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Vice CNO Greenert reassures military families

Story and photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs



Vice Chief of Naval Operation (VCNO), Vice Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert, sent out a Navy message to Navy leaders Feb. 8 regarding the importance of family readiness in the Navy's overall mission.

"As leaders we must ensure we are embracing our Navy family as an essential element to success," said Greenert. "They are a part of our total force and must be appropriately informed, prepared, networked, resilient and empowered."

In the message, Greenert said that the Navy has been operating at a relentless pace, unlike any in history. He said that just like the operational tempo, the stress on the force has been unyielding.

As Naval Station Pearl Harbor integrates with Hickam Air Force Base into Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Margaret Scurfield, the director of fleet and family readiness at the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC), is working closely with Hickam's

Airman and Family Readiness Flight (AFRF) when it comes to military families in Hawaii.

"To be ready for the mission, the family needs to be ready," said Scurfield.

"The FFSC and AFRF are available to the families with a multitude of programs that we have."

FFSC's list of programs can be divided into three major categories: deployment support, crisis response and career support and retention. Each of these categories has more than a dozen programs geared toward supporting both Navy and Air Force service members.

One of the programs that stands out is the operational stress control (OSC) training, which aims to teach service members how to recognize signs and symptoms of stress in themselves and others and how to manage operational stress.

Scurfield said there are several stress factors that affect service members in Hawaii aside from the typical deployment or financial stress. She said Hawaii can feel especially isolating for young families whose service members deploy and

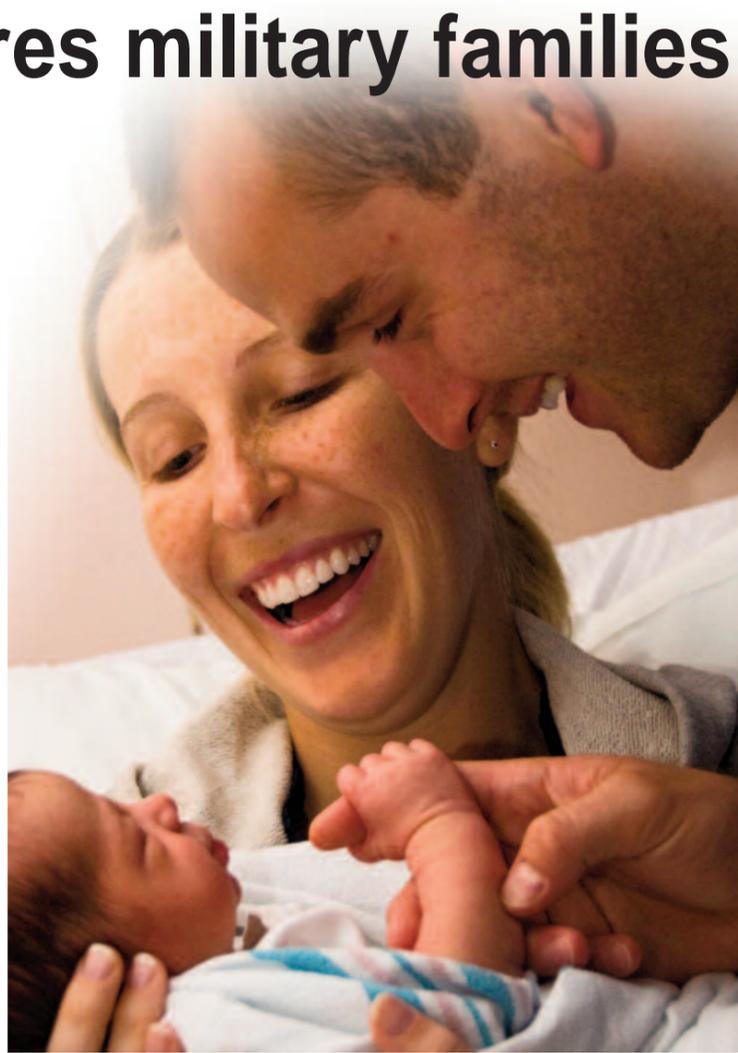
whose extended families are on the mainland.

Kimberly Wilson, an Air Force spouse who gave birth to a baby boy Feb. 10 at the Tripler Army Medical Center, said she feels lucky that she has family, friends and her church supporting her family.

Husband/father 1st Lt. Brandon Wilson, assigned at 15th Communication Squadron at Hickam Air Force Base, said he is thankful for his command and the support he received during the birth of their second child.

