

Women's History Month

Hawai'i

News

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DoD child care system makes top ten list

Story and photo by MC1 James E. Foehl

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

As Sailors across Navy Region Hawai'i continue to take on the new challenges of the 21st century leader, the need for high quality child care for them and their families continues to be a top priority for the Navy and the Department of Defense (DoD).

In a new release taken from an independent study's nationwide survey of state child care systems, the DoD, which has its own system of child care, came in ranking within the top 10 of both child care and oversight.

"It is important to show our families and the U.S. taxpayer that we are committed to providing the Navy family with the support they need and deserve while they are out there risking their lives and making personal sacrifices to serve this country," said Vice Adm. Bob Conway, Commander, Navy Installations Command.

Navy Region Hawai'i's child care program mission is to serve ashore and afloat commands within the region so that Sailors can concentrate on the missions of their respective commands, knowing their children are safe and supervised by a trained and professional staff.

On board Naval Station Pearl Harbor (NAVSTA PH), the Naval Station



Children enjoy playing in a toy house at the Naval Station Pearl Harbor Child Development Center (NAVSTA CDC). NAVSTA CDC is one of six regional child development centers which provide military service members and their families with high-quality, full-day child care.

Child Development Center (CDC) staff continually provides high quality child care for more than 70 children, ranging from six

weeks to five years of age, of Navy Region Hawai'i.

"Our primary mission is to support the mission of the military," said Amy

Koskovich, NAVSTA PH CDC director. "We provide a safe and enriching environment for their children to learn and grow. This

allows [service members] to do their job and support their family."

Rigorous training for care provider staff, safety

standards and accreditation to the National Association for the Education of Young Children plays a significant role in the success of DoD child care programs here at Navy Region Hawai'i.

"We have annual training requirements and provide training of 14 different modules which can be converted into college credits," said Koskovich.

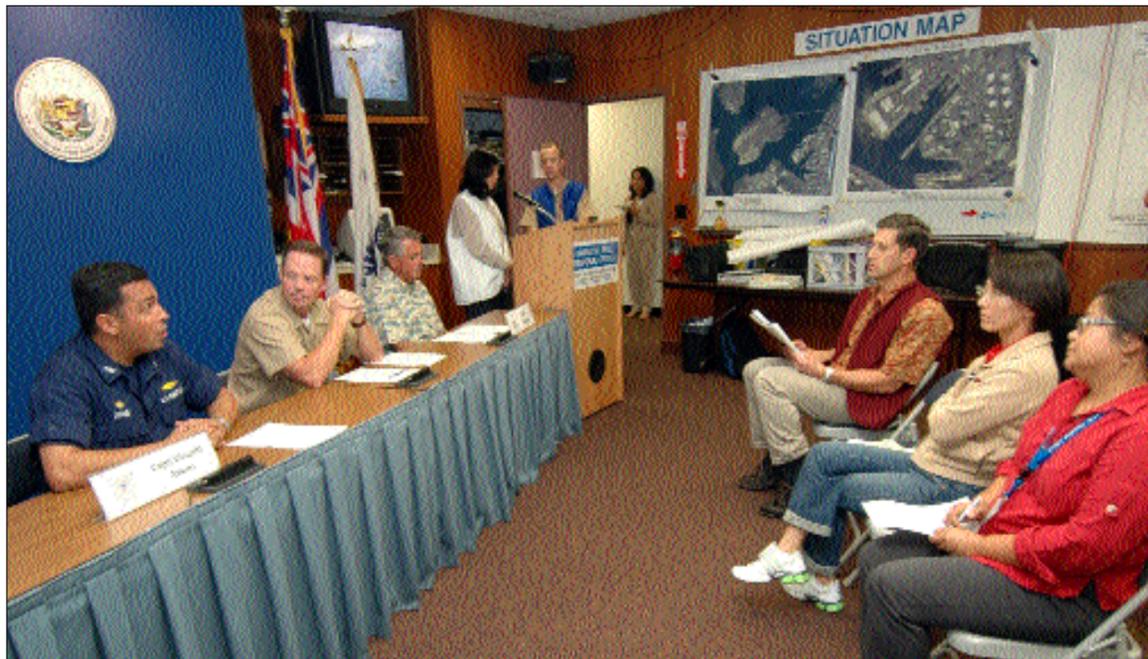
DoD child care providers are additionally required to be trained in 14 different areas of expertise or modules included: Child Abuse and Prevention, Keeping Children Safe, Promoting Good Health and Nutrition, Creating and Using an Environment of Learning, Promoting Physical Development, Promoting Cognitive Development, Promoting Communication, Promoting Creativity, Building Children's Self Esteem, Promoting Social Development, Promoting Positive Guidance, Working with Families, Being an Effective Manager and Maintaining a Commitment to Professionalism.

According to Koskovich, child care providers can obtain college credits for their module training through the University of Cincinnati's online programs and use those credits toward more advanced degrees.

"I feel safer bringing [my child] here," said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Jamaal McNeil, personnelist

▼ See DOD, A-8

Exercise tests emergency preparedness



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

On March 7, Navy, Coast Guard and State of Hawai'i personnel participated in a joint Worst Case Discharge Exercise named Kahu I Ke Kai 2007 at the Clean Island Council's Hawai'i Oil Spill Response Center on Sand Island. The exercise was designed to provide a professional development opportunity to manage a Joint Information Center using the National Incident Management System (NIMS) structure designed to respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other domestic emergencies. Organizations are required to adopt and implement procedures consistent with NIMS to ensure alignment to provide or receive emergency response support from state and local first responders. The exercise simulated a major fuel spill on Naval Station Pearl Harbor, which required a response effort among Navy, Coast Guard, State of Hawai'i and Clean Island Council.

BOXESG ships headed for home



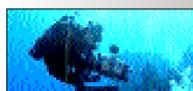
U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (AW/SW) James E. Foehl

The American flag waves from the fantail of the USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) as Seaman Kevin Ford, assigned to guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73), waits to perform line handlers for guided-missile destroyer USS Howard (DDG 83). Bunker Hill, Howard and USS Benfold (DDG 65) are currently returning from a deployment as part of Boxer Expeditionary Strike Group (BOXESG).



Lt. Dan Band rocks Hawai'i

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USS Ohio completes first dry dock shelter operation

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Russell Sailors visit Shimizu

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Splash, splash... with MWR

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Gary Sinise and Lt. Dan Band rock Hawai'i

Story and photos by
MC2 (SW) Ben A.
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Pacific Affairs Center
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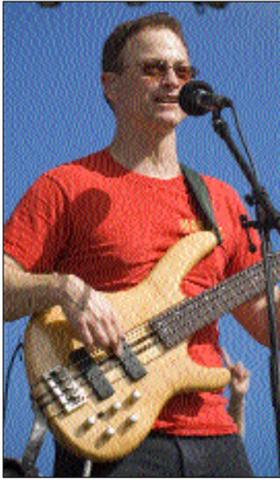
Actor, director and producer Gary Sinise was given a guided tour of Naval Station Pearl Harbor by Rear Adm. T. G. Alexander, Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i, during a visit to Oahu on March 3.

Sinise was on the island with his "Lt. Dan Band" to perform for Sailors and Marines at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH) - Kaneohe Bay. While he currently stars in the hit CBS series "CSI: New York," Sinise is also known to troops worldwide as Lt. Dan from the motion picture "Forrest Gump."

"For me, it just feels like the right thing to do. I think when a celebrity shows up that means something to the people who are defending our country," said Sinise. "I think they know that I don't have to be here and my band doesn't have to come. We do it because we want to do it."

This is the 22nd USO (United Service Organizations) tour for Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band. Last year, Sinise completed a series of seven stateside USO tours with the band. He also made a solo USO tour to Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates and aboard USS Ronald Reagan.

Many Sailors and Marines at MCBH had the opportunity to enjoy the show. "It's good; they were playing a lot of classic rock music. Most bands don't come out here to Hawai'i," said Lance Cpl.



Gary Sinise plays classic rock for the Marines and Sailors of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. This is the 22nd USO (United Service Organizations) tour for Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band; last year Sinise completed a series of seven stateside USO tours with the band. He also made a solo USO tour to Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates and the USS Ronald Reagan. For more than 65 years, the USO has been providing morale, welfare and recreational services to U.S. military personnel and their families.

John T. Hall, stationed at MCBH.

Brig. Gen. Steven A. Hummer, commanding general of MCBH, presented Sinise with a placard of appreciation on site at the Lt. Dan Band concert.

"This is great! It brings families together," said Hummer. "We have had many Korean vets here



The Lt. Dan Band plays classic rock for the Marines and Sailors of Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe Bay.

today and obviously we've got a lot of young Marines and Sailors, and they were all moving to the music and all having a good time."

"We had all kinds of families come out. This was a big base event and we're glad we did it. You can tell that everyone enjoyed it!" said Hummer. "If I wouldn't have had my uniform on, I would

have probably been up there dancing with my wife."

Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band have dedicated many hours of performances in hopes of raising military members' morale as well as expressing their gratitude.

"We're just here to say thank you, let people know we're grateful and hopefully entertain them," said, Sinise

A long-time supporter of military personnel and veterans, Sinise was among the group of celebrities on the USO's first tour to Baghdad in June 2003. His other overseas tours include visits to troops in Kuwait, Qatar, Singapore, Korea, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Following his second USO

tour to Iraq, where he visited with school children, Sinise co-founded "Operation Iraqi Children" which provides educational materials to students in Iraq through donations from the American people. For more information on Operation Iraqi Children, visit the Web site at www.operationiraqchildren.org.

