Hawai'i Navy News
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Navy Region Hawai'i celebrates Earth Day

"We are here to show members of the community that service members do care and are actively taking steps to improve the environment."

- Aerographer's Mate 2nd Class Darrell Ferguson

Photo illustration

Story and photo by JO2 Devin Wright

Editor

Navy Region Hawai'i hosted the 3rd Annual Earth Day Fair at the Navy Exchange at Pearl Harbor on April 21 - 22 to promote energy conservation and environmental awareness.

The Earth Day Fair celebrated environmental gains made by the Navy and local organizations and highlights new visions in environmental progress.

"This event grows every year," said John Muraoka head of planning for Navy Region Hawai'i Environmental Department. "Our Sailors are interested in, and take an active role in protecting and preserving the environment and it's important the local community sees that."

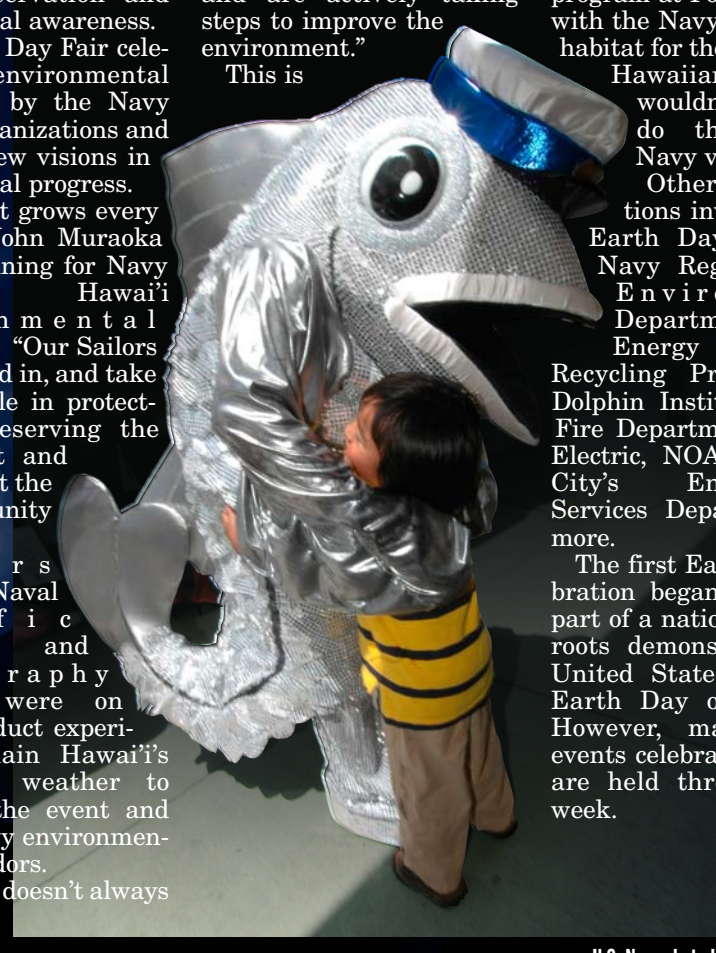
Sailors assigned to Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Command were on hand to conduct experiments, explain Hawai'i's recent wet weather to patrons of the event and serve as Navy environmental ambassadors.

"The Navy doesn't always get a fair shake when it comes to environmental issues," said Aerographer's Mate 2nd Class Darrell Ferguson, Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Command. "We are here to show members of the community that service members do care and are actively taking steps to improve the environment."

This is always a two-fold event," said Pauline Kawamata, volunteer program manager for the Hawai'i Nature Center. "Our primary mission is environmental education for families and children and the reason why it is hyphened with the Navy is because we do a wetland program at Pouhala Marsh with the Navy establishing habitat for the endangered Hawaiian stilt. We wouldn't be able to do that without Navy volunteers."

Other organizations involved in the Earth Day Fair were Navy Region Hawai'i Environmental Department, Navy Energy Team, Navy Recycling Program, The Dolphin Institute, Federal Fire Department, General Electric, NOAA Fisheries, City's Environmental Services Department and more.

The first Earth Day celebration began in 1970 as part of a nationwide grassroots demonstration. The United States recognizes Earth Day on April 22. However, many of the events celebrating this day are held throughout the week.



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Devin Wright

A Navy family member hugs U.S. Coast Guard mascot Officer Snook during the Earth Day Fair at the NEX April 22. The fair was held to promote energy conservation and environmental awareness.

Hawai'i Navy News Briefs

NMCRS car wash

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society will hold a fund-raising car wash from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday at the First Lieutenants building 1754, on South Road. For more information, call 423-1314.

