

# Hawai'i **Navy News** Serving the Best Homeport in the Navy

December 16, 2005

www.hawaii.navy.mil

Volume 30 Issue 50

## SurgeMain pilot program to increase fleet response capability

Sean Hughes

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

The Navy's second SurgeMain team was officially established at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard (PHNS) on Nov. 7, following the first at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS) approximately six months ago. Both pilot programs are returning improved maintenance capability to the Navy.

"We have only been providing support for half a year as a pilot and already, 428 people have provided 4,787 days of support," said Cmdr. Chuck Fidler, SurgeMain program manager at Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA).

SurgeMain, short for "Surge Maintenance," is made up of a part-time, flexible, fully qualified maintenance workforce. These teams of reserve component Sailors become a mobilization force when the Navy needs to "surge" its maintenance infrastructure to support fleet readiness and the Fleet Response Plan.

"Over the years, our

maintenance infrastructure has gone from a force of about 250,000 people to about 70,000," Fidler said. "SurgeMain is meant to provide a trained and integrated workforce to mitigate - and ultimately mobilize - if needed."

"With the soaring operational tempo in today's Navy, each maintenance hour and day are vital currency in our nation's defense," said Capt. Frank Camelio, PHNS commander. "Times like these call for our organizations to rise up and accept challenges."

"Beyond the pilot, SurgeMain should prove to be very successful in helping the shipyards fulfill their missions," said Fidler. "The objective of the program is to provide depot-level skilled workers during peak workload periods without impacting Naval Shipyard mission funding and without adding any additional man-days to project completion."

Fidler said aligning trained people - those with substantial civilian skill sets - to the right requirement is key to the program's success. The rest,

according to Pearl's SurgeMain program manager, is in building rapport with the waterfront. "By doing familiarization and the mandatory shipyard training on drill weekends using our reserve instructors, we have streamlined to deliver our SurgeMain reservists to the shops the first workday they report," said Lt. Cmdr. Leonard Laforteza, PHNS SurgeMain production and resources manager. "Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard really accepted me and I feel like I'm really helping them out," said Storekeeper 1st Class (SW) William Kop, with more than 11 years experience as a senior heavy vehicle mechanic for the State of Hawaii's Board of Water Supply. In his civilian career, he repairs and maintains diesel trucks, air and hydraulic brakes, hydraulic systems and cylinders, air compressors, water pumps, cranes and trailers.

"The example I heard coming in to SurgeMain was that if you're a (reserve component) yeoman, but you're a plumber or an electrician on the out-

side, SurgeMain needs you," said Kop, an active duty storekeeper for four and half years before transitioning to the civilian mechanic trade, and concurrently the Navy Reserve, several years ago. "The shipyard people accepted me just like another one of the workers," Kop said, after his first week on the job helping to repair valves at PHNS. "They didn't treat me as an outsider at all. They trusted me, put me right in on the job working with another two guys, and it's just like any other work day."

PHNS, Hawaii's largest industrial employer, employs more than 5,000 workers, 700 of which are uniformed military personnel assigned to positions ranging from senior shipyard managers to waterfront mechanics.

PHNS proven reserve liaison program has allowed hundreds of Navy reservists to assist in shipyard projects in recent years, including last year's emergent repair of USS San Francisco (SSN 711) in Guam.



U.S. Navy photo by Kristin Ching

Storekeeper 1st Class (SW) William Kop, a Navy reserve component Sailor, works on a submarine at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. Kop has more than 11 years of experience as a senior heavy vehicle mechanic for the State of Hawaii's Board of Water Supply. His civilian expertise and that of Kop's team members - lends depth to the Navy's new SurgeMain pilot program underway at PHNS and Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. The shipyards' SurgeMain teams provide a trained, surge-capable workforce, ready to assist in peak maintenance workload or emergent repair periods.



**Bremerton changes command**  
Zwolfer relieves Logan.  
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**Winterfest 2005**  
Sailors, family members gather to enjoy the holiday spirit.  
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## Hawai'i Navy News Briefs

### New year's celebration for CPOs

All chief petty officers and their guests are invited to celebrate the ending of 2005 and the welcoming of 2006 at Oceans CPO Club on Dec. 31 from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. dfrink specials, satellite TV and free games are just some of Oceans' regular features. On New Year's Eve, a disc jockey will be there to celebrate and champagne will be provided at midnight. Door prizes and gifts will be given throughout the night. For more information, call 471-0612.

## A shot for posterity



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

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Danile Gilbert, assigned to the Naval Health Clinic Hawai'i, gives Capt. Taylor Skardon, chief of staff, Navy Region Hawai'i and commanding officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, a flu shot on Monday.

## Pearl Harbor welders armor Iraq, Afghanistan Humvees

Marshall Fukuki

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

Four Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard welders installed armor on Humvees at the Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois this past summer. "We feel proud," said BobbyLee Tavares of the assignment. "At least we're saving some people's lives."

The highly mobile and lightweight Humvees are widely used by the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan, but were found vulnerable to enemy attack.

This prompted urgent efforts to add armor plating to unprotected vehicles. In May, the Army asked the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) for welders from the naval shipyards to work at the arsenal.

Around that time, Tavares and coworker Melissa Seguerre heard a news report about a truck in Iraq that was hit by a roadside bomb. The armored cabin shielded the Americans inside and they were able to walk away unharmed. "That's why we vol-

unteered," said Tavares. The two spent seven weeks at the arsenal, working 12-hour shifts six days a week. Shelby FeBenito and Randal Amoncio, who stayed three additional weeks, relieved them. The yarders installed armor plating and fabricated various parts. About 500 "Hummers" required modifications, and teams worked on each vehicle at the same time.

