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Navy announces restrictions on cell phone usage while driving

Karen S. Spangler

Assistant Editor

The Navy in Hawai'i will soon start enforcing a Department of Defense (DoD) policy that prohibits the use of cellular phones and similar devices, unless using a "hands free" device, while driving on Navy installations.

The Department of Defense policy is aimed at reducing additional distractions that impede drivers from safely operating a moving vehicle.

According to C.B. "Buff" Shaw, public safety director for Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i,

the region will implement the restrictions in phases. The education and awareness phase of the new restrictions will begin April 1. As part of that phase, base security will issue warnings to drivers who are observed driving while using non-hands free cell phones.

The restriction mandating that cell phones may only be used in the "hands-free mode" also means that drivers cannot hold, dial, text or adjust a cell phone while the vehicle is in motion. However, passengers in the vehicle may continue to use cell phones or other similar, hand-held audio-visual devices.

"The intent of this change is to

eliminate distractions that are not related to driving with an end result in a change in driving behaviors," explained Shaw.

The enforcement phase of the policy will begin May 1. "We will begin the enforcement phase on the first of May. At that time, Navy Region Hawai'i base security personnel will begin issuing tickets to motorists found not using hands-free devices with their cell phones while driving on Navy property," said Shaw.

The policy will apply to all military personnel, civilian employees, family members, contractors, tenants and visitors who operate motor vehicles on Navy shore installa-

tions. It also includes all areas where the Navy provides law enforcement, such as the Navy Exchange complex, Navy-Marine Golf Course and Navy housing areas.

The policy will affect drivers of all motor vehicles, whether privately owned vehicles (POV) or government-owned vehicles. The policy does not apply to fire and emergency services personnel, emergency medical personnel, or law enforcement and security personnel while performing their official duties. However, emergency and security personnel are advised to be aware of the potential for driver dis-

traction and to avoid use of cell phones while driving as much as possible.

Once the enforcement period begins, Navy Region Hawai'i Base Security will issue an armed forces traffic citation to drivers who are not in compliance with the hands-free restriction. Each citation is worth three points against a driver's license.

All drivers, including military, civilians, contractors and visitors, who fail to comply with the policy are subject to administrative action. This could result in a loss of driving

▼ See CELL PHONE, A-10

A clean beginning



U.S. Navy photos by PH1(AW/SW) James E. Foehl

Sailors assigned to Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific (ATG MIDPAC) participated in a community clean-up project Monday on Ford Island. Led by Capt. Dell Epperson, Commodore ATG MIDPAC, the unit picked up trash and debris along the shorelines and hauled it away for proper disposal. Project coordinator, Senior Chief Ship's Serviceman Leon Hazley, commented on the unit's clean-up efforts. "As I jog along every morning, I look over here and see this trash. I started thinking about what it's doing to the earth. That prompted us to get out here and clean it up. If we don't clean it up, it's just going to keep destroying the earth one day at a time. We feel like this is our base. We work here and have a close relationship with the Ford Island community. ATG is all about helping out in the community. This year we're going to be out there, not just on Ford Island, but in the greater Honolulu community. This is just the beginning, not where it ends."



Hawai'i Navy News Briefs

Town hall meetings

Housing town hall meetings have been scheduled to provide information to Navy housing residents about phase two of public-private venture (PPV). A meeting for residents of Hale Alii, Hospital Point, Makalapa and Marine Barracks housing areas will be held at 6:30 p.m. March 29 in the Volcano Room of the Makalapa Bachelor Officers' Quarters. A meeting is planned for 6:30 p.m. April 5 at the Ford Island Community Center for residents of Ford Island.

Hawai'i Military Recognition Luncheon

Nominations are now being accepted for the Outstanding Community Service Awards to be presented at the Military Recognition Luncheon on 17 May. Navy commands and organizations are encouraged to nominate men and women in uniform who, in addition to their military duties, also generously give back to the civilian community. Nomination forms must be submitted by March 29 to Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs Office Grace Hew Len.

Aviation returns to Ford Island

JO2 Devin Wright

Editor

The Pacific Aviation Museum held a groundbreaking ceremony Tuesday for the restoration of Hangar 37 at Ford Island. The museum will include aircraft from the World War II era, the Korean War, Vietnam War and cold war as well as modern day air power.

Ford Island has a rich history of aviation and was a major platform in the Pacific for military aviators.

"We want to return aviation and aviation heritage to Ford Island," said Allen Palmer, Pacific Aviation Museum director. "What better place than where aviation in the Pacific was cradled and then all but destroyed on Dec. 7, 1941."

Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i said the aviation museum fills in some of the missing pieces in the legacy of Pearl Harbor.

"This museum will represent another historical vignette to keep the memory of what happened here 64 years ago alive," said Vitale. "We have the Arizona Memorial here which represents and tells the story of the beginning of the war. We have Missouri that tells the story of the end of the war. There is the Bowfin Museum that tells the story of the Navy's involvement. Now this aviation museum will continue to fill that vision of what happened on the aviation side," he



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Dennis C. Cantrell
More than 100 people gathered at Ford Island for a groundbreaking ceremony for the Pacific Aviation Museum.

said. For some aviators, the museum will serve as a tribute to those who lost their lives in the cockpit.

