



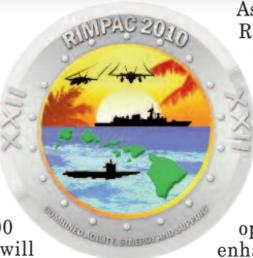
RIMPAC 2010

U.S. 3rd Fleet Public Affairs

Fourteen nations, 34 ships, five submarines, more than 100 aircraft and 20,000 personnel will participate in the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise June 23 through Aug. 1 in the Hawaiian operating area in and around the islands of Hawaii.

Hosted by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, RIMPAC demonstrates a commitment to working with global partners in guarding the sea lanes of commerce and communication, protecting national interests abroad, and ensuring freedom of navigation as a basis for global peace and prosperity.

By design, RIMPAC is a multi-national exercise that prepares forces to be interoperable and ready for a wide range of potential operations. This, in turn, helps ensure stability throughout the Pacific Rim, aiding the development and prosperity of all participating nations.



As an exercise, RIMPAC is intended to increase the tactical proficiency of participating units in a wide array of maritime operations by enhancing military-to-military relations and interoperability. During the exercise, participating units will conduct gunnery, missile, anti-submarine and air defense exercises, as well as maritime interdiction and vessel boardings, explosive ordnance disposal, diving and salvage operations, mine clearance operations and amphibious landing.

This year's exercise includes units or personnel from Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and the United States.

RIMPAC 2010 is themed "Combined Agility, Synergy and Support," and marks the 22nd exercise in the series that originated in 1971.

For more information on the exercise, visit www.c3f.navy.mil/rimpac_2010.

PMRF heroes rescue green sea turtle



U.S. Navy photo by Harley Lehman

Master-at-Arms 1st Class (MA1) Aaron Cuzick, MA2 Shawn Beauchamp and MA1 Jerry Pickryl from Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands, Kauai carry a disoriented green sea turtle back to the outfall of Nohili Ditch on May 2. The turtle recovered quickly once back in shallow water and swam away. In the background, hauling out for a rest at the outfall is "Ding," a female turtle rescued a year ago at PMRF following a serious boat strike injury. A patch of fiberglass is still visible from the repair performed by veterinarians last May. (This photo and other photos and stories are featured on Navy Region Hawaii's Facebook site.)

Joint base newspaper slated to begin June 4

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor

Readers of Hawaii Navy News and Hickam Kukini will soon be reading one joint base newspaper - Ho'okele - Pearl Harbor-Hickam News. The first issue of the joint newspaper will be distributed on June 4.

The joint newspaper is part of the merger of two great military installations, Naval Station Pearl Harbor and Hickam Air Force Base. The size of the newspaper is expected to expand and will accommodate both Navy and Air Force stories and photos.

For the past several months, the staff of Hawaii Navy News has taken advantage of opportunities to include both Navy and Air Force in "joint" news stories wherever possible. These stories are marked with the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam logo which is also depicted in this article.

Ho'okele will continue to include joint Navy-Air Force stories as well as Navy-specific and Air Force-specific stories. Content will feature items of interest to active duty Sailors and Airmen and their families here in Hawaii.

The name Ho'okele was selected by Capt. Richard Kitchens, commanding officer of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, at the culmination of a "name the joint newspaper" contest which invited input from readers of both newspapers.

More than 100 name suggestions were received. Ho'okele was suggested by a reader in the Air Force community.

The name Ho'okele is the Hawaiian word for navigator. This name was selected because navigators are important roles in both the Air Force and the Navy, and were highly respected members of ancient Hawaiian culture as well. A navigator provides not just facts and details, but also useful information and important insights. It is our hope and intention that Ho'okele will fulfill that role.

Along with its new name, readers will notice a new design on page one. Navy and Air Force readers will also notice many familiar features.

A current feature of the Hickam Kukini, Warrior of the Week, has recently been adopted by Hawaii Navy News as Navy Warrior of the Week. After the newspapers merge, the feature will be called "Joint Base Warrior of the Week" and will feature Navy and Air Force subjects in alternating issues.

Distribution of Ho'okele will include the current Navy and Air Force housing communities of readers as well as at newspaper racks located throughout installation commands and at such venues

See HO'okele, A-7



Honolulu-Pacific Federal Executive Board recognizes CNRH personnel

Story and photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

The Honolulu-Pacific Federal Executive Board (FEB) held the 2010 Excellence in Government Awards ceremony to recognize more than 100 government employees on April 29 at the Sheraton Waikiki in Honolulu.

"Today we are here to honor all of our FEB award winners for their outstanding service," said Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann. "As the mayor, I get to see what most of you do first hand. A lot of people, including myself, have benefited from your work."

Nine personnel assigned to Commander, Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) were awarded by the FEB for categories including employer of choice



Culinary Specialist 1st Class Yolruedee Jennings (standing center), assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), is recognized as an award winner for the exceptional community service category during the Honolulu-Pacific Federal Executive Board (FEB) Awards Luncheon at the Sheraton Waikiki in Honolulu on April 29. Personnel assigned to various commands in Hawaii were awarded by the FEB in nine different categories.

and supervisor of the year. Culinary Specialist 1st Class Yolruedee Jennings, assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH),

said she felt honored for being recognized as an award winner for the exceptional community service category, but said she

couldn't have done it alone. "I'm very happy that the FEB awarded me the exceptional community service award, but there is no way I

would have accomplished this without the help of the Sailors and personnel I work with," Jennings said.

Rear Adm. Manson Brown, commander, 14th Coast Guard District, made the closing remarks at the ceremony and thanked all of the personnel in attendance.

"I want to express my deepest thanks to all of you that attended our banquet here today," said Brown. "You continually do a great job and truly are the best at what you do."

Other award winners from CNRH included JBPHH Personnel Support Detachment for employer of choice; CNRH Federal Fire Department for team excellence; Fire Chief Glenn DeLaura for supervisor/manager of the year; Daniel DuBois for the federal employee of the year, professional, technical and ad-

ministration category; Aileen McIntyre for federal employee of the year, clerical and assistant category; Imelda Diego for the federal employee of the year, trades and crafts category; Ship's Serviceman 1st Class Diana Johnson, assigned to JBPHH, for leader of the year; and Personnel Specialist 1st Class Channell Beaugard, assigned to JBPHH, for mentor of the year.

The Honolulu-Pacific Federal Executive Board was established in 1966 and serves as the federal presence throughout the Pacific and plays a pivotal role in creating a government that works better and costs less.

(Employees from U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyards and Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawaii were also honored at the event.)



