

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

REMEMBER, REFLECT

"Navigator"

HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

September 14, 2012

www.cnmc.navy.mil/hawaii www2.hickam.af.mil

Volume 3 Issue 36

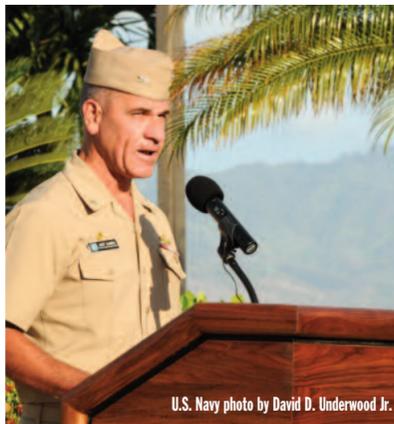
PATRIOT DAY AT JBPHH



Department of Defense photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth



Department of Defense photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth



U.S. Navy photo by David D. Underwood Jr.



U.S. Navy photo by David D. Underwood Jr.

(Top, center) Navy Capt. Jeffrey James, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) commander, gives remarks to service members and civilian first responders near the "Missing Man Memorial" at JBPHH, during a Sept. 11 Patriots Day ceremony to commemorate the 11th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, Pentagon and Flight 93. (Above) Navy Culinary Specialist 1st Class Richard Cravens and Air Force Airman 1st Class Thomas Bachtel, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam honor guardsmen, prepare to raise the colors to half staff at the "Missing Man Memorial" at the Patriots Day ceremony. (Above right) Musician 3rd Class Geoff Scheusner, Pacific Fleet Band musician, plays "Taps."

Hickam Elementary students remember 9/11

Story and photo by MC2 Tiarra Fulgham

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Detachment Hawaii

Students and staff of Hickam Elementary School along with firefighters from the Federal Fire Department marched around the lawn in front of Freedom Tower at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) for the fourth annual 9/11 Remembrance Parade honoring the fallen victims of the 9/11 attacks. Before the youngsters headed out for their march, the Radford High School marching band played the National Anthem.

Training Corps color guard led the students in their walk as they waved flags, shouted "U-S-A" and shook hands with service members and thanked them for their service. "Being a dad of a kindergartener, I am extremely proud to see all the kids out here on this beautiful day," said Maj. Craig Swierzbis of 13th Air Force. "It makes me feel really humbled just to know most of them don't know what this day is about, but the fact they are out here learning about it. They are the future of a great nation. Hopefully learning about it at this young age, they will learn more about the lessons we have learned since then



Students and staff from Hickam Elementary School parade in front of Freedom Tower on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam as part of their fourth annual remembrance of the attacks on 9/11. (Additional photos on page A-5).

and make our great nation better," he said. The children were sup-

ported and cheered on by parents and friends along the sidelines.

"Honoring the fallen victims who lost their lives in the terrorists

attacks, and also recognizing the service men and women who have defended our freedom ever since that day, helps us in our busy lives reflect on the moment, kind of brings us back to that time, and for the kids, many who were not even born yet," said John Erickson, principal of Hickam Elementary School.

Even as the kids became tired after their march, their spirits were still high as they ended the assembly singing "God Bless America."

"It was a great day. Everyone had a good time. There were a lot of smiling faces, a lot of happy kids, a lot of American flags flying," said Erickson. "You can't ask for a better day."

Runners honor 9/11 victims at Siller Tunnel to Towers event

Story and photo by Fire Inspector Angela Sanders

Federal Fire Department

Several hundred military personnel, members of the Federal Fire Department, the Honolulu Fire Department and area residents gathered Sept. 9 to participate in the second annual Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers run.

The five-kilometer Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers stretched from the entrance of the Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam (JBPHH) Ford Island Bridge and back.

The annual 5K run is named after Stephen Siller, a New York City (NYC) firefighter who was on his way home when he heard of the hor-



Federal Fire Department personnel, Honolulu Fire Department members, military personnel and area residents participated in the Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam Tunnel to Towers 9/11 five-kilometer run Sept. 9 at the Ford Island Bridge. (Additional photo on page A-5).

rible incident at the World Trade Center. He immediately turned around, headed back to the firehouse, and grabbed his firefighting

gear. When he reached the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, it was closed due to traffic. He then parked his truck, put

on his gear which weighed more than 65 pounds, and ran approximately three miles to the World Trade Center. He was one of 343 first responders who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001. In his memory, the Stephen Siller Foundation was created.

