

Hawai'i News

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USS Hopper and USS O'Kane deploy

Story and photos by
MC2 Paul D. Honnick

Navy Public Affairs Support
Element West Det. Hawaii

Guided-missile destroyers USS Hopper (DDG 70) and USS O'Kane (DDG 77) departed Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 14 for independent deployments to U.S. 5th Fleet and U.S. 7th Fleet

areas of responsibility in the Middle East and western Pacific, respectively.

Hopper deployed in support of ballistic missile defense (BMD) to the U.S. 5th Fleet while USS O'Kane deployed under the Middle Pacific Surface Combatant (MPSC) concept to support operations in the U.S. 7th Fleet operating area.

Hopper's crew will conduct integrated operations with various carrier strike groups and coalition partners deployed to the Middle East region.

"The crew has done phenomenal. In less than

16 weeks, they've done absolutely every single evolution there is to do in the Navy and that's probably why we're deploying, because we've trained to do this and it's a return on our investment of training," said Cmdr. Timothy J. Kott, Hopper's commanding officer. "I'd also like to just say thanks to our families. They've done a fantastic job."

Kott also expects to support the wider mission areas of maritime interdiction operations (MIO) and theater security cooperation (TSC).

"The Middle East is a complex area of operations and our crew is trained and ready to participate in a wide variety of operations and exercises. They have worked

hard in preparing for this deployment over the past four months and are ready for tasking," added Kott.

Under the MPSC deployment concept, Pearl Harbor-based ships deploy to support operations in the U.S. 5th Fleet and U.S. 7th Fleet operating areas.

"All of our deployments are important for the Navy, but DESRON 31 (Destroyer Squadron 31) ships based here in Pearl Harbor are ready to deploy forward as part of the Middle Pacific Surface Combatant concept to support DESRON 15 (Destroyer Squadron 15) and CTF 70 (Commander, Task Force 70) forward deployed

Japan as part of the overall western Pacific strategy," said Cmdr. Derek Trinque, O'Kane's executive officer.

Cmdr. Timothy Steadman, O'Kane's commanding officer, will oversee integrated training while operating in the western Pacific. Operating with the USS George Washington Strike Group will afford the crew of O'Kane the opportunity to improve their operating proficiency and seamlessly

See DEPLOYMENT, A-6



Photo illustration



Service members assigned to the Pacific Command Joint Color Guard lead the third annual Operation Homefront 2009 Freedom Walk. The Freedom Walk is a one-and-a-half mile walk commemorating the victims of the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks and honored military veterans, past and present. (Additional photos on page A-5)

A Walk to Remember

Story and photo by
MC3 (AW) Eric J. Cutright

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West
Detachment Hawaii

Operation Homefront held this year's Freedom Walk on Sept. 11 at Lynch Field to commemorate the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and to honor military veterans of the past and present.

This marked the third year that the event took place in Hawai'i and more than 1,500 people showed up to participate in the 1.5 mile walk.

"I'm here just to show remembrance for those that were lost that fateful day on 9/11 and to support my command," said Chief Hull Technician (SW/AW) Dennis

Borders, the leading chief petty officer of the Transient Personnel Unit (TPU) at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

The Freedom Walk featured several guest speakers, including Capt. Richard Kitchens, commanding officer of Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

"In the past 100 years that have marked the course of this nation, there have been two events that have served as watershed events that have altered, irrevocably changed and refocused our commitment to freedom. The first occurred here on Dec. 7, 1941. The United States of America was re-awakened and thrust into the forefront of leading world-wide freedom. The second event occurred on Sept.

See FREEDOM WALK, A-4



Photo courtesy of Federal Fire Department

Douglas Barbieto, firefighter/emergency medical technician-paramedic for Federal Fire Department, participates in the 9/11 remembrance ceremony Sept. 11 at the department's headquarters at Pearl Harbor. (Additional photo on page A-5)

Federal Fire Department holds 9/11 remembrance ceremony

Grace Hew Len

Navy Region Hawai'i
Environmental Public
Affairs Officer

Federal Fire Department Hawai'i honored fallen comrades and civilian victims of the 9/11 attack during a remembrance ceremony held Sept. 11 at their headquarters at Pearl Harbor.

A color guard of firefighters holding the American flag, Navy flag, pike pole and axe led a procession of federal firefighters to kick off the ceremony. Fallen heroes were remembered with a

moment of silence, followed by the toning of the bell.

A "Flag of Heroes," which was created to contain the names of all the emergency first responders who paid the ultimate sacrifice, was highlighted during the ceremony. "In our hearts, the victims should never be relegated to mere numbers, but must always be remembered as individual lives," said Deputy Fire Chief Gayland Enriques.

