

MEDIA ADVISORY

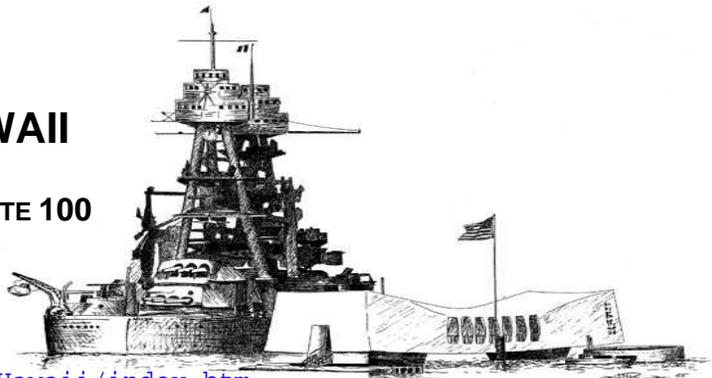
NAVY REGION HAWAII

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
850 TICONDEROGA STREET SUITE 100
PEARL HARBOR, HI 96860

Tel: (808) 473-2888

Fax: (808) 473-2876

<https://www.cnric.navy.mil/Hawaii/index.htm>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
POC: MC3 Robert Stirrup 473-2934

May 1, 2009
Release# 029-09

Commissioning Ceremony Honors Pearl Harbor Sailor

(PEARL HARBOR) – 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, 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, served as 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.

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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-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.

CWOs are technical specialists who perform knowledge and skills of a specific occupational field at a level beyond what is normally expected of a master chief petty officer. The Chief Warrant Officer Program provides commissioning opportunities to qualified senior enlisted personnel.

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