



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (AW/SW) James E. Foehl

A tug boat assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor greets Dive and Salvage ship, USS Salvor (ARS 52), as they pass the USS Arizona Memorial during their return from a five-month deployment to Southeast Asia in support of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT). CARAT is an annual series of bilateral maritime training exercises between the U.S. Navy and the armed forces of Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and Philippines.

USS Salvor returns home from deployment

Lt. j.g. Shannon Revell

USS Salvor (ARS 52) Public Affairs Officer

The Pearl Harbor-based dive and salvage ship USS Salvor (ARS 52) returned to its Hawai'i homeport on Oct. 2 after a five-month deployment to Southeast Asia in support of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise 2006.

CARAT is an annual series of bilateral maritime training exercises between the U.S. Navy and the armed forces of the Southeast Asia nations of Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and the Philippines.

CARAT exercises were designed to build relationships, enhance regional cooperation, promote understanding between participating military forces, and continue development of the participating

forces operational readiness.

With these goals in mind, Salvor departed Hawai'i on April 29 with USCGC Yokona in tow. After a brief stop in Guam to turn over her tow, Salvor joined the rest of the CARAT task force in Singapore. Under the leadership of Commander, Destroyer Squadron 1, Capt. Al Collins, the CARAT task group was comprised of USS Salvor, the dock landing ship USS Tortuga (LSD 46), guided missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) and guided missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37), both homeported at Pearl Harbor, and the high endurance cutter USCGC Sherman (WMEC 720).

Chief Navy Diver (DSW/SW) Jon Sommers was glad to see the improvement in diving operations. "This is the second CARAT I have participated in with the Southeast Asian divers and our ability to

operate with each of them has improved immensely. We have learned the techniques and procedures of each host nation just as they have learned ours so that we would be able to operate jointly on a mission should the need arise."

In a deployment filled with high points, perhaps the greatest occurred during the Thailand phase of CARAT. With a representative from the Royal Thai navy onboard to observe, Salvor arrived on June 11 at the site in the Gulf of Thailand presumed to be the final resting place of the WWII-era USS Lagarto (SS 371) and her crew.

Following a precision mooring over the site, Salvor divers conducted a challenging dive in 225 feet of water using a fly-away mixed gas system. Their findings enabled the Naval Historical Center to confirm in July that the wreckage was indeed that of USS Lagarto.

Before leaving the site, Salvor conducted a traditional wreath laying and bell tolling memorial ceremony in honor of the Lagarto and her brave crew.

"I'm extremely proud of Salvor's crew," stated Lt. Cmdr. John C. Howard, commanding officer of Salvor. "Their efforts led to the success of every mission: diving operations with each host nation, exercises with the task group and, most importantly, enhancing regional cooperation and capability in Southeast Asia."

Adding to the historic nature of her deployment, Salvor arrived in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on July 1 following five hours of complex navigation up the Mekong River. The scheduled port visit was aimed at enhancing U.S.-Vietnamese relations and was only the fourth U.S. Navy visit to a Vietnamese port and the third to Ho Chi Minh City since normalization of diplomatic rela-

tions in 1995. Arriving with the USS Patriot (MCM 7), the visit also marked the first time that two U.S. Navy ships visited Vietnam concurrently.

During their five days in Vietnam, Salvor Sailors focused on a community service project assisting with renovations at the Thien Binh Orphanage in Dong Nai Province and also had a chance to play volleyball with sailors from the Vietnam People's navy.

Salvor's Sailors also experienced the hospitable culture of Vietnam and visited the historical and cultural sites around Ho Chi Minh City.

Operations Specialist 3rd Class Deante Brownlee said, "All the ports we have been to were fun, but nothing compared to Vietnam. I wondered how they would react to U.S. Navy Sailors walking around Ho Chi Minh. To my surprise, they welcomed us everywhere.

Some would even come up to us and thank us for coming and ask when we would return with our families."

Subsequent phases of CARAT included cooperative work with the divers of Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines. While returning to Hawai'i at the conclusion of CARAT operations, Salvor visited Cairns, Australia; Suva, Fiji; Pago Pago and American Samoa.

The Salvor crew interacted with the local population in the countries they visited through community service and civic action projects in Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Philippines and Fiji. Each project allowed Salvor's Sailors to learn more about the cultures of the countries they visited while also promoting good will for the Navy and the United States.

During this last deployment

▼ See SALVOR, A-9

USS Paul Hamilton completes VBSS exercise

MC2 (SW) Joseph Vincent

USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) Public Affairs

While operating off the coast of southern California on Sept. 27, the Pearl Harbor-based USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) conducted the ship's seventh visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team exercise.

Paul Hamilton is currently operating as part of USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) Carrier Strike Group (JCSG) during the ship's composite training unit exercise (COMPTUEX), which will prepare the strike group to deploy in early 2007.

The VBSS team plays a vital role in this particular exercise in COMPTUEX.

Once the ship's snoopy team identifies a suspect vessel, a ship-wide announcement is made to inform one of the three VBSS teams to prepare for a boarding.

The teams prepare in three phases for their subsequent mission.

"[Once aboard] the boarding officer's main objective is to get a hold of the ship's master and to retrieve all the intelligence, to see where the ship has been and what the ship has been doing," said Fire Controlman 2nd Class Roger Smith, one of Paul Hamilton's VBSS team members.

"The heart of the intelligence gathering takes place on the suspect



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Jon Hyde

The visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team assigned to the guided missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), homeported at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, returns from boarding a civilian ship during an exercise.

vessel where VBSS members interview crew members, conduct biometrics, make copies of pertinent paperwork, inspect cargo, coordinate with [Paul Hamilton] to collect the electronic intelligence," said Ensign Aaron Dausman, the VBSS boarding officer.

