspection team that evaluated the Reuben James, comprised of 24 military and approximately 40 civilian inspectors, was tasked with evaluating everything from the ship's habitability to its engineering readiness.

"The results speak for themselves," said Capt. Scott Anderson, board of inspection and survey chief of staff and Reuben James' senior inspector. "It is not often we see a ship so well prepared."

In the months leading up to the inspection, Reuben James focused extraordinary effort into cleaning, stowing and preserving shipboard spaces and grooming all systems for testing. The ship's hard work paid off handsomely when the results were unveiled.

▼ See INSURV, A-4



U.S. Navy photo by J02 Ryan C. McGinley

A renewed welcome

Engineman 1st Class Noah Lanham, assigned to the dock landing ship USS Rushmore (LSD 47), holds his wife's hands as the ship's chaplain renews their wedding vows on the flight deck of the ship. Rushmore, homeported in San Diego, arrived in Pearl Harbor for a brief port visit as part of Expeditionary Strike Group Five, which is on its return leg of a six-month deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Sailors prepare gravesite for Memorial Day

J02 Devin Wright Editor

The Surface Navy Association held a cemetery cleanup at the Oahu Cemetery on May 27 in preparation for Memorial Day.

Among the volunteers were Sailors throughout Hawai'i, primarily Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) and USS Salvor (ARS 52).

The association learned of the plots only a few months ago and wanted to honor fallen shipmates.

"Everybody knows about Punchbowl," said Capt. Dell Epperson, assigned to Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet and president of the Surface Navy Association.



U.S. Navy photo by J02 Devin Wright
DK1 (SW/AW) Edward Wisner, assigned to USS Chung-Hoon, washes the headstone of the Chung-Hoon family at the Oahu Cemetery, May 27.

"In actuality, this cemetery has been here for at least a half century. Our shipmates buried here [Oahu

Cemetery] deserve to be recognized and the gravesite looked after just as those at Punchbowl,"

said Epperson. "Projects like this are the threads that connect us as Sailors. For those who join the Navy, as soon as they graduate from boot camp they become part of something bigger than themselves. They become part of an organization that has hundreds of thousands of members and a history that is hundreds of years old. I think participating in projects like this is a good way to help the junior Sailors remember that," he added.

For some of the Sailors, the opportunity to clean gravesites of their shipmates was a special one.

"This is something that is hard to put into words," said Disbursing Clerk First Class Edward Wisner (SW/AW), assigned to USS

Chung-Hoon. "We [USS Chung-Hoon] are involved in a lot of community service. This project is different to me because I was able to clean the headstone of the Chung-Hoon family and on top of that, it feels good to do this for our shipmates for Memorial Day," he said. "These gravesites are filled with people that paved the way for us and our country."

Founded in 1844, Oahu Cemetery is Hawai'i's oldest public graveyard. It was established at the height of the whaling era to meet the burial needs of Honolulu's growing foreign population, particularly whalers and Sailors.

The cemetery is located in Nuuanu Valley near downtown Honolulu.

Students D.A.R.E. to stay drug free

PH2 Jennifer L. Bailey
Contributing Writer

Seventy-eight students from Pearl Harbor Elementary School took the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) pledge to stay off drugs when they graduated from the 10-week D.A.R.E. program on May 27. For Master-at-Arms 1st Class (MA1) Stacey Carfley, this was a special day as she watched her first and last class accept their diplomas.

Carfley and her partner, Master-at-Arms 1st Class Lisa Chambers, conducted training for three classes of fifth grade students. The D.A.R.E. program is introduced to students in the fifth grade to help educate kids early about how to recognize and resist the pressures that may influence them to experiment with alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other drugs.

The Honolulu Police Department assures that potential D.A.R.E. officers are

highly trained in the curriculum and teaching methods before sending them out to teach their own classes. "The hardest part for some officers is getting over the initial fear of speaking to large groups of people," said Carfley. "For me, it was easy and it helps that the kids are so excited to have us there."

"They have so many questions so we set up the D.A.R.E. box. During the week, the kids will write down their questions. Some are personal questions asking what kind of cars I like and what is my favorite color. Any kind of question you can think of, you can find it in the D.A.R.E. box. Some questions are related to D.A.R.E. topics and are actually asking for help in dealing with friends or parents that smoke or drink."

Students have class one hour each week to learn important decision-making skills that will help them better understand how a few of their peers will actually exper-

iment with alcohol and drugs and how to "just say no" when pressured.

"From D.A.R.E. I have learned to say no and walk away," said graduate, Charlene Caoili.

During the first week of the program, students are assigned to write an essay called the D.A.R.E. report. "Day one, we introduce ourselves as officers, we introduce the program, and we tell them about the D.A.R.E. report," said Carfley. "We want them to write about what they learned during the 10 weeks, how it applies to them and how they are going to remain drug free."

One essay is chosen from each class; those students receive a medal honoring their achievements and read their essays to all the classes during graduation.

"Thanks to Officer Stacey, when someone offers me drugs I'm going to say no way Jose," said essay winner, Isabelle Viena.

Bonhomme Richard visits Pearl Harbor



U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 3rd Class Ryan C. McGinley.

The multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) arrives at Pearl Harbor for a brief port visit on its return leg of a six-month deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Bonhomme Richard, the flagship of Expeditionary Strike Group Five, has made three deployments during the past three years in support of the Global War on Terrorism, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 (AW/SW) Jennifer Bailey

MA1 Stacey Carfley stands with her recent class of D.A.R.E. program graduates at Pearl Harbor Elementary School. Seventy-eight students graduated from the 10-week course that focused on learning how to cope with the pressures to experiment with drugs and alcohol.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Holding on to a legacy

Fleet Master Chief Rick West

Pacific Fleet Master Chief

I want to take a different approach to this column. I'd like you to hear from some other people besides me in this column. It's a group of people slowly vanishing from this world - they are called America's "greatest generation."

Our "greatest generation" is one of the outstanding groups we were honoring during the recent Memorial Day weekend. They wear the VFW or American Legion hats, they'd rather have a conversation than surf the Internet, and they stand up when the American flag goes by - regardless of their political views. They were us so many years ago, service members who were just doing their duty preserving our liberties and freedoms throughout the world.

When we listen, they have a lot to tell, stories of sacrifice, heroics and camaraderie. And we need to listen; we need to learn and we need to preserve what these warriors have laid as the bedrock for our military. Memorial Day is more than parades. It's our chance to learn from and listen to this greatest generation. They've lived the sacrifices the current generation is facing. And while a lot of them may not have grown up with email, cell phones, or the Internet, we'd be fools to think there's nothing they can't teach us.

So I'm going to let them talk to you. I want you to hear, see and feel what they have done. They weren't looking to be heroes or make heroic sacrifices. They were just doing what needed to be done. So understand what they did, learn from the courage they displayed, and know what it means to step up in an impossible situation. Then you'll



Fleet Master Chief Rick West

understand why these folks are more than an annual parade and 30-second news clip on CNN or the local TV. "Suddenly the ship was gone, and it was very quiet. It had only been 12 minutes since the torpedoes hit. We started to gather together. Being in the water wasn't an unpleasant experience except that the black fuel oil got in your nose and eyes. We all looked the same -- black oil all over, white eyes and red mouths. You couldn't tell the doctor from the boot seaman."

This is from retired Medical Corps Capt. Lewis L. Haynes. He was the senior medical officer on board USS Indianapolis (CA-35). Shortly after midnight on July 30, 1945, the ship was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine and quickly sank. Haynes and 315 other men were the only ones rescued out of the crew of 1,199.

"Soon everyone had swallowed fuel oil and gotten sick. Then everyone began vomiting.

"At that time I could have hidden, but somebody yelled, 'Is the doctor there?' And I made myself known. From that point on -- and that's probably why I'm here today -- I was kept so busy I had to keep going. But without any equipment, from that point on I became a coroner."

Pharmacist's Mate 2nd Class Lee Soucy, a crewman aboard USS Utah (AG-16), woke up Sunday morning and saw a bunch of planes swarming overhead. At first, he thought it was the Marines, since "they were the only ones crazy enough to be train-

ing on a Sunday morning." He quickly found out different. He was smack-dab in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"A number of the ship's tremors are vaguely imprinted in my mind, but I remember one jolt quite vividly. As I was running down the passageway toward my battle station, another torpedo or bomb hit and shook the ship severely," he said.

"I was knocked off balance and through the log room door. I got up a little dazed and immediately darted down the ladder below the armored deck. I forgot my first aid kit.

"By then the ship was already listing. There were a few men down below who looked dumbfounded and wondered out loud, 'What's going on?' I felt around my shoulder in great alarm. No first aid kit! Being out of uniform is one thing, but being at a battle station without proper equipment is more than embarrassing. After a minute or two below the armored deck, we heard another bugle call. Then the boatswain's whistle followed by the boatswain's chant, 'Abandon ship ... Abandon ship.'"

The Utah still lays at rest today on the opposite side of Ford Island here at Pearl Harbor. Time, weather and the sea has caused more damage, but it still serves as a reminder - and teacher - to us all of what the greatest generation endured.

As I mentioned earlier, the generation of the 1940s, and 50s were not very different than ours today. Many were just starting in life, looking to find their place in the world. Some joined up because of the Depression and any job was salvation. Others joined because they had just finished school and were looking to start out in life - just like Lt. Dorothy Still Danner, a nurse who was captured by

the Japanese in Manila and imprisoned at Santo Thomas and Los Banos in the Philippines.

"After graduating from nursing school, I worked in two hospitals before joining the Navy in 1937. At that time, there were only 400 nurses in the Navy. I really didn't expect to be hired, so I was really surprised when I got my orders to go to the San Diego Naval Hospital for a physical. The next thing I knew, I was in the Navy.

"On Jan. 2, 1942, the Japanese came into Manila but didn't come to Santa Scholastica until a few days later. At first the Japanese were not hostile and mostly left us alone. But then they started taking quinine from us. They also began to slap around and beat up the men.

"I was sent to Santo Tomas on March 8, 1942. However, the medical facilities there were still lacking. There was a little hospital set up in what had been a mechanical engineering building. Living conditions for the others also worsened ... by this time, the Americans had invaded the Philippines, so as life got worse for the Japanese, they made life worse for us. We were only getting two meals a day, skimpy meals at that. We mainly had rice, diluted to a pasty lugao. There was practically no meat in the stew; it was very watery."

Many historians will tell you that two battles that did the most for turning the tide of the war was the Normandy invasion and the Battle of Midway.

Both were very costly to that great American generation.

"I was overwhelmed with work. Wounded were everywhere. Some men had one foot or leg off, others had both off; some were dying - some dead," said Lt. Joseph P. Pollard, a medical officer on board USS

Yorktown (CV-5). "Everywhere there was need for morphine, tourniquets, blankets and first aid. Battle dressing station number one rapidly overflowed into the passageway, into the parachute loft and into all other available spaces.

"I called for stretcher bearers to get the more seriously wounded to the sick bay where they could receive plasma, etc., but the passageways had been blocked off due to the bomb hits. So we gave more morphine, covered the patients with blankets, and did the best we could."

Yorktown was lost shortly after the Battle of Midway. Successive strikes by dive bombers and torpedo planes seriously damaged the ship, forcing the crew to abandon it June 4. Two days later, while salvage efforts were underway, both the damaged carrier and the destroyer Hammann (DD-412) were torpedoed and sunk June 7, 1942.

Each year, as we commemorate Memorial Day, the crowds get a little younger. We are losing this greatest generation to time. And once they are gone, many of us will look back and regret not learning more from them and about them. It's true that Memorial Day is to honor our fallen heroes as well as everyone who serves or served. But it is also to remind us active service members of what we can learn from those before that went before us, acknowledge their sacrifices, and in doing so learn about ourselves, too.

That greatest generation is handing us the baton now. The question is: did we learn enough from them to be able to take up where they have so selflessly and so nobly left off? I encourage you at every opportunity [to] embrace and learn from those that have gone before us in harm's way. Warriors teaching Warriors!

Commentary

Service to Sailors

ASYMCA Welcome Baby program

Kathy Kinneman
Armed Services YMCA

In Hawai'i, when young moms-to-be and new moms need help, the Armed Services YMCA's Welcome Baby program is there to lend a hand. Welcome Baby is a free home visitation program that provides education, information, referrals, advocacy and support to new and expectant military families.

"It's our first child. My husband didn't get to experience the last months of my pregnancy, he didn't get to feel the baby kick," said Amanda, wife of a Soldier who is currently stationed in Afghanistan. "When the baby came, he was deployed. I didn't get to see his face when she was born. We didn't get to bond together as a family." Amanda's situation is all too familiar in these days of increased levels of deployment and operations.

"We want the young moms to know that they are not alone," said Terri Nelson, home visitor. "We are here to offer support, teach them about available resources, and help reduce the stresses of having a baby when daddy is deployed and the rest of the family is on the mainland."

Terri and fellow home visitor, Susan Goekner, are both military wives and understand what it is like to have babies away from home and family.

"As military spouses, Terri and Susan bring valuable life experience to their work," said Dave Gomez, ASYMCA executive director. "They know what it's like to give birth and raise children in a military setting. That can be just as important as the professional training required for the position of home visitor," added Gomez.

Using referrals from parent support programs from each branch of the service, home visitors contact expectant moms and offer to meet with the family to provide support and assistance services.

Face-to-face visits are supplemented by regular phone contacts. Home visitors also conduct classes on topics of interest to new moms - infant massage, age-appropriate toys, and how to cut costs by making baby food at home are some of the subjects addressed in the classes. Input from clients helps shape the program.

"We want to teach healthy pregnancy practices and introduce them to community resources that will be helpful," said Goekner.

Through a series of pre- and post-natal home visits, ASYMCA home visitors provide useful childbirth, parenting and childcare information plus referrals to appropriate military and civilian agencies. Visits can take place in settings where the expectant mother feels most comfortable, often in the home, the OB clinic or, sometimes immediately after birth, in the ward.

Welcome Baby particularly targets the young, junior enlisted military population who are expecting their first baby and are not categorized as high risk.

Of the clients served in 2003, 73 percent were junior enlisted, low-income families and 27 percent were moderate-income families. The majority of the clients were under the age of 23.

In 2003, the two home visitors served over 350 families, conducted 2,871 visits with clients, taught 40 classes, and provided hundreds of hours of additional telephone support.

Nearly 90 percent of clients said they had low levels of stress about pregnancy and childbirth after working with a home visitor.

Before joining the Welcome Baby program, the same clients rated their stress levels as moderate to very high.

(For more information about the Welcome Baby program, call Dave Gomez, ASYMCA executive director, at 473-1427.)

President's comments on Memorial Day

George W. Bush
President of the United States

Thank you very much. Mr. Secretary, thank you. Secretary Nicholson, General Myers, members of Congress, members of the United States military, veterans, honored guests, fellow Americans, especially those loved ones of the fallen: Every year on this day, we pause to remember Americans fallen by placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. I'm honored to do that this morning on behalf of the American people. The names of the men buried there are known only to God, but their courage and sacrifice will never be forgotten by our nation.

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines we remember today answered the call of service in their nation's hour of need. They stood to fight for America's highest ideals. And when the sun came up this morning, the flag flew at half-staff in solemn gratitude and in deep respect.

At our National Cemetery, we receive the fallen in sorrow and we take them to an honored place to rest. Looking across this field, we see the scale of heroism and sacrifice. All who are buried here understood their duty. All stood to protect America. And all carried with them memories of a family that they hoped to keep safe by their sacrifice.

At a distance, their headstones look alike. Yet every son or daughter, mom or dad who visits will always look first at one. General Eisenhower put it well in 1944, when he wrote his wife, Mamie, about "the homes that must sacrifice their best." The families who come here have sacrificed someone precious and irreplaceable in their lives - and our nation will always honor them.

At our National Cemetery, we're reminded why America has always been a reluctant warrior. This year we



President George W. Bush

celebrate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, a victory for which more than 400,000 Americans gave their lives. Their courage crossed two oceans and it conquered tyrants.

Some of you here today fought in that war as young men and we make this pledge to you: America will always honor the character and the achievements of your brave generation.

Today we also remember the Americans who are still missing. We honor them. And our nation is determined to account for all of them.

Another generation is fighting a new war against an enemy that threatens the peace and stability of the world. Across the globe, our military is standing directly between our people and the worst dangers in the world, and Americans are grateful to have such brave defenders. The war on terror has brought great costs. For those who have lost loved ones in Afghanistan and Iraq, today is a day of last letters and fresh tears. Because of the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, two terror regimes are gone forever, freedom is on the march and America is more secure.

At our National Cemetery, we take comfort from knowing that the men and women who are serving freedom's cause understand their purpose - and its price. Marine Capt. Ryan Beaupre of St. Anne, Ill. was killed in the first hours of the war. He wrote his mom and dad a letter that was to be opened only in the event he didn't come home. He wrote: "Realize that I died doing something that I truly love, and for a purpose greater than myself."

Army Sgt. Michael Evans of

Marrero, La. felt the same way. He was killed on Jan. 28 while on patrol in western Baghdad. In his own farewell letter to his family, the 22-year-old reminded those he left behind to stay strong. He said: "My death will mean nothing if you stop now. I know it will be hard, but I gave my life so you could live. Not just live, but live free."

For some of our young heroes, courage and service was a family tradition. Lance Cpl. Darrell Schumann of Hampton, Va. was a machine gunner for the Marines, but his parents were Air Force. He liked to say, "Air Force by birth, Marine by choice and American by the grace of God." Cpl. Schumann was among the first to enter the battle against insurgents in Fallujah and he was proud of what he - what we are achieving. He later died in a helicopter crash. In his last letter from Iraq, he wrote, "I do wish America could see how awesome a job we're doing."

These are the men and women who wear our uniform. These are the men and women who defend our freedom. And these are the men and women who are buried here. As we look across these acres, we begin to tally the cost of our freedom, and we count it a privilege to be citizens of the country served by so many brave men and women. And we must honor them by completing the mission for which they gave their lives, by defeating the terrorists, advancing the cause of liberty and building a safer world.

A day will come when there will be no one left who knew the men and women buried here. Yet Americans will still come to visit, to pay tribute to the many who gave their lives for freedom, who liberated the oppressed, and who left the world a safer and better place. Today we pray that they have found peace with their Creator and we resolve that their sacrifice will always be remembered by a grateful nation.

May God continue to bless America.

Hawai'i Navy News

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INSURV: Inspection hits a 'homerun'

Continued from A-1

Utilizing a color-coded grading scale, (red = below average, yellow = average, green = above average), the results were almost all green for Reuben James.

"(Typically) No one gets green across the board," said Lt. William Pikul, Reuben James' damage control assistant. "The INSURV folks told me these were some of the highest marks they have ever given." In areas where FFG-7 class ships have usually scored poorly, Reuben James placed well above average. The ship was also complimented by the board for having the smoothest deck gear and damage control gear presentations ever seen.

Although inspectors were impressed with Reuben James, preparing the ship for INSURV proved to be a unique challenge for the crew. Preparations for the inspection began following a six-month extended dry-docking maintenance period that ended in December. The ship's first major pre-INSURV hurdle was the safety survey conducted in February.

Commander Logan Jones, commanding officer of Reuben James, said that he was extremely proud and pleased with the ship's INSURV performance across the board. Jones stated, "The scores we earned during this inspection were terrific, but I am especially pleased with [the] board's assessment of our self-sufficiency. INSURV lauded our ability to self-assess and praised our ability to resolve significant material issues. These are wonderful compliments coming from such a well-respected group of experts."

The teamwork of Reuben James' 230 Sailors, their



Strike Group.

U.S. Navy photo by PHAN Benjamin D. Glass

Sailors aboard the guided missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) man the rails as the ship returns to her homeport of

spirit, their high standards and their detailed preparations contributed to the overwhelming success of the inspection. As Jones gathered his crew last Friday following the inspection out-brief, he relayed noteworthy comments provided by the senior inspector and his principal department heads.

Reuben James is happy to have completed this significant milestone and her crew is looking forward to the next phase in the ship's life – the unit level training cycle. Reuben James is beginning work-ups for a spring deployment during which she will sail with the Peleliu Expeditionary



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Justin P. Nesbitt

The guided missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) passes Hospital Point at Pearl Harbor, as the ship departs on a scheduled deployment with the Nimitz Carrier Strike Group in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Destroyer Paul Hamilton celebrates birthday

Ensign Kathleen Kunkemoeller

USS Paul Hamilton Public Affairs

USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) celebrated her 10th birthday May 27, while underway in the South China Sea. The Sailors enjoyed a day of fun and a break from the hard work of Southeast Asia Cooperation Against Terrorism (SEACAT) exercise to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the commissioning of their warship in Charleston, S.C.

Over the course of the day, 10 prizes were raffled off to the crew, one for each year since Paul Hamilton joined the Fleet.

The Morale Welfare and Recreation team presented some lucky crew members prizes that included iPods, Playstation 2's and digital video cameras. Following a flight deck ceremony where 39 Sailors were frocked, the crew enjoyed

an afternoon of competition in newly purchased sumo wrestling suits.

In the evening, the crew shared a traditional Paul Hamilton "Warrior's Meal" of steak, lobster and crab. This was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony on the mess decks by two Paul Hamilton Plankowners. CTT1(SW) Coville and GSM2(SW) Herman commissioned the ship in 1995 and are currently assigned aboard.

The night also included a karaoke contest as part of a Captain's Cup competition between the various departments in the ship, which gave talented Sailors an opportunity to entertain their shipmates. The night ended with a "fireworks display;" firing of 5" gun illumination rounds, flares and small arms tracers to produce spectacular light displays.

Paul Hamilton is deployed to Southeast Asia in support of Cooperation and Readiness Afloat Training (CARAT) 2005.

Memorial Day

T R I B U T E

From Punchbowl to the Veterans Memorial Cemetery, civilians and military members gathered to pay homage to Hawai'i military veterans.



U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Ian W. Anderson
Musician's Mate 2nd Class Mallory McKennedy of Pacific Fleet Band, sings the U.S. National Anthem at the Governor's Memorial Day Ceremony conducted at the Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery. The ceremony was conducted to honor the nation's fallen warriors and their families.



U.S. Air Force photo
A Boy Scout from Hickam Air Force Base's pack 197 honors a fallen hero by placing a lei on a gravesite at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific Punchbowl on Memorial Day.



U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Ian W. Anderson
Members of the Spanaway Lake High School, from the state of Washington perform "God Bless America" during a musical interlude at the Governor's Memorial Day Ceremony conducted at the Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery.

CNO Names 2005 Shore Sailor of the Year

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Public Affairs

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Vern Clark named Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF) Shannon R. Dittlinger the 2005 CNO Shore Sailor of the Year during a ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. on May 26.

Dittlinger was chosen from among four nominees and will return to the Pentagon in July to be meritoriously advanced to the rank of chief petty officer along with the Pacific Fleet, Atlantic Fleet and Reserve Force Sailors of the Year.

Before the announcement, Clark reflected on the history of the Sailor of the Year ceremony and the importance of distinguishing great Sailors throughout commands around the world.

"Our Navy has become a more and more technically sophisticated place and that has, in fact, made us more and more reliant upon brilliant people to make our Navy work," said Clark. "We all understand that without the genius of our young people that we wouldn't have much of a Navy."

Clark recognized those who have helped to lead great Sailors to where they are today and addressed the concept of covenant leadership – how they and thousands of others have responded to the promise of upholding the prin-



U.S. Navy photo by JO1 Brandon W. Schulze
Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark speaks to the four candidates competing for 2005 Shore Sailor of the Year.

ciples of the Constitution.

"In the course of their response to that promise, they have proven themselves to be invaluable members of the organizations where they serve," he said. "These four lives are the product of the investment of hundreds of people who have invested in these four individuals."

Upon receiving the honor from the CNO, Dittlinger recognized her husband, her mentor and her shipmates, to whom she attributed much of her success.

Throughout the Sailor of the Year competition, Dittlinger has represented her former command, Naval Hospital Okinawa, Japan, where she served as the command career counselor, leading petty officer of the command color guard, and senior enlisted leader of the manpower and administrative

support department.

Born in Annapolis, Md., Dittlinger was named as the Pacific Fleet Shore Sailor of the Year earlier this year. She is currently assigned to 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Cherry Point, N.C. and will have nearly 12 years of service upon her promotion in July.

Dittlinger began her speech by recognizing the other nominees.

"Standing here in the company of the Navy's best Sailors...that in and of itself is an honor," she said.

She said the trip to Washington, D.C. helped bring the moment into perspective after she toured memorials like Iwo Jima, the Korean War Memorial and Arlington Cemetery.

"The foundation of those who have gone before us was one that was paved by honor, courage and commitment. It

was not paved alone," she said. "My accomplishments are based on a foundation built by those around me."

The other three nominees for the award included: Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (DSW/PJ) Thomas R. Harris (Naval Education and Training Command); Yeoman 1st Class (SW) Sherry D. Strothers (Vice Chief of Naval Operations) and Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class (AW) Thomas J. Bumpass (Fleet Forces Command).

"It's not just the last year that got them to where they're sitting today. These Sailors have distinguished themselves from the very beginnings of their career," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/AW) Terry Scott, who hosted the week's events. "To have Sailors like this honor us by sacrificing so much to do such great service to our nation is tremendously rewarding. Our nation's future and our Navy's future is going to be in absolutely wonderful hands."

Adm. Elmo Zumwalt initiated the Sailor of the Year program in 1972 to recognize outstanding Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Sailors. The following year, the Shore Sailor of the Year program was introduced. Sponsored by the Chief of Naval Operations, the program provides recognition to the Navy's outstanding Sailors through numerous presentations, awards and meritorious advancement to the next pay grade.

CNO awards EODMU 3 Sailors medals for OIF actions

JOSN S. C. Irwin

Fleet Public Affairs Center, Pacific

Six explosive ordnance disposal mobile unit (EODMU) 3 Sailors were awarded medals on May 20 by Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark for heroic achievements during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Chief Electronics Technician (EOD) Angel Olivera was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with a combat distinguishing device; Equipment Operator 2nd Class (EOD) John Fleming was awarded the Purple Heart; Gunner's Mate 2nd Class (EOD/PJ) Neil Marshall was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat valor; and Chief Boatswain's Mate (EOD/SW/AW) Anthony Schmit, Quartermaster 1st Class (EOD/FMF) Kyle Kirk and Sonar Technician 1st Class (EOD/SW/PJ) Justin Berlien were each awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

"I want you all to know I recognize that what you're doing is very important to the Navy," said Clark. "I've never been more proud to wear this uniform than I have been today."

EODMU 3 members also led Clark through a tour of



U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Quinton D. Jackson
Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Vern Clark awards the Bronze Star to Chief Petty Officer Angel O. Olivera, assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Mobile Unit Three. Olivera received the award for his actions while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

their facility and a briefing of EOD capabilities. The group is responsible for locating, recovering, evaluating and disposing of all explosive devices, including chemical and nuclear weapons.

EOD detachments respond to areas when emergency situations involve military ordnance in support of the Department of Homeland Defense.

"We can do a strenuous job like this because we know we're saving lives," said Kirk. "It's not really about winning awards. I'm just proud to be surrounded by the best Sailors the Navy has to offer."

Coalition warships intercept drug smugglers

USS Kearsarge Strike Group Public Affairs

A coalition effort involving ships from Commander, Task Force 150, under the Coalition Forces Maritime Component Command, led to the seizure of more than 4,200 pounds of hashish in the North Arabian Sea international waters May 20.

USS Kauffman (FFG 59) had been tracking the motor vessel Al Naveed before boarding the vessel. The boarding team discovered the drugs hidden behind a false bulkhead.

Once the boarding team spotted what appeared to be a false bulkhead with hidden cargo behind it, they investigated further. The crew gained access to the hidden cargo and discovered 96 large bags of hashish.

Kauffman is deployed in the region to conduct maritime security operations (MSO). MSO sets the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment and complements the counter-terrorism and security efforts of regional nations. MSO denies international terrorists use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons or other material. MSO pressurizes the maritime environment by using coalition ships to detect, deter and deny illegal use of the high seas.

Kauffman is stationed in the Arabian Sea as a part of this coalition effort. Because the ship was in the area, Kauffman was able to rapidly respond to intelligence and



U.S. Navy photo

A flag verification boarding team from the U.S. Navy guided missile frigate USS Kauffman (FFG 59) secures the motor vessel Al Naveed after seizing 4,200 pounds of hashish, found hidden behind a false bulkhead.

began tracking Al Naveed in conjunction with the German frigate FGS Karlsruhe.

"This is a mission our Sailors have prepared for extensively throughout the pre-deployment work-up cycle," said Cmdr. Kenneth Krogman, Kauffman's commanding officer. "The entire ship's team, especially the boarding team, performed professionally and executed this mission in textbook fashion. It's a great feeling to have prevented these drugs from

reaching their destination."

The drugs were confiscated and transferred to Kauffman. Coalition forces will transfer Al Naveed for follow-on disposition by the appropriate legal authorities.

An agent from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service provided investigative assistance. All evidence, including the drugs, will be handed over to the appropriate authorities to assist their prosecution of this case.

"It's an honor to be part of the

international coalition that performs this important mission," said Krogman. "A German frigate (FGS Karlsruhe) and her helicopter assisted in tracking the vessel prior to the boarding. We couldn't have remained on station without the services of a British oiler to refuel us. [This] is truly an international effort."

The naval task force has operated here for roughly four years and is very familiar with the 2.5 million square miles of water in its area of

operations.

Kauffman has conducted numerous queries and boardings since arriving on station in the region to conduct MSO. This was by far its most rewarding boarding to date.

"The success of this boarding is due to a combination of effective training, intel support and the skills of my 14 highly-motivated boarding team members," said Lt. j.g. John J. Sheridan, the initial boarding officer on the scene.

"Denying drug runners, those engaged in human smuggling, pirate and terrorists the ability to use the high seas is the reason we are here," said Krogman. "We executed that mission safely and efficiently with great results. It is something that every ship in this coalition force is prepared to do.

"The discovery of such a great quantity of drugs and knowing that their sale has been prevented really puts a bounce in the step of my entire crew," he added. "It is a great way to recharge everyone's batteries in the middle of a deployment and maintain focus on this very important mission. I couldn't be more proud of our Sailors right now. They performed superbly."

Kauffman deployed from Norfolk, Va. on March 25, as part of the Kearsarge Expeditionary Strike Group with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (special operations capable), based in Camp Lejeune, N.C., and has been assigned to CTF 150 since arriving in the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command area of responsibility.

Destroyer Paul Hamilton pays respects to an old friend

USS Paul Hamilton Public Affairs

The third ship to be named after Paul Hamilton, the USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), paid respects to fallen shipmates of the USS Twiggs (DD 591) off the southern coast of Okinawa on May 23. This memorial service had special significance since the second destroyer named for Paul Hamilton, DD 590, was constructed alongside and served valiantly throughout World War II with the USS Twiggs.

USS Paul Hamilton (DD 590) and USS Twiggs (DD 591) were both Fletcher-class destroyers and were built rapidly on the same pier at Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Virginia and then commissioned in October 1943 in Charleston, S.C. Both ships and their crews served in the Pacific campaigns during World War II. To their credit,



U.S. Navy photo courtesy of USS Paul Hamilton

Crew members of USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) pay respects to fallen shipmates of the USS Twiggs (DD 591) in a ceremony off the southern coast of Okinawa on May 23.

the Paul Hamilton received seven battle stars and the Twiggs received five for action throughout the Pacific campaign. They saw action in the Battle of the Philippine Sea, the Battle of Leyte Gulf and provided gunfire support for U.S. Marines ashore on Iwo Jima. The two crews became steadfast friends and to this

day hold reunions together as shipmates.

The destroyers also provided critical gunfire support in the Okinawa campaign during the spring of 1945, which ended up being the largest naval gunfire support operation in history. By the third week in June, the battle for Okinawa was drawing to a

bitter end. The Japanese Army was making a last stand in the craggy hills of southern Okinawa with their backs to the sea. The Navy closed in and began their assault.

During the evening of June 16, a Japanese torpedo bomber struck the destroyer Twiggs, which was swinging on her anchor about 3,000 yards offshore and providing harassing fire. The plane dropped down out of the dusk unseen. When detected, it was less than 1,000 yards from the destroyer and it launched a torpedo, which ripped into the number one magazine. Then the plane crashed into the ship aft. Torpedo explosion - magazine explosion - aircraft explosion - the triple blasting tore the destroyer's frame and sent sheets of fire throughout her superstructure. In an instant, the ship was ablaze and

sinking.

Thirty minutes after the kamikaze smash, the ship's after magazine blew up with a shattering detonation. The vessel plunged immediately. Down with her, she took 18 of her 22 officers. One hundred and sixty-five men were lost with the ship including her captain, Commander George Philip. The Twiggs disaster was one of the few in which every officer in the embattled ship was either killed or injured. She was the 12th destroyer downed off Okinawa and she was lost in the 12th week of the campaign. Ironically, this was the night before she was to return stateside.

As the modern destroyer Paul Hamilton sailed over the site where the USS Twiggs rests, the crew of the USS Paul Hamilton paused for a moment of remembrance. They united in thanks for the

sons of liberty who fought aboard the USS Twiggs and honored their fallen shipmates courageous acts of service and ultimate sacrifice by laying a wreath of remembrance over the site.

Ensign Theisz of Severna Park, Md. remembered them this way, "They answered the call to arms at home and abroad and paid the price of freedom for all of us. To them, we owe our most sincere gratitude."

Many of the crew expressed their appreciation for the moment of reflection. SK3 Brown of Jacksonville, Fla. was "grateful to have been there" and said that he will "definitely be writing home about the event." For the crew aboard the Paul Hamilton deployed to the western Pacific, this solemn occasion was a time of gratitude and rededication to the principles of freedom.

Hawaii Navy News Online
www.hawaii.navy.mil

'Defending Freedom' highlights work of Sailors, Marines

K.L. Vantran

American Forces Press Service

Hundreds of color photos depicting the trials and triumphs of the Navy and Marine Corps troops during operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom adorn the pages of "Defending Freedom," a new hardcover coffee-table book.

Proceeds of the book's sale will be used to provide financial assistance to Sailors, Marines and their families.

"Defending Freedom" shines a spotlight on the phenomenal work of Navy and Marine photographers and the marvelous jobs the troops are doing in Iraq and Afghanistan, said John W. Alexander, the book's designer and co-editor.

Alexander, who has published four other books, said he was honored to volunteer his time on this project.

"I was pleased to do it," said Alexander, director of communications for the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society. "I love working on books like this."

"This collection of images taken by military photographers and journalists vividly

depicts the heroism, courage and compassion of our men and women in uniform who are opposing terrorism and its despicable acts of hatred and violence," Navy Secretary Gordon R. England noted in the book's foreword.

England has since been appointed acting deputy secretary of defense.

"This book, filled with poignant images of our magnificent men and women in uniform, brings to life the inspirational service they perform so valiantly every day," England added.

Navy Chief Petty Officer Johnny Bivera, who has more than 18 years of service, said he was originally going to serve one tour as a Sailor, but photography turned out to be such an exciting career that he kept re-enlisting.

Bivera has several photos featured in "Defending Freedom."

"It's great to have been part of this book," he said. "There's nothing like sharing your work in print, but more so in a book that will last a long time and be viewed by many people."

"It's also an honor to share

the pages with so many of my colleagues," he added. "They're all great photographers."

Navy Chief Petty Officer Kevin Tierney, who has 17 years of service, echoed Bivera's thoughts.

The best part of being a military photographer, Tierney said, is "getting to see the best and brightest of this nation pulling together for the common good of man." The worst, he added, is seeing the suffering of humanity.

Tierney was on hand for autographs at the book's debut in March during the Sea, Air, Space Exposition.

"I heard nothing but rave reviews," the military photographer said. "It's excellent to see a product shot and produced by Navy and Marine Corps photographers. It's just an incredible book."

The back inside cover of the book contains a DVD which features three products: "Operation Enduring Freedom: The Opening Chapter," "Operation Iraqi Freedom: Chapter II" and "Power of Teamwork." A CD contains high-resolution photos - those that are in the book as well as 250 others.



U.S. Navy photo

Cover photo of the new coffee table photo book "Defending Freedom." The 9-by-12-inch book contains over 250 full color printed images of the war on terror, as seen through the eyes of our Navy and Marine Corps men and women, during operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Navy researcher earns honors

JO1 (SW/AW) AnTuan

Guerry

National Naval Medical

Center Public Affairs

National Naval Medical Center medical researcher, Lt. Cmdr. Brett Siegfried, earned top honors in the staff level category at the 20th Annual Navywide Academic Research Competition May 13, in Portsmouth, Va.

Siegfried, who works in Bethesda's neonatology department, earned the award for a congenital heart disease project in which he explored DNA to find the cause of cardiovascular defects. Siegfried spent the past two-and-a-half years working with a group of doctors, researchers and fellows at the National Institutes of Health on the bench science research project exploring the genetics, or genes, involved in cardiovascular development and disease.

"It's a little like looking for a needle in the haystack," said Siegfried.

Scientific research like this is at the heart of nearly every major medical discovery, added Siegfried.

"Bench research is important to the medical field because the groundbreaking work that results in the cures and treatments down the road - whether it's five years, 10 years or a generation - comes on the back of this type of research," Siegfried said.

This is the second level of research competitions for Siegfried, who won Bethesda's research competition in April to earn the right to compete in the Navywide field. While Siegfried's research award was an individual recognition, he said this work is a team project.

"I want to underscore the fact this research project is a collaborative and group effort," Siegfried said. "Getting a study of this magnitude done takes teamwork."

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U.S., Southeast Asia navies work toward common goal during SEACAT

JOC Melinda Larson

Commander, Destroyer Squadron 1 Public Affairs and

JO2 Kathryn Whittenberger

Commander, Task Group 712 Public Affairs

Liaison officers from the navies of several Southeast Asia nations embarked with the U.S. Navy for an at-sea anti-terrorism exercise in the Philippine and South China Seas the week of May 23.

The fourth annual Southeast Asia Cooperation Against Terrorism (SEACAT), a scenario-driven exercise, involved the tracking and boarding of simulated rogue merchant ships, and gave the participants an opportunity to witness and share ship tracking and boarding techniques of mutual benefit.

Ten liaison officers from the navies of the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia participated with the U.S. Navy, embarked aboard USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43). Three officers from Thailand were also embarked aboard the container and roll-on/roll-off ship MV PFC James Anderson Jr. (T-AK 3002), which played the role of a rogue merchant ship for exercise purposes. The Royal Brunei Navy also played a role, tracking Fort McHenry as the ship transited past Brunei.

"Because of the bilateral nature of the training between each participant and the U.S. Navy, each navy is in a unique position to interact at a level consummate with its capabilities and individual training objectives," said Capt. Buzz Little, commander of Destroyer Squadron (COMDESRON) 1, who led the U.S. task group. "The U.S. Navy benefits from exposure to techniques and skills of all of the participating navies."

During the week, COMDESRON 1 staff officers led the liaison officers through a series of scenarios

designed to enhance regional coordination efforts that support cooperative responses to terrorism and transnational crimes at sea. Each team tracked simulated rogue ships, created operational plans and responded to operational tasks from COMDESRON 1 staff officers.

"The teams then processed, evaluated and disseminated the information back to their respective headquarters," said Lt. Miguel Iniguez, COMDESRON 1 operations officer. "In turn, the headquarters provided feedback to the liaison officers on the actions they were taking and what the next steps should be."

The intended end result of the parallel bilateral exercises is that the U.S. Navy, the liaison officers and their headquarters will have a better understanding of information sharing, intelligence gathering, and the importance of working together against transnational threats, Iniguez said. For the first time, during the fourth annual exercise, both the Philippine and Indonesian navies conducted visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) exercises aboard the scenario's rogue ships, Fort McHenry and Anderson. The Republic of Singapore navy conducted its second SEACAT boarding event in as many years. The Royal Thai navy conducted a VBSS aboard one of its frigates along with a U.S. Coast Guard security team. According to one of the staff facilitators, the officers responded well to the ever-changing scenarios.

"This is a bright group of officers who have responded superbly and worked cooperatively in identifying the pertinent information and required course of action in dealing with the alleged threats," Iniguez said.

In addition to daily tasks, the liaison officers experienced the day-to-day operations of a U.S. Navy dock landing ship, including a ride aboard a landing craft, air cushion (LCAC) with members of Assault Craft Unit 5, Detachment Western Pacific Alfa. The liaison officers also witnessed



U.S. Navy photo by JOC Melinda Larson
A U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement specialist debriefs members of a Philippine Navy SEAL team following a visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) exercise aboard the dock landing ship USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43). VBSS training is being conducted as part of Southeast Asia Cooperation Against Terrorism (SEACAT) 2005.

how a U.S. Navy ship is replenished at sea and watched SH-60 Seahawk helicopter pilots from Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (Light) (HSL) 45 earn deck landing qualifications on the flight deck of Fort McHenry.

Traveling by a rigid-hull inflatable boat, the officers also visited the guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60).

"It was a great experience to visit the USS Paul Hamilton," said Republic of Singapore Capt. Alvin Chua. "It was my first time, and I

enjoyed it completely."

SEACAT ended May 29 aboard Fort McHenry with a final brief to Little and his staff facilitators. Little had only praise for the liaison officers.

"SEACAT was a success because of you," he said. "You worked well together. If all of the officers in your navies are like you, then you all have fine navies."

In addition to Fort McHenry and Anderson, the guided-missile destroyer Paul Hamilton and the frigate USS Rodney M. Davis (FFG 60) also participated in the weeklong

exercise. Other participating U.S. Navy elements included HSL-45, based at Naval Air Station North Island, Calif., and Patrol Squadron (VP) 8, based at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md. Little's staff is based in San Diego. Paul Hamilton is homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, and Rodney M. Davis is forward-deployed to Sasebo, Japan, while MV Anderson is part of the Pacific Maritime Prepositioning Force. The first SEACAT exercise was held in 2002.

Hawaii Navy News Online
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Hawai'i Navy News Sports

Runners honor Memorial Day



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

A runner completes a lap and re-hydrates during the Pearl Harbor Memorials Relay. About 200 people participated in the Memorial Day tribute, which involved teams and individuals running the perimeter of Ford Island for five hours. The event was a fundraiser organized by the Pearl Harbor Surface Navy Association and benefits the various memorials in Hawai'i.

ET3 (SW) Zach Kulpa

USS Salvor

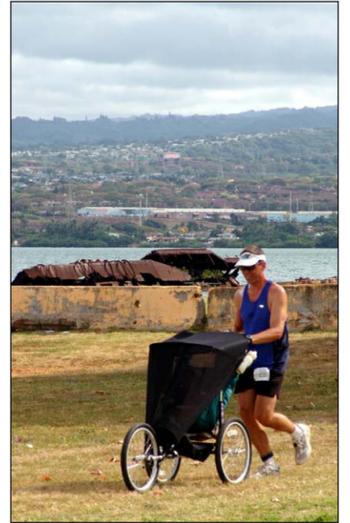
On the morning of May 30, when most people were enjoying their day off, 36 teams of runners came to Ford Island to honor those who have defended this country. Memorial Day 2005 marked the first Surface Navy Association Pearl Harbor Memorials Relay.

At 7 a.m. sharp, the first runner from each team gathered at the starting line for the race. The scenic 3.2 mile course followed the perimeter of Ford Island. The course allowed participants to view the memorials for the USS Utah, and the USS Arizona as well as the historic USS Missouri. After completing a lap, each team member passed the electronic timer ankle strap on to another teammate. For the next five grueling hours, a variety of runners, both young and old, from beginners to masters, each contributed to the success of the relay. A few minutes after noon the final runner passed the finish line.

The race was made up of teams ranging in size from one runner all the way up to ten. The Destroyer category consisted of teams with 1 to 4 runners, while the Cruiser category included teams with 5 to 8 runners. Teams with 9 or more were placed in the Battleship category.

The winner in the Destroyer category was Team Salvor, a four man team of Sailors from the USS Salvor (ARS 52) who finished with a total of 12 laps. Also competing in the Destroyer category were numerous one person teams. One impressive finisher was Lt. Col. Amanda Preble who completed 8 laps by herself in the allotted five hours.

Team Hana Ho was victorious in the Battleship category. The team of Sailors from the USS Russell (DDG 59) also boasted twelve laps. The Runaholics, a six man team of Sailors from the USS Bremerton



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

A runner passes the remains of the battleship USS Utah on Ford Island during the Pearl Harbor Memorials Relay.

(SSN 698) accomplished 13 laps and thus were not only the winners of the Cruiser category but were also awarded the title of Top Military Team.

"It was hot, really hot, but I had fun and this race was for a great cause," commented Information Technician 2nd Class (SW/DV) Christian Gill at the awards ceremony on the fantail of the USS Missouri. After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 the only ship who sank that remains without a memorial to the Sailors who died is the USS Oklahoma. The SNA announced that thanks to the many volunteers and participants, the first annual Pearl Harbor Memorials Relay was a great success and all proceeds and donations proudly go towards creating a memorial for the USS Oklahoma.