



EOD goes in harm's way.
See story on page A-5.



Snorkeling at Hanauma Bay
See story on page B-1.

Pacific Fleet resumes anthrax immunizations

JO2(SW) Alyssa Batarla
U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Pacific Fleet resumed the Department of Defense (DoD) anthrax vaccination immunization program (AVIP) for its Sailors on Jan. 9 after a federal judge ruling allowed the Defense Department to legally recommence the immunization program.

"The program was briefly stopped over Christmas based on a legal challenge to the program and to the way the program was being administered," said Capt. Christine Hunter, fleet surgeon for Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. "The judge never questioned the safety of the vaccine. Basically, he ruled against the completeness of the FDA process to approve the vaccine for use against inhalation anthrax."

Hunter said the DoD ceased AVIP in compliance with U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan's Dec. 22 injunction halting the vaccinations. On Dec. 30, the FDA announced the vaccine safe and effective whether against inhaled or skin exposure to anthrax.

Although AVIP has been a con-



Amber Terrell from Makalapa Medical Clinic prepares to administer a shot of Anthrax to HM2 Gary Suniga of Makalapa Medical Clinic.

roversial program, there have been 18 safety studies and since 1978, seven independent civilian panels that have attested to the vaccine's safety. The anthrax

bacterium is easy to produce and spread and is, therefore, a serious candidate for a biological weapon of mass destruction.

"Before 9/11, even though the

idea of terrorism was something we understood, people didn't fully internalize what it meant to live with risk," said Hunter. "I think folks said, 'Is any type of a

side effect relating to a vaccine program acceptable in lieu of the risk of getting anthrax? In the post-9/11 world when we saw anthrax dispersed through the mail and we saw people dying from the inhalation anthrax disease, then we began to understand that this risk was very real.

"We are very concerned about protecting the health of our troops," Hunter said. "We want military members to be as safe as possible if we have to put them into harm's way and if we can identify any threat against our troops, be they conventional weapons, chemical, biological, other weapons, we want to give them as much protection as we can. Vaccines are one strategy. Personal protective gear is another strategy. Warfare tactics and techniques that minimize injury and casualties are another strategy so (AVIP) is part of a comprehensive program because we care about our people."

The DoD set up a Website, www.anthrax.osd.mil, for information relating to the threat of anthrax, the disease and the vaccine.

Rescue and assistance drill



Photo by PH1(AW) William R. Goodwin

Firefighters aboard USS Salvor (ARS 52) extinguish a fire on board a former torpedo weapons retriever Wednesday. Salvor's three fire monitors are capable of discharging 1000 gallons of seawater per minute and quickly put out the fire, set by a training team composed of Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One and Afloat Training Group, Middle Pacific personnel. The rescue and assistance at sea training will prepare Salvor's crew for an upcoming underway period.

SUBPAC senior chief wins coveted Copernicus Communications Award

JO3 Corwin Colbert
Commander, Submarine Force,
U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet's (COM-SUBPAC) force radioman, Senior Chief Electronics Technician Tony Smith, was announced as one of the 25 recipients of the 2003 Copernicus Award on Dec. 3.

Smith, a native of Trenton, Ga., is responsible for the planning, supervision and execution of all Pacific Fleet submarine command, control, communications, computer and information systems (C4I) and information warfare system installations.

He is also directly involved in all aspects of submarine communications, ensuring that the equipment is up-to-date and functional.

"My main job and goal is the maintenance and modernization of all communication and information systems onboard all SUBPAC submarines. I also order the parts and schedule the maintenance and upgrades," he said. "We want to improve the C4I systems on board submarines so they can better communicate with strike group commanders," said Smith.

When Smith was informed that he had been nominated, he was surprised.

"I was excited. I didn't anticipate winning. It is an honor to be recognized for the work I have done for the submarine community," Smith concluded.

One of Smith's co-workers, Roger Lee, initially informed Smith of his selection.

"One day I came in to work

and Roger asked me if I had my speech ready," said Smith. "However, Cmdr. Anthony Gamboa, COMSUBPAC force engineer, officially informed me of my selection," he said.

Gamboa submitted Smith's package.

"Smith is extremely important to the upgrading of the Pacific Submarine Force. He has done an outstanding job. We couldn't have a better person do what he does. He even has a plan already made out for about the next seven years," said Gamboa.

The Copernicus Award is given annually for outstanding contributions to naval warfare in the disciplines of C4I and information warfare. According to the award committee, contributions do not have to be technical in nature, but may come from doctrinal, financial, organizational or other dimensions of information systems. The contribution should demonstrate exceptional initiative, leadership and insight within the nominee's area of expertise.

According to Chief Warrant Officer Andre Miller, chairman of the Copernicus Award, the number of nominations and people selected has been on the rise.

"The Copernicus Award was established in 1997. Since then, an average of 26 service members and civilians have been selected," said Miller.

"Each year, the number of nominations has also decreased," he said. "Since 2001, when I became the chairman, we have averaged 125 nominations; this year, we received 120.

Four officers from the Chief of Naval Operations select the winners. The only permanent voting member is myself, the chairman of the award. The other three officers are chosen and have varied fleet and shore experience in C4I. The rank of the board members normally ranges between lieutenant commander to captain," said Miller.

The award is sponsored by the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) and the U.S. Naval Institute (USNI). It is named after Nicholas Copernicus, the founder of modern astronomy, who correctly challenged the popular view that the Earth was the center of the universe.

Miller said during this year's AFCEA West dinner in February, the winners will receive an engraved clock provided by AFCEA and USNI.



Photo by JO3 Corwin Colbert

Senior Chief Tony Smith, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet's force radioman, was selected to receive the 2003 Copernicus Award.

