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USS Tucson departs for western Pacific deployment



Los Angeles-class submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled deployment to the western Pacific region on April 8.

Story and photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

The Los Angeles-class submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) departed Joint Base Pearl-Hickam Harbor

for a scheduled deployment to the western Pacific region on April 8.

"The crew is very excited and eager to get this submarine underway for her first deployment since 2006," said Cmdr. Gary Pinkerton, USS Tucson commanding officer. "They've all worked ex-

tremely hard this past year getting the ship and themselves ready for this deployment and regaining operational proficiency of all mission areas. I am very proud of each and every one of them."

Tucson underwent a 23-month depot modernization period at Norfolk Naval

Shipyards, Portsmouth, Va. that included upgrades in all of her electronic systems in support of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, a complete overhaul of all machinery systems and a full external refurbishing. During that time, she conducted numerous sea trials and a port

visit in San Diego before conducting an inter-fleet transfer back to Naval Station Pearl Harbor in 2008.

Tucson is the second ship of the U.S. Navy to bear the name of the Arizona city. It is the 59th Los Angeles-class attack submarine and the 20th of the improved

Los Angeles-class attack submarine to be built. Twelve vertical launch missile tubes for Tomahawk cruise missiles provide Tucson with great offensive capabilities and strategic value. Retractable bow planes give the ship increased maneuverability and under ice surfacing potential.



Photos courtesy of Joint Logistics Command Haiti Public Affairs

Two commands from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and the dive teams from Mobile Diving Salvage Unit (MDSU) one, were among the military units who participated in Operation Unified Response as part of the support effort in Haiti.

MDSU-1 Sailors reflect on humanitarian mission in Haiti

MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Six Sailors assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) 1 deployed to Haiti to support Operation Unified Response on Jan. 20, providing humanitarian assistance to the earthquake-ravaged nation.

After spending a week in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, MDSU-1 personnel were sent to Haiti for two weeks to be part of a command and control element.

"We arrived in Haiti by way of the Dutch ship HNLMS Pelikaan about eight days after the earthquake happened, and there was a lot of smoke and physical damage that we could see from afar," said Chief Warrant Officer Jeffrey Landry. "It was completely devastating, and the nation was in terrible condition."

"There were a lot of cracks in the ground and it looked and felt like the earth had literally been ripped open," added Navy Diver 2nd Class Curtis Wiley. "I've been to

third-world countries before, but I've never seen a place in that bad of a condition. You could definitely tell they needed aid and help."

While in Port-Au-Prince, MDSU-1 personnel worked with many other commands to aid the citizens.

"As a part of the command and control element for salvage operations, we worked with several commands including Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7, MDSU-2, the Air Force and the Haitian Army along with others," said Landry. "MDSU-1 did a great job of coordinating not only salvage related work, but also with being able to get food, water, fuel and basic life support for people."

Wiley reflected on the experience of helping the citizens of Haiti in their time of need.

"Anytime you get to help other people it's very rewarding and it was even more so this time being that their country had just gone through a major catastrophe," Wiley said. "My biggest reward was to be involved in a mission that not only the United

States military was a part of, but also all of the other countries' militaries that were involved with the relief effort."

Other MDSU-1 personnel that were deployed to Haiti were Cmdr. John Moulton, commanding officer of MDSU-1; Command Master Chief Jose Lara; Master Chief Navy Diver Cliff Morin; and Senior Chief Navy Diver John Hopkins.

Navy Seabees are still on the ground in Haiti, improving roads and other infrastructure in advance of the rainy season, expected to start in mid-April. The engineering efforts, like the work of other Sailors who have served in Haiti, are expected to continue to save many lives.

Sailors stationed throughout the world have served in Haiti as medical first responders, relief coordinators, engineers and divers.

MDSU-1's mission is to provide swift and mobile ship salvage, towing, battle damage repair, deep ocean recovery, harbor clearance and underwater ship repair capabilities in support of the U.S. 3rd and U.S. 7th Fleets.

VBSS exercise in effect



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico
Members of USS Crommelin's (FFG 37) visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team board the Battleship Missouri Memorial on April 4. The battleship was the stage for a large VBSS exercise involving Sailors from Crommelin, USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) and USS O'Kane (DDG 77).



Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard dry-docks USS Hawaii See page A-2



Navy Warrior of the Week See page A-4



New technology will help save energy for the Navy at Pearl Harbor See page A-6



USS Crommelin attends Merrie Monarch Festival See page B-1

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard dry-docks USS Hawaii

Katie Vanes

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility drydocked USS Hawaii (SSN 776) on March 30. Hawaii, the first U.S. Pacific fleet Virginia-class (VACL) submarine to go into dry dock at Pearl Harbor, will undergo routine inspection and repairs in the shipyard until early May.

"The entire shipyard was very excited to dry-dock USS Hawaii and validate the hard work and dedication of the many people involved in this evolution," said Rear Adm. (sel.) Greg Thomas, shipyard commander. "The successful execution was the fruit of their labor, earned from careful and relentless preparation."

The shipyard has been researching, planning and training for VACL dry-docking evolutions since June 2008. Unlike most continuous maintenance availabilities, the shipyard put together a special project team strictly dedicated to Hawaii's dry-docking. VACL submarines pose unique challenges that make docking the modern vessels more complicated than Los Angeles-class ships, and the project team underwent extensive prepara-



U.S. Navy photo by MCI Michael Hight

Virginia-class attack submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776) enters the channel to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for the first time July 23, 2009. USS Hawaii is the first Virginia-class submarine home ported in the Pacific and the first submarine to bear the name of the aloha state.

tions to safely and efficiently dry-dock Hawaii.

The shipyard conducted a realistic VACL mock docking availability in August 2008 followed by an evaluation session to capture lessons learned from the exercise.

Then, several weeks prior to the docking, two all-trades conferences were held instead of the usual one conference to prepare for the complex evolution. "The pre-trades conference was an above-and-beyond effort we put forth for Virginia-class docking," said Cmdr. Leonard Laforteza, VACL program manager. "It was important to address potential issues before the official all-trades conference."

Shipyard Navy divers also

performed dives before the evolution to ensure precision during the Hawaii docking, according to Jeffrey Long, Hawaii project superintendent. As an added precaution, divers were present in the dry dock during the actual docking, a measure which is not normally required for Los Angeles-class submarines.

A senior management review convened to ensure a safe docking and project team meetings were held twice a day the month leading up to the event. Lt. Lorenz Tate, shipyard docking officer, and Sonny Deltoro, dockmaster, even traveled to the east coast to view private corporation Electric Boat dock a VACL submarine in early March. This allowed them to

see VACL docking first-hand and to refine the shipyard's plan based on the challenges Electric Boat faced.

"Docking Hawaii was a tremendous milestone for Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and our future availabilities to support Virginia-class submarines," said Tate. "The fact that we got to be first was both challenging and rewarding. It was a huge success for the entire shipyard."

"We plan to share our preparation process and lessons learned with Portsmouth Naval Shipyard so they can dry-dock their first Virginia-class in the near future," said Laforteza, who explained that Pearl Harbor set the standard for the three other naval ship-

yards by executing the job. "It was exciting to have their VACL project team present during some of the key docking preparations that will eventually help them prepare for upcoming dockings."

Dry-docking Hawaii also provides a model for future repair work in the shipyard on VACL submarines. "This shorter availability will give us a good heads-up on what we're going to be doing during the extended docking selected restricted availability in the future for VACL – what the shipyard is gearing up for," said Tom Trow, plastic fabricator supervisor.

USS Hawaii, which arrived at Pearl Harbor last July 23, is the first VACL submarine to be homeported at Pearl Harbor and the first commissioned U.S. Navy vessel to bear the name of the aloha state.

Hawaii represents the very latest in submarine technology and capability. She features an advanced combat control system and sensors and improved surveillance, reconnaissance capabilities and special operations forces capabilities.

Seventeen of the 30 Pacific-based attack submarines are homeported at Pearl Harbor and each of these contributes about \$17 million a year to the local economy in Hawaii.

Correction

In the article "USS Chafee departs for deployment," which was published in the April 9 edition of Hawai'i Navy News, page A-1, the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 5 for a scheduled three-month deployment, instead of a six-month deployment as indicated in the story.

Also, Cmdr. Heedong Choi's quote in the story should have read, "As with all deploying ships in our Navy, the overarching mission is to provide presence in the 'global commons' and to execute the maritime strategy as outlined by the CNO, Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Commandant of the Coast Guard."