According to the PHNS team, one of the differences from typical shipyard work was that there were no shipfitters to help set up the armor pieces. The welders used jigs or held the plates in place by themselves for tack and final welding. Another difference noted by the shipyarders was that all work was performed in buildings with a lot of elbow room, not in confined spaces aboard ship.

Amoncio, commenting on the work he did at the arsenal, said he felt proud to be contributing to national security. "I represented a top-notch, number one shipyard in the nation," he said. "I can't wait ... to represent Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard again."

## Cold cases investigation leads to murder indictment

Compiled by JO2 Devin Wright

Editor

On Dec. 7 an Oahu grand jury indicted 57-year-old Jenaro Torres for the 1992 murder of Reuben Gallegos. The murder occurred during a robbery of the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange.

The case was originally investigated by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) and adopted by the Cold Case Unit within the Department of the Attorney General after the unit was established in February. The indictment is the first obtained by the unit.

Officials at NCIS said the indictment is proof that time is not a factor in the pursuit of justice.

"This indictment is the culmination of an extraordinary investigative effort lead by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service in collaboration with our partners in the State of Hawaii's Cold Case Unit and the Hawaii State Attorney General's Office," said Bradley R. Howell, special agent in charge of the NCIS, Hawai'i.

"It should serve as a reminder to all that the Department of the Navy and the NCIS will relentlessly pursue justice for all crimes committed against or impacting our Sailors, Marines and civilian employees," he said.

In 2004, the Attorney General sought and received a federal grant to establish the Cold Case Unit to investigate and prosecute cold homicide cases throughout the state and to develop a statewide coordinated approach to cold homicide investigations.

"The Cold Case Unit is increasing the effectiveness of cold case homicide investigations throughout Hawai'i," said Attorney General Mark Bennett. "We are working with law enforcement agencies in every county and at all levels of the government to bring justice and closure to homicide cases. We particularly commend the NCIS for its assistance in this case," he said.

Torres' present whereabouts is unknown. Bail has been set at \$500,000. Torres is presumed innocent until proven guilty at trial.

## Firefighters, friends memorialize fallen comrade

Karen S. Spangler

Assistant Editor

More than 1,500 firefighters, family members and friends gathered at Kaneohe Yacht Harbor on Dec. 9 to memorialize Paul Schrader, a fellow firefighter assigned to station eight at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH) - Kaneohe.

Schrader drowned on Nov. 29 while surfing near Pyramid Rock at North Beach, MCBH.

The memorial service and celebration of life began with the traditional bell tolling, signifying the passing of a firefighter.

The "Firefighters' Prayer" was recited both in English and in Hawaiian. An excerpt from the prayer says,

"When I am called to duty, God,

Whenever flames may rage  
Give me strength to save a life

Whatever be its age...  
I want to fill my calling  
To give the best in me

To guard my friend and neighbor

And protect his property....



Photo by Ryan Satsuka

Federal Firefighter Scott Haitusuka carries the folded flag for presentation to Paul Schrader's widow during the memorial ceremony and celebration of life held Dec. 9 at Kaneohe Yacht Club.

And if according to Your will

While on duty I must answer death's call

Bless with Your protecting hand

My family one and all."

After bagpipe selections were played, firefighters in full dress uniform assembled for a pass in review as they filed by a static display of Schrader's personal effects.

Fire personnel from Federal Fire Department personnel as well as Hickam Fire

Department, Hickam Air Force Reserve fire component and Honolulu Fire Department participated in Friday's service.

A shadow box of personal effects, including badges from his uniform and hat, was presented to Schrader's widow, Cookie, by representatives from the firefighting unit at the Air Force Reserve at Hickam. A folded American flag was also presented to Mrs. Schrader by Chief Glenn Delaura from Federal Fire Department at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Delaura also offered brief remarks.

The ceremony ended with a 21-gun salute performed by an Air Force color guard.

A 22-year veteran of the firefighting service, Schrader was also in the Air Force Reserve and was recently selected for promotion to deputy fire chief. He joined Federal Fire Department in 1991.

The ceremony was a multi-jurisdictional service including Federal Fire Department, Air Force Reserve, and Honolulu City and County Fire Department.

# Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

## Looking at the glass as half full

**Pacific Fleet Master Chief (SS/SW) Rick West**



FLTCM(SS/SW) Rick West

I don't know that too many people come into their first enlistment in the Navy with the mentality that this is going to be a career, but a lot of us end up making the choice to stay Navy. So what is it that influences our decision to go from a one-enlistment Sailor to a career Sailor?

Of course, acceptance of the military lifestyle is a prerequisite for anyone to consider staying in, but most of us have that or we would have become an attrition statistic. As much as I would love to say dedication to duty and country is the major deciding factor for all Sailors to stay past their first term in the Navy, I think it's shared by the benefits the Navy has to offer and, yes, the money.

Now I would like to provide an example of the Navy package. An E-4 with more than three years of service makes a base pay of \$1,787 a month, or \$21,444 per year, before taxes. This is your base pay, not including your housing, subsistence, clothing allowance, sea pay, or other special pays. Cha-ching!

For E-4s stationed on Oahu, they are receiving \$13,932 a year for housing. Ignoring the rest of the additional pay, just based on base pay and housing, an E-4 would have

to be making \$35,376 a year in the civilian sector to cover base pay and housing if ignoring the other variables such as taxes.