DoN budget request for FY 08 addresses near and long-term needs

Navy News Service

The nation's top Navy and Marine Corps leaders told members of Congress on March 1 that the Department of the Navy's (DoN) proposed \$139.8 billion budget request for fiscal year 2008 (FY 08) fully supports near and long-term warfighting requirements and will help win the global war on terrorism (GWOT).

In testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Donald C. Winter, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Mullen and Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James Conway thanked lawmakers and the American people for their continued support and stressed the impact of DoN's FY 08 budget request on future readiness.

Winter said that although supporting Marines and Sailors in the field and at sea remained a near-term imperative, the department must provide for "the critical needs of the Navy and Marine Corps of the future."

"To that end, the Department of the Navy is pursuing an unprecedented modernization program across the full spectrum of our weapons platforms in both the Navy and Marine Corps," Winter explained. "This drive to transform the force is necessary and vital to our national security."

Winter said the transformation of the sea services underway includes a new generation of ships, submarines, and aircraft - with programs in development,



U.S. Navy photo by MCC Shawn P. Eklund

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Mullen testifies on the 2008 National Defense Budget Request before the House Armed Services Committee at the Rayburn House Office Building on March 1. Mullen joined Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), the Honorable Dr. Donald C. Winter, and Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James T. Conway, in testimony before the committee.

production, or already in operation with the fleet.

"Faced with a dangerous, uncertain world - with terrorist enemies, states that actively support or condone them, and rising powers with intentions and capabilities that lack transparency," he said, "we have no choice but to improve our own capabilities."

Mullen echoed the secretary's sense of urgency, saying the Navy is ready to meet these challenges.

"Through the Fleet Response Plan, we continue to meet the demands of the combatant commanders for trained, flexible and sustainable forces, with six carrier strike groups available on 30 days' notice and an additional carrier strike group ready to surge within 90 days," Mullen said.

Mullen told committee

members the Navy's FY 08 budget request will help keep the Navy strong and reflects his top three priorities: sustaining combat readiness, building a future Navy, and developing 21st century leaders.

"The sound investments we made in recent years to improve fleet capacity and capabilities have paid off," he said. "We must now re-energize our procurement accounts to maintain those capabilities in the future."

The proposed budget represents a \$12 billion increase from last year's baseline appropriations. It provides for improved facilities for schools and child care and a three percent across-the-board pay increase for service members.

An average O-3 would see his pay increase by about \$1,657 if the budget request

passes and the average E-6 would see an increase of \$1,099.

The FY 08 ship construction and aviation procurement plan includes the first CVN-21 aircraft carrier, a Virginia-class submarine, one amphibious assault ship, one logistics ship and three littoral combat ships. It also calls for 18 EA-18Gs; 24 F/A-18E/Fs; 21 MV-22 Ospreys, unmanned aerial vehicles, mine-resistant ambush protected vehicles (MRAP vehicles) and the continued development and procurement of F-35 joint strike fighters.

The budget allots \$14.7 billion for shipbuilding, an increase of about \$3.2 billion over this year.

Mullen told lawmakers he deliberately made no changes to the 30-year shipbuilding plan the Navy submitted with next year's budget. It was important, he explained, to keep quantities of ships in the FY 08 plan the same as those in submitted in FY 07 to foster stability in the shipbuilding industry.

"We continue to evaluate, as we must, the impact global developments have had on the plan's original risk assumptions," he said. "But I remain committed to a stable shipbuilding program and to pursuing, with our partners in industry, the efficiencies required to make it affordable."

Winter noted that the Navy and the Marine Corps have reported cost overruns on the first hull of the Lockheed Martin littoral combat ship and the expeditionary fighting vehicle, but that aggressive efforts are underway to develop more efficient acquisition strategies.

"We are working on solving the problems that have arisen so that we can deliver vitally needed capabilities to our warfighters," said Winter. "Both of these programs represent the kinds of capabilities that the future Navy and Marine Corps will need to fight and win the wars of tomorrow."

Marines and their families will also be well served by the department's budget request, noted Conway, pointing out that although they have been pushed hard and strained by the operational tempo of the war, morale has never been higher.

"They know full well what the nation expects of its Marines in a time of war and they are shouldering that duty with selflessness and courage," he said.

Conway lauded the proposed increase of Marine Corps end strength to 202,000 by FY 11, saying it will "greatly reduce the strain on the individual Marine and on our institution as whole."

It will also, he stated, improve the deployment-to-dwell ration in critical units, some of which are deployed for seven months and then home for seven months. But the commandant was quick to correct the record on the assumption that the increased end strength is designed to support the recent plus-up of forces in Iraq.

"This is not the case," he asserted. "Our request for additional Marines is separate from, indeed it pre-dated by several weeks, the announcement of

the plus-up."

Conway assured lawmakers that all Marines going into Iraq's Al Anbar province will be properly trained and equipped. He also stressed the urgent need for more MRAP vehicles to help protect Marines from the improvised explosive device (IED) threat.

The V-shaped-bottom MRAP vehicle is designed to fill the gap between the flat-bottomed Humvees being used today and the joint tactical light vehicle, which is designed to offer greater protection against IEDs.

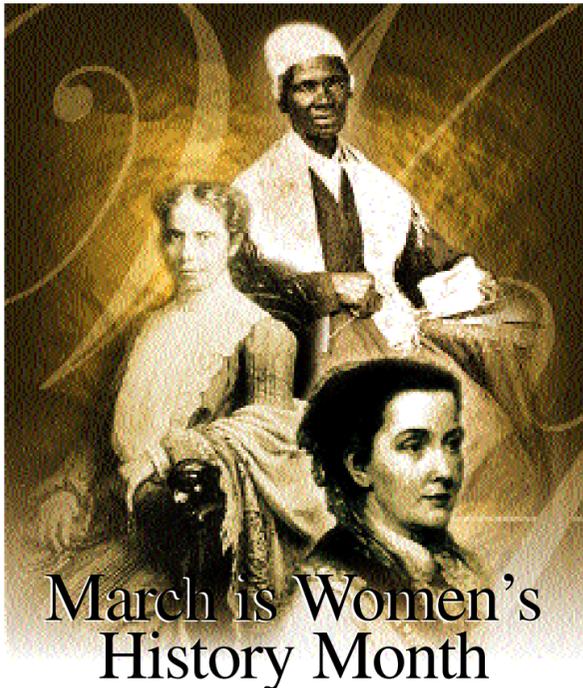
The MRAP family of vehicles includes both light utility vehicles and medium trucks.

The Marine Corps received enough funding for this fiscal year to buy 805 MRAP vehicles in the baseline budget. They also requested funding to procure 244 vehicles in the FY 07 wartime supplemental and additional funding in the FY 08 GWOT supplemental for 255 vehicles. In addition to this, the Marine Corps requested \$2.8 billion in the FY 08 unfunded list to buy 2,700 more.

All three leaders were quick to point out that, in addition to the service of Sailors and Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan, thousands of others are accomplishing the Navy-Marine Corps mission around the world.

On their behalf, Winter asked Congress for special attention to shortfalls in funding for basic allowance for housing and base realignment and closure activities.

"We owe it to the Sailors and Marines - and their families - to find a speedy resolution of these issues," he said.



March is Women's History Month

Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

Throughout our history, the vision and determination of women have strengthened and transformed America. As we celebrate Women's History Month, we recognize the vital contributions women have made to our country.

The strong leadership of extraordinary women has altered our nation's history. Sojourner Truth, Alice Stone Blackwell and Julia Ward Howe opened doors for future generations of women by advancing the cause of women's voting rights and helping make America a more equitable place. In 1855, Dr. Mary E. Walker became one of the first female physicians in the country. Dr. Walker volunteered her medical services during the Civil War and became the only woman in United States history to receive the Medal of Honor. Vivian Malone Jones stood her ground in the face of a great injustice and helped integrate the University of Alabama, breaking down racial barriers to higher education and becoming the school's first African-American graduate.

Our nation is a land of great opportunity and women are seizing that opportunity and shaping the future of America in all walks of life. A record number of women are serving in the halls of Congress, and the number of women-owned businesses continues to grow. The women of our armed forces are making a vital contribution to our nation's security by serving the cause of freedom and peace around the world.

And by giving care and guidance, America's mothers are helping to build the foundation for the success of our nation's children and strengthening the character of our country. This month, we honor the spirit, leadership and hard work of American women.

Now, therefore, I, George W. Bush, president of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2007 as Women's History Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities that honor the history, accomplishments and contributions of American women.



WAVES visit USS Missouri

Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service) visit the USS Missouri (BB 63) in an east coast port during her shakedown period, circa August 1944. They are standing on the main deck at the bow with the Navy Jack flying behind them.

Official U.S. Navy photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives

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Correction: Sailors celebrate Black History

The story "Sailors celebrate Black History Month," which was published on page A1 of the Feb. 23 edition of Hawai'i Navy News, incorrectly stated that the event included a performance of "Amazing Grace" by Marika L'Amour. L'Amour did not perform at the event. Christopher Washington performed the solo. The incorrect information was provided to Hawai'i Navy News. We apologize for the error and for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Russell Sailors visit Shimizu, experience Japanese culture

Story and photo by
Ensign Theresa Donnelly

USS Russell (DDG 59) Public
Affairs

On a cold, blustery morning in late February, with Mt. Fuji in the background, the Pearl Harbor-based, guided missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) pulled into the city of Shimizu, Japan. The crew enjoyed the visit as they experienced Japanese culture by participating in four community relation events and visits with over 40 host families.

Upon arrival, Cmdr. Brad Cooper, Russell commanding officer, gave a press conference to local media and personally conducted a tour of the bridge, central control station and combat information center.

The ship's personnel also gave tours throughout the port visit to various Shimizu officials, business leaders, politicians and host families. Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Patrick Warthen, who led a tour of Japanese police officials, said, "The visitors were very excited, interested and polite. They were eager to learn more about the ship. They especially liked the pictures on the mess decks and overall loved the opportunity to visit a naval warship."

Russell stayed involved with the local community by conducting a wide variety of events that reached a diverse audience. On Russell's second day in port, a group of over 40 Shimizu Sea Scouts boarded Russell and presented the Russell CO with a special welcome flower presentation. After the ceremony, the Sea Scouts feasted on cookies and refreshments.

Later, a group of Russell volunteers skilled in swimming techniques took the Sea Scouts to a local swimming pool where Sailors demonstrated cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) techniques and showed the children the search and rescue gear that



(From Left) Electronics Technician Seaman Christopher Turner, Chief Electrician's Mate Joseph Baysa and Chief Fire Controlman Jason Dunn participate in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony with members of the Shimizu Japanese Intercultural Association.

the Sailors use onboard Russell. "The Sea Scouts were great. They showed us their semaphore flags and taught us how they signal SOS," said Operations Specialist (OS) 2nd Class Christopher Elliott, rescue swimmer.

On that same day, a group of 20 Russell Sailors visited a senior care center and participants cleaned the facility. A third group of Sailors had the rare opportunity to experience a diverse Japanese culture event when 15 personnel visited the home of Etsuko Yoshino, president of

Shimizu Japanese Intercultural Association. While in the home, Sailors participated in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, tried on kimonos, sang Japanese songs, and played games.

One of the activities that Sailors took part in was the well-known game of rock, paper, scissors. This was an opportunity to learn more about the customs and traditions within the Japanese culture and experience what traditions Americans and Japanese have in common. Lt. j.g. Kate Suthers, who tried on a

kimono for the first time, said, "The Japanese kimono is so beautiful and I am honored to wear it. I will remember this experience for the rest of my life."

Russell engaged in an assortment of different events that targeted all age levels. On the third day in port, Russell Sailors went to the Midorigaoka Nursery School, visiting 70 children between the ages of three and seven. Crew members sang songs and danced the hokey pokey at recess. The children were thrilled to see Navy Sailors and treated

the crew like celebrities.

A teacher showed the school children where Russell's homeport of Pearl Harbor was and the children were amazed that the United States was so far from Japan. "I couldn't stop smiling while the kids were singing and my cheeks started to hurt," said OS3 Gabriel Evans.