We sincerely apologize for the error and any inconvenience that this may have caused.

Barbers Point Commissary to close April 30

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) is planning to close the Barbers Point Commissary store on April 30.

The Navy has not had an operational presence at Barbers Point since the base closed in 1999 as a result of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) legislation.

DeCA operates four other commissaries on Oahu: one at Schofield Barracks, two at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and one at Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

The Navy will continue to operate the Touch 'N Go Mini-Mart Gas Station until

Sept. 30, 2011. The Subway Sandwich Shop and the child care center, now operating as Kama'aina Kids and serving military and civilian families in west Oahu, are operating under an agreement with Ford Island Ventures (FIV). The athletic fields are also open to the public, and the bowling center re-opened to the public earlier this year.

The Barbers Point Golf Course, the picnic area and cottages at White Plains and Nimitz Beaches continue to be operated by the Navy MWRO. These facilities were not affected by BRAC and are not part of the 499 acres of conveyed land parcels.

Pacific Conference aims at strengthening knowledge management 'tribe'

Story and photo by Michael Hight

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

"Strengthening the Tribe" was the theme for the second annual Knowledge Management (KM) Conference hosted by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) from March 31 to April 2.

"The purpose of the PACFLT Knowledge Management Conference (PACFLT KMC10) is to give KM and information management (IM) practitioners the opportunity to exchange real methods and solutions that they could walk away with and apply," said Jamie Hatch, PACFLT knowledge management officer.

The Navy defines KM as "the integration of people and processes, enabled by technology, to facilitate the exchange of operationally relevant information and expertise to increase organizational performance."

"Our most valuable assets in the Pacific fleet are our people and their expertise," said Hatch. "Managing and improving the processes that allow people to share information and learn from one another is critical to day-to-day fleet and military management."



Cmdr. Mark Calderon, knowledge management officer for Naval Central Command, delivers a presentation by the "Wiki Mai" tribe during the U.S. Pacific Fleet Knowledge Management Conference 2010 (PACFLT KMC2010) on April 2. The purpose of the PACFLT KMC10 is to assist various military headquarters, numbered fleets and group commanders in fulfilling their responsibilities set forth in the U.S. Pacific Fleet Knowledge Management Strategy. This year's theme is "Strengthening the Tribe."

other is critical to day-to-day fleet and military management."

The more than 70 attendees at this year's conference included KM officers and IM officers from all branches of the military service within the PACFLT area of responsibility. Twenty-six attendees were also students in the Afloat Knowledge Manager Course offered by Tactical Training Group Pacific.

This year's conference featured a unique workshop program, based on the reality TV show "Survivor," designed to exercise teamwork and decision-making skills.

Topics discussed during the conference included afloat information management tools, multinational collaboration, integration with Microsoft SharePoint and "tribal challenge."

"It's great to have the opportunity to attend this conference to learn new tools and techniques that I can take back and apply to my job," said Information Systems Technician 1st Class Patrick Miller of the PACFLT N4 deployment management team. "Most importantly though, I'm walking away with a better network of support."

Diverse Views

What did you enjoy most about the USS Chung-Hoon family day cruise?

Angelo Merlino
Honolulu Navy League

"It was really great to spend time aboard one of the Navy's newest destroyers."

Kaimana Pine
blogger for kanuhawaii.com

"Seeing the crew work together to make the ship run."

Shauna Goya
blogger for Honolulu Advertiser's 'Odds and Ends'

"I enjoyed touring the ship and seeing all of the unique things onboard."

Capt. (retired) Carl Devoe
Honolulu Navy League

"I enjoyed being out here at sea and being able to interact with the crew."

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

This week in NAVAL HISTORY

April 11

- 1783 - Congress declares end of war with Great Britain.
- 1970 - Launch of Apollo 13, commanded by Capt. James A. Lovell Jr. Former naval aviator Fred W. Haise Jr. was the lunar module pilot. While 200,000 miles from earth, there was an explosion on board which forced Apollo 13 to circle the moon without landing. Mission duration was five days, 22 hours and 54 minutes. Recovery was by HS-4 helicopters from USS Iwo Jima (LPH-2).
- 1991 - U.N. ceasefire ends Persian Gulf War.