Every year since 2002, NYC participants retrace Stephen Siller's final steps through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel into Manhattan toward the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center. The annual five-kilometer run event which initially started in NYC has now been held each year in several cities across the country and has become a nationwide event.

This year marked the second year

See SILLER RUN, A-2

U.S. Navy
Congratulations to new chief petty officers!

Chief petty officer selectees from Navy Region Hawaii will receive their anchors and be promoted to chief petty officers during a ceremony at 10 a.m. today at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Clean & Green



Keeping our bases clean and green is everyone's responsibility See page A-3



Pouhala Marsh and base cleanup See pages B-3 and B-5

USS Louisville holds change of command

MC2 Steven Khor

Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs Office

A change of command ceremony was held Sept. 6 on the Los Angeles-class submarine the USS Louisville (SSN 724) at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Cmdr. Lee P. Sisco, commanding officer of Louisville, was relieved by Cmdr. Robert D. Figgs.

Guest speaker Capt. Douglas G. Perry, chief of staff for the Joint Force Development Directorate on the joint staff and Sisco's former commanding officer and mentor, praised Sisco for his exceptional performance while in command of Louisville.

"Lee, you've done an



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Sean Furey
Cmdr. Lee P. Sisco is piped ashore after being relieved as commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Louisville (SSN 724) by Cmdr. Robert D. Figgs.

immense service to the country. We are in your debt, and you have a very bright future in front of you," said Perry.

Sisco said he was honored to have the opportunity to command Louisville and acknowledged that the majority of the submarine's success during his time as commanding officer was because of the crew and their hard work.

"I know I drove you hard and was demanding, but you listened to what I asked," said Sisco to his assembled crew. "We tried to do things the right way, and we did the right things."

Following his remarks, Sisco was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his exceptional performance as commanding officer from January 2010 to September 2012.

As Figgs assumed com-

mand of Louisville, he addressed the crew about the future. "To the officers and men of Louisville, I have had the opportunity to observe you operate the ship over the past several weeks. I have also had the opportunity to sit down and personally talk with most of you," said Figgs. "I am impressed and truly believe that we have an outstanding crew."

Sisco's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (six awards) and Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards) as well as numerous unit awards.

Sisco will report for duty to, Naval Personnel Command in Millington, Tenn. as the branch head for enlisted nuclear and submarine assignments.

Immunization exercise to take place Sept. 18-20

1st Lt.

Kathleen Eisenbrey

15th Medical Group

Air Force leaders from the 15th Wing at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) received their annual influenza vaccinations Sept. 6 in preparation for a mass-immunizations exercise scheduled for Sept. 18-20.

The Citadel SHOTEX 12 is a, mass-immunization exercise involving medical personnel from Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, 13th Air Force, Naval Health Clinic Hawaii, the 15th Wing Medical Group and the 154th Medical Group. The exercise aims to vaccinate approximately 12,000 military personnel and category 1 and 5 civilian personnel.

"The Citadel SHOTEX 12 will test the capability of the Air Force and Navy to rapidly respond to a pandemic event," said Dan

DuBois, director of emergency management for joint base.

"It is our goal to vaccinate 70 percent of shore-based active duty personnel and 70 percent of category 1 and 5 civilians stationed on Joint Base Pearl-Harbor Hickam within three days."

"Early vaccination is key to a successful seasonal flu vaccination campaign," said Col. Johnny Roscoe, 15th Wing commander. "It is of the utmost importance that first-line supervisors ensure personnel attend the immunizations exercise during their unit's scheduled chalk time."

There will be two distribution points: Bloch Arena on Pearl Harbor and the Makai Recreation Center on Hickam. Hours at Bloch Arena will be from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 18-19 and from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 20. Hours at the Makai Recreation Center will be from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 18-20.

"The (point of distribution) lay-



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares
Staff Sgt. Aimee Braxton, 15th Medical Operations Squadron NCO in charge of immunizations, gives a shot to Col. Johnny Roscoe, 15th Wing commander, Sept. 6 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

out at the Makai Recreation Center has been designed to accommodate approximately a

10-minute processing time for units consisting of 200 personnel," said Staff Sgt. Aimee

Braxton, NCO in charge of the Hickam immunizations clinic and joint vaccine working group representative.

In conjunction with the SHOTEX at JBPHH, the majority of Department of Defense personnel stationed on Oahu will be participating in simultaneous mass immunization exercises.