"I don't know of an aviation museum that really honors aviators that lost their lives in the Pacific theater," said retired Air Force General Chuck Yeager. "This will be a marvelous museum to consolidate all of the things that happened here and honor those who were killed not only in the air, but on land and sea as well."

The planned \$75 million museum will eventually encompass 16 acres on Ford Island, including Hangars 37, 54 and 79 and the control tower complex. Construction on phase one is set to begin immediately. The projected grand opening is scheduled for Dec. 7.

USS Columbia returns from Western Pacific deployment

JOC(SW/AW)
David Rush

Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

The nuclear-powered attack submarine USS Columbia (SSN 771) returned to its homeport of Pearl Harbor on March 17, following a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific.

USS Columbia departed Pearl Harbor on Sept. 17, 2005. During the deployment, the ship's crew visited Stirling, Australia; Yokosuka, Japan; Chinhae, Republic of Korea; Singapore and Guam.

Cmdr. Gene Sievers, Columbia's commanding officer, said the crew worked tirelessly to get their tasks accomplished. "The deployment went fantastic. The guys performed well throughout; they did everything they were asked to do and carried out every mission on time."

Sievers added that although they enjoyed many port visits, he is glad he and his crew are back in Hawai'i. "We made lots of friends in a lot of different countries, but we're glad to be home."

According to Machinist Mate 1st Class Zion Hallenbeck, a native of Grand Junction, Colo., the deployment went well. "It went very smooth. It was a



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

A crew member of the nuclear-powered attack submarine USS Columbia (SSN 771) greets his family following a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific. The submarine returned to its homeport of Pearl Harbor on March 17. Columbia departed Pearl Harbor on Sept. 17, 2005.

lot of work, but also a lot of fun."

His wife Jessica said that although this was her husband's first deployment, support at home made it easier to deal with the separation. "This was our first deployment ever so it was kind of a shock for our girls, but we had so much support from the USS Columbia wife's club that it was a breeze. I felt very secure."

Commissioned Oct. 9, 1995, Columbia is the 60th submarine of the Los

Angeles-class and is the 33rd ship of that class built by General Dynamics Electric Boat Division. It is the seventh ship of the Navy that honors the capital of South Carolina and cities in Missouri and Illinois.

The submarine has a crew of 18 officers and 118 enlisted men. It displaces more than 6,900 tons, is 360 feet long, and can reach speeds in excess of 25 knots and attain depths of more than 800 feet.

Lake Erie Sailors aid in Kauai disaster

JO2 (SW/AW) Johnny Michael

*Pacific Missile Range Facility
Public Affairs*

Sailors from USS Lake Erie (CG-70) provided emergency aid to a very wet neighborhood on the beleaguered island of Kauai as part of a community relations (COMREL) project held during the ship's scheduled port of call to the westernmost major island in the Hawaiian island chain.

Eleven Sailors from Lake Erie volunteered for the flood relief effort, which took place in the town of Kekaha, on the western shore of Kauai.

On the small island of 550 square miles, slightly smaller than the city of Houston, Texas, a steady downpour during the week leading up to the project inundated properties island-wide. A dam burst on the north side of the island captured national attention. Two houses were swept away and seven

people were counted missing as four million gallons of water raced downhill near the town of Kilauea.

While the north shore suffered the worst effects of the deluge, widespread flooding incapacitated the rest of the island as roads closed and homes, schools and businesses attempted to beat back the rising water.

When the Sailors of the Lake Erie were shuttled to Kekaha to assist with damage control efforts along with Kauai Fire Department (KFD), they found a neighborhood that was mostly underwater.

The poor drainage network in the area demanded that the crew find a place to deposit the water they removed, which they found in an agricultural drainage ditch that ran behind the neighborhood. The KFD representative, Sid Kini, located the lowest lying property that was adjacent to the ditch and directed work to begin there.

Two 250-gallon-per-hour portable pumps were provided to

the Sailors and they quickly set up an operation to pump water from a property under three feet of water to the ditch behind it.

Getting the pumps set up meant wading into floodwater with unknown contaminants, as well as some unwanted visitors. Leeches, four of which were removed from the Sailor's clothing, had made the floodwater home.

Once the initial deflooding effort was sustained, pumping operations were then networked from adjoining yards back to this property in an effort to lower the flood level across the neighborhood. For elderly widow Veronica Ulanday, the help was much appreciated.

"Seventy years, this is the worst I've seen," exclaimed Ulanday. "My place is the lowest here, I'm glad they [Sailors and firefighters] are here."

After the effort succeeded in draining a large amount of the area's floodwater, the Sailors were directed to the nearby Kekaha

Elementary School. The school had been closed for three days during the week leading up to the relief efforts, and was flooded over approximately 25 percent of its campus.

Randy Chinen, a contractor who works at nearby Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), lives directly across from the north side of Kekaha Elementary. His main concern was the flooding on his property and those adjacent to it, containing runoff from cesspools, which then mingled with the floodwater at the school.

