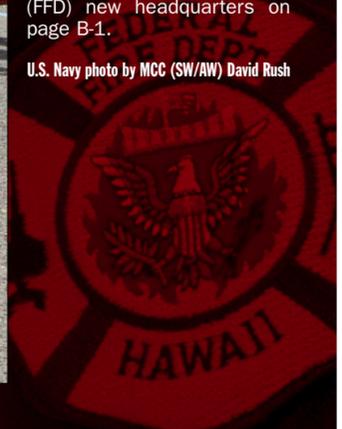


Federal Fire Department holds grand opening



A grand opening and Hawaiian blessing of the Federal Fire Department's (FFD) new headquarters and training facility, located at the former Personnel Support Detachment building near Naval Station Pearl Harbor, took place on June 7. Demonstrations of firefighter and rescue personnel in action, new firefighting apparatus and advanced life support (ALS) ambulance were some of the highlights of the event. The FFD provides fire protection and emergency medical services to Department of Defense installations on Oahu, with the exception of Hickam Air Force Base, and the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai. It also provides mutual aid to the City and County of Honolulu. See more about the grand opening of the Federal Fire Department's (FFD) new headquarters on page B-1.

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



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Ben A. Gonzales

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Mullen speaks to Sailors of the Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Pasadena (SSN 752) before making his way to the mess decks during a visit to Pearl Harbor on May 7.

SECDEF recommends Mullen as JCS

American Forces Press Service

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced June 8 that he will recommend that President Bush nominate Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen to replace Marine Gen. Peter Pace as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In a Pentagon news conference, Gates said he also will recommend Marine Gen. James E. Cartwright for the position of vice chairman. Cartwright is the commander of U.S. Strategic Command. Navy Adm. Edmund P. Giambastiani Jr., the current vice chairman, announced his decision to retire last week.

"I have become well

acquainted with Adm. Mullen over the last six months and believe he has the strategic insight, experience and integrity to lead America's armed forces," Gates said.

Gates said he intended to renominate Pace and Giambastiani, but after consulting with senators of both parties came to the following conclusions:

"Because General Pace has served as chairman and vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for the last six years, the focus of his confirmation process would have been on the past rather than the future," Gates said.

He said the confirmation process would have the possibility of being quite contentious.

"I am no stranger to con-

tentious confirmations and I do not shrink from them," Gates said. "However, I have decided at this moment in our history the nation, our men and women in uniform, and General Pace himself would not be well-served by a divisive ordeal in selecting the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff."

Pace will continue to serve as chairman until his term ends Sept. 30. He is the first Marine to hold the position.

Pace, a 1967 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, served as a rifle platoon leader in Vietnam and commanded at all levels of the Marine Corps. He was serving as the commander of U.S. Southern Command when

▼ See MULLEN, A-4

Pacific Fleet welcomes new fleet master chief

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief (SS/SW) Rick West passed the senior enlisted torch to 7th Fleet Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Tom Howard on June 5 during a brief, informal ceremony held at fleet headquarters at Pearl Harbor.

West, who has follow-on orders to Norfolk to assume duties as fleet master chief for U.S. Fleet Forces Command, became Pacific Fleet master chief in February 2005. For him, serving as the senior enlisted Sailor for the world's largest fleet command has been "nothing short of an amazing" experience.

"I cannot have been more blessed to be the master chief of the Pacific Fleet and I think it really is because of the people here," he said. "It's the people who make our Navy great. Being the fleet master chief has really opened my eyes to all the great things Sailors do every day. I am humbled."

West also spoke of the diverse roles Sailors are now playing in today's global environment, both in the global war on terrorism and in a world of humanitarian assistance.

"We aren't just a blue-water Navy any more. We are serving around the globe in whatever capacity our great nation needs us – on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa, Guantanamo Bay, the Philippines – pockets around the world and around the nation," West said. "But, we are more than just warfighters; we provide humanitarian assistance whenever needed – after earthquakes, mudslides and tsunamis. Bottom line, our Sailors serve in the greatest Navy in the world and we represent our great nation to the fullest. We are an 'any-mission, any-time, anywhere' Navy. Hooyah warriors!"

During his tenure in Norfolk, West plans to carry with him the same expectations and challenges to the Sailors serving in the Fleet Forces Command area of responsibility.