Again, this is ignoring the other special pays Sailors receive and the services rendered, like medical and dental care, MWR services, quality of housing, etc. This is also ignoring that much of your salary, such as housing and subsistence, is not subject to federal taxes whereas your entire civilian paycheck would be.

However, if we were to add in all the other variables, an E-4 with over three years in would have to be making \$42,000 a year as opposed to the \$21,444 he's making in the military.

But deciding to stay Navy goes beyond money and delves into areas somewhat overlooked. For instance, those 30 days of paid vacation you are authorized each year. Most civilian jobs only offer 10 days a year. And where most civilian jobs would give you six paid holidays per year, the Navy gives you 10. Are you getting this? Keep adding it up.

There are also the educational

opportunities that abound in the Navy from our 100 percent tuition assistance to our free CLEP and DSST exams to the PACE courses. Not to mention the further you advance in rate, the more credit you can possibly get toward your college degree. The Navy has numerous programs leading to college degrees and has arrangements with many colleges to grant credit and direct Sailors on a rating-specific roadmap to their education. There are even more opportunities to earn credit toward your bachelor's and master's within several rates. Have you downloaded your SMART transcript? Do you know what SMOLAA is?

Other benefits that you are privy to when you stay Navy are free legal service, tax service, discounted child care, spouse employment assistance, Thrift Savings Plan, access to Morale, Welfare and Recreation services like the base clubs, MWR events and discounted tickets, fitness centers, pools, tennis courts and golf courses, discounted equipment rentals, hobby shops, spouse social clubs, reduced-cost commissary and exchanges, and, for Sailors from or in certain areas, no state taxes or reduced fees for many things such as car registration.

The cost adds up when comparing what you would spend to have access to these or similar services

as a civilian. Would you be able to afford to have the luxury of a gym membership or would you have to save that money for your medical insurance? And it's not just that staying Navy benefits your wallet; it also benefits your lifestyle.

By choosing to stay Navy, the monetary advantages and facilities offer you and your family a pretty darn good life. You will always be certain your family will have medical care for whatever emergency comes up. You will have many peripheral, yet quality-of-life-increasing services available to you for free or a minimum-cost that you might not be able to afford as a civilian.

Now as you can tell from the above, I think the Navy is a great opportunity and provides some great incentives, but I also know as Sailors you work hard and deploy, and Navy families endure lots. I know the Navy isn't for everyone and that's OK. I just continue to see great Sailors getting out of the Navy "without a solid plan."

As a professional Navy keeping our best, it may be difficult for you to come back once you decide to leave and I'd like a nickel for every person who has gotten out and later wished they would have stayed.

It is a very personal choice to stay in the Navy or to get your dis-

charge. But I highly encourage everyone, regardless of how made-up your mind is, to really think about your life, how you want to live and what it will be like, realistically, for you to get out in today's job market. Maybe you and your spouse/family can sit down and make a simple list comparing and contrasting the different benefits and services the Navy has to offer, and what your lives would be like outside the Navy.

And maybe you'll be the next Sailor who makes that choice to stay Navy.

**Fleet Master Chief Tips:**

- If you elect to leave active duty, you should consider joining the Navy Reserves. See your NC, career counselor, CMC or COB for further details about the opportunities that exist in the Naval Reserve.

- Consider an overseas tour—the experience is great and there are certain monetary advantages.

Hopefully, you've learned something in this article or it's got you thinking about the Navy as your employer of choice. Next time you're on the base, slow down and take a good look at all the things that are made available to you — are you taking advantage of them? Keep your glass half full and keep up the great work that you do every day; we are doing well. 'Till next time. Going deep ... Hoo-ya!

Commentary

## Chapel Pennant

### The holiday focus

**LT. M.Q. Grass**  
CHC USNR

*Command, Patrol and Reconnaissance-Wing Two Kaneohe Bay, Hawai'i*

Each year the Christmas season brings a new challenge. This challenge comes in the form of a circumstance that makes it difficult to be hopeful, peaceful and happy. For some, the challenge is spending Christmas away from family, either on the high seas or in the deserts of Iraq, a challenge that equally extends to the spouses and children of those who are deployed. For those who are single, here in Hawai'i, it's the challenge of being alone and thousands of miles away from family. For others, the challenge may be spending Christmas without a loved one who has died. To put it mildly, these challenges can be tough to cope with.

So, is there a way to alleviate the stress, tension and anxiety of these challenges? Yes, there is a way and it is entirely possible to stay hopeful, peaceful and happy in the midst of trying circumstances. This will not be easy to do, but it is better than the alternative of increased discouragement, depression, and anxiety. Yes, it will be an uphill road to achieve and maintain hope, peace and happiness despite your circumstances. However, the road is well worth the effort. To succeed at traveling this road you need to have the right frame of mind. A good frame of mind always makes an unpleasant circumstance better, whereas, a bad frame of mind always makes it worse. Often we cannot choose our circumstances, but we can choose how we react to those circumstances. And this choice can make all the difference in the level of your peace, joy and happiness.

The choice to travel this road is made more difficult when our focus

is unduly on ourselves. If we focus on the negative aspects of life, our attitude and frame of mind will become sour and negative — "woe is me" or "poor me." Thus, you will foster discouragement, depression and sadness. But, if you focus on the good and positive aspects of life, then life takes on new colors and joys and you will foster hope and peace. Joni Eareckson Tada is an example of this very principle. She is an inspirational speaker. What sets this woman apart is that she is paralyzed from the neck down and has been since 1967. At the Hawaiian Prayer Breakfast earlier this year, Joni relayed, that in the months after her diving accident she struggled with depression and thoughts of suicide. Her life changed when she decided to focus on what she could give instead of on what she did not have. Each day she chooses not focus on herself and her confinement to a wheelchair, but instead she chooses to give God thanks for the good things in her life and chooses to focus on what she can give to those around her. She chooses to give thoughts of value, love and appreciation to those around her. In doing so, she found an amazing depth of joy and peace that few people experience.