"It is truly important to let the leadership know that the Fleet and Family [FFSC and AFRF] is committed and dedicated," said Scurfield. "Our whole mission is making sure that our families are ready."

The mother, Kimberly Wilson and father, 1st Lt. Brandon Wilson, from 15th Communication Squadron at Hickam Air Force Base greet a new addition to their family at Tripler Army Medical Center. Margaret Scurfield, the director for Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) who works closely with Airman and Family Readiness Flight (AFRF), said that to be ready for the mission, the family has to be ready. She said that FFSC and AFRF are dedicated and committed in supporting the military families.



Pacific Warfighting Center opens



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Elisia V. Gonzales

Hawaii Senator Daniel Inouye and Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander, U.S. Pacific Command, salute during the playing of the National Anthem at the Pacific Warfighting Center (PWC) dedication ceremony held Feb. 11 on Ford Island. The \$20 million facility was built to enhance joint and multi-national operational missions and training by providing an environment for commanders and their staff to train for scenarios that can either be live, virtual or networked.



(Left to right): Cmdr. Marshall Monteville, officer in charge of NEPMU 6; Capt. William Upham, executive officer on USNS Mercy; Capt. Gail Hathaway, U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) deputy fleet surgeon; and Capt. Sterling Sherman, USN Director of Public Health, Naval Medical Center San Diego; perform a ribbon-cutting at the grand opening ceremony for the new Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit Six facility on Feb. 17.

NEPMU-6 holds ribbon-cutting ceremony

Story and photo by STG2 (SW) Eric D. Ocampo

Feb. 17 marked the official grand opening ceremony for the new Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit Six (NEPMU 6) at building 618 off North Road at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii and Primatech CI completed construction of the \$6.76 million project that was awarded in May 2007. Personnel from NEPMU 6, NAVFAC Hawaii, and local commanding officers and guests were in attendance.

Cmdr. Marshall Monteville, officer in charge of NEPMU 6, stated, "We are proud of the new \$6.76 million building and the opportunity this

presents for us to expand our support to the fleet and deployed/deploying service members. We are already engaging both PACFLT [Pacific Fleet] and PACOM [Pacific Command] to extend additional real-time force health protection products throughout the AOR [area of responsibility]."

Tours of the laboratory spaces were conducted after the ribbon and cake cuttings.

Among the spaces showcased were the entomology, biohazard, industrial hygiene and environmental health labs. The facility has numerous up-to-date capabilities from testing soil, measuring the amount of metals on painted surfaces, analyzing the purity of water samples, examining air quality in parts per trillion and identifying disease carrying agents.

tifying disease carrying agents.

Having a dedicated area to perform lab and research and the capability to identify and diagnose infectious insects is a huge leap forward for us," said Lt. Ian Sutherland, entomology laboratory officer. "For example, we are testing out a new instrument dubbed the 'larva sonic' that uses ultra-high frequencies in the water to terminate mosquito larvae," he explained.

"There's no comparison to the old building in that we've basically doubled our square footage and enhanced our laboratories and training rooms, making them state-of-the-art. We will continue to do similar work to what we did in our old building."

See NEPMU-6, A-6

USS Reuben James assists stranded fishermen in Philippines

Commander, Task Force 70 Public Affairs

PHILIPPINE SEA – USS Reuben James (FFG 57) aided two fishermen in distress on an outrigger canoe while transiting near Mindanao on Feb. 13. The pair had left the nearby Mindanao port of San Francisco the previous day, but became stranded 26 miles off the coast after their outboard motor failed.

Reuben James' crew members provided temporary repairs to the engine as well as fuel, water and food to aid



their return to San Francisco. The ship also coordinated with a Republic of Philippines Coast Guard patrol

boat to escort their voyage home.

"Today Reuben James exercised the ancient law of the mariner: our obligation to render aid to those in peril on the sea," said Cmdr. David E. Miller, commanding officer. "A surprise opportunity like this one to assist others at sea is both timeless and rewarding."

Homeported at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the guided-missile destroyer Reuben James is on a routine deployment to the western Pacific.



NMCRS Pearl Harbor honors Volunteers of the Year See page A-2



USS Crommelin Sailors share views on heritage See page A-4



Hawaiian blessing held for first phase of USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center See page A-3



Pearl Harbor Lakers outshine Kaneohe Bay Suns See page B-1



Penny Rower (second from left) is recognized as Pearl Harbor's Volunteer of the Year during the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) 14th annual Volunteer of the Year Awards luncheon on Feb. 12. Also pictured are Paul Belanger, director of NMCRS Pearl Harbor, (third from left), flanked by Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; and Kiki Smith.