"No matter what fleet we serve in, a Sailor is a Sailor," West said. "We are one Navy and I am looking forward to working again in the Atlantic AOR [area of responsibility] and visiting those great Sailors."

Prior to his new assignment as Pacific Fleet master chief, Howard served as commander, U.S. 7th Fleet command master chief, embarked aboard USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19), forward-deployed to Yokosuka, Japan.

A previous battleship Missouri Sailor,



U.S. Navy photo by MCCS Melissa Weatherspoon

U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief (SS/SW) Rick West (right) congratulates his successor, former 7th Fleet Master Chief (SW/AW) Tom Howard, at the fleet headquarters building at Pearl Harbor.

Howard is being assigned in Hawai'i for the first time in his career.

"I'm humbled and honored to represent the Sailors throughout the Pacific Fleet and plan to maintain the course West has charted," Howard said. "We serve in arguably the most potentially volatile AOR in the world and we must ensure our Sailors and service members assigned are not only prepared to fight, but also maintain the situational awareness of their surroundings."

Howard explained what his situational awareness concerns were for the Sailors serving in the Pacific Fleet.

"Of primary concern, which affects virtually everything, is off-duty conduct," He added. "We have to make certain that all Sailors understand their individual responsibility and that their personal conduct affects everything from maintaining manning levels to host nation relations through the Pacific."



New commander takes over leadership of NAVFAC See page A-2



USS Reuben James conducts PASSEX with Japanese ships See pages A-6



FISC hosts Momilani Elementary School visit to Pearl Harbor See page A-6



Federal Fire Department hosts open house See page B-1

New commander takes over leadership of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific

Don Rochon

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific

On a beautiful, bright Hawaiian morning, Capt. Michael A. Giorgione relieved Rear Adm. Christopher J. Mossey as commander of Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific at a change-of-command ceremony June 8 at NAVFAC Pacific headquarters.

Adm. Robert F. Willard, U.S. Pacific Fleet commander, was the guest speaker at the event. He noted that the importance of our naval presence in the

Asia-Pacific region is unquestioned. "Not so obvious, however, are the tremendous engineering and infrastructure requirements of a naval force operating from more than 100 million square miles of ocean here in the Pacific," said Willard. "And Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific is directly responsible to provide the support infrastructure necessary for these operations."

Mossey spoke about the three "hats" that he wore and thanked the men and women who served under him from NAVFAC Pacific, from his Pacific Fleet civil engineer

staff, and from the Seabees whom he works with as deputy commander, First Naval Construction Division Pacific. "I can't imagine that any naval officer, who serves here at Pearl Harbor, in command, and on the United States Pacific Fleet staff, could not have it be the highlight of his or her career," he said.

Giorgione was nominated in April for appointment to the rank of rear admiral and assumes command of approximately 3,000 military and civilian men and women who work for NAVFAC Pacific. He was NAVFAC Pacific's vice commander from 2003 to

2004. "It's an unbelievable honor to be back here in Hawai'i, on this stage, with this command, and with the Pacific Fleet," said Giorgione. "Adm. Mossey is a true gentleman and has always been very appreciative of the people who work for him. It's a great honor to follow in his footsteps and assume his command."

A native of Pittsburgh, Pa., Giorgione was commissioned in 1981 through the U.S. Naval Academy. He received a bachelor of science degree in ocean engineering from the United States Naval Academy in 1981, a master of science degree in civil engineering from Pennsylvania State

University in 1988, an executive education certificate from Duke University in 2002, and is a graduate of the Defense Language Institute (Italian) in Monterey, Calif. His most recent assignment was commanding officer, NAVFAC Southwest and regional engineer, Navy Region Southwest.

Giorgione is a qualified Seabee combat warfare officer and a member of the acquisition professional community. His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (five awards), Navy Commendation Medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, and the Navy Marine

Corps Achievement Medal (two awards). He is a registered professional engineer in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mossey assumed command of NAVFAC Pacific on Oct. 20, 2006. During his tenure, he oversaw the integration of Navy Public Works and Environmental departments into NAVFAC Pacific's facilities engineering commands. In addition, during this time the command was named the U.S. Air Force's Design Agent of the Year for 2007. Mossey is leaving for Norfolk, Va., to take over command of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic.