April 12

- 1861 - Civil War begins when Confederates fire on Fort Sumter, S.C.
- 1962 - U.S. Navy demonstrates new landing craft with retractable hydrofoils, LCVP (H).
- 1975 - Operation Eagle Pull evacuation from Cambodia.
- 1981 - First launching of re-useable Space Shuttle Columbia (STS-1) with all Navy crew. Capt. John W. Young (retired Navy) commanded while Navy Lt. Commander Robert L. Crippen was the pilot. Mission duration was two days, six hours and 20 minutes. Sixteen of the shuttle's heat-shielding silicon tiles were lost and 148 damaged during re-entry.
- 1993 - Aircraft from USS Theodore Roosevelt and NATO forces begin enforcing the no-fly zone over Bosnia in Operation Deny Flight.

April 13

- 1861 - Fort Sumter surrenders to Confederate forces.
- 1960 - Navy's navigation satellite, Transit, is placed into orbit from Cape Canaveral, Fla. and demonstrates ability to launch another satellite.

April 14

- 1898 - Commissioning of first post Civil War hospital ship, USS Solace.
- 1969 - North Korean aircraft shoots down Navy EC-121 reconnaissance aircraft from VQ-1 over the Sea of Japan.
- 1989 - First Navy ship arrives on scene to assist in Exxon Valdez oil spill cleanup.

April 15

- 1885 - Naval forces land at Panama to protect American interests during revolution.
- 1912 - USS Chester and USS Salem sail from Massachusetts to assist RMS Titanic survivors.
- 1961 - Launching of first nuclear-powered frigate, USS Bainbridge, at Quincy, Mass.
- 1962 - USS Princeton brought first Marine helicopters to Vietnam. This was first Marine advisory unit to arrive in South Vietnam.
- 1986 - Operation Eldorado Canyon, Navy aircraft from USS America (CV-66) and USS Coral Sea (CV-43) attack Libya in conjunction with U.S. Air Force aircraft after Libya is linked to terrorist bombing of West Berlin discotheque that killed one American and injured 78 people.

April 16

- 1863 - Union gunboats pass Confederate batteries at Vicksburg.
- 1924 - Navy commences relief operations in Mississippi Valley floods, lasting until June 16, 1924.
- 1959 - Helicopters from USS Edisto begin rescue operations in Montevideo, Uruguay. By April 26, they had carried 277 flood victims to safety.

Doolittle Raid on Japan, April 1942

Photo courtesy of Naval History and Heritage Command

Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle, USAAF, leader of the raiding force, wires a Japanese medal to a 500-pound bomb during ceremonies on the flight deck of USS Hornet (CV 8), shortly before his force of 16 B-25B bombers took off for Japan. The planes were launched on April 18, 1942. The wartime censor obscured unit patches of the Air Force flight crew members in background.

Hawaii Navy News

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Story and photos by
Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

About 13 years ago, Information Systems Technician Chief (SW) Samantha Corbin said she was at a serious crossroads in her life.

Fresh out of high school, the Kentucky-native did not have enough money to attend college and had limited job prospects on the horizon. But after a chance encounter with a co-worker, who happened to be an Air Force retiree, Corbin began to consider a possible career in the military.

"After talking with her, I saw some recruiters but couldn't make a decision," she said. "In my town, the Army and Navy recruiting office were next door to each other and I remember standing outside both doors trying to decide. As you can see, the Navy won out," she added.

Today, Corbin is one of only two female chief petty officers aboard the USS O'Kane (DDG 77) and according to her leadership, she has distinguished herself as an asset to any command.

"ITC Corbin has been an excellent role model and shipmate for the USS O'Kane," said Culinary Specialist Senior Chief (AW/SW) Lateef Compton. "She plays a vital role for all junior and senior female Sailors. She also has the distinct pleasure of mentoring along with encouraging these young female Sailors in all of their career aspirations," he added.

Corbin said the biggest gift the Navy has given her is a renewed appre-

ciation for teamwork.

"The woman I am now is very different from the person I was when I joined," she said. "The service has taught me a lot about teamwork and relying on each other. My family was not very close, so I was independent and did my own thing. But being in the Navy all these years has made me realize just how much we rely on each other and how much we need each other."

Aside from her work as a Sailor, Corbin is married to a damage controlman first class petty officer and is the mother of two young boys. Being in a dual-military marriage, she concedes that it can come with its own set of unique challenges.

