

Sea-based missile defense "hit to kill" intercept achieved



U.S. Navy photo

Pacific Missile Range Facility

Air Force Lt. Gen. Henry "Trey" Obering, Missile Defense Agency (MDA) director, announced the completion Nov. 17 of a successful Aegis ballistic missile defense "hit to kill" intercept flight test conducted jointly with the U.S. Navy off the coast of Kauai, Hawaii. The test involved for the first time a "separating" target, meaning that the target warhead separated from its booster rocket. This was the sixth successful intercept test in seven flight tests conducted since intercept tests began in 2002. Previous tests were against unitary (non-separating) targets representative of "SCUD"-type ballistic missiles.

The event, designated as Flight Test Maritime 04-2 (FTM 04-2), tested the Aegis ballistic missile defense. The Aegis system is the maritime component of the ballistic missile defense system and is designed to intercept and destroy short to intermediate-range ballistic missiles. The missile was launched from the Pearl Harbor-based Aegis cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70), using the operational (emergency activation capability) version of Aegis ballistic missile defense's block 2004 configuration, which includes the standard missile-3 (SM-3) block I missile.

At approximately 8:12 a.m. Hawaii Standard Time (1:12p.m. Eastern Standard Time), a medium-range sepa-

rating target was launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawaii. The USS Lake Erie (CG 70), outfitted with the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense 3.0 Weapon System, detected, tracked the target and developed a fire control solution.

Approximately four minutes later, the USS Lake Erie's crew fired the SM-3 and six minutes later, the missile successfully intercepted the target warhead more than 100 miles in space above the Pacific Ocean and 375 miles northwest of Kauai. The intercept used "hit to kill" technology, which means that the target warhead was destroyed when the missile collided directly with the target.

The Aegis destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70), outfitted with the Aegis ballistic missile defense, was stationed off the coast of Kauai supporting the mission by performing long-range missile surveillance and tracking functions.

MDA and the U.S. Navy cooperatively manage the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense Program. Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems and Sensors of Moorestown, N.J. is the combat system engineering agent (CSEA) and prime contractor for the Aegis weapon system and vertical launch system installed in Aegis-equipped cruisers and destroyers. Raytheon Missile Systems of Tucson, Ariz. is the prime contractor for the SM-3 missile and all previous variants of standard missile.



U.S. Navy photo

A standard missile-3 (SM-3) is launched from the Pearl Harbor-based Aegis cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) during a joint Missile Defense Agency, U.S. Navy ballistic missile flight test Nov. 17. Minutes later, the SM-3 intercepted a separating ballistic missile threat target, launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawaii. The test was the sixth intercept in seven flight tests by the Aegis ballistic missile defense, the maritime component of the "hit-to-kill" ballistic missile defense system, being developed by the Missile Defense Agency.



Slocum Glider
First U.S. Navy underwater glider launched.
Page A-4.



Military Family Appreciation
Hawaii community comes together to honor military families.
Page B-1.

Hawaii Navy News Briefs

MWR Intramural Flag Football League highlights

Navy Television Hawaii Channel 2 will feature highlights of the 2005 MWR Intramural Flag Football League games played at Ward Field starting this weekend during our news breaks at five minutes before the top of every hour. Footage may also be used by the NFL Pro Bowl during half time at Aloha Stadium and ESPN during their television broadcast.

Cell phone usage banned on Army installations throughout Hawaii

Karen S. Spangler

Assistant Editor

If you are going to be attending a meeting or an event on an Army installation in Hawaii, or you need to seek medical care at Tripler Army Medical Center, keep in mind that the Army has imposed a general order which bans military and civilian drivers from using cell phones while driving.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon, commanding general of the 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks, issued the general order. The ban, which went into effect on Nov. 7, also includes the use of headsets

and other hands-free devices.

According to Army officials, drivers may use cell phones while in their vehicles only if the vehicles are parked and turned off.

Visitors to Marine Corps Base Hawaii - Kaneohe should be aware that hands-free devices are allowed while driving on the installation, but speaking directly into a cell phone while driving is not allowed.

The Navy and Air Force in Hawaii do not currently have any policies prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving on their military installations. But an Air Force spokesperson advised that the Air Force encourages drivers to pull over [off the road] while

making cell phone calls.

"There's nothing that specifically addresses cell-phone use while driving [on Navy installations]. But we are advising personnel of the Army's policy since they travel and shop on Army bases, especially Tripler," said Lt. Barbara Mertz, public affairs officer for Navy Region Hawaii at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

Hawaii does not currently have a law forbidding the use of cell phones while driving. A number of states are debating measures that would address the problem. In four states - Colorado, Delaware, Maryland and Tennessee - young drivers are banned from using cell phones while driving. The city of Chicago issued a ban prohibiting the use of hand-held cell phones while driving - and violators may receive penalties of \$50 to

\$200 (the latter if the driver is involved in an accident).

The Insurance Information Institute (III) reported that in October 2005, a Connecticut law banning the use of hand-held cell phones while driving went into effect. The III said, "Drivers in Connecticut can be fined \$100 not only for using a cell phone, but those pulled over for speeding or other moving violations can be fined for other driving distractions such as putting on makeup or turning to discipline children in the back seat." In 2004, both New Jersey and Washington, D.C. passed bills prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving. New York was the first state to enact such legislation in 2001.

About 40 countries also have laws which restrict or

prohibit the use of cell phones while driving. According to information from the Insurance Information Institute, drivers in the Czech Republic, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom may use cell phones, but can be fined if they are involved in crashes while using the phone. Drivers in the United Kingdom and Germany also can lose insurance coverage if they are involved in a crash while talking on the phone.

Using cell phones while driving has become a hot issue - since more than 190 million people in the United States now use cell phones and many of them operate motor vehicles while using their cell phones. Information from studies and investigations provided by the National Transportation Safety

▼ See CELL PHONE, A-2

Survivor returns to West Loch disaster site



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Corwin Colbert

Donald Davis, a West Loch disaster survivor, and his wife Agnes tour the site of the disaster area and memorial at Naval Magazine Pearl Harbor on Nov. 18.

JO2 Corwin Colbert

Staff Writer

Naval Magazine Pearl Harbor hosted a visit to the West Loch Memorial on Nov. 18 for West Loch disaster survivor, Donald Davis.

The visit to the secluded memorial, located at West Loch in Ewa Beach, brought back painful, but bittersweet memories for Davis. Behind the memorial, remains of a rusted tank landing ship (LSTs) serve as a reminder of the 163 dead and the 396 injured during the disaster.

Davis was an 18-year-old Marine private attached to the Marine 2nd Division when his LST exploded during the West Loch disaster also known as the other Pearl Harbor disaster.

"It was May 21, 1944. I was topside on a bright sunny day sunbathing near the ship's elevator shaft," said Davis. "The next thing I remember was a violent explosion that blew me off the ship," he said.

Twenty-nine LSTs prepared for a major battle during World War II. The United States was planning a massive attack on Saipan. Sailors and Marines were loading the LSTs and preparing for war. It was to be the D-Day of the Pacific.

During the loading of ordnance, hundreds of thousands of gallons of fuel, trucks and small arms, one of the LSTs exploded for a reason never definitively determined.

Many explosions launched flaming shards of steel into the air.

Davis said he is lucky to be alive. He was hit by the deadly flying shrapnel on the left side of his head.

"Fires broke out everywhere and there was thick black smoke billowing in the air. There was oil burning on the harbor's surface. There were people running everywhere. It was horrible,"

said Davis. "Those ships didn't have a chance because of the way they were tied up."

Sailors and Marines scattered. Some attempted to put out the growing number of fires. Others tried to save themselves and their shipmates.

"Next thing I remember was waking up at the old Aiea Hospital, where I was recovering from my injuries," said Davis.

The disaster was veiled in secrecy so as not to compromise the U.S. operations in the war. The attack was delayed briefly and was a mechanism leading to the surrender of the Japanese. Davis said he has distinct memories of the event.