Johnson relieves Boxall at USS Lake Erie change of command See page A-2



Bringing them home: JPAC recovers remains of America's fallen heroes See page A-4



Hawaii's 'IA perspectives' showcased in TV Interviews See page A-2



NIOC wins in shootout over Port Royal See page B-1

Johnson relieves Boxall at USS Lake Erie change of command

Ensign Aimee Lindner

USS Lake Erie (CG 70)

Capt. William Johnson relieved Capt. Ronald Boxall as commanding officer of USS Lake Erie (CG 70), during a change of command ceremony held April 30 on board the warship in port at Pearl Harbor.

Boxall had some departing words for his shipmates, whom he had led for more than two years. "I am the luckiest CO in the Navy. To have this crew, with this work ethic, this high standard, this winning attitude and to do it with a smile on their face is what we all hope for as captains," Boxall said.

Aegis Firecontrolman 1st Class (SW) James Lewis said, "During ballistic missile defense (BMD) system upgrade install briefs, he always spoke with the technical knowledge and confidence of the BMD experts. He challenged the ship's BMD team



U.S. Navy photo by ISC (SW) Jason Snellings
 Capt. William Johnson (left) stands by while Capt Ronald Boxall (center) reports his relief as commanding officer to Rear Adm. Dixon Smith (right), commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, on the flight deck of Lake Erie while in port at Pearl Harbor.

to improve on our knowledge of all the new systems and capabilities and continually

pushed us towards technical excellence."

Boxall is a native of Hol-

land Patent, N.Y. His previous sea duty assignments include USS Kinkaid (DD

965), USS Merrill (DD 976), USS Simpson (FFG 56), USS Ramage (DDG 61), USS Hue City (CG 66), and the USS Carney (DDG 64).

Lake Erie recently returned from a U.S. 7th Fleet deployment where the ship engaged with five separate navies from the Pacific. Boxall expressed his pride of the returning Lake Erie crew, "Our [U.S.] 7th Fleet deployment was everything that our Sailors signed up for—fantastic liberty, while also performing relevant and important military responsibilities. At the same time, we actively promoted vital partnerships with our Pacific allies."

Boxall was presented the Legion of Merit, one of the Navy's highest awards, for exceptional leadership during nine successful BMD missions, a Rim of the Pacific exercise, a successful unit level training cycle, and a U.S. 7th Fleet western Pacific deployment. He will be

assigned next as executive assistant to the director of integration of capabilities and resources (N8) at the Pentagon.

Johnson is the 10th commanding officer of Lake Erie, which is the nation's ballistic missile test platform. "I am humbled and extremely honored to have the privilege to lead you," said Johnson as he took command.

"It's clear that he is a warfighter and will expect equipment to be operational and our watchstanders to be ready to fight. The Lake Erie tradition will clearly continue with the new captain," remarked Chief Cryptologic Technician (Technical) (SW) Joseph Fischtziur.

Johnson is from the San Francisco Bay Area. His previous sea duty assignments include USS Vincennes (CG 49), USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51), USS Shiloh (CG 70), USS Anzio (CG 68) and USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60).



U.S. Navy photo by MCC Jeremy L. Wood

Navy trauma surgeon Cmdr. Cheuk Hong and other individual augmentees try to save the victim of an improvised explosive device at Forward Operating Base Lagman, Afghanistan, April 12, 2010. The 20-person team is made up of personnel from 12 different commands.

Hawaii's 'IA perspectives' showcased in TV Interviews

Bill Doughty

Deputy Director, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

With a trauma operating room nurse just back from deployment in Afghanistan leading the discussion, Navy Region Hawaii kicked off the first in a series of live TV interviews last month on the role of Navy individual augmentees in support of overseas contingency operations.

The interviews are aired on KHON2's "Wake Up 2day" morning show on the Honolulu Fox affiliate station. This month's IA perspective, to be aired May 13 sometime between 6:20 and 6:40 a.m., will feature a conversation with a husband-wife team, to discuss the stress of deployment and offer suggestions on how to support loved ones in overseas contingency operations.

On June 17, 112th birthday of the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps, the perspective will be that of Navy corpsmen, and will feature Purple Heart recipients who served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan.

The first "IA Perspectives" interview aired on April 8 during KHON2's Hawaii Navy News segment. Host Jai Cunningham asked Lt. Cmdr. Rosemary Frieson, who appeared with three other IAs, about her role as an IA.

Frieson, who served with a forward surgical team, said,

"We actually had a suicide bomber attack outside our base in Farah, and the resilience of the (Afghan) people to come together, to help one another and to bring those patients to us was just overwhelming and exciting."

Frieson reported for duty April 7 in medical management for Naval Health Clinic Hawaii.

Chief Gunner's Mate (SW) Roger Ware, who now serves as a weapons officer at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, was deployed to the Command Joint Operations Center in Kabul, Afghanistan last year.

"We also had a bomber outside our gate at the headquarters and it was an experience that shook us at the time during my time there," said Ware. "You do what you have to do and get everything taken care of and it was very dramatic at the time. I had never been in that situation, but we got through it."

Nearly 400 Sailors stationed in Hawaii are currently deployed as IAs in Afghanistan, Iraq, Djibouti and other parts of the world.

Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) 2nd Class (SW) Victoria Stack served at U.S. Central Command Headquarters, but deployed to Qatar. She said she was able to observe overseas contingency operations in various countries from her vantage point.

"Watching all of that come together... what are we doing

to make a difference, it wasn't just the idea of where are the attacks going on, where are we involved. It was also on a humanitarian side of how are we helping in the local villages, how are we helping these other people. It was incredible."

Stack now serves at Naval Information Operations Command, Hawaii.

Lt. Rodolfo San Juan, now the assistant department head for the Makalapa branch medical clinic, was stationed in Helmand Province as an intensive care unit trauma nurse.

Asked to describe his most memorable moment, the Aiea, Hawaii native said, "For me, it's just the experience of working with the coalition forces and also with the local nationals... helping with the democracy, restoring democracy of the nation. It's an experience that I will always cherish."

Photos of and by the IAs, along with video of a recent IA recognition luncheon sponsored by the Honolulu Council of the Navy League, were shown during their interview.

KHON2's Hawaii Navy News is viewable on line at <http://bit.ly/KHONNavy>. To see the first IA perspectives interview, scroll to the April 8 episode.

(To make suggestions of IAs to be interviewed, please write to IA Perspectives, CNRH Public Affairs, 850 Ticonderoga St., Ste. 100, Pearl Harbor, HI 96860.)