The Christmas story each year teaches us not to focus on ourselves. In the Christmas story, God sent the gift of His Son to bring peace and joy to all people. God's focus was on blessing mankind. His love teaches us that we should be focused on blessing those around us. When we focus on those around us and what we have to give to them, then it is hard to focus on ourselves. A natural byproduct of this outward focus is increased levels of joy, peace and hope. This year make the choice to focus on those around you and in the end you will be glad you did it.

## Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus, but...well...



U.S. Navy historical photo

Photo and cutline from Dec. 1945

Oh, what a time for Santa to lose his beard! No sooner had this little girl stepped up to receive her gift directly from the North Pole, when the tropic warmth of a Hawaiian Christmas Eve caused the adhesive tape to loosen and Santa lost his whiskers. The girl looked up a moment after this picture was taken, and all the faith in the world couldn't stop bitter tears of disillusionment from coming to her eyes. The grey trousers, Florsheim brogans, all this could have gone unnoticed, but why, oh why, couldn't Santa keep his artificial chin up!

## Hawai'i Navy News

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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.hawaiinavy.mil. This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication pri-

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# Navy Club Memorial – 50 years later, words still ring true

Karen S. Spangler

Assistant Editor

Fifty years have passed since the dedication of the Navy Club Memorial, a 10-foot high, 26-ton Hawaiian blue-stone (rock of volcanic origin) boulder which was the first memorial dedicated to those who lost their lives during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Situated on a grassy bank on Ford Island at a vantage point that overlooks the USS Arizona Memorial, the memorial is known to few.

But it holds special meaning for three brothers, Allen, Ken and Charles Meyer – for it was through the efforts of their father, Alton G. Meyer, that the memorial was commissioned and later dedicated at a special ceremony on Dec. 7, 1955.

At a ceremony at the memorial on Dec. 8, the three brothers and their families and friends held a rededication on the 50th anniversary of its founding. Although the ceremony was small and private, and without the pomp and fanfare of other ceremonies that



U.S. Navy photo by Karen Spangler (Left to right): Allen, Ken and Charles Meyer returned to Ford Island on Dec. 8 to visit the Navy Club Memorial, the first memorial to the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. It was through the efforts of their father, Alton Meyer, that the memorial was commissioned and dedicated. Navy Chaplain Lt. j.g. Demetric Felton, offered remarks on behalf of the Navy at Thursday's ceremony.

commemorated Dec. 7, it was no less meaningful - representing the thanks and appreciation of a grateful nation to those who sacrificed their lives on Dec. 7, 1941.

It was on the 14th anniversary of the horrific Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor when

representatives of the Navy Club of the U.S.A. (NCUSA), a naval veterans organization, met on Ford Island to "remember Pearl Harbor" and dedicate the monument. The dedication culminated more than four years' of effort by the Pearl Harbor Memorial Commission. Dignitaries, high-ranking military officials, members of the Navy band and Sailors were in attendance for the dedication. At the ceremony, they also stood at attention and saluted the Arizona – although at that time only a floating platform rested above the remains of the great ship.

Alton Meyer, who was then Pearl Harbor Memorial Commission chairman, gave words of thanks and hope at the dedication in December 1955, a message that rings just as true today.

At Thursday's ceremony, Allen Meyer offered excerpts from remarks given by his father on the occasion of the Navy Club Memorial's dedication in 1955:

"It has been 14 long years ago since Sunday morning, Dec. 7, 1941, when while their

emissaries were negotiating with our government, that the Japanese came streaking in over Oahu from the west at 7:40 a.m. They caught us asleep.

"We are here to place a memorial to the memory of our men who died as a result of that insidious attack. What purpose can such a memorial serve? It can only serve to remind us of the men who gave up their lives in the first hour of World War II. Those men fought back nobly and died heroically," Allen Meyer repeated his father's words.

Alton Meyer's remarks, now offered 50 years later by his son, concluded, "It is with great pride that the Navy Club Pearl Harbor Memorial Commission presents to the Navy Club of the United States of America this memorial monument erected in memory of those who have so gallantly given their lives in defense of democracy and freedom." The national commandant of NCUSA in turn presented the memorial to the commandant of the 14th Naval District.

Charles R Topp, national commandant of the Navy Club

of the United States of America, presented an address to those assembled for the dedication 50 years ago and words from that speech were also given by Allen Meyer:

"We meet here today to remember – to pay a debt. We meet here as beneficiaries of a great inheritance – one of freedom and liberty," Allen Meyer reiterated from the speech.

"In our nation, government exists as a servant of the people. A man is not a tool of the state. His liberties are guaranteed and he lives in an environment where his freedom may be exercised," Allen Meyer continued with Topp's speech. "It is that type of inheritance that we gather on an occasion such as this," he reminded in reading from the decades old speech.

He continued, "Let us never forget this day – what this observance signifies. Here today we have dedicated the first memorial to be erected by a veterans group at Pearl Harbor which becomes a part of the Pacific War Memorial system. We know the price of negligence – we know the cost of not being prepared.

"We are the custodians of a great heritage – of freedom and independence. We must keep faith with those who fought and died to uphold it – who sacrificed to maintain it," he said.

Navy Chaplain Lt. j.g. Demetric Felton, a chaplain at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel, offered an invocation and benediction as well as remarks on behalf of the Navy.