"The island-wide vaccination goal is to immunize 30,000 military personnel within 72 hours," said Lance Golder, military vaccine analyst at Pacific Command and joint vaccine working group advisor. For information regarding scheduled chalk times, personnel should contact their unit's command master chief, first sergeant and unit deployment manager or designated ombudsman. It is requested that all personnel bring their common access card and a completed copy of a SF600 that has been distributed electronically to their units.

Siller Run commemorates 9/11

Continued from A-1

of JBPHH participation in the annual run. Last year JBPHH held the third largest event, with more than 1,000 runners, honoring both the victims of 9/11 and those of Dec. 7, 1941.

The JBPHH Tunnel to Towers 5K run began with the sounding of the sirens from Federal Fire Department engine 104, which officially led the event at the entrance to the Ford Island Bridge. Runners of all ages with pets and strollers ran, jogged, walked and rolled onto the bridge.

On the way back to the finish line, as a token

of their *aloha* for all the tragic lives lost on Sept. 11, 2001, runners were able to present lei and touch a piece of the World Trade Center. The steel piece from the World Trade Center was displayed on the bridge to represent the attacks that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001 and to provide encouragement to all runners.

Federal Fire Department Chief Glenn DeLaura stated, "This event provides us an opportunity to 'never forget' the tremendous loss to America and the New York City Fire Department. It also reminds us how Americans use tragic events like this for positive purposes."

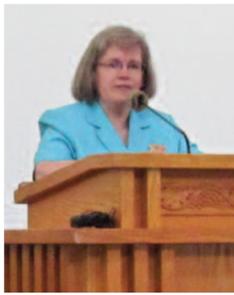
Holly Petraeus speaks about financial issues at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel

Story and photo by
Brandon Bosworth

Contributing Writer

The Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel hosted two town hall meetings featuring Holly Petraeus of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on Sept. 6. Petraeus, along with U.S. Representative Colleen Hanabusa and Bruce Kim, executive director of the Hawaii Office of Consumer Protection, discussed financial topics of importance to service members and their families.

Founded in 2011, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is a fairly new government agency.



Holly Petraeus, assistant director of the office of service member affairs at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, addressed military financial concerns at a Sept. 6 town hall meeting.

Petraeus explained some of the bureau's key functions, including informing con-

sumers of their rights and monitoring the activities of financial institutions such as banks, lenders and debt collectors. "If a company does something unfair, abusive, or fraudulent, we have an enforcement division that can go after them in court," she said.

Petraeus is the assistant director of the office of service member affairs section of the agency. "We try to see that all service members get the financial education they need to make better consumer decisions," she said.

There are a couple of key points of concern for the office of service member affairs. One is military homeowners who, like many other Americans,

may be experiencing difficulties in the wake of the real estate bubble bursting. According to Petraeus, her office is working with state attorney generals to craft special policies for military families facing foreclosure or similar problems.

Another issue is for-profit colleges and universities who target the military. While acknowledging that there are some good for-profit schools, Petraeus noted there are things potential students should be aware of.

"More than half of those who enroll in one of these institutions doesn't graduate," she said. "And more than half who do finish fail to find jobs." Petraeus cited

a study showing that some for-profit schools and universities spend more on advertising than they do on their students. She added that many of these institutions lack proper accreditation, which could pose a serious problem for graduates when they enter the job market.

The office of service member affairs also assists military personnel who believe they have been unfairly treated by a financial institution. "We've received 2,500 complaints from the military since opening last year," said Petraeus.

Petraeus stressed that it is important for service members to come forward with their financial issues.

"You can help someone else by telling your stories," she said. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau can be contacted via their website, www.consumerfinance.gov. Making a complaint can get results.

"So far we have managed to get back \$250,000 for consumers," said Petraeus. "When a company gets something in the mail on federal government letterhead, they tend to react."

"It's a capitalist society, and companies are allowed to try to make money," said Petraeus. "But they aren't allowed to cheat or deceive you."

For more information or to make a complaint, visit www.consumerfinance.gov.

Basewide cleanup to take place Sept. 20

A base-wide cleanup of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam will take place from 8 to 11 a.m. Sept. 20.

Command-wide participation is highly encouraged. Focus will be on high-visibility areas, waterfront,

along the perimeter of the base and your respective areas.

For equipment and supplies, contact the first lieutenant shop: BU1 Jeremy Harman at 471-3521 or Jeremy.harman@navy.mil.