"It's definitely a health concern," Chinen said.

Across the street from the east-side of Kekaha Elementary resides the Hale Kula Niihau O Kekaha, a school for native Hawaiians. The school also suffered from tremendous flooding, but fortunately was adjacent to the agricultural drainage ditch into which the neighborhood waters were drained.

Pumps were set up to drain water from Kekaha Elementary, into the Niihau schoolyard, and then into the ditch. By the time the Sailors had to depart later that afternoon, the floodwaters around both schools had been significantly diminished and children were allowed to return to school the following Monday.

According to Kini, the six-hour effort that his firefighters and Lake Erie Sailors spent battling the floodwaters paid off.

"Mission accomplished," Kini declared.

Lt. Brian Hill, chaplain for Lake Erie, also described the operation as a success and added that the Sailors were glad to have the opportunity to help the flood-battered island residents.

Lake Erie had arrived March 10 for a regularly-scheduled port call and departed March 12 to return to its homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i.

Toughbooks to help with Pearl Harbor ships' training

JOC (SW) Joe Kane

*Commander Navy Region
Hawai'i Public Affairs*

The addition of some new toughbook computers loaded with a software upgrade is making Pearl Harbor ships more efficient at tracking the training cycle for ships working up to deployment readiness. Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific (ATG MIDPAC) delivered the ruggedly designed laptops to USS Hopper (DDG 70), USS Crommelin (FFG 37) and USS O'Kane (DDG 77) last week.

According to Senior Chief Cryptologic Technician (SW) Gustav Medina of ATG MIDPAC who helped install the system, the computers have software programs designed to track the readiness status of a ship as it goes through its certification process. The data can then be sent near-real time to major commanders ashore, providing a minute-by-minute picture of where a ship will need to be, in terms of readiness, to deploy.

"These laptops and the new software on them will help improve the ships' ability to update where they are in their training," said Medina.

It's all part of Commander, Naval Surface Forces' new SHIP-TRAIN program, a continuous

training process that is expected to reduce the time required to train, assess and certify a ship from 16 weeks down to about four weeks, Medina said.

SHIPTRAIN centers around a readiness database called Training and Operational Readiness Information Services (TORIS) and a software application called Training Figure of Merit (TFOM). TFOM gives surface ship commanding officers the ability to track their ship's combat readiness and allocate training resources to maintain it.

"We've had the TORIS system onboard since December," said Lt. j.g. Thomas Bowman, O'Kane's training officer. "But today, Senior Chief Medina is here to upgrade our capabilities so that we will be able to access the system from over 100 workstations around the ship. Before that, we only had a single laptop which had to be used by all of our training teams."

Bowman said O'Kane is gearing up for a test and evaluation exercise in a couple of weeks and the new system will be helpful.

"We're doing a lot of training right now and a lot of data entry into the system," Bowman said. "I think the new 2.0 server will probably save us a lot of man hours since people will be able to update right from their own workstations."



U.S. Navy Photo by JOC(SW) Joe Kane
Senior Chief Cryptologic Technician (SW) Gustav Medina of Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific shows Lt. j.g. Thomas Bowman, USS O'Kane's training officer, one of the new toughbook computers. The new computers will allow expanded capabilities for the ship's training team to communicate training data back to shore.

STORY IDEAS?

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Hawaii Navy News

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Loose lips can still sink ships

Pacific Fleet Master Chief (SS/SW) Rick West



FLTCM(SS/SW) Rick West

Hoo-yah, Warriors! Just returned from another trip talking with many Sailors on the deckplates and I'm happy to say 2006 is going really well. Our young Sailors are energized, smart and ready to take on any mission, any time.

While I was out and about, I had a conversation that just screamed for a column topic. It's something we all need occasional reminders about.

I was chatting with this Army fellow and he started to tell me about some of the "loose talk" he was hearing. Now it wasn't anything earth-shattering, but it was enough to make you go "hmmmm."

Warriors, loose lips can still sink ships. Unfortunately, the world is still a place full of bad people who would love nothing more than to deep-six any one of our ships, submarines or aircraft. And just as important, they would love to attack any of us or our families.

In this current state of global terror we're fighting against, that's a sad fact of life.

I'm not trying to get everyone paranoid and constantly looking over their shoulders, but we do need to remember a few things to

protect ourselves, our families and our Navy.

So what do we need to do?

Well, the first thing we all need to do is be alert to the threat and what we are saying.

Liberty hangouts, grocery stores, just about anything near a military installation is a prime target for the folks trying to collect information and yes, they are out there.

How many times have you started up sea stories among friends and talked about a few things that weren't classified, but were sensitive? Do you know who's at the next table listening to you? Do you really know the person you are talking to?

The same goes for home. How many times have you been talking about work over dinner? Do you mention a few things that you really shouldn't have? Sure, they don't seem that important, but if other family members talk about them, too, then the information can get to the wrong folks.

We have to be alert to what we are saying and where we are saying

it. Secrets don't always get out in big chunks. They are slowly gathered, piece by piece like a jigsaw puzzle. So watch what you're saying and who you are saying it to. And be sure to talk with your families about this so they can be alert as well. This is very much a team effort.