"On behalf of the Navy, I want to thank the Navy Club for doing this. This is a reminder for us who are serving in the Navy not to forget the sacrifices of those who have passed on, so that we might have freedoms..." said Chaplain Felton.

The bronze plaque mounted on the Navy Club Memorial reminds those who view it of the sacrifices of the young men from decades before. Its inscription reads: "in reverent recognition of divine guidance and to the eternal memory of those who gave their last full measure of devotion to their country, this monument is dedicated humbly to their sacrifice in defending our freedom."

## Navy League, Outrigger Hotel and Resort team up in support of Operation Paperback

J02 Corwin M. Colbert

Staff Writer

The Outrigger Hotel and Resort in partnership with the Honolulu Council of the United States Navy League donated more than 1,300 books to Naval Station Pearl Harbor as part of "Operation Paperback." Capt. Taylor Skardon, chief of staff, Navy Region Hawai'i and commanding officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor accepted the books on behalf of the Naval Station Dec. 9 at the Waikiki Outrigger Hotel.

"This is a fantastic show of

support for our Sailors and the Navy," Skardon said. It's a great feeling to have people out there in the community who understand how a simple thing like donating some books can affect the morale of our Sailors in a positive way."

Presenting the books on behalf of Outrigger Hotel was the CEO David Carey.

"We have been collecting books from our employees and the Navy League to donate to the Sailors who are serving our country," said Carey. "This time we have donated over 1,300 books." Mildred Courtney, a Navy League member and board

member of the USO said this isn't a once in a lifetime donation.

"Outrigger is in partnership with the Navy League sponsoring Operation Paperback. Outrigger always supports the military. We have already donated 4,000 books to the ships in Pearl Harbor," said Courtney.

Ship's Serviceman 2nd Class Roland George, a building manager of the Bachelors Enlisted Quarters, help load the books onto the duty truck to take back to the Naval Station Pearl Harbor. He said the donation was beneficial to young Sailors and reading was a great alterna-

tive to watching TV or playing video games.

"These books will be very important to us," said George. "Some of us want to continue our reading skills; and there is so much knowledge we can gain by reading," he said.

Skardon added that it was a real pleasure to accept the books and that he wanted to thank everyone who made donations to Operation Paperback.

"Projects like this remind me that one of the things that make Pearl Harbor and Hawai'i the best homeport in the Navy is the friendship and aloha spirit of the people," Skardon said.



U.S. Navy photo by J02 Corwin M. Colbert Sailors from Naval Station Pearl Harbor carted books from The Outrigger Hotel and Resort on Dec. 9. The hotel in partnership with Navy League donated more than 1,300 books to Naval Station Pearl Harbor as part of "Operation Paperback."

# Harlem Globetrotters visit USS Pearl Harbor

**JO1 Rebekah Adler and CT3 (SW) Karen Moore**

*USS Pearl Harbor Public Affairs*

USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) Sailors received a very special Christmas present Dec. 9 when the Harlem Globetrotters entertained the crew on the ship's flight deck.

The legends of the hardwood, who in their 79-year history have performed for more than 123 million people in 118 countries, are currently on a world tour, spreading holiday cheer to Sailors and Marines aboard ships and at shore installations in conjunction with the Navy's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) program.

The Globetrotters' visit featured a two-hour show, including a game between the Globetrotters and their historic archrivals, the Generals.

"We're glad to be here," Clyde Sinclair, Globetrotter coach, told Pearl Harbor Sailors. "We're very thankful for what you do for us."

Although the game was played on the unforgiving, non-skid steel flight deck of Pearl Harbor, the action-packed contest was full of the trick dribbling, passing, high-flying slam dunks and laughter that helped make the Globetrotters a household name.

After the game, the basketball players signed autographs and chatted with the crew, expressing their personal gratitude to the crew for their efforts in defense of freedom.

"I don't think people at home know what you are doing," said Mannie Jackson, Globetrotters team owner and a former Globetrotter player himself. "I didn't realize how many beautiful people are out here serving our country."

Jackson added that his organization prides itself on being "ambassadors of goodwill," performing in front of military crowds to boost morale, as well as forming charitable partnerships with world leaders such as

former South African President Nelson Mandela and Prince Charles of England.

After the show was over, the Globetrotters flew off the ship and headed for the next stop in their world tour, to perform for Sailors and Marines in Naples, Italy. But not before they made Pearl Harbor Sailors feel like royalty.

"I thought it was something nice. After all the hard work we do at sea, it just shows that everyone back home appreciates us and what we do for America," said Damage Controlman 3rd Class (SW) Jesse Cervantes, who personally built a scoreboard for the event and kept

score during the game.

The visit was also a rare one for the Globetrotters, who usually perform on larger ships such as aircraft carriers. But though it is a smaller ship, the crew of Pearl Harbor demonstrated that they are big fans of basketball and the Globetrotters, whose performance was a "slam dunk" in the hearts of these forward-deployed Sailors and Marines.

Pearl Harbor is assigned to Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 1. ESG-1 is on a regularly scheduled deployment to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations, conducting maritime security operations (MSO).

# Reagan sets high standards during SMI inspection

**PHAN Lawrence J. Davis**

*USS Ronald Reagan Public Affairs*

USS Ronald Reagan's (CVN 76) supply department wrapped up its annual Supply Management Inspection (SMI) Dec. 9, setting the standard for the west coast aircraft carrier fleet.

A team of inspectors from Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMNAVAIRPAC) boarded the ship Dec. 6 to conduct the SMI, assessing Ronald Reagan's supply department's capability to support the crew, staff and the embarked carrier air wing.