JPAC to host POW/MIA recognition day ceremony Sept. 21

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command will honor the nation's heroes and commemorate National POW/MIA Recognition Day during a ceremony at 10 a.m. Sept. 21 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl).

This year's program will be led by Johnnie Webb, JPAC deputy to the commander for public relations and legislative affairs.

The keynote speaker, retired Army Col. William S. Reeder Jr., was a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. During his second tour in Vietnam, Reeder was shot down and captured on May 9, 1972 by the communist North Vietnamese while on a combat mission in South Vietnam.

He was released on March 27, 1973 after being held captive for nearly a year.

Highlights this year include a wreath-laying ceremony, speeches and a rendition of Taps played in honor of former prisoners of war and those still missing in action.

The ceremony is free and open to the public. Organizations are welcome to participate in the wreath cer-

emony by laying a wreath or flowers. R.S.V.P. to Elizabeth Feeney no later than noon Sept. 19.

Appropriate attire for the event is military Class B or service equivalent or civilian casual or aloha wear.

Falling directly under the U.S. Pacific Command and employing more than 450 joint military and civilian personnel, JPAC continues its search for the more than 83,000 Americans still missing from past conflicts.

Since 2003, JPAC has identified more than 740 Americans. Combined with the efforts of its predecessor units, close to 1,830 Americans have been identified since the accounting effort began in the 1970s.

The ultimate goal of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, and of the agencies involved in returning America's heroes home, is to conduct global search, recovery, and laboratory operations in order to support the Department of Defense's personnel accounting efforts.

For more information, call Feeney at 448-1937 or visit JPAC's website www.jpac.pacom.mil.

Commentary

Keeping our bases clean and green is everyone's responsibility

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

First impressions can be lasting.

Like most of you now reading this, I have the pleasure of living and working in Hawaii. It's both a pleasure and a privilege.

We can never take that privilege for granted. We work in one of the most strategically important and most historically significant regions in our Navy.

This is where World War II in the Pacific began on Dec. 7, 1941.

We are home to the Battleship Missouri on whose deck the Pacific War ended on Sept. 2,

1945. Today, Hawaii is home to two key strategic Navy installations – Pacific Missile Range Facility and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Hawaii is our home. As we consider the pleasure and privilege of living here as part of the Hawaii *ohana*, let's consider another word: responsibility.

Whenever I have the opportunity to walk to and from home, I think about how lucky we are to be here, able to make a difference for our Navy and our nation. It is our responsibility as good citizens, as responsible Sailors and as caring members of this *ohana* —

to do our part to protect the environment and keep our base clean and green. If you see litter, pitch in and pitch it in.

To those of you who make a conscientious effort to ensure base cleanliness and a professional appearance, thank you.

Our installations—waterfront and shore-front, harbor and flightlines—host dignitaries from the state, leaders from our nation's capital and visitors from around the world.

Let's consider how their perception is shaped by our actions. Let's ensure we're making a good and lasting first impression.

Diverse Views

“What ideas do you have for beautifying Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam?”

Lt. Col. Teresa Darrow
Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command/J1

“Add more decorative and colorful native tropical plant and floral displays throughout main areas of the base and within base housing.”



Lt. Joseph Fackrell (Reserves)
Undersea Warfare Operations Detachment G

“It already looks good to me as far as military bases go.”



Solome Allen
Military spouse

“Creating a space for a community garden would help to add more green places on base. It would also make an opportunity to bring the community on base closer.”



Cryptologic Technician 3 Kameron Hatton
Naval Information Operations Command Hawaii

“I think the base looks great as is. To me, what really counts are the Sailors and the ships.”



(Provided by David Underwood Jr. and Brandon Bosworth)

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views? Got opinions to share? Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

Sailor, Airman work on aircraft



Navy Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Gilbert Morales, (left), of Maguabo, Puerto Rico, and Airman Jorgi L. Gall of Ponce, Puerto Rico, remove a panel from a Fleet Composite Squadron Eight (VC-8) S-2F Tracker Anti-Submarine Aircraft in 1970 at U.S. Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. National Hispanic Heritage Month will be observed from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

Photo by PH1 Patrick C. Wilkerson
U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command

HO'okele

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM NEWS

Commander,
Navy Region Hawaii
Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

Chief of Staff
Mike Cieslak

Director,
Public Affairs
Agnes Tauyan

Deputy Director,
Public Affairs
Bill Doughty

Commander,
Joint Base
Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Capt. Jeffrey James

Deputy Commander
Col. Dann S. Carlson

Director, Public Affairs
Grace Hew Len

Managing Editor
Karen Spangler

Assistant Editor
Don Robbins

Sports Editor
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer
Brandon Bosworth

Layout/Design
Antonio Verceluz
Patrick Murray

Ho'okele is a free unofficial paper published every Thursday by The Honolulu Star Advertiser 500 Ala Moana Boulevard Suite 7-500 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 Hawaii.