But it's not just our personal conversations we have to watch out for. There's everyone's newest best friends - cell phones, email, the Internet and those live chat programs.

Here's a good question for you. Do you use those new wireless network gadgets at your home? You do know that wireless networking is just a radio transmitter, right? How secure do you think it is? Do you use a wireless keyboard? Another transmitter.

Did you also know that someone with some fairly simple off-the-shelf technology could watch you surf the Web, type emails and monitor your online chats? Do you do some of your military work on your home computer? Does your spouse email back and forth to you during deployment?

How secure do you really think your cell phone is? A few of the computer guys told me once that someone with the right training and equipment could possibly

"hack" into my cell phone, turn it on and listen to everything going on around me.

Is that likely to happen to you? I really doubt it, but it just illustrates how easily information can be compromised and how important these issues are for our Navy.

As more and more people use wireless technology, the easier it will be to tap into what they are emailing or working on - without them even knowing it.

We're talking some basic operational security (OPSEC) common sense here folks. Don't use email or chat rooms to discuss TAD trips, flight schedules, exercises or other operational topics - even if they seem routine. And don't try to "talk around" the subject either.

That's gold for intelligence collectors. They help put together a much bigger picture about our operational plans or capabilities. That puts our shipmates in danger and we cannot have that.

I realize none of us intentionally plan to compromise information. But let's face it, as technology makes it easier for us to communicate back and forth, the easier it is for the bad guys to listen in. And that's what we have to watch out for.

This all boils down to my final point about protecting critical

information. What you know may not necessarily be secret or classified. But it does deal with your command's activities, capabilities or plans. And that little bit of info could put you and your command in danger.

The terrorists who hit the USS Cole had just enough information to attack the ship, cripple it and kill 17 Sailors. We must deny them any information that would allow another such attack.

Let's all think twice about the things we talk about and where we are saying them. Sit down with your family and talk with them about operational security and remind them to be careful about what they say over the telephone and in public - they just can never be sure who is listening.

With the above said, if someone approaches you and is asking for information, you should immediately contact your command. With our Sailors deployed worldwide and all the operations the Navy is conducting, keeping our information close has never been more important. Loose lips could compromise safety and security!

Fleet Tip: Did you know that you can get choice coast orders after a successful tour of duty in Japan, Korea or Guam ... see your NC for further details.

Secretary of Defense message, third anniversary of Operation Iraqi Freedom

Donald Rumsfeld

Secretary of Defense

Outside of my office in Washington, D.C. sits a small American flag, one of many distributed by a local boy scout troop to many of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who serve our country. The flag is accompanied by a note that reads:

"Here is a flag for your pocket, so you can always carry a little bit of home. We are praying for you and are proud of you. Thank you for defending our country and freedom."

That small flag is a reminder that so many Americans - even the young - recognize the importance of the sacred duty each of you have willingly taken: to defend them, their families, their homeland and their freedoms.

Throughout history, our military has fought to protect our people and our way of life, in battles the names of which echo through history: Bunker Hill and Gettysburg, Normandy and Midway, the Chosin Reservoir and the Ia Drang Valley.

On Sept. 11, 2001, a new enemy - extremists motivated by a twisted ideology - believed that their vicious assault on our homeland would force our country into retreat. They were wrong. That day, the sight of smoke rising from Washington, New York and a field in Pennsylvania filled the American people not with fear, but with resolve.

That resolve has taken so many of you to far-flung battle lines in the defense of our nation: from the mountains of Afghanistan to the jungles of the Philippines, from the plains of Central Asia to the deserts of the Horn of Africa. And for many, it has also taken you to the dusty streets of Iraq, where three years ago our coalition removed Saddam's brutal regime from power and liberated 25 million Iraqi people. And today, it is increasingly the liberated people of that land who are standing with you and joining the fight against the common enemy - the terrorists and assassins in their midst.

The Iraqi people, who had suffered through decades of brutality and corruption,

understand the high stakes in this war. They are determined to claim their birthright of freedom and secure their new democracy. In defiance of violence, they have elected a provisional government, drafted a constitution, ratified it through popular referendum and elected a permanent government - with millions more Iraqis participating in the process at each new stage.

This progress on all fronts has been murderously contested at every turn by terrorists aligned with al Qaeda. But they are not succeeding. Some terrorists have privately noted that "time is not on our side" and that "morale is down." Others have observed a "very dangerous" turn of events. Zarqawi himself writes of his fear that "democracy is coming" and with it will come the death of his cause.

You should know that the role you have played in fighting the extremists has made an indelible mark on history in the cause of liberty. And the names of new battles - including the routing of the Taliban at Mazar-e-Sharif, the "Thunder Run" to Baghdad and the liberation of Fallujah - now join those others proudly remembered in our history.