NCIS Hawaii special agents, staff awarded

Story and photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Personnel assigned to Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Field Office Hawaii were awarded the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) Medal for the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) during an awards ceremony on board the Battleship Missouri Memorial on May 3.

Mark Clookie, director of NCIS, presented the award to 12 special agents and staff.

"We are here to express appreciation to our personnel that have gone in harm's way to protect the freedom of our country," said Clookie. "Today, we pay a special tribute for everything that you all have achieved."

Edward H. Kubo Jr., circuit court judge of the first circuit (Oahu), served as the guest speaker for the ceremony and thanked the awardees for their service.

"I want to thank each and every one of you for all that you've done for our country, the military and the state of Hawaii," Kubo said. "I am extremely honored to be a part of this great event as we honor our special agents and staff for their service to their country."

Kubo also talked about the significance of NCIS's work throughout the world.

"The NCIS has established itself as an elite organization, providing top-notch security,



Mark Clookie, director of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), presents Special Agent Louis Lockard with the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) Medal for the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) during the GWOT awards ceremony on board the Battleship Missouri Memorial. Twelve NCIS Field Office Hawaii special agents and staff were presented with the SECDEF Medal for the GWOT during the ceremony.

counter-intelligence and counter-terrorism anywhere they are needed," said Kubo.

Special Agent (SA) Henry Roney, special agent in charge of NCIS field office Hawaii, noted the importance of paying tribute to the agents and staff.

"Our agents sacrifice their time and their family's time, putting themselves through danger to protect our country," said Roney. "It really is an honor to recognize the awardees with the SECDEF GWOT medal and in a well-deserved way."

The awardees included Wayne Chang, Elizabeth

Faulkner, SA Robert Flannery, SA James Heddesten, SA Louis Lockard, SA Tony Richardson, SA Glenn Roessler, SA John Smallman, SA Amanda Smoot Tolentino, SA Peter Tolentino, SA Christopher Leaden and SA James Nettleton.

The Secretary of Defense Medal for the Global War on Terrorism was created to recognize the contributions and accomplishments of the civilian workforce of the Department of Defense in direct support of the nation's armed forces, whose members are engaged in operations to combat terrorism.

Navy Region Hawaii joins Waianae Mountains Watershed Partnership

Grace Hew Len

Navy Region Hawaii Environmental Public Affairs Officer

In the heart of Waianae Valley, where *lo'i kalo*, or taro patches, grow in the gentle sloping valley floor of Ka'ala Farm, a new and historic partnership has been formalized. Navy Region Hawaii joined the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Army Garrison Hawaii, Board of Water Supply and other leaders of the Waianae community in signing the Waianae Mountains Watershed Partnership Memorandum of Understanding during a ceremony April 22 at Ka'ala Farm.

"The overall goal of the partnership is to work together to protect, restore and enhance the Waianae Mountains watersheds, from *mauka* to *makai* (mountain top to shoreline) while incorporating traditional, cultural and community values for future generations," said Laura Thielen, DLNR chairperson. In the tranquil valley of the Waianae *ahupua'a* or land subdivision, water flows down the hill from *lo'i* to *lo'i* and returns to



U.S. Army photo by Stefanie Gardin

Capt. Bret Muilenburg, commanding officer of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii, signs the Waianae Mountains Watershed partnership Memorandum of Understanding during a ceremony at Ka'ala Farm. Standing (from left) are partners Gary Gill of Gill-Olson Joint Venture; Laura Thielen, DLNR chairperson; and Dean Nakano, Board of Water Supply deputy manager.

the stream that feeds them, much like the goal of the partnership.

The Navy shares the *ahupua'a* with its land holdings in west Oahu

along the Waianae Mountain Range. As part of its stewardship responsibilities, Navy Region Hawaii protects the sensitive natural resources on

the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam installations, while ensuring mission capabilities.

Navy Region Hawaii owns and manages more than 9,000 acres in Lualualei Valley for munitions storage and as a radio transmitting facility in support of naval operations in the Pacific.

"The Navy has very good natural and cultural resource programs to carry out its stewardship responsibilities for Lualualei," said Capt. Bret Muilenburg, commanding officer of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii, who also represented Navy Region Hawaii commander, Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, at the ceremony.

The community partners include Gill-Olson Joint Venture, Ka'ala Farms and MA'O Organic Farms. Together with the Navy, Army and state, the partners will cooperatively develop and implement management strategies for watershed areas, native species and their habitats, and historical, cultural and socio-economic resources for all who benefit from the continued health of the Waianae Mountains *ahupua'a*.

Some areas that will be addressed are habitat improvement, restoration and protection; invasive species management and control; water resource management and protection; watershed monitoring; compatible recreational use and access; promotion of sustainable agriculture; and cultural resource protection awareness.

"So we're not only going to focus on managing the natural resources for healthy watersheds, but also try to incorporate cultural and community interests as well," said Yumi Miyata, coordinator of the Waianae Mountains Watershed Partnership.

After the historic signing, guests toured the valley at Ka'ala Farm. The *lo'i kalo* beckoned guests to step into the ponds to plant a piece of taro that will be cultivated. Finally, visitors shared in an offering of Hawaiian food cooked in an *imu*, or underground oven.

In reflection, Muilenburg said, "Once we were up on Ka'ala Farm, it felt like we had escaped modern development and had retreated back in time. It would be a meaningful place to bring the entire family for a day of working the ponds and reflection."



Diverse Views

What are your summer plans?



EOCN Berenice Hillegass

"Operate heavy construction equipment on the Big Island as part of the RIMPAC 2010 exercise."



BU1(SCW) Michael Holloman

"I will travel to North Carolina for my first Half Ironman competition."



BU2 Edwin Retener

"I plan to travel to California."



EO3 Demontrae Hilburn

"Go back to Ohio and spend time with the family."



CM2(SCW) Alfredo Martinez

"Enjoy summer, work hard!"

(from Sailors at Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303 Detachment Pearl Harbor) Provided by Lt. Stephen Slaby, Photos by EO2 (SCW) James Ross

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views? Got opinions to share?

Drop us a line at hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil



Letter to the Editor

Dear editor of [Hawaii] Navy News,

I read an article in the Star Bulletin about a new Navy policy, smoking being banned on subs. Smoking in the military has been a tradition for decades. Smoking has been going on in foxholes, ships and boats, as a way to release stress on the battlefield. Smokers do have some rights.

There are already many restrictions on smoking and now the only pleasure a Sailor has is being taken away. What a nice way to deliver an unjust punishment!