NMCRS Pearl Harbor honors 2009 Volunteers of the Year

Story and photo by
MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

The Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS), Pearl Harbor Chapter, held its 14th Annual Volunteer of the Year Awards Luncheon on Feb. 12 at the Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu.

NMCRS recognized a volunteer of the year and kokua (helper) of the year from Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor during the ceremony for their outstanding efforts and loyal dedication during 2009.

Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, served as the ceremony's guest speaker and thanked the volunteers for the work they've

done for all Hawaii-based Sailors and Marines.

"I want to thank all of you who have volunteered many hours to help support our Sailors and Marines," said Smith. "I really appreciate everything you do to make NMCRS Pearl Harbor such a great success."

The volunteer of the year was awarded to Penny Rower and kokua of the year was awarded to the Moiliili Senior Program Knitters for knitting blankets and quilts for service members. The awardees were honored for representing the spirit of 'aloha' and for their outstanding volunteer efforts throughout the year.

"It's really a great honor to be recognized as the volunteer of the year," said Rower. "I know all the people involved with NMCRS put in a lot of hard work and to be recognized

as the top volunteer just feels really great."

Paul Belanger, director for NMCRS Pearl Harbor, expressed his appreciation to the award winners and all volunteers.

"It's a pleasure to recognize all of our volunteers for all of the outstanding work they've done in the past year," said Belanger. "Without all of you, NMCRS would not be the success that it is today. Volunteers are the heart and soul of this organization."

The mission of the NMCRS is to provide, in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, financial, educational and other assistance to members of the naval services of the United States, eligible family members and survivors when in need and to receive and manage funds to administer these programs.

Nimitz Strike Group arrives in Hong Kong

USS Nimitz Public Affairs

The Nimitz Carrier Strike Group (CSG) arrived in Hong Kong for a four-day port visit Feb. 17.

The aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68), the strike group's flagship, along with USS Chosin (CG 65), homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, USS Pinckney (DDG 91), USS Sampson (DDG 102) and USS Rentz (FFG 46) will send more than 5,000 Sailors ashore to enjoy liberty in Hong Kong.

"Hong Kong is a vibrant city and a favorite port of call for our Sailors," said Rear Adm. John W. Miller, commander of Carrier Strike Group 11. "We look forward to an enjoyable stay here."

While in Hong Kong, Sailors will enjoy the sights and sounds of the island, as well as pre-arranged day trips and cultural tours to Lantau, Macau, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen. Sailors will also visit Hong Kong Disneyland.

Sailors from several ships have volunteered to conduct five community service projects to help those in need around the local community. The projects include improving the grounds around temporary shelters, visiting a nursing home, and helping at an animal shelter.

Nimitz CSG recently completed five months on station in the North Arabian Sea, where Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 11 air crews flew more than 2,600 combat sorties in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

The other ships of the CSG contributed to counter-piracy operations off the Horn of Africa, the protection of critical Iraqi infrastructure in the North Arabian Gulf, and a wide range of missions to ensure maritime security.

Nimitz continues her routine deployment in the western Pacific in support of the maritime strategy.

Nimitz CSG is comprised of Nimitz, em-



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 David Mercil

The aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68), the guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65), the guided-missile destroyers USS Sampson (DDG 102) and USS Pinckney (DDG 91), and the guided-missile frigate USS Rentz (FFG 46) operate in formation in the South China Sea on Feb. 15.

barked CVW 11, embarked Destroyer Squadron 23, and the Ticonderoga-class cruiser USS Chosin. Ships assigned to DESRON 23 include the destroyers USS Pinckney, USS Sampson and the frigate USS Rentz.

Squadrons from CVW 11 include the "Black Aces" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 41, the "Tophatters" of VFA-14, the "Warhawks" of VFA-97, the "Sidewinders" of VFA-86, the "Indians" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron 6, the "Black Ravens" of Electronic Attack Squadron 135, the "Providers" of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 30 and the "Wallbangers" of Carrier Airborne Command and Control Squadron 117.

