

New Port Ops program saves Navy \$20 Mil

JO2 Devin Wright

Editor

In March 2003 when Navy Cmdr. (ret.) William Nesmith reported to Naval Station Pearl Harbor, he realized Port Operations was managing the harbor with pencil and paper. This type of management style sometimes caused mistakes and failures in the command's ability to accomplish its mission of supporting the fleet through ships' movement.

According to Nesmith, in order for Naval Station Pearl Harbor and other organizations like Naval Engineering Facilities, Hawai'i to be successful 100 percent of the time, and successfully manage, schedule and track over 3,200 ship and submarine arrivals and departures, and 2,000 logistics support movements within Pearl Harbor, a new way of operating was needed.

"I decided to develop three separated but Web based interactive computer programs that efficiently and effectively manage, schedule and track all naval vessels arriving and departing Pearl Harbor," said Nesmith, Port Operations officer assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor. "I also wanted to develop a program to manage, schedule and track all assigned water assets and operations."

The three programs Nesmith created are Port Operations Harbor Master, Port Operations Tower Master, and Port Operations Harbor Status. These programs make up the Port Operations Ship Tracking System (POSTS) program.

"The objective of developing POSTS was to ensure Port Operations and supporting organizations were successful in performing tasks that supported the Fleet," said Nesmith. "POSTS became a module with the Regional Shore and Installation Management System, a system which integrates accounting and financial management, economics, organization and management into a process by which the

▼ See POSTS, A-6

Hawai'i Navy News Briefs

"First Shot" film

The USS Bowfin Submarine Park will show the documentary "First Shot - The Secret Submarine Attack on Pearl Harbor" at 6 p.m. April 27.

The film tells the story of the sinking of a Japanese midget submarine by the USS Ward one hour before the air strike on Pearl Harbor and the discovery of the wreck by the Hawai'i Undersea Research Lab in 2002.

The documentary was produced by Hawai'i Pacific University in co-operation with the USS Arizona Memorial, Burl Burlingame, the USS Bowfin Park, the Battleship Missouri and the Navy. The film includes interviews with Japanese and American veterans. The premiere took place Dec. 4, 2005 at the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor's Center including the attendance of USS Ward veterans. After winning two awards, the documentary now is on sale at the USS Arizona Memorial Book Store.

The program begins at 6 p.m. and will include a presentation by Burl Burlingame.

For information, call the USS Bowfin's curator, Nancy Richards, at 423-1341.