His left ear continues to ring constantly because of the injury, but he has learned to tune it out. However, he will never tune out or forget the memory of West Loch.

"I thought I would never get the chance of coming back here. Now I have some resolution to everything," he said.



U.S. Army historical photo

Catastrophe hit in West Loch (Pearl Harbor), May 21, 1944 when fire and explosions killed or injured 559 men and destroyed six LSTs (landing ship, tank) and three LCTs (landing craft, tank), plus critically needed supplies for the Saipan invasion forces.

Cell phone: Safety for drivers

Continued from A-1

Board and the Insurance Information Institute show an increased number of traffic accidents related to cell phone use while driving.

Many of these accidents have resulted in fatalities and serious injuries. On Feb. 4, 2002, Marion C. Blakely, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), addressed the news media and provided details about a fatal three-car collision which occurred on Feb. 1 on the Capital Beltway near Largo, Md.

According to information provided by Blakely, the weekend tragedy occurred when the driver of an SUV crossed the median and crashed head-on into an oncoming minivan. The driver of the SUV and the four occupants of the minivan were killed. While conducting its investigation into the accident, the NTSB found that the driver of the SUV was using a cell phone at the time of the accident.

Transportation safety experts explain that there are two dangers associated with driving and cell phone use. "First, drivers must take their eyes off the road while dialing.

Second, people can become so absorbed in their conversations that their ability to concentrate on the act of driving is severely impaired, jeopardizing the safety of vehicle occupants and pedestrians," they noted.

Studies from the NHTSA have challenged theories that hands-free sets are safer for drivers. Based on a September 2004 report, the NHTSA found "that drivers using hand-free cell phones had to redial calls 40 percent of the time, compared with 18 percent for drivers using hand held sets, suggesting that hands free sets may provide drivers with a false sense of ease."

The number of drivers who use cell phones while driving has also sharply increased. Another survey by the NHTSA found that more people are using cell phones while driving. The survey found that the number of drivers using cell phones at any particular moment during daylight hours increased to about 1.2 million drivers in 2004. The survey revealed that the jump in use of cell phones while driving was most noticeable among women and young drivers ages 16 to 24. The percentage of men

using cell phones remained steady. The overall figure included hand-held and hand-free models.

Information provided by base security officials and local law enforcement reminds drivers of the dangers of any type of distractions while driving. This includes not only the use of cell phones, but also any other activities which may deter or reduce the driver's attention from his driving. Some of the activities frequently practiced by drivers may also include such habits as eating, drinking, trying to read a map or directions, disciplining children, putting on makeup and putting CDs into the CD player or tuning radio stations.

Whether or not it's a law or policy, law enforcement officials recommend that drivers pull off the road while talking on cell phones or dialing numbers on their cell phones.

"Doing anything other than paying attention to your driving could pose a safety risk," advised a police official.

(Some information provided by Insurance Information Institute and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.)

Sailors volunteer to keep Hawai'i beautiful

JO2 Ryan C. McGinley

Staff Writer

Sailors from the First Class Petty Officers Association and Commander, Submarine Forces U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC) volunteered for a community service project Nov. 18 at Blaisdell Park, helping to clean up trash and debris from the park.

More than 20 Sailors clean up the park each quarter as part of the Adopt a Park cleanup project in cooperation with the City and County of Honolulu.

"This is an opportunity to give back to the community," said Clint Jamile, coordinator for the Adopt a Park Program for the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Parks and Recreation. "Hopefully when people come to the park, they will find a trash can to deposit their trash. Unfortunately, sometimes it does not happen and thank God for volunteers from the Navy who come out and help out."

Information Systems Technician 1st Class (SWAW) William Kreger, assigned to COMSUBPAC Shore Target Terminal, said it's important for Sailors to help clean up Hawai'i's parks because they are a valuable asset that allows families and friends to come together in a clean environment.

"We pick up trash and make sure the park is clean for the community," he said. "A lot of people spend their weekends here with their families and children barbecuing, and we just make sure the area is clean for them to spend their time with their families and loved ones."



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Ryan C. McGinley

IT1 (SW/AW) William Kreger, assigned to COMSUBPAC Shore Target Terminal, picks up trash during a cleanup project at Blaisdell Park in Aiea.

Some Sailors said they come to the park on their off time and hope to keep the area clean so that everyone can benefit from it.

"We all live here on the island and our children go to school here, and I personally come and hang out here at the park with my family so it's important to keep it clean," said Cryptological Technician-Administration 1st Class (SW) Latoyna Grace, assigned to COMSUBPAC.

Capt. George Manaskie, chief of staff for COMSUBPAC, said community involvement between the Navy and Hawai'i is essential and COMSUBPAC and other Sailors will continue to help keep the area clean.

"The Navy is obviously a big part of the community here in Hawai'i, particularly in Pearl Harbor which you can see from the park here," he said. "So we have to do our part to keep the park clean."

Energy tip

Set the thermostat for your central air conditioning system at the highest comfortable setting (78-80 degrees Fahrenheit is recommended). If you normally set it at 72 degrees Fahrenheit, raising it to 78 degrees Fahrenheit should save between 12 and 47 percent in cooling costs, depending on the climate where you live.



STORY IDEAS?

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

Phone: (808) 473-2888

Email: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com

Hawaii Navy News

Makahiki ceremony near Utah Memorial



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Corwin Colbert

Ford Island saw a happy blending of ancient Hawaiian custom and U.S. military presence Saturday, as paddlers from the Pearl Harbor Canoe Club and members of the community held a Makahiki ceremony in the grassy field near the USS Utah Memorial. The Makahiki was an important ancient Hawaiian event, an annual time of peace and festivities which coincides with today's American tradition of Thanksgiving. Over the past few years, the Navy has continued to work with local organizations to further awareness of Hawaiian history by having the ceremony on Ford Island whenever possible. The event promotes a greater appreciation of ancient Hawaiian customs and fosters good relationships between the Navy and its neighbors.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

On your mark, get set ... deploy!

FLTCM(AW/SW)
Jon R. Thompson



FLTCM(AW/SW)
Jon R. Thompson

If you are serving aboard a ship, deployments are a fact of life. You understand that remaining prepared for a deployment is an everyday task. The Fleet Response Plan has not only increased the availability of our ships to deploy, but also calls for all of you on those ships to remain ready. I have a question for all of you on shore duty: Are you ready to deploy? Could you deploy on short notice? For those of you who think deployments are for sea duty Sailors only, you are mistaken.

Today, the Navy is supporting a whole host of missions throughout the world that require support in the form of individual augmentation. What that means is we send individual Sailors to support Navy and joint missions by name, not by entire unit. These assignments are usually in the form of temporary additional duty (TAD) and pop up frequently. My question is: If you were asked (or ordered) to deploy to support operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, wherever, are you prepared?

Would you volunteer if asked?

I challenge each of you to question your own individual response plan. Most of you understand that when you are assigned to a ship you need to have a good plan in place to ensure your families, residences and automobiles are cared for while you are away. I suggest everyone on shore duty have the same arrangements in place because you just never know when you may be asked (or ordered) to go TAD to support a mission.

Before I discuss some of the items you need to think about before deploying, I'd like to offer a little perspective about why you should view these TAD opportunities as great for your career. It's my belief that volunteering to go TAD to support missions, whether in a combat zone or otherwise, is career enhancing. In many cases, a six-month or year-long assignment can spell the

difference in your advancement. Those who volunteer often gain invaluable evaluations and often garner personal awards that set them apart from their peers. In many cases, the individual augmentees are volunteers. That's the best way to get help.

To volunteer for a TAD assignment, two things have to happen. First, you need to have your affairs in order so that volunteering to be away doesn't cripple your family or financial world. Secondly, you need your command support. Command support is, sometimes, difficult to gain, especially if what you do is not only valuable, but also invaluable. If you have not cross-trained your relief, or have no relief, you may not be able to volunteer. I would challenge each of you to take a hard look at what you do for your command and ask yourself what would happen if you weren't there? If the answer leads you to believe your work would not get done, you are probably not in a position to volunteer. Fortunately, I suspect the majority of you are in positions that others could cover for you. The question for those of you in this cat-

egory is, have you trained those around you to cover for you and if the answer were yes, would you volunteer?