Scoring approximately 99 percent in every category included in the inspection, Reagan's supply department proved they are fully capable and mission ready.

According to Supply Department personnel, shipboard supply departments must undergo a thorough inspection every 18 to 24 months in order to make sure they meet Navy standards in all areas of responsibility. The inspection is broken down into two elements: ship readiness and supply services. These two elements are broken down further into several sub-categories.

Readiness is determined by evaluating the ship's stock control, hazardous material inventory and control, and supply storage divisions. Services are evaluated by inspecting the ship's food service, laundry, disbursing and the ship's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs.

Master Chief Culinary Specialist (SW/AW) Henry Salazar, leading chief petty officer of Reagan's Food



U.S. Navy photo

File photo of USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76).

Service Division, said he conducted several pre-inspections to ensure his four galleys were ready for the inspection.

"I am very satisfied with the hard work and long hours our cooks put into keeping the food production

side of things up to speed," said Salazar. "I am honored to be working aboard USS Ronald Reagan."

Supply Department began daily preparation for SMI as early as June, six months before the actual date of the

inspection. Storekeeper 1st Class (SW/AW) Daniel Hernandez, leading petty officer of Supply's Material Division, had ample praise for the junior Sailors under his supervision.

"We're just the eyes that look over everything. It's the junior Sailors that actually make it happen," said Hernandez. "Without them I don't have a job, and I thank them from the bottom of my heart. I'm glad to have them on my team."

"Although inspectors said our operation was outstanding, they still gave good lessons on what we could do to improve," said Chief Culinary Specialist (SW) Anthony Halal, Cargo division's leading chief petty officer. "There is always room for improvement, and inspectors are welcome to come and help make our team

stronger."

Though most SMI inspections require four days to complete, the readiness and dedication of Reagan's Supply Department became fully evident to inspectors in only two. Before departing, the inspection team awarded Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, as well as command coins, to several Sailors.

"Overall, this inspection brought Supply Department together to show that we are a team and we're striving to win next year's Blue 'E,'" said Chief Warrant Officer Theresa Payne, Reagan's food services officer. "The Blue 'E' symbolizes supply excellence in all areas, and we're preparing to make next year's award our first."

Reagan is currently underway in the Pacific Ocean participating in Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) 06-2.

# Stennis begins sea trials following docked phased incremental availability



U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Jon Hyde

The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) prepares to moor at pier bravo on board Naval Base Kitsap, Wash. Stennis underwent extensive equipment upgrades and technology upgrades during a scheduled docked phased incremental availability (DPIA) at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS). During the shipyard and dry-dock availability, Stennis received a complete hull restoration above and below the waterline, as well as a complete refurbishment of the shafts, rudders and screws.

**JO2 Ryan Hill**

*USS John C. Stennis Public Affairs*

The Nimitz-class, nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) departed her homeport of Bremerton, Wash. for a week-long phase of sea trials Dec. 12 after spending more than 11 months receiving extensive equipment and technology upgrades during a scheduled docked phased incremental availability (DPIA) at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard (PSNS).

During the shipyard and dry-dock availability, Stennis received a complete hull restoration above and below the waterline, as well as a complete refurbishment of the shafts, rudders and screws. Many on-board flight, operational and weapons systems were upgraded, including the Capstone self-defense system, new damage control and digital helm technology.

"It was important to test the new equipment we have on board and some of the old equipment we haven't used in over a year," said Capt. David Buss, Stennis' commanding officer.

"These sea trials gave the crew an opportunity to train and assess where we are."

"Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (IMF) personnel conducted over 600,000 man-days of production work on this overhaul," said Dave McPherson, PSNS & IMF project superintendent for Stennis. "It is one of the largest aircraft carrier cocking phased incremental availabilities ever accomplished."

According to McPherson, maintenance and modernization work covered almost every area of the ship, including the aircraft launch and recovery systems, habitability and preservation of the entire exterior of the ship's hull.

"One of the most significant of the entire exterior of the ship was in the combat systems arena. A group of systems called Capstone were installed that provides the ship with a significantly enhanced self-defense system," McPherson said. "In order to support the new Capstone radar and antennae packages, the ship's mast was replaced with a larger, stronger one, built and installed by personnel at PSNS and IMF," he

explained.

Extensive testing and evaluation of the maintenance and modernization work was completed during the week-long sea trial, including full power runs ahead and astern and maximum-rudder turns.

"It was an incredible effort by the men and women working on Stennis to get the ship out of dry dock early," said Capt. Dan Peters, commander of PSNS and IMF. "The high level of expertise, dedication and professionalism that our work force, ship's force and the project team demonstrated resulted in getting this magnificent ship back to sea."

The upgrade in technology is just one facet of the changes on Stennis. Rear Adm. Kevin Quinn took command of Carrier Strike Group 3 and the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group on Nov. 16, making Stennis his flagship.

As the overall commander, Quinn commands the entire strike group, composed of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, up to five surface ships, one submarine and up to eight aviation squadrons, all equipped and trained to forward deploy on short notice, providing a

deterrent against aggression as well as protection of vital U.S. interests anywhere in the world.

"This is the dream job for every line officer in the United States Navy," said Quinn. "This is a spectacular ship. The Sailors are excited and the spaces look amazing. I can't help but be impressed," he said.

Stennis is scheduled to continue sea trials this winter. The ship will resume air operations and be joined by the other ships of the strike group to continue training in preparation for upcoming deployments. Officials hope to have Stennis ready for emergency surge operations by next summer.

