

Hawai'i Military Appreciation Month kicks off at Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by
MC2 John W. Ciccarelli Jr.

Naval Public Affairs
Support element West Det.
Hawaii

The 24th annual Hawai'i Military Appreciation Month kicked off during an opening ceremony held at the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Ford Island on April 30.

The ceremony officially marked the start of a month-long celebration honoring the 40,000 U.S. active, reserve and National Guard service members stationed in Hawai'i, along with 18,000 civilian employees and more than 55,000 military family members.

Hawai'i Governor Linda Lingle spoke to the crowd of more than 800 patrons.

"There is no higher privilege than being able to work with members of the armed forces," she said. "I appreciate every opportunity I have to express my gratitude to the service men and women on behalf of Hawai'i."

In a letter extending his appreciation and "aloha" to the members of the armed forces stationed in Hawai'i, U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawai'i) praised the bravery and loyalty of all service members past and present.

"As a combat veteran, I am well aware of the hardships and sacrifices our warriors make in defense of our nation's freedom and democratic ideals," he said. "Here in Hawai'i, Military Appreciation Month serves as



Hawai'i Governor Linda Lingle speaks to guest during the 24th annual Hawai'i Military Appreciation Month kickoff ceremony held at the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Ford Island on April 30. The ceremony was the official kickoff with Gov. Linda Lingle, presiding in addition to special guests and patriotic music, followed by a reception.

Photo illustration

an expression of our thanks and gratitude to our men and women in uniform and we will always be indebted."

This past year was marked by the highest rate of deployments for Hawai'i's military troops since the United States engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Here in Hawai'i, we are witness to the sacrifices that our men and women in uniform make every day for our country," said Lee Webber, president and publisher of the Honolulu Advertiser. "We see the Soldiers' fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, friends, co-workers, saying goodbye to their families and placing themselves in harm's way for the cause of freedom."

Several events that have been planned throughout May to honor military personnel include:

The Contemporary Museum offers free admission to all active duty, National Guard, Reserve and retired members and their families through Dec. 31, Hawai'i Army Museum at Fort DeRussy will conduct Military History Day at Kuroda Field on May 16, and the Combined Military Band will perform at the Hawai'i Theater in downtown Honolulu on May 16.

Hawai'i's business leaders will present outstanding community service awards to service members from all the military branches at the annual Military Appreciation Luncheon on May 21. United Service Organization Hawai'i will host Military Day at the Honolulu Zoo on June 6.



A Sailor renders the first salute to Chief Warrant Officer Arthur Cornelius, assigned to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor, during a commissioning ceremony at Lockwood Hall onboard NAVSTA Pearl Harbor on May 1. (See more photos on page A-5.)

BMCS Cornelius becomes second Micronesian commissioned officer

Story and photo by
MC3 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawai'i
Public Affairs

Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor held a ceremony to commission Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate Arthur Cornelius to the rank of chief warrant officer (CWO) at Lockwood Hall onboard NAVSTA Pearl Harbor on May 1.

Cornelius became the first commissioned officer from Kosrae, Micronesia and the second from the Federated States of Micronesia.

"It is an absolute honor to have been recognized by my native country. A small percentage of Sailors get picked for the CWO program and it feels great to be one of them," said Cornelius. "I could not have done this without the help from my

chain of command, fellow chiefs and most importantly, my family."

Alik J. Alik, vice president of Federated States of Micronesia, and Capt. Richard Kitchens, NAVSTA Pearl Harbor commanding officer, were the guest speakers for the ceremony.

"Senior Chief Cornelius is very well respected by everyone here at Pearl Harbor," said Kitchens. "He has had an incredible career and truly exemplifies what the U.S. Navy stands for with honor, courage and commitment."

Alik noted Cornelius' loyal dedication to the U.S. as well as his native Micronesia.

"We are very proud of your having been able to accomplish this significant step in your career and your life," said Alik. "Your steadfast devotion has brought great

honor to the U.S. Armed Forces and Micronesia.

After the removing of his chief anchors, Cornelius' family pinned on the shoulder boards and placed his new cover on top of his head, officially making him a CWO.

"I will never forget where I came from and will remember everyone who mentored me throughout my career," said Cornelius. "I will cherish the memories that I had while being a chief while transitioning to the officer community."

Cornelius will be at NAVSTA Pearl Harbor's Arizona Detachment for three to four more weeks before leaving for chief warrant officer school in Newport, R.I. followed by his first permanent duty station as a commissioned officer at NAVSTA Guam Port Operations.

Joint Typhoon Warning Center celebrates 50 years of success

Bob Falvey and
Lt. j.g. Casey Hughes

Joint Typhoon Warning
Center

In a ceremony held April 29, the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) celebrated 50 years of excellence in providing tropical cyclone warnings to help protect Department of Defense and Department of State personnel and equipment from the destructive weather associated with tropical cyclones.

The ceremony took place at the Ford Island Conference Center at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i. The keynote speaker was Rear Adm. Tom Copeman, U. S. Pacific Fleet deputy chief of staff for operations, training and readiness.

JTWC's roots go back to the horrific event that is often referred to as "Halsey's Typhoon." On Dec. 17, 1944, Task Force 38 under command of Adm. Halsey encountered Typhoon Cobra about 300 miles east of Luzon, resulting in the loss of 790 Sailors (93 rescued), the sinking of three destroyers, nine other warships damaged, including the aircraft carrier Monterey (which was damaged by fire), and nearly 150 aircraft lost.

The typhoon's impact "represented a more crippling blow to the [U.S.] 3rd Fleet than it might be expected to suffer in anything less than a major action," said Adm. Chester



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Jeremy S. Brandt

Rear Adm. Tom Copeman, deputy chief of staff for operations, training and readiness, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, speaks during the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Ford Island Conference Center on April 29. The JTWC provides tropical cyclone analysis, forecast and warning support for Department of Defense, and other U.S. Government assets in the Pacific and Indian Oceans as established by Commander, U.S. Pacific Command.

Nimitz. Typhoon Cobra was the worst U.S. military loss due to tropical cyclone impact since 1889. As a result, weather stations were set up in the Caroline Islands, Manila, Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa and new weather central offices were established on Guam and the Philippines.

"Halsey's Typhoon" hit close to home for Copeman, the guest speaker, whose grandfather, Lt. Cmdr.

Thomas Copeman, commanded the Destroyer USS Brown that was part of the catastrophe on Dec. 17, 1944. While Copeman's grandfather was successful in evading the ferocious typhoon, the stories left a lasting impression on his grandson and established a great appreciation for JTWC's mission.

During his speech, Copeman commented that

See JTWC, A-7



Hazmin Helper Program enters 15th year of reducing waste See page A-2



Unbeaten Port Royal torpedoes Buffalo See page A-4



SUBPAC Sailors participate in different kind of naval field day See page A-6



Youth prepare for Mustang baseball tournament See page B-1

Hazmin Helper Program enters 15th year of reducing waste

Story and photo by
James Johnson

Naval Facilities
Engineering Command
Hawai'i Public Affairs

The hazardous waste minimization program called "Hazmin Helper," run by Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawai'i and Fleet Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Pearl Harbor, is entering its 15th year of saving Navy resources by storing and reusing hazardous materials at Pearl Harbor.

"Hazmin Helper is a program that doesn't get a lot of recognition, but its impact is felt throughout the Navy," said Capt. Bret Muilenburg, commanding officer, NAVFAC Hawai'i. "For 15 years, the program has proven its value by making improvements and showing positive results."

In 1994, the Hazmin Helper program consolidated a number of "90-day" hazardous waste facilities into a single site. The program partners NAVAC Hawai'i, which handles the disposal of hazardous waste, and FISC Pearl, which finds projects where hazardous materials can be reused.

Hazmin Helper opened with great interest from the Navy's top leaders both in Hawai'i and nationally. It continues to save the Navy more than \$2 million each year and contributes to the Navy's goal of reducing waste.

"The process has gotten a lot smoother," said



Hazardous materials are being transferred to the Hazmin Helper Facility, where the various products are sorted and inventoried for reuse or disposal.

Ginger Nakamoto, NAVFAC Hawai'i chemist. "We have a good relationship with the fleet. Now they call in ahead of time so we know what they will be offloading."

In the beginning, Nakamoto, who was with the Hazmin Helper between 1994 and 1999, worked with FISC to develop a system to coordinate with incoming ships to Pearl Harbor to help them get rid of their hazardous material and waste.

That relationship assists Hazmin Helper personnel perform close to

a thousand pickups each year. When a ship comes into Pearl Harbor, hazardous material and waste are offloaded first.

The Hazmin Helper team is there within two hours of a ship's arrival. After collecting the hazardous materials, they determine what can be reused and separate it from the waste.

"It's a huge task that requires tremendous attention to detail," said John Enos, current Hazmin Helper supervisor. "We process hundreds of different products at a time, and every detail is essential in ensuring that

the waste gets to where it needs to go."

FISC Pearl handles the products that can be reused. They receive customer requests and screen them to ensure that the hazardous materials are authorized for shipboard use. Materials that can be reused are issued first.

FISC Pearl personnel then execute the logistical support, including pickups, drop-offs and certifying the waste for transportation. Doing this creates savings that impact many areas of the Navy

organization, both ashore and afloat.

Reusing hazardous materials instead of disposing of them created a savings of \$1.6 million during Fiscal Year (FY) 2008. These savings come both from cost-savings by not disposing hazardous materials, and the savings by the end-user through buying material from Hazmin Helper instead of brand new. Throughout its 15-year history at Pearl Harbor, Hazmin Helper has saved the Navy an average of \$2.4 million

per year.

NAVFAC Hawai'i accepts the hazardous waste products. They identify and inventory the waste, then send it on its way to a contractor for storage or disposal within 90 days. This requirement gives hazardous waste sites the nickname "90-day sites."

"This facility enables us to responsibly handle all the waste this base puts out," said Enos. "Because this material is regulated, we're constantly under the microscope. Everything here is tracked. We know where all the waste is coming from and where it's going," added Enos.

Before the Hazmin Helper program was organized, Naval Station Pearl Harbor had multiple 90-day sites. Each site was subject to inspection by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The program was initiated in part to cut down on risk, reduce redundancy, and ensure that the site was run by well trained people.

