



The fight at home
U.S. Navy assists in the relief of Hurricane Katrina's devastation. See story on page A-5.



Yesterday and today
Navy prepares for its 230th birthday. See story on page B-1.

Hawaii Navy News Briefs

Car wash for Hurricane Katrina victims
Firefighters from the Center for Naval Engineering (CNE) at Naval Station Pearl Harbor are sponsoring a car wash and hot dog sale from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today at the CNE firefighting school compound. All proceeds from the event will be contributed to the American Red Cross to benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina, the worst natural disaster in American history. The CNE firefighting compound is located one mile south of Nimitz Gate just before the back gate to Hickam Air Force Base. The price for the car wash will be based on individual donations. For more information, call ENCS Rivera at 471-9884, ext. 22.

JEMS Job Fair
Joint Employment Management System (JEMS) will hold its 18th annual JEMS Job Fair from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 13 at Club Pearl at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The event is open to all military ID card holders including active duty personnel, military family members, retirees, reservists and Department of Defense and Coast Guard employees with base access. For more information, call the JEMS office at 473-0190.

Pearl Harbor commemorates end of WWII

JO3 Ryan C. McGinley
Staff Writer

More than 2,000 military personnel, veterans and invited guests commemorated the 60th anniversary of Japan's formal surrender, which marked the end of World War II, on board the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Sept. 2 at Pearl Harbor.

The surrender, which took place on board USS Missouri (BB 63) on Sept. 2, 1945, in Tokyo Bay, marked the end of a four-year battle which began Dec. 7, 1941 in Pearl Harbor and claimed almost 300,000 American lives.

"On this day 60 years ago in Tokyo Bay, Japan formally and unconditionally surrendered to the Allied Forces on the decks of this great ship, thus ending the war of all wars," said Capt. (ret.) Donald R. Hess, president and chief operating officer for the USS Missouri Memorial Association.

Adm. Gary Roughead, the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, was the keynote speaker for the event and expressed his admiration for the veterans on behalf of the entire Navy.

"As I stand here on Adm. Halsey's flagship, in command of Adm. Chester Nimitz's fleet, speaking on the deck where General Douglas MacArthur participated in the World War II surrender ceremony 60 years ago, I'm humbled and overcome with the significance of this day. On behalf of all who stand watch today in defense of our nation and our liberty, thank you for your service and sacrifice. Words cannot adequately express the great respect and admiration that we have for you," said Roughead.

Roughead also noted the importance of today's Sailors who continue to fight for the same freedoms fought for in World War II.

"Perhaps though, our gratitude for



▼ See END OF WWII, A-2

Paul Hamilton back home



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

Family and friends welcomed home more than 300 Sailors of the Pearl Harbor-based guided missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) as they returned Sept. 8 from a four and a half month deployment. Commanded by Cmdr. Werner Julinka, USS Paul Hamilton deployed in support of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2005. While away from homeport, the Sailors trained with numerous Southeast Asian navies to foster relations in support of the global war on terrorism.

FFSC offers New Parent Support Program

Karen Spangler
Assistant Editor

Having a new baby or being a parent can be one of life's most rewarding experiences. But the parental experience can also present some of life's most difficult challenges. For both first-time parents who are learning new skills as well as parents who have been raising their families for awhile and may need to learn some new parenting strategies, the New Parent Support Program at Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) offers a myriad of helpful resources and information.

One focus of the program, described as a "prevention-oriented" resource for Navy families, is to provide information, education and home visits for new moms and moms-to-be. Pamela Lyman, a clinical social worker with the program, explained that the focus is high-risk fami-

lies. A number of criteria are used to evaluate each client and determine eligibility for the program.

Referrals come through various means - from the staff at local hospitals and clinics, commands, from other staff at FFSC, and occasionally, self-referrals.

She explained that because there are only two social workers involved with the program, compared to thousands of Navy and Coast Guard families, they can't see everyone. "We prioritize and work with families who can most benefit from our services," she said.

Families who are not accepted into the New Parent Support Program may be referred to other options that can be of help, such as the Family Advocacy Prevention (FAP) program at FFSC or the Welcome Home Baby program, offered through the Armed Services Young Man's

▼ See PARENT, A-4

Detailers connect with Chafee Sailors at the "Tip of the Spear"

USS Chafee
Public Affairs

How do you detail 51 Sailors deployed to the Arabian Gulf? Just pull up a chair and line them up. The guided missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) and Commander Naval Personnel Command (PERSCOM) participated in a video teleconferencing (VTC) session for 51 crew members on Aug. 5. The highly successful event was the vision of CMDM(SW/SS) Bennett R. Ray, Chafee's command master chief. Ray, a former detailer, realized that this process would not only save time, but that it would also afford his Sailors the opportunity to speak "face-to-face" with their

detailers while seated next to their mentors and command leadership team.

"PERS has the resources to make the difference with these Sailors in their next career move and to assist the command in retaining these great Sailors in our Navy. It was imperative that the chain of command was there to support the Sailors as they make this critical decision," said Ray.

Setting up the VTC wasn't an easy task. "There were several obstacles that we had to overcome and it would take the teamwork of both PERS and Commander Central Command (CENTCOM) to make this a reality," said event coordinator PNC(SW/AW) Angel L. Torres. "First of all,

Chafee was deployed so we had to find a command with established VTC capabilities," he said. "Ms. Gloria Esquivel of CENTCOM worked many of the logistical and technical issues that needed to be resolved before the event. Next, we needed points of contact, with the connections, to coordinate rating detailers and make the VTC a reality. ABCM(AW) Bill Place, PERS-40 senior enlisted advisor was the lynchpin that made our ship's request a reality," said Torres.