Naval Reserve recruiters take top honors

Karen S. Spangler
Assistant Editor

"The really satisfying part about my job is that I truly believe that the Naval Reserve helps people. I really love this job and I love the Navy," said Navy Counselor 1st Class Gary Yu, a Naval Reserve enlisted recruiter at the Naval Reserve Center Honolulu who was named as the enlisted recruiter of the year for Naval Reserve Recruiting for Area Pacific, vying with over 125 recruiters for the award. Yu's dedication to his job - and to the people whom he counsels on making the Naval Reserve career choice - also earned him distinction as the number two recruiter in the nation from a field of 900 recruiters. He was the recipient of the Trailblazer Award, ranking him in the top two percent of Naval Reserve enlisted recruiters in the nation, and was named Intelligence Specialist (IS) Recruiter of the Year for fiscal year '03.

But Yu isn't resting on his laurels and said that his short term goals at the beginning of the year were simply to do well; he set his long-term goals "to do well enough to be in the top 10 percent for the Pacific area." Although he far exceeded those



Photo by Karen Spangler

BMSN Quinn Nii is sworn into the Naval Reserves by Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey Borja, officer recruiter at Naval Reserve Center Honolulu. Nii was the last person to be sworn into the local Naval Reserve in 2003.

goals, Yu sees his job as more than just the number of recruits who join the Naval Reserve.

"I really love meeting different people. The job is not the same every day," he said. Yu has been part of the Navy family for 10 years and for the past three years has helped people as a Naval Reserve recruiter. "There are so many benefits for a minimal obligation," he explained.

Navy enlisted recruiters at Naval Reserve Center Honolulu took nationwide honors as

well as top honors for the Pacific area. The center was named as the medium station of the quarter for the Pacific area which includes 26 stations in Hawaii and California.

According to Navy Counselor 1st Class Robert Konrad, the senior enlisted recruiter at the center, "Everybody is a hard worker. It's a team effort award," he explained. "Everybody wrote their goals and everybody met or exceeded it," he

▼ See RECRUITERS, A-3

Pearl Harbor tax center to open soon

JOSN Ryan C. McGinley
Staff Writer

The Navy Tax Center at Pearl Harbor will open Feb. 2 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Building 1337 located behind Arizona Hall bachelor enlisted quarters.

The ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m., marking the beginning of this year's tax season, which will end April 15.

Last year, the tax center prepared over 6,000 returns.

"We are hoping to exceed that amount this year," said Lt. William Smith, tax officer for Naval Legal Service Office Detachment, Pearl Harbor.

The tax center is open to all active duty military members and their dependents as well as retirees.

"Our goal is to serve all the

Sailors and their families here at Pearl Harbor," said Smith.

The center provides a great opportunity and is saving Sailors and their families from hiring an accountant in town, which might cost almost \$100, according to Smith. Over 50 volunteers have donated their time to helping file returns this season.

"We look forward to providing this service," said Smith.

Sailors and their dependents should bring a copy of last year's tax return, all income information, a list of itemized deductions, Social Security Cards for all individuals, identification card, and child and disabled dependent information if you qualify. If your spouse is away, you must bring a power of attorney form with you. The forms are available at

the tax center if needed.

The center is set up every year for basic tax returns. Complicated returns such as small business, partnership, corporate, farm, state, trust, deceased tax payers, or day trader returns will not be conducted at the center.

The tax center will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; noon to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Appointments can be made by calling 471-8030. Walk-ins are welcome from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon.

Personnel that are E-6 and above are encouraged to call and make an appointment because of a more complicated return.

Navy's NP2000 propeller completes flight testing

Denise Deon Wilson
NAVAIR Public Affairs

Naval Air Systems Command's (NAVAIR) E-2 integrated test team (ITT) has completed flight testing of the Navy's new eight-bladed NP2000 propeller at Patuxent River, Md., successfully concluding a challenging series of developmental test and evaluation efforts that commenced in the summer of 2000.

Development of the NP2000 was initiated in the mid-1990s, when the Navy sought a viable replacement for the four-bladed HS54460 propellers utilized by its E-2 Hawkeye command and control and C-2 Greyhound aircraft.

The new propeller incorporates several enhancements over its predecessor and is projected to reduce maintenance costs. Design features that facilitate these savings are a reduced parts count, the ability to replace individual propeller blades on the wing and a maintenance panel that enables propeller balancing from inside the aircraft.

While conducting carrier suitability trials aboard USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67) in November, testers encountered a great amount of interest in the propeller by pilots and maintainers in the fleet. "They've heard about it and they're anxious to get



Official file photo of an E-2C Hawkeye.

U.S. Navy photo

it," said NAVAIR Test Team Lead Joe Spelz. They will not have to wait long. The process of retrofitting the Navy's entire fleet of E-2s with the NP2000 is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2004. Modifications

will be done one squadron at a time. It is anticipated that the modifications will be conducted by a field team in Norfolk, Va., through the end of 2004 and will continue into 2006.

Commentary

Fireside Chat

Navy Region Federal Fire Dept.

Keep a lid on cooking fires

The Federal Fire Department responded to 324 cooking fires and related injuries last year. Many of these fires and burns could have been prevented if people were more cautious.

Most cooking fires involve oil, fat or lard. Whatever the grease is, when heated, this grease becomes easy to ignite. Once that happens, it burns hot and fast! . What would you do?

If you are involved with a grease type of fire, know

what to do. If a pan gets smokey or if there are flames, simply smother the fire by sliding a lid over the entire pan, then turn off the heat. If the fire is coming from your oven, then leave the oven door closed. You can also use a fire extinguisher to put the fire out. Use an ABC type. They are easy to use and work very well. Never attempt to carry a burning pan, pot or tray out of the kitchen or to the sink. You're only asking for trouble. And never throw water on a grease fire. The fire will explode and you could get seriously burned. If the fire is big, then don't waste time trying to fight it. Get yourself and your family out of the house right away and call the fire department from a neighbor's phone. Big or small, the fire department should always be called if there is a fire. But one thing is for sure, never, ever leave cooking unattended, not even for a minute.



And, just as important, do not leave combustibles like paper towels, dish towels, cardboard boxes, cooking oils and the like close to the stove. The radiated heat from the stove will heat these items and could cause a fire.