"Because my husband is also active duty, we are constantly balancing all the time with one of us being gone," she explained. "Most days are good, but when my children have bad days, that is when I question if I've made the right decision. Those are the days that are hard," she added.

Given the demands she encounters as a female chief, Corbin said she has had to be creative in finding ways to maximize family time outside of work.

"I love to cook and I like to get the family involved," she said. "Dinners at our house are a sacred time where we spend time together as a family. That time is very important to us."

Aside from cooking, Corbin also turns to her 40-minute drive home as another outlet for her to unwind after a long, demanding day.

"I am very passionate about my drive home," she laughed. "My husband once asked if we could carpool, but I had to turn him down."

With aspirations to become a command master chief one day, Corbin said her drive to mentor younger Sailors has been the one constant throughout her Navy career.

"The most important thing I can do is motivate my Sailors," she explained. "I want to make them feel that everything they do matters. It matters to me and it matters to our mission. I won't be around forever so I hope what I instill in them today will shape who they are tomorrow."

Editor's Note: Navy Warrior of the Week

Today is the launch of our new Navy Warrior of the Week segment. These mini-features will focus on outstanding Sailors and will offer a portrait of these individuals and their accomplishments. The articles will run the first and third Fridays of each month.

When Hawaii Navy News and Hickam Kukini merge into a joint newspaper, future articles will alternate to feature Air Force service members.

Navy leadership throughout the afloat and shore commands are invited to submit candidates for consideration for Warrior of the Week.

Please contact MCC Bart Bauer at 473-3788 or bart.bauer@navy.mil; Karen Spangler at 473-2890 or Karen.spangler@navy.mil; or Blair Martin at 473-2895 or fair-blair2008@yahoo.com.

Mahalo for your support as we recognize these deserving individuals.

Pearl Harbor Highlights

Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Surface Group Middle Pacific, waves at onlookers as he marches through downtown Hilo in the Merrie Monarch Royal Parade. Sailors from the Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigate, USS Crommelin (FFG 37) also marched in the parade. The Merrie Monarch Festival is an annual event that promotes the perpetuation and preservation of the art of the hula and the Hawaiian culture through education.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (AW) Eric J. Cutright



Cmdr. Joseph M. Keenan Jr., commanding officer of USS Crommelin (FFG 37), waves as he marches through downtown Hilo in the Merrie Monarch Royal Parade. To the left of Keenan is Crommelin's Command Senior Chief (SW) Mathew Danforth and on the right is Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Snyder, Crommelin's executive officer.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (AW) Eric J. Cutright

Rear Adm. Douglas J. McAneny, commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, addresses more than 500 Pearl Harbor-based submariners and their guests at the Hilton Hawaiian Village during the submarine force's ball on April 3. "One hundred and 10 years ago, John P. Holland's delivery of the first submarine to the United States Navy forever changed the notion of sea power," said McAneny. "Tonight, we have every reason to celebrate, for from those humble beginnings our submarine force has grown into the greatest the world has ever known," he said.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge



(Above and right) Sailors assigned to the guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) participate in a visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) exercise aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial on April 14. The battleship was the stage for a large VBSS exercise involving Sailors from Crommelin, USS O'Kane (DDG 77) and USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60).

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Class Robert Stirrup



New technology will help save energy for the Navy at Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by
Thomas Obungen

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii

Nearly 1,100 occupancy sensors are being installed in 53 buildings across Navy

Region Hawaii as part of large energy conservation project at Pearl Harbor that began in early January and is scheduled for completion in mid-May.

"For the Navy at large, and specifically in Hawaii, energy conservation is a huge priority," said Amy Nishijima, energy project manager at NAVFAC Hawaii. "These new sensors will enable commands at Pearl Harbor to save significant energy dollars once the initial costs for the sensors are recovered in less than six and a half years."

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii awarded the Energy Conservation



Billy Thomas, a Hawaii-hired employee of RMA Land Construction Inc., installs a ceiling-type dual-technology motion sensor which has both infrared and ultrasonic sensing technology, in a private office in building 150 on April 5.

Investment Program (ECIP) design-build contract to Anaheim, California-based RMA Land Con-

struction in June 2009 to install five different types of occupancy sensors in various buildings

throughout the region. The contractor, which has a regional office in Hawaii, is using its local electricians for the work here.