Helicopter detachments include the "Easy Riders" of Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light 37, the "Battle Cats" of HSL 43, the "Wolfpack" of HSL 45, the "Scorpions" of HSL 49 and the "Wildcards" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 23. Also accompanying the Nimitz CSG are Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 11 and the USNS Bridge.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Hawaiian blessing held for first phase of USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center

National Park Service
USS Arizona

A Hawaiian blessing for the first phase of the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center replacement and expansion project was offered Feb. 16 by Kahu Kamaki Kanahele and Kahu Herbert Kale-na Hew Len.

Government and military officials, community leaders, donors and Pearl Harbor survivors attended the ceremony, followed by a tour of the phase one facilities, a special briefing on construction plans for the remaining facilities and an update on the grand opening and dedication of the new visitor center which is scheduled for December of this year.

Assisting with the untying of the maile lei during the Hawaiian blessing were Hawaii State Senator Daniel K. Inouye; Paul DePrey, superintendent for the National Park Service at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument; Tom Fake, regional project director, National Park Service, Pacific Region; Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; Bob Kinzler, president, Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Aloha Chapter; Herb Weatherwax, Pearl Harbor survivor; George E. Sullivan, board chairman of the Arizona Memorial Museum Association; and Denny Watts, president and chief executive officer for Watts Constructors, LLC.

The National Park Service, Navy Region Hawaii and the



Senator Daniel Inouye and his chief of staff, Jennifer Sabas, pause at the new entrance to the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument on Feb. 16. The update to the USS Arizona Memorial features not only the USS Arizona Visitor Center, but encompasses the USS Bowfin Museum, the USS Oklahoma Memorial and the USS Utah Memorial, the Battleship Missouri Memorial and the Pacific Aviation Museum.

Arizona Memorial Museum Association announced that an important construction milestone on the new \$58 million USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center replacement and expansion project has been reached. Phase I of the project, which includes facilities for central ticketing for USS Arizona Memorial tours and Pearl Harbor Historic Partner attractions, a new

bookstore, education and research center, restrooms, snack bar and administrative offices, has been completed and is ready for operation. Facilities now open include:

- New central ticketing facility for USS Arizona Memorial tours and Pearl Harbor Historic Partner attraction. Serving as a gateway to the other Pearl Harbor Historic Sites partners, the new ticket

center will allow visitors to obtain information and tickets for all major Pearl Harbor sites including the USS Arizona Memorial, Battleship Missouri Memorial, USS Bowfin Museum and the Pacific Aviation Museum -Pearl Harbor.

- New bookstore that has more than doubled in size and will offer an expanded selection of book titles, audio tapes,

posters and other mementos of the USS Arizona, the Pearl Harbor Attack and War in the Pacific that visitors can purchase as a reminder of their visit and to further educate themselves on the subject.

- Facility for a state-of-the-art education and research center which, when completely outfitted, will offer a resource area with digitized documents, photos and oral

histories; classrooms and video conferencing room.

- New restrooms and snack bar.

Construction on the final phase of the project will now begin and includes the renovation of the twin theaters where visitors will view a 23-minute documentary film on the Pearl Harbor attack prior to visiting the memorial, a new indoor and outdoor museum gallery, and expanded visitor comfort areas and landscaping. During the renovation of the theaters, viewing of the documentary will be offered on a continuous basis at the education and research center. Visitors are also advised that parking at the visitor center during the final construction phase will be limited and are encouraged to take advantage of alternative public transportation options.

When fully completed in December, the new visitor center will include an additional six acres of land, bringing the total land area to approximately 17.4 acres. The new museum and visitor center, at 23,600 square feet, nearly doubles the size of the current museum allowing for a greatly expanded, and comprehensive interpretation of the attack on Pearl Harbor and WWII in the Pacific. A grand opening and official dedication is planned for Dec. 7, to coincide with the annual observance of the attack on Pearl Harbor and a national reunion of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association whose members and families will be gathering in Honolulu.

Photo courtesy of Bruce Asato/Honolulu Advertiser

This week in NAVAL HISTORY

February 14

- 1778 - John Paul Jones in *Ranger* receives first official salute to U.S. Stars and Stripes flag by European country, at Quiberon, France.
- 1813 - *Essex* becomes first U.S. warship to round Cape Horn and enter the Pacific Ocean.
- 1814 - USS *Constitution* captures British *Lovely Ann* and *Pictou*.
- 1840 - Officers from USS *Vincennes* make first landing in Antarctica on floating ice.

February 15

- 1856 - USS *Supply*, commanded by Lt. David Dixon Porter, sails from Smyrna, Syria, bound for Indianola, Texas, with a load of 21 camels intended for experimental use in the American desert west of the Rockies.
- 1898 - U.S. battleship *Maine* blows up in Havana Harbor.