Hawai'i honors heroes

JO2 Devin Wright

Editor

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

Sgt. Eugene Williams Staff Sgt. Cameron B. Sarno Chief Warrant Officer Sharon Swartworth Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Bolor 2nd Lt. Jeremy Wolfe Chief Warrant Officer Ian D. Manuel Pfc. Ernest H. Sutphin Pfc. John D. Amos II Staff Sgt. Oscar D. Medina Spc. Ramon C. Ojeda Spc. Philip L. Witkowski Staff Sgt. Todd E. Nunes Cpl. David M. Fraise Spc. Joseph F. Herndon II Sgt. Daniel Lee Galvan Spc. Joseph C. Thibodeaux III Spc. Wesley R. Wells Pfc. Joshua Kuile Paul Titcomb Pfc. Jeungjin Nikky N. Kim Spc. Kyle K. Fernandez Staff Sgt. Brian S. Hobbs Chief Warrant Officer 3 William I. Brennan Capt. Christopher B. Johnson Lance Cpl. Richard P. Slocum Cpl. Billy Gomez Lance Cpl. Jeremy D. Bow Lance Cpl. John T. Byrd II Sgt. Kelley L. Courtney Lance Cpl. Travis A. Fox Cpl. Christopher J. Lapka Pfc. John Lukac Lance Cpl. Andrew G. Riedel Lance Cpl. Michael P. Scarborough Lance Cpl. Aaron C. Pickering Petty Officer Julian Woods Lance Cpl. David M. Branning Lance Cpl. Brian A. Medina Sgt. Rafael Peralta Pfc. Jose Ricardo Flores-Mejia Spc. Daniel James McConnell Lance Cpl. Michael A. Downey Cpl. Michael R. Cohen Cpl. Jacob R. Fleischer Cpl. Dale E. Fracker Jr. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Travis W. Grogan Lt. Colonel Michael J. McMahon Spc. Harley D.R. Miller Lance Cpl. Blake A. Magaoy Spc. Isaac E. Diaz Spc. David P. Mahlenbrock Lance Cpl. Jeffrey S. Blanton Lance Cpl. Franklin A. Sweger 1st Lt. Nainoa K. Hoe Staff Sgt. Brian D. Bland Lance Cpl. Jonathan E. Etterling Sgt. Michael W. Finke Jr. 1st Lt. Travis J. Fuller Cpl. Timothy M. Gibson Cpl. Richard A. Gilbert Jr. Cpl. Kyle J. Grimes Lance Cpl. Brian C. Hopper Lance Cpl. Saeed Jafarkhani-Torshizi Jr. Cpl. Stephen P. Johnson Cpl. Sean P. Kelly Lance Cpl. Allan Klein Cpl. Timothy A. Knight Lance Cpl. Fred L. Maciel Cpl. James L. Moore Cpl. Nathaniel K. Moore Lance Cpl. Mourad Ragimov Lance Cpl. Rhonald Dain Rairdan Lance Cpl. Hector Ramos Lance Cpl. Gael Saintvil Lance Cpl. Darrell J. Schumann Cpl. Nathan A. Shubert 1st Lt. Dustin M. Shumway Cpl. Matthew R. Smith Lance Cpl. Joseph B. Spence Lance Cpl. Michael L. Sparr Jr. Petty Officer 3rd Class John D. House Pfc. Stephen A. Castellano Lance Cpl. Sean P. Maher Spc. Glenn J. Watkins Sgt. Maj. Barbara Ann Banks Master Sgt. Edwin A. Matos-Colon Pfc. Kevin S.K. Wessel Lance Cpl. Nicholas C. Kirven Cpl. Richard P. Schoener Sgt. Arnold Duplantier II Lance Cpl. Kevin B. Joyce Senior Chief Information Systems Technician (SEAL) Daniel R. Healy Machinist's Mate 2nd Class (SEAL) Shane E. Patton Quartermaster 2nd Class (SEAL) James Suh Lt. Michael P. Murphy Sonar Technician (Surface) 2nd Class (SEAL) Matthew G. Axelson Sgt. Deyson K. Cariaga Staff Sgt. Frank F. Tiai Spc. Ray Michael Fuhrmann II Lance Cpl. Phillip C. George Sgt. Alfredo B. Silva Spc. Mike T. Sonoda Jr. Sgt. 1st Class Daniel R. Scheile Sgt. Paul C. Neubauer Lance Cpl. Steven A. Valdez Sgt. Jerry L. Bonifacio Sgt. Evan S. Parker Capt. Michael J. MacKinnon Col. William W. Wood Capt. Raymond D. Hill II Sgt. Shaker T. Guy Sgt. Wilgene T. Lieto Spc. Darence W. Jack Sgt. Daniel A. Tsue Sgt. Myla L. Maravillosa Spc. Marcelino R. Corniel Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ruel M. Garcia Pvt. Lewis T.D. Calapini Lance Cpl. Billy D. Brixey Jr. Petty Officer 3rd Class John T. Fralish Pfc. Matthew L. Bertolino

The State of Hawai'i held a first of its kind ceremony at the Hawai'i State Capitol House chambers April 18, for the families of service members with Hawai'i ties who were killed in the global war on terrorism.

Members of 48 families of Hawai'i's fallen heroes received the state's new Medal of Honor on behalf of service members who gave their lives in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Today we have come together to honor those who have sacrificed for our nation, our freedom, our way of life," said Hawai'i Governor Linda Lingle. "These were great Americans who are part of our ohana here in Hawai'i. We want to thank the families, who have also sacrificed. We want to let them know how painfully we appreciate their sons' and daughters' service to our country."

Among those honored were five Sailors assigned to SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team One (SDVT 1), Pearl Harbor. The SEALs were killed while conducting combat and counter-terrorism operations in Afghanistan in June 2005.

"Our family really appreciates all that the State of Hawai'i and the joint chiefs have done in honoring our son and all of these fallen heroes," said James Patton, the father of Machinist's Mate 2nd Class (SEAL) Shane Patton, one of the five SEALs killed in Afghanistan. "While we are honored to accept this award, we also feel it is unfortunate. Hawai'i has done so much to acknowledge the sacrifices that have been made by service members."

In addition to Patton, those SEALs from SDVT-1 killed in action on June 28, 2005 include: Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew G. Axelson, Senior Chief Petty Officer Daniel R. Healy, Lt. Michael P. Murphy and Petty Officer 2nd Class James Suh.

"This award ceremony means so much us," said Lt. Cmdr. (SEAL) Michael Martin assigned to SDVT 1. "We have deep ties with the Hawai'i community and the fact that the State of Hawai'i was able to hold this ceremony to recognize our five team members that were killed last June and their sacrifices is quite an honor for us."