All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: editor@hookelenews.com World Wide Web address: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Hawaii/> or www.hookelenews.com.

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication primarily 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 Star 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 Hawaii or The Honolulu Star 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.

Ho'okele is delivered weekly to Navy & Air Force housing units and Navy installations throughout Oahu. Housing residents may contact the publisher directly at (808) 690-8864 if they wish to discontinue home delivery.

JBP HH hosts ombudsmen appreciation dinner

Story and photo by
MC2 Jon Dasbach

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West
Detachment Hawaii

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam held an appreciation dinner for the ombudsmen of Navy Region Hawaii (COMNAVREG HI), Commander, Submarine Forces U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC) and Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two (COMPATRECONWING Two) on Sept. 7.

The dinner was an assembly of the ombudsmen who support the Navy and Marine Corps commands on the island of Oahu and to express the importance of the ombudsman program for service members and their families stationed in Hawaii.

"A job to provide information and guidance to the spouses and families that remain behind is more important than I can tell you," said Capt. Daryl L. Caudle, chief of staff, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.



Capt. Daryl L. Caudle, chief of staff, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, talks about the importance of ombudsmen to the service member's families during the ombudsmen appreciation dinner held at the Hickam Officers Club. The annual dinner is held to show the appreciation and express the importance of the region's ombudsmen.

"That's how important you are. The Navy actually makes you a requirement," Caudle said.

As a liaison between the family members and the command, an ombudsman's job is to keep the families informed about what's going on with the service members and to be there as a point of

contact in case of an emergency.

"We're the link between the command and the families. We are there to assist the families with any kind of information they may need to direct them to the resources that are available to them," said Lori Boehler, ombudsman for Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

"The ombudsman is able to communicate with the family members," said Stephanie Schultz, ombudsman for USS O'Kane (DDG 77) and assembly chair member. "If there's an important issue that the service member or his or her command needs to know about, the ombudsman can get that

information through a much faster way."

Ombudsmen also play an important role in the morale and welfare of the service members, especially while deployed.

"Without family readiness, we can't go out and do our jobs. We can't go out and deploy our ships, we can't deploy our submarines, we can't fly the aircraft. A happy Sailor and a happy home is vital to the readiness of our nation," said Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Command Master Chief Brian Ortega.

With Hawaii being so far away from the rest of the United States, the ombudsman role in Hawaii plays a crucial part for inbound service members and their families.

"When people transfer out here, there's a lot of information, and it's a little different than a transfer or PCS move on the mainland," said Boehler. "We give them information about the area and what to expect when they arrive on island."

Through the years, the

ombudsman program has advanced and become more efficient with technology such as e-mail and social media, but they have also become more well known by the service members and their families.

"Nowadays, even our young junior Sailors see their ombudsman at command indoctrination when they first check aboard," said happy Sailor and a happy home is vital to the readiness of our nation," said Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Command Master Chief John Ullery of USS Chosin (CG 65). "Back when I was a young junior Sailor, 28 and a-half years ago, I didn't know who my ombudsman was. I didn't know what an ombudsman was."

In 1970, Adm. E.R. Zumwalt, Jr. created the Navy Family Ombudsman Program to improve communication between commands and Sailors' families. In 2006, Adm. Michael G. Mullen re-emphasized the importance of the program and signed an updated instruction highlighting the requirement that all Navy families have access to the program.

USS Hawaii visits Philippines during western Pacific deployment

Lt. Lara R. Bollinger

Submarine Group 7 Public
Affairs

SUBIC BAY, Republic of the Philippines (NNS) – The Virginia-class submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776), homeported at Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, arrived in Subic Bay on Sept. 7 as part of its deployment to the western Pacific.

USS Hawaii conducted a coordinated moor with submarine tender USS Frank Cable (AS 40) to receive tended support during the visit.