Chafee provided a detailed 13-month roller spreadsheet to share information garnered by Chafee's retention team with the detailers. Place coordinated the Sailor scheduling, arranged for the VTC room for

the 16 detailers and provided them with the 13-month roller listing, in advance, for their Sailors. The detailers were able to provide Sailors with critical career counseling information and a realistic idea of what they should expect for their next tour. The coordination between detailers and the command leadership team resulted in the assignment of 31 Sailors during the VTC. Many of these Sailors were selected for such career enhancing billets as recruit division commanders and instructors at Naval Training Center (NTC) Great Lakes and even one as a detailer.

Even though it was 8 a.m. in Millington, it was 4 p.m. in Bahrain, so many Sailors gave up highly-coveted liberty time

to participate in this opportunity. "It was definitely worth it. In 12 years, I've never had the chance to sit down one-on-one with my detailer," said GSMC(SEL) Pierre Brewster. "This definitely made a lasting impression on the detailing process. We could see how the detailers genuinely cared about our careers and professional development." Brewster was selected for instructor duty at NTC Great Lakes.

Probably the greatest impact of the event was for several Chafee Sailors whose spouses are also Sailors. They were able to align their career assignments while maintaining the sea/shore rotation with

▼ See CHAFEE, A-7



U.S. Navy photo
USS Russell (DDG 59) sailed to Seward, Alaska to participate in exercise Northern Edge 2005. In addition, the ship opened its brow to the town for tours in early August.

Aloha from Alaska!

Ensign Amelia Cox
Public Affairs Officer
USS Russell (DDG 59)

On August 1, the Sailors of USS Russell (DDG 59) got underway from tropical Oahu and embarked on a journey to Seward, Alaska to participate in exercise Northern Edge 2005. Everyone packed warm clothing and looked forward to the rough seas and cold weather. While the weather was warmer than expected and the seas relatively calm, the expectations for an exciting port visit were achieved. Upon arrival in Seward, the crew set out for adventures in the last frontier.

The small town of Seward welcomed USS Russell with open arms. Not accustomed to having

large naval ships in the harbor, the people of Seward made sure to take excellent care of the crew. From restaurants to shops, the town of Seward treated the crew of Russell to one of the most hospitable port visits in the ship's history.

Outside town, Seward offered the best of Alaska. Crew members participated in a wide range of outdoor activities, making sure to take in as much of the visit as possible. There were several fishing charters, both out to sea and freshwater fly-fishing in the Kenai Wildlife Refuge. Each Fourth of July, the town holds a race to the top of and back down from Mount Marathon, a 2.3-mile, 3,022-foot elevation mountain above Seward. While no one came close to

breaking the 43-minute and 28-second record, there were several Sailors who did scale the mountain to take advantage of the breathtaking views. Others opted for the more challenging 8-mile hike to the Harding Ice Field, the largest ice field in the world. There were also trips to Exit Glacier, which descends from the ice field. Both trips found Sailors winding their way through a mountain covered with bears and other wildlife, as the hike takes an average of five hours round trip, but offers a view like no other in the world. Still more Sailors went for a more relaxed setting for their sight seeing by chartering small boats for glacier tours and trips around Resurrection Bay or a jour-

ney to the larger city of Anchorage to enjoy the weekend.

In addition to a softball game between the Kenai Fjords Tours team and the Russell, the ship opened its brow to the town for tours on Aug. 6. Taking advantage of the opportunity, there were great numbers of people including Seward's mayor, Vanta Shafer showed up to see the Guided Missile Destroyer. The consensus from the crew is that many will try to make it back for a longer visit in Seward with their families. Cmdr. James Kilby, commanding officer of USS Russell, stated, "The visit to Seward was, without a doubt, the most enjoyable port visit in the United States in my 19 years of service."

End of WWII: 60 years of gratitude

Continued from A-1

this past example and sacrifice is best reflected in the deeds and devotion of those who now wear our nation's cloth," he said. "The service of this current band of patriotic warriors is as exemplary as this country has ever seen in its distinguished past. Freedom and its universal applicability has always been and will remain our national cause, and we will continue to fight so that freedom may ring the world over, just as we did more than 60 years ago."

Hawai'i Gov. Linda Lingle spoke on behalf of the people of Hawai'i at the ceremony, thanking veterans and active duty service members for their contributions to the continuation of freedom.

"On behalf of the people of Hawai'i, our sincere appreciation goes out to every man, woman and child who lived through this terrible ordeal, who fought and sacrificed so everyone sitting here today could be free," said Lingle. "We thank those veterans for their service and pray for the safe return of our [service members] who are carrying on the duty and the honor of serving our great country."

Approximately 200 World War II veterans attending the ceremony, including Retired Army Col. Ben Skardon, a survivor of the Bataan Death March and Japanese prisoner-of-war camps, and the uncle of Naval Station Pearl Harbor's Commanding Officer, Capt. Taylor Skardon, who spoke of his experiences and noted survival, loyalty and faith as key elements of his fortitude.

"On Dec. 13, 1944, the Japanese loaded 1,600 of us aboard the Oryoku Maru," he said describing his suffering. "Thus began a 47-day nightmare of horrendous inhumanity. The lack of air and water, the confined space and the constriction of movement produced near panic."

Two crew members who were aboard the Missouri during the surrender were present at the ceremony and spoke about experiencing the historic event.

"Sixty years ago, Sept. 2, 1945, I stood here on the deck of this ship and participated in and witnessed the formal

surrender of the Japanese empire to the Allied Forces of the world," said James Starnes, a Navy lieutenant commander and the navigator of USS Missouri during the final days of World War II. Starnes also served as the ship's officer of the deck at the surrender ceremony. "It was a tremendous and emotional moment. It was such a relief to know that the war was over, that peace had come," he said.