I hope this has an effect on retention rates? I'm a retired Army SGM and worked for the Navy for 20 years. So I am part Sailor and I go to bat for them!

A thought for the day:

"A Friend
A friend is like the stars,
You can't always see them,
But they are always there
When you need them."

Michael J. Peola
Honolulu, HI

'Old Salt' and a young Sailor, circa 1920



An "Old Salt" and a young Sailor pass a recruiting poster that was popular in 1920. The term "old salt" refers to veteran Sailors who are considered a raconteur, or teller of sea stories. Much of the history and traditions of the naval services are passed from generation to generation of service members by the sea stories told by old salts. Sea stories may be truthful, half-truths, or falsehoods, however, they always enhance the reputations of naval and Marine units or the individuals telling the story.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month observance planned for May 19

A celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month will be held from 11 a.m. to noon May 19 at Lockwood Hall *Ilanai*. Retired Vice Adm. Robert Kihune will speak on this year's theme, "Diverse Leadership for a Diverse Workforce." The Morale, Welfare and Recreation hula class from Bloch Arena will dance hula for the event. Attendees will be seated 10 minutes before the start of the program. All military-affiliated personnel are invited to attend this event, which is sponsored by Commander, Navy Region Hawaii. For more information, contact Nadine E. Bayne, director, human resources office, at 471-0342.



Readers can view Hawaii Navy News at two online sites.

Visit <https://www.cnmc.navy.mil/hawaii> to access PDF versions of HNN. The site includes HNN archive issues back to 2004.

Visit www.hawaiinavynews.com to access complete HNN stories and related photos. This site is managed by the Honolulu Advertiser, the publisher for HNN.

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Bringing them home: JPAC recovers remains of America's fallen heroes

Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

The phrase "until they are home" is one that is familiar to many military families. However, for the chosen few who work at Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), it is not only their command's motto but also the hopeful promise of closure for families of missing American service members who left for war and never returned.

Located near Hickam Harbor, the joint base command is comprised of nearly 400 hand-selected Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Department of Defense civilian workers. All have one central mission: to search and recover missing American prisoners of war (POW) and missing in action (MIA) service members killed in action as a result of past war conflicts.

Established in 2003, JPAC was the result of a merger of the 11-year-old Joint Task Force-Full Accounting and the 30-year-old U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory (CIL), the largest forensic anthropology laboratory in the world.

"I think what we do is important work," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Bradley Jones, a JPAC forensic odontologist. "How we honor these husbands, fathers and service members is what sets our country apart from the rest. It is important the way America looks at its military and the importance we place on each individual."

Once a battalion dentist for the Navy Seabees, Jones is now responsible for scouring thousands of dental records in hopes of positively identifying human remains of missing POWs and MIAs found on various JPAC missions.

"My job is identification of the [dental] remains which is extremely important, especially for those recovered in Vietnam since the soil is very acidic there," Jones said. "Sometimes we get remains that are so degraded or not even recoverable, except for the teeth. We can also rely on mitochondrial DNA, another form of identification, passed on from the mother," he added.



JPAC photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon

Nicolette Parr, a Forensic Science Academy graduate fellow, sifts through sand at a dry screen station searching for artifacts in the Savannakhet province, Lao People's Democratic Republic on Oct. 26, 2009. The Forensic Science Academy is an advanced forensic anthropology program taught at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's Central Identification Laboratory. Students like Justus complete the program's five courses which are taught under the auspices of the Department of Defense. The JPAC mission is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans lost during our nation's previous conflicts.

Jones said, depending on medical records available or the material evidence found at excavation sites, the identification process could take years to complete.

In one of his many projects for JPAC, Jones works with a peer group of military dentists and anthropologists, examining multiple dental X-rays of missing service members in hopes of creating one thorough dental record that a re-

covery team can use to ultimately make a positive identification.

"It can be a complicated puzzle," he confessed. "For example, when you look at some of these records, each dentist may have had a different opinion from you. So, you have to look at that exam and think of what that dentist was thinking when he was looking at that mouth in 1952, and then compare that to a different dentist that

did the same exam in 1954 before putting it all together in one [condensed] dental exam. We have to make sure we do a thorough job because if [JPAC] does recover any remains, we need to have something good we can compare it to," he added.

Once identification has been made, cases are forwarded to the appropriate service mortuary affairs office, whose members personally notify next-of-kin family members.

According to JPAC's Web site, the command maintains three permanent overseas detachments to assist with investigation and recovery operations. The detachments are located in Thailand, Vietnam, Laos. A fourth detachment at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam is used by the multiple recovery teams when they are not deployed.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Aaron Allmon works as a mission photographer, responsible for accurately documenting many of JPAC's excavation sites.

A combat photographer for most of his career, Allmon was assigned to various joint special operations units and was often deployed on dangerous patrol and raid missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, Allmon insists it is his personal experience working with JPAC that will be the military legacy he shares with future grandchildren.

"Being in the military and working as a combat photographer with a special operations unit can give you a certain blind faith," he revealed. "You have the courage to kick down a door or go into a building because you know that no matter what happens, we will be brought back home. As a military member, it is this bond that brings us all together and gives us the courage to face danger. For many of these [JPAC] missions, if we recover any remains, it means we are giving somebody, somewhere, some type of closure," he explained.

Part of Allmon's JPAC duty requires him to travel on multiple missions to help anthropology teams create an archeological grid for their excavation sites.

"We basically want to photograph the land before and after," he explained. "Anything that we find, such as aircraft wreckage and materials, are photographed because we don't necessarily bring everything back. We are basically there to make a photographic fact sheet on everything that was done during that trip which the next team can use after we leave."

Allmon estimates he takes at least 240 pictures, or up to 10 photo logs of both aerial and on-site documentation, during each of his 35-day missions to various JPAC digging sites all over the world.

"The anthropologists are able to formulate a game plan based on photos," he said. "They are able to sit down with my images and say, 'This is what we are looking at, this is where we need to dig.'"

Both Jones and Allmon agree that JPAC's joint base environment has given them an opportunity to create cooperative working relationships with service members from other military branches.

"You can't even tell that there are different services working together in this command," Allmon said. "The cool thing about JPAC is that we all have our identities, but once we are together on a mission, everyone is able to go out and have one common focus: to bring our brothers home. You realize that this mission is so much bigger than any personal feelings or any inner service rivalries."

Since its inception in 2003, JPAC has identified more than 465 individuals and averages about six Americans each month. In honor of their sacrifice made by individuals whose remains are recovered, JPAC holds an arrival ceremony with a joint service honor guard and senior officers from each military service.