The project began soon after it was awarded with major scoping and design work for 53 different buildings. Once buildings, rooms and the types of sensor needed were identified, more than 1,100 were ordered from manufacturers.

Of the five types of sensors being used throughout the region, some incorporate infrared and ultrasonic technology which will be placed in storage rooms, conference rooms, private offices and break rooms. Other sensors feature both technologies and will be installed in most bathrooms.

NAVFAC Hawaii's assistant regional engineering offices, located in the basement of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam's building 150, had their occupancy sensors installed on April 5.

"When I leave the office, I don't have to worry, 'Did I do my part for

energy conservation?'" said Jill Kaya, NAVFAC Hawaii planning and programming. "And when I come back, the lights turn on instantaneously."

Besides the sensor installation, a number of special wall switches are also being installed which have manual override capabilities, meaning occupants are able to turn lights off and on with the press of a button if they choose to do so, while still maintaining the occupancy sensor's energy conservation integrity and ability to turn off lights if forgotten.

"According to the contract, the Navy at Pearl Harbor is expected to save at least \$90,000 annually in energy costs if rates remain the same," said Nishijima. "In addition to the cost savings, the occupancy sensors will also assist in the reduction of general energy usage in the region by automatically shutting off all unnecessary lighting."

NCTAMS PAC helps boost morale aboard International Space Station

MCC (SW/AW)
Aaron Strickland

Naval Network Warfare
Command Public Affairs Office

NETWARCOM personnel at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific's (NCTAMS PAC) Makalapa tech control helped a NASA astronaut aboard the International Space Station (ISS) talk with an active duty Navy family member stationed in Japan over a video teleconference (VTC) on April 10.

The VTC is part of the private family conferences (PFC), a long-standing NASA program for family morale during long-duration space missions. A spokesperson for NASA said that spouses and children participating in PFCs benefit from feeling connected to the family member who is in space, much like families who use VTC to contact deployed military members.

This VTC connected the Fleet and Family Services Center (FFSC) at Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan with NASA and the ISS. Makalapa became involved to provide a bridge to change NASA's Internet protocol (IP) connection to the integrated services digital net-

work (ISDN) connection Atsugi's FFSC uses for VTCs.

Officials with NASA said they believe it is the first time the Navy has assisted NASA in its PFCs.

Senior Chief Information Systems Technician Charmain Stanley, NCTAMS Pac Makalapa tech control, said that the process for the team was nothing unusual.

"(This is) not much different from the type of support we provide to our Sailors in the fleet and their families when Sailors are deployed in the middle of the ocean," Stanley said. "It helps maintain morale."

According to William Driscoll, Atsugi FFSC's VTC coordinator, attempts to connect his VTC directly to NASA, point-to-point failed and NCTAMS PAC's connection tested successfully. The results on April 10 exceeded his expectations.

"This is the best quality video and audio I've seen in almost three years of doing VTCs at the Fleet and Family Support Center," Driscoll said. "I have the utmost confidence that all our future VTCs will be as successful as this one was."

FFSC plans to continue the VTCs while the astronaut is aboard ISS.

Naval Submarine Support Command rallies past Ford Island Bridge

Story and photo by Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer

Naval Submarine Support Command (NSSC) rallied from a four-run deficit to defeat Ford Island Bridge by a score of 9-6 in an Afloat Intramural Softball game at Millican Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on April 13.

The victory raised NSSC's league-leading record to 5-0, while Ford Island continues to search for its first win at 0-4.

NSSC gave up three runs in the first inning and a signal tally in the third to quickly fall behind by four runs.

However, in its next turn at-bat, NSSC batted around the order as the team rapped out six hits and took advantage of three walks and a couple of errors by Ford Island to take a 7-4 lead.

Yeoman 1st Class (SS) James Hall of NSSC said that even though the team had to battle out of a hole, he felt it was just a matter of time before its bats came of life.

"Our one through six hitters swing good bats. We just had to get it going," said Hall. "We don't have a lot of home run hitters, but we got a lot of good place hitters."

Army Sgt. Michael Sibley, who was the pitcher for Ford Island, sailed through the first two innings before running into big trouble in the third.

Sibley explained that the inning got away from Ford Island after he started having control problems. Mistakes by the team's fielders also aided NSSC's comeback.