With a crew of approxi-

mately 130 Sailors, USS Hawaii conducts a multitude of missions and showcases the latest capabilities of the submarine fleet.

The visit to Subic Bay presents an opportunity for Sailors to strengthen ties with their counterparts in the Philippines, participate with Frank Cable Sailors in community service events in Olangapo and enjoy crew rest and relaxation.

"Our Sailors have worked very hard for 14 months, qualifying and diligently training on various watch stations throughout the sub," said Master Chief Electronics



The Virginia-class submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776) pulls alongside the submarine tender USS Frank Cable (AS 40).

Technician John Perryman, Hawaii's chief of the boat.

"Western Pacific deployments and their liberty ports are the reward that makes all of our crew's efforts worthwhile."

This is the first visit to the Philippines for many of the crew members, but some of USS Hawaii's crew members have family in the Philippines and are taking time to reach out to them during this visit.

"I can't wait to get some time to call home, see the sites, and connect with my family in Manila," said Culinary Specialist Seaman Apprentice Sedale

U.S. Navy photo by MCC Jennifer L. Walker

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Eduardo Canales takes the Navy-wide advancement exam for first class petty officer at the Club Pearl Liberty Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.
U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Dustin W. Sisco

(Right) Command Master Chief Marcos F. Sibala oversees the raising of the American tribute flag Sept. 12 in front of building 150, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by Brandon Bosworth



Brian Yim (right), deputy project superintendent of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility, briefs Adm. Cecil B. Haney, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, on the status of the USS Texas (SSN 775) extended dry-docking selected restricted availability. Haney visited the shipyard to learn more about the Navy's largest ship repair facility between the west coast and the Far East.

U.S. Navy photo by Marshall Fukuki



(Right) Federal Fire Department engine 104, Ford Island Fire Station, led the second annual Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam Tunnel to Towers 9/11 five-kilometer run Sept. 8 on the Ford Island Bridge.

U.S. Navy photo by Fire Inspector Angela Sanders



(Far left) A student from Hickam Elementary School pauses during the annual walk in remembrance of Sept. 11, 2001 to show his drawing to a parent.

U.S. Navy photo by MGSN Diana Quinlan

(Left) A student from Hickam Elementary School shakes hands with Maj. Craig Swierzbis of 13th Air Force, thanking him for his service during the fourth annual remembrance of the attacks on 9/11.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Tierra Fulgham



15th Medical Group introduces Reach Out and Read Literacy Program

15th Medical Group

Getting books from the doctor is now a routine part of regular pediatric checkups at the 15th Medical Group (MDG) pediatric and family health clinics as doctors and nurses welcome the Reach Out and Read program to the practice.

The 15th MDG joins more than 4,946 programs nationwide and more than 60 military Reach Out and Read Programs worldwide that are preparing America's youngest children to succeed in school.

Doctors, nurse practitioners and other medical professionals incorporate Reach Out and Read's evidence-based model into regular pediatric checkups by advising par-

ents about the importance of reading aloud and giving developmentally-appropriate books to children.

The program begins at the six-month checkup and continues through age five with a special emphasis on children growing up in low-income communities. Families served by Reach Out and Read read together more often, and their children enter kindergarten with larger vocabularies and stronger language skills, better prepared to achieve their potential.

Pediatric healthcare providers are trained in the three-part Reach Out and Read model to promote early literacy and school readiness:

- In the exam room, doctors and nurses speak with parents about the importance of reading aloud to their young children every day and

offer age-appropriate tips and encouragement.

- The pediatric primary care provider gives every child six months through five years old a new, developmentally-appropriate children's book to take home and keep.

- In the waiting room, displays, information and books create a literacy-rich environment. Volunteer readers entertain children, modeling for parents the pleasures – and techniques – of reading aloud.

"Reach Out and Read is such an efficient and effective concept," said Earl Martin Phalen, chief executive officer. "Childhood development experts tell us that the most important thing that parents can do to prepare their children to succeed in school is to read aloud to them every day.

"Promoting early literacy and school readiness through regular pediatric checkups is a simple model that has a lasting, invaluable impact on the life of a child," said Phalen.

Medical research shows that literacy-promoting interventions by the pediatrician have a significant effect on parental behaviors, beliefs and attitudes toward reading aloud. For more than a decade, studies have indicated that parents who get books and literacy counseling from their doctors and nurses are more likely to read to their young children, read to them more often, and provide more books in the home. In addition, children served by Reach Out and Read enter kindergarten with a six-month developmental edge and have larger vocabularies and stronger language skills.