Recipients of the medal include active duty, National Guard and Reserve forces who were residents of Hawai'i, were stationed here, or were attached to Hawai'i military commands.

Each fallen service member was recognized by name, a tolling of a ship's bell, and the presentation of a koa-cased Hawai'i Medal of Honor to a family member or loved one.

One hundred twenty service members were awarded the Hawai'i Medal of Honor.

The purpose of the award and the ceremony was to express the appreciation and gratitude of the people of Hawai'i to the loved ones of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the global war on terrorism.

2006 Pacific sea and shore Sailors of the Year announced

JO2 Devin Wright

Editor

The Navy League and Pioneer Services hosted the 2006 Pacific Sailor of the Year awards luncheon yesterday at the Hale Koa Hotel to announce the 2006 sea and shore Sailors of the Year.

The awards luncheon recognized outstanding Sailors serving in the Pacific Fleet area of responsibility.

"The Navy League's sole purpose revolves around the sea services,"

said Robert Walker, national director of the Navy League and a former Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy. "This evolution here today gives us an opportunity to really recognize and show our appreciation for those Sailors who truly do go above and beyond. This event is also held to promote a strong Navy and we are proud to be involved in the success of the Sailors we have gathered to honor today," said Walker.

Fleet Master Chief for the U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief

(SW/SS) Rick West was on hand to present the nominees awards for their accomplishments.

"Our Sailors are part of the community and it is important for the community to step up and recognize them for their hard work and sacrifice," said West. "The Navy League and Pioneer Services are those members of the community who do step up each and every year and that is why we are able to hold this event and recognize deserving Sailors and there is no better place to host this event than at the home of the Pacific Fleet. I think Sailors of this caliber are the ones the junior and even senior Sailors are going to be looking to as role models. These Sailors we have come to recognize today should be the goal of each and every Sailor in the United States Navy," he said.

For Pearl Harbor-based Sea Sailor of the Year finalist, Cryptologic Technician Maintenance 1st Class John Hibberts assigned to USS Port Royal (CG 73), being selected as one of the four most outstanding sea service Sailors is a tribute to years of hard work and dedication. "To be selected from the surface force out of 73 ships is unbelievable to me," said Hibberts. "I don't even have the words to describe what an honor this has been. Recently I was in San Diego as

part of this competition and we had dinner with all of the finalists from all of the different ships. The admiration I have for all of them - to be in that room with all of that talent - was a peculiar feeling. To know that I was one of them and held to their standard, I'm still baffled by having been selected out of that group," he said. "I think if anything my ability to learn and adapt quickly is a main contributor to my success and I am humble to be a finalist."

Aviation Electrician's Mate 1st Class Dennis Simpson (AW) assigned to Air Reconnaissance Squadron Three in Oklahoma was selected as the 2006 Pacific Fleet Sea Service Sailor of the Year. Boatswain mate 1st Class Timothy Roff assigned to Southwest Regional Maintenance Center was named the 2006 Pacific Fleet Shore Service Sailor of the Year.

Adm. Elmo Zumwalt initiated the Sailor of the Year program in 1972 to recognize outstanding Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Sailors. The following year, the Shore Sailor of the Year program was introduced. Sponsored by the Chief of Naval Operations, the program provides recognition to the Navy's outstanding Sailors through numerous presentations, awards and meritorious advancement to the next pay grade.



U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Ben A. Gonzales

The National Director of the Navy League Robert Walker presents the Lone Sailor statue to Sailors of the Year selected for the 34th Annual Pacific Sailor of the Year award.

Community gathers for farewell to namesake submarine

JOC(SW/AW) David Rush

Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Senator Daniel Inouye, Lt. Gov. James Aiona, and Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Gary Roughead joined past and current crew members of USS Honolulu to bid farewell to the nuclear-powered attack submarine at a ceremony April 15, at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

Keynote speaker, Seventh Fleet commander Vice Adm. Jonathan Greenert, who commanded Honolulu (SSN 718) from 1991 to 1993, said Honolulu performed exceptionally well throughout its career. "She was consistently the most reliable ship in the squadron, whatever squadron she was in. Her complex systems always worked well...even the anchor on this ship always worked."

Inouye said Honolulu and all other Los Angeles-class submarines have served the Navy in a variety of roles. "These submarines constituted the front lines during the cold war. Today, they continue to operate...putting SEALs ashore, collecting intelligence, and taking care of our strike forces," he said.

"USS Honolulu demonstrates how important Pearl Harbor is and how important the submarines are and how much we rely upon them," Inouye added.