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 two, noted the correlation between the Sailors of yesterday and today, who are still fighting for liberty.

"A lot of water has passed under the [Missouri] in last 60 years, and still the struggle for freedom goes on," he said. "I just want to say to the officers, Sailors and Marines still on duty, and to every man and woman before and after who has served this great country, God be with you all, and may God bless the United States of America. I leave you with two words; we remember."

Other events during the ceremony included vocal performances by the Sounds of Aloha Chorus, a missing man fly-over of F-15s by the Hawai'i Air National Guard and a U.S. Marine Corps honor guard firing a rifle salute to honor those lost during the war.

The most silent and poignant moment, though, was a recording of General Douglas A. MacArthur's remarks made during the surrender in Tokyo Bay, which was played as homage to all who wore a uniform, both past and present, and resonated throughout the Missouri and Pearl Harbor.

"My fellow countrymen, today the guns are silent," he echoed. "A great tragedy has ended. A great victory has been won. The skies no longer rain death – the seas bear only commerce – men everywhere walk upright in the sunlight. The entire world is quietly at peace."

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

I salute, you Navy ombudsmen—keeping our Sailors and their families ready

Pacific Fleet Master Chief (SS/SW) R. D. West

Hoo-Yah, warriors. I want to take a quick moment to ask everyone to keep our citizens in the Gulf Coast region in your hearts and prayers as they begin the slow and painful healing process in the aftermath of Katrina.

The Red Cross has set up a Web site to help people reach family members in the affected areas. Click

on <http://www.familylinks.icrc.org/katrina> to use this service. The Navy also has a help line, 1-877-414-5358, set up for Navy personnel and their families to get information on Sailors or families in the region.

But helping others during a crisis as well as day-to-day is the topic of my column this week. It's about a special group of people who spend a lot of time talking/working with spouses and families about problems and their solutions, crisis management, referring issues that need the commands' attention, or just giving out some sage advice. They celebrate their birthday Sept. 14.

Naturally I'm referring to the CO's and command master chief's (CMC) go-to person, the command ombudsman.

Back in 1970, then-Chief of Naval operation Adm. Elmo Zumwalt recognized what a huge factor family morale had on Sailor morale. He realized that without a happy fami-



FLTCM(SS/SW)
Rick West

ly, he wouldn't have happy Sailors focused on a mission professionally and safely.

So on Sept. 14, 1970, he sent out one of his famous "Z-Grams" creating the Navy's ombudsman program. Adm.

Zumwalt got the idea from a 19th century Scandinavian custom originally established by the king to give ordinary private citizens a way to express their grievances to high government officials.

Adm. Zumwalt took the focus away from the grievance-processing role and put it squarely on command communication, information, and referral.

Still working well into the 21st century, the admiral devised a system that provided the commanding officer with a direct link to the families in his or her command. And for the last 35 years, these spouse volunteers have been a critical lynch pin of many successful commands.

As a chief of the boat and command master chief, I can tell you from direct experience what a crucial and fantastic job Navy ombudsmen do. The command team's job was made easier knowing that we could rely on the ombudsman to hold the home front lines and keep

us locked in to family issues and needs, so the command triad could intervene early if needed. With the support and presence of these tremendous volunteers, the command was always able to conduct the mission at hand knowing the homefront was well taken care of.

As the direct link to the CO and the CMC, the ombudsman is one of the fastest ways we have to get the "real" word out to our families. We are now in a world with 24/7 news and the Internet that provide families a quick venue to communicate freely and that is a good thing ... obviously keeping operational security and information security at the forefront. Even though we have this almost direct access, the real "gouge" is delivered via the ombudsmen from the commanding officers about things the families should know. I know what a huge source of relief and comfort that can be in these days.

Our ombudsmen also have to be encyclopedias, phone books and subject matter experts on just about everything. Many of our families today are young and new to the service. It's hard to know where to find things, who to talk to, and where to go to get things done.

The ombudsman is that source for information and referral. Because ombudsmen volunteers have lived through many of the challenges of deployments, first-term family issues and the lot, they usually know about all the ends and

outs about a variety of programs and services Navy families can take advantage of.

Our Navy ombudsmen also serve as that little whisper in the leadership's ear when it comes to promoting the welfare and morale of the families.

The command mission is essential and requires a Sailor ready to show up and work and this is accomplished with the assistance of our volunteer ombudsmen. If the Sailors are worried about home instead of the mission, that's when mistakes and accidents could happen. The command ombudsman helps us focus on the mission without being overwhelmed with family-related problems.

But it's not all phone numbers, newsletters and exchange hours. Ombudsmen have had to deal with very real and very serious problems. They face the brunt of someone's anger and frustration simply because they are the only ones there. They have to take the 2 a.m. phone calls about a medical emergency or death in a family.

But after 35 years, today's ombudsman continues to be a well-trained volunteer whose goal is only to help. They are constantly upgrading their skills and training through local and Navy-wide programs, and they exhibit a standard of excellence and professionalism that I consider vital to the well being of all our Navy families - most especially

during deployments.

As the Pacific Fleet Master Chief, I would like to add my voice to the many others this Sept. 14 to say thank you for everything that our Ombudsmen do.

It is certainly no secret that our Navy could not do everything we've been called on to do these last few years without you.

So a big "HOO-YAH" and "Happy Birthday" to Ombudsmen across the Navy; without you none of us could do our jobs nearly as well.