February 16

- 1804 - Lt. Stephen Decatur, with volunteers from frigate *Constitution* and schooner *Enterprise*, enters Tripoli harbor by night in the ketch *Intrepid* to burn the captured frigate *Philadelphia*. Decatur's raid succeeds without American losses. England's Lord Nelson calls this "the most daring act of the age."
- 1815 - USS *Constitution* captures British *Susannah*.
- 1967 - Operation River Raider begins in Mekong Delta.

February 17

- 1864 - Confederate submarine *H.L. Hunley* sinks USS *Housatonic*.
- 1942 - First Construction Battalion (Seabees) arrives in Bora Bora.
- 1944 - Carrier aircraft strike Japanese fleet at Truk, sinking ships and destroying aircraft.

February 18

- 1846 - General order on port and starboard.
- 1944 - Amphibious force under Rear Adm. Hill lands troops on Engebi Island, Eniwetok.
- 1955 - First of 14 detonations, Operation Teapot nuclear test.

February 19

- 1814 - USS *Constitution* captures British brig *Catherine*.
- 1945 - Marines with naval gunfire support land on Iwo Jima Island was secured on March 16.



U.S. Naval Historical Center

During the early 1970s, the Navy Recruiting Command issued several posters that featured African-American themes and individuals, as well as others that showed racially integrated Navy activities. This was a Navy recruiting poster issued in 1972.

Hawai'i Navy News

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USS Crommelin Sailors share views on heritage

Story and photos by
Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

Sailors aboard USS Crommelin (FFG 37) took some time recently to reflect upon the importance of African-American Heritage Month.

In observance of African-American Heritage Month, Gas Turbine System Technician Senior Chief (SW) Matt Danforth selected several Sailors from Crommelin to share their unique perspectives as African-Americans in today's U.S. Navy.

"I think people want to look forward to a day where we don't have to celebrate certain specific events, groups or people," Danforth said. "However, it is important to recognize different cultures, whether they are African-American or Native American. By taking something from another person's culture and learning to embrace or celebrate it only makes us stronger in the end."

Personnel Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Jaret Spearman said the Navy has given him the opportunity to see the world and have a fulfilling naval career.

"I have had a lot of opportunities that my family in Florida has not had," said the Orlando, Fla. native. "My parents taught me how to respect and live by the 'golden rule' so when I came into the Navy, the transition was very easy. My dad always told me to work hard because others won't help you unless you help yourself first," he added.

When he enlisted in the Navy in January 2000 at 23 years old, Spearman became the first in his family to join the military.

He has since been able to move up the ranks and has established himself as decorated Sailor, even being named Junior Sailor of the Year this past December.

"I credit much of my success to my parents," he said. "A while back, I promised them I would not do anything to embarrass them. I promised to bring joy, honor and pride to my family. The military core values are ones that I uphold and value the most."

Unlike Spearman, Lt. Taquina "Ty" Luster, a supply officer, said her Navy career happened almost by accident.

"I was in college working full-time and being a student full-time and not sure what was next," said the Arkansas native. "My friend had a dad in the Navy; she decided to join and I just followed her. I guess I thought it seemed like the right thing to do because I would have four years to see what I wanted to do next."

According to Luster, those four years came and went and now she is happily enjoying a fulfilling career as one of the few minority female officers aboard her ship.

"There is no [Navy] instruction saying that this is a white or male-only career field and you can't come into this boys' club," she explained. "Race has nothing to do with becoming an officer and excelling in the Navy. I am doing this for female junior Sailors and male junior Sailors that are watching me because I represent both."

For Chief Quartermaster (SW) Charles Thomas, escaping an impoverished life in the rural south was his motivation for enlisting after

graduating high school.

"I wanted to make something out of myself because I came from a poor family with a single mother," said the Alabama native. "I didn't want to be like some of my classmates working at the local plant. I have been very blessed with my Navy career."

Unlike many Sailors who struggle with the transition from civilian to seaman, Thomas said he found his Navy acclimation process surprisingly easy.

"When I was a kid, all I did was work," he explained. "I would knock on doors and do odd jobs to help mom out. So when I joined in the Navy, it was easy for me because most jobs I had as a civilian were a lot harder than what was asked in the Navy."

Now, with a 19-year Navy career, Thomas said his greatest pleasure is being a "hands-on" Navy chief who provides mentoring to junior Sailors struggling to find their sea legs.

"I tell them to take advantage of the Navy while they are in," he said. "Do your job, don't lie, and be respectful to people. If you do those things, you will be fine in the Navy and you will be fine in life."

Thomas said he hopes other Navy chiefs will utilize their key leadership positions to have a positive impact on the next generation of Sailors.

"A good Navy chief is someone who will lead by example and do the right thing," he explained. "Don't just sit in your office and drink coffee. You got to get in your men's business. Don't be afraid to walk the decks and talk to your Sailors. Be proactive, speak up, mentor younger guys and reflect leadership."

Diverse Views

February is 'Healthy Heart Month.' What are you doing to keep your heart healthy? What are your thoughts/suggestions to our readers regarding this?



Chief Hospital Corpsman (SS/FMF)
Nathaniel Olipas
Naval Health Clinic Hawaii Makalapa

"Every five years the Navy requires personnel to have a periodic health assessment done to gauge overall health. This is my birth month recall, so I've just completed mine. I can do better on the high blood pressure side. I've been proactive at least four out of seven days doing cardiovascular exercises. If you fall in a certain risk factor, you gotta nip it at the bud. Don't wait for further symptoms to occur or get worse. Last, but not least, everything in moderation."

Commander
Vince Lowell

United States Navy Commander Pacific Fleet Executive Transport Detachment Pacific

"I'm a firm believer in that adding to the physical and psychological aspects of exercise, camaraderie and team building are the biggest benefits. Physical readiness has more throughout the Navy, and it has only been getting better. We have a fantastic PT program headed by one CFL and 2 ACFLs to continue this upward trend."



Information Systems Technician 1st Class
Katrina Lockett

United States Navy Commander Pacific Fleet Executive Transport Detachment Pacific

"My ultimate goal is to lose weight and maintain a healthier lifestyle. I've changed my diet and I've increased my cardio workouts. My desire to not have to buy new uniforms due to my weight, plus my husband being vegan and our active seven-year old son are what keep me motivated. Don't be afraid to start something new and stick to it."

Staff Sergeant
Jennifer Whitaker

United States Air Force 65th Airlift Squadron

"I balance my 30-minute cardio workouts a day with eating lots of veggies and fruits. My favorite all around is broccoli. Also, I've been avoiding the greasy fatty, and high sugar foods."



Sonar Technician (Surface) 2nd Class (SW)
Mike De Leon

USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60)

"I run to and from Naval Station Pearl Harbor and Hickam Air Force Base two to three times a week in addition to our command PT. Keeping hydrated along the way is important. But, I believe more important than the physical conditioning is my love for my family—this keeps my heart healthy."

Pearl Harbor Highlights

(Right) Keith Matsuura (left), customer service associate at Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX), helps two siblings create Valentine's Day cards for their parents. The NEX hosted a "make and take" Valentine's Day card event on Feb. 5 and 12 for military children in the island reading room (second floor next to the main checkout). This free community service was in support of military families and their children who were looking for activities to do on furlough Fridays.

Photo by Stephanie Lau



(Left) Chief Hospital Corpsman (retired) Steve Farmer; Capt. Bill B. Carroll, U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) fleet dental officer; and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Anna Sternberg discuss the variety of insects on display in the entomology lab.

U.S. Navy photo by STG2 (SW) Eric D. Ocampo



U.S. Navy photo by MMFN Dustan Longhini

Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Ernest Williams from Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard was warmly greeted by about 75 uniformed Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Sailors when he arrived at Honolulu International Airport on Feb. 1 after serving 342 days in Afghanistan. Twelve shipyard Sailors are serving as individual augmentees (IAs) in Cuba, Afghanistan and Iraq. Also returning to the shipyard on Jan. 24 after seven months on active duty were civilian employees, Galan Fujimoto, Kekona Kanaiaupuni, Reid Kameoka, Davy Sanada and Caplan Hashimoto. As members of the Hawaii Air National Guard, they were mobilized in June 2009 and deployed to Kuwait. Twenty-five civilian shipyarders are on active duty.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jay C. Pugh

(Right) Aviation Support Equipment Technician 2nd Class Michael Sanchez of Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands, Kauai dances with Loretta King during the 10th Annual Kauai County Senior Center Dance on Feb. 12 at the Kekaha Community Center. Seven Sailors from the Pacific Missile Range Facility participated in the event that included nine Kauai senior centers.



(Below) A Kauai High School (KHS) student watches his rocket clear the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) range operations complex at Barking Sands, Kauai during the second annual KHS launch day on Feb. 9. Students and PMRF employees launched model rockets and discussed high tech career opportunities at the event.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jay C. Pugh



Shipyard honored for donating \$657,000 to CFC

Marshall Fukuki and Katie Vanes

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

In spite of the worst recession to hit the state in the past 50 years, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard workers opened up their hearts and their checkbooks by donating \$657,245 to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). This earned the shipyard "silver" status at the CFC Recognition Luncheon at the Hale Koa Hotel on Jan. 21.

Separate divisions within the shipyard collectively earned seven platinum, four gold and four silver statuses.

The 2009 shipyard fund drive, which began Sept. 1 and ended Dec. 15, is part of an annual campaign through-

out the federal government. Donations made to CFC help support more than 4,000 local, national and international charities.

"Even though this was a tough year economically for most people, shipyard employees were quick to support the gift of giving," said Brendan Cravalho, CFC project officer.

A highlight of the 2009 shipyard campaign was the four percent jump in employee payroll deductions to CFC, up 84 percent from 80 percent during the 2008 campaign.

"This was the highest deduction we've had in years," said Cravalho. "It's normally in the high-70s percentile, but this year was outstanding."

Cravalho kept close tabs on that statistic because he be-

lieves that if employees choose to give through payroll deductions, they tend to pledge larger overall amounts. A little more than half of the shipyard workforce, 54 percent, made a contribution.

The comptroller department (code 600) defended its title in participation, reach-

ing 100 percent for the second year in a row. Buena Harding, budget analyst who served as the department's CFC coordinator, said, "I talked to my fellow employees individually and explained that the CFC needed our help. I didn't pressure them, but everyone volunteered. Even

five to ten dollars a person will make a difference overall."

According to Cravalho, this was only the second time in the past nine years he has run the campaign that a shipyard unit has ever achieved perfect participation.

"This year was outstand-

ing because people are willing to give and participate despite their individual financial challenges," said Harding.

A late start in the campaign and the state's economic woes undoubtedly affected the level of giving. Still, seven departments surpassed their CFC financial goals.



NIOC Hawaii chief petty officer receives commissioning

Story and photo by Ensign Melissa Ocasio

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii Public Affairs

Former chief petty officer DaShawn M. Peyton of Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NIOC) Hawaii was recently commissioned as an ensign in the United States Navy during a ceremony at the Hickam Air Force Base Officer's Club.

Peyton's selection as an information warfare limited duty officer is the crowning touch of her 13-year enlisted career. She was among an exclusive group of Sailors who were notified of limited duty officer selection in February 2009.

Capt. James Hagy, commanding officer of NIOC Hawaii, was the guest speaker at Peyton's ceremony. "It is always good to see the Navy have another great Sailor promoted up into the ranks of commissioned officers. It gives the wardroom more experience and the Navy more capability to accomplish the mission," said Hagy.

Peyton offered some advice to enlisted personnel who are considering a career in the Navy as an officer, "Whether you are staying in or getting out, always strive to perform to the best of your ability because you never know what lies ahead for you in the future. Always set the example. Someone is looking up to you even if you do not think that they are."

Ready to assist fleet

Continued from A-1

However, our capacity has increased and our facility is now more user friendly to both the customers and technical staff," said Monteville.

Rear Adm. Michael H. Anderson, command surgeon at U.S. Pacific Command, agreed. "This is an absolutely beautiful facility with top notch equipment and will be a great addition to the immediate Pearl Harbor proper as well as to the upcoming joint base. These dedicated personnel are many times the unsung heroes, but they are our first responders to keep us all healthy and informed," he noted.

Monteville added, "The main mission of NEPMU 6 is to train to deploy in support of operational forces as well as support the fleet through training and other shipboard services such as industrial hygiene surveys, medical readiness inspections,

shipboard sanitation inspections, and other public health consultations. Our staff also supports OIF [Operation Iraqi Freedom] and OEF [Operation Enduring Freedom] by deploying with the forward-deployable preventive medicine units (FDP-MU) as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster response missions. In fact, NEPMU 2 out of Norfolk has an FDP-MU deployed to Haiti right now. We currently have many of our personnel deployed to CENTCOM and we'll also be assisting with Pacific Partnership 2010."

Monteville emphasized, "We are here to support the warfighter and are prepared to assist the fleet with all of their public health initiatives and requirements. They can also expect quality customer service and professional results from my staff as we are fortunate to have hard-charging Sailors at the ready."

Got Questions?

Write to us at
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Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Eduardo Hurtado of USS Lake Erie (CG 70) looks toward the pier on the Malaysian Navy Base in Sepangar, Malaysia.

USS Lake Erie arrives in Malaysia

USS Lake Erie (CG 70) Public Affairs

The Ticonderoga-class, guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) arrived in Sepangar, Malaysia on Feb. 16.

While in port, Sailors will have the opportunity to climb Mt. Kinabalu, enjoy the local cuisine and participate in community service projects. There are also trips to tour the surrounding islands, go scuba diving and enjoy snorkeling.

Lt. Cmdr. Phil Boice, chief engineer, said, "I have really

been looking forward to the great scuba diving that Kota Kinabalu has to offer."

The port visit is a liberty port that the crew of Lake Erie has been anticipating for quite some time.

Lake Erie is homeported at Pearl Harbor Hawaii and is on a regularly scheduled U.S. 7th Fleet deployment. U.S. 7th Fleet is the largest of the forward-deployed U.S. fleets, with approximately 60-70 ships, 200-300 aircraft and 40,000 Sailors and Marines assigned at any given time.

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

Feb. 25 – African-American/Black History Month

March 4 – NEPMU-6

March 11 – Submarines: with blogger Melissa Chang

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

Got a story for KHON Hawaii Navy News?

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

VP-47: Doing big things on deployment

Lt. j.g. Eric Schwartz

Patrol Squadron 47 Public Affairs

Late in 2009, crews from the Golden Swordsmen of Patrol Squadron 47 (VP-47) deployed to both the U.S. 5th Fleet (Iraq) and U.S. 7th Fleet (Japan) areas of responsibility to carry out the mission of the P-3C Orion.

The P-3C patrol aircraft is primarily suited for anti-submarine/surface warfare, but has been found to be a capable platform in other missions including surveillance, reconnaissance, and search and rescue (SAR).

Since deploying to U.S. 5th and U.S. 7th Fleets, the Golden Swordsmen have been using their training and experience in completing tasking that covers the entire spectrum of different missions of the Orion.

In early January, VP-47 was alerted and launched crews to aid in search and rescue (SAR) efforts for a lost fishing vessel off the coast of Guam, in coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard. Despite huge search areas and a small amount of information on the vessel, a crew from VP-47 successfully located the missing ship.

Lt. James Donchez, patrol plane commander, talked about the moments leading up to the discovery of the distressed vessel. "Our radar operator called out a steady contact and insisted we should investigate. As we got closer, she felt confident the contact was the small vessel



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Megan Klein

Aviation Machinist's Mate Airman David Quan (left) and Aviation Machinist's Mate Airman Apprentice Edgar Maldonado (right) of Patrol Squadron 47 work on the engine of a P-3C aircraft. VP-47 is currently deployed in support of U.S. 5th Fleet and U.S. 7th Fleet operations.

so we aimed the camera at the ship. At the same time, the flight station had a visual on what appeared to be flares.

"As a crew, we determined the ship looked dead in the water with around seven people standing in the back waving frantically," he explained. The VP-47 crew proceeded to fly around the ship, flashing their landing lights and signaling to those aboard that they had indeed been found, at which point Donchez noted he could see them hugging and celebrating on the stern deck.

With only a few minutes left and minimal fuel remaining, the Golden Swordsmen decided it was

time to return to base, after successfully relaying the stranded vessel's position to several nearby merchant vessels, including the U.S. Coast Guard.

In U.S. 5th fleet, VP-47 crews are often tasked to conduct overland reconnaissance missions in support of troops on the ground. On one such mission, a VP-47 crew, acting on reliable intelligence, successfully located a person of interest. Utilizing P-3C sensors and tactical ability, the crew vectored in ground forces. The person of interest was subsequently apprehended without incident.

The Golden Swordsmen have received a number of awards, including several

Good Conduct and Navy Achievement medals and CPRW-2 Junior Officer and Chief Petty Officer of the Year. Some Swordsmen have also earned spot promotions.

VP-47 has taken the time to detach to several surrounding nations as ambassadors of the United States in order to collaborate with host nations to work toward military cooperation.

VP-1, the Screaming Eagles, based at Whidbey Island, Wash. have also been contributing to the P-3 mission in U.S. 7th fleet as an augment to VP-47.

VP-47 is scheduled to return home to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe this spring.

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Contact the HNN editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements

