

## Keating becomes commander of U.S. PACOM

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

Adm. Timothy J. Keating will bring the same good judgment and decisiveness to the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) that he demonstrated as commander of U.S. Northern Command, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said here March 26 at Camp H.M. Smith Hawai'i.

Gates spoke at a ceremony in which Keating assumed command of the largest U.S. combatant command, which encompasses 51 percent of the earth's surface and includes 43 countries.

Gates said the admiral has demonstrated that he is able to handle a wide variety of complex and challenging assignments.

"He commanded a carrier group based in Japan and later the Navy's 5th Fleet during Operation Iraqi Freedom," Gates said.

As the commander of U.S. Northern Command, he was responsible for guarding the United States "against a range of threats and means of attack from weapons of all kinds - some so small that they could even fit inside a thimble. His area of responsibility ranged from our nation's cities and coastlines to outer space and everything in between."

Keating, whose father served in World War II, assumed command under a cloud-studded Hawaiian sky. Flags snapped in the tradewinds as he accepted the flag signifying the change of command. He said he believes in the "power of the Pacific," and that PACOM service members and civilian employees will work collaboratively with



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (AW/SW) James E. Foehl  
Adm. Timothy J. Keating and Lt. Gen. Daniel P. Leaf salute as Secretary of Defense (SECDEF), the Honorable Dr. Robert M. Gates, is piped aboard at an assumption-of-command ceremony for U.S. Pacific Command. Keating, formerly commander of U.S. Northern Command, assumed command of U.S. Pacific Command from Leaf during the ceremony.

other agencies and ambassadors to perform the missions needed to protect the United States, its allies and American interests in the region.

"We are going to work hard to minimize internal staff churn and 'self-licking ice cream cone' assessments and instead concentrate on working with our ambassadors and our forward troops throughout this theater," the admiral said.

Gates thanked the men and women of U.S. Pacific Command. "I know that Adm. Keating would agree that much of what has been accomplished in this region is due to your dedication and professionalism," he said. "You and your families have our appreciation and thanks for everything you do for our nation."

Representatives from many countries in the Pacific Command area of

operations - including Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand - attended the ceremony.

"I suspect that Adm. Keating may be visiting many of your countries in the coming months," Gates said.

The secretary said the sheer size of the command demands any country's attention. "But more than that, the scope of relation-

ships and challenges encompassed in this area of responsibility are key to the security and continued welfare of the United States," he said.

The area is home to some of America's oldest allies on one hand and some of its emerging relationships on the other, Gates said.

"A great many partnerships across this command - old and new - have grown considerably stronger in

recent years," the secretary said. "The restoration of military relations with Indonesia comes to mind, as does the strengthening of our long-standing ties with Japan and Australia."

Gates said the nations of the region must face both the newest and oldest threats to security. Missile and nuclear proliferation are problems, as is the threat of piracy. But there are other uncertainties as well, he said.

"Countries with limited transparency are taking actions that seem contrary to international stability - causing other countries to question their intentions," the secretary said. "And violent jihadists are trying to undermine the foundations of free society that have allowed many countries in this region to prosper."

Keating understands today's challenges and opportunities, Gates said. "He is fully prepared to continue the record of accomplishments that the countries of this region have built together," Gates said.

"The opportunities are immense. They are profound," Keating said. "We are going to capitalize on that."

He said the command and all its members will work hard to ensure a better quality of life for people throughout the region, free lines of communication, and the development of free and democratic societies throughout the Pacific Command area of responsibility.

Keating succeeds Adm. William J. Fallon, who took command of U.S. Central Command on March 16. Air Force Lt. Gen. Daniel P. Leaf, PACOM's deputy commander, served as interim commander until the ceremony.

## Fleet Master Chief DiRosa speaks at Women's History Month event

Story and photo by PHAN John W. Ciccarelli

Public Affairs Center Detachment Hawai'i

Fleet Master Chief (SW/AW) Jacqueline L. DiRosa, Fleet Master Chief, Atlantic, spoke on behalf of women who proudly serve in our military forces at a Women's History Month commemoration held March 22 at Sharkey Theater at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

The event also offered an opportunity for female Sailors at Naval Station Pearl Harbor to meet and learn from one of their own - who has earned the highest enlisted position for a woman in naval history.

DiRosa became the first woman to ever make the ranks of fleet master chief when she assumed the role July 17, 2006.

Before women in the Navy could be commanding officers, command master chiefs or any rating other than in the nursing field, Loretta Walsh made her footprints in Navy history in 1917.

She became the first woman to serve on active duty and the first woman to serve in an occupation other than a nurse. The Philadelphia native was a Navy yeoman.

DiRosa said that as a woman serving in the Navy, she speaks to all Sailors with a message on determination and accomplishment.

"Today we take a moment to honor the many accomplishments and achievements women have made to our military service throughout the years. It's been their determination, courage, tenacity, their undefined spirit to not just to believe in themselves, but their cause," said DiRosa. "These accomplishments have shaped many laws and policies



Fleet Master Chief (SW/AW) Jacqueline L. DiRosa, Fleet Master Chief Commander, Atlantic, receives an award for Women's History Month from Naval Station Pearl Harbor Command Master Chief Steve Mitchell. DiRosa became the first woman to ever make the ranks of fleet master chief when she assumed the role July 17, 2006.

that each and every one of us benefit from today."

Ninety years after Walsh's groundbreaking assignment, DiRosa said women are leading commands, serving aboard ships, engaging in combat, flying jets, and making a variety of accomplishments in the Navy that will forever be talked about and remembered.

There are more than 54,000 women serving

▼ See WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, A-2

## Child abuse prevention proclamation signed



U. S. Navy photo by MCSN Paul D. Honnick  
Rear Adm. T. G. Alexander, Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and Commander, Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific, signs a Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation Thursday, Hawai'i State Senator Norman Sakamoto, State Representative Della Belatti, children from various youth organizations and other distinguished guests were in attendance. The proclamation officially marks April 2007 as the Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month for Navy Region Hawai'i, and calls upon all Navy personnel and their families to participate in preventing child abuse.



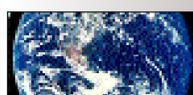
CNIC Youth Fitness Training  
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Lake Erie remembrance ceremony  
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VP-47 flight line rodeo  
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Celebrate Earth Day  
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# Regional fitness leaders onboard with youth fitness training



Enid Lopez, child fitness instructor assigned to Bloch Arena Fitness Center onboard Naval Station Pearl Harbor, assists a child using exercise equipment in the "Kids Fit" section of the fitness center. The equipment in the "Kid's Fit" section is designed for children ages six to 14. Members of Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i (CNRH) Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) fitness staff participated in a two-day Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Youth Fitness Training seminar being conducted to promote a healthy youth lifestyle and combat youth and child obesity.

Story and photos by  
MCSN Paul D. Honnick

Public Affairs Center  
Detachment Hawai'i

Fitness leaders from Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i (CNRH) Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) and Naval Station Pearl Harbor (NAVSTA PH) participated in a two-day Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Youth Fitness Training seminar this week at Bloch Arena.

"A lot of people who work in our fitness center have no problem training adults, but don't have a large background training younger children," said Marc J. Meeker, CNIC program manager for Navy fitness.

Fifteen members of the region, including staff from Bloch Arena Fitness Center, NAVSTA PH Child Development Center and CNRH MWR youth sports department, received the specialized training from Meeker on how to safely and properly train children. "You have to do more interval-based training with youth rather than just get on a piece of equipment for 20 minutes like an adult would," said Meeker.

Special warm-up and exercise routines based around games like "follow the leader" and "Simon says" are incorporated to make it more interesting and fun for children. "The youth mindset goes away after about two minutes. They get bored; they want to move on to the next thing," said Meeker.

The youth-tailored training offered at the seminar covered a broad spectrum of topics, including exercises, strength training, program design, nutrition and response to car-

diovascular activity.

"With the growing health care costs, it's not just the Sailor we're worried about. Spouses and children are included in health care costs, too," said Meeker.

In addition to creative exercises, activities and stretches, classroom education was also used to stress the importance of youth fitness.

"[Child obesity] is increasing every year and we've got to do something about it so military kids can lead healthy, fit, happy lives," said Sheldon Kennell, region MWR youth sports director.

According to Kennell, health conditions such as type two diabetes and high cholesterol are increasing at a younger

age because of poor diets and lack of exercise.

"If they are obese, then they're going to be faced with all the health problems and even the emotional problems that go along with [obesity]," said Kennell.

The specialized two-day fitness leader training for youth fitness is currently being conducted throughout the regions of CNIC in order to help promote healthy lifestyle choices and combat youth and child obesity.

For more information on youth fitness programs available from Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i MWR and Bloch Arena Fitness Center, visit [www.greatlife-hawaii.com](http://www.greatlife-hawaii.com).



Members of Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i (CNRH) Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) fitness staff practice alphabet stretches, an exercise designed for children to make fitness fun. It was one of many exercises they learned during a two-day Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Youth Fitness Training seminar this week at Bloch Arena.

## Women's History Month

Continued from A-1

in the U.S. Navy: more than 8,000 are officers and 46,000 serve in the enlisted ranks, of which 2,500 are chief petty officers. Navy women are continuing to break new ground every day.

Chief Petty Officer (SW) Deric Ward, inspired during the speech, felt she should take back to her command some information that would serve as a guiding tool for her junior Sailors.

"The speech motivated me on how I do business with my young troops every day and to make sure I'm leading them down the right path for their career," said Ward. "Women's history means that every day I'm doing the right thing and should set a good example for other young women to succeed in the Navy."

What will be the next "women's first" in the fleet? Who will be the first woman to become Commander Naval Operations or Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy?

DiRosa said she is a Sailor and will always embrace what women before her have accomplished. She is the highest-ranking enlisted woman in the Navy by position and said she received her encouragement to join the Navy from her father.

The Navy celebrates National Women's History Month every March, embracing what women have accomplished in the past and will accomplish in the future.

# Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

## Employability and deployability: Striking a balance

Navy News Service

Employability and deployability has become a hot topic in the Navy because of recent policy shifts designed to align the Navy's deployment and homeport training time with the rest of the Department of Defense (DOD).

These changes are intended to increase the availability of Navy assets to combatant commanders.

In NAVADMIN 051/07, distributed to the fleet in late February, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen wrote, "The thrust of this effort was to examine the ways in which we might increase our operational availability, the percentage of time our forces are available for operational tasks and missions, while still preserving our overall readiness and the quality of service for our Sailors and their families."

According to Mullen's message, the nation's many strategic challenges require a Navy that is available, responsive and ready.

"We are deliberately taking action to strike the right balance between our need to provide rotational forward forces, our obligation to prepare forces for major contingencies and crisis, and our time at home," Mullen stated.



U.S. Navy photo by MCC Johnny Bivera

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Mullen conducts a roundtable discussion with members of the press in October 2005 to introduce his CNO Guidance for 2006. The annual guidance provides vision and direction for the Navy in the coming year and beyond.

The Navy will achieve this by maximizing operational commanders' ability to deploy, providing flexibility to combatant commanders as well as aligning the Navy's deployment terminology and deployment policy with the Marine Corps, Army and Air Force as much as possible while accounting for all of the Navy's deployed time.

"We have carefully considered the potential for personnel impacts during this review," stated Mullen. "As such, we will manage the deployment throttle on our forces so our Sailors and their families are not subjected to a routinely excessive tempo of operations."

Sailors and their families need to understand the changes to the

Personnel Tempo (PERSTEMPO) policy in order to understand the new schedules.

According to Mullen's message, if a unit is expected to deploy more than once between maintenance phases, the maximum planned deployment length will be six months. If only one deployment is planned between maintenance periods, then the maximum planned deployment length will be seven months.

"We will endeavor to schedule a six-month maximum deployment length to the extent possible," Mullen wrote.

The aligning of terms with the rest of the armed forces includes changes to terms like turn-around-ratio, which was adjusted to the joint term of "dwell."

Dwell is the ratio of the number of days a unit spends between deployments and the length of the last deployment in an operational cycle. The intention is to maintain dwell ratios at greater than or equal to 1:1 between maintenance periods.

"While this is a change..." continued Mullen, "some in the fleet have been operating under this policy in a de facto sense throughout the global war on terrorism. Additionally, this change aligns

Navy limits with those of the other services."

Another of the changes for Sailors is the elimination of the 56-day minimum for deployments.

According to Mullen's message, "Any time spent on deployment will be counted as deployed time, even if only for one day."

These changes will improve the Navy's availability in the war and for major contingencies. At the same time, it will preserve the traditional 50 percent time-in-homeport standard, better account for deployed time, and provide the most predictability possible for deployment and operating schedules.

"We must always be prepared to respond as the strategic environment demands, as we have done recently to support sending a second carrier strike group to USCENTCOM," Mullen continued. "This approach will do much for our ability to defend the nation, deter and dissuade our adversaries, reassure our partners and friends, and when called, to fight and win the nation's wars. It is why the nation has a navy. Your contribution is critical to this effort and I thank you for your professionalism, leadership, and mission focus."



### Energy efficiency seminar offers ideas for energy efficient lighting

Krista Stehn

Energy Awareness Manager, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i Energy Team

Rear Adm. T.G. Alexander, Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, has placed energy awareness as one of his top priorities for the region. With budget shortfalls due to Department of Defense efforts on the global war on terrorism, it is critical that everyone do their part and learn how to save energy and money for the Navy in Hawai'i.

"The first line of defense to win the battle of energy efficiency is to understand the tools available to help us with our efforts," said Kevin Saito, energy manager for Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawai'i. "Educating key players involved in the region's energy conservation efforts assists the local command in meeting energy goals," he emphasized.

The NAVFAC Hawai'i energy team provides training to hundreds of Navy personnel each year in an effort to increase energy conservation and efficiency. Recently, the team expanded its education efforts by sponsoring an energy efficiency seminar.

The seminar was designed for facility managers, building energy monitors, engineers, designers, planners and maintenance shop personnel. The presenter was Michael Smith, ballast sales development manager for General Electric, who provided valuable information on energy efficient lighting.

The one-hour training session was well received and provided attendees with information on the latest lighting technology, innovative ideas, and costs. Attendee comments included, "More of our department's staff should attend seminars such as this," and "The speaker was very knowledgeable and provided practical information."

"Technical seminars like this give us valuable information and options that can be used repeatedly and in a variety of ways to reduce our energy waste. I'm encouraged by the enthusiasm of the participants and the amount of command support for these events," added Saito.

Due to the success of the recent seminar and the region's emphasis on increasing energy awareness, the NAVFAC Hawai'i energy team will host similar seminars on a quarterly basis. Look for upcoming information on the next energy efficiency seminar in May.

## Recruiting America's women for WAVES



Women enlisting in the Navy during World War II served two purposes. First, they filled positions newly created by the expanding American war effort and secondly, they replaced men in stateside assignments in order to free them for combat overseas. For this reason, some men who did not want to go into combat and some women who did not want their husbands, brothers and sons to go into combat, resented the (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) WAVES. Women who enlisted in the Navy also suffered from the stereotype that they were overly masculine, or at the other extreme, government-sanctioned prostitutes. This produced a public relations challenge for the Navy. Through the recruiting images, the Navy hoped to depict female service as noble, serious, patriotic and feminine.

Serve your country in the **WAVES**

INQUIRE AT ANY Navy Recruiting Station or Office of Naval Officer Procurement

Recruiting posters for women from World War II. Poster from painting by John Falter in 1944.

### Hawai'i Navy News

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Capt. Taylor Skardon  
**Director, Public Affairs - Agnes Tauyan**  
**Managing Editor - MCC (SW/AW) David Rush**  
**Leading Petty Officer -**  
MC1 (AW/SW) James Foehl  
**Editor - Karen Spangler**  
**Technical Adviser - Joe Novotny**  
**Layout/Design - Tony Verceluz**

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# Patrol Squadron Nine sustains P-3 Orion mission

MC1 (SW/AW) Keith E. Jones

Public Affairs Center  
Detachment Hawai'i

The P-8 multi-mission aircraft (MMA) has been approved and is well on its way toward replacing the aging P-3 Orion anti-submarine warfare (ASW) and anti-surface warfare (AsuW) platform.

The modified Boeing 737 will be an upgrade in airframe, proved turbofan jet power over the current turbo-prop aircraft, and include a state-of-the-art open architecture mission system coupled with next-generation sensors.

The P-8 finds itself in the same situation, however, as the P-3 Orion did back in 1959 when the Navy was trying to upgrade from the aging P-2 Neptune.

The P-3 aircraft first entered the fleet in 1962 and has been the mainstay of ASW operations for the past four decades – almost an eternity of service when compared with other platforms in Navy aviation.

It has seen action during Vietnam, throughout the Cold War, the first Gulf War, and is still active in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The F-4 Phantom fighter entered service in 1960 and served reliably until 1991 for the Navy and was finally completely retired by the Air Force in 1996. The A-6E Intruder, an all-weather bomber, was introduced in 1963, flying carrier-based close bombing runs until its final Navy flight in 1997. The recently retired F-14 Tomcat became the Navy's primary fighter in 1970 and served with distinction until its final flight five months ago.

The average lifespan for the three platforms was 34



A P-3C Orion assigned to Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9) undergoes a post flight turnaround on the flight line. VP-9 is stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe Bay. The Orion has been a stable and productive anti-submarine warfare (ASW) platform for nearly 45 years.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Eric J. Bensen

years. The P-3 Orion is at 45 years and counting.

Those whose lives have been spent on or around the P-3 acknowledge that it is, indeed, an old platform. But because of its stability and flexibility, it remains not only viable, but productive in current world operations.

"I've been flying this platform since 1987," said Master Chief Aviation Maintenance (AW/NAC) Angel Acevedo, Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9)'s maintenance control chief. "ASW is extremely important with the introduction of

the acoustic suite. Upgrades on the inside ASW suite makes (the P-3) viable and it still plays a significant role today," he noted.

Despite the fact that these aircraft are older than nearly all the service members who fly and maintain them, VP-9 recently returned from a deployment in support of the global war on terrorism and had a significant role.

"The Orion gives the strike group commanders the ability to have one asset on station for an extended period of time," said Aviation Warfare Systems

Operator 1st Class (AW/NAC) Paul Mudge. He flies missions as part of VP-9's ASW aircrew tracking submarine and surface contacts. Mudge said the Orion has "long legs," meaning that it can stay in an operating area from six to eight hours. The aircraft's total flight time can last from 10 to 13 hours, giving aircrews the ability to fly missions hundreds of miles away from their flight line.

"When one plane is done, it can turn over the mission to another one of our aircraft. That gives the strike

group commander the ability to have 24-hour coverage in any situation," said Mudge.

While the upcoming P-8 has been tagged the multi-mission aircraft, the P-3 Orion has already assumed multi-mission responsibilities with the P-3C update III Anti-Surface Warfare Improvement Program (AIP).

"It goes through upgrades on what seems like a six-month basis with the suite itself and we've had seven software upgrades in the past five years," said

Acevedo.

The AIP upgrade provides improvements in command, control, communications, intelligence and survivability, including the Maverick missile system. Each station of the 11-person team used to stand alone, but now the different stations are networked – no longer relying on verbal communications to transfer knowledge.

Simply stated, this isn't your parents' P-3 Orion. While it still excels at ASW and ASuW missions using sonar buoys and sensors, the upgraded P-3 can fly ground reconnaissance and intelligence-gathering missions as well.

But technology can only take any warfare platform so far. When it comes down to it, the ability of the P-3 to stay viable until the MMA replaces it can be narrowed down to one thing – Sailors.

"Even though it's a little older, it stays relevant by the hardware and software upgrades," said Lt. j.g. Andrew Ward, a naval flight officer for VP-9. "But the one thing that keeps it so up-to-date is the expertise of its sensor operators."

Even though the P-3 Orion has outlasted other platforms by more than a decade, it will have to continue its proud tradition for a while longer. The P-8 prototype isn't scheduled for its first test flight until 2009 and isn't expected to hit the fleet until 2013.

By that time, the Orion ASW aircraft will have completed more than half a century of service.

After devoting 20 years of his life to maintaining the P-3, Acevedo thinks the Orion will be long remembered for its service when its time is done.

"I definitely think the P-3 will go down as the best ASW platform in Navy history," he said.

# Pearl Harbor Highlights



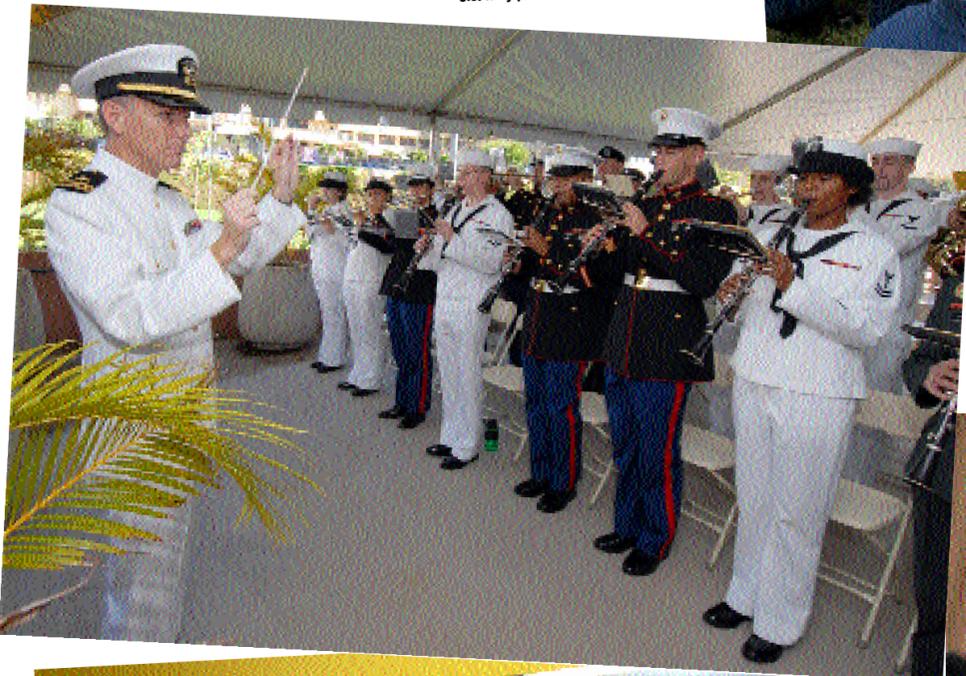
Aviation Maintenance Administrationman Senior Chief (AW/SW) Angel Milca of Patrol Squadron Four Seven (VP-47), directs maintenance personnel on proper tie down procedures during a competitive exercise known as the flight line rodeo. Four competing teams from VP-47's maintenance department competed in five events during the flight line rodeo for a custom designed belt buckle and bragging rights.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 (AW/NAC) Kevin S. Beauchamp



(Below) U.S. Pacific Fleet Band performs during an assumption-of-command ceremony for U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM). Adm. Timothy J. Keating assumed command of USPACOM from Lt. Gen. Daniel P. Leaf during the ceremony.

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



(Above) Sailors attached to Patrol Squadron Four Seven administer first aid in a mass casualty drill during a recent competitive training exercise known as the flight line rodeo. Four competing teams from VP-47's maintenance department competed in five events during the flight line rodeo.

U. S. Navy photo by MC2 Ian W. Anderson



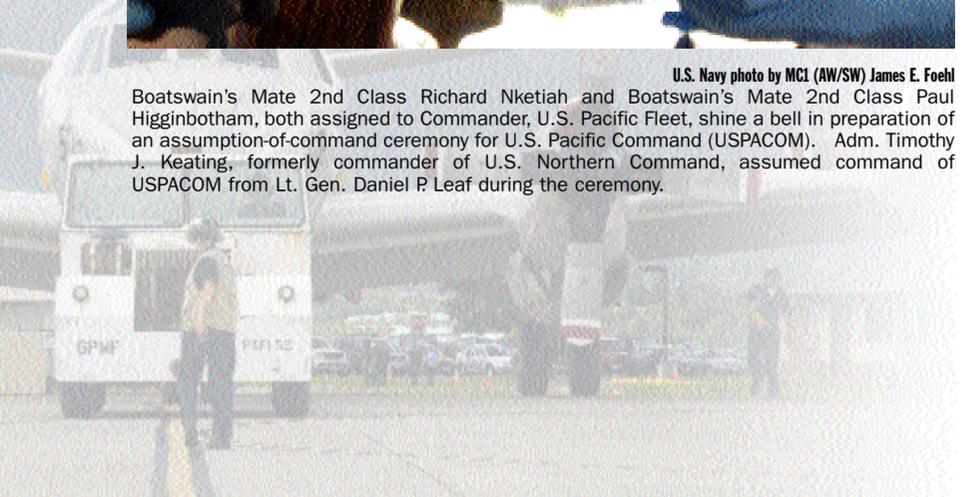
Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Richard Nketiah and Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Paul Higginbotham, both assigned to Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, shine a bell in preparation of an assumption-of-command ceremony for U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM). Adm. Timothy J. Keating, formerly commander of U.S. Northern Command, assumed command of USPACOM from Lt. Gen. Daniel P. Leaf during the ceremony.

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



Two children exercise on cardio equipment in the "Kids Fit" section of the Bloch Arena Fitness Center onboard Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The equipment in the "Kid's Fit" section is designed for child ages six to 14. Members of Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i (CNRH) Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) fitness staff participated in a two-day Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Youth Fitness Training seminar at Bloch Arena at Pearl Harbor. The seminars are being conducted throughout CNIC regions to promote a healthy youth lifestyle and to combat youth and child obesity.

U. S. Navy photo by MCSN Paul D. Honnick



# NIOC Sailors Adopt-a-Highway

Story and photo by  
Ensign Carrie Sanders

Navy Information Operations  
Command Hawai'i Public  
Affairs

The Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Hawai'i First Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA) donned bright orange safety T-shirts on March 6 and valiantly forged their way up and down Kunia Road, removing the area of trash and debris. Their efforts were in support of Hawai'i's Adopt-a-Highway Program

Eleven association members participated in the clean-up efforts. When their laborious efforts were complete, they dined on a lunch provided to them by their own FCPOA.

The NIOC FCPOA has been a recognized organization within the command for over a decade and the Hawai'i Adopt-A-Highway Program has been around since 1990. The FCPOA, sharing duties with the Junior Enlisted Organization, volunteered for the program a number of years ago to help keep the two-mile stretch from Kamehameha Highway/H-2 to the entrance of Homeland Security Operations Center (HSOC) clean and beautiful.

The organization's dedication to the project was recently tested when the stretch of road was awarded to another military unit. It took a year to get it back, but their persistence paid off.



A Sailor from NIOC removes debris from Kunia Road during a cleanup effort on March 6.

## Music to lunch by at PMRF

Members of the performance group Ethereal Harmony, or eh!, delivered a recital on March 23 for appreciative music fans at the Barking Sands Subway restaurant located on the U.S. Navy's Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai. Program director Helen Sina (far right) brought the group of aspiring musicians together to give them the opportunity to hone their abilities and broaden their repertoire. The performers are students at various



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Johnny Michael

schools including Chiefess School, Kaua'i High School and Amakahelei Middle School, Kapaa High School, and Kaua'i Community College.

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# VR-51 'Windjammers' adopt He'eia Elementary School



Sheena Alaiasa, He'eia Elementary School principal, and CMC Jonathan Baker hold newly-signed partnership certificates. VR-51 personnel and Dwight Uetake, He'eia vice principal, join in the school adoption ceremony.

Story and photo by  
Kathy Wooldridge

Navy Region Hawai'i School  
Liaison Officer

Fleet Logistic Support Squadron Five One (VR-51) adopted He'eia Elementary School in a ceremony at the school on March 14.

Sheena Alaiasa, school principal, and CMC Jonathan Baker signed and exchanged certificates formalizing their new Personal Excellence Partnership. Eleven members of VR-51 were present to celebrate the partnership's kickoff, which was conducted during a Student of the Quarter "Super Hawk" Assembly at the school.

Each award-winning student received a school certificate on stage and then proceeded down the line of Sailors and officers, receiving a handshake, a pat on the back, or a

"way to go!" from their new Navy partners.

Alaiasa was thrilled with the school's new partnership, saying, "It was a fantastic sight to have (the Sailors) standing there encouraging our students to aim high and work towards their dreams."

Although the partnership was established late in the school year, VR-51 personnel, led by Chief Yeoman Albert McCurdy, partnership coordinator, have made plans to begin volunteering at the school almost immediately.

Volunteers will assist with special activities for graduating sixth grade students and participate in beautification projects. Long-term plans include tutoring and coaching. "I am really excited to work with (VR-51) in helping our students enjoy their journey through learning," said Alaiasa.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ian W. Anderson

Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Brandon Duncan of Patrol Squadron Four Seven loads sonobuoys into the underside of a P-3C Orion during a training competition known as the flight line rodeo.

## Flight line cowboys wrangle new training methods

MC3 (NAC/AW) Kevin  
Beauchamp

Patrol Squadron 47

Patrol Squadron Forty Seven (VP-47) held its first ever flight line rodeo (FLR) on March 19 aboard Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe.

This FLR is the first of many in a new alternative monthly competitive training exercise designed to stimulate the minds of healthy, hardworking Sailors during the squadron's inter-deployment readiness cycle.

VP-47 is known to use alternative methods to promote a culture of fitness and great work ethics within the ranks.

"The flight line rodeo is a healthy way to promote a positive working environment. These events are a way for the command to recreate the synergy that was developed during their last deployment," stated Cmdr. Steven E. Deal, VP-47 executive officer.

The FLR consisted of five events: an aircraft daily inspection, aircraft repositioning, aircraft tie downs, casualty response and rescue, and an aircraft buoy load. Competing were four maintenance support teams with eight personnel per team.

"The skipper and I envision a work place where people jump out of bed and want to go to work," Deal said.

According to Lt. David Carroll, VP-47 assistant maintenance officer, the event was "designed to improve on deployment readiness through building of team camaraderie with effective real-world training scenarios. The flight line rodeo challenged our Sailors to respond to several aircraft, weapons handling, inspections and general emergency procedures under a competitive graded criterion."

Each of the events was graded based on speed of completion, safety and professional knowledge.

"Not only was the flight line rodeo fun and competitive, but it also gave the Sailors training without even realizing it was training. I think that having more of these in the future is a great idea," said Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class (AT2) Adam Bedard.

Maintenance Support Team Charlie was the overall winner of VP-47's inaugural FLR. The team consisted of Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class (AM1) Hieu Nguyen, Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Edward Barreto, AM2 Christopher Bautista, AT2 Adam Bedard, Aircrew Survival Equipmentman 3rd Class Chad Harvey, Aviation Electrician's Mate Airman Ryan Mills and Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Brandon Duncan.

# USS Lake Erie crew remembers fallen Sailor

Story and photo by  
Ensign Thomas Buck

USS Lake Erie (CG 70)  
Public Affairs

USS Lake Erie (CG 70) Sailors gathered on the ship's forecastle on March 9 to remember Operations Specialist Third Class (OS3) Zachary Johnson, a fellow crew member, just prior to the one year anniversary of his disappearance.

More than 100 crew members attended the service which was held while the ship was underway for pre-deployment activities. "These Sailors that are here all share something very special," said Lt. Cmdr. Mark Olson, Lake Erie's executive officer. "Petty Officer Johnson touched and inspired them while they served together and continues to do so today.

Our remembrance ceremony at sea helps us all renew our bond as shipmates and our dedication to those things that made him special to us all."

Johnson was lost on March 11, 2006 while swimming at Spitting Rocks near Hanauma Bay during a high tide. Hailing from Windsor, Colo., Johnson reported to Lake Erie in December 2004 after entering the Navy the previous March. With aspirations of one day becoming a Navy SEAL (sea, air, land), Johnson was well-known for physical excellence and professional appearance. "He held his standards above the rest, but he did it in a manner that didn't make people feel inferior," said Quartermaster 2nd Class (SW) Dillon Burns, a friend of Johnson."

The service began with command chaplain Lt. Dwayne

Jackson leading the crew in singing "Amazing Grace." After a time of prayer, several of Johnson's friends and shipmates publicly shared their memories of Johnson with the crew.

OS1 (SW) Ruben Gutierrez remembered Johnson's first time underway. "I was heading to the fantail and I spotted [Johnson] looking over the side, closing his eyes and smiling. I asked him what he was doing and he replied with a big smile, 'I'm just taking it all in.'" Gutierrez recalled Johnson as "a dedicated and fun-loving person...well-liked by all who knew him."

Gutierrez's sentiments are supported by, of all things, Johnson's personal MySpace Web page. It has been regularly updated since his disappearance, a testament to how much he is missed. "Several

guys get on there from time to time to leave messages," said OS1 (SW) Jonathan Dimauro. "I leave messages up there for him about once every couple of weeks. We wish he was here."

The service closed with a solemn rendition of "Eternal Father, Strong to Save," known to many as the "Navy Hymn." Moments later, the crew returned to its work in support of air detachment workups.

"It is important and consistent with the sense of honor that comes from serving in the Navy to take time away from our routine and remember Petty Officer Johnson," said Command Master Chief Herbert Ellis. "As a member of our crew, he was one of our family members. We will never forget him or the contributions he made to this ship."



Operations Specialist 1st Class (OS1) (SW) Ruben Gutierrez addresses his shipmates during a remembrance service for OS3 Zachary Johnson.

## USS Paul Hamilton transits western Pacific



USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer homeported at Pearl Harbor, transits the western Pacific on March 14 while on deployment as part of the USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group.

Photo by ITC Richard J. White

To report...

## Fraud, Waste or Abuse

Contact Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i Inspector General

✓ We are here to help

✓ You can remain anonymous

✓ Remember to use your chain of command first

HOTLINE:  
808-473-1782

EMAIL:  
prlh-cnrhig@navy.mil

## Students and parents should prepare for Hawai'i State Assessment Testing

Kathy Wooldridge

Navy Region Hawai'i School Liaison Officer

Hawai'i State Assessment (HSA) testing begins on April 9 for Hawai'i public school students in grades three, four, five, six, seven, eight and 10. This year, students will be tested in reading and mathematics. Science and social studies testing will be added for selected grades in future years.

HSA tests measure student progress in these subjects' standards or expectations. Test results provide clear information to parents and educators on how well students are meeting state standards. The assessment tests are critical to schools, as student performance and participation determines whether individual schools achieve adequate yearly progress (AYP) under No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

Parents can play a significant role in helping their children to be successful. Parents can ready their children for the tests by ensuring "that students arrive at school on time daily with a positive attitude," according to Elynne Chung, principal at Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School.

Robert McClelland, director of the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE) systems accountability office, reiterated the HSA Web site recommendations to parents: "Ensure that children have enough sleep and a healthy breakfast." Children should be encouraged to listen carefully to all test-taking directions and to ask questions about any directions that are unclear.

McClelland also suggested, "Tell children to stay calm and try to do their best. We have

seen that when parents really encourage their kids to do well and indicate how important the tests are, the students do seem to try harder."

Caroline Wong, principal at Moanalua Middle School, added, "Students can't do any studying for the test the night before so the best preparation is that they know they are going to give it their best shot."

Parents can help their students year-round by reading articles and discussing current and historical issues and events with their children. The more dialogue that takes place on issues and events "...the more the student is able to describe, explain, compare and contrast" - skills that are useful in writing a constructed response.

"HSA tests are critical to individual students as well. Parents and students should take these tests seriously," according to McClelland. Performance on the HSA does not affect students' individual grades; however, test results can be used as a tool to ensure that children receive quality instruction. Performance on the tests provides information on whether a student has learned the necessary skills and information for his/her grade level. Wong explained, "The tests are really important... because we want the most accurate assessment of (students') proficiency on the Hawai'i content and performance standards benchmark. The HSA results have helped teachers and schools really target needs areas and use school resources to overcome barriers to learning."

The test can also help to pinpoint areas in which students may need additional work, thereby ensuring that students get needed support and practice. Results may also identify

students with strong understanding of grade-level materials who might be ready for more challenging activities.

The following questions are examples of the two types of test questions used on the Hawai'i State Assessment tests - questions requiring a constructed response and a multiple choice response:

**Question:** What is the relationship between these two groups of numbers? (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10) and (4/9/07 - 4/13/07).

**Answer:** The numbers listed above represent the grades that will undergo Hawai'i State Assessment (HSA) testing in the public schools and the week that the testing will take place.

**Question:** What subject areas will be covered by the HSA this spring? A. mathematics and science, B. reading and mathematics, C. social studies and reading; D. PE and art.

**Answer:** B - reading and mathematics.

Parents can also view sample test questions at [www.hsaitems.org](http://www.hsaitems.org), a Web site dedicated to HSA testing information. The state Department of Education worked with the American Institutes for Research, this year's HSA creators, to develop the site so that "students, parents and educators can get a feel for what the tests involve," according to McClelland. The site offers sample constructed response and multiple choice questions and provides details of the skills and knowledge tested by each sample question and explanations of what makes an answer correct or incorrect.

"We always tell kids to at least try to answer every question, even the extended response questions," said Wong.

## Using NAVFAC expertise to reduce facilities inventory

Joel Ustare

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i

Now you see it, now you don't - the old Navy Exchange Uniform Shop (building 346) fronting Scott Pool, that is. Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawai'i (NAVFAC Hawai'i) crews recently completed its demolition as part of Navy Region Hawai'i's initiative to eliminate antiquated and deteriorated buildings.

The dollars that would have been wasted to repair and maintain the shop can be better used supporting the region's mission. The \$278,000 demolition project had its share of challenges, but NAVFAC Hawai'i's in-house work force was up to the task.

First, the project was directly adjacent to Scott Pool, which had to remain open. Second, there were known and unforeseen environmentally hazardous materials in the building. And third, heavy vehicle operators had to contend with the busy Pearl Harbor Boulevard traffic. "Environmentally, demolition work is more challenging than renovations," said Fran Pena, environmental protection specialist supervisor for NAVFAC Hawai'i.

Hazardous materials were tackled without long delays or change orders, and no site or vehicular accidents occurred due to the diligence and application of operational risk management (ORM) by the NAVFAC Hawai'i team.

Building 346, built in 1943, had termite damage, a leaky roof, dryrot and mold. There were also hazardous building materials like lead paint and other materials containing both asbestos and arsenic. Relocating the shop to building 1337 meant building 346 was no longer needed. The Navy is projected to save \$31,000 in annual maintenance and repair costs by permanently taking building 346 off the books.

NAVFAC Hawai'i's demolition team includes personnel from the various disciplines (facilities, transportation and environmental) involved in the demolition execution process and combines their expert-

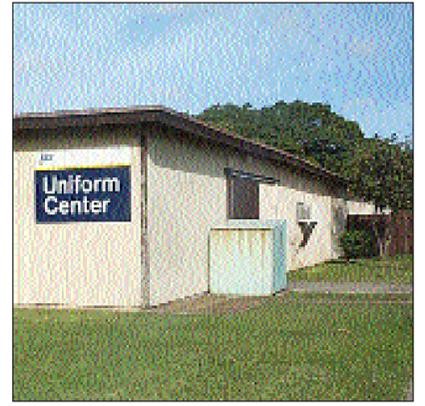


Photo by Reginald Chong

ise to formulate the best job plan possible. "Tearing buildings down is definitely a team effort," said Gary Collins, NAVFAC Hawai'i transportation supervisor in charge of the heavy equipment.

"From the guys in the water truck spraying down the site, the excavator operator picking apart a building, and environmental-remediation specialist on the ground - all must do their part for a job to be executed smoothly and safely," he added.

Each demolition project is unique and there are often requirements beyond taking the building down, such as renovating a building for the staff of the soon-to-be demolished building, the logistics of transporting heavy demolition equipment from Pearl Harbor to an outer-island and back, and paving or landscaping the grounds once the building is demolished.

With Navy Region Hawai'i's high customer satisfaction level on the demolition team's work, the team's improved internal processes and track record of completing demolition projects on time and within budget, NAVFAC Hawai'i's demolition team is proud of being the Navy's demolition service provider of choice in Hawai'i.