The intelligence effort for each mission starts long before the team is dispatched. Once the intelligence is processed, it is passed on to the strike group for further dissemination.

According to Smith, after the initial boarding the team will then split, the boarding officer will go to the bridge and the rest of the team -

known as the sweep team - will set security and sweep the ship for personnel, contraband and intelligence.

Each team member is required to attend a three-week course on close combat tactics, said Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Kyle Eisenhauer.

"Each class is taught by knowledgeable former Marines and former Navy SEALs (sea, air, land)," said Eisenhauer.

"I'm hoping that we'll have the opportunity to execute the VBSS mission and directly contribute to the war on terror," said Dausman. "Hopefully, at the very least we can contribute to the security of the region we're deployed in."



Photo courtesy of Federal Fire Department

Youngsters learn about fire prevention and firefighting techniques from Federal Fire Department firefighters during Fire Prevention Week activities.

Oct. 8-14 is Fire Prevention Week

Victor Flint

Federal Fire Department

"Prevent Cooking Fires - Watch What You Heat" is the theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week which will be observed Oct. 8-14. The Federal Fire Department wants to increase the public's awareness of the dangers of smoke and fire.

"The best way to fight a fire is to prevent a fire," emphasized Federal Fire Department Fire Chief Glenn Delaura.

Federal Fire Department will conduct a series of displays and demonstrations at various locations around Oahu from Oct. 10-

27. The dates and locations are as follows:

- Oct. 10 - 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Tripler Army Medical Center (in the front by main entrance).
- Oct. 11- 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Schofield Commissary parking lot.
- Oct. 12 - 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe Base Exchange (in the front of mall).
- Oct. 13 - 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Navy Exchange at Pearl Harbor (near the rotunda).
- Oct. 27 - 10:15-10:45 a.m., Pearl Harbor Elementary School.

For more information, call Victor M. Flint at the Federal Fire Department's prevention division, 474-7785.



Tucson changes command
See page A-2



Russell hosts BMD tour
See page A-2



O'Kane conducts expanded maritime intercept operations
See page A-4



Save a life, donate blood
See page B-1

Russell hosts BMD tour for U.S. Pacific Command Director for Operations

Lt. j.g. Paige Sellers

USS Russell (DDG 59) Public Affairs

USS Russell (DDG 59) hosted Maj. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, U.S. Pacific Command director for operations, for an on-site ballistic missile defense (BMD) brief and luncheon on Sept. 22 in order to provide him with a more detailed view of the various procedures that transpire onboard when a ship is tasked with the BMD mission.

Having participated in five different BMD events in the past two and a half years, Russell was an obvious choice for the visit. Cmdr. Brad Cooper, the ship's commanding officer, gave an overview power point presentation on ballistic missile capabilities, highlighting the interface between ship-to-shore communications and data transfer. Portions of the brief were amplified by various members of the crew stepping through a potential scenario in the ship's combat information center (CIC).

"This visit was a great opportunity to demonstrate

how Russell and other BMD-capable ships can support the commander in execution of the BMD mission and the unique capabilities that we provide," said Cooper.

Following the quick demonstration in CIC, Cooper walked the Air Force General topside, pointing out the weapons systems, radars and general ship characteristics of Russell and other Navy ships, before proceeding to the wardroom for lunch.

Atkins was accompanied by Capt. Peter Gumataotao, USN, and Col. Andy Mueller, USAF, from U.S. Pacific Command, as well as Commodore Fred Pfirrmann, commander, Destroyer Squadron 31.

At the end of the luncheon, Atkins expressed his appreciation not only for the brief and tour, but also for the special meal provided by Lt. Ned Swanson and Russell's S-2 division by personally thanking each culinary specialist and food service attendant. He also told Cooper and all in attendance that his visit was very insightful and enhanced his knowledge of the BMD mission.



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Paige Sellers

Cmdr. Brad Cooper, commanding officer of USS Russell (DDG 59), presents Maj. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, U.S. Pacific Command director for operations, with a silver bowl engraved for his visit to the ship. Atkins was given an on-site ballistic missile defense (BMD) brief aboard the ship on Sept. 22.

Spear relieves Pitts as commanding officer of USS Tucson

Story and photo by
MC1 (SW) Cynthia Clark

Commander, Submarine Force Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Cmdr. Paul Spear relieved Cmdr. James Pitts as commanding officer of the submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) in a ceremony Sept. 29 on the pier at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

Rear Adm. Joe Walsh, Commander, Submarine Force Pacific, was on hand as well as Robert Walkup, mayor of Tucson, Ariz., to emphasize the importance of a submarine captain's job and to thank Pitts for a job well done.

"I believe command of a nuclear-powered submarine is unique in the seafaring world," Walsh said. "Submarines are the most independent of naval vessels. A submarine operates much like a lone hunter whose direction and movements, successes or failure, life or death, are determined by one man, her commanding officer."

Walsh also had one final message for Pitts before he goes on to his next assignment on the staff of Commander, Submarine Squadron 3, also in Pearl Harbor.

"If we talk about Tucson's

successes over the last three years, we are really talking about Jim Pitts' successes," Walsh said. "Knowing Jimmy as well as I do, he would vehemently disagree and insist it is all the crew's success, but that's Jimmy Pitts, always putting his crew first. I believe, however, that it's impossible to have one without the other."

Walsh then presented Pitts with his third Meritorious Service Medal, but not before welcoming Spear to the unique group of men to which he previously referred.

"This is a great day for you and your entire family," he said, "one you have worked long and hard for. I wish you the absolute best of luck as you embark on your command tour today."

Highlights of Pitts' tour included two demanding Western Pacific deployments, innovative carrier strike group support and Tomahawk strike readiness. Tucson also received the Navy Unit Commendation and earned three consecutive retention excellence awards.

In his departing remarks, Pitts thanked the city of Tucson for its namesake city relationship, his chief's quarters for "running the ship," and wardroom, who "always pro-

vided sound backup and tremendous support." In his last words to his crew, he said the way they worked together as a team is what he was going to miss most.

"These 150 great Americans sitting beside you have been the true pride and joy of my command tour," he said. "They have never wavered in their support and have always gotten the job done."

After reading their orders and reporting the change of command to Walsh, Spear ensured Pitts that Tucson was in good hands and told the crew of Tucson he was ready to get to work.

"This transition has given me the opportunity to work once again with Jimmy Pitts," Spear said. "It has been an honor and a pleasure. The tradition will continue. To the extremely talented, confident and successful crew of Tucson, I look forward to working with you, your families and loved ones."

Pitts also served as the executive officer aboard Tucson from 1999 until 2000. His other sea tours include USS Grayling (SSN 646), USS Plunger (SSN 595), USS Hammerhead (SSN 663) and USS Hyman G. Rickover (SSN 709). He is a 1986 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy.



Cmdr. James Pitts is piped ashore after relinquishing command of the attack submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770). Tucson returned from a Western Pacific deployment last week.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

You really are making a difference!

Pacific Fleet Master Chief (SS/SW) R. D. West

Hoo-yah, Warriors! This week I wanted to share with you my thoughts about some of our Warriors – both enlisted and officer – and how sometimes we may believe our jobs aren't important, when in fact they are.

No matter where I go, I always hear from some of our folks that they don't think they are making a difference. The jobs they do, the assignments they get, the details they are assigned... What do they contribute to the "big picture?"

Well, I don't say anything I don't mean, and I can tell you all right now - EVERYTHING we do makes a difference.

I freely admit that many of the jobs aren't all that glamorous (I remember my 120-plus days of mess attendant duties) and it is sometimes hard to see a difference being made, but it's there! And more importantly, we deckplate leaders need to slow down and ensure that all our Warriors know the impact they are making.

So, taking some of my own advice, let me show you some examples of young people who are making a difference.

Many of you have probably heard about the recent return of the USNS Mercy, the hospital ship that completed the first-ever planned humanitarian assistance mission of its scope to the Western Pacific and Southeast Asia.



FLTCM(SS/SW) R.D. West

There were a lot of young people on that ship, doing routine things over and over again. I'm willing to bet they occasionally may have asked themselves if they were making a difference.

I know for a fact that they were.

I know that Navy Hospitalman Jossey Villanueva and Navy Hospital Corpsman Vicky M. Lama spent a lot of time calming the anxieties of little children waiting for surgery to correct cleft palates and other physical problems.

I can show you Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Brittany Hand helping move patients on board to get the care they needed. A lot of times that was nothing more than a paperwork job, not glamorous or exciting, but she went a long way toward making a difference.

Then there were Construction Electrician 3rd Class Eddie Lacap, Steel Worker 3rd Class Mathew Martin, Utilityman 2nd Class Robert Allain and Builder 3rd Class Brad Beeler of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four Zero (NMCB 40) who embarked with the ship.

These Navy "Bees" just did what SEABEES do, and as always, did it well. They repaired buildings, built sidewalks, rewired electrical sys-

tems, you name it. It's their normal job and nothing new to them. But it made a huge difference. Local folks were struggling just to keep the old and crumbling structures going, but our SEABEE Warriors went in and got the construction and repair jobs done.

But building and repairing things weren't the only part of the Mercy job. Young folks like Musician 2nd Class (MU2) Kerry Mahaffey, Musician 3rd Class (MU3) Justin Cody, MU3 Rachel Lucterhand and MU2 Brandon Barbee of the Atlantic Fleet Navy Showband spent hours performing for the local folks as goodwill ambassadors.

Now you may ask how playing a few tunes makes a difference.

Go to the Pacific Fleet Web site and see for yourselves. Look at the faces of the people the band played for and you will see happiness and joy. You will see children smiling and forgetting about their troubles for a while. The showband definitely made a difference.

And our Navy Warriors had help. Young Warriors from our sister services, like Army Spec. Becky Holmbeck and Jessica Felts, lent their veterinarian skills to the mission.

Rabies shots and de-worming treatments may not seem that important to us, and checking a goat's teeth is as far from glamorous as you can get. But in the areas USNS Mercy visited, animals may determine a family's survival.

Air Force Airman Christine Prince

and Airman 1st Class Kristen Lynch joined up with Hospital Corpsman Shannon Dawkins, Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (HM3) Floro Cellona, HM3 Marcus Ferrill, and HM3 Heather Arbogast to help doctors help others.

Now all this is great, but you're probably asking, "What's the bottom line, Fleet? What was the difference?"

Fair enough. The facts speak for themselves.

These Warriors from Mercy banded together to provide medical treatment to more than 60,000 people in 72 days. And that doesn't include the tens of thousands of people receiving prescriptions, immunizations, eyeglasses and other services.

The Mercy team performed more than 1,000 surgeries and provided medical training to more than 6,000 people on topics like basic life support, biomedical equipment repair and cardiovascular electrocardiogram skills.

They worked with our regional and military friends and allies such as India, Australia, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Canada - to train each other so we can improve humanitarian and disaster relief response times when the need arises.

They developed professional working relationships with non-governmental organizations (NGO) like Project HOPE, Operation Smile, Aloha Medical Mission, Tzu Chi Foundation, International

Relief Teams, the UCSD Pre-Dental Society and a number of host nation [non-governmental organizations] NGOs – again all training together to prepare for the future and building bridges of cooperation.

Now many of these Warriors deployed as volunteers, knowing full well what the impact would be. Others went because that's the mission they were handed.

The point I hope to get across is that the differences we make as individuals may seem small, but they still impact a larger goal.

Counting aspirins and rolling bandages may not be the most exciting use of time, but to the mother who would not have received them otherwise, it was time well spent.

So shipmates, I ask you the next time you think a job is too dull or not a great use of time, look outside the box and think about how the big picture is affected by what you do. I think you will see that there's more to it.

Keep up the great work! You're making a difference daily ... HOO YAH and see you on the deckplate ... going deep!

Fleet Tip: We have some of the sharpest and sharp-looking Sailors in the history of our Navy, keep working this. If you see someone "gooned-up," square them away. If you walk by a problem, you've just reset the standard. All Sailors are leaders.

(Editor's note: Photos and stories about Mercy's humanitarian mission can be found at www.news.navy.mil.)

Commentary

Fireside Chat

Navy Region Federal Fire Dept.

Fire Prevention Week: The best way to fight fire is to prevent fire

Victor Flint

Federal Fire Department

This week marks a tragic time in our history. It was the time of the Great Chicago Fire – Oct. 9, 1871. This fire was a big one. It killed more than 300 people, left 100,000 homeless and destroyed more than 17,000 structures.

The origin of this fire has generated speculation since its occurrence. One popular legend is that Mrs. O'Leary was milking her cow. The cow inadvertently kicked over a lantern, setting the O'Leary's barn on fire. The fire grew and grew, involving more than 20,000 acres in only 27 hours. This fire was so big that it generated what is called a fire storm and it actually created its own atmosphere. Spooky stuff!

The city of Chicago rebuilt, but never forgot what happened that day in October 1871. On Oct. 9, 1911, the Fire Marshals' Association and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) sponsored the first National Fire Prevention Day. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Protection Week proclamation. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge declared the

Sunday through Saturday that includes Oct. 9 as National Fire Prevention Week.

Over the years, the NFPA has selected themes for the national day of remembrance. This year's theme is "Prevent Cooking Fires – Watch What You Heat."

In the United States, there is a house fire every 79 seconds. The number one cause of house fires is cooking. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires. Two out of three home cooking fires started on the stove.

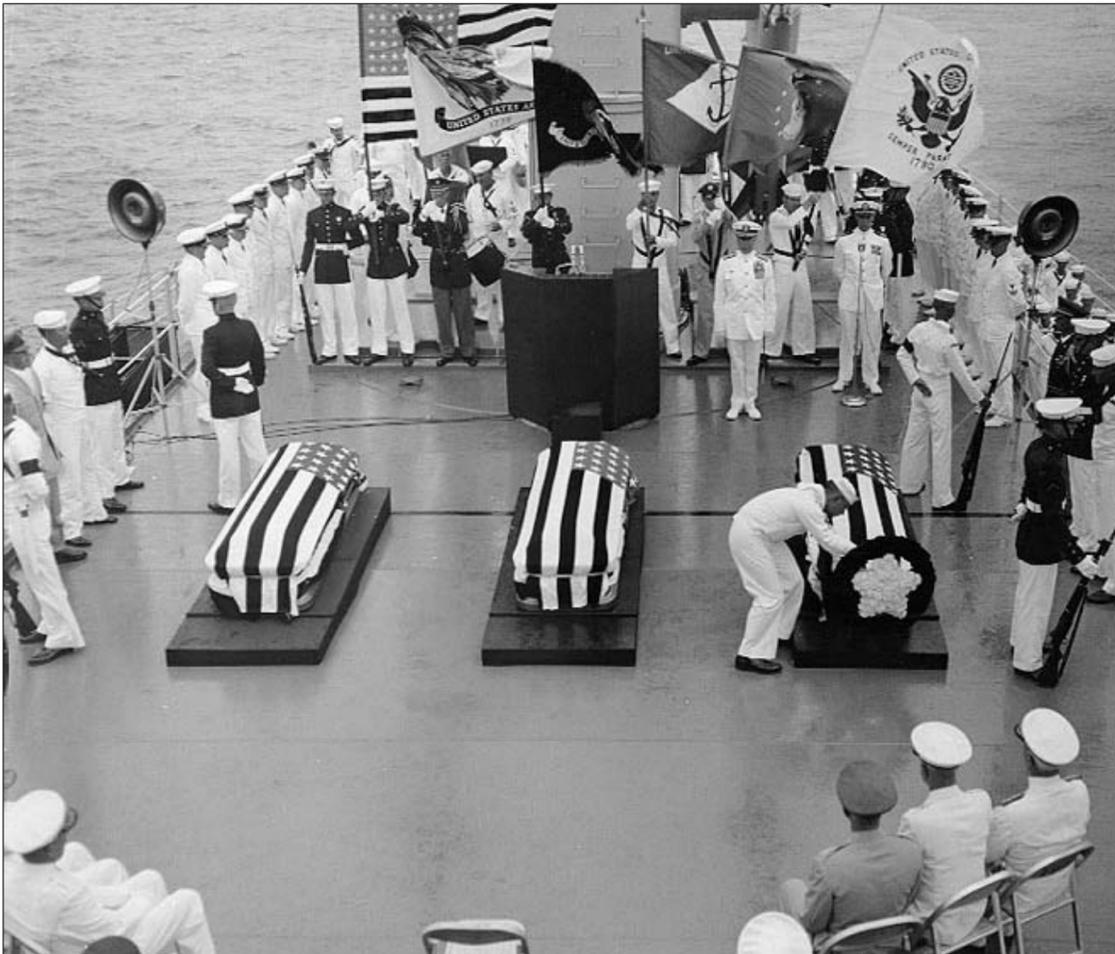
Statistics show that the Federal Fire Department, Hawai'i has responded to 92 working fires so far for 2006. A number of them were structure fires that were caused by unattended cooking. Those are fires that could have been prevented.

Federal Fire Department Fire Chief Glenn Delaura said that the best way to fight a fire is to prevent the fire. That is why the Federal Fire Department will focus on the fire prevention theme of preventing cooking fires.

The Federal Fire Department will provide training as well as demonstrations and fire truck displays at various locations around the island in October.



Unknown Servicemen honored



Official U.S. Navy photograph, from the collections of the Naval Historical Center

Hospitalman William R. Charette, who received the Medal of Honor for Korean War heroism, selects the Unknown Serviceman of World War II, during ceremonies on board USS Canberra (CAG-2) off the Virginia Capes on May 26, 1958. The other World War II Unknown Serviceman candidate's casket is at left, with the Unknown Serviceman of the Korean War in the middle. After completion of the selection ceremonies, the World War II and Korean War Unknown Servicemen were carried to Washington, D.C. for burial at Arlington Cemetery. The other World War II Unknown was buried at sea.

Hawai'i Navy News

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O'Kane conducts expanded maritime intercept operations

MC1 (SW/AW) Chris Fowler

USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74)
Public Affairs

USS O'Kane (DDG 77) practiced boarding and searching suspect vessels by conducting expanded maritime intercept operations (EMIO) as part of the ship's composite training exercise off the coast of southern California on Sept. 23. O'Kane is homeported at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i.

As defined in 2005 by the House Armed Services Committee, EMIO is a key maritime component needed to support the global war on terrorism by deterring, delaying and disrupting the movement of terrorists and terrorist-related materials and personnel at sea.

Cmdr. J.J. Duke, O'Kane's commanding officer, said the main objectives practiced during EMIO were exercising established command and control procedures and allowing the visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) teams to experience seamanship intensive evolutions that included complex boarding and inspection techniques.

"These exercises are important, because they allow O'Kane to practice the proper communication procedures required in passing critical information between our VBSS teams, O'Kane and Destroyer Squadron 21," said Duke.

O'Kane conducted two exercises, one during the day and one at night. In both instances, the ship

launched a rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) to intercept the suspect vessel. This marked the first time that O'Kane's teams were able to practice boarding and collecting intelligence aboard a civilian vessel. Past training evolutions were conducted on other Navy ships with an Afloat Training Group.

According to Chief Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Electric) Matthew Danforth, being able to interdict a non-Navy vessel greatly enhanced the legitimacy of the exercise.

The exercise began with O'Kane establishing communications with the suspect vessel over a bridge-to-bridge radio. Afterward, O'Kane's VBSS team boarded and established security. Then it began a methodical search of the ship, photographing all documents and personnel in an effort to gather as much intelligence as possible.

"Practice makes perfect," said Danforth, a Pittsburgh, Pa. native. "When you are searching another vessel, there are so many scenarios that could happen. It is important that we are able to 'flex' to anything that could go down. With these exercises, our teams work better together and become more fluid. We are working out the bugs now, so when we get over there, things will run smoothly, and we will be confident with the skill sets needed to complete the mission," he explained.

(See page A-5 for photos of USS O'Kane.)



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Jon Hyde

Operations Specialist 2nd Class James Williams participates in phase one of the counter targeting exercise aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) to fine tune the attack response of John C. Stennis Strike Carrier Group (JCSSG). Paul Hamilton, homeported at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, is part of the JCSSG that is conducting Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) off the coast of southern California.

Paul Hamilton locks on to Tomahawk training

MC2 (SW) Joseph Vincent

USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) Public Affairs

While conducting operations off the coast of southern California, USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) completed the first phase of Tomahawk land attack missile exercise (TLAMEX) on Sept. 26.

Paul Hamilton, homeported at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, is operating as part of a collaboration of ships assigned to the USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) Carrier Strike Group (JCSSG). As part of JCSSG's Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX), TLAMEX is designed to enable the coordination of all

Tomahawk capable ships to provide the maximum efficiency and effectiveness possible in a coordinated Tomahawk strike.

"Everyone brings different things to the table," said Chief Fire Controlman Steven Pochop, Paul Hamilton's strike division's leading chief petty officer. "This [exercise] allows us and the other ships involved to identify the areas we are weak in and mesh everyone's strengths together as an effective strike group."

Laid out in three phases, phase one of TLAMEX allows the strike group to work mainly on communication with each other in the coordination of Tomahawk attacks.

"We receive taskings from the tasking authority from the JCSSG staff on

the carrier [USS John C. Stennis]," said Fire Controlman 3rd Class John Bridgeman. "These taskings are practice missions to shoot the Tomahawk."

As COMPTUEX continues, each phase of TLAMEX will become progressively more difficult. In the final phase, JCSSG will conduct in-depth communications and maneuvers. Each phase of TLAMEX can last anywhere from four to six hours.

"This is a start of the culmination of the strike group being able to work together," said Pochop. "This is all the ships getting together, not just as a single ship performing their function, but as an entire strike group functioning as it should."

(See page A-5 for more photos of USS Paul Hamilton.)

FLEET ACTION



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Jon Hyde

An SH-60F from the "Eight Ballers" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Eight (HS-8) lands on the flight deck of Aegis-class destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) to transfer personnel. Paul Hamilton, homeported at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, is part of the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group that is conducting its Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) off the coast of Southern California.



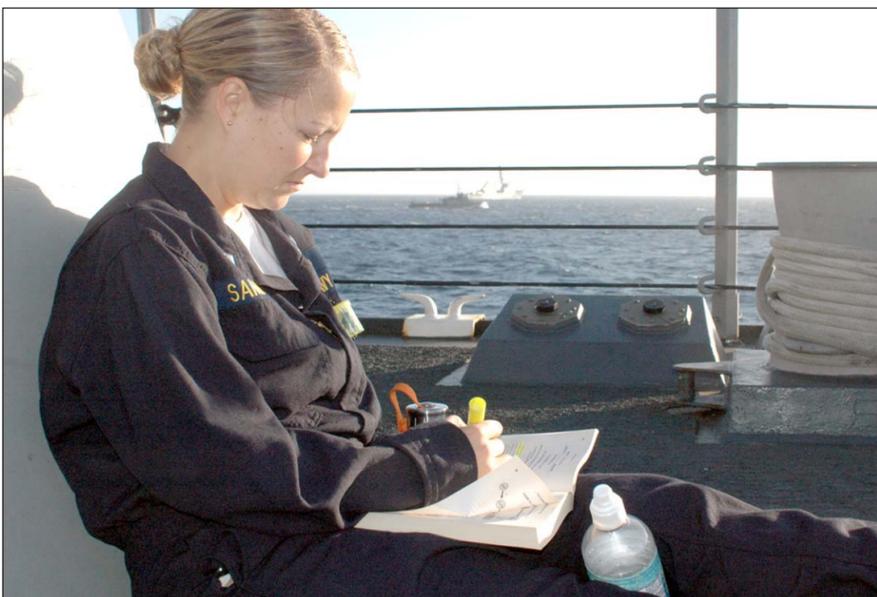
U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Jon Hyde

A Sailor mans a .50 caliber machine gun during a small boat self-defense exercise aboard the Aegis-class destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60). Paul Hamilton, homeported at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, is assigned to the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Jon Hyde

A Sailor ascends from a hatch wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) after conducting a fire drill aboard the Aegis-class destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60). Paul Hamilton, homeported at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, is assigned to the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Christopher Fowler

Lt. Suzanne Sampson finds time in her busy day to study for a class through USS O'Kane's (DDG 77) off-duty education program. O'Kane, homeported at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, is assigned to the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Jon Hyde

USS Paul Hamilton's (DDG 60) commanding officer, Cmdr. Christopher Bushnell, and Lt. j.g. Lacey Popson discuss ship movements on the bridge. Paul Hamilton, homeported at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, is assigned to the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group which is currently conducting its Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) off the coast of southern California.



Keiki were able to learn about science firsthand from engineers at Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai during the third annual Kauai In Step children's science show, held recently at the Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall in Lihue. The two-day science fair featured an exhibit hall with informative booths for children to visit as well as science presentations.

PMRF showcased at Kauai children's science show

Story and photo by
MC2 (SW/AW) Johnny Michael

Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai

Several Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) engineers took center stage during the recent third annual Kauai In Step children's science show, held at the Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall in Lihue.

Leland Tottori, Aubrey Kunishige and Nathan Momohara were called up on stage and presented to the assembled children as examples of how kids can do well in school, go

to college and come back to Kauai to get a high-paying engineering job at PMRF.

The science show was held over the course of two days, and featured an exhibit hall with informative booths for children to visit as well as a science presentation by General Atomics. The General Atomics show featured scientists Rick Lee and Alex Nagy, who demonstrated scientific principles in a well orchestrated, fun routine.

The PMRF booth in the exhibit hall featured a looping video and was manned by junior professionals, Candice Teshima and Justin Bran.

Navy Exchanges to carry books on the new Navy Professional Reading Program

Kristine M. Sturkie

*Navy Exchange Service
Command Public Affairs*

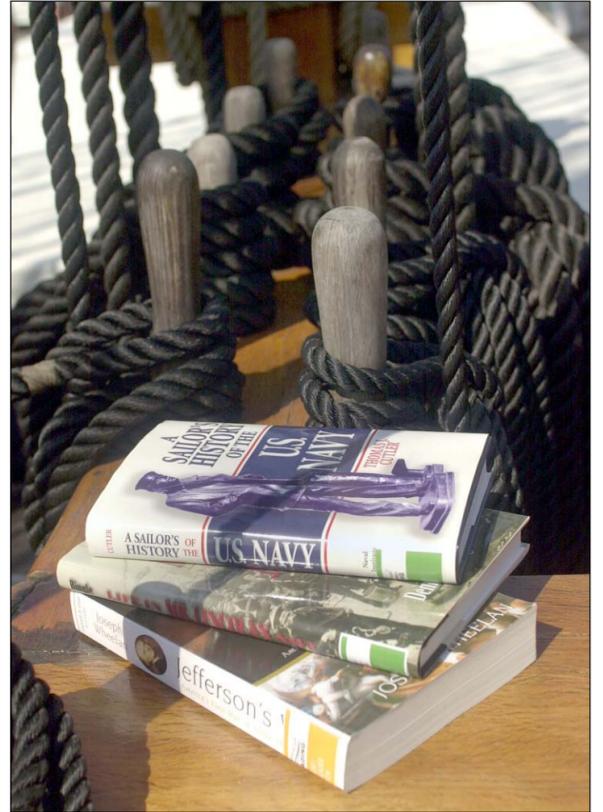
Beginning Oct. 2, books from the new Navy Professional Reading Program will be available for purchase at Navy Exchange bookstores worldwide, through the Uniform Support Center toll-free numbers and through the uniform Web store at www.navy-nex.com.

The books will sell for 35-40 percent below list price and are available by title or in five 12-book collections with each collection targeted at specific experience levels.

"The Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) worked closely with Commander, Navy Installations Command and the Naval War College to ensure these books had the widest possible distribution," said Meredith Jackson, divisional merchandise manager at NEXCOM. "We want to make this as convenient as possible for Sailors to purchase books no matter where they are stationed around the world, including aboard a ship."

The Uniform Support Center can be reached toll-free at:

Continental United States
1-800-368-4088
Canada
1-800-231-6289
Guam, Virgin Islands,
Hawaii, Puerto Rico
1-800-368-4088
Alaska
1-800-368-4089
Autovon/DSN
253-1235 / 253-1237
Bahrain
800-00011
Germany
0800-1013795



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Mark O'Donald

Three books from the Navy Professional Reading Program (NPRP) rest on the deck of the USS Constitution. These titles, "Jefferson's War," "Life in Mr. Lincoln's Navy," and "A Sailor's History of the U.S. Navy" are only three of the 60 titles that constitute the new reading program. USS Constitution, the oldest commissioned ship in the Navy, was the first ship to receive its collection of books.

Italy
8008-72441
Japan
00531-11-4026
Korea
00798-14-800-5652
Singapore
800-1100-198
Spain

900-99-1479
United Kingdom
0800-89-4372

For more information on the Navy Professional Reading Program, log on to the program's Web site at <http://www.navyreading.navy.mil/>.

Hawaii Navy News Online
www.hawaii.navy.mil

CMC, CSC Selection Board applications due Nov. 15

MCSN Apprentice Ken Ingram

Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

Senior and master chief petty officers interested in applying for the Command Master Chief (CMC) and Command Senior Chief (CSC) programs are encouraged to submit their applications now. The deadline to apply for the January 2007 selection board is Nov. 15.

Command master chiefs and command senior chiefs are the senior enlisted leaders charged with enforcing standards of professionalism and developing Sailors. They serve as

senior enlisted leaders to commanding officers and are responsible for strengthening the chain of command.

"If you are the type of senior chief or master chief that is looking for a rewarding challenge, ways to further help the Navy's mission, and the opportunity to be the senior enlisted leader within a command, while impacting the lives of every Sailor within that command on a daily basis, then this program was made for you," said Center for Career Development Command Master Chief (CMDM) (SW/AW) Eric R. Williamson. "If you are an over-achieving, hard working,

squared away Sailor with the desire to lead, then you were made for this program."

Applicants must possess and maintain superior leadership; good communication and administrative skills; personnel counseling skills; sharp military appearance, demeanor and military bearing; meet all health and physical readiness standards; outstanding record of performance; be a highly motivated role model; actively involved in quality of life initiatives and programs; no marks below 3.0 on fitness reports for the last five years; and work effectively with all levels of the chain of command.

Volunteers for primary duty CMC or CSC must request assignment

using NAVPERS 1306/7 (Enlisted Personnel Action Request) signed by their commanding officer (by direction is not authorized).

Commanding officers are required to conduct formal screenings (local oral board recommended). They must also certify in writing that all qualification factors from section C of REF A are met.

Completion of the CMC/CSC qualification guide is highly encouraged and should be submitted with the package. Qualification guides can be obtained from respective Fleet/Force or CNO-directed CMCs.

Incomplete requests will be returned without being presented to the selection board. The board will review and select the best qualified

applicants for assignment to the CMC/CSC program without regard to source rating or community manning. Designated CMCs are closed-loop detailed for the remainder of their careers, meaning selectees will only fill CMC billets.

Master chiefs and senior chiefs selected for the program will be assigned by the CMC/CSC detailer based on billet availability and member's experience, qualifications and desires. Initial assignments will normally be sea-shore code 2 or 4, regardless of current duty assignment.

For more information, contact CMDM (SW/AW) Donald Magnes at (901) 874-4560/DSN 882, or email donald.magnes@navy.mil.



Absentee Voting Week – time to get the votes in

Special to Hawai'i Navy News

The Secretary of Defense has designated Oct. 8-14 as Absentee Voting Week. During this time, voters should return their completed ballot in order to ensure that the ballot is received at local election officials in time to be counted.

Overseas voters should vote and return their completed state absentee ballot or the federal write-in absentee ballot (FWAB) during this week to make sure their ballot is received by the local election official in time to be counted.

If you receive your state absentee ballot after submitting the FWAB, vote and return the state ballot. For those states that allow late counting, ballots must be voted on or before election day and must be received by the state late counting deadline.

Voting assistance officers stand ready to provide guidance and assist service members and their families with the voting process.

For more information about requirements for a specific state and/or other helpful information, visit the Department of Defense voting assistance Web site at www.fvap.gov. Or contact the regional voting officer, Lt. Cmdr. Edward Korman at 473-1379, ext. 232.

Road closures at Pearl Harbor

- On Ford Island, a partial road closure of Wasp Boulevard, adjacent to buildings 130, 176 and 175 from Ranger Loop to Kamehameha Housing area, will occur for the installation of new underground electrical lines. The work began Sept. 25 and will continue approximately through Oct. 9. Access to buildings 130, 175 and 176 will be provided via detour from Wasp Boulevard onto concrete apron areas surrounding those buildings. Access to Kamehameha housing area will not be affected.

- Submarine Base area - Parking lot adjacent to building 1655 (Child Development Center) along Bole Street for asphalt paving from Oct. 17 - Oct. 31.

- Fleet and Industrial Center Pearl - Kilo Pier Gate will be closed, need to use Simms Street Gate to access pier. Work to install security gate house and pop-up bollards will be ongoing from Oct. 2 - Nov. 15.

Nation's first littoral combat ship christened

Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

Thousands looked on Sept. 24 as the Navy christened and launched the nation's first littoral combat ship, Freedom (LCS 1), at the Marinette Marine shipyard.

"Just a little more than three years ago she was just an idea, now Freedom stands before us. And on this morning, we christen her, send her down the ways and get her ready to join the fleet next year," said Adm. Mike Mullen, Chief of Naval Operations. "It comes none too soon, because there are tough challenges out there that only she can handle."

The 377-foot Freedom is capable of speeds in excess of 40 knots and can operate in water less than 20 feet deep. The ship will act as a platform for launch and recovery of manned and unmanned vehicles. Its modular design will support interchangeable mission packages, allowing the ship to be reconfigured for antisubmarine warfare, mine warfare, or surface warfare missions on an as-needed basis.

"Until now, this vessel has



Photo courtesy of Lockheed Martin

The nation's first littoral combat ship, Freedom (LCS 1) – the inaugural ship in an entirely new class of U.S. Navy surface warships – sits afloat following a spectacular side launch during her christening at the Marinette Marine shipyard. The agile 377-foot Freedom, designed and built by a team led by Lockheed Martin, will help the U.S. Navy defeat growing littoral, or close-to-shore, threats and provide access and dominance in coastal water battle-space. Displacing 3,000 metric tons and with a capability of reaching speeds well over 40 knots, Freedom will be a fast, maneuverable and networked surface combatant with operational flexibility to execute focused missions, such as mine warfare, anti-submarine warfare, surface warfare and humanitarian relief.

been a part of the shipyard structure – a mass of steel, cables and electronics. Today Freedom is a maritime vessel.

She is on her way to joining our great Navy patrolling the vast oceans of our world," said Delores Etter, assistant secre-

tary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition.

Freedom acknowledges the enduring foundation of our nation and honors American communities which bear the name Freedom. States having towns named Freedom include California, Indiana, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

But, as Mullen made clear, Freedom also acknowledges new challenges faced by the Navy in the war on terror and will complement the vision of a global "1,000-ship Navy" built upon ad hoc maritime partnerships.

"Freedom will know how to fight, but she can also be a friend," said Mullen. "I am convinced that if we pool resources together, as partners and friends, we can best tackle many of the tough maritime problems we face. The Freedom class will fit perfectly into such partnerships. Her shallow draft and agility will allow her to go, when asked – deep into green and brown water – where we, our allies, and emerging partners face some of the most difficult challenges."

The christening ceremony included the traditional smashing of a champagne bottle across the ship's bow, performed by ship's sponsor Birgit Smith. The ship then made a dramatic side-launch into the Menominee River.

Smith is the wife of U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Paul Ray Smith, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery and gallantry above and beyond the call of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mullen put Birgit Smith's selection as sponsor into perspective for the assembled crowd by referring to a letter her husband wrote home from Iraq.

"When I think of his words 'I am prepared to give all that I am' and the way he did exactly that, it reminds me of the true high cost of living in America, the price of freedom," he said. "Paul paid that debt for us. His valor reminds us that we must be ready to defend freedom whenever and wherever it is challenged."

"Ships also really do take on the spirit of their sponsor," he continued. "And I for one will take great comfort that when

Freedom's crews sail into harm's way your quiet strength will go with them."

Freedom will be manned by one of two rotational crews, blue and gold, similar to the rotational crews assigned to Trident submarines. The crews will be augmented by one of three mission package crews during focused mission assignments.

The blue crew commanding officer is Cmdr. Donald Gabrielson, who was born in northern Minnesota and graduated from the U.S. Navy Academy in 1989. The gold crew commanding officer is Cmdr. Michael Doran, who was born in Harrisonville, Mo. and graduated from Villanova University in 1989.

Freedom will continue to undergo outfitting and testing at Marinette Marine. The ship will be commissioned in 2007 and eventually homeported in San Diego.

The second LCS, named Independence, is currently under construction at Bath Iron Work in Bath, Maine. General Dynamics Corporation is building Independence to a different design than that of Freedom.



Pearl Harbor survivor receives Medal of Honor Flag

Vice Chief of Naval Operations (VCNO) Adm. Robert F. Willard presents Medal of Honor recipient Lt. John Finn with a newly-created Medal of Honor Flag during a turnaround cruise aboard USS Constitution. As an aviation ordnanceman, Finn was assigned to Kaneohe Bay Naval Air Station in Hawai'i on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941. Finn was awarded the Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism in manning a .50-cal machine gun and fending off the attacks of Japanese warplanes. The Medal of Honor is our country's highest military honor, awarded for acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty.

U.S. Navy photo by MCI Chad J. McNeeley

SALVOR: Back home

Continued from A-1

as a U.S. Navy vessel, Salvor traveled more than 19,000 nautical miles, and visited nine countries and two U.S. territories. The crew completed 141 dives for 63 hours and 14 minutes of bottom time. Qualifications included one surface warfare officer and 19 enlisted surface warfare specialists.

Salvor brought the unique perspective of deep-sea diving and salvage capabilities to CARAT. Salvor Sailors exchanged diving and salvage expertise both in the classroom and on the dive side with dive teams from each host nation. Underwater cutting and welding, recovery of sunken vessels, recompression chamber operations, underwater hand-held sonar searches, ship's husbandry and diving medicine were discussed and practiced.