U.S. Navy photo by Richard Saltzman

From left, Chaplain (Cmdr.) Steven Unger, staff chaplain, Navy Region Hawai'i; Adm. Robert Willard, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Rear Adm. Christopher Mossey, Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering (NAVFAC Pacific); and Capt. Michael Giorgione, prospective commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific, salute the colors during the NAVFAC Pacific change of command ceremony on June 8.

Hawaii Navy News Editorial

The love of a Father for a Navy Son

(Editor's note: The following letter to the editor was submitted to Hawaii Navy News (HNN) by Steven Johnson, whose son Zachary has been missing since March 11, 2006. Zachary disappeared while swimming near Spitting Rock and was never recovered. Johnson wrote to HNN to express his thanks to the crew of USS Lake Erie, the ship to which his son was assigned, which held a memorial service on March 9 for Zachary.)

I am the father to Petty Officer 3rd Class Zachary Ryan Johnson who went missing March 11, 2006 while swimming off Spitting Rock and was never recovered.

There have only been a few days since that fateful afternoon when I have been strong enough to revisit the past and seek answers to the death of my son. Why, is a question I ask over and over with no answers forthcoming, and the pain is still prevalent as if it was yesterday. I read the article that was published March 30 [in HNN] about Zachary and was touched by the thoughtfulness of the crew of USS Lake Erie (CG 70).

Zachary is gone and, as strange as this may sound, I felt him leave us that fateful day. I can't explain it, but it was a feeling I have never known before and it came to me even before I knew about what had happened that day. Although the feeling I speak of was a feeling of "calm," I remember it to be a feeling unlike I have ever experienced before and even though I didn't know what, I knew that something wasn't right.

Zachary's body was never recovered and I never got to say goodbye to my son the way I should have. It is for this reason that I hold out futile, yet torturous, hope that someday he

is going to walk around the corner of the garage and up to the front porch with the swagger in his walk and that distinct grin on his face, and say "Hi Dad, I'm home."

As a retired Navy veteran and the father of Zachary, I can, and with much pride, say he was special in many ways. We talked on many occasions before he went to the Navy and as a parent and as a chief, I would quiz him to make sure he was doing what he wanted and believed in. Without hesitation, his conviction to serving his country and the Navy was never wavering.

Zachary knew from his sophomore year in high school (Windsor High) what he wanted and being Zachary's father, my chest was bursting with pride and admiration. I remember when Zachary was in boot camp and as an RCPO (recruit chief petty officer) to his assigned company division 04-167, he would never complain about being tired or how he was endlessly helping his shipmates study or provide guidance to any of the other tasks they were assigned.

That's what Zachary was about; it wasn't about him, it was about helping others that drove Zach. Zachary was a true leader and his leadership was natural for him. All who have served in the military have seen it - leadership and charisma that is not obtainable from books, but God-given. Even after only serving for three years, he was so much more of

a leader than I was after 23 years. Yet I couldn't have been more proud of him, proud of the man, the Sailor and the son he had become.

Zachary could have chosen to go to college and become successful in any profession he wanted, he was that gifted. You told Zach once and he understood it. Yet Zach's heart was set on becoming a Navy SEAL and once his mind was made up, there was little hope of changing it. Zach had a calling to serve his country and to protect those who could not protect themselves. Zachary was a "Sailor's Sailor." It was in his heart and it was in the level of confidence that he projected and, without even trying, he made you know it. He was that sure of himself - he was that kind of a man and that kind of a Sailor.

It's been over a year since the tragedy and there hasn't been a waking hour that I don't think about him and miss him tremendously. The pain of losing a child is not known by many, but of those who have endured this loss understand when I say it is the few days that are good that you miss your child one the most. My daughter just graduated from high school and the get together after the graduation was bittersweet because I know Zachary wouldn't have missed it and would have been so proud of her. These are the days that are the hardest; these are the days when you miss the most.

Without question, the Navy lost an outstanding Sailor with endless potential and I lost a glorious son who made me so proud. I love my son no less today than before that tragic day, the day that I can't find an answer for. I guess God loved and needed him more than us, and yet I am so thankful for the time I had with him

and to have been Zachary's father.