Remember that fire is not the only thing that can burn you in the kitchen. Hot water, steam, the microwave are all ways that we could suffer from a burn. Federal Fire Department paramedics recom-

mend that you cool the burn right away. The best way to do that is with running tap (cold) water. Do not put butter, baby oil, hand lotion or rub the burn. You will just make the burn worse.

Fire Chief Mike Jones says that the best way to fight a fire is to prevent it. The emergency number for fire, medical and HAZMAT is 911 (include the base you're calling from). This emergency number is the same on all Navy, Marine, and Army military bases and housing. That emergency number will save the day. For more information on how to prevent cooking fires, call the Federal Fire Department's prevention division at 474-7785.

Remember, keep a lid on cooking fires and help us help you when we all learn not to burn.

For more information contact Inspector Victor M. Flint at 474-7785 or email at flintvm@pearlharbor.navy.mil

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Hawaii Navy News

Recruiter: Helping to make a difference

Continued from A-1

said. The recruiter in charge of the four enlisted Reserve recruiters, Konrad focuses on leading his Naval Reserve team. The team dedicates its efforts to ensuring that those who enter the Reserve attain their goals and are happy with the choices they have made. "It's all about taking care of these guys and helping them to be successful," said Konrad.

"Recruiting is the foundation that gets someone's career started," he continued, as he talked about the role of the Naval Reserve recruiters. "It's a great feeling to work hard for somebody and try to give them what they want. In return, they are very appreciative," he continued.

As he explains the options and possible scenarios to applicants, Konrad assures them, "I'm on your team." He said that key in the decision-making process are family members and those who may be helping the applicant to make a decision about the Naval Reserve.

Konrad said that a variety of ethnic groups are well-represented in Hawaii, with those who choose to enter the Naval Reserve comprising a diversity of cultural backgrounds. About 30 percent of the applicants are female. The age range of Naval Reserve applicants are from 21-39, but the average age of people who opt to join are in their late 20s and early 30s.

If a NAVET (Navy veteran) applicant is well-prepared - has a current physical, a copy of their Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test, a DD Form 214, and has their paperwork in order - processing to enter the Naval Reserve can be accomplished in a short period of time, according to Konrad.

Navy Counselor 1st Class Robert Fendler swept recruiter honors with awards as Recruiter of the Quarter, Intelligence Specialist (IS) Recruiter of the Quarter and Cryptology Tech-

nician (CT) Recruiter of the Quarter for Naval Reserve Recruiting Area Pacific for the first quarter of fiscal year '04.

A Naval Reserve recruiter for almost four years, Fendler served as a Navy reservist for two years after an active duty stint in the Navy. Working with applicants who choose to go Navy, Fendler views it as an opportunity to help people to achieve their dreams of enjoying the benefits of Navy life. "I want to see if we can meet their needs and make them feel secure in filling that need," he said. He explained that among some of the primary reasons that people decide to join the Naval Reserve are to earn such benefits as commissary and exchange privileges. An extra paycheck is also attractive to many applicants. "An extra \$200 or \$300 a month can make a difference," he said.

Other popular incentives include those who want to serve their country and those with the realization that the Naval Reserve is a great place to network for future jobs, according to Fendler.

Navy Counselor 2nd Class Mike Nale, also a member of the enlisted recruiting team at the local Naval Reserve Center, was named Naval

Reserve Recruiting Region CT (cryptology technician) Recruiter of the Year - the top place in the nation for CT recruiting - for fiscal year '03. Nale was also awarded top honors for Naval Reserve Recruiting Area Pacific Cryptology Technician Recruiter of the Year for fiscal year '03.

All of the Reserve recruiters work as reservists prior to becoming recruiters. A majority of the recruiters also have previously served on active duty. Once selected for recruiter duty, they undergo a five-week recruiter training orientation (RTO) at Pensacola, Fla.

Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Borja, officer recruiter at Naval Reserve Center Honolulu, gave accolades to the talented team of Naval Reserve recruiters. "These guys truly have very good people skills and have the ability to go above and beyond the call of duty as a recruiter," he said. The role of the Naval Reserve recruiters involve "taking care of our applicants 'from the cradle to the grave,' which means from the time they join until the time they retire," explained Borja.

"We are interested in their success and we want to take care of them long after we put them in [the Naval Reserve]. You establish a career-long

friendship. In the Reserves, we see them every month and it's exciting to hear about their professional growth and achievements," he remarked.

As part of their training, the recruiters complete a professional sales seminar that is also used by Fortune 500 companies. "It helps us to understand not just their initial needs, but the needs behind the needs," Borja explained. "We can see how the Naval Reserve can best satisfy the needs they have in their lives," he added.

The Naval Reserve recruiters are looking for a few good men and women who would like to join the Reserve team. They are especially interested in recruiting military veterans - whether Navy or other branches of the military services. The Naval Reserve Navy Veteran Program (NAVET) provides an opportunity for Navy and Naval Reserve veterans to enlist in the Naval Reserve in the pay grade they previously held when discharged or released from active duty. A similar program for veterans of other services (OSVET) is also offered.

Doctors, dentists, nurses and other medical specialties are also needed to serve in the officer reserve in the medical career field. Financial incentives are offered for some of the career fields.

For those who want to join the Naval Reserve team in Hawaii, the recruiters at Naval Reserve Center Honolulu stand ready to offer assistance and are enthusiastic about helping applicants achieve their goals as a part of Navy life.

"We try to see what's in their heads and hearts and go from there," said Borja.

For more information about opportunities for officers in the Naval Reserve, call 833-8190. To learn more about the enlisted opportunities, call 833-6399.



Photo by Karen Spangler

AS2 Gilberto Nieves (left) talks to NC1 Robert Fendler, a Naval Reserve recruiter at the Naval Reserve Center Honolulu, about returning to active reserve status. Nieves is currently serving on inactive status as part of the individual ready reserve (IRR).

Federal hiring of nation's military veterans increases

Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

Hiring of military veterans across the federal civilian work force increased in fiscal 2002, the government's director of personnel recently reported.