Veterans, community members and local active-duty military often attend the ceremonies to pay their respects as the remains are transported from a U.S. military plane to JPAC's headquarters at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. For more information on JPAC, visit www.jpac.pacom.mil. For JPAC's public affairs office, contact 448-5530 or email pao_mail@jpac.pacom.mil.

Pearl Harbor Highlights



Hawaii Police Department's chief of police, Louis M. Kealoha, spoke to Pearl Harbor Sailors and civilians about his lessons in leadership as part of the "Learn from the Leader" event on April 29. Hosted by Commander Navy Region Hawaii, the Workforce Development Program invites well-established leaders to impart their wisdom and experiences to Navy leaders in Hawaii.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

(Right) Senior Master Sgt. Leslie Pratt, 36th Medical Group, Andersen AFB, Guam, tours the USS Arizona Memorial on April 28. SMSgt Pratt is one of Pacific Air Force's Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

Photo by David D. Underwood Jr.



Photo by David D. Underwood Jr.

Senior Airmen Bree Davis, 48th Aerial Port Squadron, Hickam AFB, Hawaii, and David Rivera, 254th Security Forces Squadron, Andersen AFB, Guam, tour the USS Arizona Memorial on April 28. The Airmen are two of Pacific Air Forces' Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

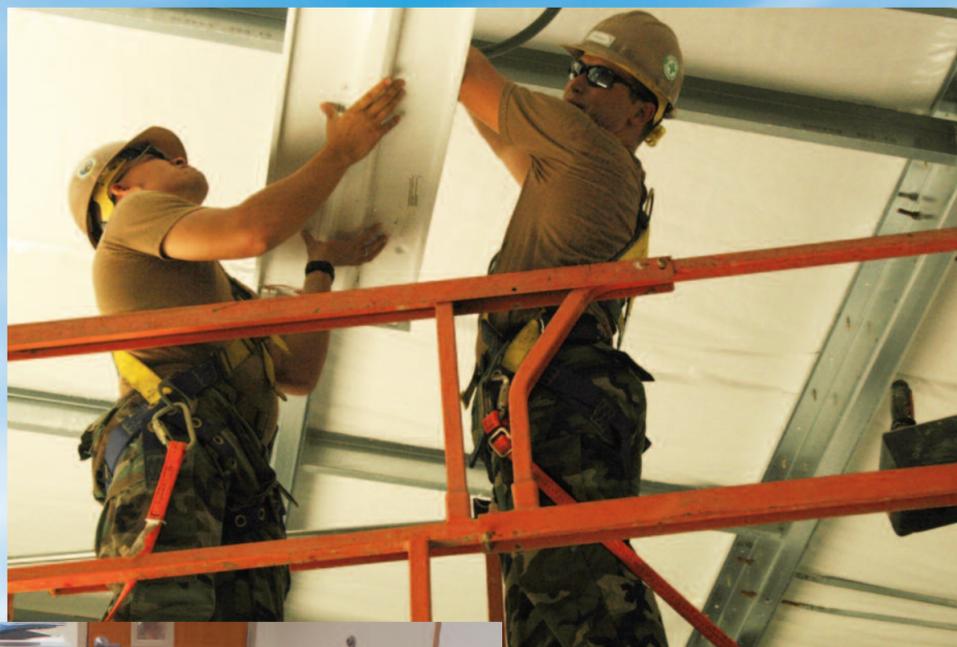
(Right) Following a tour of the USS Arizona Memorial on April 28, Pacific Air Forces' Outstanding Airmen of the Year pose for pictures with Herb Weatherwax, a U.S. Army veteran who witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Photo by David D. Underwood Jr.



Construction Electrician 2nd class (SCW) Anthony Arcilla and Construction Electrician 3rd class Casey Erlebach install lighting for the Navy-Marine Golf Course. Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303 detachment Pearl Harbor are currently constructing a pre-engineered building for the Navy-Marine Golf Course.

U.S. Navy photo by Seaman (SW) Rachel Swiatnicki



Mara Macdonald, a social worker for Navy Region Hawaii's Fleet and Family Support Center, leads a group of new mothers and their babies in an infant massage class offered April 23 through the Navy New Parent Support Home Visitation Program. The program, administered by Navy Region Hawaii Fleet and Family Support Center, assists new parents and expecting parents with home visits, information on parenting, referrals, support groups and nurturing skills.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (AW) Jason Swink

CPRW-2 shows support for Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society

Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two Public Affairs

Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two (CPRW-2) conducted a "pie in the face" fundraiser April 27 to raise money for the Navy - Marine Corps Relief Society for the benefit of fellow Sailors, Marines and their families.

CPRW-2 personnel were able to vote for the person who would earn the coveted pie in the face, with each vote costing 50 cents. The top six people with the most votes were deemed the "winners." Those winners had the opportunity to buy themselves off the list by



Photo by Sheldon Comer

Chief Aviation Ordnanceman Samantha Jimerson hurls a pie into the face of Lt. Cmdr. Nomer Oytas during a Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two "pie in the face" fundraiser.

paying the full amount of votes cast toward them by the deadline. However, nobly, no one did so.

"It was a chance for everyone to come together and help out fellow Sailors and Marines," said Chief Intelligence Specialist Cedrick Thomas.

Thomas, along with Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Jeremy Bates, coordinated the event.

"It truly feels good to give back to an organization that helped me when I needed it most," Thomas remarked. He also served as a demonstrator for the event, taking a pie in the face tossed by Capt. Rod Urbano, commodore

of CPRW-2.

The top six "winners" in order of popularity: Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Platt, Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate Douglas Aguilar, Navy Counselor 1st Class Katherine Warner, Yeoman 1st Class Matthew Lawyer, Chief Yeoman Jason Bradford and Lt. Cmdr. Nomer Oytas. In addition to the money raised by votes, CPRW-2 raised more by auctioning off the opportunity to deliver a pie to the face to one of the six participants.

CPRW-2 raised more than \$10,000 for NMCRS through combined fundraising efforts. The "pie in the face" competition alone brought in more than \$1,000.

CPRW-2 honors assault victims on Denim Day 2010

Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two Public Affairs

Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two (CPRW-2) staff members wore jeans on "Denim Day 2010" on April 21 in honor of victims of sexual assault and in support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in April.

"Denim Day" came about as the result of an Italian Supreme Court decision in 1998 which overturned a rape conviction. Consideration in the decision was given to the fact that the victim wore jeans. People all over the world expressed their outrage at the verdict. After this case, the wearing of jeans became an international symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual assault. Since then, people all over the world have participated in "Denim Day" in honor of these victims of sexual assault.