Positive trends are emerging as the Hazmin Helper program grows and becomes better known. Savings from reusable hazardous materials have increased from a 15-year average of \$808,000, to \$967,000 in FY08, and the amount of hazardous waste coming into the program is declining as commands ashore and afloat become more aware of their usage.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

MCPON honors Navy spouses' service, sacrifice



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick D. West

On the occasion of Military Spouse Appreciation Day on May 8, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick D. West sent the following message to the fleet, including Navy spouses and families:

"When I took this job in December, I made a promise to every one of you that I would do everything in my power to ensure you are supported, that you have the quality of life you deserve, and when your loved ones are deployed, our Navy will take care of you when you need it.

"These were not just words, and I will say the



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio

On the occasion of Military Spouse Appreciation Day on May 8, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick D. West sent a message thanking the fleet, including Navy spouses and families.

same thing to every family member or Sailor I meet. This is very important to me because I know of the sacrifices our families make so that our Sailors can defend this nation.

"The life of a Navy spouse is unlike any other. We ask that you give us your husbands and wives for months at a time. We ask you to support them because nothing is more important to their peace of mind. We ask you to understand the weekend watches, the deployments, the missed holidays and birthdays. You continue to give and ask for very little in return.

"We are grateful for that, but we owe you a huge debt. We owe you an equal amount of understanding for the sacrifices you make, and I can promise that you have that from Navy leadership.

"May 8 is Military Spouse Appreciation Day and we will pause a moment that day to thank you appropriately. Please take my word on this when I tell you the appreciation we have for what you do goes far beyond one day per year.

"Thank you for your continued support of your Sailor, our Navy and our nation.

Mother's Day a time to honor mothers

Compiled by Karen S. Spangler

Editor

This Sunday, May 10, is Mother's Day. On this special day dedicated to all mothers, America will pay tribute to the foundation of the American family.

The origins of Mother's Day go back to ancient times in Europe. The earliest Mother's Day celebrations can be traced back to the spring celebrations of ancient Greece in honor of Rhea, the mother of the gods.

During the 1600s, England celebrated a day called "Mothering Sunday." The event was celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent (the 40-day period leading up to Easter) and honored the mothers of England.

Julia Ward Howe, who wrote the words to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," first suggested the observance of Mother's Day in the United States in 1872 as a day dedicated to honoring peace, motherhood and womanhood. She held organized Mother's Day meetings in Boston, Mass. every year.

But it wasn't until 1907 that a campaign was launched to establish a national Mother's Day.

Ana Jarvis from Philadelphia, considered to be the driving force behind the official establishment of Mother's Day, persuaded her mother's church in Grafton, W. Va. to celebrate Mother's Day on the second anniversary of her mother's death, the second Sunday of May.

As the story goes, Jarvis swore at her mother's gravesite in 1905 to dedicate her life to her mother's project and establish a Mother's Day to honor mothers, living and dead. There was also a rumor that Anna's grief was intensified because she and her mother had quarreled and her mother died before they could reconcile.

In 1907, Jarvis passed out 500 white carnations at her mother's church, St. Andrew's Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, W. Va. - one for each mother in the congregation. On May 10, 1908, St. Andrew's responded to her request for a Sunday service honoring mothers.

By the next year, Mother's Day was also celebrated in Philadelphia.

Jarvis and her supporters wrote to ministers, businessmen and politicians in their quest to establish a national Mother's Day. Their efforts were successful and by 1911, Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson made an official announcement, proclaiming Mother's Day as a national holiday that should be held each year on the second Sunday of May.

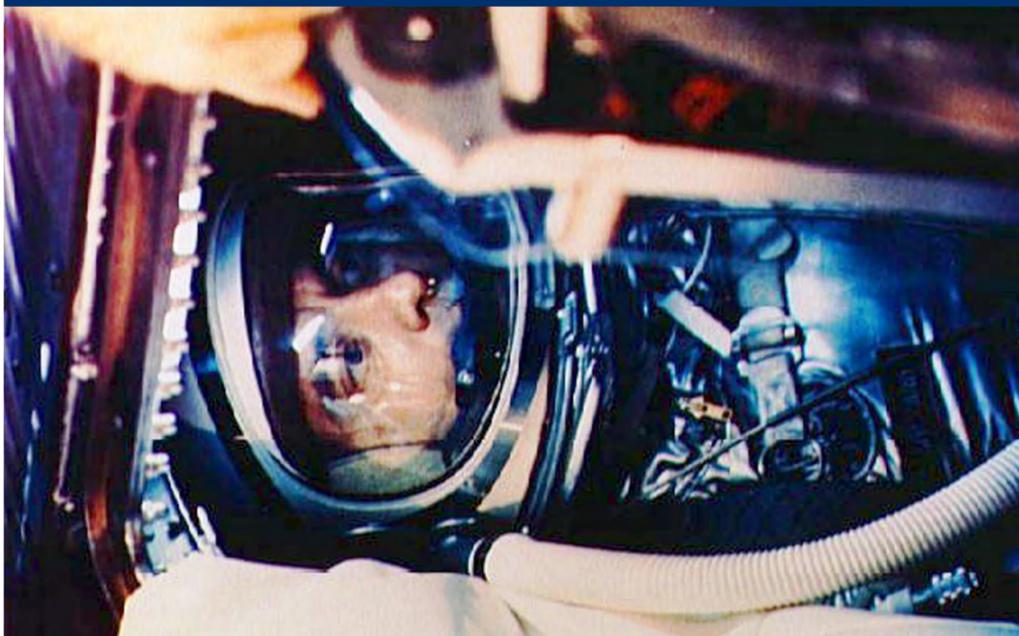
Many countries throughout the world celebrate their own Mother's Day at different times throughout the year, but some countries - such as Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia and Belgium - also celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May.

Mother's Day observances take many forms and venues as celebrations have honored moms throughout the United States and the world. There have been many tributes to mothers, but this poem which was penned by Howard Johnson around 1915 is probably one of the most loved and remembered:

M - O - T - H - E - R

"M" is for the million things she gave me,
 "O" means only that she's growing old,
 "T" is for the tears she shed to save me,
 "H" is for her heart of purest gold;
 "E" is for her eyes, with love-light shining,
 "R" means right, and right she'll always be,
 Put them all together, they spell "MOTHER,"
 A word that means the world to me.

Anniversary of Freedom 7 flight



Courtesy of National Aeronautics and Space Administration

On May 5, 1961, Alan B. Shepard Jr. (Rear Adm., Navy ret.) was launched at 9:34 a.m. EST aboard the spacecraft he named Freedom 7 (MR-7), powered by a Redstone booster (MR-3). He was launched suborbitally to an altitude of over 116 miles down range from Cape Canaveral. His flight lasted 15 minutes 28 seconds and splashed down in the Atlantic Ocean where the aircraft carrier Lake Champlain awaited his arrival.



Hawai'i Navy News

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This civilian enterprise

Unbeaten Port Royal torpedoes Buffalo



Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer

With only a few weeks gone by in the spring intramural afloat softball season, the team from USS Port Royal (CG 73) has already surpassed the amount of wins that it had during the entire winter season.

While Port Royal finished last winter's regular season with a 6-3 record, the team improved its spring mark to a perfect 7-0 with its 29-11 drubbing of USS Buffalo (SSN 715) at Millican Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on May 2.

"This is definitely our best team in the last three or four years," said Lt. j.g. Corry Lugee. "We got a dedicated team. We practice once

a week and everybody is excited to be playing."

Against Buffalo, Port Royal opened the game by scoring two runs to

quickly go out in front.

In the bottom of the inning, Buffalo put a man on first, before Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Joe Ross tore into a pitch and launched it clear over the left-field fence and into the parking lot for a two-run shot to tie up the score.



"The pitch was right down the middle of the plate," stated Ross, who admitted that he has been trying to hit one out since the beginning of the season. "I just turned on it and it felt good right off the bat."

With the score all knotted up, it didn't take long for Port Royal to reassert itself, as the team batted around the order to score 10 runs in the top half of the second.

The big blow of the inning was a three-run shot delivered by Lugee that got past the right fielder and rolled all the way to the fence.

"It was just a pop fly," said Lugee, who finished off circling the bases with a head first dive into home plate.

Command Master Chief Leroy Hatcher of the Port Royal said that the big comeback is a typical example of the way things have gone for the team this season.

"We've been hitting the ball a lot better this season," noted Hatcher. "We've come out with a new hunger. In our minds, we should have taken it last season, but we didn't. So we're really pushing for it."

Down by a score of 12-2, Buffalo made another run in the top of the third by scoring six runs.

However, Port Royal once again broke out the big sticks in its very next at-bat as the team rapped out 11 hits, four of them for extra bases, and scored 12 runs to put the game away for good.

"They were just hitting the ball real well," said Ross

following the loss. "There's not much you can do about that."

Hatcher said that although not many players on Port Royal are thinking too much about being the only undefeated afloat team this season, he believes that its record hasn't gone unnoticed by the rest of the squads in the league.

Each week, the competition appears to get harder, stated Hatcher, and it won't get any easier as the postseason approaches.

"Every week, when we see the zero in the loss column, every team puts a target on us," he pointed out. "That's why I tell the guys, don't get complacent. People out there are gunning for us."

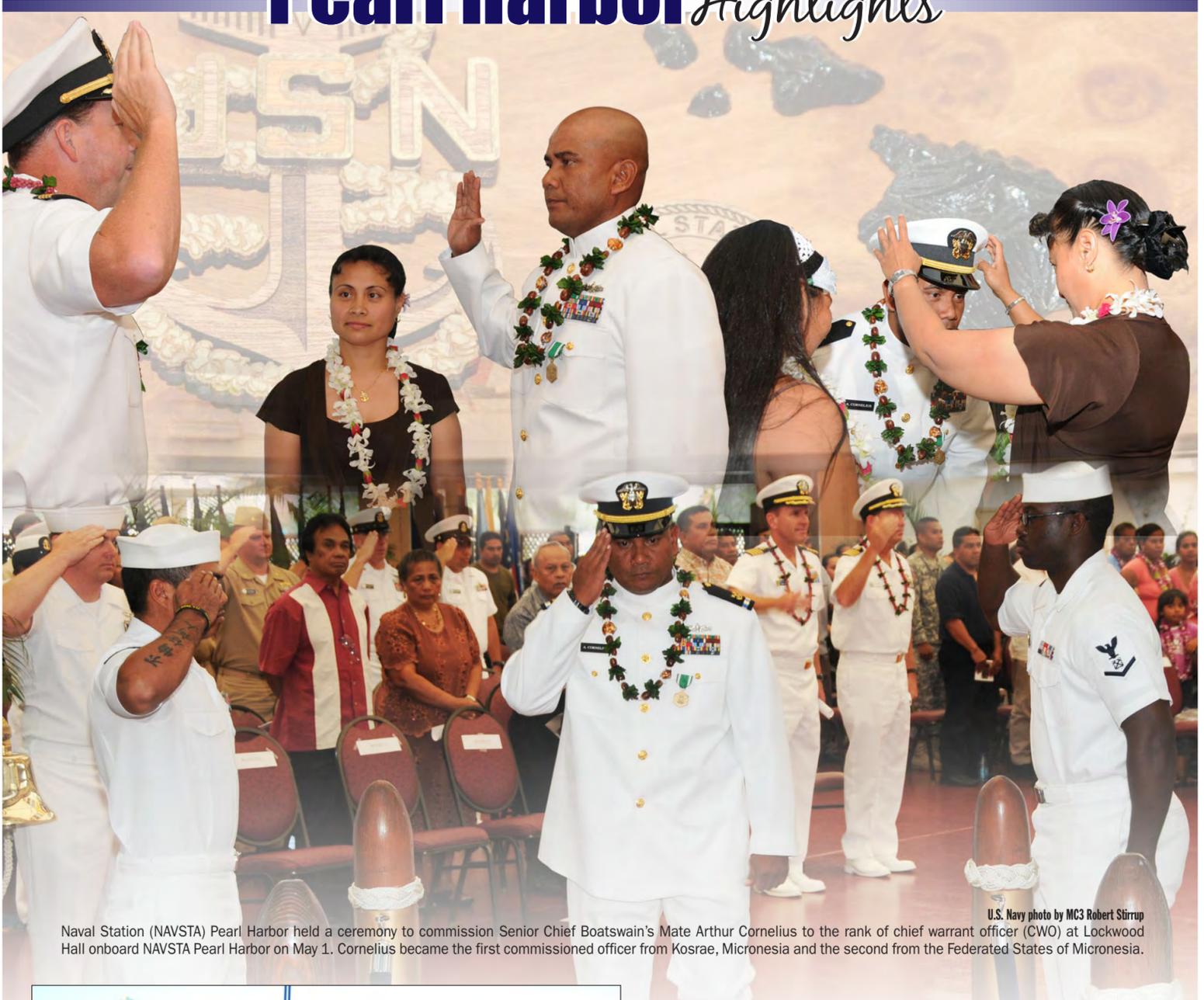
Lugee added that even though he is about to be transferred to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., he doesn't feel that Port Royal will miss a beat.

With things going so well, the players are having a good time, and he expects it to continue long after he is gone.

"I didn't even know that we were undefeated," admitted Lugee. "We all just go out there and have fun."

Lt. j.g. Corry Lugee of USS Port Royal (CG73) slams a pitch during the team's intramural softball game versus the squad from USS Buffalo (SNN 715) at Millican Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on May 2. Lugee cracked a three-run homer in the second inning to help Port Royal defeat Buffalo, 29-11, and remain unbeaten with a 7-0 record.

Pearl Harbor Highlights



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Robert Stirrup
 Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor held a ceremony to commission Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate Arthur Cornelius to the rank of chief warrant officer (CWO) at Lockwood Hall onboard NAVSTA Pearl Harbor on May 1. Cornelius became the first commissioned officer from Kosrae, Micronesia and the second from the Federated States of Micronesia.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Luciano Marano
 Fire Control Technician (SS) Ryan York, COMSUBPAC staff member, mans the football toss station at the Lehua Elementary School field day activities on May 1. Field day is an annual day of events organized by the Parent-Community Network (PCN) that is held before the beginning of summer break and staffed entirely by parent and military volunteers.



U.S. Navy photo by Federal Fire Department
 Firefighters from the Federal Fire Department's station 15 (Schofield Barracks) help scoop ice cream in support of Baskin-Robbins 31 Cent a Scoop Night at the Schofield Barracks Post Exchange Mall Food Court on April 29.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Robert Stirrup
 Quartermaster Seaman Sammy Sitich stands the topside rover watch on the flight deck of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile cruiser USS O'Kane (DDG 77). O'Kane is currently in a training cycle in support of the Mid-Pacific Surface Combatant Operational Employment program. The program calls for all 11 Hawai'i-based surface combatants to focus on the western Pacific by conducting intermediate/advanced training and regular deployments in the western Pacific, and is designed to improve the U.S. Pacific Fleet's war fighting readiness and effectiveness.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Robert Stirrup
 Fire Controlman 3rd Class David Hernandez uses a needle gun to chip paint off a weather deck structure onboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile cruiser USS O'Kane (DDG 77).

SUBPAC Sailors participate in different kind of naval field day

Story and photo by
MC3 Luciano Marano

Commander Submarine
Force U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs

Sailors from Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC) and Commander, Anti-submarine Warfare Force U.S. Third Fleet (CTF-34) turned out at Lehua Elementary School in Pearl City on May 1 to help with the school's annual field day.

"When you say 'field day' in the Navy, you don't usually get a lot of volunteers," joked Yeoman 1st Class (SW) Calvin Everett, CTF-34 staff member and the school's military liaison. 'Field day' is Navy slang for an intense cleaning of a given space or vessel, usually lasting several hours. "Of course, after everyone realized that this had nothing to do with cleaning, finding volunteers was no problem," he continued.

The Lehua Elementary School field day is an annual day of festivities organized by the Parent-Community Network (PCN) that is held



Senior Chief Corpsman (SS) Craig Soleim, COMSUBPAC staff member, organizes the relay race at the annual Lehua Elementary School field day. Sailors from COMSUBPAC and Commander, Anti-submarine Warfare Force U.S. Third Fleet (CTF-34) turned out May 1, to help with the event.

before the beginning of summer break and staffed entirely by parent and military volunteers.

"It's kind of a fun last blast for the year," said Everett.

Events included a relay race, football throw, a sack race, hula hoop contest, obstacle course and several other games all designed to get the students outside and active.

"I don't get to do this kind of thing a lot because of my work schedule," said Fire Control Technician (SS) Ryan York, COMSUBPAC staff member. "When I can, I always do."

"This is a great day for it and the kids are all having a great time," said Stacie Zellers, the Lehua PCN coordinator. "We usually do this closer to the end of classes, but I think this worked out well."

"The kids always have a blast when we come out," said Everett. "It's a lot of fun and a good thing to do."

Any service member interested in volunteering to help at the next Lehua event can contact Everett at 473-0696 for more information and upcoming opportunities.

Fed Fire partners with Baskin-Robbins at 31-cent Scoop Night

Story and photo by
Federal Fire Department

Firefighters from the Federal Fire Department (FFD) partnered with Baskin Robbins Corporation for 31 Scoop Night held April 29 at the Schofield Barracks Main Post Exchange Food Court.

The event was held in support of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) National Junior Firefighter Program. Baskin-Robbins Corporation will donate \$100,000 to the NVFC program.

NVFC supports emergency responding departments by offering scholarships and grants and fostering relationships and engaging in fire/rescue/EMS learning opportunities for youth in Hawai'i and across the nation.

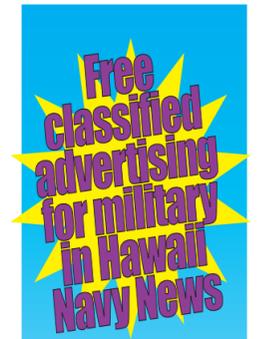
Along with the firefighters scooping ice cream and serving food court customers, the event included fire truck displays, the appearance of Sparky the Fire Dog, and a fire prevention display and video presentation.

Kalani Whitford, recording artist and firefighter, offered a musical performance. Free FFD fire prevention info packets, patches and helmets were given to those in attendance.

For more information, call Battalion Chief Victor M. Flint at the Federal Fire Department's prevention division, 471-3303, ext. 633.



Sparky the Fire Dog and Shannon Gipaya, an inspector with the Federal Fire Department, visit with the children and their families at Baskin-Robbins 31 Cent a Scoop Night on April 29 at the Schofield Barracks Post Exchange Mall Food Court.



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USS Chung-Hoon celebrates deployment "half-way day"

Lt. j.g. Will Sauer

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93)

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) celebrated deployment "half-way day" with a series of shipwide events on April 20. This was a fun day designed to allow the crew to relax, kick back and celebrate a successful first half of the scheduled deployment.

The day started with a skeet shoot in which Sailors armed themselves with shotguns and shot clay pigeons from the flight deck. Ensign Jason Owens, gunnery officer, jokingly reflected on the clay pigeons, "It was either them or us."

Later in the day, many Sailors took part in a scavenger hunt. Eight teams searched the ship for various specified items that ranged from the smallest wrench to a photograph of the biggest television on the ship. The team consisting of Fire

Controlman 1st Class (FC1) Shari Duffy, Storekeeper 3rd Class Valerie Hansen, Navy Counselor 1st Class Roseanne Corey, Cryptologic Technician (Maintenance) 1st Class Tiffany Munger, Storekeeper Seaman Barbara Cannon and FC2 Lachelle Cepeda won coveted one duty day off certificates for Chung-Hoon's next port visit.

The ship's supply department went all out for dinner, preparing a Mongolian barbecue. The meal takes about three hours to get the whole crew through, but smiles were evident on every face. The only concern voiced was about the upcoming PRT weigh-ins. The crew then enjoyed a huge 'hump day' cake for dessert.

The second to last organized event for the evening was a pie-throwing contest. In the days leading to hump day, shipmates were able to vote on their favorite crew members. The 10 most pop-



U.S. Navy photo
Gunner's Mate 1st Class Wayne A. Writesel and Electronics Technician 1st Class Mark C. Pariseau engage in a skeet shoot as part of USS Chung-Hoon's deployment half-day events on April 20.

ular shipmates won a pie in the face on the fantail. The event was all in good fun and the ship's Morale, Welfare and Recreation raised more than \$700 for future events.

At day's end, Chung-Hoon's deployment was half complete. Since sailing from homeport, the ship has traveled 20,217 nautical miles. She has been on deployment for 91 days and 74 of those days have been at sea.

The ports visited by Chung-Hoon included Okinawa, Yokosuka, Singapore and Thailand. Universally it has been challenging, rewarding and fun. Most have come to realize that deployment on a ship offers significant opportunities, ranging from personal growth to professional development and the accumulation of unique experiences and memories. However, just about every Sailor can agree that there is no port like homeport.

Inspector General investigation busts 'ghost employee' scheme

Navy Region Hawai'i Inspector General

It's important to stay within Department of Defense (DoD) ethical and legal standards in our daily lives, on and off duty. It is not unusual to hear of military or civilian personnel who, innocently or not, say or do the wrong thing during or after their working hours, on base or out in the community, only to realize afterward that their actions were inappropriate and catch up with them in a negative way when they return to work.

If you feel that something that you are getting ready to say or do is possibly inappropriate, err on the side of caution. Don't do or say something that will embarrass yourself and the United States military.

If you have questions about something you are

about to do, don't hesitate to contact your supervisor first or the Commander Navy Region Hawai'i (CNRH) Legal Service Office at 473-1379.

A "ghost employee" scheme at a Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) activity was uncovered during a CNRH Inspector General (IG) investigation concluded in federal district court in November 2008.

After a one-week jury trial, two former CNRH MWR employees were found guilty of felony theft and conspiracy for engineering and participating in a "ghost employee" scheme for close to six years through the Navy's MWR program.

Prosecutors successfully proved that in or about 2000, a former MWR supervisor at CNRH conducted a "ghost employee" scheme and recruited and conspired with a fellow

Hawai'i Air National Guard service member to carry it out.

At the foundation of the plot, the MWR supervisor worked to get his friend hired. The ghost employee was hired and paid by the Navy for work he never performed, the two split the proceeds, and the MWR supervisor actively prevented fellow employees from uncovering the scheme. Their scheme was detected in June 2006 during a CNRH IG investigation into unrelated allegations against the MWR supervisor.

During the investigation, several MWR employees who were interviewed mentioned an employee who was often on the work schedule, but who they did not know and who never appeared at work. The IG learned that when fellow employees had questioned the MWR supervisor about

the 'ghost employee's' identity, he said that the employee was either working at another location, or brusquely told them it wasn't any of their business. He was the boss.

Additional investigative efforts by the IG found that the 'ghost employee' had another job with a public transportation company at the same time he was employed at MWR activity. A crosscheck of the timesheets showed that on numerous days the 'ghost employee' was double paid for the same days and hours worked: paid for hours he claimed to have worked at MWR and paid for hours he worked at his regular day job.

The IG turned over the evidence obtained during the investigation to the CNRH Criminal Investigation Division (CID). A CID investigator

led the charge and built the criminal cases against the MWR supervisor and the 'ghost employee.'

In 2008, the 'ghost employee' plead guilty to the two-count federal indictment charging theft and conspiracy. Pursuant to a pretrial agreement, the 'ghost employee' agreed to testify against the MWR supervisor.

In November, the 'ghost employee' was sentenced to three months of house arrest (home confinement), five years of probation, and \$23,753.99 in restitution. In November 2008, Navy prosecutors, working as Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys, completed a week-long jury trial that resulted in the MWR supervisor being convicted of both criminal counts (18 U.S.C. 641 - Theft of Government property in excess of \$1,000 and 18 U.S.C. 371 - Conspiracy).

A judge from the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawai'i presided over the trial. At the sentencing hearing on March 5, the judge sentenced the MWR supervisor to two six-month prison terms (to run concurrently), followed by three years of supervised release, a fine of \$3,000, and restitution in the amount \$23,753.99 to CNRH MWR. The MWR supervisor self-reported to the Federal Detention Center on April 16 to begin serving his sentence.

To report incidences of fraud, waste or mismanagement at CNRH, contact your chain of command or the CNRH IG Hotline at 473-1782, at prlh-cnrhig@navy.mil, or by fax at 473-2541. To report criminal matters, contact NCIS 474-1218.

JTWC: Keeping watch on storms

Continued from A-1

he is "proud of the Sailors and Airmen at JTWC and their dedication and service to protect lives and property." He also said that because of JTWC he is "certain we will never have another Halsey Typhoon."

In May 1959, the Commander in Chief U.S. Pacific Command established JTWC under the command of the U.S. Navy's Fleet Weather Central, Guam. JTWC had the sole responsibility for tropical cyclone reconnaissance and forecasting in the western north Pacific Ocean. Over the past 50 years, JTWC's area of

responsibility has expanded to include the Indian Ocean and southwestern Pacific Ocean.

In 1995, the Base Realignment and Closure committee recommended that JTWC relocate to Hawai'i. The move to the Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Center Pearl Harbor was completed in 1999.

Today, JTWC is manned by military and civilian personnel from the Naval Maritime Forecast Center, Pearl Harbor and the 17th Operational Weather Squadron, Hickam AFB. These weather professionals maintain a 24/7 watch on the Pacific and Indian

Oceans for tropical cyclone development, which encompasses nearly 90 percent of the world's tropical cyclone activity, and play a critical role in helping the Department of Defense accomplish the 2007 Maritime Strategy.

JTWC and its members' success and great service is summed up best by Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, who stated in his recent Rat-Pac Report that "the Joint Typhoon Warning Center keeps our ships safe from [typhoons] and we owe them certainly our respect and tidings on their 50th anniversary."

To report...

Fraud, Waste or Abuse

Contact Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i Inspector General

- ✓ We are here to help
- ✓ You can remain anonymous
- ✓ Remember to use your chain of command first

HOTLINE:
808-473-1782

EMAIL:
prlh-cnrhig@navy.mil

Homeschool speech and debate competition held at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel

NCC Chris McDonald

USS Lake Erie (CG 70)

Fourteen homeschooling students from both military and civilian families met at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel on April 24-25 for the 2009 Christian Communicators of America (CCA) Hawai'i Open.

The students were from the 'Olelo No'eau Speech and Debate Club. 'Olelo No'eau, which means "to speak skillfully," is a homeschool club that teaches students from ages 13 through 18 essential communication and debate skills.

The students competed in speech categories such as apologetics, impromptu, persuasive, Bible interpretation and humorous duo. In the category of debate, two-person teams deliberated over whether the United States Federal Government should substantially reform its policy toward domestic energy production.

Over the past year, the students practiced these skills through participation in class discussion, speech practice sessions and practice debates as well as workshops and tournaments. This speech and debate com-



STC2 Diego Ocampo

petition served as the capstone for the entire experience. The club's founder and director, Elizabeth Vellalos, inspires each student to develop communication skills and apply them, along with Christian character, to all areas of their lives. The

petition served as the capstone for the entire experience.

The club's founder and director, Elizabeth Vellalos, inspires each student to develop communication skills and apply them, along with Christian character, to all areas of their lives. The

students cultivate skills such as respect for others, how to accept constructive criticism, be an effective listener, work with a partner, build stamina, perseverance, patience, trust in God, and appreciate our country's godly heritage.

"This tournament is a

great opportunity for the Navy and civilian communities to work together in a collaborative setting, and we are happy to provide this forum to help support positive events for these homeschooling families," said Cmdr. Timothy Koester, Naval Station Pearl Harbor

command chaplain.

Volunteer judges, including a number of Sailors from USS Lake Erie (CG-70), evaluated team and individual events over the two-day tournament. Ensign Megan Makarenko, the anti-submarine warfare officer onboard Lake Erie, was on the panel

judging the final round. She said, "The intellectual arguments and research the students put into this event were quite impressive. They are truly preparing themselves for success in life," said Makarenko.

After two long days of competition, the individual and team results were announced. Winners of the CCA 2009 Hawai'i Open Tournament: First place impromptu - Ricky Hobson of Ewa Beach, first place impromptu apologetics - Ryan McDonald of Honolulu, first place Bible interpretation - Rebecca Espinosa of Makakilo, first place persuasive - Dana Miyashiro of Moanalua Valley, first place humorous duo - Elise Butler of Mililani and Dana Miyashiro, and first place team policy debate - Austin Araki of Waikele and Leilani Thourson of Waianae.

The success of an event such as this underscores the importance of building valuable relationships between military and civilian organizations. For more information on The 'Olelo No'eau Speech and Debate Club, contact Vellalos at olelo.no'eau@hawaiiintel.net.

Chief of Naval Operation focused on right programs, policies to support Sailors

MC2 (SW) Rebekah Blowers

Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

The chief of naval operations (CNO) spoke about the Navy of today and of the future as a panelist on the Sea Services Chiefs' Panel at the Navy League's 2009 Sea-Air-Space Exposition (SAS Expo) during a seminar entitled "Seapower and America's Security" on May 4.

CNO Adm. Gary Roughead participated on

the panel with Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James T. Conway; Commandant of the Coast Guard, Adm. Thad Allen; and Acting Deputy Maritime Administrator, James Caponiti.

The SAS Expo is the largest maritime exposition in the world and provides the Navy and other services an opportunity to interact and meet with national and international industry providers working with the latest in sea power technology. This year's theme,

"National Security, Maritime Superiority and Global Presence," complements the cooperative maritime strategy and advances public understanding of the critical importance of sea power for America's security and prosperity.

During the discussion, CNO emphasized how busy the Navy has been during the last year.

"The Navy is being used aggressively, and the Navy is being used very hard. In addition to the traditional deployments and formations

that we have operating around the world, we have 14,000 Sailors on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan," Roughead said.

"We see increasing demands for things such as ballistic missile defense, intelligence surveillance, reconnaissance, proactive humanitarian assistance, maritime security and of course the most newsworthy event in recent times is the counterpiracy operations that several nations are involved in off the coast of Somalia."

CNO also spoke about the completion of the fiscal year 2010 budget, the upcoming Quadrennial Defense Review, shipbuilding programs and how everything in the Navy comes back to its people.

"I think it's always important to recognize, to realize and to go out periodically into the fleet and determine what it is that we're really all about up here [in Washington]. And that is being able to provide the right things, the right programs and the right policies

so that our great Sailors can go do the terrific work that they're doing," Roughead said.

The Navy League's Sea-Air-Space Exposition features more than 150 defense industry exhibits and professional seminars with top civilian and military leaders from the U.S. Department of Defense, Homeland Security, Maritime Administration and the defense industry who provide up-to-the-minute developments on policy and programs of the maritime services.