The article that was in the Navy Region Hawaii News Stand on "USS Lake Erie crew remembers fallen Sailor" released on the 30 March 2007 [the article was published in Hawaii Navy News and also on Navy Newsstand] was an article that has much meaning to me and I wish to express my thanks to the "News Stand" for publishing that article. I also wish to express my thanks to Ensign Buck and the crew of USS Lake Erie for their thoughtfulness in remembering Zachary. Fathers Day is upon us again and it's the phone call I will not receive that makes the day so painful, yet the crew of the USS Lake Erie - without even knowing it - has given me a

wonderful Fathers Day gift after all. You remembered your shipmate and my son. To all of you who knew my son and to all of you who remember him, "Thank you and may God bless you."

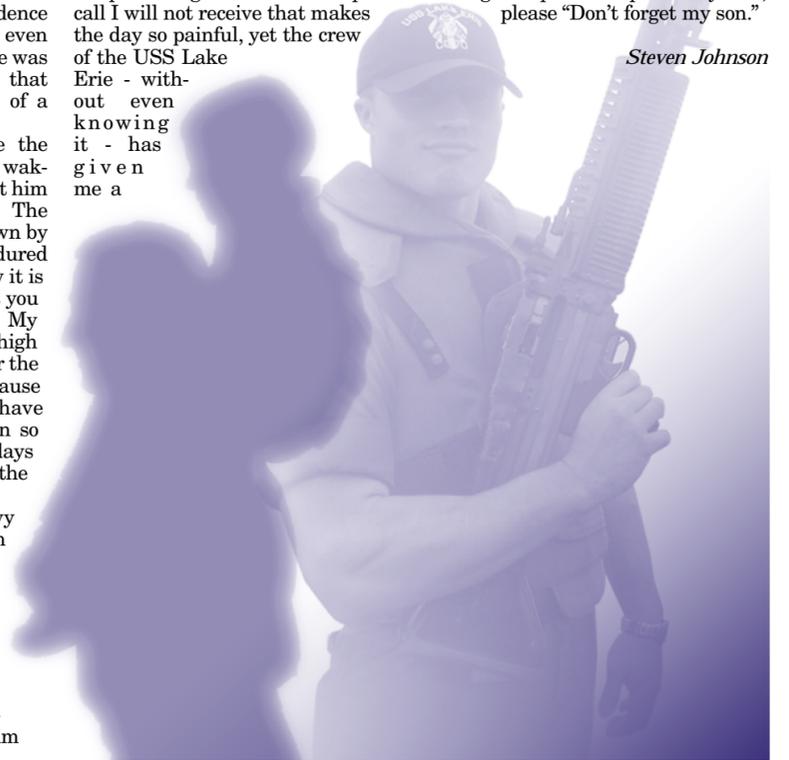
I believe today, Zachary is right there in Heaven, leading those in who have fallen for this country, not in a capacity we understand, but in a way his God and "now" commanding officer asks of him, and I'm sure there is a grin on his face and oh yes, that confident swagger.

USS Lake Erie has a saying, "Don't give up the ship." I only ask, please "Don't forget my son."

Steven Johnson



Petty Officer 3rd Class Zachary Ryan Johnson



Flag Day and National Flag Week, 2007

A proclamation by the President of the United States of America

The American flag represents freedom and has been an enduring symbol of our nation's ideals since the earliest days of our nation. Wherever it flies, we are reminded of America's unity and in the great cause of liberty and justice for all.

Two hundred and thirty years ago, the Second Continental Congress officially made the Stars and Stripes the symbol of America. The founders declared that the 13 stars gracing the original flag represented "a new constellation," just as America embodied new hope and new light for mankind. Today, our flag continues to convey the bold spirit of a proud and determined nation.

Americans have long flown our flag as a sign of patriotism and gratitude for the blessings of liberty. We also pledge allegiance to the flag as an expression of loyalty to our country and to the belief in the American creed of freedom and justice. By displaying and showing respect for the flag, we honor the ideals upon which our democracy rests and show appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Flying the flag can also be an expression of thanks for the men and women who have served and sacrificed in defense of our freedoms - from the early patriots of the Continental Army to the courageous Americans in uniform who are defending those freedoms around the world today.

During Flag Day and National Flag Week, we honor Old Glory and reflect on the foundations of our freedom. As

citizens of this great nation, we are proud of our heritage, grateful for our liberty, and confident in our future.