For the Pacific Fleet Master Chief tip of the week, I recommend Navy families take a look at the following Web sites to assist you in your transition to the Navy or just to see all the great things that are available to you:

BUPERS Main Web site
<http://www.npc.navy.mil/channels>

Navy Lifelines Web site
<http://www.lifelines.navy.mil/>

Lifelines Family Line news Web site
<http://www.lifelines.navy.mil/Familyline>

Navy Fleet and Family Support Web site
<http://www.ffsp.navy.mil/>

BUPERS Family Support Web site
<http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/FieldSupport/>

Commentary

For Your Security and Safety

Karen S. Spangler, Assistant Editor

karen.spangler@navy.mil

Shine the light ... but beat the heat

Victor Flint
Federal Fire Inspector

Electric lights come in all sizes, shapes and colors - big, tall, large and small and red, blue, clear or coated. Whether it's inside or outside, there is an electric light for any kind of lighting project that you desire. There is another choice to make: how many watts. In simple terms, the number of watts of a light bulb determines how much light that particular bulb could produce. And there lies the problem. A light bulb can reach hundreds of degrees in a short amount of time. The greater the amount of watts of a light bulb will also determine the amount of heat that bulb will produce.

On the average, the heat generated from a regular, low wattage (25 to 60 watts) light bulb is from 200 to 500 degrees. High wattage light bulbs

(90 to 150 watts) burn much hotter. And halogen bulbs can reach temperature of 1,650 degrees.

According to most manufacturers of electric light fixtures, 40 to 60-watt light bulbs are recommended. Appliances usually use 25-watt bulbs. If high wattage bulbs are used, the temperature will be hot enough to melt the light cover and to set fire to nearby combustibles such as fabric curtains and decorations.

Sometimes people will attempt to dry their wet clothes by draping them over the electric light fixture. You are only asking for trouble. Do not use the electric light fixture to dry clothes.

If halogen types of lighting are used, make sure that nothing combustible is close by.

Do not use the socket of your light fixture for anything but a light bulb. Any attempts to rig the fixture could result in a short circuit, electric shock or worse.

For more information about electric lights and other fire-related questions, call Inspector Victor Flint at the Federal Fire Department's fire prevention division at 474-7785.

Lest we forget



U.S. Navy photo by Micael W. Pendagrass

"Freedom itself was attacked by a faceless coward and freedom will be defended."

President George W. Bush
after the Sept. 11 attack.

Military members render honors as fire and rescue workers unfurl an American flag over the side of the Pentagon during rescue and recovery work following the Sept. 11, 2001 attack. Sunday marks the four-year anniversary of the attack that killed 2,986 Americans.

Hawai'i Navy News

Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i - Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale

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Public Affairs Officer - Lt. Barbara Mertz

Deputy Public Affairs Officer - Agnes Tauyan

Managing Editor - JOC(SW) Joe Kane

Editor - JO2 Devin Wright

Assistant Editor - Karen Spangler

Staff Writer - JO2 Corwin Colbert

Staff Writer - JO3 Ryan C. McGinley

Technical Adviser - Joe Novotny

Layout/Design - Tony Verceluz

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Parent – New Parent Support Program helps and educates parents

Christian (YMCA).

Lyman described the New Parent Support Program as a voluntary program. "We do a lot of encouraging, especially if it's high risk, and do a lot of follow-up," she said. Clients who are involved with the program also have the opportunity to participate in a New Parent Support Group, which functions to provide preventive outreach to Navy and Coast Guard families and also plans social events.

According to Marissa Ayag-Garcia, the other social worker in the program, "We offer support that is focused on family life." She said that the program focuses on the positives. "We're looking at developing relationships with parents and child and bonding, primarily with the moms," she said, adding, "Parent-child bonding is important."

The team offers information that can be beneficial to the bonding process and gives guidelines

about appropriate child development and expectations. "We focus on positive indicators that parents can have with infants and children to increase bonding and nurturing, built upon increased stimulation of the babies," said Lyman.

Frequently, help from the social workers in the program begins prenatally and becomes more intensive after the baby is born. The social workers continue to work with the family as long as they are needed up until the child reaches the age of three.

Stressing that participation in the program is voluntary, Ayag-Garcia said, "We have motivated families – parents who want to be better parents. They want our services."

The frequency of visits is individualized, geared to the needs of each family.



The social workers visit with the families on an as needed basis, which may be weekly, every two weeks or less often. "We're there all the time. We become integrated into their lives, but we're professionals as well," explained Ayag-Garcia.

"They appreciate that we go out to their homes to visit with them," added Lyman.

Explaining some of the observations the team makes in assisting families, Ayag-Garcia said, "We look at skills – how are the parents coping with stresses, communicating with their spouses, etc."

She described the fundamentals offered by the New Parent Support Program as "comprehensive" and said that children they work with are screened for devel-

opmental progress every six months. "We always apply our clinical skills and teach psycho-social skills," she said. "For example, they [parents] may want to learn more about how to discipline their child," she said.

While working with families, the team members gear the instruction to each individual family, concentrating on areas that are especially needed by each particular family at a given time. For example, a new mother may need to learn about nurturing diapering and dressing routines while a parent with older children in the family may want to learn more about developing family rules.

But all chapters of the handbook, which is the program's "bible," are eventually covered. The wide

range of topics deals with almost every parenting issue and ranges from understanding children's brain development and developmental stages, to building self-worth and time-out strategies, to such issues as helping children express their anger appropriately and keeping children drug free. But throughout the sequence of lessons, the common theme focuses on the importance of nurturing.

Another area that is essential for parents is a support system. "We're helping families develop support systems and/or linking them to resources so they don't feel isolated," said Ayag-Garcia.

"How do we help families? It starts with doing outreach. It increases support, makes them feel more at home here at the base," she noted. "Sometimes we're the only visitor for the family because they haven't met any friends yet."

According to Lyman, availability and support for the family are key. "We are going out there and also encourage our families to contact us at anytime with questions and concerns. The relationship we build with them is positive. They're motivated and welcome the home visits and the information." She continued, "They know we're going to be there. They can reach us by phone."

Lyman and Ayag-Garcia currently work with about 70 families, but the number continues to grow. The families they help include first-time parents as well as families with older children in a wide range of ages.

FFSC's New Parent Support Program just began last year although

similar programs were offered by Tripler Army Medical Center for all services. Lyman explained that FFSC started its own program to help to better serve Navy and Coast Guard families.

Referrals are also made to parents for resources such as WIC (Women, Infants, Children), a federally-subsidized program which provides foods to supplement the diets of low-income women and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk; play groups; and breast-feeding classes as well as internal resources like those offered through FFSC.

Participating in playgroups is highly recommended by the program social workers because it offers many benefits. "It gives both parents and children the chance to interact with other families, a lot of military families but also civilian families. They get good networking tools and learn what other resources are out there for them," stressed Lyman. She said that the families have positive experiences and also can obtain information on low-cost events.

But playgroups are especially important for the youngsters. "Kids get a chance to interact with other kids. They may be the only child in their family or the other kids may be older. They learn social skills and learn how to play different kinds of activities and games," Lyman explained.

"Many parents enjoy getting out, having something to go to, having conversations with other adults. The common

theme is that they form friendships with other military families and when they leave, they have to form new friendships. Playgroups afford them the opportunity to do that. It provides parents with nice opportunities to network with other families," she said, reinforcing the benefits of playgroups for both children and parents.

Another benefit, according to Lyman, is that playgroups are "more structured, more interactive and a great stress reliever."

The staff of the New Parent Support Program knows the concerns of parents and the challenges that military families face. Through the services that they offer – home visits, information on parenting, referrals, support and resource materials – they stand ready to help parents with the tough job of parenting. "We're one-to-one, face-to-face. It's very beneficial for them to have someone there," noted Ayag-Garcia.

For more information on FFSC programs, call 473-4222, ext. 243, 244 or 246.

(Editor's Note: The first installment of articles on domestic violence prevention and support programs offered by Fleet and Family Support Center was published in HNN on Aug. 19, 2005. Future articles will focus on other programs, such as Boot Camp for New Dads, the Return and Reunion Program, Family Advocacy Prevention Program and services provided by the victim services specialist (VSS).)

U.S. Navy Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

Hawai'i Federal Fire firefighters answer call for help

Karen S. Spangler
Assistant Editor

When the call went out from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security last week, asking for firefighters to assist with rescue efforts in the areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina, firefighters from the local Federal Fire Department immediately volunteered to go.

Within a day, Fire Capt. Francis Behic and Ron Akiyama were packed and ready to go - departing from Honolulu last Friday evening and headed for Atlanta to receive their assignments. Responding to FEMA's urgent request for 1,000 two-person firefighter teams to assist in rescue efforts, the two local firefighters prepared to meet one of the biggest challenges of their careers.

FEMA's request for help was accompanied by some terse mandates. According to FEMA guidelines, the personnel who volun-

teered for the rescue duty must be "physically capable of performing manual tasks under severe conditions." Another requirement was that the volunteers be "capable of living in austere, severe living conditions with minimal or no creature comforts for a period of at least 30 days."

Volunteers were instructed to take only one backpack of gear, which should also include a medical jump kit (first aid kit). They were advised that they would be sleeping on the ground in sleeping bags - which they needed to bring with them, eating MREs, and would probably have to carry everything that they bring with them for the entire duration of the time they would be there.

Being faced with such formidable circumstances wasn't a deterrent for the local heroes, but an opportunity to take an active role in helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Richard Rhode, assistant fire chief with Federal Fire Department on Oahu, explained

that other department firefighters also volunteered for the disaster duty. He said that the department may send additional two-man teams at a later time.

When asked what motivated them to volunteer their services for the Katrina relief effort, Akiyama explained, "The sheer magnitude of the emergency and the opportunity to help out was first and foremost in my mind." Behic added his concerns, "They needed help and I wanted to help them as much as I can."

After orientation, training and staging briefings in Atlanta, they were shipped to Camp Gruber - an old, closed down base near Tulsa, Okla. The former base has reopened as a displacement site in order to house over 1,400 evacuees from Hurricane Katrina. Akiyama talked about their assigned duties, "We're organized into community relations teams and we're assisting evacuees by providing proper information from FEMA, insurance, etc. I've been assigned to the incident

command staff as the operations officer."

"We're working over 14-hour days, but have provided information and counseling to approximately 70 percent of the evacuees so far. We may be diverted elsewhere as needed upon completion of our jobs here," said Behic. "I found out that people's expectations are different than the reality as far as the assistance goes. For instance, when people hear that we're representing FEMA they expect us to hand them checks. They're surprised that we are providing information instead on how to obtain benefits from FEMA, their insurance companies, and the other assistance agencies such as counseling, medical, Red Cross, Salvation Army and so on, depending what their immediate and long term needs are," he explained as he talked about his role in helping the evacuees.

Behic, with 23 years of fire department service, is assigned to Pearl Harbor's Shipyard Fire

Station One on ladder 119. His service includes four years of Air Force firefighting when he was assigned to NASA's space shuttle rescue crew. He serves as one of the department's instructors for urban search and rescue as well as hazardous materials and is an emergency medical technician.

Akiyama is the driver and operator of engine 101 which is assigned to Shipyard Fire Station One at Pearl Harbor. His 21 years of federal fire service includes four years as an Air Force firefighter where he was selected as one of NASA's space shuttle rescue technicians.