Praising the efforts of her crew that have served for more than 20 years, Aiona cited Honolulu as a valuable asset to the community and the country. "For the past two decades, this nuclear-powered attack submarine has proudly served our nation and her namesake city Honolulu. The state of Hawai'i is indeed honored to have had the prestigious Honolulu at Pearl

Harbor."

As Honolulu's final operational commanding officer, Cmdr. John Russ said the crew has enjoyed serving aboard the namesake city submarine and are ready to put the submarine through its paces. "Although we are sad to say goodbye to the best homeport in the Navy, a place that has been a warm and welcoming home for crew members and their families for nearly two decades, we are excited about our upcoming deployment," said Russ.

Russ added that he and his submariners are looking forward to going to sea onboard Honolulu. "It's a chance to put into practice the skills we have spent our careers mastering and the teamwork we have spent the last few months honing."

Honolulu, which has served as Honolulu's namesake for the last two decades, is scheduled to depart for its final deployment to the Western Pacific in early May. Following the deployment, it will return directly to Bremerton, Wash., to begin inactivation.

Sidney Quintal, director of Enterprise Services for the City and County of Honolulu presented a proclamation on behalf of Mayor Mufi Hannemann, who was out of the country. Hannemann visited Honolulu on March 29 to bid his farewell.

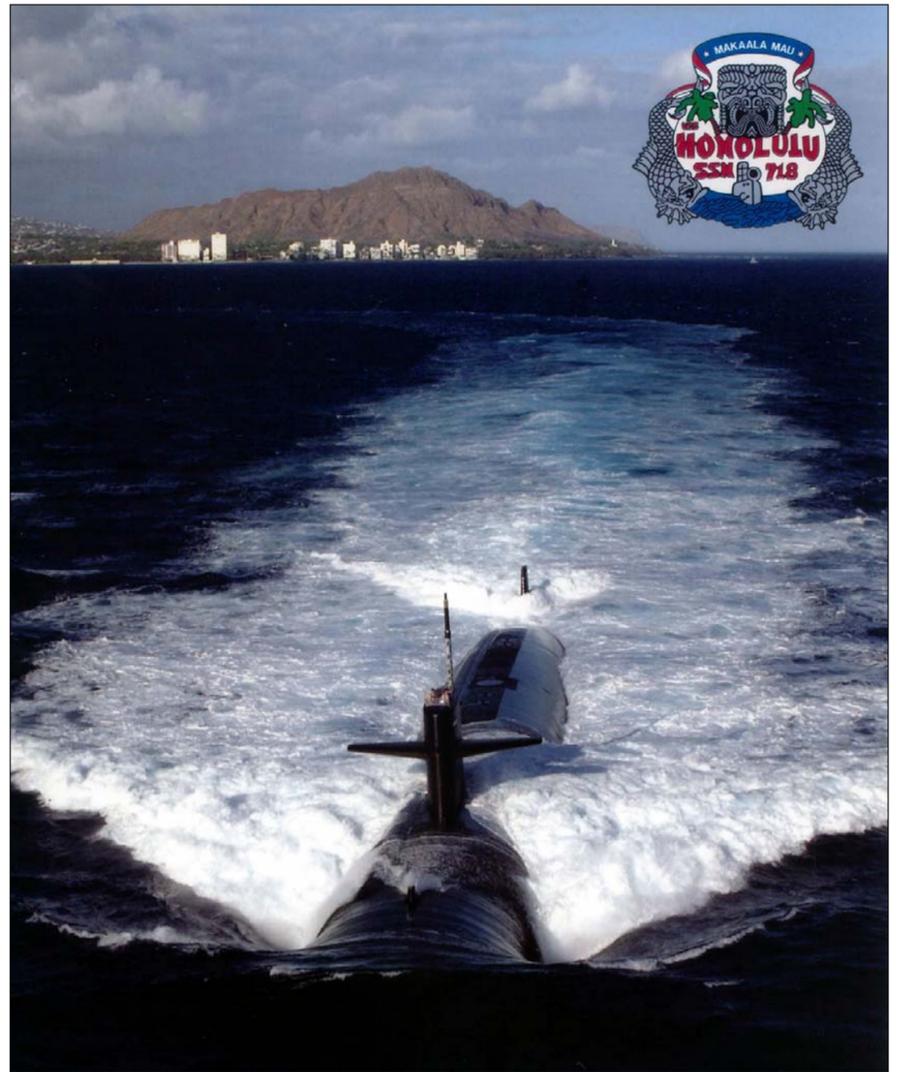
Honolulu has been homeported at Pearl Harbor for most of its operational life. After its commissioning in 1985, it moved to Hawai'i to join the Pacific Fleet in September 1986. It has completed nine deployments to the Western Pacific, participated in Operation Enduring Freedom and conducted operations under the Arctic ice.