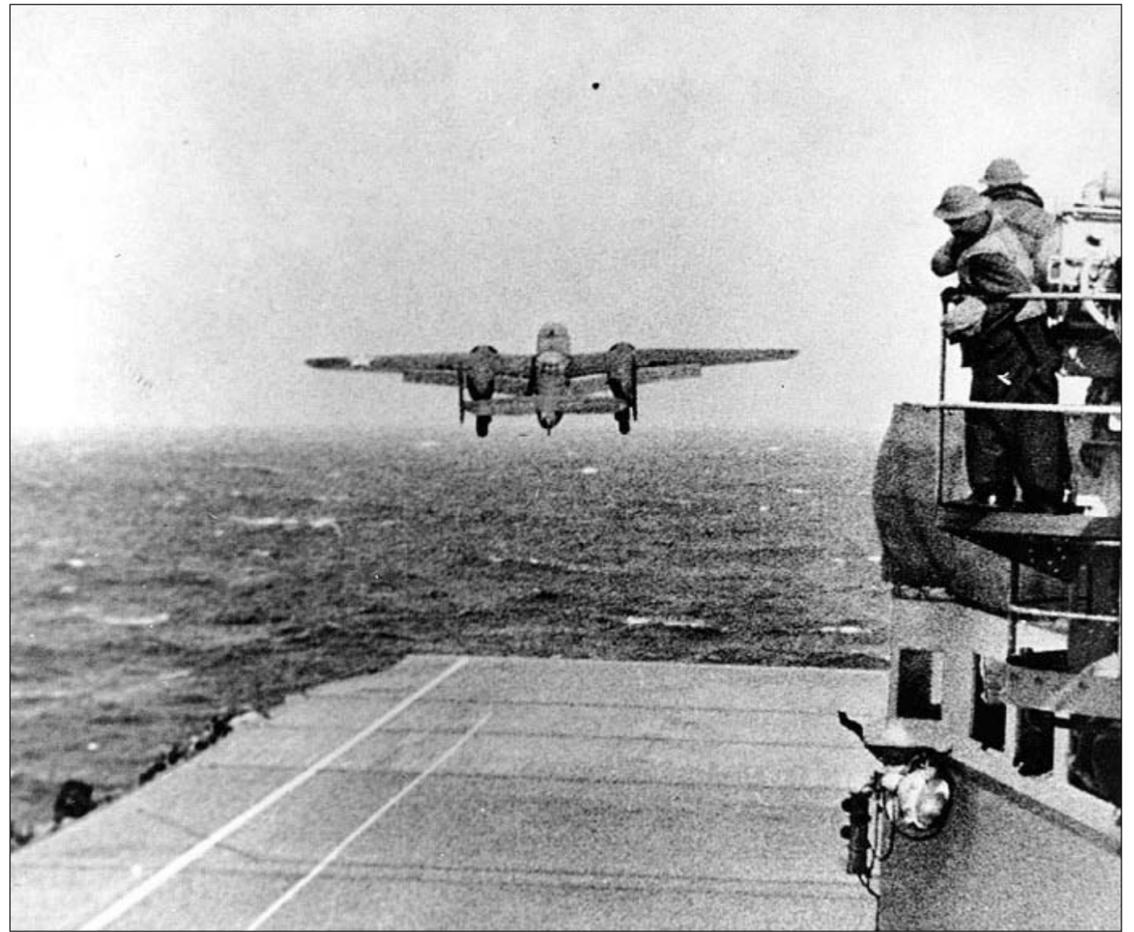
Some of your comrades and friends have fallen in battle and more have been wounded. Their sacrifices remind us that freedom is a gift, selflessly purchased by the very best among us, at great cost. We will never forget them and their grieving families.

The peace of a troubled world depends on you - our men and women in uniform. You have willingly accepted the highest responsibility of citizenship. Never forget that you serve in the finest military in the world, in the greatest nation in the world.

You serve in a military dedicated not to conquest, but to preserving freedom. It is a military that is recognized and appreciated by your fellow citizens. So know that wherever you go, you can always carry with you a little bit of home.

I thank you for all you do for our country. May God bless you and keep you safe. And may God continue to bless the United States of America.

History lands at Ford Island



U.S. Navy historical photo

An Army B-25 bomber takes off from USS Hornet (CV-8) at the start of the Doolittle Raid on Japan, April 18, 1942. The B-25 was a medium range bomber and was used in the Doolittle Raid on Japan. The April 1942 air attack on Japan, launched from the aircraft carrier Hornet and led by Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle, was the most daring operation yet undertaken by the United States in the young Pacific War. Though conceived as a diversion that would also boost American and allied morale, the raid generated strategic benefits that far outweighed its limited goals. A B-25 bomber will be the gate guard to the new Pacific Aviation Museum at Ford Island projected to open in December.

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
Technical Adviser - Joe Novotny
Layout/Design - Antonio Verceluz

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'Phishing' scam targets Thrift Savings Plan participants

Samantha L. Quigley

American Forces Press Service

Participants, as well as some non-participants, in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) are targets of a "phishing" scam, an official with the board administering the program said March 20.

Tom Trabucco, director of external affairs for the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, said phishing is an "attempt to get recipients of the unsolicited e-mail to compromise themselves by giving up their per-

sonal financial information."