"I'm very excited that we were able to obtain a grant for Reach out and Read here. The children love getting a book for their well baby visits and not only does it provide a positive association with the visit, but it also provides a means for us to encourage our parents to read to their children," said Lt Col Michelle Flores, element leader for pediatrics and the Reach Out and

Read coordinator at the 15th MDG.

About Reach Out and Read

Reach Out and Read is an evidence-based, national non-profit organization that prepares America's youngest children to succeed in school by partnering with doctors to prescribe books and encourage families to read together. Reach Out and Read currently serves one-third of the most impoverished children in the United States.

The Reach Out and Read model is endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the program has one of the strongest records of research support of any primary care intervention.

This year, Reach Out and Read's 28,460 volunteer doctors and nurse practitioners will provide 6.5 million new books to more than 4 million children at 4,946 healthcare locations in all 50 states.

For more information, visit Reach Out and Read's website at www.reachoutandread.org.

Pearl Harbor submarine commands participate in damage control Olympics

Story and photo by MC2 Steven Khor

Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs Office

Sailors from USS Columbia (SSN 771), USS Texas (SSN 775), USS North Carolina (SSN 777) and USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) competed against each other in a damage control Olympics held Sept. 5. The event was organized by Naval Submarine Support Command Pearl Harbor (NSSC), at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

The events consisted of pipe patching repair, flooding, fire hose handling, emergency medical relay, fire extinguisher handling and a communication exercise.

"We are using this event as a way to get the guys off

the boat, have a little fun, and use it as a training exercise," said Senior Chief Electrician's Mate Michael Robinson, NSSC organizer. "This is our first time having the event, and it's a way to give back to the training program."

Robinson said that the evolution was to reinforce the fundamentals of basic damage control on a submarine, showing personnel how to handle an emergency situation correctly.

The four different teams consisted of personnel not to exceed 30 years total for any one team. Each team took their turn in the various fire-fighting, medical and flooding evolutions.

"I have learned a lot today. One of the fun parts was using the pipe patch, something I have not done since submarine school," said



Sailors from the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Texas (SSN 775) and USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) participate in a pipe-patching exercise Sept. 5.

Machinist's Mate Fireman LeeRoy Andrew Ybarra from USS City of Corpus Christi. "I had a lot of fun, and I feel a lot more comfortable now

to handle an emergency casualty situation."

Upon completion of the event, there was a barbecue at the pier, and NSSC

instructors reviewed training with all the participants.

USS Columbia (SSN 771) was the overall winner at

the event and received bragging rights as the damage control champion. Robinson said NSSC plans to have the damage control Olympics as a quarterly event.

The commanding officer of NSSC, Cmdr. Brett Fillmore, was on hand to greet the Sailors and thank them for participating.

Parting words came from NSSC's Command Master Chief James Miller.

"It was impressive to see all the Sailors train each other, and they did a really good job. It's a great way to step up," Miller said.

NSSC provides quality operational support in areas including operations, material and communications to submarines homeported at Pearl Harbor, their crews, families and the staffs of Submarine Squadrons 1 and 7.

NAVFAC Pacific honors 17 decades of service to the nation

Catherine Cruz Norton

Naval Facilities
Engineering Command
Pacific Public Affairs



In commemoration of the 170th birthday of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), NAVFAC Pacific recently hosted a cake-cutting ceremony in its Pearl Harbor headquarters to honor decades of proud naval history and service to the nation.

Rear Adm. Kate Gregory, NAVFAC Pacific commander, said commemorating 170 years is a significant milestone for NAVFAC.

"Today we pay tribute to the hard work and dedication of the men and women who came before us, and we reflect on their tireless efforts to support our great nation and allied countries," said Gregory. "It is an honor to be part of such a long legacy of construction and engineering ingenuity."

The 13th Secretary of the Navy, Abel P. Upshur, officially established NAVFAC's predecessor, the

Bureau of Naval Yards and Docks, in 1842 to execute the design, construction and maintenance of Navy yards and a few other shore stations around the eastern seaboard of the United States.

Eventually the bureau and its responsibilities would grow into the global enterprise known as NAVFAC, which was officially established in May 1966.

Current day NAVFAC

has 16 commands located in the United States, Europe, Southwest Asia and the Far East.