To further raise awareness and promote the prevention of sexual violence, CPRW-2 hosted a SAAM Run on April 27 for the command PT session. The run was open to all hands, and began and ended at the CPRW-2 headquarters at the John Finn Building.



Photo by Sheldon Comer

Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two staff members wear jeans in support of "Denim Day 2010," honoring victims of sexual assault.

Additionally, all wing personnel attended a Sexual Assault Awareness training brief at the base chapel on April 30. The presentation was sponsored by MCCS and featured speaker Mike Domitrz, who discussed healthy dating, consent and sexual assault.

The theme for this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) was: "Hurts one, affects all - Pre-

venting Sexual Assault is everyone's duty." The Department of Defense 2010 campaign focuses on the effects sexual assault has on the military's mission readiness. It emphasizes that a sexual assault can reverberate throughout a unit and beyond, degrading readiness by harming the life of the victim, and the military's ability to work effectively as a team.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

- May 13 – Individual augmentees – family perspectives with MA1 David Taylor and Lindsay Taylor
- May 20 – Military Appreciation Month special segment one
- May 27 – Military Appreciation Month special segment two
- June 17 – Individual augmentees – Hospital Corps 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.

USMAP helps Hawaii service members earn certifications

MC2 John W. Ciccarelli Jr.

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West Det. Hawaii

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam held a class May 3-4 to inform service members about the benefits of the United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP).

"The program gives the military member the opportunity, while active, to complete their apprenticeship and journeyman certificate just like their civilian counterparts," said Kenneth Ledbetter, market outreach coordinator for USMAPS.

As of May 3, the program has helped more than 45,000 service members earn their professional certification administered at no cost by the U.S. Department of Labor (DoL).

"This is a very easy program to get involved with," said Navy Counselor 1st Class Kurt Strouhschein, assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. "It can help those individually by using their work experience in competing in today's very competitive job market."

USMAP works with the DoL to provide nationally-recognized apprenticeship programs that result in journeyman-level certificates of completion for all active-duty Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel with a high school diploma or general education degree.

"With my retirement at the end of this year, this program gives me a better chance, not only to compete for a job at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, but also gives me the leverage to negotiate for higher pay," said Machinery Repairman 1st Class Charles Urban, assigned to USS Hopper (DDG 70).

During their apprenticeship, military members fur-



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 N. Brett Morton

Kenneth Ledbetter, from the United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP), briefs Hawaii-based Sailors May 4 on the USMAP program offered to active duty Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsman. The program is designed to allow participants to document on-the-job training in their specific trades and turn it into a journeyman certificate from the Department of Labor.

ther their professional development through documented work experiences while performing their regular military duties without requiring any additional off-duty work.

USMAP requires service members to log all on-the-job training (OJT) hours to get credit for their work. Registered members may choose to record their hours online or through paper records by request. Both reports must be submitted to their records account on the Web site or by mail weekly, monthly and semi-annually. Each report requires a signature from someone in the member's chain of command to verify the hours.

"Coming out today gave me way more information than the Internet," said Sonar Technician Seaman James Breen, assigned to USS Lake Erie (CG 70). "Now I know that I can transfer all my work experience and [earn certifica-

tions] that people don't see as Navy experience but job experience."

Naval Education and Training command (NETC) recommends that interested service members sign up as soon as possible to receive credit for their OJT hours. Higher-ranking service members signing up for USMAP can receive a waiver to receive up to 50 percent of their OJT requirements.

According to the Department of Labor, every 2,000 OJT hours equals 144 hours of classroom instruction. Most certifications require 2,000 to 10,000 hours of OJT. An average Sailor doing a usual eight-hour work day, five times a week can complete 2,000 hours every year. Some vocationally-oriented colleges also offer college credits for completed apprenticeships.

(See related story on page A-8)



The Los Angeles class, fast-attack submarine USS Columbia (SSN 771) returns to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on May 3, following a six-month deployment to the western Pacific region. Columbia completed several missions of vital importance in support of overseas contingency operations.

USS Columbia returns to Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

The Los Angeles-class, fast-attack nuclear-powered submarine USS Columbia (SSN 771) returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on May 3, following a six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

"This was an incredibly successful deployment from completing tasking important to

national interests, to engaging our allies in a positive environment," said Cmdr. Craig Blakely, commanding officer of Columbia. "Columbia performed superbly, demonstrating the versatility of the U.S. fast-attack submarine," noted Blakely.

"Almost 70 percent of the Columbia crew was on their first deployment, but you would never know from their performance," said Blakely. "I am extremely proud of the conduct of the crew. Whether playing soccer against our fellow submariners in South Ko-

rea or keeping the ship safe during stressful deployed operations, everyone was professional."

Columbia, commissioned in 1995, was the last 688-class submarine to be built at Electric Boat Shipyard in Groton, Conn. The submarine is one of the most versatile ships in the world, capable of numerous types of missions in a myriad of regions including long range Tomahawk strike operations, anti-submarine and surface ship tracking operations, surveillance and intelligence gathering.

Ho'okele to continue newspaper excellence

Continued from A-1

as the commissaries, exchanges, health clinics, etc.

Both Hawaii Navy News and Hickam Kukini have a rich and long heritage, serving their respective communities for many years.

With the launch of Ho'okele, we start a new tradition of newspaper excellence.

As we begin this new phase in publishing a joint newspaper that will serve the Navy and Air Force communities and readers, please rest assured that we will always do our best to provide news coverage that is timely, informative and offers a good balance of issues that are important to both Navy and Air Force readers.

We encourage reader-sub-

mitted photos and stories in order to obtain broader coverage of local Navy and Air Force news. Please contact us for guidance and assistance.

We always welcome your ideas for stories as well as your suggestions and feedback. These can be submitted to hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com or to the managing editor, Karen Spangler, at Karen.spangler@navy.mil.

Sea, Shore Sailors of the Year announced for Pacific Fleet

Story and photo by MC2 Michael Hight

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Scott R. Van Buskirk, deputy commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Pacific Fleet Master Chief John Minyard announced the 2010 Pacific Fleet Sea and Shore Sailors of the Year on April 22 during a ceremony held at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu.

Operations Specialist 1st Class (SW) Samira McBride was named the Pacific Fleet Sea Sailor of the Year and Legalman 1st Class (SW/AW) Jessica Byard was named the Pacific Fleet Shore Sailor of the Year.

"All the Sailors of the Years are the very best the Pacific Fleet has to offer," said Minyard. "Hard work, dedication to their commands and their Sailors is what made them stand out."

Representing USS Lassen (DDG 82), McBride will be meritoriously promoted to chief petty officer in the summer.

"It truly is an honor to be presented with the title of Pacific Fleet Sea Sailor of the Year," said McBride, a native of Chad, Africa.

Byard represents Commander Third Fleet. Due to her selection as the Shore Sailor of the Year, she will travel to Washington, D.C. to represent Pacific Fleet at the Chief of Naval Operations Shore Sailors of the Year competition. If selected, she also will be meritoriously promoted to chief petty officer.

"Being here this week has been a honor and something that I will never forget," said Byard, a native of Goshen, N.Y. "I have tremendous respect for all of the finalists, and I am very humbled to be selected as the Pacific Fleet Shore Sailor of the Year."



Pacific Fleet Master Chief (SW/AW) John Minyard congratulates Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuels) 1st Class (AW/SW) Kemp Dreher, assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, on selection as a finalist for the 2010 Pacific Fleet Sailor of the Year competition during a reception at the Ala Moana Hotel on April 22. The finalists experienced five days in Hawaii, participating in a variety of personal and professional evaluations as well as leadership, naval heritage and team-building events throughout historic Pearl Harbor.

Van Buskirk spoke about what each of the finalists represents and what it takes to become the Sailor of the Year.

"These Sailors' credentials are impeccable - college degrees, active members of their communities, leaders in their commands and leaders among their peers," Van Buskirk said. "What really makes a Sailor of the Year is execution and sustained superior performance. They set the example for peers and subordinates alike."

Minyard called the entire week a "career development" for the finalists, noting that the selection process itself looked at the career choices and performance of each nominee to see what set them apart from their peers.

"A panel of command master chiefs from various warfare communities carefully review each nominee's package," Minyard said. "The board will then present the fleet master chief with the eight finalists."

The other Sea Sailor of the Year nominees were:

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF/AW/SW/NAC) Lawrence Comdeco, 1st Marine Air Wing; Intelligence Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Shauntel Renton, USS George Washington (CVN 73); and Navy Diver 1st Class (DSW/SW) Christopher Timothy, Seal Delivery Team One.

The other Shore Sailor of the Year nominees were: Navy Diver 1st Class (DSW/SW) James Bogenhagen, Naval Ship Repair Facility and Japan Regional Maintenance Center Detachment Sasebo; Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuels) 1st Class (AW/SW) Kemp Dreher, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan; and Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Shenan Pacheco, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, former chief of naval operations, initiated the Sailor of the Year program in 1972 as a way to recognize outstanding Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Sailors at sea. The following year, the Shore Sailor of the Year program was introduced.



Celina Barrios, a representative from Hawaii Pacific University, answers questions posed by Yeoman 1st Class (SW/AW) Matthew Rivas, assigned to the Center for Personal and Professional Development, during an annual education fair hosted by Navy College Office of Hawaii on April 30.

Navy College Hawaii hosts education fair

Story and photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Navy College Office Hawaii (NCOH) hosted its annual education fair at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange on April 30.

Hundreds of Sailors and families met with representatives from colleges, universities and government agencies to find out about educational programs and degrees that they can pursue.

"Education is all about you," said Bill McCormick, the director of NCOH and a retired master chief petty officer. "If you don't get it while you're on active duty, it is your own fault."

The education fair consisted of 26 stalls and booths, the majority of which were from colleges and universities offering a wide range of programs from associate and bachelor's to graduate degrees.

"It's awesome," said Yeoman 1st Class (SW/AW) Matthew Rivas, who is an

instructor at the Center for Personal and Professional Development (CPPD). "It gives us Sailors an opportunity to come out and see what's available."

"So often we get caught up with deployments, schedules and op tempo. We need to break out and see what's available. The opportunity that exists for us now, versus five to 10 years ago, is enormous. It is a great benefit," he said.

Rivas recently returned from an eight-month individual augmentee deployment in Djibouti, Africa. He completed his bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University and is working on his master of arts degree in diplomacy and military studies.

"I'm looking forward to it," said Rivas.

Rivas teaches Equal Opportunity, Drug and Alcohol Program Advisor classes and leadership courses at the CPPD. As he interacts with more than 100 Sailors a month, he tells his students to go over to Navy College and get a degree.

"There are so many col-

leges out there for us," said Rivas. "We need to get engaged."

The education fair also featured representatives from Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Navy Recruiting and United Service Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP).

"USMAP is an apprenticeship program that is part of Navy College," said Kenneth W. Ledbetter, USMAP marketing and outreach coordinator. "USMAP got the same ability to complete an apprenticeship while on active duty just like the civilian counterpart."

The mission of USMAP is to enable active duty military members to earn a Department of Labor certificate of completion of apprenticeship. Completion of the program can help qualify members for employment in a recognized civilian trade upon fulfillment of military service.

"The education fair is beneficial for the colleges, and it is beneficial for the individual service members," said Ledbetter. "It's like a one-stop shop."

Calling aspiring writers and photographers

If you have ever aspired to be a published writer or photographer in the newspaper, this is your opportunity.

Hawaii Navy News, soon to be the joint base newspaper, is currently seeking readers who would like to write articles and/or take photos for the newspaper.

With limited staff and numerous events happening around Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), we can't possibly cover everything that is going on.

That's why we are soliciting your help. If you plan to attend an event, consider

submitting it to the newspaper. Please email us or call us and we would be glad to provide you with some guidance for photo and story submissions.

With your help, we can provide even more coverage of events at JBPHH. We aren't able to pay you for your work, but it does provide an opportunity for you to become published and build your portfolio of clips and photos.

If you are interested, please contact us at hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil.

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard department wins NAVSEA Excellence Award

Liane Nakahara

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard's lifting and handling department recently won a Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Excellence Award for the first quarter of 2010 for its major improvements in crane safety and operational productivity.

Brian Persons, NAVSEA executive director, presented the team-level award April 28 at a special awards ceremony. Morris Miyagi, shipyard rigger general foreman, and Tom Talkington, shipyard electrician, made the journey to Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. and accepted the award on behalf of the lifting and handling department.

Miyagi said he knew that their improvements were important to shipyard success but that he didn't realize the extent of their contributions to the entire Navy until he heard the speeches made during the awards ceremony.

"Every award recipient was selected because we were able to significantly reduce cost and improve productivity," said Miyagi. "We were told that all of our accomplish-



U.S. Navy photo by Marshall Fukuki

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard (PHNSY) riggers reduce the slack on a rope used to guide USS La Jolla (SSN 701) into dry dock one for maintenance work on Jan. 20. PHNSY's lifting and handling department recently won a Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Excellence Award for the first quarter of 2010 for its major improvements in crane safety and operational productivity.

ments were vital because we are all here to support the warfighter by keeping the fleet well-maintained and ready to go."

Jerrod Tamashiro, lifting and handling department director, said, "To have the kind of success we had in both accident reduction and reliabil-

ity took team effort and perseverance. It started with a commitment from the team to improve. Together, we developed an action plan and then focused on it."

In 2008, as part of a three-year plan, employees at all levels within the department began working more consis-

tently together to reduce the number of crane accidents and portal crane outages. By the end of 2009, crane accidents had dropped 40 percent and portal crane outages had been reduced by 67 percent. All of this was done despite a 15 percent increase in workload. Continuing their success

into 2010, the department has had no crane accidents for nearly five months.

"It sounds so simple. However, it was anything but simple," said Tamashiro. "In the process, we changed our attitude toward accidents and breakdowns from 'these are things that happen' to 'this is unacceptable and we are not going to stand for it.'"

Some of the key processes put in place included the establishment of core crane and rigging teams with the right mix of experience and skills. These teams remain together throughout the duration of a project to ensure productive continuity. The department began assigning a zone manager to all major Chief of Naval Operations project availabilities and U.S. Pacific Fleet intermediate maintenance projects to improve the planning of future lift jobs.

Les Jong, crane maintenance manager, said that the team was able to get to this point because the "majority of the people have pressed the 'I believe' button on the shared vision that the present way of doing business is the way ahead."

Workers took individual as well as team ownership for safe lifting and handling operations. Crane engineers ful-

ly adopted a philosophy of finding long-term solutions to technical problems. They also began developing engineers to be well-rounded crane maintenance experts by rotating them to projects that deal with different classes of cranes.

"These improvements enabled this team to provide continuous and reliable support to the submarines and surface ships undergoing maintenance work here," said Rear Adm. (select) Gregory Thomas, shipyard commander. "I also commend them for their dedication to creating a safer work environment at the shipyard."

The NAVSEA Excellence Award Program was established in August 2008 to recognize individuals, teams and field activities across the NAVSEA community for innovation and improvement in quality, cost, schedule and process efficiency.

"I am extremely proud of what our department has achieved so far," said Tamashiro, attributing the award to the hard work of his employees. "When we look at how far we've come, we know it has been a long journey and it's one that has us ready to address the safety challenges facing our shipyard. The best is yet to come."

Program teaches Navy families skills for nurturing next generation

Story and photo by MC1 (AW) Jason Swink

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West Detachment Hawaii

The prospect of becoming a new parent can be a challenge for first time parents and for growing families alike.

For Navy members and their families, the stress of long deployments and being stationed away from the support of family can only make the experience more intimidating.

Professionals at Navy Region Hawaii's Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) provide education and assistance to Navy and Coast Guard families through the Navy New Parent Support Home Visitation Program.

The voluntary program provides expectant parents and parents of children birth to three years old with information, resources and support in the privacy of their own home.

The goal of the program is to enable parents who are more prepared, confident and less stressed, which leads to an improved parent-child relationship.

Mara Macdonald, a licensed clinical social worker at Navy Region Hawaii's FFSC, is one of the five professionals on the home visit team responsible for responding to more than 150 clients on Oahu, with 30-40 home visits per month.

"There is something in this program for everybody, whether it is learning more about community resources, what kinds of classes are available, or to just meet with other moms," Macdonald explained.

New parents receive educational and social support through home visits. The staff provides information and resources on parenting, family life, handling stress and health, and helps in finding other needed services and resources.

According to studies, the first three years of child development are critical. This presents a challenge for military families who face frequent moves, separation from families and deployments. Parents who take part in the home visits say the program exceeded their expectations of the Navy's commitment to taking care of Sailors and their families.

"If we can help them reduce the stress, a spouse can be away on deployment knowing that someone is coming to the home and helping out with parenting and nurturing skills," said Macdonald. She explained the benefits to service members, "It lets the spouse know everything is safe at home."

The New Parent Support Home Visitation Program is designed to promote positive family interactions, nurture child development, and prevent child abuse. The program is voluntary and is offered worldwide through FFSCs for families of active duty service members of any rank or age.

Once a family enters the program, a home visitor will make a house call. "We come to the home and we talk about child development, and any support you might need," said Genevieve Wasson, a home visitor at Navy Region Hawaii's FFSC.

Wasson provides information during the initial visits, such as Women, Infants and Chil-



Three-month-old James Millard receives a massage from his mother, Amanda Millard, during infant massage instruction offered April 23 through Navy Region Hawaii's Fleet and Family Support Center as part of the Navy New Parent Support Home Visitation Program. The program provides new parents and expecting parents with information on parenting, referrals, support groups and nurturing skills in the privacy of their own homes.

dren Program (WIC), support groups, parenting classes, budgeting for baby, infant massage, breastfeeding support/classes, etc.

Wasson said the program is not just for first parents. "Each child is different with parenting; you are always learning," she said. "Nobody is perfect and we are learning from each other."

The program participants also take part in parent groups and child play groups.

"The main reason we do group activities is for them to meet other moms, to share, to vent, and to normalize their difficulties," said Wasson.

Already a mother before becoming a Navy family, Lantanya Reneau found the program very helpful with dealing with her husband being deployed during most of her second pregnancy.

"This time my family wasn't around. We were in a new place," said Reneau. "It was comforting to have a person come over, to be there and to talk with."

During home visits, Reneau and her three-month-old son, Ian, take part in infant massage classes. Parents often find that with regular infant massages, their baby sleeps better, fusses less and gains more weight.

Referrals to the program frequently come from parents who have already been part of the program. Francis Sturgeon, a new mother with a three-month-old baby girl Jocelyn, highly recommended it to her friends.

"They don't come in here and tell you how to take care of your baby. They teach you

and they give you information," said Sturgeon. "I had someone to turn to, kind of like a 'mom away from home.' It gave me the confidence to do this myself."

Macdonald said a key part of the job is the flexibility in meeting the needs of each parent.

"I have the good fortune to work with highly-skilled and caring co-workers in an environment where our directors and supervisors encourage 'thinking outside the box' to meet the needs of our Sailors and their families," said Macdonald.

For more information on the Navy New Parent Home Visitation Program, visit the Fleet and Family Support Center.

(See additional photo on page A-5)