In fact, hiring of veterans in the federal work force was up more than 19 percent over the previous fiscal year. Kay Coles James, director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, noted in her agency's most recent annual report to Congress, dated Sept. 30.

In a Jan. 5 OPM news release, James asserted that the employment of veterans within the federal government and in private industry is appropriate, because "the many freedoms we enjoy as a nation did not come freely. They were earned through the lives and selfless sacrifices of our veterans."

According to the OPM report, 47,510 veterans were hired government-wide in fiscal 2002, compared to 39,874 hired the year before, representing a 19.2 percent increase.

About one out of 10 veterans hired in government during fiscal 2002 worked in professional occupations, the report noted, while 25.8 percent of new veteran hires worked in administrative jobs and 19 percent took blue-collar jobs.

The OPM report noted that the percentage of disabled veterans in the federal civilian work force was 4.5 percent in fiscal 2002, a drop of 0.1 percent from the previous year. However, the percentage of veterans in the federal work force with 30 percent or more disability in fiscal 2002 was up 1.9 percent over the previous year.

The Defense Department hired 21,657 veterans in fiscal 2002, representing 45.6 percent of all new veteran hires across the federal government that year, according to the OPM report. Non-DoD federal organizations with the highest percentages of all new veteran hires in fiscal 2002 included the Veterans Affairs Department with 23.5 percent, and the Justice Department with 19.7 percent.

In OPM's fiscal 2002 congressional report, James said she was proud of federal agencies' efforts in hiring veterans.

"With our military actively engaged in the fight against terrorism, we must not falter in our commitment to the employment of these dedicated Americans," James declared.

"Nor can we forget," she continued, "that disabled veterans are heroes who have paid a price so dear that it will stay with them for the rest of their lives."

The federal government employed 450,100 veterans during fiscal 2002, according to the OPM report.

Navy News asks: What was your favorite movie of 2003?



DKSN Ron Harris
Naval Station Pearl Harbor

"Jeepers Creepers 2." I love scary movies. It was scary and funny.



Daphne Sunley
Army family member

"Bad Boys 2" was my favorite movie of 2003. Because Martin Lawrence and Will Smith, they're cool and I love seeing them in the movies.



Doris Wimer
Navy family member

"Legally Blonde 2," because I can look up to Reese Witherspoon because she's an independent woman.



MSSA Malaki Davis
Naval Station Pearl Harbor

"X-Men 2," because of the action scenes and fighting.



Tasha Flores
CDC Education Technician

"Texas Chainsaw Massacre," because its scary. I like scary movies.

IN BRIEF

DoD tax statements posted online

Tax statements will soon be posted on myPay for Navy servicemembers, Department of Defense employees and military retirees. W-2 and 1099 statements are available for these groups to view and print immediately, allowing them to submit their tax returns quickly. Navy active duty members will have their statements posted no earlier than Jan. 16, but no later than Jan. 26. The statements are available at <https://my-pay.dfas.mil>. For assistance call myPay customer support at 1-800-390-2348.

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Pearl Harbor survivor meets with Reuben James crew

Ensign Anne Gibbon
USS Reuben James
Public Affairs

The officers of USS Reuben James (FFG 57) heard the story of the Pearl Harbor attack firsthand when Dave Smith, president of the USS Utah Association, paid a visit to the ship.

The USS Utah, a battleship moored on the west side of Ford Island, sank at her moorings within minutes after the attack. According to Smith, when the attack came, the men aboard USS Utah were just waking up to begin their Sunday morning routine. Smith was preparing to use the ship's crane to move a pile of timbers around the deck of the ship. The timbers Smith had been tasked to move were placed on

deck to prevent inert aerial bombs from crashing through the deck and damaging equipment or injuring personnel belowdecks who might happen to be in their path.

While the timbers may have provided a measure of protection from aerial bombs, they did nothing to stop the two torpedoes which Smith watched arc through the air and splash into Middle Loch. Smith remembered that as the planes screamed overhead at mast-head height, the rising sun seemed almost surreal. As the torpedoes found their mark, the ship immediately began to roll to port until only her mooring lines were keeping her upright. Soon they parted under the increasing strain and the proud ship capsized and set-

tled to the harbor floor.

Smith noted, "We expected a land attack would follow. We thought the islands were going to be invaded. Thank God we were wrong." He related that blue-on-blue (friendly fire) engagements were commonplace as Soldiers, Sailors and Marines with itchy trigger fingers, traumatized by the events of Dec. 7, "shot first and asked questions later" - often with unintended consequences.

Over the course of 60 years, almost all evidence of the devastation of that day has been erased from Pearl Harbor. Smith's story serves as a reminder of the steep price that former shipmates have paid in order for us to continue to enjoy the privileges of freedom and liberty.



Photo by Ensign Anne Gibbon

Dave Smith, president of the USS Utah Association and Pearl Harbor survivor, and his wife met with Cmdr. John Figuerres, commanding officer of USS Reuben James (FFG 57) in the ship's wardroom.

Navy TSP enrollment continues to grow

Chief of Naval Personnel
Public Affairs

The number of Sailors taking advantage of the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) continues to grow. By the end of fiscal year 2003, more than 138,000 active-duty Navy personnel had enrolled in the program, a 35 percent increase from the beginning of the fiscal year.

That is the most participation by any of the armed services, according to personnel officials.

"It's wonderful to see so many Sailors paying themselves first and planning for their futures through TSP," said Chief of Naval Personnel

Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing. "Sound financial planning is critically important, and TSP provides an excellent opportunity to do that."

All five TSP funds showed growth during 2003.

The C Fund, which tracks the S&P 500 Index, gained 28.5 percent. The S Fund, a small- and mid-cap fund that mirrors the Wilshire 4500 stock index, grew 42.9 percent, and the I Fund, an international fund based on a Europe-Australasia-Far East index, yielded a 37.9 percent return.

The G Fund - invested in short-term, risk-free U.S. Treasury securities that are specially issued to the TSP -

grew by 4.1 percent over the year. That mirrors the growth in the F Fund, a bond index fund that tracks the Lehman Brothers U.S. Aggregate bond index. It also grew by 4.1 percent.

Sailors can manage their TSP accounts on the Web through the DFAS Web site at www.mypay.dfas.mil. To change investment contributions (C, G, F, I or S funds), Sailors should visit the TSP Web site at www.tsp.gov, call the ThriftLine at 504-255-8777, or submit the TSP-50 form available from your personnel or payroll office.

The next open season for TSP enrollment begins April 15 and runs through June 30.

Midway becomes museum in San Diego

JO1 Chris Halsey

Mobile Public Affairs Team Detachment 119

The decommissioned aircraft carrier Midway has found a new home and a new mission. Port of San Diego tugboats pushed the 74,000-ton aircraft carrier across San Diego Bay Jan. 10, and parked it at the Broadway Pier near downtown San Diego to serve as a naval museum. Commissioned on September 10, 1945 as USS Midway (CVB-41), the ship was decommissioned in 1992.

According to Pete Clayton, chief engineer for the USS Midway Museum, the 1,000-foot-long aircraft carrier steamed down the California coast after being mothballed in Bremerton, Wash., to receive recently restored aircraft at Naval Base Coronado.

In its 47-year career, the famed aircraft carrier saw action in numerous conflicts including World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm. Midway also traveled through every ocean on the planet and was once considered the largest warship in the world. Now, the famed carrier will serve thousands of naval enthusiasts as a floating museum and event facility.

Ryan Radici, manager of the Fish Market restaurant, watched the Port of San Diego tugboats push the historic aircraft carrier by his terrace.

"It's very exciting having the Midway over here," the 27-year-old, Clairemont, Calif., native said. "She's now one more reason to come spend a day on the pier."

Thousands of San Diegans flocked to North Island and Harbor Drive to see the new attraction berth at the Navy Pier across

the street from Commander, Navy Region Southwest headquarters. Among the crowd were former crew members of the famous ship.

Master Chief Boatswain's Mate (SW) Brett G. Young, command master chief for Reserve Readiness Command Southwest, served on Midway as a deck seaman from 1978 to 1979.

"As the ship gets closer, I remember all those days I spent side-cleaning the starboard side back in Yokosuka, Japan," said Young. "This ship brings back lots of memories. We worked hard and we played hard on that ship."

According to many of the former crew members, the ship still has that "Midway Magic," a term coined while the ship was forward deployed in Japan. According to Billy Parcell, a former photographer's mate on Midway, the term comes from the Japanese word "Majutsue."

"It means no matter what happens, we are ready to answer the bell," said Parcell. "Whenever the president asked where the nearest carrier was in the Orient, he was asking where was the Midway."

More than 200,000 Americans have served aboard Midway, now known as the San Diego Aircraft Carrier Museum. But former shipmates are not the only ones drawn to the Midway-class carrier. Ned Bixby, a 60-year old native of Carlsbad, Calif., said, "There are millions like me who have not been in the Navy but who love and want to experience the Navy. This ship is our chance to do that."

VBSS personnel to receive hazardous duty pay

JO2 Jason Heavner
CNSP Public Affairs

Following a recent message that announced hazardous duty incentive pay (HDIP) for visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) teams, Commander, Naval Surface Forces announced eligibility criteria in a message released on Jan. 9.

Whether a VBSS team is conducting maritime interdiction operations (MIO) in the Arabian Gulf, counter drug operations in the Caribbean, or homeland defense patrols off the U.S. coast, members conducting boardings in support of the following mission areas qualify for the HDIP:

- Maritime interception operations, including those in support of Operation Southern Watch, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and the global war on terrorism.
- Counter drug operations (CD OPS).
- Homeland defense.

The pay will be awarded as long as team members complete three boardings in a given month and those members are part of the VBSS team during the entirety of that month. Other conditions apply:

- VBSS boarding team members must be appointed and designated in writing by the commanding officer or on a command-approved watchbill.
- Team personnel must be qualified in assigned weapons.
- Team personnel must be



Photo by PH2 Tiffini M. Jones
Crewmembers of the guided missile cruiser USS Princeton (CG 59) board a rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) before a vessel boarding search and seizure (VBSS) operation. Princeton is deployed as part of Nimitz Strike Force conducting missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

qualified as second-class swimmers.

- As of Jan. 1, boarding officer/assistant boarding officer must be a graduate of VBSS boarding officer course of instruction (CIN A-2E-0085) (not required for back pay).
- Boat crew must be qualified in accordance with personnel qualification standards.
- Team members are not required to be graduates of VBSS/MIO procedures course of instruction (CIN A-830-0020) in order to be eligible for the HDIP, but shall be locally trained, in accordance with command directives.
- Training/exercise VBSS boardings do not qualify.
- Cruiser destroyers ships

are authorized to pay up to 30 team members, including boat crew members (coxswain, boat engineer, bow hook) involved in boarding operations. Amphibious ships are authorized to pay up to 15 team members (including boat crew).

• Boat crew members and other shipboard VBSS team members participating in boarding operations with LEDET, NSW or coalition boarding teams are authorized to receive the HDIP.

All commands with VBSS teams are now required to track and document their qualifications and eligibility. For retroactive eligibility, commands are required to document in a command letter, signed by the current com-

mand officer, by month those members which are eligible for retroactive HDIP and verify at least three boardings conducted.

Sailors who believe they are entitled to VBSS HDIP back pay should contact the personnel office of the command to which they were attached while they were performing VBSS duties. Sailors who have transferred to a new command will still be paid VBSS HDIP by the ship to which they were previously attached.

Sailors who believe they are entitled to VBSS HDIP back pay while serving on board ships that are now decommissioned should contact the appropriate type commander point of contact and provide documentation of eligibility. Documentation may include: watchbills, service record entries, evaluations, fitness reports, awards citations, qualification letters, etc.

Sailors who believe they are entitled to VBSS HDIP back pay and have separated from the Navy are still entitled to VBSS HDIP and should contact the personnel/disbursing office of the command to which they were attached while performing VBSS duties. If this command is now decommissioned, contact the appropriate type commander point of contact.

VBSS HDIP earned while conducting operations in a tax-exclusion zone is also tax-free (may not apply to some officers) and will be paid in accordance with existing policies.

EOD working in harm's way

JO3 Devin Wright
Staff Writer

Barreling out of perfectly good airplanes, defusing bombs or blowing up ordnance on the ocean floor may sound like something straight out of Hollywood, but for some Sailors, it's just another day on the job.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment Middle Pacific serves as a local bomb squad for Navy personnel and its assets.

"Should the need arise, we can dispose of torpedoes, mines, pipe bombs, letter bombs, all the way up to weapons of mass destruction," said Lt. Michael Runkle (EOD), officer in charge of EOD Mobile Unit Three Detachment Middle Pacific.

"Living in Hawai'i, we have the unique mission of disposing of World War II ordnance that washes up which usually is so old we don't know if it's live or inert," said Runkle.

"As world events have shown us, the terrorist threat is increasing," Runkle warned. "Proliferation of advanced weapons, including chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats are out there and we're the guys that deal with that. In the unlikely event that our anti-terrorist measures like security and others fail to keep these guys (terrorists) out, we'll deal with them," he said.

The adventure of the job draws many of the team's members.

"The great thing about this job is the different requirements it entails," said Boatswain Mate 1st Class (EOD/SW/AW) Aaron Johnson. "One day we could be jumping out of planes, diving,

blowing stuff up under water, the next day we could be dealing with a conventional ordnance problem, and the next day we could be golfing. So there is always something different going on," he said.

One adventurous Sailor has recently been attached to the unit. Electronic Technician 1st Class (SW) Eric Fisher explained that his aspirations for wanting to be an (EOD) technician are far simpler than some of his co-workers. "I want to blow stuff up and jump out of airplanes, but right now I'm in the learning stages of that. I've got to earn it," Fisher admitted. "Right now I usually help the guys out while they're diving."

For some EOD members, the thrill of the job is in the diversity.

"You're never doing one thing and one thing only," said Senior Chief Aviation Ordnanceman (EOD) Alex Fisak. "There is always something new going on every day and that's the number one thing that attracts me to this job - always doing something different," Fisak added.

Although adventure plays a big part in the job, safety is the foremost concern.

"Ultimately, we never know exactly what we are going up against when it comes to explosives," Runkle said. "We do what we've been taught and really hope for the best."

"The bomb may be timed; it may be rigged to get the tech. You just don't know. When you have an ordnance situation, you are sending one of your own into harm's way," said Runkle. "But that's the nature of the job and that's what we are trained for."



U.S. Navy photo
Lt. Michael Runkle of EOD Mobil Unit 3 attempts to dispose of a possible live ordnance round.

Navy doctor tests submarine escape suit

HM3 Daniel Henry
Naval Medical Education and Training Command
Public Affairs

The U.S. Navy recently adopted and approved the submarine escape and immersion equipment (SEIE) suits for all of its boats.

"The SEIE suit works as a buoyant, water-tight compartment that decreases exposure to the elements of the ocean while providing a rapid, pressurized ascent to the surface. Each suit has a lifeboat to provide the submariner with a further means of removing them

from the harsh ocean environment," said Capt. Bruce Cohen, director, medical department accessions at the Naval Medical Education and Training Command.

Cohen was the first U.S. naval officer to use the new suit in an open water exercise when he served as the senior medical officer for Atlantic Fleet Submarine Forces. While serving with the submarine forces, Cohen participated in a NATO escape and rescue exercise from a Swedish submarine off the coast of Denmark using the SEIE suit.

Imagine putting on all

your winter clothing, zipping up your parka and climbing into your gym locker - all while watching calmly as highly-pressurized air and 45-degree water rapidly envelopes you.

"Those few moments of discomfort could be the very difference between life and death for submariners," Cohen said.

"Prior to this SEIE suit, Sailors forced to escape from a submarine had few options," said Cohen. Essentially there was a headpiece that provided air to assist with getting to the surface. Unfortunately, this did little

to protect them from other factors that could compromise their survivability - things such as water temperature and pressure. These factors contributed to problems such as decompression sickness, hypothermia, pulmonary over-inflation syndrome and drowning due to exhaustion.

"To suggest that submarine duty is dangerous business would be an understatement, but given the right situation and conditions, these suits provide our folks with the best possible chance for survival," said Cohen.

Pearl Harbor corpsman jumps from E-6 to O-2 in four months



U.S. Navy photo
Lt. j.g. Fernando Guevarra is promoted to his current rank in a ceremony on board the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Jan. 5. Four months ago Guevarra successfully went through chief's initiation and was frocked to chief. In November, he found out he had been selected to receive a commissioning through the Medical Service Corps In-service Procurement Program.

National Navy League accepting nominations for safety awards

Navy News Service

The Navy League of the United States is accepting nominations for the the Admiral Vern E. Clark Safety Award and General James L. Jones Safety Award through Feb. 1.

Instituted with an endowment from Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England in January 2003, the awards recognize individuals, units or organizations whose actions and examples have significantly improved the safety cultures of the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps.

"Safety is always a primary concern for Navy and Marine

Corps leaders," said Sheila M. McNeill, national president of the Navy League of the United States. "By establishing these awards, Secretary England recognized the commitment that General Jones and Admiral Clark have made to enhancing the safety of every member of the Navy Marine Corps team."

The awards will include a cash honorarium of \$1,000 each and recognition plaques.

Recipients of the awards must be active duty or Reserve, Dept. of the Navy (DON) civilian employees and be a member or employed by the appropriate service (Admiral Clark award must be given to a Sailor or DON civil-

ian employee working with the Navy). For specific eligibility criteria, refer to the information contained in SEC-NAVNOTE 5305, dated July 21, 2003, "Fiscal Year 2003 (FY03) Admiral Vern E. Clark and General James L. Jones Safety Awards."

Nominations should be submitted to Navy League of the United States, Attn: Senior Director of Communications (Safety Awards), 2300 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA, 22201-3308.

The Navy League of the United States will present both safety awards at the Navy League Sea-Air-Space Exposition in Washington, D.C. April 6-8.

Rumsfeld outlines Department of Defense priorities in 2004

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

The global war on terrorism will remain the Defense Department's top priority in the new year, as DoD continues to focus on improving and modernizing its programs, systems and forces to make them more responsive to 21st century requirements.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld told reporters last week during his first Pentagon briefing in 2004 that the department already has made "remarkable progress" and will continue its work to "strengthen, improve and transform our forces, modernize and restructure programs and commands ... and streamline DoD processes and procedures."

Rumsfeld laid out an ambitious list of initiatives, many already under way, that he said will help free the department of its Cold War-era trappings that no longer support current demands.

Among these initiatives is the effort to re-balance the active and reserve components throughout the services. Rumsfeld told reporters the global war on terror, with its heavy use of National Guard and reserve troops, underscores the importance of the effort. "Our experience thus far in the global war on terror, particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan, has shown that we have somewhat of a Cold War mix of active and reserve forces remaining," Rumsfeld said. "And we really do need to adjust it to reflect the circumstances of the day."

Rumsfeld said proposals being drafted by the services "will set a new balance between active and reserve that will fit the 21st century." Also high on the agenda for 2004, Rumsfeld said, is implementation of the new National Security Personnel System that took effect with passage of the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act. The new law gives DoD the authority to create a new framework of rules, regulations and processes that govern the way civilians are hired, paid, promoted and disciplined within the department. The new system will replace outdated and rigid civil service rules that many said hindered DoD's ability to carry out its national security mission. "Executed properly," Rumsfeld said, "the new system ... can play a key role in relieving stress on the force."

On a broader scope, Rumsfeld said the military will continue its efforts to adjust global posture during 2004.

This initiative involves re-examin-

ing the United States' military "footprint" in the world - much of it the result of historic, Cold War threats that no longer exist - and to revise them to meet current demands.

In addition to those at its bases around the world, Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters the U.S. military has thousands of troops on deployments around the world. This includes roughly 125,000 in Iraq, 13,000 in Afghanistan, more than 2,000 at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and more than 1,000 participating in Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa.

Meanwhile, Myers said, nearly 3,500 service members are conducting stabilization operations in the Balkans and about 1,500 are performing counterdrug operations and other training in Central and South America.

Rumsfeld continued to rattle off a virtual laundry list of efforts and ini-

tiatives the department will pursue in 2004.

"Going forward," he said, "we will continue to aggressively pursue the global war on terrorism, strengthening joint war fighting capabilities, transforming the joint force, strengthening our intelligence capabilities (and) strengthening our ability to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction."

Rumsfeld said DoD also will focus on improving force planning through quality of life, infrastructure and other modifications, refining and improving the department's role in homeland security and streamlining its budget, contingency and other departmental processes.

"We have a full agenda," Rumsfeld acknowledged. "It is what President Bush has asked of us. It is what the American people expect of us. And it is work that we intend to proceed with over the coming months of 2004."

New Relief Act provisions protect service members

Sgt. 1st Class

American Forces Press Service

A new law replacing the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act (SSCRA) of 1940 will provide military personnel - especially those deployed or called to active duty - greater protections to handle their personal financial and legal obligations, Defense Department officials said.

President Bush signed the Service Members' Civil Relief Act (SCRA) into law Dec. 19.

"The focus of the SCRA is the same as under the SSCRA: to provide protections to service members who have difficulty meeting their personal financial and legal obligations because of their military service," said Air Force Lt. Col. Patrick Lindemann, deputy director for legal pol-

icy in DoD's Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

"The SCRA is a significant law because it clarifies and updates the provisions that existed in the SSCRA, while adding some additional protections," he said.

"Service members on long-term deployments or called to active duty should not have to worry about their families in their absence being evicted from their quarters without sufficient legal protections," he continued, "or that they are paying on a leased car or apartment that they can't use, or about civil legal proceedings they can't attend because of their deployment.

"These are some of the situations the SCRA covers so that service members are able to devote their energies to the

military mission and the defense needs of the nation and not on civil matters waiting for them at home," he added.

What Lindemann called "a significant change" added in the SCRA is an automatic 90-day stay of civil proceedings upon application by the service member. This applies to all judicial and administrative hearings. In the past, according to Lindemann, stays were discretionary with the courts.

The SCRA also makes it clear that the six percent limitation on interest rates for pre-service debts requires a reduction in monthly payments and that any interest in excess of six percent is forgiven, not deferred, Lindemann said.

The SCRA also expanded the protection against eviction. Under the SSCRA, service members and their dependents

who entered into a lease for \$1,200 or less could not be evicted without a court order. The SCRA increased that maximum lease amount to \$2,400 and added an annual adjustment for inflation. For 2004, the maximum will be \$2,465. Lindemann said this will significantly increase the number of service members entitled to this protection.

The SCRA also gives the service member who has received permanent change of station (PCS) orders or who is being deployed for not less than 90 days the right to terminate a housing lease with 30 days' written notice. Prior to the SCRA, service members could be required to pay for housing they were unable to occupy.

One of the more significant provisions in the SCRA that did not exist in the SS-

CRA, Lindemann said, was an added protection for service members who have motor vehicle leases. Any active-duty service member who has received PCS orders outside the continental United States, or who is being deployed for not less than 180 days, may terminate a motor vehicle lease. The law prohibits early termination charges. "Now, service members won't have to pay monthly lease payments for a car they can't use," said Lindemann.

"Service members may not always realize all the protections they have under the law," Lindemann said. "If service members have questions about the SCRA or the protections that they may be entitled to, they should contact their unit judge advocate or installation legal assistance officer for further assistance."