Deployment readiness is paramount for all of us. Here is a quick checklist that might help steer some of your decisions:

- Do you have a will?
- Is your Page 2 up to date?
- Do you have a power of attorney for someone to handle your affairs?
- Do you have access to MyPay? Does your spouse?
- Is your pay set up the way you want?
- If married, do you both understand clearly how finances are to be handled during deployment?
- Who will pay your bills while you are deployed?
- If you are renting an apartment, who will be paying the rent for you?
- Is your renter's / homeowner's insurance current?
- Do you have a safe place to store your vehicle and/or someone to take care of it for you?
- Does your family know how to use the Red Cross in case

of emergency?

There are dozens more items you should/could consider depending on your personal and family situation. The fact is - you need to be prepared. If you're not, you essentially cripple yourself and your family if you are asked / ordered to deploy. I challenge every one of you to be ready. For all of our single parents, it's also extremely important that you keep your dependent care plans up-to-date. If you have to deploy, whom do you have in place to care for your child or children?

Shipmates, I see our Navy getting busier and busier. The opportunities for some of you to support missions around the world will continue to present themselves. If and when you are asked or told to support, I can only hope you see the opportunity as a positive career move and you rally behind the opportunity to say yes and do the best you can. Our Navy depends on Sailors to step up to the plate, volunteer when asked, and show that no job is too great or challenging. Your flexibility and dedication are what we rely on. Are you up to the challenge?

Commentary

Chapel Pennant

Giving thanks

Lt. j.g. Demetric Felton
Sr., CHC, USN

Naval Station Pearl Harbor

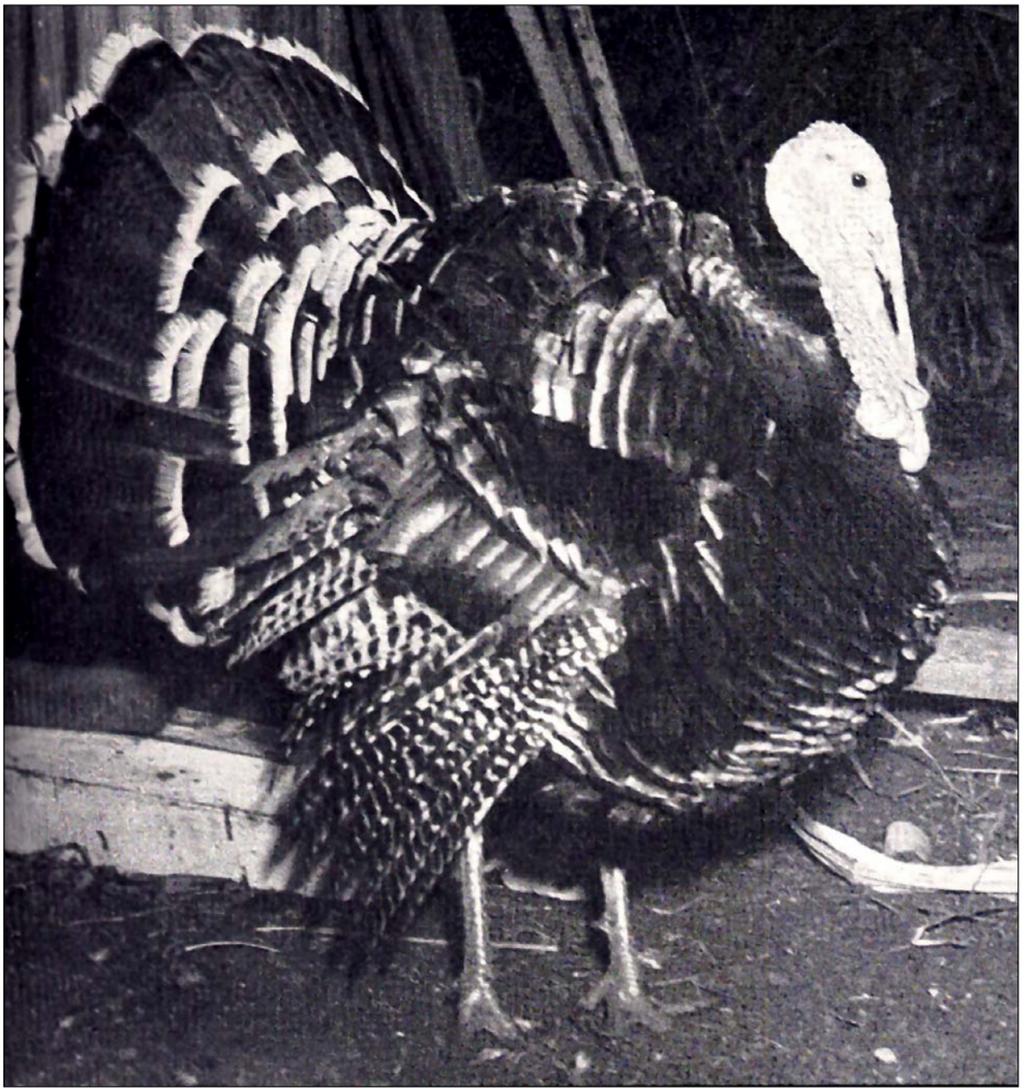
"Thanksgiving" traditionally is a time of giving thanks for friends, family and for the many freedoms that we so richly enjoy. Thanksgiving is celebrated with a time of gathering around the dinner table and enjoying delicious food and recipes passed down throughout our families' history. While we enjoy the food, let us not forget those less fortunate - those who may not have any friends, family and food or don't live in a country that has such freedoms as ours.

When we really sit back and think about how much our God has blessed us, then we can truly do what the Christian scripture says, "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks..." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18a. As you celebrate this

Thanksgiving, take time to offer up thanks for those things that we sometimes take for granted. As we pause to give thanks to our God for the blessings we enjoy in our lives, we actually begin to find more blessings for which to be thankful.

We can also enter Thanksgiving with a renewed effort to live a life of "giving thanks" - giving thanks for the opportunity to encourage someone having a bad day, giving thanks for the ability to live in a country of freedom and democracy, giving thanks for the endless opportunities afforded to us to be better than we could ever have imagined, giving thanks to our God for the countless blessings bestowed upon us every day of our lives. Enjoy the turkey dressing, yams, pumpkin pies and other delicacies, but remember, Thanksgiving comes once a year. We can give thanks every day of the year. Have a happy Thanksgiving.

May he rest in pieces...



U.S. Navy historical photo by CHA3 Hal Root

Photo and cutline from Thanksgiving 1944.

In well seasoned memoriam: Tom G. Gobbledgook Gobbler; Born: too soon; Died: just in time; Father, Mother: doesn't make a difference now. Interment: Cemeterius Stomachus; No flowers just sprigs of celery and parsley; may he rest in pieces - next to the mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce. The funeral is Thursday, Nov. 23, and it's an all day affair at the CHA3 mess halls. Platebearers will be very close admirers from Pearl Harbor Navy Yard and CHA3. It will be one swell wake. Be sure to attend.

Got Questions?

Write to us at

hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com

Hawai'i Navy News

Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i - Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale
Chief of Staff, Navy Region Hawai'i - Capt. Taylor Skardon
Public Affairs Officer - Lt. Barbara Mertz
Deputy Public Affairs Officer - Agnes Tauyan
Managing Editor - JOC(SW) Joe Kane
Leading Petty Officer - PH1 (AW/SW) James Foehl
Editor - JO2 Devin Wright
Assistant Editor - Karen Spangler
Staff Writer - JO2 Corwin Colbert
Staff Writer - JO2 Ryan C. McGinley
Technical Adviser - Joe Novotny
Layout/Design - Antonio Verceluz

Hawai'i Navy News is a free unofficial paper published every Thursday by The Honolulu Advertiser, 605 Kapiolani Blvd., Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96813, a private firm in no way connected with DoD, the U. S. Navy or Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i. All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com World Wide Web address: www.hawaii.navy.mil. This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication pri-

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Navy submarine makes first launch of underwater glider

JOC(SW/AW) David Rush

Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

In a first for the U.S. Navy, an underwater glider was launched with the aid of Navy divers from the dry deck shelter onboard USS Buffalo (SSN 715) on Nov. 14.