NAVFAC is the Navy systems command that delivers and maintains high quality, sustainable facilities, acquires and manages capabilities for the Navy's expeditionary combat forces, enables energy security and environmental stewardship, and provides humanitarian and contin-

gency engineering response.

Within the Pacific area of responsibility, NAVFAC Pacific provides engineering and acquisition expertise to the U.S. Pacific Fleet by serving as the Navy's facilities, installation and contingency engineers.

The command is the headquarters for NAVFAC in the Pacific with three facility engineering commands (FEC) within its area of responsibility (AOR) including, NAVFAC Far East, NAVFAC Hawaii and NAVFAC Marianas. Each FEC serves as the primary touch point for all facility, installation and contingency requirements

covering Japan, Diego Garcia, Guam and Hawaii.

"The Pacific is extremely strategic for our Navy and Marine Corps, and for decades NAVFAC Pacific has been instrumental in successfully fulfilling facility and engineering requirements in this AOR," said Gregory.

"The NAVFAC presence is visible throughout the Pacific whether through mission requirements or humanitarian aid," Gregory said. "I am proud of our Civil Engineer Corps officers, Seabees and civilians for their collective commitment to our country."

ETG Sailor pays tribute to USS Arizona fallen with re-enlistment

Expeditionary Training
Group Public Affairs

A Sailor assigned to Expeditionary Training Group in Virginia Beach, Va. re-enlisted at the historic USS Arizona (BB 39) Memorial Museum while in Hawaii supporting Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise Aug 23.

When Yeoman 1st Class (AW) Denisse Gallardo realized she would be in Hawaii for three weeks supporting the RIMPAC exercise, she took advantage of the opportunity to re-enlist at the memorial.

The memorial pays homage to the officers and

crew who died when Arizona exploded and sank during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

"It's a historic place for the Navy and our country," said Gallardo. "The way I look at it, it was the opportunity of a lifetime - I just took advantage of it."

Arizona was hit by a bomb that triggered a massive explosion in its forward magazine and caused the ship to sink in just nine minutes, killing 1,177 men. Their sacrifice was an important reason for Gallardo to choose to re-enlist at the memorial.

"It was actually a little

emotional—more emotional than I thought it would be," said Gallardo of her visit to the museum. "When you think back, read the history, watch the movies, or read the articles (about Pearl Harbor), you never really know the feeling. It was very emotional thinking about it."

"Being in the military with families we do make sacrifices by deploying, and you know it's our job to do what we do, but I don't think our sacrifice compares to what they did. I think it's something major, and you can't help but feel grateful," explained Gallardo. "Because of what they did, we're here now."

Air Force Spice testing lab goes full throttle

Courtesy Air Force
Surgeon General
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AFNS) – The Air Force Spice Testing Lab recently became fully operational in support of the Air Force's focus on quality Airmen. The new lab establishes a robust urinalysis testing program as part of the Air Force's ongoing efforts to deter use of "Spice," the common name for synthetic cannabinoids.

The Spice lab is capable of handling 2,500 active-duty Air Force samples per month, with the potential to increase testing to 60,000 samples per year. Equipped with two liquid chromatography/tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) instruments and a trained staff, the lab is taking over the full Spice-testing responsibility from a commercial contract laboratory that previously handled the testing.

Over the past year, the Air Force has made significant strides in the deterrence of Spice abuse among its members. Spice compounds are sprayed onto plant matter that is then generally smoked, causing hallucinogenic, psychotic and other harmful and sometimes deadly effects.

In July 2012, the president signed legislation placing 15 of these compounds on Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. However, the possession and use of any synthetic compounds, such as Spice and other intoxicating substances other than alcohol and tobacco, remain strictly prohibited for Airmen.

In 2011, the Air Force dedicated funds to set up its own Spice lab at the Air Force Drug Testing Laboratory. In November, the Spice lab team began developing a high throughput method for processing samples.

By March, the team had reduced the analysis time for samples by one-third. Additional manpower further optimized the method, which will allow commanders to send in samples from an entire unit, maximizing the deterrence effect of the program.

The lab will continue to research testing for additional Spice compounds as new compounds emerge to ensure the program remains an effective deterrence mechanism for commanders.

The Spice lab will also continue to direct samples collected as part of an open law enforcement investigation to the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System. Active-duty Air Force commanders can send samples that are either commander-directed or taken as a part of unit, dorm and gate sweeps to the Air Force Spice Testing Lab for testing.

HO'OKELE Online

<http://www.hookelenews.com> or <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii>