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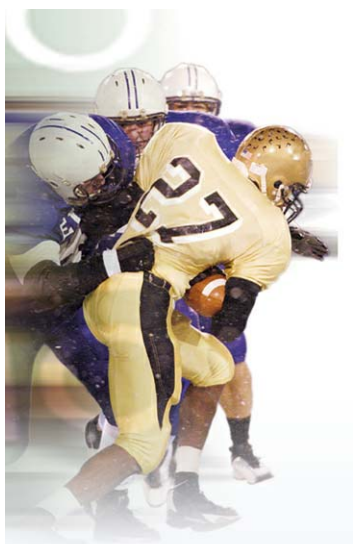
"Mo" to host end of WWII ceremony

Expressing gratitude
Adm. Roughead thanks Sailors at the SNA awards ceremony.
See story on page A-8.



Fantasy Football
Create your own team and compete online. See story on page B-1.

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Adm. Gary Roughead, the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, is scheduled to be the keynote speaker for the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II ceremony on board the Battleship Missouri Memorial at Ford Island today at 8:45 a.m.

The event is a commemoration of the formal surrender of Japan and marking the end of the war. The surrender took place onboard USS Missouri on Sept. 2, 1945 in Tokyo Bay.

Roughead said it is important this day be remembered and honored for the significance it holds for America and the sacrifices made by veterans of that war.

During the ceremony, Roughead will talk about the importance veterans had in winning the war, how important Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz's role was in bringing the war to an end, and he will pay tribute to the World War II veterans as well as all veterans.

In addition to Roughead's speech, Hawai'i Gov. Linda Lingle is also scheduled to speak at the event. Other speakers are:

Retired Army Col. Ben Skardon, a survivor of the Bataan Death March and Japanese prisoner-of-war camps and the uncle of the Naval Station Pearl Harbor's commanding officer, Capt. Taylor Skardon.

James Starnes, a Navy lieutenant commander and the navigator of the USS Missouri during the final days of World War II. He served as the ship's officer of the deck at the surrender ceremony.

Murray Yudelowitz, who served onboard USS Missouri from 1944 to 1946 in the 8th Division, gunnery department, as a gunner's mate and witnessed the formal surrender ceremonies from atop the battleship's massive turret 2.

Other planned events during the ceremony include vocal performances by the Sound of Aloha Chorus, a missing man fly-over of F-16s by the Hawaii National Guard, and a Marine Corps honor guard firing a rifle salute to honor those lost during the war.

More than 2,500 people are expected to attend the event, including hundreds of World War II veterans.

Roughead became the fleet commander July 8. Like his World War II predecessor Nimitz, Roughead commands the largest maritime fleet in the world, stretching from the U.S. West Coast to the east coast of Africa. Prior to assuming command over the Pacific Fleet, Roughead's other tours included serving as the deputy commander for the Pacific Command and the commanding officer of the Pearl Harbor-based USS Port Royal (CG 73).

U.S. Navy photo by PH1 William Goodwin
More than 2,500 people, including hundreds of World War II veterans, are expected at the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II ceremony on board the Battleship Missouri Memorial at Ford Island today. The event is a commemoration of the formal surrender of Japan and marking the end of the war.

Naval Station Pearl Harbor welcomes new CO

U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Corwin Colbert
Capt. Taylor Skardon is piped aboard prior to taking over as commanding officer of Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Skardon relieved Capt. Ronald Cox during a change of command ceremony on Aug. 26 on board Battleship Missouri Memorial.

'Tin Can' Sailors visit Pearl Harbor, commemorate final days of WWII

JO3 Ryan C. McGinley
Staff Writer

More than 200 former Sailors and family members from the National Association of Destroyer Veterans visited Pearl Harbor on Aug. 27 and 28, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the final days of World War II and honoring WWII destroyer and destroyer-escort veterans.

"We are having this event exactly 60 years to the day after destroyers led the allied Third Fleet into Japan and anchored in peace for the first time," said David McComb, coordinator for the event. "There are many men who made it to Tokyo Bay, but there many who didn't. Now is the time to honor all of them, particularly the ones who didn't."

Commonly referred to as "Tin Can" Sailors, the National Association of Destroyer Veterans has more than 25,000 members worldwide, who have served aboard destroyers in a variety of wars and conflicts over the past 60 years. "Tin Can is another name for a destroyer," said McComb. "They had no armor and incoming enemy fire would go through them as if they were a tin can."

The former Sailors began their visit to Pearl Harbor with a ceremony aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

"There's a level that I regard them with absolute awe, respect, love and admiration," said McComb. "There needs to be a way of saying thank you. And where else could you better do it than onboard the Missouri."

Veterans signed the logbook on the surrender deck of the Missouri and had a special ceremony not only in honor of the destroyer veterans who helped escort the Missouri into Tokyo Bay in 1945, but also for all destroyer veterans who served in the Navy.

"Many who are here today have taken part in something far greater than themselves -

▼ See 60 YEARS, A-2

Hawai'i Navy News Briefs

Navy personnel and family members Katrna helpline

Navy leadership is sincerely concerned for our Sailors and their family members in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. In light of the communication difficulties created by the hurricane, BUPERS has set up a 24 hour helpline for both Sailors and families to call for information regarding their loved ones.The number is 1-877-414-5358. This line will be staffed 24-hours by active duty Navy volunteers and will have connectivity with Navy, FEMA and other government agencies. They will try their best to answer questions regarding the status of Navy family members, but please be aware that communication in the region is still inconsistent.

Boutiki Gift Shop

The Boutiki Gift shop is holding a one-day special discount tent sale today from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the shop. For more information, call the Boutiki at 422-6662.

Federal impact aid for Hawai'i public schools

On Sept.7, Hawai'i's public school students will bring home federal census survey cards to be filled out by parents and returned to school the following day. It is extremely important to complete the federal survey cards and return them promptly to the child's school. The data collected from these forms and turned into the Federal Department of Education determines the funding received by the Hawai'i Department of Education.

Oahu Civil Defense warns against hurricane complacency

Karen S. Spangler
Assistant Editor

The videos and accounts of the devastation left by Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast States serve as a grim reminder of the power and destructive force of a hurricane.

Newscasts showing the aftermath of the vicious storm detail the tragedy - vast areas underwater, homes completely destroyed, a death toll which could reach staggering numbers, and thousands of people who have been forced to live in evacuation shelters under deplorable conditions.

Could it happen here? It could - and Oahu Civil Defense officials want to make sure that island residents are aware and prepared in the event that such a storm should steer a course for Hawai'i.

"We're past due for one [hurricane]," said Ken Gilbert, disaster preparedness and recovery officer for Oahu Civil Defense, noting that historically, a hurricane strikes Hawai'i about every 10 years.

"It's not if, it's when. They're going to happen," emphasized Gilbert. "We have to be prepared to mitigate the effects of the disaster," he said.

The last time a major hurricane hit the island chain was in September 1992 when Hurricane Iniki wreaked havoc on the islands. It left more than $2.3 billion in damages on Kauai in its wake.

Gilbert admitted that many people are inclined to be complacent and not worry about the possibility of a hurricane striking the islands. "People become very complacent. They say, 'It hasn't affected us yet, so why should I worry about it?'" he said.

"Our biggest concern is the storm surge along coastlines. Torrential rainfall will cause a lot of flooding island-wide," explained Gilbert. "We are trying to mitigate the effects of that," he said.

"Flying debris is another big issue - make sure that you secure outside objects, such as lawn chairs," he noted.

"The key thing is having a disaster plan in place and knowing where you're going to go," he said and advised that residents should be familiar with the location of evacuation shelters.

He also stressed the importance of having a survival kit. "Having a survival kit is very important - with enough food, water, medications, etc. - and making sure that you have enough money," he advised. With widespread power outages, ATMs (automated teller machines) would not be operable and couldn't dispense money.

"Make sure that important documents, such as your homeowners' insurance papers and health paperwork, are in waterproof containers and take those with you to the evacuation shelter," he said.

He stressed the importance for residents to collect the food, water, batteries and other supplies that they need ahead of time. Too often, people wait until the last minute to purchase plywood and board up their homes, purchase the necessary supplies, etc., he noted and cautioned that residents should not wait until the 24-hour hurricane warning advisory has been issued to begin to prepare. "That's too late - preparations should be made long before that," he said.

That was the situation when Hurricane Iniki churned toward the islands. Within a few hours after the Civil Defense warning had sounded to warn island residents that Iniki was approaching, every supermarket, gas station and convenience store was faced with long lines of customers. Anxious, hurricane-watching shoppers attempted to collect the necessary items and such items as flashlights, batteries, bottled water and food were soon in short supply.

Civil defense officials warn that waiting until the last minute to assemble your home survival kit with foods, medicines, bottled water, etc. is not a good idea. By waiting too long to prepare, you may find that it is impossible to find the essentials that you need to ride out the storm.

Gilbert also reminded islanders that due to Hawai'i's location, isolated in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, all shipments to the islands are made by air and boat and it could be a lengthy interval before store shelves are replenished.

If it is necessary to evacuate, emergency shelters may be located on military installations or in the civilian community. When shelters have been ordered to open in the Navy community, personnel who will be sheltered must report to the Navy Exchange Mall for assignment and transportation to a designated location. Evacuees to Navy shelters should not report directly to shelters.

Caring for pets, since animals cannot be taken to evacuation shelters, poses another dilemma. Guidelines from the Hawaiian Humane Society advise pet owners to leave pets at home and make sure that their pets have abundant food and water and that the floor where the pet will be housed is covered with newspapers for sanitary reasons. However, in a situation where the pet's owner may not be able to return home for a lengthy interval, Gilbert suggested another alternative.

He explained that another option is to take the pet to the evacuation shelter and leave it in the car. The car should be lined with something such as a waterproof shower curtain

▼ See CIVIL DEFENSE , A-8

60 Years:Honoring destroyer veterans

Continued from A-1

wars, conflicts and other operations that changed the course of this nation and the world," said Lt. Ronald T. Rinaldi, chaplain for Commander Destroyer Squadron Thirty-One. "For our World War II veterans and all veterans represented here no matter which conflict they served in, we give sincere thanks for their dedication and devotion to all the good things this country represents."

After completing their ceremony aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial, the "Tin Can" Sailors had an opportunity to tour the USS Arizona Memorial.

"It is sentimental to be here 60 years later," said Glenn St. John, an electrician's mate aboard the Fletcher-class destroyer USS Phillip (DD 498). "It brings back a lot of memories."

The veterans also had an opportunity to tour the guided missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70), comparing the Navy of yesterday and today.

"It's their ship as taxpayers and as former Sailors," said Capt. Joseph Horn, commanding officer, USS Lake Erie. "They deserve the right to come on board here and see where the technology has taken us. I think these groups provide tremendous support to the Navy's mission and it's always nice to share with them what the Navy is doing today."

The veterans had an opportunity to tour various parts of the ship and interact with young Sailors, who described their different jobs aboard the ship.

"The interchange between these visits and crew members I find is always very critical to morale," said Horn. "It pumps the crew up to be able to demonstrate their ship and their particular area of expertise to folks that truly would like to know what it is they do."

"The ship tour was great," said Carl Smith, a former fireman aboard the Gearing-class destroyer USS Hanson (DD/DDR 832). "I had never been on a cruiser before. The cruiser is a lot different than the destroyer I was on and a lot bigger."

The "Tin Can" Sailors have also been invited to attend the Battleship Missouri Memorial's ceremony today that will mark the 60th anniversary of Japan's formal surrender on the USS Missouri.

"We can never ever thank them enough for their sacrifices and what they provided for the generations that follow them," said Rinaldi. "I hope and pray that our generation of sea warriors distinguishes themselves by living up to the lofty standards that they have set."

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

Warren Paley, a former officer aboard the Fletcher-class destroyer USS Taylor (DD 468) and member of the National Association of Destroyer Veterans, examines the "Instrument of Surrender" document on the surrender deck of the Battleship Missouri Memorial. More than 200 "Tin Can" Sailors, some of whom helped escort USS Missouri into Tokyo Bay in 1945, commemorated the final days of World War II on the 60th anniversary by paying tribute to World War II destroyer and destroyer-escort veterans.

USS Chosin Sailors lend helping hands in Phuket, Thailand

Ensign Kristina Melendez
USS Chosin Public Affairs

Fifteen Sailors from USS Chosin (CG 65) spent a day with the children of the Phuket Special School and delivered supplies to the Phuket Home for the Aged Aug. 22 during a recent port visit.

The Sailors arrived with boxes of toys and food as a part of Project Handclasp. Upon arriving at the school, the Sailors received a special surprise when a group of local residents called "Up With People"greeted them by dancing and singing with the children.

One of the volunteers, Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Rodolfo Ruiz, was impressed.

"The singing and dancing to our arrival was great," Ruiz said. "They really made us feel welcome."

During the visit to the school, Chosin Sailors served the children a traditional American meal of hamburgers and hotdogs. The schoolteachers commented the American fare was a rare treat for the students. The students were very appreciative of the special meal, and expressed their thanks with their smiles and hugs for the Sailors.

"The example of these children truly makes me appreciate what we have in America," said Quartermaster 3rd Class Clinton Washington.

After the meal, the Sailors handed out toys and treats for the kids. Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Patrick Riley commented, "It was a treat as well to spend time playing with the children and the new toys. The smiles and energy of the children were our reward for cooking lunch and giving out the toys. Many of the crew said that just being around children, playing, sharing pictures, and receiving hugs made the day a huge success."

The afternoon was capped off with a trip to the Phuket Home for the Aged, where the crew was able to deliver sewing supplies, including two new sewing machines provided by donations through Project Handclasp.

Homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, Chosin is a Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser. Commanded by Capt. Douglas J. Venlet, Chosin is on scheduled deployment to the Seventh Fleet area of responsibility.

U.S. Navy photo by USS Chosin Public Affairs

FC1 Bryce Pettingill and ET3 Eric Melcher share a smile with children from Phuket Special School as they look at donated toys during Project Handclasp in Phuket, Thailand.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Domestic violence - not in our Navy

FLTCM(AW/SW)
Jon R. Thompson

FLTCM(AW/SW) Jon R. Thompson

Have you ever been angry? It's a silly question, I know. Of course you have been; we have all experienced anger. Anger is a common reaction when things happen to us that upset our plans and lives. How each of us deals with anger often varies, but one thing I can never understand is how a person can let anger override his or her common sense by lashing out at a family member, either verbally or physically. Our families are our loved ones and I can't think of a situation that would justify verbally humiliating a family member, let alone hitting one.

Controlling one's emotions isn't always easy. We all have different levels of stress and different breaking points. For the majority of us, however, we quickly recognize these things and have developed our own coping methods. Unfortunately, there are some among us who have yet to hone those skills and occasionally let their own anger escalate into violence.

Shipmates, there is no room in our Navy for domestic violence. Unfortunately, some surveys suggest that violence occurs in as much as 25 percent of all marriages. I honestly hope that statistic doesn't apply to Navy marriages. While that percentage seems high, even more disturbing is the number of unreported domestic violence cases is said to be as high as 90 percent. If that number is even close to accurate, all of us need to do our best to maintain loving relationships with our family members. We also need to be on the lookout for any signs from friends and colleagues who either engage in, or are victims of, domestic violence.

If you suspect someone is abusing a family member, or is the victim of abuse, you have an obligation to report that information to the police. Remaining silent indirectly makes you part of the problem.

Many think alcohol abuse causes violence. Experts, however, suggest alcohol is not the cause of domestic violence. Drinking simply lowers one's control or inhibitions and may be the excuse for letting down these restraints against violence. Just because a person drinks doesn't mean he or she will commit violence. Simply put, alcohol is not the cause, but can certainly be a contributing factor.

So how do you detect abusers? That's a tough question. Abusers may lead normal lives in all aspects except their inability to control aggressive impulses. And, just because a person gets angry, doesn't mean he or she will become violent. Most of us have met people who have short tempers. While we may not want to associate with people like that, we can't leap to the conclusion that they abuse their spouse or children.

Experts suggest there are three phases in the typical cycle of violence. In phase one, the tension builds. This is the period where usually calm people may exhibit outbursts of anger or seem unusually upset about things that didn't bother them in the past. This "growing" anger is what we should all be alerted to. If we can recognize this stage, and talk to those around us to help them cope with this, they may not ever progress to phase two. It's at this point that anger management counseling is most applicable and effective.

Phase two is the shortest and most violent part of the cycle. Phase two is where violence occurs, either verbally or physically. It's the "snap" point in the cycle. The time it takes to go from phase one to two differs from person to person. If you've ever met someone with a "short fuse," you know some are more prone to violence than others.

Phase three is a period of calm. It's where the abuser feels remorse and often tries to downplay his or her phase two actions and makes promises about never becoming violent again. The abuser is usually sorry for their actions and he or she is desperate for others to believe their promises. Unfortunately, like telling a lie, once a person crosses the line from anger to violence, surveys show many repeat the violence despite their promises not to.

While most of us do not have the professional skills to analyze others, we all have a leadership responsibility to know our people and pay close attention to their behavior. If you are a supervisor and you don't know who in your charge is married and who has children, you are falling short of what is expected. I truly believe that if you get to know your people well, recognizing personality changes becomes much easier. Additionally, if you care about your people, and they genuinely know you care about them, the more they may come to you with their problems and frustrations… perhaps lowering (if not eliminating) the chance of their anger escalating into violence.

Domestic violence is a reality. Pretending it isn't a factor in peoples' lives is naïve. The good news is that each of you has the ability to impact whether it happens in your own lives or in your friends' lives. If a friend or shipmate comes to you with a frustration, make some time. Don't ignore their request for help. Just because something may not be upsetting to you doesn't mean it's not upsetting to someone else. I would suggest that when you allow someone to "get something off their chest" by talking to them, you afford that person an outlet. Sometimes that might be the difference.

The bottom line for all of us is that some people have an inability to control their anger. Those people need help, often in the form of professional counseling. It's not our job to provide that counseling, but it is up to us to recommend counseling to our friends, and inform our chains of command if we suspect another's anger may be getting the better of him or her.

Committing domestic violence is a personal effort, but preventing it is a team effort. If we all work together, I'm sure we can significantly reduce the potential for Sailors to take out their anger on their spouses, children or co-workers.

Keep up the good work, shipmates!

President outlines Hurricane Katrina relief efforts

U.S. President
George W. Bush

The vast majority of New Orleans, La. is under water. Tens of thousands of homes and businesses are beyond repair. A lot of the Mississippi Gulf Coast has been completely destroyed. Mobile is flooded. We are dealing with one of the worst natural disasters in our nation's history.

And that's why I've called the Cabinet together. The people in the affected regions expect the federal government to work with the state government and local government with an effective response. I have directed Secretary of Homeland Security Mike Chertoff to chair a Cabinet-level task force to coordinate all our assistance from Washington. FEMA Director Mike Brown is in charge of all federal response and recovery efforts in the field. I've instructed them to work closely with state and local officials, as well as with the private sector, to ensure that we're helping, not hindering, recovery efforts. This recovery will take a long time. This recovery will take years.

Our efforts are now focused on three priorities: Our first priority is to save lives. We're assisting local officials in New Orleans in evacuating any remaining citizens from the affected area. I want to thank the state of Texas, and particularly Harris County and the city of Houston and officials with the Houston Astrodome, for providing shelter to those citizens who found refuge in the Super Dome in Louisiana. Buses are on the way to take those people from New Orleans to Houston.

The Department of Defense is deploying major assets to the region. These include the USS Bataan to conduct search and rescue missions, eight swift water rescue teams, the Iwo Jima Amphibious Readiness Group to help with disaster response equipment, and the hospital ship USNS Comfort to help provide medical care.

The National Guard has nearly 11,000 Guardsmen on state active duty to assist governors and local officials with security and disaster response efforts. FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers are working around the clock with Louisiana officials to repair the breaches in the levees so we can stop the flooding in New Orleans.

Our second priority is to sustain lives by ensuring adequate food, water, shelter and medical supplies for survivors and dedicated citizens – dislocated citizens. FEMA is moving supplies and equipment into the hardest hit areas. The Department of Transportation has provided more than 400 trucks to move 1,000 truckloads containing 5.4 million Meals Ready to Eat -- or MREs, 13.4 million liters of water, 10,400 tarps, 3.4 million pounds of ice, 144 generators, 20 containers of pre-positioned disaster supplies, 135,000 blankets and 11,000 cots. And we're just starting.

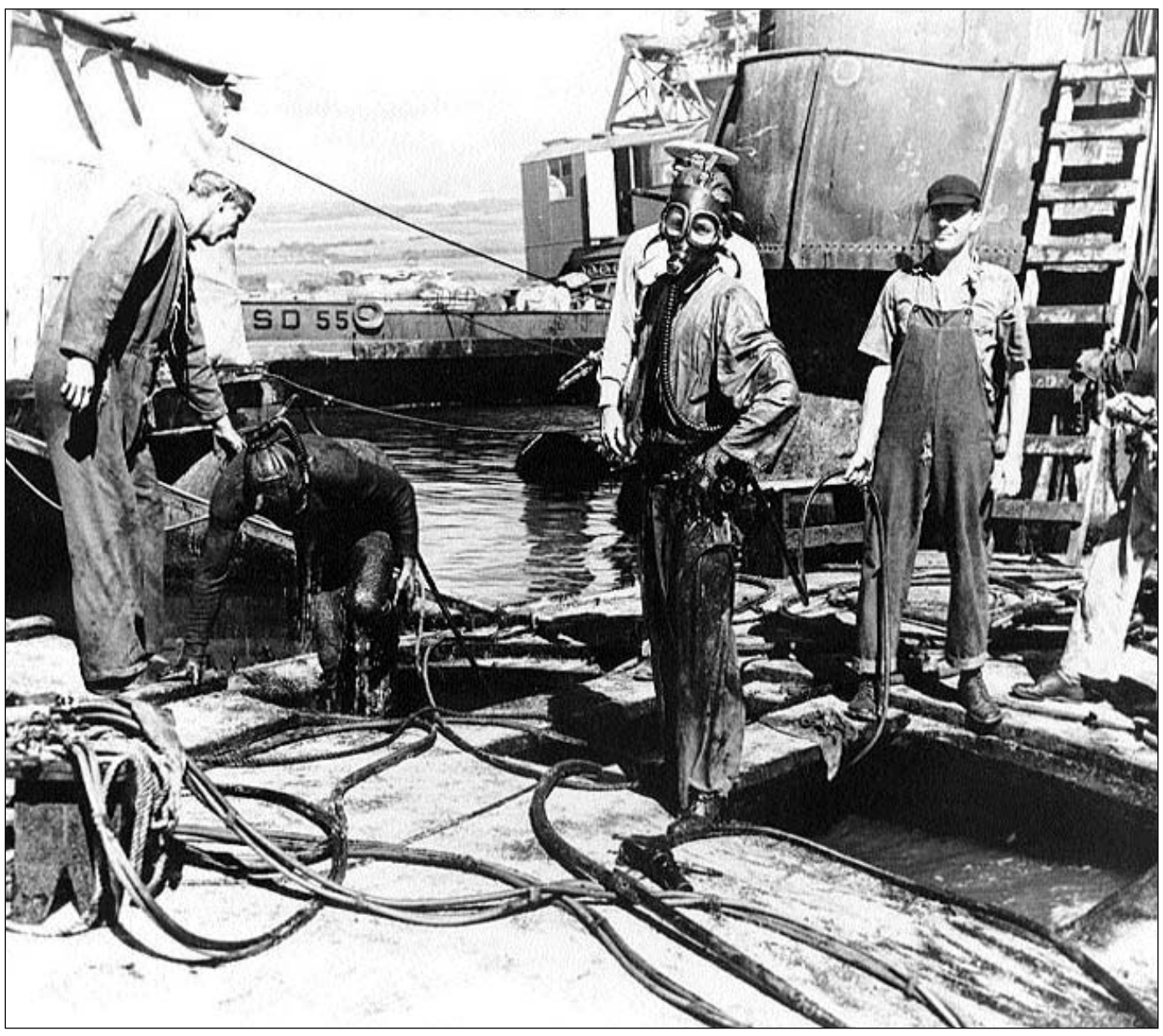
Our third priority is executing a comprehensive recovery effort. We're focusing on restoring power and lines of communication that have been knocked out during the storm. We'll be repairing major roads and bridges and other essential means of transportation as quickly as possible.

There's a lot of work we're going to have to do. In my flyover, I saw a lot of destruction on major infrastructure. Repairing the infrastructure, of course, is going to be a key priority.

The Department of Energy is approving loans from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to limit disruptions in crude supplies for refineries. A lot of crude production has been shut down because of the storm. I instructed Secretary Bodman to work with refiners, people who need crude oil, to alleviate any shortage through loans. The Environmental Protection Agency has granted a nationwide waiver for fuel blends to make more gasoline and diesel fuel available throughout the country. This will help take some pressure off of gas price. But our citizens must understand this storm has disrupted the capacity to make gasoline and distribute gasoline.The folks on the Gulf Coast are going to need the help of this country for a long time. This is going to be a difficult road. The challenges that we face on the ground are unprecedented. But there's no doubt in my mind we're going to succeed. Right now the days seem awfully dark for those affected -- I understand that. But I'm confident that, with time, you can get your life back in order, new communities will flourish, the great city of New Orleans will be back on its feet, and America will be a stronger place for it.

The country stands with you. We'll do all in our power to help you. May God bless you.

Picking up the pieces



U.S. Navy historical photo

Pearl Harbor Salvage Operations, 1942-43. Members of the diving crew emerge from water-filled compartments of the sunken battleship Arizona (BB-39) at Pearl Harbor on May 25, 1943. They are removing elements of the ship's armament and other items for reuse. Arizona sunk in the December 7, 1941 Japanese air raid. Her hull was left where she sank, after removal of most of her superstructure and salvage of her 14-inch gun turrets and other guns.

Hawai'i Navy News

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COMDESRON-31 changes hands

U.S. Navy photo by PHAN John Jackson

Capt. Fred Pfirrmann is piped ashore after he assumed command of Destroyer Squadron 31 during at a change of command ceremony onboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial Aug. 25. Pfirrmann relieved Capt. Pete Gumataotao as commanding officer of Commander, Destroyer Squadron 31. Gumataotao will transfers to his new command as Director of Current Operations with United States Pacific Command. Destroyer Squadron 31 is home ported in Pearl Harbor and includes USS Chafee (DDG 90), USS Chung Hoon (DDG 93), USS Crommelin (FFG 37), USS Hopper (DDG 70), USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), USS Russell (DDG 59), USS Reuben James (FFG 57) and USS O'Kane (DDG 77).

USS Salvor (ARS 52) wins environmental quality award

Terri Kojima
CNRH Environmental Public Affairs

U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Corwin Colbert

Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale presents the environmental quality award to Lt. Cmdr. John C. Howard, commander of USS Salvor (ARS 52), who accepts the award on behalf of the crew.

Crew members of USS Salvor (ARS 52), the U.S. Navy's salvage experts of the Third Fleet, were recognized for their tremendous oil cleanup effort in the Pacific Theater at an awards ceremony held on the ship's fantail Wednesday morning.

Before a group of more than 75 Sailors, Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale, Commander of Navy Region Hawaii, presented the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet winner's plaque to the ship's commanding officer, Lt. Cmdr. John C. Howard. The plaque memorializes Salvor's winning the prestigious 2004 Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Quality Award.

The Region commander lauded Salvor's Sailors for the successful recovery of almost two million gallons of diesel fuel from the ex-USS Mississinewa (AO-59).

"This award is presented in response to your outstanding efforts to extract 1.9 million gallons of fuel from the former USS Mississinewa, which was sunk during World War II and lies 150 feet below the ocean's surface near the islands of the Ulithi Atoll," said Vitale. He commended the Sailors for a "job well done" and for putting forth a "tremendous effort."

According to Salvor's award nomination, the sunken vessel started leaking oil after lying beneath the ocean's surface for the past 60 years, threatening hundreds of square miles of pristine reef and fishing grounds. The Salvor's oil recovery and stabilizing of the Mississinewa's corroding hull eliminated the threat of future leaks and ultimately preserved the way of life for over 700 island inhabitants of the Ulithi Atoll in the Federated States of Micronesia. Failure of the sunken vessel's hull would have severely impacted the ocean's delicate eco-system, which would not only threaten the well being of endangered species in the ocean, but also the primary food source for island inhabitants who depend largely on the ocean for their daily meals.

Besides successfully removing nearly two million gallons of Navy special crude oil, some of Salvor's additional award accomplishments included:

- Completed an unprecedented 214 incident-free dives with over 183 cumulative hours of time on the ocean floor, stabilized the entire hull structure, placed 20 hot taps, and assessed 21 tanks
- Effectively planned and coordinated the successful efforts of five vessels, 30 civilian contractors, 130 military personnel and over 10 million dollars worth of salvage equipment
- Completed the defueling mission 30 percent faster than scheduled, thereby minimizing risk to the environment
- Consistently and professionally provided diving, technical and humanitarian support to the inhabited islands of the Ulithi Atoll, Federated States of Micronesia and other operating forces of the U.S. Navy assigned to Salvor's task element.

ESG-1 conducts successful EOD exercise with Australian navy

PH3 (AW/SW) Tony Spiker
Expeditionary Strike Group1
Public Affairs

The members of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 3 Detachment 7 and EOD Marines from the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit conducted training exercises in Darwin, Australia with the Australian Clearance Diving Teams (AUSCDT) from Aug. 15-21.

The teams spent their time suspended from the bottom of flying aircraft, sliding down ropes and jumping from hovering helicopters, diving among sunken war relics and driving at high speed down the dirt roads of the Northern Territory.

"EOD is a reactive community; we do a dangerous job when called to do it," said Lt. Scott Kerns, officer in charge of the detachment. "In the meantime, it is great to be in a job where the training and real-world operations are such a rush."

One such training event was the helo-cast and recovery. In it, a helicopter flies low and slow over the water near the target, allowing the EOD team members to jump out one at a time. The technique is used for quick insertion to dispose of floating mines that pose a hazard to shipping.

The teams also practiced special purpose insertion and extraction (SPIE) and fast roping. These techniques are used for tactical insertion for a ground or ship target. In SPIE rigging, up to eight personnel are attached to a rope suspended from a helicopter and lifted off or set on the ground without having to land the helicopter. In fast roping, EOD team members slide down a rope from a helicopter, sometimes as high as 60 feet off the ground.

The training improved the tactical proficiency for the Navy and Marine EOD units as ESG-1 heads into the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations, but it had other benefits as well.

"The whole point of interoperability is to improve the relationship in the Navy and Marine Corps Team. In the past, exercises such as this have only included members of the Australian navy and our Navy. In this exercise, we were able to include the Marine EOD unit, which added another level of cooperation to the event," said Kerns. "[And] as always, serving alongside the first-rate sailors of Australia is an honor."

"I love working with the AUSCDTs," said Chief Gunner's Mate Jerry Huff. "They are extremely professional and top notch in their field. They work hard and play hard and this experience has definitely strengthened the bond between our units."

U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Refugio Carrillo

Members of EODMU-11 participate in a fast rope exercise involving repelling out of an HH-60H Seahawk helicopter assigned to the Eightballers of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Eight (HS-8). Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group is currently deployed to the 6th Fleet area of operations. USS Carl Vinson will end its deployment with a homeport shift to Norfolk, VA. and commence a three-year refuel and complex overhaul.

CNO: Sea power a force for good

Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Mullen defined his vision of sea power as a "force for good" while speaking at the Worldwide Commandants' Conference on Aug. 23 in Arlington, Va.

"Sea power [should also be used] as way to understand, as a way to deliver hope and empower where there is the will and desire to be empowered," he told the commandants and chiefs of navies from 26 countries assembled at the conference.

The conference, hosted by Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Mike Hagee, was designed to stimulate discussion about future cooperation, humanitarian missions, the role of maritime nations in the global war on terror and the continuing relevance of strong sea power.

Mullen said teamwork was the first real requirement of sea power and he pointed to the Navy's close relationship with the Marine Corps as proof.

"When I talk about partnerships, my first partner is (Gen.) Mike Hagee. The synergy that we bring to the expeditionary nature of our business has been proven throughout history. I believe this really is the essence of sea power," he added.

Adm. Michael G. Mullen

Equally important to teamwork is the ability to constantly change to meet new operational requirements and threats, something Mullen noted the sea services were particularly well-suited to do.

"There's a lot of talent in our Navy. We are deep with talent and it's important for us to look for ways to relieve some of the stress on the force," Mullen said. "Essentially, where I would like the United States Navy to go, and in a complimentary way with the United States Marine Corps, is in the maritime domain wherever the requirement exists. That's an area we should have some expertise."

Mullen noted there are nearly 4,000 U.S. Sailors on the ground in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait and that the service may soon be replacing Army units in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as well as assuming command of joint task force operations in the Horn of Africa.

He stressed that international cooperation was also the key to success in any military endeavor.

Before becoming the Navy's 28th CNO, Mullen commanded NATO's Joint Force Command Naples in Italy, a command that included peacekeeping forces in Kosovo.

The international community can and must "assist so that standards of living can be improved, so people can live and raise their families in a secure environment, and that there is a future hope for the young people," he said.

"To do that, and especially to help the young people around the world, drives me every single day. Not just there (Kosovo), we have all been in places around the world where that's been the case," Mullen continued. "But it is [being] that force for good, in addition to clearly being able to carry out the war fighting mission, that makes us unique."

Katrina impacts Navy recruiters

Jeffrey Nichols
Navy Recruiting Command
Public Affairs

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Navy recruiters and their families in Florida and along the Gulf Coast are assessing the damage. So far there have been no report of death or injuries among Navy Recruiting personnel living in the storm's path.

There are five recruiting commands affected: NRD Miami (initial landfall), NRD Montgomery, Navy Recruiting Orientation Unit (NORU), Pensacola, NRD New Orleans and Reserve Recruiting Region also located in New Orleans.

A muster of recruiting personnel in the affected area is 99 percent complete. Katrina destroyed communications in a wide area of the Gulf Coast preventing accurate and timely information.

NRD Miami reported that all personnel were accounted for and that three Sailors were without power and others had water damage to furniture and carpet.

New Orleans is a totally different scene where damage assessment will not be clear for several days with many Sailor's and civilian's homes still underwater or destroyed. Thirteen Recruiting stations in Louisiana and Mississippi, including the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS), New Orleans, are closed or damaged.

All recruiting personnel in the affected region needing information should contact the Navy Recruiting Command at the following numbers:

(901)874-9492
(901)874-9493

SNA West Coast Symposium 2005 outlines the Navy's future

JOSN Joseph Caballero
Fleet Public Affairs Center, Pacific

More than 150 officers and senior enlisted attended the Surface Navy Association's (SNA) West Coast Symposium on Aug. 18 at Naval Base San Diego.

'Plotting the Future of Surface Warfare' was the theme of the symposium. The day-long event included briefs, question and answer sessions, and discussions about various challenges facing the Navy.

According to Vice Adm. Terrance T. Etnyre, commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, it is and always has been necessary for the Navy to change in order to succeed.

"Other industries are experiencing change in the competitive global market because new technology drives success and creates a smarter workforce," said Etnyre. "Unlike these companies, the Navy has been competing globally for over 200 years and that has made us effective."

Capt. Phillip R. Lamonica, commanding officer of Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center, said that one of the biggest changes the Navy started to implement is streamlining training and management. By modernizing the way the Navy trains and manages Sailors, it is creating a more competitive and talented Navy.

"We want to make training shorter, but more meaningful so Sailors can get to their ships sooner," said Lamonica.

Lamonica said that Sailors could do additional training once on their ships. He mentioned that e-learning and Navy Knowledge Online would play a major role in the training of future Sailors.

Another topic was the importance of the DD(X), CG(X) and the littoral combat ship (LCS) platforms. The first LCS, USS Freedom (LCS 1), was introduced into the fleet earlier this year.

"We're leading change with LCS and DD(X). These ships truly exemplify cutting-edge technology that will revolutionize the way we fight," said Etnyre.

SNA's West Coast Symposium was established mainly to stimulate communication between the military and civilian businesses and markets. The association was started in 1985 to raise awareness about the role of surface forces in the Navy.

Boxer Sailors host health training and provide care in the Marshall Islands

LISN Jessica R. Vargas
USS Boxer Public Affairs

USS Boxer (LHD 4) Sailors, with the help of Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Ministry of Health and Laura Community Health Center, provided medical and dental care to more than 1,500 Marshallese Aug. 26 and 27 during a port visit to Majuro, the capital of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The two-day medical fair, which involved several weeks of advance planning and the preparation of $15,000 worth of supplies, focused on Marshallese school children who do not receive routine medical and dental care. However, everyone in the community was welcomed for treatment.

"This was a great opportunity for us to come together as one and actually make a difference in the lives of an entire community," said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Simone E. Reid of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. "Not only were we able to provide care to people who needed it, we also learned a lot about Marshallese culture."

A broad range of patients was seen, from infants to Majuro's elderly. While the ship's medical department treated a variety of afflictions, from skin infections to diabetes, the dental department performed routine exams, fluoride treatments and more than 150 oral surgeries.

"It's wonderful that Boxer is reaching out to the community in this way," said Lina Hills, a registered nurse for the RMI Ministry of Health. "Often Marshallese cannot afford medical treatment so it goes neglected. They feel welcomed by the Sailors and are very grateful to receive care."

In addition to the medical and dental care, Boxer Sailors offered dental education and handed out toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss to patients while they waited to be seen by medical professionals. They also donated an assortment of medications to the health center pharmacy.

U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Christopher Elmini

A Marshallese boy is treated by Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Charles McMahon and Storekeeper 3rd Class Veronica Perez at a health fair provided by Sailors assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4). Boxer's visit to the island gave the Sailors and Marines a chance to conduct a community outreach program and experience Marshallese culture as well as provide some much-needed assistance in the form of medical aid, education, construction and repairs to schools and other buildings.

"The Republic of the Marshall Islands is a developing nation. Frequent shortages of medicine and supplies slow down our efforts with health care," said Dr. Ohnmar Tut, a physician at the Laura Community Health Center. "The medicine and supplies are a tremendous contribution to the community. We are very grateful for this visit from Boxer's Sailors."

Boxer's visit to the island also gave Sailors and Marines a chance to experience Marshallese culture as well as provide additional assistance in the form of education, construction and repairs to schools and other buildings.

Hydro blast machinery revolutionizes Navy's way of removing non-skid

JO1(SW) James Evans Coyle
USS Essex Public Affairs

USS Essex (LHD 2) took another step to replace the "non-skid" aboard the ship Aug. 26 using a hydro-blast method, a method that is saving valuable man-hours and money during the ship's current selected restricted availability period.

Non-skid is a deck covering that prevents equipment, people and aircraft from slipping or sliding. More than 130,000 square feet of Essex's non-skid is expected to be replaced. That includes 844 feet of the flight deck, the massive hangar bay, vehicle stowage areas, other wind tunnels and passageways that require the Navy's standard skid-resistant deck coating.

According to air department's Aviation Boatswain's Mate (handling) 1st Class (AW/SW) David Wykes, quality assurance assistant, the hydro blast method is the most effective way of removing non-skid.

The hydro blast equipment uses high-pressure air and water directed against the non-skid through an enclosed circular opening on the deck. The equipment is simply moved over the non-skid surface and in seconds, there is bare metal left where once there was non-skid covering.

"The opening is about as big as a large-size pizza," said Wykes. "It's so much cleaner and easier. Once the water comes out of the opening, not only does it remove the non-skid, but it also cleans the deck to the metal surface and it dries immediately. With the ball bearing blast, you had BBs flying into the deck at high pressure and they caused additional rust that had to be removed later. The hydro blast is really very, very good" she said.

"This is my first time experiencing the hydro blast method of removing non-skid," said Wykes. "The old way of BB blasting the non-skid off...really doesn't make sense anymore after you see how this hydro blast way works."

Essex is the Navy's only forward-deployed, amphibious assault ship operating out of Sasebo, Japan. Essex serves under Task Force 76, Amphibious Group 1, which serves as the U.S. 7th Fleet's amphibious arm as part of forward-deployed operations.

NEPMU6 Sailors return from deployments

Story and photo by
JO2 Corwin Colbert
Staff writer

The last three Sailors from Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit Six (NEPMU6) returned from a deployment Aug. 29. However, this was not a typical shipboard deployment but rather, a humanitarian assistance deployment to the Marshall Islands.

The team that included Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Orville Nolen and HM1 Renato Ngo in conjunction with Sailors aboard USS Boxer (LHD 4), the local government and the local Environmental Protection Agency performed many environmental assessments. These assessments are to control or eliminate volatile bacteria and diseases. It will also improve the quality of life for the Marshall Island citizens.

Some of the assessments the unit conducted were water quality, soil samples and air filter tests.

"It was an entomology mission," said Lt. Cmdr. Duane Eggert, assistant to the officer in charge. "We were spraying pesticides and checking the mosquito population.

It is important to prevent or contain diseases such as dengue fever and malaria."

Nolen said they also wanted to make sure the water was potable and drinkable.

"We obtained soil samples from dump sites to test for chemicals that may be harmful if it ended up in a water supply and tested the air for harmful emissions from the diesel-fuel power plant," he said.

The Marshall Islands, a group of atolls and reefs in the North Pacific Ocean about half way between Hawai'i and Australia, is one of the many deployments the unit has returned from this year.

Before going to the Marshall Islands, the unit aided in tsunami relief and supported the coalition in Iraq earlier in the year.

According to the officer in charge of NEPMU6, NEPM units are unique. Capt. Gail Hathaway explained the Navy is the only service that has separate preventive medicine units. The other services assign preventive medicine physicians to each battalion. Because Navy's preventive medicine units are separate and located strategically around the world, they are able to respond to many humanitarian disasters.

Despite many deployments to different countries NEPMU's main mission is not humanitarian relief but protecting service members from potential hazardous viruses, bacteria, and biological and chemical warfare agents.

"When we do assessments in a different country, it's a win, win situation. We help the locals as well as protect our Sailors," said Ngo.

Returning recently from a deployment in Iraq, Lt. Cmdr. Douglas Putthoff gave a perfect example of how important their job was.

While in Iraq, a platoon on watch noticed a truck with heavy sacks driving toward them. A few sacks fell off and the men recovered all but one. The one sack was broken and a dust filled the air. A stray dog approached the bag and began sniffing and licking it. The Soldiers continued their watch and in a few minutes, they noticed the dog dead right beside the bag.

"At this point I believe the Soldiers were at high alert," said Putthoff. "They called us up and we had to do an assessment."

After the assessments were completed, all were relieved-the bag was nothing more than wheat flour. The dog was dehydrated and when it ingested the flour, it died instantly.

"This shows how important our job is," said Putthoff. "Even though it was only flour, without a preventive medicine team or proper training, there could have been a potential problem."

HM1 Orville Nolen and HM1 Renato Ngo of the Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit Six test a water sample from the Marshsall Islands while there on deployment. They returned on Aug 29.

Hathaway said even though her unit is made mostly of corpsmen, they are deployable and are proactive, not reactive like the clinics.

"Service members don't come to us; we go to them," she said.

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USS Lake Erie reaches out to help the San Diego community

Lt. Brian Hill, CHC
USS Lake Erie Public Affairs

Sailors from USS Lake Erie (CG70) once again demonstrated their willingness to give of their time and energy to help out the communities they visit. During a two-week stay, 18 crew members helped out on two different occasions by volunteering their time to social service organizations seeking to make an impact on local communities in the San Diego area.

On July 21, Lake Erie assisted a Head Start childcare center in Chula Vista run by Episcopal Community Services. In a three hour time span, three rooms in the center, approximately 50 percent of the facility, were repainted, accelerating a summer renovation program. Head Start was created in the 1960s as part of the federal "war on poverty" programs. This resulted in development of a comprehensive preschool program which included health and social services not only for the child, but the entire family. This program impacts more than 1,600 children throughout the San Diego area and helps transform the lives of thousands every day. Episcopal Community Services has been providing Head Start services since 1978. Lake Erie was proud to play a small part in impacting this community during our short stay.

Later in the visit, Lake Erie Sailors spent the morning at the San Diego Food Bank helping to sort and package food boxes as part of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program project. This food is provided by the government to feed people in the community and the Food Bank makes about 8,000 of these boxes a month with the vast majority going to senior citizens. Working quickly and efficiently in assembly line fashion, Lake Erie crew members were able to complete 360 boxes, each weighing 40 pounds, for a total of 14,400 pounds of food handled and packaged. For those that went on this project, this truly put into perspective the 13 million pounds of food distributed by the Food Bank each year to nearly 150,000 people. In a letter to the ship, Jennifer Ames, volunteer coordinator, wrote, "We rely on volunteers to pack every single box that we distribute. In total, volunteers contribute about 70,000 hours every year. We could not accomplish what we do without your help."

U.S. Navy photo

USS Lake Erie Sailors spent the morning at the San Diego Food Bank on July 26 helping to sort and package food boxes as part of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program project. This food is provided by the government to feed people in the community.

Civil defense: Safety and well-being depends on your preparedness

Continued from A-1

and the animal should be provided with adequate food and water to ride out the storm. The window should be cracked a little for ventilation. "This way, if they [the pet owner] can't get home for several days, they can still check on the animal after the all clear is given," said Gilbert, explaining that this option would give pet owners some peace of mind about their pets.

Another area that could be significantly impacted in the event of a natural disaster is communication. "Everyone relies on phones and cell phones. Communication will be impacted," explained the civil defense disaster preparedness expert. "Have one person designated that you can contact and have a 'call tree,'" advised Gilbert. "That will bring down the level of phone calls on Oahu so it doesn't tie up the telephone network," he said.

In the aftermath of a hurricane or other disaster, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) will be proactive in their communities. "They will help to increase survivability of their communities until an emergency team arrives," explained Gilbert. "People assume that if there is a major disaster, emergency workers will be there right away," he said. He noted that although emergency workers will be there as soon as possible, it may take some time and meanwhile, CERT teams will be there to help.

CERT training is offered free of charge. Trainees learn disaster first aid, triage, light search and rescue, and how to respond to a disaster. Oahu Civil Defense officials will provide training to groups, but the training is also available to individuals. For more information about CERT training, call 523-4121 and ask for the CERT coordinator.

More information and an independent study course on disaster preparedness for citizens are offered on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Web site at www.fema.gov . The Web site also provides a children's page which helps keiki to be better informed and prepared in the event of a natural disaster - presented by a comic character, Herman the spokescrab.

According to Gilbert, some island residents are unaware of the correct plan of action when they hear the civil defense warning sirens. Should you: (a) stay in your house (b) tune in to a local radio or television station and listen for advisories (c) nothing. The correct answer is to tune in to local radio and television broadcasts. He explained that the Emergency Broadcast System will also interrupt local broadcasting.

Civil defense officials and the local branches of the American Red Cross work very closely together to help victims of disasters.

"The most important thing is to be prepared," emphasized Tami Simerlink, station coordinator for the American Red Cross, Hickam Service Center. "In 2004 we had four hurricanes [in the United States] in a six-week period and this latest event should be a wake up call that the weather is unpredictable and disaster can happen at any time. Nearly 60 percent of Americans are unprepared for an emergency," Simerlink continued.

"They [Americans] should also know that the Red Cross is here to help. I encourage everyone to contact their local Red Cross or visit www.redcross.org on information on getting prepared," recommended Simerlink.

Precautions and preparation need to be in place for hurricane season, which lasts from May to November here in Hawai'i. Gilbert noted that residents also need to be aware and prepare for other natural disasters that can occur, such as tsunamis, fire hazards, flash flooding and high winds. He talked about one of those hazards, brush fires, which has caused widespread damage on Oahu this year. "During the summertime, make sure you have brush cut down near your home," he suggested.

No one knows when a hurricane or tropical storm will hit the islands, but it's important to be hurricane-ready and not complacent. Remember the civil defense warning: It's not a matter of if a hurricane will hit our islands, but when. The safety and well being of you and your family will strongly - and possibly totally - depend on your knowledge, your awareness and how well you have prepared. More information about hurricanes and guidelines on hurricane preparedness may be found on Navy Channel 2 and on the Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i Web page: www.hawaii.navy.mil. The Web page includes links to other sites that give helpful information about hurricane preparation.

The family housing Resident Handbook provides guidelines on disaster preparedness and evacuation. The front pages of your Oahu telephone directory are another valuable resource for information on hurricane preparation.

You may also obtain up-to-date information by calling: Oahu Civil Defense recorded information at 527-5372 and National Weather Service recorded advisories at 973-4381. In the event of an approaching hurricane, listen to the weather advisories on local radio and television stations.

Photo courtesy of Oahu Civil Defense

Civil defense officials warn that waiting until the last minute to assemble your home survival kit with food, medicines, bottled water, etc. is not a good idea. By waiting too long to prepare, you may find that it is impossible to find the essentials that you need to ride out the storm. The last time a major hurricane hit the island chain was in September 1992 when Hurricane Iniki wreaked havoc on the islands. It left more than $2.3 billion in damages on Kauai in its wake.

Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund

Many military families have been affected by the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. The best way to help the hurricane victims is to coordinate with established groups, such as FEMA, Red Cross or the Salvation Army, as they already have the means to get into the disaster areas and render assistance. What is needed most at this time is money. The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is also taking donations. Make sure you annotate on your check that the money is for the Hurricane Katrina relief fund. Each of the following sites have donation capabilities online:

NMCRS Headquarters
Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society
875 North Randolph Street, Suite 225
Arlington VA 22203-1977

http://www.nmcrs.org/index.

SNA holds awards luncheon at Rainbow Bay Marina

Story and photo by
PH2 Dennis C. Cantrell
Contributing Writer

The Surface Navy Association (SNA), Pearl Harbor held its annual awards luncheon Aug. 26 at Rainbow Bay Marina. Eighteen Sailors were awarded for their outstanding performance in surface warfare.

Capt. Dell Epperson, president of the Pearl Harbor chapter of the Surface Navy Association, said, "This is always the highlight of our year, when we take the time to recognize all of the hard work and dedication that is a part of our chosen profession as surface warriors.

"The packages we received only confirmed what we all know - there are many, many talented bluejackets, chiefs and officers across the waterfront, and so it made it extremely tough to narrow it down," said Epperson.

The guest speaker for the luncheon, Adm. Gary Roughead, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, spoke to Sailors and expressed his gratitude for their hard work and his congratulations to the Sailors that were nominated.

"It's great to be here and what an appropriate site to hold this awards luncheon. I couldn't ask for more than to be here today on the water with a group of surface warriors that embodies camaraderie and brings our Navy community together," he said.

The Tribute to Freedom Award recognizes a bluejacket who demonstrated superior across-the-board performance over the past year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, the global war on terrorism, or in operations in support of homeland defense including counter-drug operations. The awardees received $100 cash and a three-year membership to SNA. Fire Controlman 2nd Class (SW) Nathaniel Melvin from USS Hopper (DDG 70), Mechanical 1st Class (SW) Donald Ling from USS Lake Erie (CG 70), Ship's Serviceman 1st Class (SW) Christopher Fitzgerald from USS Chung Hoon (DDG 93) and Mechanical 1st Class (SW) Richard Scozzafava of USS Chafee (DDG 93) all received the Tribute to Freedom Award.

The BMC Estes Award recognizes superior leadership demonstrated by a surface warfare qualified chief petty officer while assigned to a surface ship home ported at Pearl Harbor. The awardee received a "Lone Sailor" statue along with a three-year membership in SNA. Additionally, his name will be inscribed on a plaque that resides in the offices of the Naval Surface Force Middle Pacific. Gunners' Mate Chief (surface warfare) Jack Black from USS Crommelin (FFG 37) was awarded the BMC Estes Award.

Special guest speaker Adm. Gary Roughead, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, spoke to Sailors and expressed his gratitude for their hard work and his congratulations to the Sailors that were nominated at the Surface Navy Association Awards luncheon on Aug. 26.

The Vice Admiral Robert K.U. Kihune Leadership Award recognizes superior leadership demonstrated by a surface warfare-qualified junior officer while assigned to a surface ship homeported at Pearl Harbor. The awardee received a framed print along with a three-year membership in SNA and will have his name engraved on a plaque, which will hang in the Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific offices. Lt. Julie Grunwell from USS Hopper (DDG 70) was awarded the Vice Admiral Robert K. U. Kihune Leadership Award.

The SNA was incorporated in 1985 to promote greater coordination and communication among those in the military, business and academic communities who share a common interest in naval surface warfare and to support the activities of surface naval forces. The SNA's first elected president, Vice Adm. Robert L. Walters, presided over the first board meeting in January 1987. In an effort to expand the communication and education goals of the SNA, an annual symposium and convention was begun in 1988.

DoD announces SGLI coverage takes effect Sept. 1

U.S. Department of Defense

The Department of Defense announced Aug. 30 that the Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) maximum coverage increased to $400,000 on Sept. 1.

On that date, all members eligible for SGLI will automatically be insured for the maximum coverage of $400,000. The monthly SGLI premium remains $3.25 per $50,000 of coverage, so the monthly premium for full coverage will be $26 beginning in September 2005.

These changes will not affect coverage under Family SGLI, which will continue under previously existing elections.

A member who wishes to retain the $400,000 of coverage with beneficiary designations as before Sept. 1 does not need to take any action. The $400,000 of coverage will apply along with the new premiums, and beneficiary designations will remain the same as those in effect before Sept. 1.

Even members who had previously declined SGLI coverage or elected less than the maximum coverage will automatically be covered for $400,000 effective Sept. 1. If they wish to again decline or reduce the coverage, they must complete a new SGLV 8286 form (September 2005 version) indicating the amount of coverage desired, including no coverage if applicable.

If the member properly completes and submits the form before Sept. 30, the member will not be liable for the September 2005 premium associated with the reduced or declined portion of coverage.

This gives members 30 days to reduce or decline unwanted coverage without charge. Units will be asked to process elections as expeditiously as possible to avoid the necessity for corrections in financial transactions.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service will refund premiums deducted for coverage in September, when the member files a valid election to reduce or decline the coverage between Sept. 1-30, 2005.

The new SGLV 8286 form is now available on the Department of Veterans Affairs Web site at www.insurance.va.gov . Entries can be made on the page and then downloaded.

Valid SGLI elections become effective the first day of the month after properly submitting the election form. All members of the uniformed services will be fully insured for $400,000 throughout the month of September, regardless of any election filed before or during September.

If a member dies in September after completing an election for reduced coverage or no coverage, the member's beneficiaries will still receive a $400,000 payment. Those electing to decline or reduce coverage during September will essentially receive the September automatic coverage at no cost.

Members who do not make an election to reduce or decline coverage from the $400,000 level before Oct. 1, will pay the premium for the full $400,000 of coverage for September as well as for any other month in which the level of coverage remains in effect.

When a member properly completes and submits SGLV Form 8286 on or after Oct. 1, to reduce or decline coverage, the reduction is effective the first day of the month after the form is properly submitted.

Changes to SGLI program, such as an increase in the maximum level of coverage, are a matter of law. This change was made in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005 (Public Law 109-13, May 11, 2005).

Florida Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Shaun Withers

Hurricane Katrina tosses boats and floods the coastline in Pensacola, Fla. as it makes landfall. Katrina, a category 4 hurricane, came ashore at 7:10 a.m. EST near the Louisiana bayou town of Buras. At least a half-million people were without power from Louisiana to Florida's Panhandle, including 370,000 in Southeastern Louisiana and 116,400 in Alabama, mostly in the Mobile area.

Navy Gulfport shelter survives Hurricane Katrina

Rod Duren

Naval Hospital Pensacola

Public Affairs

More than 1,300 military and local civilians were gathered together for shelter Aug. 28-29 in a Seabee heavy equipment warehouse as Hurricane Katrina bore down on the northern Gulf of Mexico coastline.

"Everybody's fine, but tired," said Lt. Cmdr. Matt Grimes, emerging from the Navy's hurricane shelter aboard the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, Miss.

Grimes, the officer in charge of the Naval Branch Health Clinic at Gulfport, and 14 other members of his medical, nursing and dental staff were 'hunkered-down' with people ranging in age from one to 90 at the base shelter to "provide medical support through the duration," said Capt. Charles Harris, director of branch clinics at Gulfport's parent command, Naval Hospital Pensacola, Fla.

"Keep the troops and their positive attitude up," encouraged Harris.

"We're all OK," said Grimes, "but it's pretty bad." There was damage to most buildings he could see from outside the shelter, but the one he was most concerned about was out of eyeshot - the branch health clinic.

"We'll assess the clinic site" when the base says it is okay to return, the Medical Service Corps officer continued. Also standing by to assist will be Naval Hospital (NH) Pensacola's Environmental Health Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Wayne Chardon.

NH Pensacola is the parent command of 12 branch health clinics in four states. Before the day was done, seven had been affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Hawai'i Navy News Sports

Midshipmen open volleyball season

Naval Academy Varsity Athletics

The 2005 Navy volleyball season opened this Aug. 25 with the Mids playing four matches in less than a week in Pennsylvania, New York and Washington, D.C. The Mids played their first match of the year at Saint Francis in Loretto, Pa., then faced both University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) and Canisius in Buffalo before taking on Howard on Sept. 6 in our nation's capital.

Navy will be looking to replicate its strong start to last year, one which saw the Mids begin the season with six-straight wins and victories in 10 of their first 11 matches. That strong start boosted the Mids to a 21-9 record on the season and into a tie for third place in the Patriot League with an 8-6 record.

"Our great start last year really gave us a lot of confidence as we entered league play," said Navy head coach Mike Schwob. "It didn't come without a lot of hard work, though, and we need to remember that as we get set to begin this year.

"We are anxious and excited to start the season this week" he said.

Saint Francis enters the new year with eight freshmen on its roster following a 2004 season which saw the Red Flash post a 9-25 overall record and a 5-3 mark in the Northeast Conference. Only six players return from last year's team, but included among the returnees is outside hitter Anne Roosevelt who led the squad in both kills (425, 3.51 kpg) and digs (397, 3.28 dpg) one year ago. While Roosevelt is the lone returning player to have knocked down more than 200 kills last year, she is one of three players who return after hauling in more than 200 digs.

Saint Francis was selected to place fourth in the North East Conference this year in the league's preseason poll.

The Mids and the Red Flash also opened the 2004 season against each other, with Navy posting a 30-17, 30-17, 30-16 victory in Macdonough Hall. Navy's Beth McArthur (Roseville, Minn.) recorded 11 kills and hit .562 to lead all players, while Roosevelt led the Red Flash with 10 kills.

The Mids hold a 9-1 advantage in the series with the Red Flash and have posted a 2-1 record in matches played in Loretto.

UMES returns just one starter and three letterwinners from last year's team which reached the championship match of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Tournament. The lone starter returning from last year's team which posted a 19-16 overall record and an 8-2 mark in the MEAC is setter Kate Smith, who dished out 1,265 assists on the season.

Navy has posted a 12-2 all-time record against UMES, including a 7-2 mark during Navy's Division I era (since 1991), but Navy's two losses have come in the last two meetings between the teams. After defeating the Mids in five games during a 2002 meeting in Princess Anne, UMES swept Navy in three games during the 2003 season in Macdonough Hall.

UMES will face both Canisius and Buffalo Friday before taking on the Mids.

Canisius was tabbed to place fourth in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, one year after recording an 11-15 overall record and a 4-5 record in conference play. Headlining the returning players for the Golden Griffins are preseason all-league selections Lauren Lackovich and 2004 Co-MAAC Defensive Player of the Year Jess Stackhouse.

The Golden Griffins opened their 2005 season by dropping three matches at the Akron Invitational. Canisius lost in four games to Robert Morris, three games to Akron and five games to Youngstown State. Canisius hit .117 and averaged 12.3 kills per game while allowing its opponents to hit .270 and average 17 kills per game. Lackovich averaged just under 10 assists per game (9.75 apg), while Stackhouse averaged 5.75 digs per game. Middle hitter Mary Boller and outside hitter Aislinn Hayes each averaged 2.92 kills per game to lead the Canisius offense.

Navy has won three of the four previous meetings against Canisius, with the Aug. 27 contest marking the first between the teams in six years.

While Navy's opening three opponents are each attempting to replace the majority of their lineups, Howard returns half of its starting lineup and six of its nine letterwinners from last year's team. Gone is Second-Team All-MEAC performer Kollin Hoskins, but back from the squad which posted a 7-21 overall record and a 4-6 league mark are starting setter Shannon Grant (797 assists) and right side hitter Kimberley Dexter (261 kills, 232 digs).

Navy has won six straight matches against Howard dating back to the 1997 season, but three of those contests were extended to five games. In last year's meeting, the Mids dropped the first game to the Lady Bison before rallying to post a 22-30, 30-22, 30-28, 30-17 victory in Macdonough Hall. Rachel Dougherty, who recorded nine kills and hit .474, is Navy's top returning offensive player from that match. Howard returns two of the three players who recorded double-digit kills in that match in Morgan Maxwell (12 kills) and Dexter (11).

The Mids have posted a 7-2 record against the Lady Bison as a Division I program and have a 19-2 all-time record against Howard.

Photo courtesy of Naval Academy Varsity Athletics

The Mids played their first match of the year Aug. 25 at Saint Francis in Loretto, Pa.