Yeoman 1st Class (SS) James Hall of Naval Submarine Support Command (NSSC) drives a pitch for an opposite-field home run during an Afloat Intramural Softball game against Ford Island Bridge at Millican Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on April 13. NSSC defeated Ford Island, 9-6, to improve its league-leading record to 5-0.

"I was having a hard time finding my range," noted Sibley. "I was either too high or too low with my pitches. We had a couple of errors and people were giving up."

Although Sibley was experiencing troubles on the mound, Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SS) pitcher Matt Sands

settled down after being knocked around for three runs in the first inning.

Sands tossed goose eggs in the second and fourth innings,

and pitched well enough to keep NSSC out in front for the rest of the game.

"I figured out where they (Ford Island) were standing

and how they were hitting the ball," said Sands. "I just placed my pitches to where it took them out of their comfort zone."

With Sands back on top of his game, NSSC's batters also did their job to help keep the team ahead.

In the bottom of the fourth, with one out and nobody on base, Hall, who bats in the clean-up spot for NSSC, blasted a line drive that struck the base of the right-field fence.

As Ford Island outfielders scrambled to chase down the ball, Hall used his speed to wheel around the bases for an inside-the-park home run.

Hall, who bats from the right side, said that although the pitch was thrown on the outside part of plate, he just let his bat meet the ball to deliver the opposite-field shot.

"I let the pitcher decide where he wants me to hit it," stated Hall. "If he pitches it outside, I'll go right field. It (home run) felt good. I was hoping to hit it over the top of the fence, but I'll take it."

In coming back to claim its fifth straight game, Sands said he believes that NSSC has what it takes to keep adding more wins to its league-leading record.

Sands pointed to the team's strong balance of veteran and fresh faces as the main reason for his optimism.

"The guys with a lot of experience help out the guys with little experience," said Sands. "We hang out and work together. We're not bickering back and forth. We don't yell at each other and when one guy falls down, we got a ton of other guys to help them out."

Celebrate Earth Day

"Partnering for a Greener Future" is the Navy's theme as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22. The theme emphasizes the Navy's interagency and private sector partnerships as we develop large-scale energy and environmental initiatives. In our local neighborhoods, the Navy partners with state and city government, schools and communities to promote action, organization and long-term environmental stewardship.

Members of the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam 'ohana are encouraged to stage your own "Earth Month" activity to honor our nations' 40th celebration of our planet.

Upcoming events:

April 17 - 8:30-11 a.m.: Pearl Harbor Bike Path gets a cleanup. More volunteers are needed. Check in at Blaisdell Park in Aiea at 8 a.m. To volunteer, call 473-2926.
•April 22 - 8-11 a.m.

Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Pearl Harbor will host an environmental/energy saving expo on the second deck of building 475.
•April 24 - 2-5 p.m. Earth Day exhibits will be on display at Ward Field for SpringFest with fun for the entire family.
•April 23-25 - Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange will hold an Earth Day Expo and sale.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month events

Sailors in Hawaii join with other service members and the civilian community in recognizing sexual assault awareness month which started April 1. Various events are planned on Oahu and Kauai (see listing below). For more information or for assistance, contact Louella Cazimero-Bactad, SARC (sexual assault response coordinator), at 474-1999, ext. 6205 or email louella.cazimero-bac@navy.mil.

April 23

Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands, Kekaha, Kaua'i
•5 p.m. - Fun run open to all qualified personnel and families. For more information, contact MA2 K. Young at 335-7570.

April 27

Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe
•6:45 a.m. - Fun run in conjunction with command PT. For more information, contact NC1 Katherine Warner at 257-0509.

April 28

Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific, Wahiawa
•7 a.m. - Fun run in conjunction with Command PT. For more information, contact ITC Y. Thompson at 474-3996.

Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) at Navy Region Hawaii will participate on April 21 in Denim Day in USA 2010.



'Hoku,' school mascot from Holomua Elementary School, accompanied Crommelin Sailors on their recent deployment

School mascot accompanies USS Crommelin Sailors

Story and photo by
Ensign Raymond W. Miller

USS Crommelin (FFG 37)
Public Affairs

A team from the crew of USS Crommelin's (FFG 37) "Indestructibles" visited Holomua Elementary School on March 25 to discuss the continuation of a partnership in friendships and education between the crew of Crommelin and the children of the elementary school.