"I am very proud of our Stennis shipmates because they've done such a good job at maintaining this ship. I would argue that with the new modernization package we received on board, we are the most capable carrier in the fleet," Buss said.

Stennis began its shipyard availability in January 2005 after a successful five-month deployment to the northern and western Pacific Ocean in 2004 and a change of homeport from San Diego.

# Naval Base Coronado Chapel celebrates 60 years of service

**PH1 Michael R. McCormick**

*Fleet Public Affairs Center Pacific*

The Naval Base Coronado (NBC) Chapel celebrated its 60th anniversary during a commemoration service at Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island on Dec. 9.

For 60 years, the NAS North Island Chapel has been a place of worship, guidance and comfort for service members - active and retired - and their families.

"These walls have been witness to great joys and sorrows over the past 60 years," said Capt. T.G. Alexander, keynote speaker and NBC commanding officer, "and they will continue to nurture our faith, comfort our sadness and bring happiness for many years to come."

Alexander also said NBC has 140 tenant commands with some directly involved with the war on terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"This chapel's role is as clearly defined today as it was many years ago," he said. "This chapel will always be an integral part of our lives."

For some service members, the NBC

chapel has been an extended family. Chief Religious Program Specialist Darin Runge, leading chief petty officer of NBC religious ministries, said the chapel gives service members a sense of family and belonging.

"My husband's family has been involved with the chapel and it always feels like home when we come," said Karen Rodgers, the chapel's Catholic religious education coordinator, who attended the service. "We attend regularly and we are involved in children's religious education," she said.

Some events in the commemoration service included songs from the Camp Pendleton Gospel Choir, a presentation of anniversary coins to chapel volunteers, and a cake-cutting ceremony followed by lunch after the service.

The chapel was completed in October 1945 and presented by Capt. Leslie E. Gehries, NAS North Island commanding officer, and accepted by Cmdr. P.W. Dickman, senior chaplain. The first of three dedication ceremonies was held Dec. 16, 1945 for the Protestant altar, the second on Dec. 23 for the Roman Catholic altar and the Jewish dedication on Dec. 26.

# Navy mine countermeasures divers conduct training with French Navy

**PH2 Patricia Totemeier**

*Fleet Public Affairs Center Pacific*

U.S. Navy Special Clearance Team (NSCT) 1 participated in a training exercise with the French navy's mine clearance divers on Dec. 7 off the coast of Point Loma, Calif.

The training allowed the French to learn and observe NSCT 1's very shallow water MCM (mine countermeasures) divers and their various platoons. In February, members of NSCT 1 will travel to Toulon, France to switch roles and observe the French divers and their MCM tactics, and participate in an amphibious exercise with the French navy.

"Conducting cross-training with the French is important to the U.S. Navy," said Lt. John M. Schiller, NSCT 1's training officer. "If utilized as a combined task unit, we have an understanding of each other's capabilities and tactics, techniques and procedures."



U.S. Navy photo by PH1 Alan Warner

A diver assigned to the NSCT-1 returns to his boat for extraction during a joint training with the French Navy.

NSCT 1's mission is to conduct low visibility underwater mine and obstacle reconnaissance and clearance operations from over the horizon to the seaward edge of the surf zone.

The French arrived Nov. 30 and stayed for 10 days. The first week was spent exercising with NSCT 1 and touring the different platoons, such as the unmanned underwater vehicle, unmanned aerial vehicle and the U.S. Navy marine mammal platoon (NMM).

NMM uses trained dolphins to detect and mark underwater mines so they later can be avoided or removed. The biological sonar of dolphins, called echolocation, makes them uniquely effective.

"We're here to learn other techniques," said Hugues Nagy, one of the 11 members of the French navy's shallow water diving team. "We still have a lot to learn, but out of all the countries we've trained with, we have the most to learn from the United States."

For Electronics Technician 1st Class (EOD) Brent Barto, the training exercise allowed him to show off his command's capabilities and provide helpful information for the French.

"This exercise is a great way to help them out. Their unit is still new and they came here to learn from the best," said Barto. "They're going to try our tactics and we're going to try theirs - that's what makes this exercise a success. They learn from us and we learn things to make us even better."

# Tips to help our environment for this, future holiday seasons

## Commander Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

• Thousands of paper and plastic shopping bags end up in landfills every year. Reduce the number of bags thrown out by bringing reusable cloth bags for holiday gift shopping. Tell store clerks you don't need a bag for small or over-

sized purchases.

- Wrap gifts in recycled or reused wrapping paper or funny papers. Also remember to save or recycle used wrapping paper. Give gifts that don't require much packaging, such as concert tickets or gift certificates.

- Send recycled-content greeting cards to reduce the

amount of virgin paper used during the holidays. Remember to recycle any paper cards you receive. You can also try sending electronic greeting cards to reduce paper waste.

- About 40 percent of all battery sales occur during the holiday season. Buy rechargeable batteries to accompany

your electronic gifts and consider giving a battery charger as well. Rechargeable batteries reduce the amount of potentially harmful materials thrown away and can save money in the long run.

- Approximately 33 million live Christmas trees are sold in North America every year. After the holidays, look for ways to

recycle your tree instead of sending it to a landfill. Check with your community solid waste department and find out if they collect and mulch trees. Your town might be able to use chippings from mulched trees for hiking trails and beachfront erosion barriers.

- To help prevent waste from cutting down and dispos-

ing of live trees, you can buy a potted tree and plant it after the holidays.

- Use your own camera instead of a disposable one to reduce waste while capturing holiday memories. Consider buying a digital camera so that you don't have to use film and only print the pictures you want to keep.

**STORY IDEAS?** Email: [hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com](mailto:hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com) Hawaii Navy News

# USS Arizona Veterans honored for their valor and patriotism

Christine Ah Yee

Contributing Writer

In 1941, then Ensign Harry Lionel Fitch and Coxswain Kenneth Eugene Edmondson served aboard USS Arizona during the Dec. 7 attack. On that infamous morning, huge clouds of black smoke billowed above Pearl Harbor leaving both men shocked with disbelief.

On that morning, Fitch was returning from Waikiki

when he saw the destruction around the harbor. After discovering nothing could be done to save the USS Arizona, he assisted in any way he could.

Edmondson was climbing up the ladder from the number three holding room when the ship jumped and knocked him off. After getting to the main deck and seeing the devastation, he jumped overboard and swam to Ford Island. He assisted in rescuing the badly injured

Sailors and transporting them to the dispensary.

Both of these Sailors' lives would change forever.

"It took my dad awhile, probably the late 70's, before involving himself in his first reunion with those who survived Pearl Harbor," said son Peter Fitch. After that reunion, he was able to share with his family the horrific ordeal of Dec. 7. He diligently served for 22 years and on Jan. 19, 1962, Commander Harry L. Fitch

retired from the U.S. Navy. "My dad loved the Navy and was very proud of his career and his service to our country," said daughter Sarah Fitch.

"Dec. 7 was a shocking time for my dad. He would tell us about the wounded bodies he pulled from the water," said Edmondson's son, Dave Lowry. During Edmondson's rescue rounds, he sustained a shrapnel wound, a scar of that day. He was later temporarily

assigned to the ships that were not badly damaged during the attack and assisted in salvage operations. Edmondson proudly served his country and was honorably discharged in October 1945. "My dad was brave, always taking on dangerous assignments," said Lowry. Edmondson's strong work ethic and duty to his country continued as he served 35 years on the Riverside Police Department as a traffic motorcycle police officer.

In a joint service effort by the U.S. Navy and the National Park Service, a Dec. 7 interment ceremony took place, returning both men, brave and courageous, to their final resting place off the waters of Pearl Harbor in gun turret number four of USS Arizona.

Both families wished to express their gratitude to the Navy for honoring their fathers in a manner reflecting their valor and patriotism.

# Zwolfer relieves Logan as USS Bremerton skipper

JO2 Corwin M. Colbert

Staff Writer

Just two days after the historic Pearl Harbor Day, another Navy tradition occurred at the USS Bowfin Museum. The turnover of command of USS Bremerton (SSN 698) as Cmdr. Thomas Zwolfer relieved Cmdr. Charles Logan on Dec. 9.

Principle speaker Rear Adm. Douglas McAneny, J5/ deputy director for politico-military affairs assigned to the Joint Chief of Staff in Washington D.C., said he was thankful he was able to pay tribute to Logan. McAneny recalled his tenure as commander of Submarine Squadron 11 in the winter of 2002.

During that time, Bremerton had many obstacles ahead of them, including a change of homeport from San Diego to Pearl Harbor, a short-fused deployment, a compressed pre-overseas movement certification, and an overhaul. Logan became commander of the nuclear-powered attack submarine right in the middle of the evolutions. McAneny said Logan and his crew successfully completed all



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Corwin M. Colbert

Cmdr. Thomas Zwolfer relieves Cmdr. Charles Logan as commanding officer of the nuclear-powered attack submarine USS Bremerton (SSN 698) during a change of command ceremony on Dec. 9 at the USS Bowfin Museum.

tasks including a successful deployment before attaching to Submarine Squadron One and going into overhaul.

"Jerry led the great ship Bremerton to a storybook success-

ful deployment. They earned a Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal as well as a Navy Unit Commendation medal during the 2003 deployment - need I say more," he said.

"I am very proud of Jerry Logan. There is no greater reward than to have one of his former skippers become a huge success," he said.

After McAneny's speech, Capt. Michael Zieser, Commander Submarine Squadron One, presented Logan his second Meritorious Service Medal for service as the submarine's commanding officer.

Logan said he was reluctant to leave such a great crew.

"I had the pleasure to have served with 450 of America's finest, fighting U.S. Navy Sailors for the past three years," said Logan.

"You (crew) have stood the watch, chipped the paint, attended the training, took the exams, conducted the tests and fixed the deficiencies. You have done well. In the finest tradition of the United States Navy, you did not give up the ship, even in the depth of the overhaul when there was barely a pulse in the ship and giving up was the easiest thing to do," he said.

Zwolfer read his orders relieving Logan and said he was one of the fortunate few to be a commanding officer.

"It is an absolute honor and a distinct privilege to assume command

of USS Bremerton and her incredibly talented crew," said Zwolfer. "I know we will be able to continue the proud Bremerton tradition of rising to every challenge and carrying out every mission. I thank you for your service in the past and in advance for your service in the future," he said.

Logan graduated with distinction from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. His next assignment is deputy commander of Submarine Squadron One in Pearl Harbor. Before serving on USS Bremerton, he served aboard four other submarines including USS Permit (SSN 594), USS Silversides (SSN 679), USS San Francisco (SSN 711) and USS Wyoming (SSN 742)(Blue).

Zwolfer graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1988, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Naval Architecture. His previous assignment was on the staff of the Secretary of Defense within Program Analysis and Evaluation. Before taking command of USS Bremerton, he served on three other submarines including USS Providence (SSN 719), USS Maine (SSBN 741) (Gold) and USS Charlotte (SSN 766).

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