The glider is a uniquely mobile network component capable of moving to specific locations and depths, occupying controlled spatial and temporal grids. Driven in a saw tooth vertical profile by variable buoyancy, the glider moves both horizontally and vertically.

It gathers various information including seawater temperature, salinity, water clarity and ocean current speeds. The information is transmitted on a predetermined interval when it surfaces to computers via a built in satellite phone. Data is collected on compact flash cards, just like the ones used for digital cameras.

Named after Joshua Slocum, the first man to single-handedly sail around the world, the Slocum glider looks like a mini-submarine. It is battery-powered and has removable wings and a controllable rudder.

Lt. Cmdr. Patrick Cross, COM-SUBPAC force oceanographer, said the information that this type of device provides is invaluable to the Navy. "Our interest in the sub-



U.S. Navy photo by JOC(SW/AW) David Rush

In a first for the U.S. Navy, an underwater glider was launched with the aid of Navy divers from the dry deck shelter on board USS Buffalo (SSN 715) on Nov. 14. The Slocum glider, named after Joshua Slocum, the first man to single-handedly sail around the world, looks like a mini-submarine. It is battery powered and has removable wings and a controllable rudder. It gathers various information, including seawater temperature, salinity and current speeds and can also record and transmit audio and video information.

marine force has been to use these to characterize the ocean. They're equipped with sensors that can give us salinity and temperature versus depth, and from that we can get sound speeds [rate at which sound from a source travels through water]. We can feed that data into our MODAS (Modular Ocean Data Assimilation System),

run by the Naval Oceanographic Office, and that provides a picture that we provide to our submarines," said Cross.

As for what the information means to those assets below and above the ocean, Cross added that it paints a picture that can be used to their advantage. "It's basically a three dimensional depiction of

ocean conditions that is used in tactical decision aides to determine sonar performance," said Cross.

Cross said that the gliders are an easy and effective way to gather important data. "The gliders are a great way to have a persistent sensor out there to continuously feed us data on what the ocean is doing. Then we can feed that to our shore-based computer models and get a better picture of the ocean and give that information to all tactical assets, not just submarines but anyone involved in ASW (anti-submarine warfare), he explained."

Cross added that the gliders have demonstrated their capability in various exercises. "We have had incremental success since we began using them in exercises, including a glider in RIMPAC '04. It did a great job of demonstrating the technology."

Retrieving a glider via submarine is a logical next step. "One of the future exercises we hope to do is recover a glider onboard a submarine, demonstrating both deployment and recovery. We would locate the glider via GPS and divers would retrieve it and bring it aboard," Cross concluded.

Clayton Jones, Webb Research vice president said the launch was an important step in the right direction. "This is a milestone. It's the first time to be deployed from a DDS (dry deck shelter). That will open up the eyes of people who are

interested in using this kind of technology. Frequently, you know the areas where you want to work in so you can get this in there and get an environmental assessment without anybody in harms way," said Jones.

The gliders are relatively inexpensive, easy to reconfigure for various missions, and have a long life span with minimal maintenance. When new batteries are required, they can simply be replaced and the glider can be put back in the water again.

The recent test involved inserting the glider into the water from the DDS onboard USS Buffalo and then letting it gather and transmit information for five days in an area just off the southwest coast of Oahu.

Jones, along with Cross and Elizabeth Creed, senior scientist, Oasis Inc., departed Pearl Harbor on Nov. 18 on a torpedo recovery boat to retrieve the glider.

They used the GPS coordinates sent from the glider to find its location, and upon surfacing, Creed commanded the glider via computer to remain at the surface.

According to Creed, the event went very well. "I got this one ready to fly and have been compiling the data for the last week. Things have gone extremely well. Many milestones have been met and everything we have set out to do was accomplished so it has been very successful," Creed said.

Hawai'i hospital corpsmen first to complete bridge training

JO2 Devin Wright

Editor

Navy Health Clinic Hawai'i (NAVHLTHCLINIC) held a ceremony to recognize five hospital corpsmen (HM) who completed a five-week bridge training course at the clinic Nov. 20.

The course was implemented after the dental technician (DT) and HM rates merged Oct. 1.

"These five hospital corpsmen are the first corpsmen in Hawai'i

and the fleet, as far as we know, to complete the training as hospital corpsmen," said Capt. Charles Barker, commanding officer, NAVHLTHCLINIC. "This is important to them and to us. We need their help in our platform in deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan, and this is a great opportunity for them and their career. Through this bridge training, these former dental technicians have the training they need to successfully accomplish their mission as hospital

corpsmen," he said.

HMC (AW/SW/FMF/CW) Arne Mirin, assigned to NAVHLTHCLINIC, said this is an excellent opportunity for the five corpsmen to put their new skills to the test.

"Out of the frying pan and into the fire," said Mirin, "this is a great opportunity for them to function as HMs. It is going to give them real world hands-on experience that will propel their career. Now that they've completed the training, they get the same opportunities that any

other HMs would get and that's why they are being deployed," he said.

For some of the HMs who completed the course, learning their new skills was challenging.

"We were pretty familiar with working on patients from the neck up," said HM2 (FMF) Arlen Hernandez, assigned to NAVHLTHCLINIC. "Now we had to learn how to work on everything from the neck down, so it got pretty challenging at times."

Hernandez said while he is

nervous about going to Iraq, he is anxious to put his new skills to the test.

"I am looking forward to utilizing my new skills," he said. "I think anyone would be nervous about going to Iraq right now, but I am confident in my training and as long as we take care of the Marines, they'll take care of us," he said.

Naval Health Clinic Hawai'i hopes to have all of the new HM complete the bridge training course by the end of 2006.

ESG 3 conducts integration exercise

JO2 Zack Baddorf

USS Peleliu Public Affairs

Four ships and about 3,500 Sailors and Marines of Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 3 successfully completed their ESG Integration Exercise (ESGINT) on Nov. 18 off the coast of southern California.

ESGINT is the first of three at-sea training evolutions designed to prepare the strike group for its scheduled six-month Western Pacific deployment in support of the global war on terrorism in the spring. The exercises include evaluations of a series of complex and coordinated training events integrating the different units of ESG 3.

"This is our inauguration as a strike group," said Capt. Chris Noble, ESG 3 Deputy Commander. "We get the people and material together and start doing what we're supposed to do."

This exercise was the first time the units have worked together. Noble, who is embarked aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5), the ESG 3 flagship, said the emphasis of the training was on teamwork.

"That team glue - that team spirit - is very, very important," he said. "Marines and Sailors - although we come from the same democracy and the same great way of life - have



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Zack Baddorf

An aviation boatswain's mate directs the driver of a tow tractor as he backs a U.S. Marine Corps UH-1N Huey helicopter to its parking space on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5). Peleliu is currently underway for a 10-day expeditionary strike group exercise in preparation for an upcoming scheduled deployment.

each chosen a slightly different warrior profession and so I see this as a way to bring back together those arrays of skills and tasks and perspectives to apply to this very complex challenge that we have in the littorals."

One of those challenges included a mock amphibious assault on Camp Pendleton, Calif. with Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) going ashore by utility landing craft (LCU)

and air-cushion landing craft (LCAC).

Lt. Col. Frank Topley, the 11th MEU executive officer, said he was "very, very pleased" with the results by his Marines during this "exceptionally valuable" ESGINT.

"We've been doing individual and small-unit training up to this point - ground-based, of course - but this is our first at-sea period," said Topley, one of about 750

Marines aboard Peleliu. He said the MEU could not have performed so well without its "terrific" relationship with the ship.