To commemorate the adoption of our flag, the Congress, by joint resolution approved Aug. 3, 1949, as amended (63 Stat. 492), designated June 14 of each year as "Flag Day" and requested that the president issue an annual proclamation calling for its observance and for the display of the flag of the United States on all federal government buildings. The Congress also requested, by joint resolution approved June 9, 1966, as amended (80 Stat. 194), that the president issue annually a proclamation designating the week in which June 14 occurs as "National Flag Week" and calling upon all citizens of the United States to display the flag during that week.

Now, therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 14, 2007, as Flag Day and the week beginning June 10, 2007, as National Flag Week. I direct the appropriate officials to display the flag on all federal government buildings during that week, and I urge all Americans to observe Flag Day and National Flag Week by flying the Stars and Stripes from their homes and other suitable places. I also call upon the people of the United States to observe with pride and all due ceremony those days from Flag Day through Independence Day, also set aside by the Congress (89 Stat. 211), as a time to honor America, to celebrate our heritage in public gatherings and activities, and to publicly recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Flag waves over USS Arizona, Dec. 7, 1950



Adm. Arthur W. Radford, USN, Commander in Chief, Pacific, and CinC, Pacific Fleet, leads the procession during memorial services on board the wreck of USS Arizona (BB 39) on Dec. 7, 1950 on the ninth anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

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

Hawaii Navy News

Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i
Rear Adm. T. G. Alexander

Chief of Staff, Navy Region Hawai'i
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

Hawaii Navy News is a free unofficial paper published every Thursday by The Honolulu Advertiser, 605 Kapiolani Blvd., Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813, a private firm in no way connected with DoD, the U. S. Navy or Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i.

All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com World Wide Web address: www.hawaii.navy.mil.

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication pri-

marily for members of the Navy and Marine Corps military services and their families in Hawaii. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U. S. Government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps and do not imply endorsement thereof.

The civilian publisher, The Honolulu Advertiser, is responsible for commercial advertising, which may be purchased by calling (808) 521-9111.

The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products and services advertised by the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps, Commander, Navy

Region Hawai'i or the Honolulu Advertiser.

Everything advertised in this paper shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

A confirmed violation of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source.

Hawaii Navy News is delivered weekly to Navy housing units and Navy installations throughout Oahu. Housing residents may contact the publisher directly at (808) 538-NEWS (538-6397) if they wish to discontinue home delivery.

USS Hopper 'ULTRA' certified

USS Hopper (DDG 70)

The Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i-based, Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) recently completed the formal portion of the unit level training phase of the Fleet Response Training Plan (FRTTP).

The purpose of the FRTTP is to deliver to the combatant commanders, well-trained ships, capable of conducting sustained combat operations at sea. Completion of the unit level training phase is a significant milestone in this process and marks a point where focused training on integrated strike group operations can begin. The end result is a "surge ready ship" able to deploy in support of national tasking.

Hopper was the first ship on the Pearl Harbor waterfront to certify or self-assess in all warfare areas during the unit level training readiness assessment certification/engineering (ULTRA C/E).

The ULTRA C/E events are evaluated by subject matter experts assigned to the Afloat Training Group (ATG) Middle Pacific. The emphasis of ULTRA is on training team and watch team development, individual qualifications, and exercises in basic command and control, weapons employment, navigation, seamanship, damage control, engineering, and

flight operations. Through two grueling weeks at the end of April and the beginning of May, the crew effectively demonstrated the ability to respond to a wide range of casualties and scenarios. Her training teams were evaluated on their ability to accurately self-assess the ship's training. Hopper met certification criteria in six warfare areas and self assessed in the remaining 10.

Lt. Vic Sheldon, Hopper's chief engineer, was impressed with the level of dedication he saw in the Sailors. "The ship's schedule provided an opportunity to complete a lot of drills and evolutions at sea; that set both of our watch sections up for success at ULTRA E. All the Sailors were motivated to be the first ship on the waterfront to certify so early. They worked extra hard to maintain a high standard of material readiness through ULTRA C/E."

According to Lt. Joe Torres, Hopper's operations officer, the ship's "steady strain approach to training paid huge dividends at ULTRA C and E. Detailed planning and tracking of all requirements coupled with strong watchstander and training team proficiency ensured we were all well prepared prior to the Afloat Training Group's arrival onboard at the end of April. Self-assessing in all warfare areas at ULTRA-C

and certifying at ULTRA-E is quite an achievement and all crew members are justifiably proud."

Normally, after a ship completes ULTRA C/E, they are required to conduct follow-on training and one final assessment in order to evaluate a ship's ability to conduct simultaneous combat missions and survive complex casualties under stressful conditions. This is known as the final evaluation problem, or more commonly, FEP.

Based on Hopper's observed performance during ULTRA C/ E, ATG MIDPAC recommended that no further evaluation was required. Hopper once again had the distinct honor to be the first ship to be declared "surge ready," without having to complete the formal final evaluation problem.

Certification does not signal the end of Hopper's training. According to Cmdr. Jeff James, commanding officer, "We can now focus on more complex problems of an integrated nature. We can really flex our watchteams to think through challenging problems, better enabling them to respond to a wide range of real world threats." Hopper's crew is now busy preparing for integrated training with the USS Tarawa (LHA 1) Expeditionary Strike Group in advance of her upcoming deployment.

CNO Mullen: Will lead U.S. Armed Forces

Continued from A-1

nominated to be the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 2001. He took office weeks after the 2001 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

In 2005, he was nominated to be the chairman. The chairman serves as the principle military advisor to the president, secretary of defense and the National

Security Council.

Mullen is a 1968 graduate of the Naval Academy. He is surface-warfare qualified and has commanded three ships: USS Noxabee (AOG 56), USS Goldsborough (DDG 20) and the USS Yorktown (CG 48). As a flag officer, he commanded the George Washington Battle Group and served as the commander of U.S. 2nd Fleet/NATO Striking

Fleet Atlantic.

Gates said that Pace has served as a Marine for more than 40 years.

"He deserves the deepest thanks of the American people for a lifetime of service to our country and for his leadership," Gates said. "I have thoroughly enjoyed working with him, trust him completely, and value his candor and willingness to speak his mind."

Russell officers practice ship driving

Ensign Kathleen Ball and Ensign Theresa Donnelly

*USS Russell (DDG 59)
Public Affairs*

Officers onboard USS Russell (DDG 59) recently practiced their ship handling skills at a week-long bridge resource management (BRM) school located at Ford Island.

The school focused on bridge watch team skills such as teamwork, leadership, decision-making and resource management and incorporated this into the larger picture of organizational management. BRM also addressed the emotional aspects of bridge watch standing such as stress, attitudes during the watch, and risk.

The class was broken down into two separate parts: classroom instruction and the virtual bridge trainer. Classroom topics included bridge equipment, communications, voyage planning, electronic navigation, and specific case studies. The case studies allowed the junior officers (JO) to obtain an in depth examination of many real life shipboard collisions and groundings.

Ensign Danielle Flannery said, "The case study discussions were beneficial in learning errors that have happened in the past and how to prevent error chains from happening in the future."

The navigation, seamanship and shiphandling trainer (NSST) resembled a typical destroyer or cruiser, complete with helm and lee helm controls, radar display, electronic chart table, and optical sight camera.

"The virtual bridge trainer gives an accurate impression of what its like to conduct restricted water transit, manage multiple contacts, and handle problems as they arise," said Ensign Tim Letts.

The trainer celebrated its ribbon-cutting ceremony this



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Theresa Donnelly

Ensign Danielle Flannery and Lt. Mark Atkinson simulate watchstanding procedures using the navigation, seamanship and shiphandling trainer (NSST) located at Afloat Training Group, Middle Pacific (ATG MIDPAC) on Ford Island.

past March and has been an invaluable tool for many of the Pearl Harbor-based ships by giving Sailors the chance to replicate many real life scenarios that one would encounter standing watch on the bridge. If mistakes are made, the team can work through the problems and then approach the scenario from a different perspective leading to a desired outcome.

The trainer was remarkably realistic and provided Russell junior officers with the opportunity to take control and practice evolutions in a virtual environment. If a mistake was made, the problem was fixed by simply restarting the event. The program can be used to "instant replay" the evolution and instructors can provide students with constructive feedback.

The virtual ship trainer was helpful because it promoted teamwork and multitasking; the stress-level was high and JOs had to work together to solve the problem.

During restricted maneuvering evolutions underway, the commanding officer and department heads were in control and provided junior officers with recommenda-

tions. In the virtual trainer, however, JOs no longer have a crutch; they must make their own decisions and work as a team.

The wardroom of Russell had the opportunity to fine tune their bridge watch skills. However, not only ships' officers benefit from this trainer.

Chief Quartermaster Scott Ramsey, an instructor with Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific (ATG MIDPAC), emphasized that each commanding officer can

schedule a time to bring all members of the bridge team to work together including the quartermaster, helmsman and lee helmsman, who play critical roles in the organization of the bridge watch team. "We have over 80 ports total that we can upload into the system. We can let the bridge teams come in and practice whatever they would like to do," said Ramsey.

"It was impressive to be able to stand in the trainer and watch a simulation of a real life collision from the bridge perspective of one of the ship's involved. There's no better way to show just how fast a typical at sea situation can go bad," said Letts.

Pearl Harbor Highlights



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 John W Ciccarelli

Special Operations 1st Class Andrew Coviello shows students from Momilani Elementary School one of the weapons that Navy special forces teams use in the field. The students were given an educational tour of Pearl Harbor and its history along with a demonstration of how some of the equipment works when the children visited Fleet and Industrial Supply Center on May 27.



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

Lt. Michael Meador, assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), is awarded the Bronze Star Medal by Capt. David D. Bigelow, chief of staff, Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, for exceptional meritorious service during an individual augmentee deployment to Al Rustamiyah, Iraq. Meador served as a battalion electronic warfare officer in support of Multi-National Corps-Iraq and operated with Joint Crew Composite Squadron One, U.S. Army 519th and 759th Military Police Battalions.

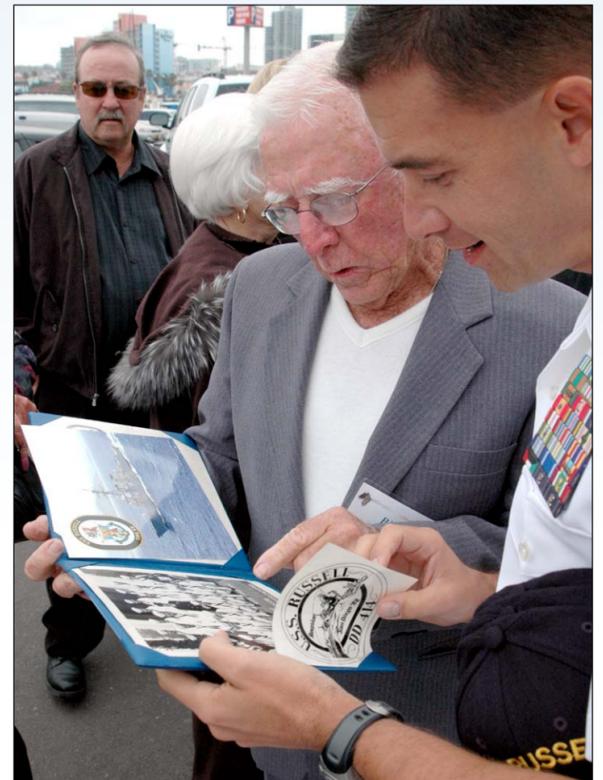


U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Stephen Rowe

USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) and the Pearl Harbor-based guided missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) take on fuel from USNS Guadalupe (T-AO 200) in the western Pacific Ocean on May 17. Kitty Hawk is at sea after a four-month maintenance period in Yokosuka, Japan.

(Below) Fast combat support ship USNS Rainier (T-AOE 7) conducts a replenishment at sea (RAS) with the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) and the Pearl Harbor-based guided missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90). Nimitz Carrier Strike Group (CSG) is deployed in support of maritime security operations (MSO).

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN David L. Smart



U.S. Navy photo by Cmdr. Jane Campbell

Retired Chief Signalman William Schwarz shows Cmdr. Brad Cooper, USS Russell (DDG 59) commanding officer, a photo from his days on active duty. Schwarz, a Battle of Midway veteran, served aboard USS Russell (DD 414). The meeting between the two USS Russell Sailors took place before the start of the Battle of Midway 65th anniversary commemoration ceremony, aboard the ex-USS Midway (CV 41) on June 2.





Students from Momilani Elementary School gaze at the wall of names at the USS Arizona Memorial of the Sailors who perished Dec. 7, 1941. Fleet Industrial Supply Center Pearl Harbor hosted the trip on May 27 and spent the day with the students from Momilani, providing an educational tour of Pearl Harbor and its history.

FISC hosts Momilani Elementary School visit to Pearl Harbor

**Story and photo by
MC3 John Ciccarelli**

*Fleet Public Affairs Center
Detachment Hawai'i*

Fleet Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Pearl Harbor spent the day with students from Momilani Elementary School and provided them an educational tour of Pearl Harbor and its history.

Students were given a first-class tour of USS Arizona Memorial and the Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island. At the Arizona Memorial, students tossed flowers into the water in memory of the Sailors who perished Dec. 7, 1941 during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and viewed the wall that bears their names. Afterward, they proceeded to the aviation museum where students were given an up close tour of aircraft used during World War II.

“What’s important is that we are

able to help students by giving them a chance to come out to Pearl Harbor and see what the Arizona represents,” said Supply Specialist 2nd Class (AW) Dieu Ngo. “You’re able to give the kids something they can learn from, physically being able to see with their own eyes what some people only get to read about in books.”

FISC and Momilani have partnered to provide educational resources for Momilani since 1999. Their relationship started with a reading tutor program for the first grade, continuing with other educational events, including a weekly physical readiness program, clean-up day and events for drug free awareness day.

“We have really transitioned this into a partnership that not only helps us by enjoying working with the kids, but by letting the kids get out and learn for themselves about this country and its history,” said Cmdr. Stephen M. Gill, FISC’s executive officer.

“What’s important is that FISC reaches out and interacts with the children. The children feel very comfortable with men and women in uniform,” said Doreen Higa, principal of Momilani Elementary School. “I want our students to feel the importance of having heroes in their lives.”

The faculty of Momilani believes that all children can learn; therefore, the staff strives to improve the instructional strategies and curriculum to challenge every child including the academically talented, the disabled and at-risk students. Momilani was selected as a Blue Ribbon School for its second time.

After all of the events, the students were treated by FISC to lunch with the Arizona as a backdrop. After lunch, the volunteers played kickball, baseball and other sports with the students until they thanked them and waved good-bye to the men and women of FISC as they departed Pearl Harbor.

USS Reuben James conducts PASSEX with Japanese ships



Ensign Michael Vallianos steps off a Japanese helicopter after spending the night visiting the Japanese ship JS Kurama during a passing exercise.

**Story and photo by
Ensign Fallon Rossi**

*USS Reuben James (FFG 57) Public
Affairs*

The ever-ready crew of USS Reuben James got underway on May 31 to conduct an exercise with three Japanese ships visiting Pearl Harbor. With the Japanese DDG Chokai in tactical command of the group, the four warships conducted a PASSEX [passing exercise] in which they operated together throughout the Hawai'i operational area.

After the maneuvering exercises were accomplished, the warships came together in close formation for a unique photo opportunity. A Japanese helicopter took pictures of the ships and provided Reuben James with the photographs.

In addition to working closely with the Japanese ships, Reuben James hosted three Japanese sailors onboard and an officer liaison from Reuben James was sent to each of their ships. The opportunity provided the liaisons with an excellent means to observe foreign operations firsthand, as well as experience the lifestyle and culture of a foreign navy. Ensign Michael Vallianos spent the evening on the JS Kurama and said that the experience

was exciting and memorable.

“The sailors of the JS Kurama were exceptionally hospitable. I felt like an honored diplomat throughout my visit. From the food to the living arrangements, the captain and crew went out of their way to ensure I was always comfortable and relaxed,” said Vallianos. “The cleanliness and readiness of the crew of the JS Kurama was extremely impressive and the sailors clearly took pride in their mission. As I prepared to depart, I was presented with multiple gifts, which I now treasure as a constant reminder of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. This visit was a pleasurable learning experience and I am honored to have sailed the high seas with these Sailors,” he added.

Later the liaisons hitched a free ride in the Japanese helicopter to return to the Reuben James.

Overall, the exercises carried out just north of the Big Island demonstrated a spirit of cooperation. The photos taken in close formation and the presence of foreign liaisons on each ship seemed symbolic of diplomatic ties between the two nations. The Chief of Naval Operations has a vision of a 1,000 ship coalition Navy and Reuben James has taken some steps toward Adm. Mike Mullen’s goals.