A Federal Fire Department spokesman described Akiyama's specialties within the fire service as varied. He is one of the hazardous materials train-the-trainers as well as a primary crew member on the hazardous materials response team which covers all military installations on Oahu and provides mutual aid to the City and County of Honolulu Fire Department.

Highlights of Navy support to the Katrina relief effort

- USS Bataan (LHD 5) and USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41) remain near Biloxi conducting disaster relief operations. USS Grapple (ARS 53) is near Pascagoula, Ms., clearing obstructions from the channel. USNS Arctic (T-AOE 8) is off the Gulf Coast providing replenishment to Whidbey Island and Grapple.
- USS Tortuga (LSD 46), USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7), USS Shreveport (LPD 12), and USNS Pollux (T-AKR 290) remain in New Orleans providing relief. Iwo Jima is the flagship for Lt. Gen. Honore (CJTF Katrina) and Rear Adm. Kilkenny (Maritime Component Commander). Shreveport is the headquarters platform for Adm. Allen, USCG (Deputy FEMA-Forward).
- HSV Swift and USNS Altair (T-AKR 291) are providing critical supplies to the ships in New Orleans to enable them to continue round-the-clock assistance.
- USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) remains off the Gulf Coast conducting relief efforts. Four mine-warfare ships are operating south of the New Orleans peninsula conducting surveys.
- As of midnight, Sept. 6, Navy relief efforts have evacuated 5,022 civilians, medevac'd 155, and rescued 1,488.
- 464,818 lbs of food and water have been delivered to locations throughout the Gulf Coast.
- Tortuga is:
 - _ operating 18 Combat Rubber Reconnaissance Craft in New Orleans, and has rescued 32 people.
 - _ providing hotel services (food, water, rest, etc.) for local law enforcement.
 - _ building pierside animal pens for displaced.
- Bataan has provided flyaway medical teams from their embarked Casualty Receiving and Treatment Ship Team to Bay St. Louis High School and Belle Chase. Five cooks and 10 volunteers are supporting a medical team at Biloxi HS.
- Shreveport delivered a 96-man team on Red Beach, accomplishing the following:
 - _ The warehouse team prepped the Heinz warehouse as storage point for supplies and relief efforts.
 - _ The shelter team is preparing meals at Biloxi HS and providing medical and dental care.
 - _ The beach team cleaned debris from a local church.
- Seabee units on the ground from local Seabee commands have:
 - _ performed 100 community recovery missions in six Mississippi counties.
 - _ commenced building a 500-person tent camp and providing base support at Joint Reserve Base New Orleans (NMCRB 40).
 - _ delivered 100 cots, built a laundry facility and fuel distribution point, restored service to a sewage lift station at Stennis, and delivered water, provided transportation support, and repaired a BQ in Pascagoula (CBMU 202).
 - _ begun clearing Highway 90 from the Mississippi/Louisiana border to Lake Pontchartrain



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Elizabeth Williams

The Military Sealift Command (MSC) hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) pulls into Naval Station Mayport, Fla. to take on supplies on their way to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina.



U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Kristopher Wilson

U.S. Navy Chief Aviation Warfare Systems Operator Scott Pierce, a search and rescue swimmer assigned to the "Emerald Knights" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Seven Five (HS-75), looks out from the cabin of an SH-60 Seahawk helicopter at the flooded New Orleans streets caused by Hurricane Katrina. HS-75 is embarked aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman, currently operating in the Gulf of Mexico.



U.S. Navy photo by PHAN Joshua T. Rodriguez

U.S. Navy Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate Robertson, aboard the High Speed Vessel (HSV-2) Swift, signals to a MH-60S Seahawk helicopter during a vertical replenishment with the amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7). Iwo Jima is currently in port in the city of New Orleans serving as the command and control center for Joint Task Force Katrina, the combined military effort to provide aid for the areas hit by Hurricane Katrina. The Navy's involvement in the Hurricane Katrina humanitarian assistance operations is led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in conjunction with the Department of Defense.

"... I was able to get out before the storm struck the city, but I'm sure everything that I have is destroyed."

IT2 David Demeulenaere

Navy Reserve Recruiting Command, New Orleans

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

NMCRS Headquarters
Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society · 875 North Randolph Street, Suite 225 ·
Arlington VA 22203-1977
<http://www.nmcrs.org/index.html>

FEMA
<http://www.fema.gov/>

American Red Cross
<http://www.redcross.org>

Salvation Army
<http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/>

More useful resources

BUPERS 24 hour helplines:
· Active, reserve, and family members:
1-877-414-5358
· DoN Civilians and family members:

1-877-689-2722
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,

these 24 hour helplines are available for both Sailors and families to call for information regarding their loved ones. The lines are staffed 24 hours by active duty Navy volunteers and will have connectivity with Navy, FEMA, and other

government agencies.
· Navy Personnel Command's (NPC)
Hurricane Katrina Web site:
www.npc.navy.mil/Katrina
NPC is posting updated information for

JASS Career Management System adds new changes to requisition cycle

JO3 Ryan C. McGinley
Staff Writer

As part of the Sea Warrior transformation and Spiral 2.5 of the JASS Career Management System (JCMS), Navy Administration 199/05 was released in August marking changes to the requisition cycle and helping to provide critical, real-time information to the career decision processes for enlisted Sailors.

Starting on Nov. 4, the negotiating window will change from the traditional nine to six months from your transfer date, to nine to five months, and the application cycle will also change to a monthly evolution to capture current and future capabilities within JCMS.

"It was time to overhaul the cycle and get it in line with what future capabilities were going to deliver with JCMS," said Master Chief Operations Specialist (SW/AW) Pat Lumley, Navy Personnel Command, PERS-4 senior enlisted advisor and the JCMS team lead. "We needed to provide adequate opportunity for

commands to conduct the ranking and comment on applicants that are applying for jobs within their command."

When Spiral 2.0 of JCMS was released in February, commands were provided the opportunity for the first time to rank and comment on perspective applicants applying for their command. The change to a monthly cycle will provide commands seven days on average to review applicants.

The change will also provide a longer application phase (on average 14 days) for Sailors to review jobs and decide what's best suited for their career path. Sailors will receive five or six looks at prospective jobs while in the negotiating window.

"Who's better to understand what a Sailor's motivation is then the Sailors themselves," said Vice Adm. Gerald L. Hoewing, Chief of Naval Personnel. "We want to be responsible to things like Sailor choice, Sailor opportunity and the opportunity to grow and develop. And that's why the Sailors need to be in charge of their career paths, and all we need to do is help them achieve those goals."

“ Sailors today are much different than Sailors of yesterday because the spouse plays a very important role. ”

Pat Lumley
Navy Personnel Command,
PERS-4 senior enlisted advisor and
the JCMS team lead

The new transformations to JCMS also allow more time and options to Sailors who are incorporating families into their career decisions.

"Sailors today are much different than Sailors of yesterday because the spouse plays a very important role," said Lumley. "When you negotiate a set of orders you have to not only worry about the career growth of Sailors, you have to worry about

the career growth of the spouse as well. It's key that as detailers and distribution people we take both of those into account."

"It's important to have the family provide an input," said Chief Navy Counselor (SW) Reuben Hilerio, Navy Region Hawai'i, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific and Naval Station Pearl Harbor career counselor. "You want to be able to discuss with your family ahead of time what options are available. You have to have that family support."

The improvements to JCMS are part of the overall Sea Warrior transformation, which will align Navy Knowledge Online, the 5-Vector Model and JCMS together to better aid and educate Sailors about their future.

"We are tying JCMS in with the 5-Vector Model where the Sailors will have a career path established on their 5-Vector Model, and with JCMS they can use the job mapping capability to look for jobs they qualify for and submit applications," said Lumley.

Spiral 2.5 of JCMS was released in June as a result of feedback on how to better incorporate information into the career decision path.

"We did not plan on doing version 2.5," said Lumley. "Based on all the great input from the fleet, the career counselors and Sailors, we had enough ideas and changes to the system to make it even more of a self-service to Sailors and commands."

Hilario said the new JCMS, along with career counselors, will allow Sailors the opportunities and information needed to be successful in any avenue they pursue.

"My job is to provide [Sailors] the information so that they can make an educated decision, and that's the best thing we are doing with JCMS now," said Hilario. "We are giving the Sailors all the information so that they can sit down, absorb it all and make the right decisions for themselves and their families. Once they get Sea Warrior up and running and they get the 5 Vector Model perfected, JCMS is going to be great."

USS Stennis back in the water

JO1 Krishna Jackson
USS John C. Stennis Public Affairs

USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) reached a major objective Sept. 1, when its hull was once again returned to the salty waters of Puget Sound.

The Bremerton, Wash.,-based aircraft carrier has been in dry dock since Jan. 19 undergoing technical and equipment upgrades as part of a Docked Planned Incremental Availability (DPIA) at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS). Stennis will see open seas again when it completes DPIA and begins deployment work-ups later this year.

"I think the dry dock portion of DPIA has gone remarkably well," said Capt. David Buss, John C. Stennis' commanding officer. "All the work that we wanted to accomplish was completed on or ahead of the original schedule. As a result, we are actually moving John C. Stennis out of dry dock a day earlier than planned."

He attributes the timely move to the teamwork of the ship's

crew and PSNS in getting the ship out of dry dock and back into the water for the next phase of maintenance. "We are 'on course, on glideslope' to deliver John C. Stennis back to the fleet, as promised and on time...ready for the fight," Buss said.

Stennis was moved out of dry dock for the rest of DPIA in order to make the dry dock available for another ship if necessary and also to get the crew accustomed to working, sleeping and eating on board after having to do those things off ship for the past eight months.

Personnelman 3rd Class Heidi Lee can't wait until she has everything in one place again. "I look forward to being able to do everything I need to on the ship again rather than having to go between the barge and the ship to get things done. It's very time consuming," she said.

The commanding officer is ready to put the ship back to sea and make it do what it was made to do.

"I think I speak for every shipmate in John C. Stennis when I say that I'm looking forward to



U.S. Navy photo

Official U.S. Navy file photo of the Nimitz Class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74).

getting this great ship and crew back to sea where we belong. We are all 'operational Sailors' at heart. I know we'll be ready to answer the call in the next chapter of the global war on terrorism when our turn comes."

During the dry-docking period, the ship received a complete hull repainting above and below the waterline, and the shafts, rudders and screws were refurbished. Many on-board flight, operational and weapons sys-

tems are continuing to be upgraded.

One of the major renovations Stennis received was a new mast. The new mast's structure is the first of its kind. A new type of steel alloy was used, making the mast stiffer and thicker than before. The new mast is also heavier and taller, allowing it to support new antennas the old mast would not have been able to support.

Reflect on safety



A Sailor rides his bike to Naval Station Pearl Harbor in the early morning hours on Sept. 7. In an attempt to avoid mishaps, Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i requires all joggers and bicyclists to wear reflective gear from sunset to sunrise.

U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Devin Wright

Mexican Navy Inducted Into IANTN

JO2 Neah Kelly

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command Public Affairs

Mexico was formally inducted at the fifth Inter-American Naval Telecommunications Network (IANTN) Conference, held at Naval Station Mayport, Fla., Aug. 29 through Sept. 1.

IANTN is the means to exchange communications between the United States and Latin American countries. A member country hosts the conference every two years to work toward better communications between navies. It was formally established in March 1962 to provide the only classified releasable exchange of information in participating Latin American countries.

Participants included navies from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Peru, Uruguay, and the United States.

Mexico was accepted in the IANTN after being accepted by the International Inter-American Conference in 2004. Mexican membership in IANTN signals improved cooperation and integration with the U.S. Navy and the other Inter-American Naval Conference (IANC) members. As with any network, increased membership exponentially increases the value of IANTN.

Communications is the lynchpin in those efforts, and membership in IANTN ensures Mexico will be included in the forum of communicators addressing issues important to the Inter-American Naval Conference.

Capt. Felipe Solano Armento of Mexico's Navy said, "We are very happy to participate in this conference, because in this group forum we can work with all these navies to improve our capabilities."

Cmdr. Larry Flint, IANTN Secretariat, felt the conference was a great success, saying "Things went well. There were good briefs by all participants, good discussions, and after hours good friendships and relationships developed."

"Improving communication between the United States and Latin American countries strengthens the development of combined activities during peacetime posture and under emergency conditions," said Flint. "Conferences like this help immeasurably when we work

Chafee: Detailed guidance via VTC

Continued from A-1

their spouses. "This is almost always a challenge, but it is even more difficult when one of the members is deployed and cannot be reached. This VTC allowed Chafee to support these Sailors and ensure they were making sound career decisions for themselves and their spouse," said Command Master Chief Ray.

Chafee Sailors were ecstatic about the opportunity to see

their detailer face-to-face. "I came to the event with a lot of anxiety about high pressure to just take the orders that were available. Nothing could have been further from the truth. I had the chance to meet my detailer and get on-site counseling from my command retention team to make the right decision for my career and my family. It was by far the best detailing experience I've ever had," said CTR1(SW) Leland Harlan.

Hawaii Navy News Sports

Local Sailor plays on the All-Navy softball team

Story and photo by
JOSA Byung K. Cho

U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs

Playing on the All-Navy softball team was a chance of a lifetime for Musician 3rd Class Christie Cabrera.

"It was cool because I felt that I was really representing my command as the only musician there," said Cabrera.

After Cabrera submitted her application for the All-Navy team, she flew to Whidbey Island, Aug. 8 for the tryouts. On Aug. 12, Cabrera learned that she had made the team.

"I was scared because I thought I wasn't going to make the cut," said Cabrera. "I was really excited and happy to make the team."

Cabrera said everybody at the tryouts was equally talented, but the coach was looking for players who could play multiple field positions and hit really well. A lifelong player, Cabrera has played multiple positions

such as first and third baseman, catcher and outfield positions.

Cabrera first picked up the bat when she was five, playing coach-pitch, where the coach pitches to the batter. She played Little League baseball and moved onto playing softball at the age of 11. A member of a Pearl Harbor League team, the Banshees, she also earned a spot with the All-Navy Regional Team. The regional team placed second in a tournament at Hickam Air Force Base.

Softball has been a big part of Cabrera's life, and she said that she plans to be active in it in the future.

"I'm definitely going to try out next year," said Cabrera. "I think a lot of girls are going to come back next year."

The All-Navy team played in the Armed Forces Tournament where it placed third. Cabrera and her teammates also competed in two other tournaments at Washington State University where they came in at second place in one tournament and were eliminated in the other.



MU3 Christie Cabrera

Navy to race in second NASCAR NEXTEL Cup at Richmond

Car to display "Navy Katrina Relief" decal on hood

Jeffrey Nichols

Commander Navy Recruiting
Command Public Affairs

The Navy will make its second National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) Nextel Cup Series appearance on Sept. 10, at Richmond International Speedway's Chevy Rock and Roll 400, with David Stremme driving the No. 39 Navy "Accelerate your life" Dodge Charger.

In honor of those affected by Hurricane Katrina, Stremme's car will recognize the Navy's ongoing relief efforts in the Gulf Coast. The car will carry a special decal titled "Navy Katrina Relief."

"My heart goes out to the people of the Gulf Coast. This really shows the country coming together again. I think it is great that the people in the U.S. are seeing our military at work here," Stremme said. "A lot of times they only hear what they are doing overseas, but our Sailors are really getting the job done in the Gulf Coast."

Navy Recruiting sponsors Stremme full-time this year in NASCAR's Busch Series. The two

Nextel Cup races are an option in this year's Busch Series sponsorship.

Stremme placed 16th in the first Nextel Cup race he ran on July 10, at Chicagoland Speedway's United States Gypsum Sheetrock 400.

Stremme will be pulling double duty this weekend as he races in both the Nextel Cup and Busch Series.

"We really haven't ever had good luck at Richmond. We always run well, but get tangled in a wreck and don't get a good finish. We're taking our short track car that we've run well in so far this year," Stremme said about his Busch car. "We almost got a pole and finished fifth with it at Iers reference pole. I'm hoping we'll see more of that kind of luck that we're used to at Richmond."

Stremme is currently seventh in the NASCAR Busch Series point standings, driving the No. 14 Navy "Accelerate your life" Dodge. He has posted five Top 5 and 10 Top 10 finishes in 2005.

On Sept. 4 Stremme started the Amerquest 300 at California Speedway in 22nd position, but overcame a night full of adversity to reach his ninth place finish. Stremme showed tremendous determination despite challenging circumstances to bring home another Top 10 finish for the Navy team.