"We're required to be very, very cooperative and to be full partners," said Topley. "The demands that we placed on the ship to execute this training have been tremendous and Peleliu has been strong through the whole thing."

Meanwhile, the guided-

missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73) and the frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) conducted multiple maritime interception operations (MIO) on board Navy training vessels. MIOs are performed by specially-trained personnel who board and inspect vessels to ensure they are operating in accordance with U.N. resolutions and to prevent transportation of illegal cargo.

The underway provided the first opportunity for the Tactical Flag Command Center (TFCC) aboard Peleliu to integrate with the ships, the MEU, PHIBRON, aircraft detachments and all other units.

Lt. Col. Tim Callahan, N-35, expeditionary plans, said this practice allows plans to be "refined and rehearsed in order to be properly executed" by his team.

"We're learning how to integrate ships with communications," said Lt. Chris Pressley, Peleliu's assistant operations officer. "We will take our lessons learned and apply them to the next exercise."

ESG Commander Brig. Gen. Carl Jensen said he's "enormously proud" to be a part of this unit.

"I've been very impressed with the professionalism on this ship. We need to keep that up and build on that," Jensen said in an announcement to Peleliu's Sailors and embarked Marines. "I'm counting on you and this

nation is counting on you."

The ESG concept is centered on the proven flexibility and combat power of a combined amphibious readiness group and MEU. The ESG combines the strike, anti-air, anti-surface and anti-subsurface capabilities of a cruiser, a destroyer, a frigate and an attack submarine. These capabilities give the combatant commander a wider variety of options and enables sustained independent operations in more dynamic environments.

"This is the wave of the future. I think this is the most important thing, the most important refocus of naval power for the good of the nation since World War II," said Noble, "and I'm really proud to be a part of it."

ESG 3 is comprised of Peleliu, Port Royal, Reuben James, the dock landing ship USS Germantown (LSD 42), the guided-missile destroyer USS Gonzales (DDG 66) with the crew of USS Laboon (DDG 58), the amphibious transport dock USS Ogden (LPD 5), the 11th MEU, TACRON 11, and the "Black Jacks" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 21.

Ogden and Laboon did not participate in the ESGINT. The next exercise is Composite Training Unit Exercise, a more advanced level, followed by Joint Task Force Exercise, which is the final battle problem.

Kitty Hawk makes history during 3M assessment

JO3 Christopher Koons

USS Kitty Hawk Public Affairs

During USS Kitty Hawk's (CV 63) recent maintenance and material management (3M) assessment, which concluded Nov. 14, the ship made history by becoming the first aircraft carrier ever to complete the assessment without a single department receiving an unsatisfactory grade.

"We received an overall grade of 96 percent," said Senior Chief Electrician's Mate (SW) Frank Miller, Kitty Hawk's senior 3M coordinator. "We topped the last 3M assessment, for which we received a 95, and none of our 17 departments were graded as unsatisfactory. This is a major accomplishment."

The assessment, conducted by a team from Commander, Naval Air Forces (CNAF), evaluated Kitty Hawk's 3M program in several areas, with the ship scoring highest in 3M administration and command involvement in the program.

"We received a score of 98 on the [administration] portion," said Miller. "The inspectors found very few discrepancies and saw that work center supervisors, chiefs and division officers were all deeply involved in making the program work."

According to Miller, Kitty Hawk's success in these areas led to its success in every other part of the assessment.

"[Planned maintenance system] performance rate (PPR) made up half of our total grade and [maintenance data system] performance rate (MPR) made up the other half," he said. "We received a 93 on PPR and a 94 on MPR."

Most notably, Kitty Hawk Sailors passed almost all of the equipment spot checks they were assigned to perform for the inspectors, said Miller, who pointed out that 40 percent of the assessment dealt with spot checks.

"Out of 316 total spot checks, 298 were graded as satisfactory," he said. "We had to pass 90 percent of our spot checks to receive an overall satisfactory grade so that meant we couldn't fail more than 31 of them. We did better than expected."

For Kitty Hawk's supply department, the 3M assessment was a chance to reap success after months of preparation, said Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SW) Jesus Delrosario, supply's maintenance leading petty officer.

"We received an overall score of 95 percent," he said. "On equipment validation, we got a 100 percent."

Supply also contributed to the ship's overall success on spot checks and administration issues, Delrosario explained.

"We passed 23 of our 25 assigned spot checks," he said. "Our 3M administration was also judged to be orderly, without any major discrepancies."

According to Miller, Kitty Hawk will have its next 3M assessment sometime within the next two years. In the meantime, the crew must not let its maintenance standards slide.

"Maintenance is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week business," he said. "We need to keep our standards high so we won't have to pick ourselves up for the next assessment. We need to maintain a steady stream."

Capt. Ed McNamee, Kitty Hawk's commanding officer, praised the entire crew for its performance during the assessment.

"Our grade on the assessment is a result of everyone working as a team," he said. "You should all be very proud of yourselves."

The Kitty Hawk Strike Group is the largest carrier strike group in the Navy and is comprised of the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk, Carrier Air Wing 5, the guided-missile cruisers USS Chancellorsville (CG 62) and USS Cowpens (CG 63), and Destroyer Squadron 15.



U.S. Navy photo

USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) is the first aircraft carrier ever to complete the assessment without a single department receiving an unsatisfactory grade. The evaluation was conducted by a team from Commander, Naval Air Forces (CNAF).

ANNUALEX '05 comes to successful conclusion

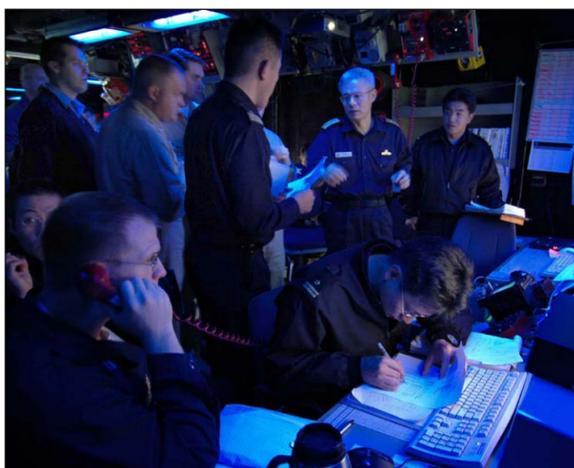
JO3 Christopher Koons

USS Kitty Hawk Public Affairs

The USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) Carrier Strike Group concluded the main event of its fall underway period Nov. 18 as Annual Exercise (ANNUALEX) 2005, a joint exercise between the U.S. Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), came to a close.

ANNUALEX, which began Nov. 9, saw a total of 61 naval vessels, including two U.S. submarines, 10 U.S. Navy ships and 49 JMSDF ships, participate in a series of simulated wartime exercises. U.S. and JMSDF Sailors also visited each other's ships, with 31 Japanese Sailors, including Rear Adm. Sensei Izumi, embarking on Kitty Hawk on Nov. 7 to observe and help improve mission interoperability.

According to Cmdr. Glen



U.S. Navy photo by PHAN Kyle D. Cahlan

U.S. Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force personnel stand watch in the Combat Direction Center (CDC) aboard the conventionally-powered aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) as part of a bilateral Annual Exercise 2005 (ANNUALEX).

Leverette, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 5's exercises and plans officer, ANNUALEX succeeded in improving the joint capabilities

of U.S. and Japanese forces.

"The ability of both of our nations' armed forces to operate together safely in a

high-tempo environment is the biggest accomplishment of this exercise," said Leverette. "The [JMSDF] forces were professional, tactically proficient and at the top of their game. They were able to completely integrate with us in every aspect of the exercise."

According to Leverette, ANNUALEX also succeeded in improving the way different components of CSG 5 coordinate together.

"We learned how to operate better as a strike group and were able to improve the coordination between our various [CSG 5] warfare commanders, doing so in the context of a multi-threat, multi-dimensional warfare scenario," he said.

ANNUALEX featured the largest assemblage of maritime forces in the western Pacific Ocean in the past 50 years, Leverette explained, and junior Kitty Hawk and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5 Sailors proved they were up

to the task of participating in such an intense exercise.

"Kitty Hawk's flight deck crew had to conduct a series of alert exercises in which they had to launch aircraft on short notice," he said. "They performed as well as any team could, especially considering the complexity of the task."

The tempo of these alert exercises kept Kitty Hawk's flight deck personnel constantly motivated, said Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (handling) (AW) Jimmy Candelaria, Kitty Hawk's flight deck leading chief petty officer.

"During large launch event cycles, 15 to 17 aircraft were launched per event, with 10 of these events per day," said Candelaria. "It allowed me to qualify a lot of flight deck personnel."

During these event cycles, flight deck personnel operated all four catapults at once, Candelaria explained, giving Sailors valuable training in

launching aircraft as quickly and safely as possible.

"Once, we launched a total of 13 aircraft in six minutes, 44 seconds," he said. "We accomplished this through teamwork. Our guys gave 110 percent every day."

Leverette also praised the performance of Kitty Hawk, CVW 5 and Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15 Sailors during a photo exercise featuring 16 U.S. Navy and JMSDF ships Nov. 15.

"During the exercise, all of the ships had to maneuver within 250 yards of each other," he said. "It was an outstanding seamanship evolution."

All of the participants in this year's ANNUALEX should take pride in their performance, said Leverette.

"It required every part of the Hawk/5/15 team to show that we are dedicated to our war-fighting skills and ready to go at a moment's notice," he said. "I call it a huge win all around."



U.S. Navy Photo by Cmdr. Pamela Kunze

Rear Adm. Jay Donnelly (second from left), deputy commander and chief of staff, U.S. Pacific Fleet, goes head-to-head with Rear Adm. (sel.) Steve Voetsch (far right), U.S. Pacific Fleet deputy chief of staff for operations, plans and policies, during the 2005 Admiral's Cup relay race. Adm. Gary Roughead, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, also participated in the race, promoting health and physical fitness. Voetsch's team eventually placed second during the run which saw 16 four-man teams participate. The relay race is just one of the many events held during the annual command-wide Admiral's Cup.

COMPACFLT holds annual Admiral's Cup relay race

JO2 (SW/AW)
Michael Perez

Commander U.S.
Pacific Fleet

Adm. Gary Roughead, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, led the way for this year's Admiral's Cup 5K relay race Nov. 18.

Along with Rear Adm. Jay Donnelly, deputy commander and chief of staff, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Rear Adm. (sel.) Steve Voetsch, U.S. Pacific Fleet deputy chief of staff for operations, plans and policies, the group of admirals led more than 60 people in a four-man relay race.

While the race around fleet headquarters was meant to be a fun time for everyone involved, there also was a little friendly competition as each admiral had his own group competing against the others.

"Healthy competition is a good thing," Roughead said. "This run builds teamwork, fitness and camaraderie. (Besides) all work and no play is a dull existence."

Sixteen teams of Sailors, Marines and civilians showed up for the race. The team of Lt. Cmdr. Jason Cassano, Cmdr. Bill Hayes, Matt Ihara and Bill Schilling from Fleet Comptroller took

first place.

"It was awesome that civilian and military were so heavily involved in the event," said Personnel Specialist Chief (SW/AW) Patricia Aughtry, advisor and organizer for the event. "I think it went well. People really got into it."

Aughtry, along with lead coordinator Yeoman 1st Class (SW/AW) LaHaunn Moore, organized the 5K run around the Makalapa complex.

"We've had a series of runs," Donnelly said. "I think we will continue it. A lot of people run recreationally (anyway)."

Hawai'i Sailor wins Navy Rookie Recruiter of the Year award

U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs

At the Navy Recruiting Station Pearlridge in Aiea, a young potential recruit is on the carpeted floor pumping out as many pushups as he can in two minutes. A recruiter sits at a desk quietly counting, "76, 77, 78." When the recruit finishes, the recruiter holds the young man's feet as he prepares to begin his situps.

Another recruit's wife walks through the door, asking where she can find paperwork to prove her husband joined the Navy. A dark-haired recruiter in the back of the office gives her directions to the local personnel support detachment (PSD).

"It's never the same thing every day," said Cryptologic Technician (Maintenance) 1st Class (SS) Chris Carter after helping the woman. "It's always changing – the lateral movements you can make in the Navy as well as always moving up. There's always room for change. There's always room for something."

The Tampa, Fla. native was talking about what he likes best about the Navy – the constant change. And change is something Carter knows well. After just 10

years in the Navy, he has been a yeoman, a cryptologic technician and, now, the Rookie Recruiter of the Year.

"It's fun. It's totally away from the normal naval activities," Carter said. "It has its ups and downs – one minute you're on top of the world, the next minute you'll be in a ditch. It has its moments where you know everybody in the world wants to join the Navy and you can talk to everybody about the Navy and then there are those times when you can't find anybody to talk to, and no one wants to join," he said.

The first-year, canvasser recruiter said helping young adults find their footing is one of the most gratifying aspects of the job.

"After you put somebody from high school or a young adult in the Navy, their parents say, 'Thanks for helping out my son or daughter and getting them in the right direction.' Then getting the phone calls, when they graduate boot camp, they thank you for helping them out and it makes it all worthwhile."

A previous support job that deployed with various commands gave Carter experience with the air, surface and submarine sides of the Navy and he credits that all-around knowledge with helping him become one of

the Navy's top-performing recruiters.

"Seeing a little bit about every aspect helps you out when you're talking to the kids about what they want to do when they're out there," Carter said. "(The award) was never a goal. We were just trying to make (the goal) every day."

"I always strive for that next level of success," Carter said. "I'm never happy and always wanting to achieve more."

Although he said the award is an honor, Carter doesn't plan on applying for any further tours as a recruiter. He wants to change things up and move on to his next goal – a limited-duty officer program. After all, change is what he likes best.

The Recruiter of the Year program is similar to the Sailor of the Year program with recruiters competing at the various levels until the national Recruiter of the Year competition, which puts the top recruiters from the five recruiting districts together in competition.

Carter will attend the Navy Recruiting Command's annual week-long Recruiter of the Year celebration in Washington, D.C. at the end of the month where he will be presented with his award.

Flu shots available at Naval Health Clinic Hawai'i help guard against flu

Preventive Medicine
Department, Naval
Health Clinic Hawai'i

Naval Health Clinic Hawai'i is now administering the flu vaccine for all active duty personnel and beneficiaries with a valid military identification card.

Who should get the flu vaccine?

- Deploying active duty personnel, DOD civilians and contractors in direct operation support.
- People who are 65 years old or older - even if you're in great health.
- Children six to 23 months old. Children younger than two years old have one of the highest rates of hospitalization from influenza.
- Adults and children with a chronic health condition, such as heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, asthma, cancer or HIV/AIDS.
- Women who will be pregnant during flu season. Flu season is typically November through March.
- Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities.
- Children aged six months to 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy.
- Healthcare workers involved in direct patient care.

Active duty personnel will be administered the influenza vaccine by command/unit. HMC(FMF) David Torres will coordinate command/unit vaccinations. He can be reached at 471-2212.

Family members and other eligible beneficiaries may receive their flu shots at either the immunization clinics at Branch Health Clinic (BHC) Makalapa or Kaneohe Bay. Patients do not have to make an appointment or go through their primary care manager (PCM) to receive the flu shot.

Makalapa BHC immunization clinic hours: 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7:30-11:30 a.m. Friday. Bring your medical record. For more information, contact the immunization clinic at 473-1880, ext. 323.

Kaneohe Bay BHC immunization clinic hours: 7:30-11:15 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7:30-11:15 a.m. Friday. Bring your medical record. For more information, contact the immunization clinic at 257-3365, ext. 120.