The submarine has received an impressive array of awards, including six Battle "E"s. Honolulu is the third ship named in honor of the city of Honolulu, Hawai'i.



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Corwin Colbert

Chief Electronics Technician Brian Hircock and Electronics Technician 1st Class Burnell Broussard of USS Honolulu's (SSN 718) navigation department review charts in the control room April 12. Honolulu, which has served as the city of Honolulu's namesake for the last two decades, departs for its final deployment to the Western Pacific in early May. Following the deployment, it will return directly to Bremerton, Wash. to begin inactivation.



U.S. Navy photo

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Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Individual augmentees – be prepared!

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



FLTCM(SS/SW)
Rick West

Hoo-yah, Warriors! Today's article is about individual augmentees (IAs). You've seen emails, news stories and Naval messages that address this topic so hopefully by me addressing IAs I can either answer your questions or direct you to the right location for your answer.

For three years, we've had Sailors in Iraq, Afghanistan, GTMO, Cuba and the Horn of Africa supporting efforts in the war on terror. Navy heroes have stepped up to the plate and have answered the call as IAs and continue to do so. BZ to you!

In the future, we will continue to increase and maintain our support. NAVADMIN 83/06 outlined the need for IA readiness. The message was simple and to the point: All Sailors are potential IAs and all Sailors need to be ready to support the war on terror.

Let me discuss that: The Navy, along with our sister services, is not only conducting combat operations but we are providing support in things such as law enforcement, intelligence, linguistics and public affairs.

Obviously, this list is not all-inclusive and as the needs and missions shift, we need to be ready to adapt.

Additionally, our Navy has been heavily involved in detainee operations, civil affairs missions and provisional reconstruction teams, to name a few, doing all this while keeping the world sear lanes clear and meeting the maritime mission worldwide.

We are an "any mission, any time" Navy.

How else can you help? One major discrepancy pointed out in the recent NAVADMIN was a lack of personal readiness on the part of individual Sailors preparing to deploy.

That means Page 2s and security clearances updated, good physical conditioning, medical and dental health is maintained, and all the other financial, legal and personal affairs are handled.

Not to make too fine a point on the issue, we recently sent a large number of Sailors to their initial combat training in preparation

for their IA assignments.

Of that group, many had significant medical readiness issues that negatively impacted an already tight training schedule. We can't afford to do this.

I know about this impact because Navy leadership has visited Fort Jackson, S.C. and watched the training our Sailors are undergoing.

The Force Master Chief of Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education, Master Chief Mike McCalip, told me that during his recent visit he saw: (1) outstanding Sailors who were upbeat, focused, and showed positive attitudes about preparing to deploy to support the war on terror, (2) a Navy training staff that was focused on getting our warriors ready for deployment, and (3) a cadre of U.S. Army drill instructors who are dedicated to helping our Sailors understand new and unfamiliar mission areas.

I would expect nothing less, but the Navy-Army training team can only do so much. We have to do our part and ensure we are ready, when called upon.

This brings me to my next point, pre-screening for IA. Again, it falls to our front-line leadership to make sure we are

doing the right thing by the Navy and the Sailors.

When the IA call goes out, we need to make sure the people we send can do the job. They have to be physically, medically and mentally ready. Just checking the box with a name is the wrong answer.

Now I realize the job of finding just the right person, with the right skills, and completely prepared isn't always easy. No one ever said it would be. The Navy is taking several steps to lessen the impact IA duty has on Sailors and their families.

First, leadership is engaged to reduce the personal and family hardships of IA by increasing the notification lead times. This will give us the time we need to help our Sailors prepare as well as take care of family matters.

Second, the Navy is putting out as much advance information as possible through the Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) portals by developing an IA portal page.

When you log into NKO, there is a large box at the top of the homepage asking if you are an individual augmentee preparing for deployment. Click there and it will take you to everything you could possibly want to know. The portal includes Fort Jackson training information, uniform

requirements, IA checklists, the whole nine yards.

Please make use of this service, as its only purpose is to make your life easier.

Wrapping it all for you, the IA requirements are a reality and we must be ready – from junior to senior, officer to enlisted. That means individually, we keep ourselves in a deployable status. On the leadership side, we must ensure we are leading and managing our folks to the highest possible state of readiness in case the call comes.

I realize very much how disruptive individual augmentation can be for not only the commands but, for the Sailors and their families. If we all keep focus, we can keep that disruption to a minimum and complete the mission while taking care of the business at hand.

Keep up the great work you all are doing. We are making a difference on the oceans, in the air and on the ground. I look forward to seeing you in the fleet.