Thrift Savings Plan administrators would never request personal or financial information via e-mail, Trabucco said. "Do not respond to unsolicited e-mail and never give out information of a personal nature (through) unsolicited e-mails," he said.

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board alerted Thrift Savings Plan coordinators to the scam in a March 17 memo, the day after the scam was discovered. The memo described it as an unsolicited e-mail with a link to a bogus Web site appearing to be

the thrift plan's account-access site.

The bogus site asks for a recipient's social security and Thrift Savings Plan personal identification numbers. Entering this information takes the user to another screen where they are asked for financial information, including a credit card number, he said, adding that this information can be used to steal an individual's identity.

As long as participants have not responded to this scam e-mail, their accounts have not been compromised, investment board offi-

cials said in the memo. Those who did respond should contact their financial institutions immediately for guidance. They should also call the Thrift Savings Plan at (877) 968-3778 and ask to have their account access blocked, according to the memo.

Phishing e-mails generally appear to be from a business or organization the recipient may deal with, according to a Federal Trade Commission Consumer Alert issued in June 2005. It may request that the recipient update, validate or confirm account information, the alert said.

Participants are encouraged not to attempt to access their accounts by clicking links offered in any e-mail, according to the memo. Only by opening a new Internet browser and typing the Thrift Savings Plan's Web site into the address field can a participant be sure of accessing the authentic thrift plan Web site.

The thrift plan is a retirement savings plan for 3.6 million federal civilians and service members, Trabucco said. Officials don't know how many plan participants the scam has affected, but the FBI is investigating, he added.

Cell phone: Only 'hands-free' usage allowed while driving on installations

Continued from A-1

privileges on base and removal from or denial of re-entry to the base.

For military members, violation of the policy is also punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

Similar restrictions are enforced while driving on Army, Air Force and Marine Corps installations in Hawai'i.

Information from studies and investigations provided by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Insurance Information Institute show an increased number of traffic accidents related to cell phone use while driving.

Base security officials and

local law enforcement remind drivers of the dangers of any type of distractions while driving. This includes not only the use of cell phones, but also other activities that may deter or reduce the driver's attention from driving. Such distracting activities frequently practiced by drivers include such habits as eating, drinking, trying to read a map or directions, disciplining children, putting on makeup, putting CDs into the CD player and tuning radios.

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

For more information, contact your supervisor.

Tournament of Roses Parade president visits USS Pasadena

JOC(SW/AW) David Rush

Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Paul Holman, president of the 2006-2007 Tournament of Roses parade in Pasadena, Calif., visited the namesake city submarine USS Pasadena (SSN 752) on March 16.

Holman, along with his wife Susan, were treated to a tour of the Pearl Harbor-based, nuclear-powered attack submarine, including the control, sonar and torpedo rooms.

Following the tour, the guests joined Cmdr. J.P. Heatherington, the submarine's commanding officer, for lunch in the officer's wardroom.

According to Holman, the relationship between the submarine and the city of Pasadena is vital. "It's incredibly important. We are very mindful of the fact that we sleep at night under this blanket of security that you provide."

Holman added that he was surprised to see how well the submarine is maintained. "To have the opportunity to meet some of the crew and see the whole operation here - we are very impressed with the crew members and the immaculate cleanliness of every aspect of the ship. We couldn't be more proud of our armed forces."

As for the parade, Holman said he is delighted to have members of USS Pasadena visit their namesake city. "Our theme this year is 'Our Good Nature' and we saw the good nature of the crew today reflected that and we're looking forward to your next visit."

Susan Holman said she enjoyed the



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

Senior Chief Missile Technician Jim Lyle, USS Pasadena (SSN 752) chief of the boat, talks with the president of the 2006-2007 Tournament of Roses Parade, Paul Holman, and his wife.

tour and talking to the crew. "I just loved seeing how everything operates and the way the crew lives - it was just fascinating."

Heatherington said he was glad to have the Holmans onboard. "The ship has a very close relationship with the city of Pasadena. Every year we have the ability to participate in the Tournament of Roses Parade. We like to reciprocate and today we're having them onboard our ship."

Heatherington added that the relationship between the submarine and Pasadena is mutually beneficial. "It's extremely important because of what they do for my crew. If you walk around

the ship, you see a lot of things provided by the city of Pasadena and the Pasadena Foundation."

As the Tournament of Roses Parade president, Holman will provide leadership for the 118th Rose Parade and the 93rd Rose Bowl Game on Jan. 1, 2007.

USS Pasadena returned to its homeport of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 22, 2005 following a six-month deployment to the U.S. Seventh Fleet area of operations (AOR).

It is the second Improved 688-class submarine and was built by General Dynamics Corporation, Electric Boat Division, Groton, Conn. and was commissioned Feb. 11, 1989.

Energy tip

- Use small electric pans or ovens for cooking small meals rather than the kitchen range or oven. They use less energy.





U.S. Navy photos by JOC Daniel Sanford

U.S. Navy ships return fire on suspected pirates

**U.S. Naval Forces
Central Command
Public Affairs**

USS Cape St. George (CG 71) and USS Gonzalez (DDG 66) returned fire on a group of suspected pirates in the Indian Ocean, killing one and wounding five, approximately 25 nautical miles off the central eastern coast of Somalia in international waters at 5:40 a.m. local time, March 18.

Cape St. George, a guided-missile cruiser, and Gonzalez, a guided-missile destroyer, were conducting maritime security operations in the area as part of Combined Task Force 150, a maritime coalition task force currently led by Royal Netherlands Navy Commodore Hank Ort, when they spotted a suspect vessel towing two smaller skiffs heading west toward the coast. As Gonzalez's boarding teams

prepared to conduct a routine boarding of the suspect vessel, the two Norfolk, Va.-based Navy ships noticed the group of suspected pirates were brandishing what appeared to be rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launchers. The suspected pirates then opened fire on the Navy ships. Cape St. George and Gonzalez returned fire with small arms in self-defense.

One suspected pirate was killed and a fire ignited aboard the main suspect vessel. Boarding teams from Cape St. George and Gonzalez took 12 other suspects into custody, including the five injured. The Navy boarding teams also confiscated an RPG launcher and automatic weapons. No U.S. Sailors were injured in the engagement. The Navy ships are providing medical treatment

to the wounded suspects, continuing search and rescue efforts for any additional suspects and collecting further evidence from the vessel and skiffs. Royal Netherlands Navy medical personnel, including a medical doctor, are en route to assist from HNLMS Amsterdam. Coalition forces conduct maritime security operations under international maritime conventions to ensure security and safety

in international waters so that all commercial shipping can operate freely while transiting the region. On March 15, the United Nations Security Council encouraged naval forces operating off the coast of Somalia to be vigilant and take action against piracy. Pirate attacks against aid ships have hindered UN efforts to provide relief to the victims of a severe drought in the area.



U.S. Navy photo by PH3 M. Jeremie Yoder and

(Left) The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72), and ships of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) conduct a PASSEX in the Western Pacific. Lincoln spent three days conducting exercises with JMSDF and took part in an officer exchange program as part of a passing exercise. Lincoln and Carrier Air Wing Two (CVW-2) are currently on a scheduled deployment to the Western Pacific. The Pearl Harbor-based ship USS Russell (DDG 59) is currently deployed with the Lincoln Carrier Strike. The Pearl Harbor-based guided missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) is currently deployed with the Lincoln carrier Strike Group. (Right) An F/A-18C Hornet assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron One Five One (VFA-151), launches off the flight deck aboard the Lincoln (CVN 72).

Lake Erie wins second consecutive Capt Edward F. Ney Award

CSC(SW) Brad Lemieur

*USS Lake Erie (CG 70)
Lead Culinary Specialist*

USS Lake Erie (CG 70) has been awarded the most prestigious food service award in the fleet for the second year in a row. On March 7, the Secretary of the Navy announced winners of the 2006 Captain Edward F. Ney Memorial Award, naming Lake Erie the first place winner of the "medium afloat" category, made up of 69 guided missile cruisers and destroyers in the commissioned fleet.

"It is very rare to win it two years in a row," said Lt. j.g. Elizabeth Williams, the food service officer aboard Lake Erie. "I am very fortunate to be on a ship where the food service team, engi-

neering team and the entire crew is so willing to go the extra mile every single day. This is truly the entire ship's award."

Each year, ships are nominated by their type commander (TYCOM) and Afloat Training Group (ATG) to compete for this distinctive award. Then Ney Award inspectors visit the nominated commands to sample food, review administrative records and inspect food service spaces. "The ships nominated are already at the top of their class," said Williams.

Even so, the inspections are tough and getting ready for this competition was even more challenging for Lake Erie.

The inspection came in early December, just weeks after the ship completed a

planned maintenance availability and just days after an intense eight-day underway period in support of the ballistic missile defense (BMD) test program and conducting daily general quarters drills and round-the-clock evolutions.

"Although the inspection came right after we pulled back into port and I was off those days, I came in to help," said Culinary Specialist Seaman Apprentice Angel Marte, CPO mess supervisor. We have a lot of pride in what we do and giving up a little liberty was only a small sacrifice for me."

That dedication is seen throughout the ship, said Williams. "I have never seen a ship that has created such a positive and synergistic environment for team work and I know that played a large role in our win," she said. "My food service team is very fortunate to have total support from our entire chain of command, every single department, division and crew member."

According to CTTSA Isaac Mitchell, one of the 17 food service attendants who helped prepare for the Ney competition, that teamwork made working out of rate

fun. "We all worked long hours, but the support we got from the senior culinary specialists and mess deck master-at-arms made it easier for us to take pride in the job."

Williams agreed, "Many of the CSs in Lake Erie are junior, but you would have never known that during the inspection. We have a lot of talent onboard. My CSs are true 'culinary specialists' of the highest caliber and devoted themselves to proving it through this achievement. They really came through and showed the inspectors what the Lake Erie team could do."

That pride comes even easier after earning numerous food service distinctions. In addition to winning the Ney Award two years in a row, USS Lake Erie met and exceeded all expectations

during its recent supply management certification (SMC) from Jan. 30-Feb. 3, scoring 98.40 percent overall. "In addition to waterfront bragging rights, winning the award will give the ship the opportunity to reward CSs who have pushed excellence," said Williams.

"Winning the award allows us to send some CSs to professional internships at civilian culinary schools in Hyde Park, N.Y. and San Francisco, where they will work hand in hand with some of the top executive chefs from around the world," she said. "A few will also attend a formal presentation of the award, which will be made during the International Food Service Executives Association (IFSEA) Conference on Saturday, April 8, 2006 in Miami, Fla."



USS Tucson (SSN 70) deploys to Western Pacific

JO2 Corwin Colbert

*Commander Submarine Force
U.S. Pacific Fleet*

The nuclear-powered attack submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) departed on a Western Pacific deployment from its homeport of Pearl Harbor on, March 21.

According to Cmdr. James Pitts, Tucson's commanding officer, the crew prepared by conducting standard pre-deployment upkeep and maintenance.

"In the last few months, we went through a fairly sizable maintenance period. We needed to make sure the

equipment is up to standards for deployment," said Pitts. "We also held routine and operational training to help us support the nation and Seventh Fleet's mission."

He said overall, the crew handled the maintenance and training superbly. Pitts added that Tucson is one of the more advanced 688 improved-class submarines on the waterfront. They have one of the most advanced fire control systems, sonar systems and the consumer-off-the-shelf technology (COTS) onboard helping the crew work more efficiently, and make routine repairs easier.

"The equipment onboard is dramatically different from when I did

my first two deployments. The COTS equipment now is more intuitive to the guys and much more windows based so everyone catches on faster," said Pitts. "We also have equipment to help us with our contact management, helping us be more responsive to other ships around us and recognizing them a little sooner," he said.

The commanding officer also stated there is another major factor that will help his crew get through this six-month deployment -- their families.

"It is tremendously important for families to support the crew because it helps the crew keep a high morale," said Pitts. "We like to keep the letters

and e-mails coming to keep a breath of fresh air from home while we are away for a fairly long time," Pitts said.

While family members waved goodbye, Yeoman 1st Class Darin Matrazzo walked down the brow to give one last kiss to his wife and daughter.

"It is sad to leave my daughter and wife behind," said Matrazzo. "My wife made me a big photo album and we plan on exchanging e-mails and audio tapes."

Whether it is to support the nation's interest or supporting the Seventh Fleet's mission, Pitts said there is one primary goal.

"The ultimate goal is to bring everyone back safely and I look forward to sailing with the crew and having a great deployment," he said.

Walking off the pier, the executive officer's spouse said the deployment would be bittersweet. However, while he is gone she plans to stay busy to keep her mind off her husband's absence.

"Our officer's wives are wonderful. We are going to stay active in the family support group, field trips and get together," she said. "I am sad to see him leave but I am happy because he believes in what he is doing and this deployment is what he wants," she concluded.

Remembrance service held for USS Lake Erie Sailor

**Navy Region Hawai'i
Public Affairs**

Friends and shipmates of Operations Specialist 3rd Class Zachary Ryan Johnson gathered at the Naval Station Pearl Harbor base chapel Tuesday to share remembrances and to honor the Sailor who has been missing since March 11.

Extensive search and rescue efforts by the Honolulu Fire Department, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Navy search and rescue teams failed to locate the 21-year-old native of Windsor, Colo. was lost while swimming at Spitting Rocks near Hanauma Bay, Hawai'i, when he was caught by currents and unable to swim to shore.

"The officers and crew of USS Lake Erie have been greatly affected by the loss of our shipmate, Petty Officer Johnson," said Capt. Joseph A. Horn, Jr., commanding officer of USS Lake Erie (CG 70). "He is remembered as a reliable Sailor, trusted shipmate and constant companion. We are, one and all,

proud to have served with him and rededicated to each other and our profession to honor his memory. Our thoughts are with his family and closest friends during this difficult time."

Johnson was assigned to the Pearl Harbor-based guided missile cruiser, USS Lake Erie. Johnson joined the Navy in March 2004 and reported to USS Lake Erie in December of that year.

Johnson's father, Steve, in Colorado expressed, "This has been an extremely difficult time for our family and the outpouring of support has been greatly appreciated. Zach was a wonderful son, a wonderful brother and a wonderful friend. He was proud to serve his country and the Navy. We appreciate the support and it is comforting to know that the military and civilian community is with us and wishes us well during this difficult time, but while we do appreciate the support, we also ask for some privacy. I'm sure everyone can understand the need for personal reflection at a time like this."

Uncommon valor



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Devin Wright

Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class Larry D. Cummins, assigned to Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two (VPU-2), recounts to news media his successful rescue of a 15-year-old girl Jan. 17, at the Waikiki Yacht Club pier. He was presented with the Medal of Valor, for his heroic achievement by Mayor Mufi Hannemann at the Honolulu Hale on Tuesday. The girl was in a car being driven by her step-grandfather when it plunged into the harbor and began to sink. After diving several times in the murky water, Cummins located the girl in the back seat and pulled the unconscious girl ashore, where she was revived by rescue personnel on the scene.