Vaccination is not the only way to help prevent the flu. Here are some additional measures to guard against flu:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick, too.
 - Stay home when you are sick. If possible, stay home from work, school and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness.
 - Cover your mouth and nose. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.
 - Clean your hands. Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.
 - Other good habits, such as getting plenty of sleep, engaging in physical activity, managing stress, drinking water and eating good food will help you stay healthy in the winter and all year.
- If you contract the flu, there are medications available to help. Your provider will be happy to discuss this with you if necessary. The staff of NAVHLTHCLINIC Hawai'i wishes you good health.

ATG Midpac works well in sand box



U.S. Navy photo by MMC Fred Shultz

Five members of the Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific spent a half-day on Saturday Nov. 5 erecting a sandbox for the students at Iroquois Point Elementary School. Braving the Ewa Plain heat, the team led by Capt. Dell Epperson spent the morning digging and framing the sandbox area. With principal Bob Elliott closely supervising, the task was completed in a very professional and timely manner. EMC George Stirling, ATG MIDPAC community outreach coordinator said, "It's very rewarding to see a project through to completion. There were two very high piles of sand and some of the playground equipment was buried – I wish I could see the happy, smiley faces of the youngsters when they see their new play area." According to Epperson, "I am proud of my team – training on ships or assisting in the community, it's what makes the Navy such a special place to work."



Help fellow Sailors, families during the holiday seasons

Karen S. Spangler

Assistant Editor

You won't find any cold weather or snow here in Hawai'i with Christmas just around the corner, but across the islands you can see a flurry of activity – people shopping and wrapping gifts, decorating and baking cookies and cakes, and enjoying the many sights, sounds and events in preparation for the festive holiday season. But the holiday season can also be a time of loneliness and sadness for some.

Here in Hawai'i, many service members are far away from their families on the mainland and separated from loved ones at a time of year that is particularly symbolic of love and togetherness - a time to share the joys of the season with families. It can be an especially difficult time of year for young single service members who find themselves all alone during the holiday season.

This holiday season, many military service members are serving in the war zone in Iraq and Afghanistan. A good way to help support our troops serving far from home and show appreciation for their dedication is to provide a helping hand to the families who are spending the holidays without their loved ones.

The holiday season can also be a difficult and stressful time for young military families on a limited budget. Not only are they separated from their families in a faraway place, but they may have concerns about financial matters. Perhaps there just isn't enough money to go around; trying to find the funds to purchase gifts for Christmas imposes an additional burden. But there is somewhere to turn – and families who need some assistance during the holidays should request help through their chain of command or the chapel.

"It will be a difficult and challenging time for many of these families during the holiday season," said "Auntie" Ernie Aubrey, program coordinator for the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

The ASYMCA assembled and distributed holiday food baskets for Thanksgiving and will also put together food baskets for Christmas. Single Sailors volunteer their time to help with the baskets. The staff at the center needs donations of food, money and toys and is working with the

Marines' Toys for Tots program. Donations for the holiday baskets can be taken to the Armed Services YMCA Single Sailor Center or the Pearl Harbor Main Chapel.

How can you help a fellow Sailor or military family – especially if you know they are going to be alone during the holidays? One of the best ways that you can help your fellow service members and co-workers is to share your holiday. Try to think about how you would feel if you had to spend the holidays alone and extend your hospitality and an invitation to them to join you. Perhaps you may want to invite them to dinner or include them in a beach outing or a movie. Or they might enjoy assisting with the preparations for Christmas, such as decorating and cooking.

If you notice co-workers or service members who seem a bit depressed or stressed, take the time to offer a listening ear. Be aware of those who need a helping hand, some moral support or a friend and do what you can to help make their holiday a little brighter.

The chapel also works hand in hand with the commands – together they keep an eye out to help people who could use some special attention. The chapel offers devotional activities, Christmas caroling and other special programs. For those who need some advice or want to talk to a chaplain, the chapel staff maintains a constant open-door policy and an around-the-clock duty chaplain.

For single Sailors, a variety of special entertainment and activities are offered during the holiday season.

The ASYMCA Single Sailor drop-in program has planned some special holiday season activities. At the homelike setting offered at the facility, service members can assist with Christmas activities, make Christmas cards to send home and learn to cook. A free Christmas lunch will be served at noon at the center on Christmas Day and is open to all single Sailors and geographic bachelors.

"I want them to relax and make themselves at home," said "Auntie" Ernie who, along with her staff, dedicate their efforts to ensuring that single Sailors at Naval Station Pearl Harbor have a "home away from home" – not just during the holiday season, but all year round.

While you're doing your holiday baking, you might want to make a few extra cookies/holiday desserts for

Sailors at the center. Pies, cookies and desserts are always in much demand and in short supply so all contributions are greatly appreciated. The staff at the center also extends an invitation if you would like to go to the facility and bake holiday goodies. Just give them a call in advance so they will be prepared and have the necessary ingredients available.

The facility is located at building 89, on the hill across from Club Pearl. Call 473-3398 for more information on any of the center's activities or if you would like to help.

The 12 Days of Christmas sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation will offer a variety of activities during the holidays, including surfing with Santa on Dec. 18, Jingle Bowl Rock on Dec. 20, last minute mall madness on Dec. 21, karaoke Christmas at Sam Snead's on Dec. 22, and a 'Twas the Night Before Christmas party on Dec. 24. Other events that are planned include: extreme jet skiing, paintball, helicopter tour of Oahu, holiday bonfire and a Waikiki block party. A free Christmas Day dinner will be served at 2 p.m. on Dec. 25.

Most activities are offered free or at a nominal cost and transportation is usually provided. Information on upcoming MWR single Sailor events is published in Hawai'i Navy News and on bulletin boards, marquees and in barracks on base. You can also call the Liberty in Paradise office at 473-4279.

If you want to check out the spirit of Christmas off base, there are numerous events held throughout the holiday season. Programs featuring military bands, local schools and other musical and dance groups highlight the holiday schedule at the Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki. Or become acquainted with Christmas celebrations "local style" and view Honolulu as it celebrates the holiday season at Honolulu City Lights. While you're cruising through the downtown Honolulu area and Waikiki, be sure to visit a unique Mr. and Mrs. Santa – dressed in Hawaiian clothing and festooned with leis - in front of Honolulu Hale.

You can help make Christmas a little merrier for your fellow service members and their families – simply by remembering the reason for the season and sharing some of the joy and activities that make the holidays such a special time of year.

Recruiter's passion earns top award

**U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs**

As a teenager in San Francisco, Gary Yu had just finished high school and wanted to take the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Test to figure out what things he could do well. At 17, he had no intention of joining the military, but his friends were all talking about their test results, so he gave his recruiter a call to talk about possibly scheduling an exam.

The recruiter was at his house the very next day. When Yu got his test scores, he thought joining the Navy could be a good thing.

"I finally decided I was going to do two years," said Navy Counselor 1st Class Yu. "It was perfect because it allowed me money for college. I didn't want to go through college just to go through the motions so I thought, what a great way to travel and try something new."

"I left (military entrance processing station) with a six-year (commitment) thinking I was going in for two years only and it ended up being the best decision ever. My recruiter helped me because if he didn't push me, I wouldn't be where I am right now."

Yu is at the Navy Recruiting Station Pearlridge in Aiea, talking about his recent selection as the Enlisted Recruiter of the Year Reserve Component, one of the Navy's top two enlisted recruiters.

Being selected as a Recruiter of the Year, an honor that rewards the Navy's two top recruiters with an automatic promotion to chief petty officer, during his fifth year of recruiting is recognition that surprised Yu, even though he had been selected as Rookie Recruiter of the Year during his first year of recruiting. His second and fourth years brought him zone Recruiter of the Year awards and he was named a district Recruiter of the Year during his third year.

"Every single year, I set out a shorter attainable goal which is to get a (Navy Achievement Medal) every year," Yu said. "In order to get a (Navy Achievement Medal), you have to be in the top 10 percent of the district so that's my short term goal. And then I just continue doing what I do and things will come if you just keep working. It was unexpected, though; I didn't expect to win the national award."

The Recruiter of the Year program is similar to the Sailor of the Year program with recruiters competing at the various levels until the national Recruiter of the Year competition, which puts the top recruiters from the five recruiting districts together in competition.

Yu is a career recruiter, which

means his entire career will be spent recruiting and not returning to the fleet. Before that, he was an active-duty sonar technician for five years.

"I love the program; I really do," said Yu. "You'll hear a lot of recruiters say - and it's true, 'The biggest reward is you see the way you help someone out.'"

"In my case, the program I was recruiting was reserves so I get to see these individuals every month when they come in and do their drills. I see people develop into petty officers. For instance, I found out that one of the people I brought in under the advanced paygrade program, brought him in directly as an E-5, just got picked up for a commission. He's going to be an ensign. So when you see that, you're really proud of them."

Helping Yu attain those goals are his work philosophies, including working hard, paying attention to detail and following the education he received to be a recruiter.

"I think the main thing is to follow what they teach you at school," Yu said, "and if you follow that, that lays your foundation. You can't go wrong and from there, what you do is you tailor what they teach you to your personality."

"I think it's really true when they teach you in school that your applicant, your customer, comes first, last and always. That's really true and something that I follow to the tee. Most of the people I get are referrals, people who tell their friends, 'Hey this recruiter took care of me.' And people can tell that – when you go and buy something at a store, you get the feeling when the guy is trying to help you out or when the guy is trying to push a product. You can tell the person who's trying to help you out and you trust them. Then the decision-making is much easier," said Yu.

Yu also said that focusing and time management have helped him in his career, but the most important aspect is a passion for the job.

"What keeps me going is I absolutely love this job," said Yu. "When the pressure comes down and at the end of the month, late hours, I feel alive – that's what I live for. It doesn't feel like I'm selling the Navy; it feels like when I'm talking to someone that I'm offering them a job. My job is to help you get a job in the Navy and that's how I approach it."

"I love this job and I can't imagine doing anything else. I really can't," he added.

Yu will attend the Navy Recruiting Command's annual weeklong Recruiter of the Year celebration in Washington, D.C. at the end of the month where he will be promoted to the paygrade of E-7.

Military health system enters new era

Special release from the U.S. Department of Defense

The Department of Defense achieved a major milestone with the launch of AHLTA, its global electronic health record system, at a ceremony hosted by Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, and attended by Michael O. Leavitt, secretary of health and human services, at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda on Nov. 21.

AHLTA is the largest, most significant electronic health record system of its kind with the potential to serve more than nine million service members, retirees and their families worldwide. When fully implemented, about 60,000 military healthcare professionals at DoD medical facilities in the United States and 11 other countries will use this electronic health record system.

"Beneficiaries' health records will be available around the clock and around the world, available to healthcare providers, yet protected from loss and unauthorized access," said Winkenwerder. "Our electronic health record has matured to a point that its size and complexity are unrivaled. Most importantly, this new system was built in partnership with

America's leading information technology companies."

Today, many thousands of military medical providers are using the system and nearly 300,000 outpatient visits are captured digitally every week. Full deployment of the system in DoD's 800 clinics and 70 hospitals will be complete by December 2006.

"With the roll-out of AHLTA, the Department of Defense has made a great step toward achieving President Bush's goal of making electronic health records available to a majority of Americans within 10 years," said Leavitt. "The lessons we learn from an initiative of this geographic scope and patient base will prove invaluable for future private and government health systems."

The longer term vision, expected to be achieved in the next two to three years, is a continuously updated digital medical record from the point of injury or care on the battlefield to military clinics and hospitals in the United States, all completely transferable electronically to the Veterans Health Administration.

A massive training program for AHLTA is currently underway in DoD's medical community to ensure that all who have access to the system are properly trained in usage and health record security.



Naval Station Pearl Harbor's outstanding civilians



U.S. Navy photo by YN2 (SW) Michael P. Pimentel

Civilian employees from Navy Region Hawai'i and Naval Station Pearl Harbor received awards for hard work, length of service and outstanding achievements at an awards ceremony held Nov. 18 at the Memorial Fountain fronting building 150 at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The awards were presented by Capt. Taylor Skardon, commanding officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Rodrigo Rivera, Richard Santa and Genia Wessels were recipients of Civilian of the Quarter awards for the third quarter of 2005. Length of service and on-the-spot cash awards were also presented.

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Hawai'i Navy News Sports

Mids look to win the Commander-In-Chief's Trophy for the third consecutive year

Naval Academy Varsity Athletics

The Navy Midshipmen (6-4), coming off a 38-17 win over Temple to become bowl eligible, will travel to Philadelphia, Pa. to take on the Army Black Knights (4-6) The contest starts at 2:30 p.m. Dec. 3 at a sold out Lincoln Financial Field (68,000) in the 106th meeting between the two rivals.

A win over Army would give the Mids the Commander-In-Chief's Trophy for a third consecutive year for the first time in school history. The game will also mark the first time since 1996 that the trophy has been on the line for both schools.

The game will be televised nationally by CBS and around the world on American Forces Television with Ian Eagle, Boomer Esiason and Dwayne Ballen calling all the action.

The game can be heard on the Navy Radio Network, which includes WBAL in Baltimore (1090 AM), Sportstalk 980 in Washington, D.C. (980 AM), and WNAV in Annapolis (1430 AM), as well as nationally on Sirius Satellite Radio (Channel TBA) or around the world at www.navy.sports.com, www.wbal.com, www.sportstalk980.com and www.wnav.com. Armed Forces Radio will carry the game live to our troops stationed around the world.

Bob Socci and Omar Nelson will call all the action beginning with the Navy Football Pregame Show at 1:30 p.m.



Photo by Naval Academy Varsity Athletics

Temple's Bruce Gordon has the ball stripped from him during the first quarter.

Naval Academy accepts bid to Poinsettia Bowl

Naval Academy Varsity Athletics

Chet Gladchuk, Naval Academy director of athletics, announced on Nov. 21 that the Naval Academy has accepted an invitation to play in the inaugural San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl at 7:30 p.m. (PST) Dec. 22 at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, Calif. against a Mountain West opponent. The game will be televised by ESPN2. The bid also came with a bonus as the Mids will have the opportunity to play in the Poinsettia Bowl in 2008, 2009 or 2010 if Navy is bowl eligible (Navy can pick the year).

"Blue sky, 72 degrees, palm trees and sunshine in December works for us," said Gladchuk. "A beautiful setting in a Navy city in one of the finest football venues in the country has everyone excited. We have had discussions with the Poinsettia Bowl executives for quite awhile and their attention to detail and enthusiasm for our team and fans leads one to believe that this will be our finest bowl experience yet. Three bowl games in a row is historic for the academy and our congratulations to Coach Johnson, his staff and our players for reaffirming that Navy is one of the finest football programs in the nation. Let's beat Army first, then take on the Mountain West for a fantastic finish to a historic season," he said.

"What better way to kick off San Diego's newest bowl game than to have the United States Naval Academy as one of the teams," said Doug Sawyer, Poinsettia Bowl president. "We couldn't be happier that the Naval Academy has accepted our invitation."

"What better way to kick off a new bowl game in San Diego than to have Navy play in it," said Sawyer. "The Naval Academy has one of the most tradition-rich college football programs in the country and we're so pleased the Midshipmen will be bringing their traditions and exciting football team to our community."

"I'm excited the team has achieved one of their goals, to have a chance to go to a bowl game, and I'm excited to be going to San Diego," said Paul Johnson, Navy head coach. "I was lucky enough when I coached in Hawai'i to play there [San Diego] in the Holiday Bowl. It's a great city and I'm sure the kids will have a great time. We are excited about it. We will talk about it today and then put it on the back burner. After today, we won't mention it again until after the Army-Navy game. It's good to get it out of the way now. There's no question where our focus needs to be and will be."

The bowl bid is a landmark achievement for the football program as it marks the first time in school history that Navy has gone to three straight bowl games. Navy can achieve another first by beating Army on Dec. 3 (2:30 p.m., CBS) and winning the Commander-In-Chief's Trophy for a third consecutive year.

Comments, opinions or ideas? Write to us at hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com

Hawai'i Navy News

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