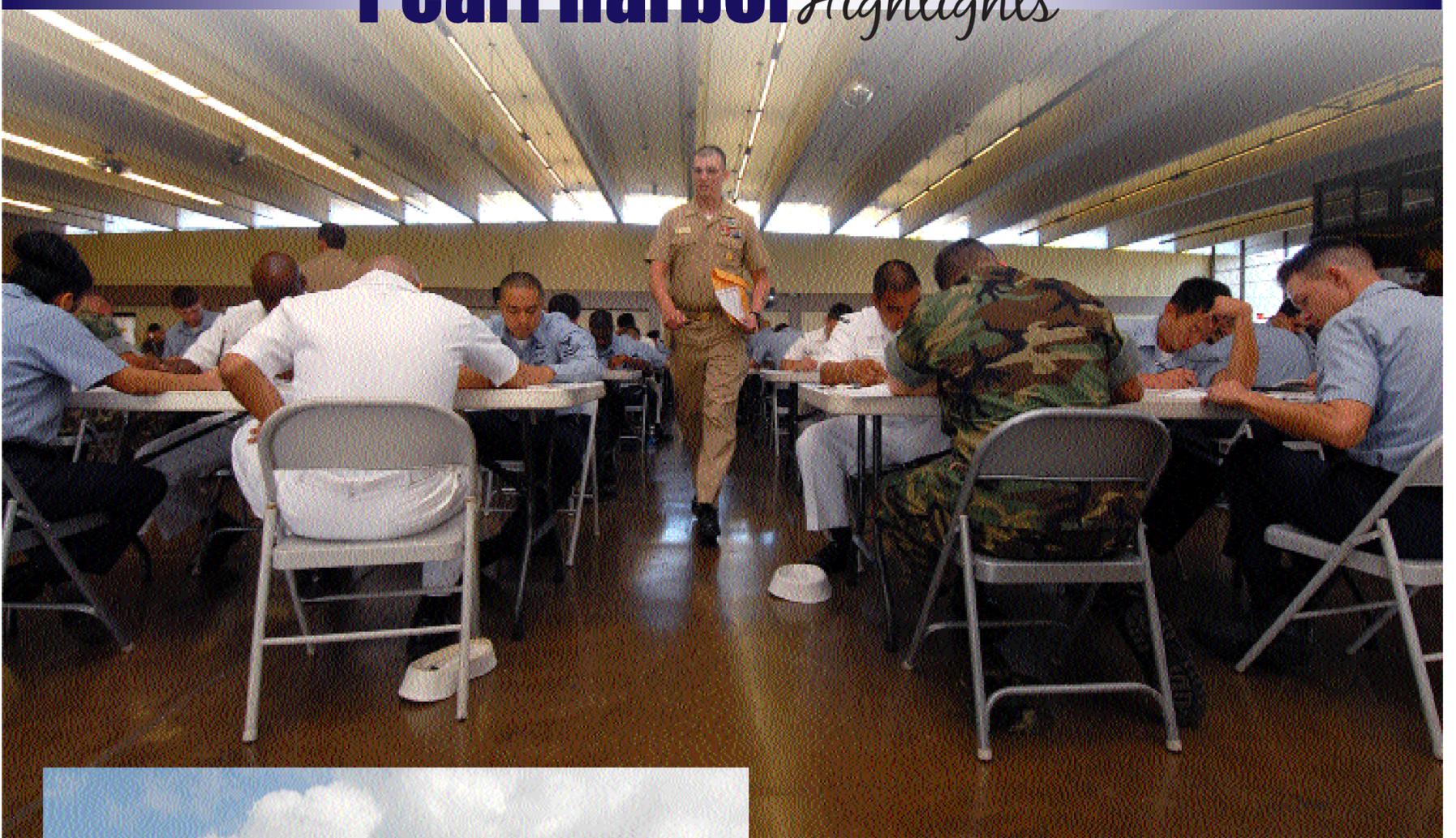
The host visits were perhaps one of the most valuable experiences for the Sailors during the five-day port call. Over 100 of the ship's crew participated in host family visits. The visits were diverse in scope as Sailors engaged in a variety of activities, including trips to Mt. Fuji, enjoying home cooked meals, visits to local museums, and souvenir shopping. Information Technician 1st Class David Chaney's host family took him and his liberty buddy Chief Fire Controlman Michael Dunn to a monastery where monks chanted. "It was really interesting. The couples were so nice and willing to go above and beyond to make sure we were having a good time. They took us to an overlook of Shimizu and right behind us was a radio tower. Being a radioman myself, I really could appreciate that," said Chaney.

The visit also gave Russell the opportunity to interact with many local police officials, dignitaries and business leaders.

Russell hosted a reception on the first night where many members of the Shimizu business community dined and socialized with the ships' officers. The gathering cemented the long-standing friendship between the U.S. Navy and the Japanese people. Cooper summed up the feelings of the Russell crew, "Our visit to Shimizu provided an important opportunity to strengthen our partnership with a key ally...and Russell Sailors led the way."

Russell departed Pearl Harbor on Feb. 3 and is currently conducting operations in support of the global war on terrorism in the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) region.

Pearl Harbor Highlights



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

(Above) Chief Quartermaster Robert Collins, senior enlisted advisor and navigator assigned to U.S. Navy High-Speed Vessel (HSV-2) Swift, homeported in Little Creek, Va, monitors second class petty officers while proctoring the E6 exam at Club Pearl on board Naval Station Pearl Harbor. More than 700 second class petty officers currently in port or assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor participated in the Navy-wide advancement exam.



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

A tugboat guides USS Benfold (DDG 65) as she prepares to moor pier side Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Benfold is currently returning from a deployment as part of Boxer Expeditionary Strike Group (BOXESG).



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ben A. Gonzales

Lt. j.g. Allen Agor, USS Chicago (SSN 721), presents Gary Sinise with a command ball cap. Sinise is a Chicago native.



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

Information Systems Technician Seaman Nick Damberg and Boatswain's Mate Seaman Recruit Mark Woodcock, assigned to guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37), perform line handlers for guided-missile cruiser USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) as she moors pier side Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Bunker Hill, which is homeported at San Diego, is currently returning from a deployment as part of Boxer Expeditionary Strike Group (BOXESG).



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

Children wear smocks to keep to their clothes protected while playing with water toys at the Naval Station Pearl Harbor Child Development Center (NAVSTA CDC). NAVSTA CDC is one of six regional child development centers which provide military service members and their families with high-quality, full-day child care.

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

(Right) Children prepare to go for a buggy ride while spending the day at the Naval Station Pearl Harbor Child Development Center (NAVSTA CDC). NAVSTA CDC is one of six regional child development centers which provide military service members and their families with high-quality, full-day child care.



USS Chosin participates in COMPTUEX

Ensign Christina Linehan
USS Chosin (CG 65)

For almost two weeks from Feb. 16-28, USS Chosin (CG 65) participated in Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) Five's composite unit training exercise (COMPTUEX) off the coast of southern California. Other members of the strike group included USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), also homeported at Pearl Harbor, USS Bonhamme Richard (LHD 6), USS Denver (LPD 9), USS Rushmore (LSD 47) and USS Milius (DDG 67). Chosin excelled in all warfare areas and completed each mission with flawless execution.

Chosin's focus of effort as sea combat commander

(SCC) includes surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare and the maneuvering of ships throughout the exercise.

More specifically, in a supporting role, the ship participated in naval surface fire support to protect U.S. Marines on the beach and flexed the small craft action team (SCAT) during simulated fast patrol boat attacks.

The visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team was also used to investigate suspected merchants presumed to be carrying illegal contraband. Chosin supported air defense of the ESG by controlling helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. All of these exercises were continuously ordered to prepare the crew and strike group for its

upcoming deployment to the Fifth and Seventh Fleets.

"These exercises allow us to practice the way that we will fight as a strike group," explained Capt. Steve Lott, Chosin's commanding officer. "I'm proud of how well we've done thus far - we're ready to execute whatever mission comes our way."

After finishing the COMPTUEX, Chosin made a port call in San Diego to give the crew some well-deserved down time and allow the ship to prepare for the next exercise, Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX).

Like COMPTUEX, JTFEX is a graded exercise which focuses on various war-fighting skills of the ESG. JTFEX will be the final exercise before ESG Five sails on deployment.

Hopper Sailors prepare to get underway



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ben A. Gonzales
Seaman Ravi Bridgelal and Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Stephen R. Ruach, stationed aboard USS Hopper (DDG 70), secure the large towing hawser line to the flight deck on March 1 in preparation for an underway towing evolution. Hopper is an Arleigh Burke-class, guided missile destroyer based at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i.

Flight quarters, flight quarters...



U.S. Navy photo

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) conducts flight operations while underway in the Pacific.

USS Ohio completes first dry deck shelter operation

MC2(AW/SW) Justin Nesbitt

Public Affairs Center
Detachment Hawai'i

USS Ohio (SSGN 726) showcased its flexibility during a dry deck shelter (DDS) operation off the coast of the Hawaiian islands with Navy SEALs and divers from SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team One (SDVT-1), stationed at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

In November 2003, the Trident-class nuclear submarine began its conversion from a ballistic-missile submarine to a guided-missile submarine, which meant a change in not only Ohio's armament, but also its mission. The change included the removal of nuclear ballistic missiles, replaced with tactical launch air missile (TLAM) Tomahawks, as well as the conversion of two of its missile tubes to actual dive chambers.

The chambers will be used with the DDS system, which is utilized by SEALs for clandestine warfare. The shelters are key for the housing and release of SEALs and their equipment while submerged. Although the system has been in use for many years with fast-attack submarines, the introduction to Trident-missile submarines is a new advancement.

"I was very pleased about how the crew took over the ship and hit the deck plates running and doing things that they had never done or been done on an SSGN [nuclear-powered guided missile submarines] platform," said Capt. Andrew Hale, commanding officer of Ohio.

"Learning how to employ



Photo illustration courtesy of Public Affairs Center Detachment Hawai'i

the systems tactically the first time, they did a wonderful job of that," added Ohio's skipper.

The submarine has two crews assigned, a Blue crew and a Gold crew. For the Gold crew, the operational timeframe had been extremely accelerated. Since January, the crew was only at sea for 10 days, which made the training and preparation more difficult - especially at a high

tempo pace.

"To be able to fly out to Hawai'i, complete the first crew change, out of home-port, get underway and then start performing first-of-a-kind operations on this type of hull and to do it so well is a lot to be proud of," said Hale.

For members of the special operations force (SOF), the experience posed many challenges in terms of training. The Ohio's SOF

team is comprised of crew members from different divisions and rates, formed to aid the embarked SOF team members from SDVT-1. For most of the SOF team, training was something learned on the job and from those who

aided in the installation of the new system. For Missile Technician 1st (SS) Class Jason Hart, the leading petty officer of the team, this made his job that much more interesting.

"Seeing how (in theory)

it's supposed to work and then actually applying it was rewarding. It went very well. We did notice a few problems, but we were able to work through the majority of them and then come up with better ways of doing business so we can become even more proficient," said Hart.

Although the main focus was on Ohio's SOF team, the entire crew was instrumental in the successful completion of the operation. Every department - from engineering to navigation - in one way or another supported every evolution and task that was presented to them. This type of team work and cohesion was key to the success of the evolution.

"Almost every division on the ship had a role in this," said Lt. j.g. Luke Swartz, SOF officer. "Radio had to work with all new communications and systems, navigation was stretched due to the maneuvering close to land in shoal waters, and supply was asked to feed an extra 60-plus people," explained Swartz.

"We were able to receive great reviews from those that were embarked," said Swartz.

Despite not having the final results back from the operation, the crew of Ohio is pleased with the success of the DDS evolution and being the only Trident-class submarine to complete such a task. As a result, it has set the bar for others to follow and further strengthens the submarine's motto of "Always First."

Heavy lifters return from CENTCOM deployment

HTC Scott Valentine

Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One

Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) One, Detachment Five recently reunited with friends and loved ones following a six-month deployment to U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM).

Detachment Five was assigned to CTF-56 and was the first mobile diving and salvage detachment (MDSU) to deploy as part of a recurring commitment to provide diving and salvage capability and theatre engagement in the Commander Fifth Fleet area of responsibility (AOR).

During the deployment,

Detachment Five was involved with diving operations in the USNS Catawba, an ocean going tug, and conducted bilateral salvage operations with the Omani Navy to recover human remains and wreckage of a downed Super Lynx helicopter. "The salvage of the Super Lynx Helicopter was my deployment highlight," said Navy Diver 2nd Class (ND2) NEED FIRST NAME Danner. "I realized how important it was to have a salvage presence in theatre and ready to respond," added ND2 NEED FIRST NAME Chamlee.

In addition, Detachment Five conducted force protection dives in ports frequented by U.S. Navy and merchant vessels and conducted 20 ship's

husbandry dives, providing underwater maintenance and repair to combatants deployed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. As part of theatre engagement, Detachment Five participated in Exercises Edged Response with Kenyan Military Forces, Island Response with the Seychelles Coast Guard and Neon Response with the Bahrain Navy.

During these exercises, Detachment Five demonstrated U.S. Navy diving capabilities and technologies, enhanced interoperability, and strengthened the bank of good will that exists between the United States military and C5F allies. "It was a unique opportunity to operate

and participate in the C5F AOR. I enjoyed thoroughly the deployment as a whole, but being able to share experiences with military members of other nations provided me with a better understanding of how important it is to build alliances," said ND3 NEED FIRST NAME Woodburn.

MDSU One Detachment Three relieved Detachment Five on Feb. 20 as the second theatre MDSU to deploy to CENTCOM. Chief Warrant Officer 3 NEED FIRST NAME Thomas emphasized the importance of Detachment Five's deployment, "Detachment Five was the catalyst for future diving and salvage missions and planned several future operations for future MDSUs. We are

looking forward to our chance to conduct diving and salvage operations in C5F."

Mobile Diving and Salvage One is an expeditionary command assigned to Commander, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group One and part of Commander, Naval Expeditionary Combat Command. It combines explosive ordnance, mobile diving and salvage, riverine and SEABEE units under one umbrella to standardize the manning, training and equipping of expeditionary forces.

For more information about a career as a Navy diver, contact MDSU One diving motivator and recruiter, HTC Scott Valentine at 471-9292, ext. 223. IS THIS CORRECT NUMBER?

DoD: Child care system top ranking

Continued from A-1

assigned to Joint Intelligence Center, Pacific (JICPAC).

McNeil has utilized the NAVSTA PH CDC for more than three years while assigned to JICPAC.

"They always work with me on anything I need with my child including any special needs or anything like that," said McNeil.

In addition to CDCs, Sailors and qualified members of the region also have a multitude of additional child care and development resources in the form of child development homes (CDHs), which provide full, part day and night, and weekend child care for ages four weeks to 12 years of age; school-age care (SAC), which provides before and after school and day camps for ages six to 12 years of age; and a host of youth and teen recreation, leisure and sports programs such as baseball, soccer, flag football, basketball, cheerleading and tennis through the Boys & Girls Clubs of Navy Hawai'i.

A new CDC project located in Radford Terrace housing on Peltier Avenue has been designed and is waiting funding. Upon completion, the Radford housing CDC will have a capacity for 146 children and provide 98 new spaces after accommodating Rainbow Hale CDC enrollment.

"The military child development system continues to be recognized as a model for our nation for quality and affordable child care. The recent number one ranking by the National Association for Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies of military child care standards and oversight is yet another example of our commitment to meet our military family's readiness," said Greg Young, CNIC child and youth program director.

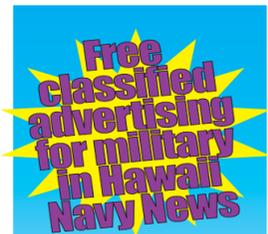
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