Glenn de Laura, Federal Fire Department regional chief, noted, "Let us never forget the 343 fellow firefighters from New York City

Fire Department that made the ultimate sacrifice eight years ago today. Let us not forget that freedom is not free!"

Federal Fire Department heroes were also honored as several members were presented with a certificate of life saving award and special achievement award.

The Federal Fire Department is a multi-service organization that provides comprehensive fire and emergency services to the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard installations around the island of Oahu.



Pearl Harbor chief selects volunteer at Hawai'i Foodbank page A-2



Near perfect effort propels NIOC over ATG See page A-6



Destroyer Squadron 31 returns, completes CARAT 2009 See page A-2



WWII veteran celebrates 90th birthday at Pearl Harbor See page B-1

Pearl Harbor chief selects volunteer at Hawai'i Foodbank

Story and photo by MC1 (AW) Jason Swink

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West Detachment Hawai'i

Chief petty officers and chief petty officer selects from commands at Naval Station Pearl Harbor volunteered at the Hawai'i Foodbank on Sept. 5 to help feed local school children in need.

Two dozen volunteers put together backpack lunches consisting of healthy, ready-to-eat meals to be distributed to approximately 350 elementary school children as part of the "Food for Keiki" program.

"It's good to be helping out here at the Hawai'i Foodbank. We are giving back to the community," said Chief (sel.) Culinary Specialist Randy Basat, a volunteer at the foodbank. "We are not just helping the homeless people. With today's economy, we are also giving to our neighbors."



Chief petty officers and 2009 Chief petty officer selects from commands at Naval Station Pearl Harbor volunteer at the Hawai'i Foodbank. The volunteers packaged 1,400 backpack lunches. Their efforts support the Food for Keiki program which distributes prepackaged meals for qualifying elementary school students to take home on the weekends.

Basat hopes that as he assumes the title of chief petty officer, he can inspire his Sailors to do the little things that make a difference in other people's lives. "Just by volunteering, it can give us a sense of pride

and accomplishment," he added.

The first participant in this program is Princess Ka'iulani Elementary School with more than 80 percent of their students receiving some form of food assistance.

Chiefs and chief selectees put together 1,400 meals which are equivalent to roughly one month's supply of food for the children who participate in the program.

Elizabeth Cadirao, volunteer coordinator at the foodbank, welcomed the volunteers from the chiefs' mess. "I want to thank you all for coming. It is very unusual to see so many people here on a Saturday morning," she said.

Cadirao explained that with the current economic climate there are financial challenges to fully fund programs like "Food for Keiki."

"Having volunteers participate in this is critical for our ability to continue doing this," she added.

"The Hawai'i Foodbank's mission is to help feed Hawai'i's hungry. We do that

through 250 member agencies across the state," explained Meagan Young, development assistant at the foodbank. "Last year we distributed 8.2 million pounds of food."

More than 131,000 people are fed through the foodbank or through its partner agencies throughout the state. Food is donated or bought with funds donated from restaurants, supermarkets, food distributors, farmers, wholesalers and food drives.

"The one thing we tell people is to give and give from your heart," said Young. "People can give money, food or their time."

The volunteer chiefs and chief selectees participated in the community relations project as part of the 2009 Chief Petty Officer Induction season. Chief selectees must go through more than a month of training which focuses on the roles and responsibilities of a chief petty officer, and volunteering personal time to the community is a major part.

Destroyer Squadron 31 returns, completes CARAT 2009

MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

The staff of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31 returned home Sept. 4 after completing a successful four-month deployment aboard USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) from May 12 to Aug. 28.

Led by the commodore of DESRON 31, Capt. William Kearns III, the deployment focused on the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise. CARAT is a series of bilateral exercises held annually in the Southeast Asia region.

"The whole idea behind CARAT is to build and strengthen our relationships with those countries in Southeast Asia," said Clemmons. "Many people don't know, but a large percentage of the goods that the United States receives and delivers, imports and exports, go



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jason M. Tross

A Royal Thai Navy sailor stands in ranks beside his U.S. Navy counterparts from the dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49), the guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37), and the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90). The Sailors are participating in the closing ceremony for Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2009 Thailand. CARAT is a series of bilateral exercises held annually in Southeast Asia to strengthen relationships and enhance the operational readiness of the participating forces.

through that area. It's a very important strategic area for the United States. It's important to have good relations with those countries."

Since 1995, CARAT has provided the U.S. and six other Southeast Asian nations – the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei and Indonesia – the opportunity to sharpen maritime security through shared training, equipment and manpower.

More than 1,600 U.S. personnel took part in CARAT 2009. Task Group 73.5, the U.S. Navy task group for CARAT, is under the command of DESRON 31.

With DESRON 31 as the CARAT commander, the exercise involved deploying to each of the countries in a pre-determined schedule of activities which typically took about a week to 10 days.

"What is most important is that the positive relationship and understanding between our armed forces

which has developed these last few days through this exercise will continue to flourish well beyond today," said Col. Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Rosli, joint forces commander, Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

During the exercises, U.S. and partner nations conducted several exercises including ship movement operations; visit, board, search and seizure exercise missions; and damage control.

"I think what's important is that we build on 2009," said Clemmons. "One of the things I want to do for each country is to capture all the unique lessons and make sure we incorporate those in a tailored program for 2010."

"What I'm hoping to see in the future is in addition to the bilateral engagement between the U.S. and the country that we might be able to do multi-lateral exercises where we involve more than one country with the U.S. and we go and do the exercise together," said Clemmons.

KHON (FOX) TV 2
Hawai'i Navy News
upcoming segments

Sept. 24 – Mobile Diving Salvage Unit 1 partnership with Waipahu Elementary School
 TBD Oct. – Joint Venture Education Forum
 TBD Oct. – Navy Diversity Program

(The segments air at about 6:15 a.m. each Thursday. Previous segments can be viewed at <http://www.khon2.com/content/news/navynews/default.aspx>)

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 Email hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com or call Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs at 473-2875. Stories must have a Navy tie and be of interest to the general public.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam FAQ Corner

(Editor's note: Answers to the following questions were provided by Capt. Richard Kitchens, commanding officer of Naval Station Pearl Harbor.)

Q: What plans are there to change all of the Hickam Air Force Base and Naval Station Pearl Harbor signs?

A: What I can tell you is we are working with the Hawai'i State Department of Transportation to change the highway signs to reflect the new name. On the joint base, we are not planning to replace every sign inside the fence line that says 'Hickam' or 'Pearl Harbor.' The details regarding changes to signs are still being developed, but we do have a couple of themes we will try to follow. We will look to retain the 'Hickam' and 'Pearl Harbor' identifiers, but drop 'Air Force base' and 'naval station' where it makes sense to do so. Where we need 'joint base' signs at locations such as access gates, we will look to add a new sign instead of replacing what is there now. Besides signs, if you live or work on the joint base, you will hear the new name spoken by installation service and support personnel in place of the current installation names.

Q: Are we going to be required to use vehicle decals to access the base?

A: Department of Defense decals for vehicles will be required since Navy is the lead service, although I will caveat that statement by mentioning the Navy is reviewing the policy so there is a chance it may change.

The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) corner is intended to address reader's questions related to the stand up of JBPHH. JBPHH will combine two historic bases into a single joint installation to support both Air Force and Navy missions, along with our tenant commands, and all our service members and their families. Questions may be submitted to hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com or by calling Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs at 473-2888."

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

You're invited: 'Strengthening Navy through diversity'

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs



Dr. Samuel Betances

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet invites Navy leaders and all hands to sign up now for "Strengthening the Navy Through Diversity" training, to be offered Oct. 13-15 in Hawai'i. Dr. Samuel Betances, nationally recognized diversity expert, will be the guest presenter for the training.

Betances holds a doctorate degree from Harvard University and has appeared on national TV shows, including Oprah Winfrey. He has authored several books, served as a consultant to top U.S. political and military leaders and Fortune 500 company executives, and lectured to audiences around the world.

Betances is sought out by government agencies for his experience and dynamic speaking style, according to Kay Wakabayashi, diversity lead for Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (CPF).

"His training will provide an experience that is both educational and entertaining," Wakabayashi said. "The registration deadline is

Sept. 21. We're asking attendees to select the appropriate session based on their organization and role."

The training is sponsored by CPF; Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i; and Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Sessions one and two are reserved for CPF executives and senior leadership staff.

Session three is open to all Navy command/activity commanding officers (COs), executive officers (XOs), executive directors, department heads, command master chiefs (CMCs) and chiefs of the boat (COBs).



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN James R. Evans

The crew of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) listens to a lecture by Dr. Samuel Betances during command diversity training held at Naval Base Kitsap Bremerton's Concourse West Fitness Center Gym. Betances is a world-renowned expert on the subject of diversity. He has also served as a consultant to top U.S. political and military leaders and lectured before audiences around the nation.

Sessions four to six are open to all Navy command/activity supervisors and all hands.

To register on-line go to: <http://tinyurl.com/2009hidiversity>

"If you are having difficulties with registration, email: EEO-HAWAII@navy.mil or contact Dana Smith at 808-471-0880,"

Wakabayashi said.

Betances serves on the CNO's senior advisory board for diversity. His training dovetails with the latest CNO Guidance and principles of Navy Ethos.

"Diversity is not about representation, it's about utilization," Betances said. "Our mission is to add value to the great things that you already do by

making sure that everyone has a fair opportunity to be developed to their fullest potential."

Those without Internet access may register through their command master chief/chief of the boat or civilian training coordinator who may send an email with the number of attendees for each session/time

to: eeohawaii@navy.mil

For more information, contact: Colleen Martineau, CNRH, at 471-1627;

Kay Wakabayashi, CPF, at 474-7556; or Senior Chief Hull Technician Louis Espinosa, COMSUBPAC, at 473-1557.

To visit the PACFLT diversity page and blog, go to <http://bit.ly/CPFDiv>



Gen. MacArthur aboard USS Missouri off Korea

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur boards USS Missouri (BB 63) off Inchon, Korea on Sept. 21, 1950. The United Nations offensive of the Korean War was from Sept. 15, 1950 to Nov. 25, 1950.

Official U.S. Navy photograph, now in the collections of the U.S. National Archives



This week in NAVAL HISTORY September 18

- 1826 - Navy brings relief aid to Miami after a severe hurricane.
- 1936 - Squadron 40-T, based in the Mediterranean, is established to protect U.S. interests and citizens around the Iberian Peninsula throughout the Spanish Civil War.
- 1941 - U.S. Navy ships escort eastbound British trans-Atlantic convoy for first time (Convoy HX-150). Although the U.S. Navy ships joined HX-150, which left port escorted by British ships on Sept. 16, the official escort duty began on Sept. 18.
- 1947 - National Security Act becomes effective

Letter to the Editor policy

Hawai'i Navy News welcomes letters to the editor for the editorial page on any subject as long as they are in good taste.

All letters must be accompanied by the writer's name, E-mail address and daytime telephone number. Letters are subject to editing to meet space constraints.

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Retirement Activities Office points retiree community in right direction

Story and photo by Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

After serving fruitful careers in the military, many retirees and veterans still are left with unanswered questions regarding their military retirement benefits.

As part of Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC), Retirement Activities Office (RAO), the mission is to provide assistance to retirees, their survivors and family members in obtaining their rights and benefits.

Retired Rear Adm. C. Bruce Smith, RAO director, said his office serves more than 7,000 Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard retirees on the island as well as the Pacific region.

"In Hawai'i, we have a substantial retiree community," he said. "Our mission is to provide information and assistance to retirees and their families on matters concerning their benefits and problems."

Smith said his office primarily fields calls from retirees and spouses



Retired Rear Adm. C. Bruce Smith, director of Retirement Activities Office (RAO), fields a phone call from his office regarding retiree and health benefits. Smith said his office, as part of Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC), provides assistance to more than 7,000 Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard retirees in the Pacific region, as well as their survivors and family members by obtaining information regarding their rights and benefits.

es regarding benefits and health inquiries. The office also assists retirees by helping them get in con-

tact with other agencies, such as Social Security, Veterans Affairs and Tricare, depending on their needs.

"You could say we act as a liaison," he said. "For example, we provide information on their current earned benefits and [educate] them about the survivor benefit plan [SBP]. We also help them find benefits they might be entitled to as far as the Veterans Administration is concerned."

In addition to basic benefit inquiries, another important question Smith said his office receives is what a spouse is entitled to after a retiree passes.

"We have a checklist for them and want to point them in the right direction," he explained. "Our [goal] is to help people who are suffering from the death of a retiree and assist them in establishing contact with the [appropriate] offices and agencies they need."

Smith said that every year RAO sponsors an annual retiree seminar designed to bring current information on all areas of interest for retirees, including health and legal affairs. The seminar is free and open

to retired military community.

Set for Nov. 7, this year's event will feature a "Navy and Air Force joint base" theme. A panel of representatives from Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX), Pearl Harbor Commissary and Tricare will also be on hand to respond to audience questions.

RAO also publishes and mails out a bi-annual newsletter, called "The Retiree," to veterans throughout the Pacific region and includes various topics such as the survivor benefits plan and Tricare eligibility.

A volunteer and retiree advocate for RAO for more than 20 years, Smith said he has enjoyed serving as RAO director for the past two years. In addition to his duties as RAO director, Smith also gives monthly lectures on the survivor benefit plan (SBP) at all FFSC transitional assistance program (TAP) classes for separating or retiring Sailors.

"I've always wanted to be a volunteer and felt like I owed it to my [fellow] veterans," said Smith, who retired from the U.S. Navy in 1979. "For the most part, the government

has been very good to retirees. But the government is also looking for ways to save money. So if [veteran benefits] are going to survive, it will be because of a good volunteer program [such as RAO]," he added.

Smith said his office is currently in need of volunteers willing to help assist with phone inquiries and additional programs and functions the office is currently involved with.

"We man this office five days a week and it is all done thanks to the help of our volunteers," he said. "We are always in need of finding great people willing to volunteer their services. We keep a pretty flexible schedule, will train people, and also let them set their own hours if needed."

The retired activities office is located at the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC), Navy Region Hawai'i, 4827 Bougainville Drive, Honolulu. For more information on RAO, visit www.greatlifehawaii.com and look under "Fleet and Family Support" link. For those interested in volunteering, call the retired activities office at 474-1999, ext. 6317.

ATG MIDPAC wins annual CPO Inductee Softball Tournament

Lt. Jennifer Valle

Afloat Training Group, Middle Pacific

Chiefs and chief selects from Afloat Training Group, Middle Pacific (ATGMP) defended their championship title during the Second Annual Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Inductee Softball Tournament held Aug. 14 on Milligan Field. The tournament was a single-pitch, double elimination event of eight teams.

The ATGMP team won the first game against the combined USS Hopper/USS O'Kane team and again against the Commander, Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific (CNSG MIDPAC) team. ATGMP hit a road block during the third game against the Pacific Command (PACOM) team, who gave them their only loss of the day.

Determined not to be taken out of the competition, the ATGMP team won the next game against the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard team, pitting them against PACOM in the semi-finals. In a "do-or-die" game, they beat PACOM, pushing to the final game in which they



U.S. Navy photo by DCC (SW) Shaun Thompson

The ATGMP softball team displays the number '2' for the number of years they have won the chief petty officer (CPO) inductee softball championship title.

beat PACOM with a score of 9-2. After hard fought games and a full day of softball, ATGMP took the CPO Inductee Softball Tournament Championship for the second year in a row.

When asked about the event, ATGMP command master chief, Hull Maintenance Technician Master Chief (SW) Russell Hackler said, "Today's

tournament was an huge success and a great opportunity for the Hawai'i region CPOs and CPO selectees to mingle, get to know one another, and enjoy some fierce competition on the field. All those involved in making this possible deserve a lot of credit for continuing this team building event and its future success. In the end, all I can say is, 'Back to back, and looking for a three peat!'"

Freedom Walk honors 9/11 victims

Continued from A-1

11, 2001, when again the United States of America was awakened," stated Kitchens. "Today we meet to celebrate and commemorate the heroes that sacrificed their lives in that commitment to freedom with this Freedom Walk."

After his speech, Kitchens led the participants in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Many of the participants were school children as the event took place in between Admiral Chester A. Nimitz Elementary and the Holy Family Catholic Academy, but Sailors and other service components were in attendance to support the cause.

Commander, U.S. Pacific Command's joint color guard led the 1.5 mile walk and a Sailor from Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawai'i Self Help brought a generator from his command to power the public announcement system.

"I felt that today was important because it was an opportunity for young people to remember our history. Sept. 11 was a big day not too long ago and now they're living the history right here in this walk for freedom," said Construction Electrician 2nd Class (SCW) Michael Bowman, assigned to NAVFAC Hawai'i Self Help.

Participants in the event received Operation Homefront 2009 Freedom Walk T-shirts. The event was sponsored by Lockheed Martin and TriWest Healthcare Alliance, Hawai'i. For more information on Operation Homefront, visit www.operationhomefront.net.

Pearl Harbor Highlights

A color guard of federal firefighters presents colors during the Federal Fire Department's 9/11 remembrance ceremony held Sept. 11 at the department's headquarters at Pearl Harbor.

Photo courtesy of Federal Fire Department



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 (AW) Eric J. Cutright

Students from the Holy Family Catholic Academy wave American flags as they begin the Operation Homefront 2009 Freedom Walk on Sept. 11 near Lynch Field. The Freedom Walk is a one-and-a-half mile walk commemorating the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and honoring military veterans, past and present.

(Below) Students from Admiral Chester A. Nimitz Elementary participate in the Operation Homefront 2009 Freedom Walk on Sept. 11. The Freedom Walk is a one-and-a-half mile walk commemorating the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and honoring military veterans, past and present.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 (AW) Eric J. Cutright



U.S. Navy photo by Grace Hew Len

Capt. Ken Heim of Honolulu Fire Department, and his wife and children toss rose petals into the memorial well at the USS Arizona Memorial during a Naval Station Pearl Harbor white boat harbor tour Sept. 11. Naval Station hosted about 70 members and guests of the Honolulu Fire Department, Federal Fire Department Hawai'i and City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management and Department of Facility Management, during the monthly indoctrination and community outreach harbor tour. While on the memorial, Navy Chaplain Lt. Vernon Vergara led a moment of silence and offered words of prayer and thoughts in remembrance of the lives lost during the 9/11 attack on Sept. 11, 2001.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Robbert Stirrup

Newly-promoted chief petty officers (CPO) assigned to various commands on Oahu sing "Anchors Aweigh" during a CPO pinning ceremony on historic Ford Island. A total of 38 first class petty officers were promoted to CPO during the ceremony on Sept. 16.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Robbert Stirrup

Newly-promoted chief petty officers (CPO) assigned to various commands on stand in front of the audience during a CPO pinning ceremony on historic Ford Island on Sept. 16.

Near perfect effort propels NIOC over ATG Deployment

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer

Information Systems Technician 1st Class Joey Putnam was three outs away from pitching a five-inning perfect game in leading Navy Information Operations Command-Hawai'i (NIOC) to a 12-1 triumph over Afloat Training Group (ATG) in a season-opening Morale, Welfare and Recreation Winter Softball League game at Millican Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 12.

The Winter Softball League is a pay-to-play league which is open to active duty, family members and Department of Defense employees, who are 18 years of age or older and are associated with Pearl Harbor, Barbers Point, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station (NCTAMS), West Loch and Kunia.

In tossing the near perfect, Putnam retired the first dozen ATG batters in a row before Information Systems Technician 1st Class Mike McHattie stroked a leadoff single to open up the top of the fifth inning and break up the no-hitter.

McHattie moved onto third base on a throwing error to second and scored ATG's only run when the next hitter slapped another single.

The game was called at the end of the fifth due to the



Chief Cryptologic Technician (Maintenance) Duain "Woody" Woodruff of Navy Information Operations Command-Hawai'i (NIOC) smashes a line drive during a Morale, Welfare and Recreation Winter Softball League game against Afloat Training Group (ATG) at Millican Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 12. NIOC defeated ATG, 12-1, to win the season opener for both teams.

league's 10-run mercy rule. Besides retiring the first 12 batters in a row, Putnam, whose favorite pitch seemed to be a no-rotation knuckleball, gave up only three hits and struck out two hitters.

"I saw where they (ATG) wanted to hit and I put it where they couldn't hit it," said Putnam about baffling ATG hitters. "The first couple of guys were looking to go to the right side of the field so I pitched them inside and prevented them from doing that."

In explaining about the team's troubles at the plate, McHattie said it was just one of

those games where ATG batters just seemed to hit the ball right at people.

"It's the first game and everybody struggled," stated McHattie, who admitted he was happy to break up the no-no. "At least we didn't get skunked."

While ATG was having problems getting men on base, NIOC batters gave Putnam all the support he needed and more.

In only four innings, NIOC hitters rapped out 15 hits while scoring a run in the first, three in the second, and four more runs in the third and fourth innings.

Meanwhile, NIOC fielders backed up Putnam with a rock-solid effort in gobbling up everything that came their way.

"My infielders turned two double plays and our first baseman threw out a guy at home to keep that run from scoring," noted Putnam. "As a pitcher, I didn't do much. I put it there and let them hit it, and then let my defense catch the ball. This was a total team effort."

Chief Cryptologic Technician (Maintenance) Duain "Woody" Woodruff of NIOC agreed with Putnam and added that the team needed to excel in all areas of the game in order to soundly defeat ATG.

A perennial contender in the winter and intramural softball seasons, Woodruff believes that NIOC has the right stuff, once again, to be among the top teams in the league.

"We got a real good team," said Woodruff. "As far as commands go, we don't stack our team. That might hurt us, but we win as a team and lose as a team. Only time will tell."

While everyone on NIOC comes out to the softball field to have fun, said Putnam, the team is confident about its ability to compete against any opponent in the league.

"We're always competitive in this league," noted Putnam. "Even though we're a unit-level team, we're still very competitive against the big teams that have players from different commands."

Deployment

Continued from A-1

integrate into U.S. 7th Fleet's naval presence and TSC missions.

"The crew has been very, very busy and very professional. They've gone through a very successful INSERV (Board of Inspection and Survey) and a very successful unit level training assessment sustainment, and it's been a compressed cycle," said Trinque. "They're ready to go and I'm very proud to be part of this crew."

O'Kane will be conducting a naval surface fire support (NSFS) exercise while in U.S. 7th Fleet's operating area. This exercise improves the gunnery team's proficiency in shore bombardment to support troops on the ground.

They will also participate in an annual exercise with Japan. This exercise tests and supports the Navy's anti-submarine warfare/anti-surface warfare/ballistic missile defense working relationship with the Japanese.

Hopper and O'Kane are under the command of Destroyer Squadron 31 and are two of 18 U.S. ships — three cruisers and 15 destroyers — fitted with the full Aegis BMD capability in the Navy, allowing them to detect, track and engage enemy ballistic missiles.

The destroyers are embarking on separate missions, but both will support maritime ballistic missile defense, a core capability of the Navy that will enhance deterrence by providing an umbrella of protection to forward-deployed forces and allies, while contributing to the larger architecture planned for defense of the United States.

Hopper's deployment is scheduled to last six months and O'Kane is scheduled to return in three months.

"Sailors train to do a job and you get to see the results of your training on station so while it's hard to leave our families, this is what we train to do. And while there's excitement about deploying today, you have to deploy to get that equal excitement from returning home, and there's no two feelings like that — the day of deployment and the day of returning home," said Kott.



U.S. Navy photo by James Johnson

Nanette Castro, NAVFAC Hawai'i deputy for small business, emphasizes the importance of having the correct service-disabled, veteran-owned small business paperwork readily accessible which verifies their status in order to bid for Navy work. A total of 38 attendees (24 firms) participated in the outreach event.

NAVFAC Hawai'i teaches small businesses how to work with Navy

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i Public Affairs

A special training event hosted Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawai'i Small Business Division for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business

(SD-VOSB) drew 38 people representing 24 firms on Aug. 31 at the Navy Service Center at Moanalua Shopping Center.

"I believe events like this are important," said Nanette Castro, NAVFAC Hawai'i's deputy for small business "Not only does it allow me to advise small businesses on how to do business with NAVFAC Hawai'i, but it also gives our large prime contractors an opportunity to address their subcontract opportunities and build a network with the firms in attendance."

The outreach event, titled "How to do business with the command, preparing

successful proposals, and prime and subcontracting opportunities," educated SD-VOSBs about the command's solicitation requirements and prime/subcontracting opportunities. Also featured were presentations from small business liaison officers from NAVFAC Hawai'i large business prime contractors, Kiewit Construction, Parsons, Hawaiian Dredging Construction, DCK Pacific and Wilson Okamoto Corp.

The small business liaison officers addressed their firms' small business programs and subcontracting opportunities. In addition, Willy Talion of Building Innovators Group (a SD-VOSB construction contractor) shared with the group his experiences and lessons-learned on his first contract with NAVFAC Hawai'i.

NAVFAC Hawai'i works to provide opportunities to Hawai'i small business concerns. So far this year, the

command is either meeting or exceeding its small business goal, small disadvantaged business goal, woman-owned small business goal, and HUBZone small business goal.

"Our success is mainly due to the commitment and support of the small business program by our commanding officer, Capt. Bret Muilenburg, on down to our working contract specialists and engineers," said Castro. "Meeting our service-disabled, veteran-owned small business goal continues to be a challenge and hosting outreach events, such as this one, helps NAVFAC Hawai'i and its large prime contractors locate and develop new sources to increase prime and subcontracting opportunities."

For more information on NAVFAC Hawai'i's small business efforts, contact Castro at 474-4554 or e-mail nanette.castro@navy.mil at

Pearl Harbor Shipyards earn Naval Postgraduate School certification

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

Six Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard employees recently earned Electric Ship Power Systems (ESPS) certificates from the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey, Calif. after completing an arduous year of study.

All had enrolled in July 2008 in the distance learning program and successfully completed the requirements for the certificate in July 2009. This represented a 100 percent completion rate for shipyard personnel enrolled in the program.

Completing the demanding course were nuclear engineers, Michael A. Hirakami

and Chad Kaanoi of the nuclear engineering and planning department; and electrical engineers, Nicholas C. Kalnins, Erich Kimoto, Lori Sakai and Jonathan J. Vannatta of the engineering and planning department.

"These students stuck with attending each course for four consecutive quarters while at the same time working full-time," said Dr. Monique P. Fargues, NPS associate chair for student programs. "This is not an easy task and it reflects highly on their level of dedication."

The certification required the shipyarders to take four classes on advanced electronics theory. They were allowed

four hours every two days to participate in videoconferences and study.

"These were graduate-level courses," Kalnins said. "The first month, it took a lot of work to get up to speed."

Vannatta said, "The hardest part was managing work and school."

Sakai agreed, "It was pretty difficult. It was kind of a struggle." Job demands often meant the students had to study on their own time, she said.

Although earning the certification was a challenge, Sakai said the knowledge gained "will help us better understand troubleshooting on the new Virginia-class (submarines)."

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard workers go to college under new 'apprentice to engineer' program

Katie Vanes and Marshall Fukuki

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

Two Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard blue-collar workers recently joined thousands of other students reporting for the first day of fall semester at the University of Hawai'i-Manoa. What's unique about Ryan Zukeran and Ethan Hottendorf is that they are being paid by the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard - and will be for the next four years - while they go to school full-time to pursue engineering degrees.

Both were selected for the shipyard's new apprentice to engineer (A2E) program, which promotes the recruitment, education and retention of highly-motivated and qualified apprentice program graduates. In addition to paying Hottendorf and Zukeran their regular shipyard salaries, the program covers their tuition, books and other

education-related expenses.

"This is an outstanding opportunity for the talented tradesmen and women of our shipyard," said James Kenny, nuclear engineering and planning manager. "This program allows our folks to continue their education beyond apprenticeship to obtain an engineering degree."

"It's a win-win program. Our folks develop the career potential to advance to any position in the shipyard and the shipyard receives qualified engineers with great practical experience. We are very proud on Ryan and Ethan," Kenny said.

Both workers graduated from the shipyard's apprentice program last year - Hottendorf as an electronics mechanic and Zukeran as a rigger, a trade that specializes in moving heavy loads. The apprentice program prepares trainees for careers in skilled trades such as welder, electrician, machinist and sheet metal mechanic

When Hottendorf was

asked what the A2E opportunity meant to him, he said, "I have trust in the shipyard for their investment in us in order to improve not only the shop, but the entire engineering department."

He chose to major in electrical engineering because it was a logical extension of his present trade and of a bachelor's degree he already has in engineering and technology.

Zukeran said he applied for the A2E program because "I want to bring my waterfront experience to the engineering code."

Like Hottendorf, he chose to major in electrical engineering. The new Virginia-class submarines have complex electrical systems, he explained. "They are the future of the shipyard so (electrical engineering) would be the most beneficial for me," he said.

Upon graduation and successful completion of their degrees, Zukeran and Hottendorf will be employed as engineers at the shipyard.

Uniform Center welcomes CPO selectees

Story and photo by
Mark Smith

Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange
Marketing

New chief petty officer (CPO) Selectees celebrated their achievement at the Navy Exchange Uniform Center's CPO Night event on Sept. 10.

The Uniform Center at Pearl Harbor hosts the event every year and selectees are invited for an evening of celebration and recognition. Participants included the Navy Exchange, their vendors and the mini marts.

During CPO selection season, the uniform center meets with the selectees to help them prepare for their promotion by offering a wide variety of uniform services, including fitting, tailoring and ribbon mounting.

"This is our busiest time of the year," said Jennifer Justice, uniform center manager. "It's like Christmas for us and since this is such a big deal for our enlisted Sailors, we try to go all out to help them celebrate."

The event takes place after the selection process is complete, one week prior to the promotion ceremony.

Because the rank of CPO is of extreme significance, the Sailors must get fitted for a whole new uniform and all those previously issued become obsolete.



Jeanette Gremer of the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange uniform center assists Chief Culinary Specialist (SS) (sel) David Balint with a fitting during the chief petty officer selection season. The uniform center invites the selectees every year for a special fitting and tailoring session as a special event to celebrate their promotions.

For the enlisted rank, a lot goes into the consideration process. In order to be selected for CPO, enlisted Sailors must show strong leadership skills, superior performance, knowledge in their field, and maintain a high level of physical fitness.

"Achieving the rank of chief petty officer is the most significant milestone in an enlisted Sailor's career," said Naval Station Pearl Harbor Command Master Chief Earl Gray. "Everything changes from the uniform to dining facilities to

communications within the chain of command."

According to Gray, opportunity for selection is slim. "It's not uncommon for enlisted personnel to retire from the Navy without ever making CPO."

CPOs are selected annually. The selection season takes place during the summer and those who make it receive their promotion in September.

For CPO selectees who are still in need of services or have any questions in regard to uniforms, contact the Uniform Center at 423-3373.

Aliamanu School receives top military-friendly school award

Katie Vanes

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public
Affairs

Aliamanu Intermediate School was the recipient of the Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) Norbert Award on Aug. 27 at the Hawai'i Okinawa Center in Waipahu. The award recognized the school for its outstanding assistance and support of students from military families. The school, which has an educational partnership with Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, was selected out of 140 competitors.

JVEF is a cooperative venture between the U.S. Pacific Command military community and the Hawai'i Department of Education. Its purpose is to facilitate military participation in Hawai'i public schools to advance the quality of education for public school students.

Under JVEF, military commands form educational partnerships with schools in which active-duty and civilian volunteers from the commands assist students in the classroom and on the playground. In addition to tutoring, mentoring and coaching children, volunteers help maintain and upgrade school grounds,

buildings and equipment.

JVEF also provides about \$5,000 a year to each partnership school. These funds have been used to purchase everything from library books to sports gear to paint and weed whackers for grounds upkeep.

Aliamanu is one of four public schools that have formal JVEF educational partnerships with the shipyard. Last school year, shipyard Sailors supported quarterly field activity days with the students and helped prepare a storage room so it could be used to house a new high-tech media center.

Aliamanu was selected by JVEF as a military-friendly school that best displayed transitioning services and aid to military families, maintained an informative and current Web site for incoming transfer students, and had outstanding military parental involvement.

In addition, Aliamanu made reasonable accommodations for military students whose frequent family moves limit their curricular and extra-curricular activities. JVEF praised the school for encouraging students to participate in physical, mental and socially-enriching programs despite their transitory living situations.