Crommelin's Command Senior Chief Matthew Danforth, accompanied by Principal Gary Yasui, signed a certificate stating that Crommelin would continue to support the Holomua Elementary for at least another year.

The ambassador of good will in the partnership between Crommelin and the children of the Holomua Elementary School is a bear named "Hoku." "Hoku" is a small, stuffed, blue bear who carries the honorary rank insignia of a U.S. Navy chief and petty officer first class. He is a representative of the students and faculty who remain in Hawaii at their important jobs every day.

"Hoku" is also the part of them

which longs to explore - and explore he has. "Hoku" is a certified crew member of Crommelin, a shipmate and fellow explorer who went with Crommelin on the ship's most recent deployment to the western Pacific from June-December 2009.

During his deployment with Crommelin, "Hoku" saw people from Malaysia, Thailand and Pohnpei, just to name a few. His origin assisted in the strengthening of relations with these diverse cultures. He also participated in a wide range of evolutions with the "Indestructibles" of Crommelin.

In order to bring the inner workings of Crommelin to children from ages 5-11, photos were taken of "Hoku" while he was deployed with Crommelin. The photos were presented in a slideshow as "Hoku's" diary of his trip.

Yasui said, "The adventures which "Hoku" has taken has electrified the students and staff. I can't wait to see what new events we will achieve together." The children of Holomua Elementary seemed to enjoy the presentation of "Hoku's" journey.

Presentations given to students of Holomua Elementary School imparted "Hoku's" involvement with the intricate workings onboard. The little

blue bear is not only a representative of the school; he is a means of educating students on geography and life as a Crommelin Sailor. The students have begun to understand the challenges surrounding life at sea, and the need to keep spirits high in order to inspire crew members to do their best.

Once again the crew of Crommelin will have the privilege of serving alongside their adopted shipmate, "Hoku." He participated in the 2010 Merrie Monarch Festival on the Big Island with the crew of Crommelin. After that, the bear mascot will rejoin the students of Holomua Elementary School until Crommelin's next deployment this summer.

Danforth expressed his commitment to the Navy's policy toward working for and with communities not only foreign, but domestic. "My fellow Seaman look forward to working with Holomua Elementary in any project which we may be of use," he said.

This partnership in education is vital to Crommelin, Holomua Elementary and the Navy. It provides education, inspiration and excitement to the students of Holomua Elementary and the Sailors of Crommelin.

Eagles inbound: VP-9 personnel tour deployment site

Lt. j.g. Thomas
W Gallagher

Patrol
Squadron
Nine Public
Affairs



Members of Patrol Squadron Nine recently returned from a trip to Kadena Air Force Base, Japan, wrapping up a pre-deployment tour of the base and its facilities.

Cmdr. Dave Whitehead, executive officer, and other members of the squadron's top leadership spent several days surveying the base and meeting with counterparts. The trip was designed to facilitate a smooth turnover with the squadron's sister squadron, Patrol Squadron 47 (VP-47) Golden Swordsmen and to enable the Golden Eagles to hit the ground running upon their arrival.

Much was learned on the trip, ranging from getting up to speed on U.S. 7th Fleet's strategic picture to learning about the routine details of daily life on deployment. With their departure now just a couple months away, members

of the command were eager to find answers as to what awaits them in Kadena and the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

Lt. Cmdr. Tim Thompson, Patrol Squadron Nine's operations officer, focused on operational challenges of deployment. Through meetings with his counterparts in VP-47, he worked to familiarize himself with the day-to-day hurdles a deployed squadron faces and how to work through them.

"It was good to get out there," he said. "I feel I was able to pick up a lot of valuable information on what VP-47 has been dealing with out here and will hopefully be able to apply it to our own deployment. I am thankful they were willing to take the time to meet with us and give us the information we need to succeed in U.S. 7th Fleet."

Back at Kaneohe Bay, members of Patrol Squadron Nine have been working hard to prepare for deployment.

**KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News
upcoming segments**

April 22 – Earth Day 2010 – 40-year anniversary

May 13 – Individual augmentees – family perspective

(The segments currently air between 6:15 and 6:45 a.m. each Thursday. Previous segments can be viewed at <http://www.bit.ly/KHONNavy>)

Got a story for KHON Hawaii Navy News?
Email hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com or call Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs at 473-2875. Stories must have a Navy tie and be of interest to the general public.