Chiropractic care — 'backbone' of holistic health medicine

JOSN Erica Mater

National Naval Medical Center
Public Affairs

Many people associate the term chiropractic care with back care. However, chiropractic is really about treating the whole patient.

Although chiropractic primarily focuses on the neuro-musculoskeletal system, chiropractic philosophy begins with the principle that the human body has the power to maintain and heal itself - a belief put into practice at the National Naval Medical Center's chiropractic clinic for the past five years.

"Our clinic is where high touch meets high tech," said Dr. Bill Morgan, a naval hos-

pital chiropractor.

The chiropractic approach to health care is holistic, focusing on the patient's overall well-being. To do this, they use natural, non-surgical, drugless health care and rely on the body's inherent recuperative ability.

It's a relatively new concept for service members, as chiropractic health care was implemented into military health care only about eight years ago. At that time, it was used as a pilot program. Now, the military is in the process of making chiropractic care a benefit to all its active-duty members.

The primary means of chiropractic care is spinal manipu-

lation, a short painless impulse against the spine using the doctor's hands. The intent of a spinal adjustment is to restore normal motion and function.

Due to the wide-ranging benefits of chiropractic care, it is hard to single out reasons why patients see chiropractors.

"We see every type of injury. It is hard to pinpoint a common one, but we treat everything, such as spinal weakness, joint pain, neck pain, sciatica, spinal disk conditions and tendonitis, to name a few," Morgan said.

"Educating the patient is very important because they need to know how the body works and how they can improve their overall well-being," said Morgan.

Japan decision to send troops to Iraq 'historic,' Myers says

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

Japan's decision to send forces to Iraq is a "historic move," said Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers during a press conference last week.

Myers, who met with Japanese military leaders, said the Japanese decision to send about 1,000 members of the ground self-defense force to Iraq is welcomed by the international community.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi announced the decision in December. This is the first time Japanese forces will serve as part of a coalition not sponsored by the United Nations. The soldiers will be engaged in helping to rebuild Iraq and will be based in the southern part of the country. They will work with Dutch soldiers and will be under the command of a British general.

Western diplomatic officials said the move was a courageous one and that the prime minister "was ahead" of the Japanese people. Officials also said that there is uncertainty as to what will happen in Japan if the Japanese forces take casualties in Iraq.

Myers told reporters that operations in Iraq are not without risk. He said the northern and southern parts of Iraq are a bit more stable than the central and western areas. But, he said, former regime loyalists and, in some cases, foreign jihadists target international agencies and non-U.S. members of the coalition. "You can never say that you're free from risk," Myers said.

But the Japanese have to ask themselves why it is important to help rebuild Iraq, Myers said. "The reason is that it will be one less place where terrorists can plan and operate," he said. "The only way we'll be successful is with strong international effort in there, and Japan has decided to be part of that strong international effort. It has the potential to change the dynamics, not only in that region, but in the world."

The general said the capture of Saddam Hussein last month allowed coalition forces to round up hundreds of regime cell leaders. "The capture of Saddam Hussein has emboldened some people to come forward without the fear of retribution," he said. "We've seen an increase in the number of people who have come forward to offer intelligence on where weapons caches are, where improvised explosive devices are being built (and those sorts of things.)"

He said that overall the security situation in Iraq is improving, "but it's too early to say (whether) that's a trend line or just a snapshot."

Myers said the United States values the other contributions Japan is making in the global war of terror. He praised the Japanese for helping to rebuild Afghanistan and said the Afghans agreeing on a constitution is an example of the progress being made.

The chairman said that overall, the coalition is winning the war on terrorism. He said strong international support remains the key because the effects of a terrorist strike are not localized. "Whether the terrorism attack occurs in Riyadh, or Islamabad, or New York City, or God forbid, Tokyo, the outcome is the same: it affects all countries on this planet, not just the country where the act occurred," he said. "We're going to have to deal with this scourge as we have with other scourges of the past."

The United States is working with Japan, China, Russia and South Korea to convince North Korea to forgo nuclear weapons. These six-party talks have been very useful, he said. "Clearly, you would like to solve this issue of a nuclear North Korea, the chance of proliferation of fissile ma-

terials (and) all those issues that should worry all of us a lot. Our best chance for solving this is through diplomacy," he said.

The chairman addressed questions about the global posture review and how changes in the footprint of the U.S. military would affect Japan. "It has been a long time since we've taken a hard look at how

"It has the potential to change the dynamics, not only in that region, but in the world."

Gen. Richard B. Myers
Joint Chief of Staff Air Force

we are arranged, given this new security environment," Myers said. "For instance, some of the camps and posts and stations where we are located now in the Republic of Korea are where we were in 1953 when the armistice was signed."

Given the changes in Korea, he said, these areas may no longer be the best places to be based.

Myers said two fundamentals are factors in examining the global posture in the Pacific region. First, the United States is a Pacific nation and will remain committed to the region. "The other fundamental is the security relationship we have with Japan," Myers said. "This is clearly the most important relationship we have in Asia and that fundamental won't change."

He said the U.S. military is at the beginning stages of discussions about changing the footprint of U.S. forces. These discussions are mostly within the Pentagon, but some have been with Japanese counterparts. "We're a long way from making decisions," he said. "Whatever we do will be done in consultation with the Japanese government."

Myers said the U.S.-Japan security relationship is absolutely vital to both countries, not only in Asia, but internationally as well. "We will continue to strengthen that alliance the best we can," he said.

Basketball fever



Photo by Jeff Harris

Capt. Ronald Cox, chief of staff, Navy Region Hawai'i and commanding officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor helps kick off the youth basketball season by taking the first shot as Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) and the Boys & Girls Club of Navy Hawai'i hosted the 2004 Basketball and Cheerleading opening ceremonies for the first time at Pearl Harbor. Over 2,000 people, including 83 teams from around the island, attended the ceremonies at Bloch Arena Jan. 10.