Deploying parents

Dads and moms who are going on deployment or going on an extended TAD can make a free video for their children as part of Fleet and Family Support Center's (FFSC) Sea Deployment Program. The video provides a fun way for children to hear and see the deployed or absent parent as they read stories and promotes parent-child bonding, enhances literacy and motivates children to be lifelong readers. For more information, call FFSC at 473-4222, ext. 226 or 272.

Road construction

There will be delays in vehicle and pedestrian traffic near the Navy Exchange (NEX) until May 31 due to road improvements on Bougainville Drive and the Bougainville/Valkenburgh intersection. The construction will affect the following NEX areas: Home Gallery, Outdoor Living Center, Pet Stop, customer pick-up and nearby areas.

Behind the Helmet

When accessing Naval Station Pearl Harbor (NAVSTAPH) on motorcycle, be prepared to identify yourself to the gate guards in order to gain access to the base. In some cases, this may mean removing your helmet.

"In order to validate their ID card and accurately identify the individual, the [guards] may need to have [motorcyclists] remove their helmet," said Lt. Edward Twigg, base security officer for Naval Station Pearl Harbor. "The guards have to be able to identify the person on the motorcycle."

The decision whether or not you need to remove your helmet when accessing the base is at the discretion of the gate guard standing watch.

"If [a guard] has difficulty identifying an individual and they ask someone to remove their helmet, they need to remove their helmet," said Twigg.

The rules for identifying personnel accessing the base is to ensure the safety and security of service members and their families.

The NAVSTAPH Base Security Officer can be reached via the base security duty desk lieutenant at 474-7679.

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

Pearl Harbor Sailors return from Guantanamo Bay

JO2 Devin Wright

Editor

Naval Station Pearl Harbor welcomed home the remaining Sailors deployed to U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba April 22 at the Honolulu International Airport.

Fifty-seven Sailors from Naval Station Pearl Harbor Security Detachment were deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in August 2005 for six to nine-month deployments.

"Our Sailors served as block guards," said Chief Master at Arms(SW) Winston Preston, assigned to the Pearl Harbor police unit. "They were serving in the capacity of what you might find in a regular brig. The difference is that the detainees are usually suspected Al Qaeda," said Preston.

He added, "It's great to get our Sailors back. The war on terror demands sacrifices from various commands around the Navy. We were happy to get on board with that and do our part."

For returning Sailor Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Christopher Heskey, assigned to Naval Magazine Pearl Harbor, returning to Pearl Harbor has been a long time coming.

"I'm stoked," said Heskey. "I've been away from my wife for eight months now. I'm glad I went to Cuba, but I'm glad it is over," he said.

"We have three kids," said Heskey's wife. "It's been hard on all of us. While he was gone, sometimes it seems unbearable, but after seeing him come off that plane all that stuff goes away and now we are just so happy," she said.

U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay is unique in that it is the oldest U.S. base outside the continental United States. The most recent addition to the base is the Southern Command Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Following the attacks on New York and Washington on Sept. 11, 2001, Joint Task Force Guantanamo was tasked to stand up the war on terrorism detainee mission.

Navy, state of Hawai'i work together to ensure keiki's safety

Karen S. Spangler

Assistant Editor

Navy officials joined with the state of Hawai'I and administration at Pearl Harbor Elementary School to increase crosswalk safety for children at Pearl Harbor Elementary School adjacent to Moanalua Shopping Center. Working with officials at the Navy Exchange (NEX), Navy Commissary, school officials at Pearl Harbor Elementary, and the state of Hawai'i, representatives from the Navy Region Hawai'i Safety Department assessed the situation and moved ahead to find a solution to ensure the children's safety.

According to Calvin Ishii and Jack Nagaishi, safety specialists at the Navy's Regional Safety Department, there were concerns for the safety of children who were exiting from the school's teachers' parking lot directly into the NEX parking lot. Ishii explained, "Much of this situation was due to new construction (Moanalua Shopping Center) at the front of the school with parents opting to pick up their children at the rear teachers' parking lot egress, which is much less congested."

"Unfortunately, the exit which the children use enters into a lane where no signage or crossing guard exists to warn drivers of the elementary school children in the area. The mix of unaware drivers using the lane (and traveling above 10 miles per hour) closest to the school and the young school children (who can be distracted easily and not pay attention to vehicles who may be also unaware and speeding) created a situation where a serious mishap was probable," said Nagaishi.

One call from a parent to the region's safety department made officials aware of the problem, the wheels were set in motion, and a region safety engineer was assigned to evaluate the situation and suggest options to resolve the issue.

Meetings, spearheaded and coordinated by region safety personnel, were held that included Navy officials from the NEX, Navy Commissary, region safety department, facilities representatives from Naval Facilities and Engineering Command Hawai'i (NAVFACHI), and administration from Pearl Harbor Elementary.

"The agreed upon solution was a "safety zone cross-walk" designed by Juan Reyes, region safety engineer, which would then be coned off by school personnel between the hours of 2 to 3 p.m. daily when school was in

▼ See KEIKI SAFETY, A-2

Keiki safety: Parents, Navy officials help establish safety zone at Pearl Harbor Elementary School

Continued from A-1

session. The agreed upon crosswalks were painted on March 31," said Nagaishi.

He said that the school gained by having a crosswalk repainted on Warden Street because although the street has a school crossing guard, the crosswalk was badly faded and difficult for motorists to see. "Also, the teachers' parking lot [near the NEX] was painted across three full lanes of traffic to inform drivers of the crosswalk's existence. All the road markings/restriping did not cost the State of Hawai'i any monetary funds," Nagaishi explained.

Pearl Harbor Elementary School will place and remove the cones daily when school is in session. "These highly visible cones provided by [Navy Region Hawai'i region security will inform drivers that the lane is blocked off to through traffic and provide a safety crosswalk/zone for children exiting to meet their parents [who are] waiting in cars or by the gate," noted Nagaishi.

John Erickson, vice principal at the school, will include information about the new procedures in the school's newsletter and inform parents at parent teacher association meetings.

In monitoring the newly painted crosswalk, Erickson said that he would inform parents about the safety plan for their children.

"We are very pleased with the result and appreciate the help from the Navy. We all realized that it was something that needed to be done and the safety of our kids is number one," commented Erickson.

"We all worked together and it was a good process and very positive – everybody being proactive to make sure that everyone stays safe," he continued.

Erickson shared feedback from some of the parents. "The parents have been very grateful – it [improvements in the crosswalk area] takes away a possible risk," he said.

Nagaishi said, "The vice-principal was excited to have a solution realized for his safety concerns and the parents we spoke with seemed positively in tune with the improvements for the safety of their children."

Navy officials were pleased with the story's happy ending. "Different agencies of the government came together to find a solution to a common goal that all can feel they contributed toward successfully," said Nagaishi.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Two important words

FLTCM(AW/SW)
Jon R. Thompson

FLTCM(AW/SW)
Jon R. Thompson

Have you ever heard, 'the job's not done until you thank the people who did the work?' I assume you have, and while some of you will say that's common sense, I also suspect some us could say thanks a little more often.

I have found a simple 'thank you' is priceless. Most of you will do incredible things when asked, but if you put in the extra effort and no one thanks you, you may be less likely to give the same effort the next time you are asked.

In my estimation, leaders need to reward performance more often. Rewards, as you know, come in many forms. Not every deed deserves a medal.

Have you ever done something for someone only to have your efforts go unnoticed? Sure you have. I think we all have. The sad part is saying thank you is so easy. There is almost no effort required and I can't think of a gesture that does more for retention than making sure our people understand we appreciate their work.

In our society, it's customary to express appreciation to people who help you in any way. Because it is commonly practiced, most people expect to be thanked when they do something for someone. Sometimes the absence of a 'thank you' is misunderstood to mean the effort to help was not appreciated or was not wanted. There are many ways to express gratitude, and the type of help received can help determine what method of saying 'thank you' is most appropriate.

Here are some recommended ways to express your thanks:

•Always verbally communicate appreciation. When the favor shown did not require a great deal of time or effort, a verbal 'thank you' is enough.

•Write a short letter or 'thank you' note. Small note cards with 'thank you' printed on the front are available in most stores, as well as 'thank you' greeting cards. However, regular stationary is often used and perhaps less expensive.

•Give a small, inexpensive gift. In the Navy, gifts are normally limited to end-of-tour occasions, as well as retirements. In all cases, gifts must conform to the Navy regulations that govern costs.

•Treat someone to lunch. Care must be taken to avoid the perception of favoritism, but when someone does something for you, taking the person to lunch is a common practice.

Shipmates, the above list is not all-inclusive. When a Sailor expends a great deal of effort, usually over a period of time, the effort may indeed be worthy of a medal. While end-of-tour awards are common, the most impressive awards are the ones given for specific extraordinary acts. If you have Sailors who work for you, make sure you reward them appropriately. It's important to remain fair and ensure the 'thank you' method is commensurate to the effort provided. When a medal is warranted, a simple 'thank you' won't do. Conversely, when an effort is routine, or not significant enough to generate a medal, saying 'thank you' is adequate.

There are many reasons why good Sailors choose to leave the Navy. Some of the reasons are completely preventable. When a Sailor feels he or she is not appreciated, or the work they do doesn't matter, they may choose to leave. It's up to every one of you to make life better for those that work for you. If the people that work for you are not happy, it's up to you to learn why and do what you can to make sure they have productive work and sound goals. If you ignore your people, or don't reward them appropriately, you can almost count on them leaving the Navy.

My challenge to each of you is to get in the habit of saying thank you on a regular basis. I think it's easy to fall prey to the fast-paced environment we work in and to forget to thank your people. I also believe if you say thank you as a matter of course, you probably won't forget as much. Saying thank you is part of the golden rule, 'Do unto others as you would have them do to you.' Saying thank you makes people feel good. What's more, when you say thank you, you too should feel good. Providing adequate recognition to your people will provide for good morale and can't help but affect retention in a positive way.

My final recommendation is to make sure you are sincere when you thank your people. We've all had people say thank you to us when the person saying it either didn't really care or didn't pay attention to the level of effort we expended. I truly feel that if we take a genuine interest in the work of our people, saying thank you will come off as a genuine gesture. Keep in mind it's not the words 'thank you' that carry the weight…it's the fact that you are taking time to recognize someone's efforts. Actions are louder than words, but few words are as powerful as 'thank you'.

Good luck, shipmates, and thank you for your service.

SECNAV message on Earth Day

Secretary of the Navy
Donald C. Winter

Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter

On April 22, the Department of the Navy celebrated the 36th anniversary of Earth Day with pride as we continue to demonstrate our commitment to protecting the environment.

We value the opportunity to partner with the nation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting the air, land and sea where our Sailors and Marines train to be guardians of freedom.

Every day, both ashore and at sea, we put our environmental commitment into practice. More than 3,400 environmental professionals lead the Navy and Marine Corps efforts to meet the challenges of conserving natural and cultural resources, preventing pollution, saving energy and using equipment that is cleaner to manufacture, operate and dispose.

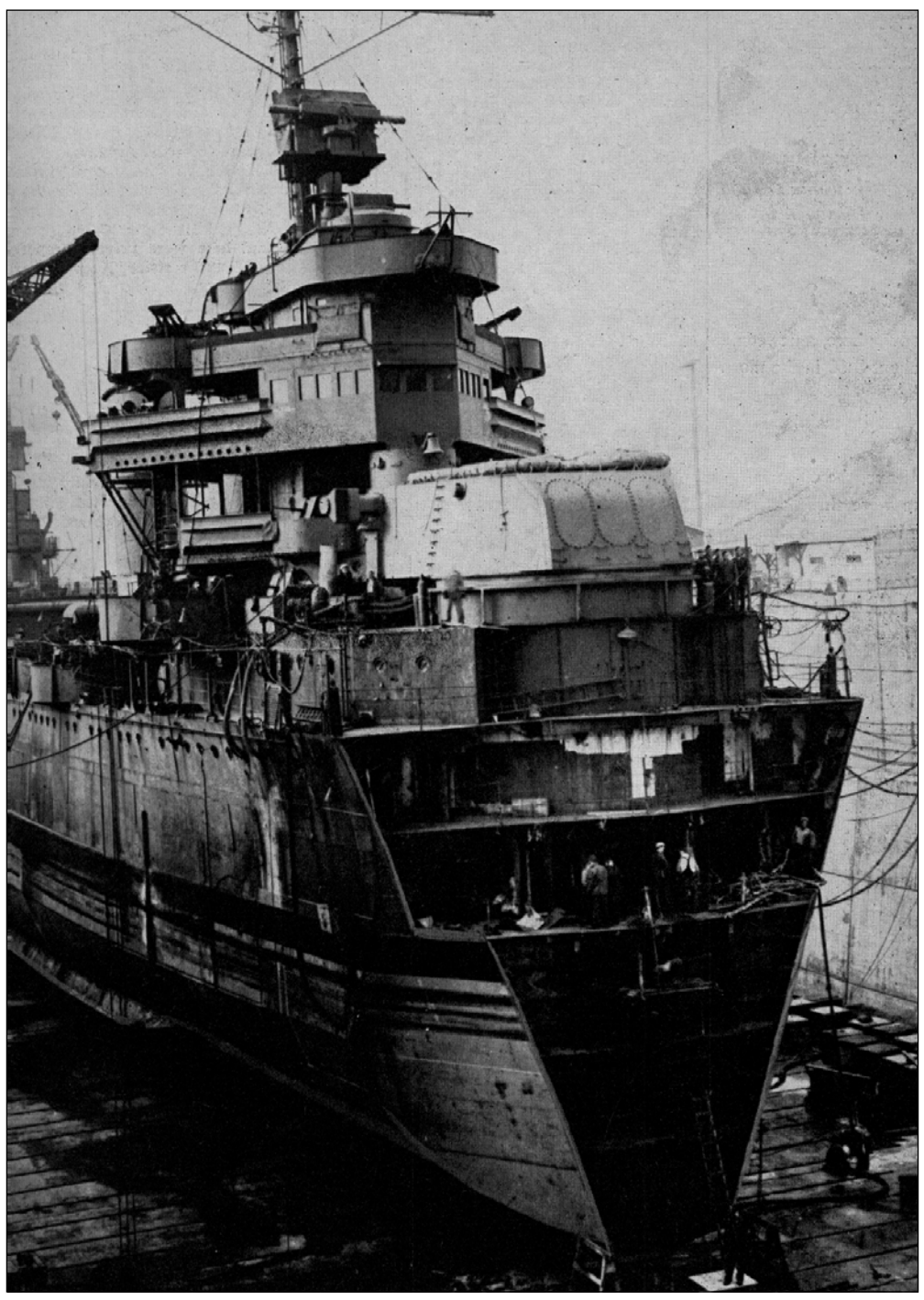
We continue to be at the forefront of alternative fuel use and research, reducing vehicle petroleum consumption by nearly 20 percent since 1999 and shipboard fuel costs by over seven percent last year alone. For the last four years, the Department of the Navy has greatly exceeded federal goals in the purchase of alternative fueled vehicles, and has achieved 193 percent of the goal this year.

Protecting the world's oceans and seas is another important focus of the Navy's environmental stewardship program. This year, we will continue to invest millions of dollars in marine mammal research and conservation, and our forces will continue to use comprehensive protective measures to safeguard marine life in the areas where we operate.

We also demonstrate our environmental stewardship by pioneering innovative environmental technologies and practices, such as incorporating enhanced pollution prevention systems on all new ship classes and investing in solar, hydrogen and hybrid systems.

Environmental stewardship and defense readiness go hand-in-hand for the nearly 900,000 men and women of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. Our unwavering commitment to our mission sustains our environment and national security on Earth Day and every day.

Repairing the USS New Orleans


U.S. Navy historical photo

Workers at Puget Sound Navy Yard remove the temporary bow that Pearl Harbor workers put on the USS New Orleans. The ship returned to Pearl Harbor after losing her bow while battling the Japanese in the Southwest Pacific. After the temporary repairs, USS New Orleans went to Puget Sound. In this view, she is almost ready for the joining of the new bow.

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Hawaii Navy News

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USS Chafee Sailors take part in Merrie Monarch parade

JO3 Charise Cunningham

Naval Media Center

Twenty-six Sailors from USS Chafee marched in the Merrie Monarch Parade on April 22 to showcase the Navy's presence in Hawai'i and Chafee's dedication to community involvement. Cheers, applause and words of appreciation and thanks by parade spectators were heard for miles as the Sailors marched the two-mile parade route through downtown Hilo.

"I felt honored to be there. to know that people actually recognize what we do. It felt really good…fantastic actually," said Cryptologist Technician Operator (SW) 1st Class James Jacob, who led the formation and is Chafee's Senior Sailor of the Year.

The military representation in the parade included Junior Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps students from Waiakea High School who were underway with Chafee on their two-day transit from Oahu to Hilo, as well the Pacific Fleet Band, also home ported at Pearl Harbor.

Melissa Green, a senior at Waiakea High School, expressed sincere respect for the Navy after the parade. "Marching behind them…wow, it was great," she said. "Hearing all these people scream out how thankful they are for the job they do, it made me really look forward to one day wearing the uniform."

The parade is the final event ending the week-long festivities of The Merrie Monarch Festival. the event is named after King Kalakaua, who is known as the "Merrie Monarch" for restoring many of the Hawaiian cultures and traditions to the people of Hawai'i-traditions such as hula that had been banned by missionaries for close to 76 years.

The festival celebrated the authentic traditions of the Hawaiian people through the art of hula and education.

"It is important to the crew of Chafee and the Navy, as well as the Hawaiian community, for us to show our support to them and participate in culturally significant events such as this festival whenever we can," said Cmdr. John M. Clausen, commanding officer of Chafee.

Turning into the last stretch of the parade route, Chafee Sailors in formation turned an "eyes right" to the official royal court of the Merrie Monarch Festival, signifying recognition and respect.

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Rhodessa Blackwell said she has been stationed in Hawai'i for three years, but has never experienced the culture this way before.

"I have always appreciated Hawai'i for its beautiful weather and beaches, but I haven't had a chance to witness how strong a dedication the people have to their lineage and family ties," said the San Francisco native. "Its really beautiful and rare."

U.S. Navy photo

Twenty-six Sailors from USS Chafee line up in formation before the Merrie Monarch Parade on April 22. The Sailors where in Hilo to showcase the Navy's presence in Hawai'i and Chafee's dedication to community involvement.

U.S. Navy photo

Members of the Pacific Fleet Band tune their instruments before marching in the Merrie Monarch Parade.

U.S. Navy photo

NJROTC Color Guard from Waiakea High School prepares to march in the 43rd annual Merrie Monarch Parade.

Fleet Action

U.S. Navy photo by HPAN Timothy C. Roache Jr.

USS Mobile Bay (CG 53), USS Russell (DDG 59) and USS Shoup (DDG 86) perform a pass and review with the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). Lincoln and embarked Carrier Air Wing Two (CVW-2) are currently underway to the Western Pacific for a scheduled deployment.

U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate Airman Ronald A. Dallatorre

An F/A-18E Super Hornet assigned to the "Kestrels" of Strike Fighter Squadron One Three Seven (VFA-137) refuels an EA-6B Prowler assigned to the "Lancers" of Electronic Attack Squadron One Three One (VAQ-131), during an air power demonstration held for Sailors stationed aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72).

U.S. Navy photo by PHAN Ronald A. Dallatorre

An SH-60B Seahawk helicopter assigned to the "Saberhawks" Helicopter Squadron Light Four Seven (HSL-47) drops supplies onto the deck of the guided missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) during a vertical replenishment (VERTREP) with the combat stores ship USNS San Jose (T-AFS 7) and USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72).

Damage control

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

Machinist Mate 2nd Class (SS) Scott Newton of Naval Submarine Training Command Pacific (NSTCP) uses a CO2 fire extinguisher to put out an electrical fire during fire fighting training.

Environmental stewardship lives on the high seas - USS Paul Hamilton Sailor is HOST speaker

Terri Kojima

CNRH Environmental Public Affairs

The chief engineer from USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 2) briefed nearly 50 representatives from maritime industries, government and the community about environmental stewardship at the Hawai'i Ocean Safety Team [HOST] meeting April 20 in Honolulu.

Lt. Jason J. Brianas explained to members of HOST how pulpers and shredder machines aboard Navy ships process biodegradable and other non-plastic materials for environmentally safe discharge at sea.

Any misperceptions by HOST members about dumping garbage overboard were quickly dispelled when Brianas explained how large pulpers aboard ship process food, cardboard and paper waste into a wet pulped mix.

"The biodegradable pulp can then be safely discharged overboard in accordance with federal environmental regulations," said Brianas.

Representatives of maritime industries and the community were amazed at how the Navy handles plastic waste aboard ship. The interest level in the meeting room peaked when Brianas held up a disc of compressed plastic about 20 inches in diameter and two inches thick. The Navy engineer explained how a special processor or "compress melt unit" [CMU] uses high heat to melt plastic waste and compress it into hard, solid discs.

"The compressed discs are kept in storage until they can be properly disposed of when the ships return to Pearl Harbor," said Brianas, a native of Annapolis, Md.

"I am very impressed with all of the measures the Navy has aboard ships to protect the environment," said Robin Bond, director of HOST. Bond, who had recently experienced a community outreach embark aboard a Navy carrier, wanted others to learn about the Navy's advanced environmental technologies and processes.

The director of the non-profit organization extended an invitation to the Navy to showcase their shipboard environmental program at the Honolulu Community College Maritime Training and Education Center.

HOST members were not disappointed. In addition to waste processing, HOST members learned about the Navy's sophisticated oily waste separators and other systems aboard ships designed to protect the ocean environment.

Chris Woolaway, a board member of HOST, appreciated the Navy's participation at the meeting.

"Gauging by the number of questions and discussions, I think it was very valuable time spent," said Woolaway.

HOST meetings provide an open forum for government and industry to work together toward solutions to maritime issues.

Navy spells out policy on tattoos, body art, piercings

Senior Chief Journalist (SW/AW) Bill Houlihan

Navy Personnel Command Communications

Chief of Navy Personnel Vice Adm. John C. Harvey Jr. released a message April 21 clarifying the Navy's regulations regarding tattoos, body art and/or mutilations and dental ornamentation.

The message underscores Navy policy that already prohibits any body art deemed prejudicial to good order, discipline and morale or of a nature to bring discredit upon the naval service.

"This is directly tied to the public appearance of our personnel," said Rear Adm. Gerry Talbot, director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy Division, Chief of Naval Personnel. "How we look in uniform, how we represent our Navy and our nation should be something we consider on a daily basis, on duty or off," Talbot said.

Navy policy stipulates that any tattoo/body art/brand that is obscene, sexually explicit or advocates discrimination of any sort is prohibited. Administrative separation could result for personnel disregarding this guidance.

Four criteria have been issued to commanders to assist them in determining whether a tattoo, body art or brand should be permitted: content, location, size and whether the item is required for cosmetic purposes.

"It is important to clarify our policy to ensure everyone understands the criteria," said Talbot.

Location is as important as the content of the tattoo. Tattoos/body art/brands cannot be visible through the white uniform and cannot be on the head, face, neck or scalp regions. Items on the lower arm can be no larger than the wearer's hand, fingers closed.

The message also points out Navy policy restricting intentional mutilation of any sort. This is defined as radical alteration of the body, head, face or skin for the purpose of an abnormal appearance.

Dental ornamentation - the use of gold, platinum or other veneers or caps for decorative purposes - is also prohibited.

Waivers for pre-existing conditions will be considered on a case-by-case basis by local commanders. They have discretion to determine whether removal is required, but items may be waived if they are not prejudicial to good order, discipline and morale.

Even if body art/tattoos/branding/mutilation occurred prior to the Navy's original guidance released in January 2003, commanders still have the option to recommend separation if medical authorities determine removal is not feasible.

Amplification on this policy, waiver applications and waiver eligibility can be found in NAVADMIN 110/06.

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Construction projects at Naval Station Pearl Harbor

Lt. Cmdr. Joe Simpkins

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawai'i

Public Works management and energy conservation often work hand in hand. As an example, Naval Engineering Facilities (NAVFAC) Hawai'i is currently retrofitting more than 22,000 energy wasting light fixtures with new energy efficient T8 lamps and electronic ballasts. Incandescent lamps are also being replaced with compact fluorescent lamps and exit signs will get ultra-low energy use light emitting diodes (LEDs). The end result will be better lighting, less heat load and quieter operation.

These retrofits are currently underway with more than 4,000 fixtures completed to date. Work will continue until the end of September.

More than two million dollars are being invested with an expected return of almost $750 k/year in energy savings. In addition to the dollar savings, the Navy will also save 5,500,000 kilowatt-hours of electrical energy. Initiatives like this illustrate the Navy's good stewardship of available resources.

Continuation of road closures and bridge work

•Ford Island roads: Due to the record rains in March, various roadways on Ford Island will continue to be closed until the end of April. Proper detours, signage and safety precautions are in place. Please allow extra time to get to and from your destinations on Ford Island during this period.

•Ford Island bridge: There will be lane closures on Ford Island bridge until April, 2007. This disruption is necessary to repair the bridge deck.

• Ford Island roundabout: Through April 28, the Ford Island roundabout will have an intermittent single-lane of traffic.

•Kuahua Avenue: Kuahua Avenue will be closed to traffic on Saturdays and Sundays for the duration of April due to construction work. Traffic signs and detours will be in place and the road will be open after 5 p.m. daily.

PMRF celebrates Earth Day

Story and photo by JO2 (SW/AW) Johnny Michael

Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai

Capt. Mark Darrah, commanding officer of Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Kauai, led a group of volunteers April 21 during a beach cleanup effort held in honor of Earth Day 2006. Volunteers collected 12 garbage bags of debris during the walk along PMRF's beach and were given a presentation on the effects of beach litter by John Burger, base environmental coordinator.

Debris collected included everything from metal curtain rods to the small pieces of plastic and other boat debris that, according to Burger, claims so many seabird lives.

"There is no way to know exactly how many birds are affected by this," Burger said and related how researchers found during a study on one particular northwest Hawaiian island that more than half of the fledgling birds who died had ingested lethal amounts of plastic debris.

Capt. Mark Darrah, commanding officer of Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Kauai, and a group of volunteers collect debris during a beach cleanup effort held in honor of Earth Day 2006.

In addition to a section of carpeted plywood, Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Clint Martin was surprised to find so much plastic debris.

"I found a ton of the little blue plastic pieces," said Martin.

The event was a collaboration between PMRF and the Kauai chapter of the Navy League. PMRF's Morale, Welfare and Recreation department provided T-shirts and refreshments.

This year's event was the second beach cleanup held at PMRF in honor of Earth Day. Earth Day was founded in 1970 by Senator Gaylord Nelson and is coordinated around the world by the Earth Day Network.

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Hawaii Navy News

Burial at sea

Family members scatter the cremains of former Chief's Boatswain's Mate Thomas N. Tabor at the USS Utah Memorial. Tabor was stationed on the USS Whitney during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i on Dec. 7, 1941.
Dispersal of cremains into the waters of Pearl Harbor are for eligible military personnel who served on active duty during 7 DEC 1941. Cremains of active duty military personnel who served during this time can be dispersed into the waters of Pearl Harbor.

Plan now for a smooth move this summer

Naval Supply Systems Command

Sailors moving this summer should start preparing now and keep the following tips in mind:

• Start sorting through household goods now and set aside items you have decided to put up for sale or donation. Service members must keep all shipments within their weight allowance or pay to ship the excess weight.

• When scheduling pickup or delivery, select alternate dates in addition to your preferred dates. During busy times, it could be difficult to get the first date you request. By establishing alternate dates that work for you, inconvenient pickups and deliveries can be avoided.

• Do not schedule a pickup for the day you are to close on the sale or purchase of a home, or on the day you must vacate a rental. Allow time for unforeseen problems and last-minute changes.

• After the pickup date has been confirmed, only request changes in an emergency. Date changes can lead to delays and additional cost to the member.

• Moves go smoother when you are easy to contact. Provide your phone numbers, cell phone numbers and e-mail to the personal property offices at origin and destination. Include in-transit contact information.

• As soon as you get your orders, do your move counseling and application. Navy members have the following options:

• On-line counseling using Smart Web Move (SWM), the Navy's Web-based program that services most routine moves. To determine if you are eligible to use SWM, go to https://www.smartwebmove.navysup.navy.mil.

• Service members and civilians not eligible to use SWM should contact the personal property division at 808-473-5857 (effective May 1, the new number will be 473-7782) to schedule an appointment with a move counselor.

• Sailors with questions about household goods transportation and storage entitlements can contact the Navy Household Goods Helpline at 1-800-444-7789 Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST), or contact the local personal property office. Find household goods move information online at http://www.navsup.navy.mil. Select the "products and services" bar, choose the "quality of service" tab, then click "household goods."

USS Reuben James (FFG 57) plays locals in a game of soccer in Manama, Bahrain

Story and photo by Ensign Jon Derges

USS Reuben James (FFG 57) Public Affairs

A 13-member team from USS Reuben James (FFG 57) challenged a Bahraini team to a game of soccer at Manama, Bahrain on April 13.

The Hawai'i-based frigate visited Bahrain on a routine stop to conduct maintenance, replenish supplies, and enjoy some rest and relaxation. As part of Expeditionary Strike Group 3 (ESG 3), Reuben James is currently supporting maritime security operations (MSO) throughout international waters in the Arabian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and the Red Sea.

MSO set the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment as well as complement the counter-terrorism and security efforts of regional nations. MSO deny international terrorists use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons or other material.

"This is a great thing that the U.S. Navy does to support the local community," explained Navy Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. Mark Tews. "We usually get U.S. ships that come in and play these guys and they [the U.S. Navy teams] usually get beat. This is all in good fun and shows the local communities we appreciate their hospitality."

The Al Arifa team beat the crew 4-to-1 in a match that included two 40-minute periods and a 10-minute half time. However, the Sailors, deployed since Feb. 27, saw the game as an opportunity to represent the United States and gain a few hours of liberty off ship.

"It was a great time," said Lt. j.g. Daniel Neverosky, the soccer team's captain. "It was a great opportunity for me and some of the other Sailors to meet new people and learn about their culture. The soccer game itself was a blast, but playing against the local Bahraini kids was a life experience."

Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Electrical) Aguilar (right) of USS Reuben James (FFG 57) goes one-on-one with a Bahraini soccer player April 13. The Hawai'i-based frigate visited Bahrain on a routine stop to conduct maintenance, replenish supplies, and enjoy some rest and relaxation. As part of Expeditionary Strike Group 3, Reuben James is currently supporting maritime security operations (MSO) in the 5th Fleet area of operations.