Fleet Tip: All personnel (Sailors, families and ombudsmen) should log onto NKO and review the checklist for IA assignments. If you want to volunteer, contact your chain of command. Be ready! Hoo-yah!

A letter to military children

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Gen. Peter Pace



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Gen. Peter Pace

I want to take this opportunity to recognize the extraordinary contributions of our nation's military families, who have faced many challenges - from family separations to frequent moves - with great courage. I would especially like to acknowledge a special source of inspiration: children of military families.

You are patient and understanding when duty calls and your mom or dad cannot attend a soccer game, music recital, birthday party, or other important family or school activity. You are heroes in a quiet, thoughtful way, and I am grateful for the unconditional love you give your mom and dad. Many of you have experienced the sad and sometimes frightening experience of having your mom or dad far from home, serving around the globe in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. Through your personal courage and support, you serve this nation, too - and I am proud of you!

Frequent moves are a way of life for the military child. It is never easy to say goodbye to friends and familiar routines, to begin again in a new

school, a new neighborhood - and sometimes a new country! But your resilience and self-confidence are strengths that others admire, including your parents.

Growing up in a military family offers some challenges, but it also provides some special rewards. You can be proud of your mom and dad for their brave defense of this great country. Your love and support sustains them. So thank you for being there for mom and dad. You are American patriots and role models for us all.

"ARISE AMERICANS"

Your Country and Your Liberty are in grave danger.. Protect them now by joining the —

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

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USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) deploying for five-month mission

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

The U.S. naval hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) is scheduled to depart its San Diego homeport April 24, in support of a five-month humanitarian assistance mission to the Western Pacific and Southeast Asia.

Following logistics stops along the way, Mercy should arrive in the Philippines in mid- to late May.

The ship's mission is being coordinated with host nations in the region and is being carried out in conjunction with non-governmental relief organizations to provide medical, dental and other humanitarian assistance programs ashore and afloat.

"The deployment of USNS Mercy to Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific exemplifies the United States' commitment to working together with our friends, partners, and the regional community," said Adm. Gary Roughead, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. "By deploying the Mercy, we are training our medical crew in order to better prepare them to respond in times of disaster relief and armed conflict."

Mercy is deploying with civilian mariners, military personnel, and members of non-governmental organizations. The Mercy humanitarian mission will be led by Capt. Bradley Martin. The commanding officer of the medical treatment facility



The San Diego-based Military Sealift Command (MSC) hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) enters Pearl Harbor in May 2005 escorted by the MWR Ladies Hoiokahi Canoe Club and the Honolulu Pearl Canoe Club.

U.S. Navy photo by JOC(SW) Joe Kane

aboard is Capt. Joseph L. Moore. Capt. Robert Wylie, civilian mariner, is the ship's master.

The medical crew aboard Mercy is trained to provide general surgery, ophthalmology surgery, basic medical evaluation and treatment, preventative medicine treatment, dental screenings and treatment, optometry

screenings, eyewear distribution, public health training and veterinary services.

A Seabee detachment from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 from Port Hueneme, Calif. will perform civic action repair and minor construction projects in the host countries.

The Navy Showband from Norfolk, Va. will join Mercy

while deployed. The band will provide outreach and entertainment to local populations where assistance work is taking place.

Last year, Mercy performed a similar mission following the December 2004 tsunami that struck Southeast Asia. Medical personnel aboard performed 19,512 medical procedures

for more than 9,500 patients in Indonesia, East Timor and Papua New Guinea.

"Many Americans are from the Asia-Pacific region, and we have strong ties to family members, friends and co-workers with roots in the region," said Roughead. "It is natural we should want to be good neighbors."

Like all naval forces,

Mercy can rapidly respond to a range of situations on short notice. Mercy is uniquely capable of supporting medical and humanitarian assistance needs, and has been configured with special medical equipment and a robust multi-specialized medical team to provide a range of services ashore as well as on board the ship.

Hawai'i Navy News Online

www.hawaii.navy.mil

ON DEPLOYMENT with the Golden 47 VP-47 SWORDSMEN



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 John Collins



Lt. Dedrick Luikens, assigned to Patrol Squadron Four Seven (VP-47), and Maj. Amy Olsen, assigned to 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, perform surgery on an epidermal inclusion cyst on the cranium of a patient.

"this isn't a job, it's a calling"

- Cmdr. James Landers

Lt. Dedrick Luikens, assigned VP-47, sutures an incision in the cranium of a patient after surgery.



Story and photos by PH2 Jennifer L. Bailey

Patrol Squadron Four Seven (VP-47) Public Affairs

Cmdr. Daniel Schebler relieved Cmdr. James Landers as commanding officer of Patrol Squadron Four Seven (VP-47) during the squadron's 56th change of command ceremony, April. 17 in Southwest Asia.

The Golden Swordsmen are currently four months into a six month deployment to the U.S. 5th and 7th Fleet areas of responsibility. They fly the P-3C Orion aircraft in support of maritime patrol operations and the global war on terrorism.

Since deploying from their homeport of Kaneohe Bay, Hawai'i, VP-47 has flown 2,851 hours and conducted 467 sorties from Africa, Bahrain, Iraq, Japan, Qatar, and the Philippines in support of coalition forces on the

ground, in the air, and over the high seas.

Landers welcomed Rear Adm. Arthur Johnson, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Force 5th and 7th Fleets as a guest speaker in saying, "you may note that he once wore the same Golden Swordsman patch as you and I do today, as the 47th commanding officer of this squadron."

Johnson commended Landers and the squadron for accomplishing its mission across the spectrum of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

"You were front and center influencing the strategic landscape in our epic struggle to meet and overcome the transnational threats and security challenges of the 21st century," he said.

Landers reflected on the two years he spent with the squadron, first as executive officer and then as commanding officer, and reminded the Golden Swordsmen that, "this isn't a job, it's a calling. Let's

make it count by keeping your focus on the mission and watching out for each other."

Prior to being relieved of command, Landers cited a few keys to success as a leader, including trusting your instincts, being yourself, and getting to know your Sailors.

"I wish I could say that I modeled that response from my own performance," he said. "No, those keys to success are my observations of Cmdr. Dan Schebler."

"I do not shrink from this responsibility-I welcome it," Schebler said to the crew after assuming command. "The executive officer and I will work tirelessly to make this command the best it can be. We will support you and train you, cheer for you and endure with you, and we will guide you on the path to personal and professional success to the best of our ability."

With two more months left to go on deployment, Schebler reminded the Sailors that their work as a team would complete the mission.



Above: Cmdr. James Landers receives the Meritorious Service Medal from Rear Adm. Arthur Johnson.

Right: Commander, U. S. Pacific Command, Adm. William J. Fallon speaks with Sailors and Airmen assigned to VP-47.



Above: Sailors attached to VP-47 push a pressure washer closer to a P-3C Orion to perform a 14-day freshwater rinse.

Left: Aviation Maintenance Administrationman 2nd Class Graham Keithley, assigned to VP-47, looks at fuel drawn from a P-3C Orion to check for contaminants such as water and dust particles. Fuel samples are conducted before every flight and are good for up to 24 hours.

Hawai'i-based USS Russell assists vessel in distress

JO1 Michael Murdock

USS Abraham Lincoln
(CVN 72) Public Affairs

A crew from Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (Light) (HSL) 47 assisted a vessel in distress in the South China Sea on April 15.

The squadron, known as the "Saberhawks," were conducting routine flight operations at the time.

"We were flying around checking out all the surface contacts near the battle group," said Lt. j.g. James Bowen, one of the two pilots aboard the SH-60B Seahawk helicopter when the vessel was spotted. "We were flying past and it just looked like an old fishing vessel."

However, the crew noticed the fishermen on deck were trying to signal them, so the crew decided to turn around

and make another pass to check it out.

"This time there were more people on deck, and they were signaling us to come closer," said Bowen.

"There were at least 10 people on deck waving both their arms," said Aviation Warfare Specialist 2nd Class (AW) Zachary J. Dotson, a sensor operator aboard the helicopter. "The vessel was dead in the water with a smaller boat tethered to it with a 50-yard line. I held up a bottle of water, and we got a noticeable reaction."

The crew then hovered the helicopter near the 100-foot-long vessel, which was of unknown nationality, and threw out a bottle of water.

"About five fishermen jumped into the water to get it, and we knew there was a problem on board," said Dotson.

The fishing vessel appeared

to be very primitive, and the helicopter crew doubted they would have radio equipment aboard, but they attempted to raise them anyway.

"We didn't get any response whatsoever," said Bowen. "At this point, we called USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) to coordinate efforts and request support."

The crew arranged to fly to USS Russell (DDG 59), which was nearby, and pick up some supplies they could deliver to the vessel.

"We flew back and dropped the food and water to them," said Bowen. "We stayed in a hover and watched as they opened the package, and they seemed very ecstatic."

The HSL-47 crew tried to contact other vessels in the area that might have been able to assist, but could not get any response. As a result, Russell moved into the area to



U.S. Navy photo by IS1 John Torres

An SH-60B Seahawk helicopter assigned to the "Saberhawks" of Helicopter Anti Submarine Squadron Light (HSL-47) spotted a vessel in apparent distress. The crew of the SH-60B provided food and water for the crew of the distressed vessel.

monitor the vessel and further support the humanitarian effort if necessary.

"This kind of event shows the versatility we have - to shift from a military to a humanitarian mission at a moment's notice," said Cmdr. Shawn P. Malone, HSL-47's executive officer and the other

pilot aboard the helicopter. "It also shows the kind of cooperation we bring to the region. We are more than a show of military power...we are here to assist when needed."

Versatility and cooperation were also demonstrated by the helicopter crew itself, as it included a member from

Helicopter Anti Submarine Squadron (HSL) 2, the "Golden Falcons."

"I flew with them as a [search-and-rescue] swimmer," said Aviation Warfare Specialist 2nd Class (AW) Zack D. Webb. "If [the vessel] was going down, I would have went in and performed rescues. If [anyone] was hurt, I would have went down, assessed the situation and got them into the bird."

Both crew men aboard the helicopter had participated in the tsunami relief and Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in 2005, and their experience was critical to the success of this mission.

"They were guiding the helicopter into position so we could drop the food and water, and communicating with the vessel's crew members to see what they needed," said Malone. "They performed very well."

POSTS: A program that makes sense

Continued from A-1

shore installation can accomplish its mission.

The POSTS program is now used by Navy Region Hawai'i to manage, schedule and track all evolutions and operations within Pearl Harbor. The program also provides data on pier and naval unit design characteristics for mooring decisions. It gives a pictorial of naval units moored pierside and offers a pictorial and word document real time harbor status in case of emergency sortie.

The POSTS program has saved Navy Region Hawai'i more than \$1.5 million since 2003. The functionality and parameters of the POSTS program have been implemented into a commercial version of POSTS called Port Operations Management System (POMS).

Because of the proven success of the POSTS program, an unclassified version of POMS will be distributed across all 16 regions as the program to manage all naval ports, saving the Navy more than \$20 million.

New Mexico native to command namesake submarine

JO2 Corwin Colbert

Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

A native of New Mexico is set to be the first commanding officer of his state's namesake submarine, USS New Mexico (SSN 779).

Cmdr. Robert Dain detached March 24 as Submarine Squadron Seven's deputy commander for readiness to begin the Submarine Command Course prior to assuming command of New Mexico's pre-commissioning unit in August.

Dain was born in Shiprock, N.M. and raised in Tijeras and Cedar Crest, N.M. east of Albuquerque. He said his New Mexico ties make this command



Cmdr. Robert Dain is the new commander of SSN 779

an ideal job for him and he has already been in touch with family members, the Navy League and the USS New Mexico association

about the commissioning.

"This is a tremendous opportunity that comes once in a lifetime," said Dain. "The chance to be a part of the construction phase of the second ship named after my home state is truly a dream."

While Dain said he is thrilled to take command of his state's namesake, he said that was actually not a factor in his being detailed there.

"It takes a lot of hard work to be selected as a commanding officer," he said. "Many factors are involved, but I think what led to my selection was my experience in engineering and shipyard environments."

The 21-year Navy veteran said he was eager to command the Navy's

newest class of submarine. Virginia-class submarines are designed for a broad spectrum of open-ocean, littoral missions and for multi-mission operations. Its capabilities include strike, battle group support, and special operations.

"Virginia-class submarines incorporate more modern technologies and the ability to reconfigure for different mission platforms," said Dain.

While Dain was looking forward to commanding a new ship bearing his state's name, he said he looks forward most to leading the people under his command.

"My philosophy is taking care of my people. They are my greatest asset," said Dain. "I would like to get

the crew going in the right direction for success and establish the processes that will enable success."

"A successful commanding officer takes good vision and hard work from the commander and the entire team," he said.

Dain attended St. Pius X High School in Albuquerque and graduated from Colorado State University with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

When it is delivered to the fleet in about 2011, New Mexico will be the sixth Virginia-class submarine. One notable feature of Virginia-class submarines is that it has two extendable photonics masts outside the pressure hull replacing traditional periscope. Each contains

several high-resolution cameras with light-intensification and infrared sensors, an infrared laser rangefinder, and an integrated electronic support measures (ESM) array along with the use of fiber optics.

Virginia-class submarines can be armed with Tomahawk missiles, Mark 48 torpedoes, advanced mobile mines, and unmanned undersea vehicles.

The first ship bearing the name New Mexico was the battleship USS New Mexico (BB 40). She was launched in 1917 and served as the flagship for the Pacific Fleet during the 1920s. She was present at the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay.

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