



Alexander launches final phase of PPV housing at McGrew Point

MC3 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Rear Adm. T. G. Alexander, commander, Navy Region, Hawai'i and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, along with representatives from Forest City Enterprises, demolished the last of 140 homes Tuesday at McGrew Point housing. The event launched the fourth and final phase of the McGrew Point public-private venture (PPV) redevelopment project.

The fourth phase of the project will continue to improve the quality of life for Sailors residing in the area by providing an additional 49 newly built homes and community center for their families.

"We are meeting or exceeding all expectations for the cost, schedule, performance and availability of homes for military personnel," said Alexander.

Eighty-two of the 131 new homes at McGrew Point have been completed since start of the project in June 2004.

"The homes are now two times larger than before and give military families a better place to live," said Irwin Tamura, project manager for Forest City Military Communities, Hawai'i.

The new homes at McGrew Point are approximately 2,000 to 3,000 square feet, depending on the number of bedrooms, and include amenities such as two-car garages, walk-in closets, central air-conditioning, privately fenced yards, energy efficient windows and solar-powered water heaters.

"This [project] was a great opportunity for us and we're proud to help give military families in Pearl Harbor a great home and neighbor-



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Byung K. Cho

An excavator operator (standing) assists Rear Adm. T. G. Alexander, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, as he uses an excavator to demolish the last of the 140 homes at McGrew Point Navy housing. The demolition project completes the first phase of construction for 131 new homes under the Forest City Enterprises public-private venture housing project for Navy Region Hawai'i.

hood to live in," said Tamura.

In addition to more homes, three new playgrounds and a 4,000 square-foot community center, which will include a swimming pool, shower rooms, restrooms, kitchen and multi-

purpose room, will be completed during the fourth phase of development.

"I am grateful for all the things the partnership with Forest City is doing to provide superior homes for military families. I'm looking forward to

coming back when the homes are ready for the families to move into," said Alexander.

By May 2008, Forest City Enterprises PPV housing projects for Navy Region Hawai'i will have pro-

vide a new quality of life for Sailors and their families by completing the construction of 910 quality homes throughout the Radford Terrace, Halsey Terrace and McGrew Point communities.



U.S. Navy photo by MCI Chad J. McNeelley

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Mullen and Commander, U.S. Strategic Command, Gen. James E. Cartwright greet Sen. Joseph Lieberman, Sen. Jack Reed and Sen. John Warner prior to their confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee for appointment to chairman and vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at Hart Senate Office Building.

Senate confirms Mullen, Cartwright for top military positions

Special release from the Department of Defense

The Senate confirmed Adm. Michael G. Mullen and Marine Corps Gen. James E. "Hoss" Cartwright as chairman and vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, respectively, Aug. 3.

Mullen will assume the top U.S. military post, held by Marine Gen. Peter Pace since September 2005. Pace is slated to retire Oct. 1.

Cartwright assumes the number two military post held by Navy Adm. Edmund P. Giambastiani, who retired July 27. Cartwright is on the job now, with his formal swearing-in expected later this month.

Mullen currently serves as the Chief of Naval

Operations and Cartwright has been commander of U.S. Strategic Command (STRATCOM).

In nominating them to the top two military posts June 28, President George W. Bush called them "experienced military officers who are highly qualified for these important positions."

The president noted that Mullen's and Cartwright's nominations come at a critical time for the United States.

"America is at war, and we are at war with brutal enemies who have attacked our nation and who would pursue nuclear weapons and would use their control of oil as economic blackmail and intend to launch new attacks on our country," he said. "At such

times, one of the most important decisions a president makes is the appointment of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff."

As the country's highest-ranking military officer, the chairman serves as the principal military adviser to the president, the defense secretary, the National Security Council and the Homeland Security Council, Bush noted. He also is responsible for ensuring the readiness of U.S. military forces.

At STRATCOM, Cartwright has been responsible for America's nuclear arsenal, missile defenses, space operations, information operations, global command and control, intelligence, sur-

See MULLEN, A-6

Naval Submarine Training Center, Pacific and Training Support Department, Hawai'i change of command

MCC (SCW) Ernest Terry

Naval Submarine Training Center, Pacific

Capt. Frederick J. Capria relieved Capt. Charles K. Merkel, Jr. as commanding officer of Naval Submarine Training Center, Pacific (NSTCP) and Training Support Department (TSD), Hawai'i on July 27 at the John D. Rendernick Damage Control Complex on historic Ford Island.

Rear Adm. Joseph A. Walsh, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Capt. Richard H. Moyer, commanding officer, Submarine Learning Center, attended the formal ceremony as members of the official party.

Capria becomes the 21st commanding officer in NSTCP history and the third since Naval Personnel Development Command (NPDC) support personnel from NSTCP and Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific were combined to form TSD. NSTCP's primary mission is to provide submarine training to the Pacific Fleet Submarine Force and allied navies.

Merkel is a graduate of Texas A&M University with a bachelor of science degree in nuclear engineering and received his master's degree in engineering management from the Catholic University of America. Merkel's history of assignments began aboard USS Bremerton (SSN 698) with follow-on tours including staff instructor with the S5G prototype



Official U.S. Navy photo by MCS3 Brent Edwards

Capt. Frederick J. Capria (left) relieves Capt. Charles K. Merkel, Jr. (right) as commanding officer, Naval Submarine Training Center, Pacific and Training Support Department, Hawai'i.

in Idaho Falls, Idaho; navigator and operations officer, USS Omaha (SSN 692); member of Commander Submarine Force U. S. Pacific Fleet's tactical readiness evaluation team; executive officer, USS Tunny (SSN 682); and administrative assistant for enlisted personnel and training to the deputy director of naval reactors.

As commanding officer of USS Key West (SSN 722), he became the first submarine commanding officer since World War II to lead his crew through combat operations in two consecutive deployments.

He was the deputy commander for training, Submarine Squadron 7 and served as commanding officer, NSTCP and TSD from July 2005 until his relief in 2007. Merkel's next assignment is commanding officer,

Cruise Missile Support Activity Pacific at Camp Smith, Hawai'i.

A native of York, Pa., Capria graduated from the University of South Carolina with a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering and was commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. Capria's history of assignments began aboard USS Bergall (SSN 667) with follow-on tours including Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet staff; executive officer, USS Maine (SSBN 741) (Gold); Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet staff; and Commander, Submarine Squadron 8 staff.

He was a senior member of the tactical readiness evaluation team, Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet staff from March 2005 until July 2007.



USS Minneapolis-St. Paul arrives Pearl Harbor See page A-2



Sailors take the oath aboard USS Lake Erie See page A-6



Navy assists with loadout of Strykers



Aboard Pearl Harbor Avenger

Navy assists with loadout of Strykers

James Murray

Fleet Industrial Supply Center, Pearl Harbor

Working around the dock in 12-hour shifts, a team composed of Naval Reserve cargo handlers, U.S. Army personnel, and longshoremen from the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) at Pearl Harbor conducted Hawaii's largest loadout of military vehicles in at least a decade. In addition to being the largest loadout, it also marked the first time that Stryker vehicles have been loaded at Pearl Harbor.

The massive operation was in support of the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, which will deploy to Iraq in November. Initially, however, the Strykers were bound not for Iraq, but for southern California where they will be used in training exercises that are expected to last two months. The 19-ton Strykers will also be outfitted with an additional 5,000 pounds of armor to deflect rocket-propelled grenades. The Stryker Brigade is expected to return to Hawaii in approximately 18 months.

The massive loadout spanned six days and included two ships - the MV Jean Anne and the USNS Seay (T- AKR 302). Although it was built to haul cars and trucks from the west coast to

Hawaii, the Jean Anne is currently under contract to the U.S. Military Traffic Management Command to transport military vehicles. With multiple decks and enough space for approximately 4,300 cars, the Jean Anne was able to fit all 310 Strykers on board; however, it took a month of planning to determine the optimal fit for the vehicles.

In addition to the Strykers, the Jean Anne also took an assortment of jeeps, trucks and other military

vehicles. Altogether, 768 vehicles and pieces of equipment were loaded onboard the Jean Anne. Following the Jean Anne's departure, the dock workers had only a few hours rest prior to the arrival of the USNS Seay. Nearly as long as an aircraft carrier, the 960-foot Seay saw 1,399 vehicles, containers and other pieces of military gear loaded onboard its decks. When the Seay pulled out on Aug. 5, the dock workers went home to their first good

rest in six days. Some of the personnel who oversaw the operation had not left the pier in days, sleeping overnight in a nearby building.

The staging and loadout of the Strykers was facilitated by an extensive renovation of FISC Pearl's piers, which were strengthened and widened. As recently as a year or two ago - prior to the pier improvements - the large Stryker loadout would have probably been conducted on Ford Island.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class James E. Foehl

U.S. Army Soldier directs Stryker's from the 25th Infantry Division, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team (2SBCT) based at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, into a staging position on the Kilo piers of the Fleet Industrial Supply Center (FISC) at Naval Station Pearl Harbor in preparation for an equipment load-out on board the MV Jean Anne. Additional photo on page A-5



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Byung K. Cho

Cmdr. Woods Brown, commanding officer of USS Minneapolis-St. Paul (SSN 708), is greeted by his children upon arriving at Pearl Harbor.

USS Minneapolis-St. Paul arrives at Pearl Harbor

Commander Submarine Forces Pacific Public Affairs

USS Minneapolis-St. Paul (SSN 708) arrived at her new homeport at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Aug. 3 where the submarine will be decommissioned at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard later this year. "This is a bittersweet moment. The crew is happy to be in Hawaii, but sad to see their submarine decommissioned," said Cmdr. Woods R. Brown, the submarine's commanding officer.

The Los-Angeles class submarine was inactivated June 22 in a ceremony at Naval Station Norfolk after more than 23 years of service. Five-time Battle Efficiency "E" award winner, the Minneapolis-St. Paul completed 12 deployments and earned seven meritorious unit com-

mentations. Prior to its transit to Pearl Harbor, the submarine returned from its final six-month deployment to the north Atlantic in April.

Brown also extended his condolences to those affected by the bridge collapse in the submarine's namesake city. "We heard about this during our transit over here. It was such a shock. Our ties with Minneapolis are still fresh and my heart goes out to all those involved in this tragedy."

Minneapolis-St. Paul is the 21st Los Angeles-class attack submarine and the 16th ship in that class built by Electric Boat.

USS Connecticut (SSN 22), USS Seawolf (SSN 21) and USS Hampton (SSN 767) have recently shifted to west coast homeports to comply with the submarine distribution recommended in the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review.

Pacific Fleet Sailors run through history



MC2 Michael Perez
U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

More than 80 Sailors from Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet ran three miles around historic Ford Island on July 31, stopping at the USS Utah Memorial, the Battleship Missouri Memorial and the USS Arizona Memorial lookout point.

The group stopped at each historic site to receive a brief history lesson before continuing to the next landmark. The event was designed to pique the interest of

potential runners by offering a change in the normal physical training routine.

"I wanted to add an element of historical interest into our physical training program," said Chief Construction Electrician (SCW) Christopher Gwin, coordinator for the Ford Island run. "Sailors have shown a great interest in varying their physical training routine and runs like these have given personnel a new enthusiasm to come out and train."

Based on feedback and the increased number of participants, Gwin's strategy appeared to

be effective.

"It's not every day that you get to see these historic sites and it was really interesting to learn more about them during the run," said Yeoman 3rd Class Charles Pickert, fun run participant. "It was more than just a historic run around the island; we were singing cadence and really showing off our Navy pride. I'm looking forward to the next run."

Gwin plans to continue combining physical training with elements of Navy history in hopes that future events will gain in participation and popularity.

(Left) Sailors and civilians from Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet return to running after a brief history stop at the Battleship Missouri Memorial. More than 80 personnel from the command ran three miles around historic Ford Island on July 31, stopping at the USS Utah Memorial, the Battleship Missouri Memorial and the USS Arizona Memorial's lookout point.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Perez

USS Lake Erie reaches out to Australian community

Story and photo by Lt. j.g. Tommy Buckley

USS Lake Erie (CG 70)
Public Affairs

More than 30 Sailors from the Pearl Harbor-based, guided cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) dedicated a day's worth of liberty on July 7 to assisting the local Red Cross in Darwin, Australia.

The community service, a landscaping and beautification project for the Leo Price House, a local fundraising office and community meeting place, took place the morning after the ship arrived in Darwin following 30 consecutive days at sea.

"This is a good opportunity to help out and understand the local community," said Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class (SW) Jared Sims. "I'm thousands of miles

away from home, painting and helping fix up this building that I'm probably never going to see again, but I can see our work is making a big difference for the Red Cross. This is one spot in the world that I touched and had a positive impact."

The Leo Price House is named for the Red Cross's former disaster services manager, a recipient of the prestigious Order of Australia Medal, an award given yearly by the Prime Minister of Australia. His work included managing the Red Cross response to the 2002 Bali, Indonesia nightclub bombings that killed 202 people, many of whom were young Australians. He tragically died of electrocution in 2005.

Paul Mitchell, the operations manager for the local Red Cross, described the

Lake Erie crew's help as "invaluable."

"COMREL (community relations) is an important part of any deployment," said Lt. Dwayne Jackson, Lake Erie command chaplain, who worked with members of the Australian Red Cross to organize the event. "Events such as the one being held today with the Red Cross allow our command to act as an ambassador of good will to the rest of the world."

Several employees of the Australian Red Cross were on hand to guide and assist with the work at hand. They also treated the Sailors to a morning spread of various Australian foods and hosted an afternoon barbecue.

Lake Erie departed Darwin on July 10. It is currently conducting operations in the western Pacific.



USS Lake Erie's Gas Turbine System Technician (Mechanical) (SW) Laurence Mallari lends a hand to the Australian Red Cross with a community service project while the ship was moored in Darwin, Australia.

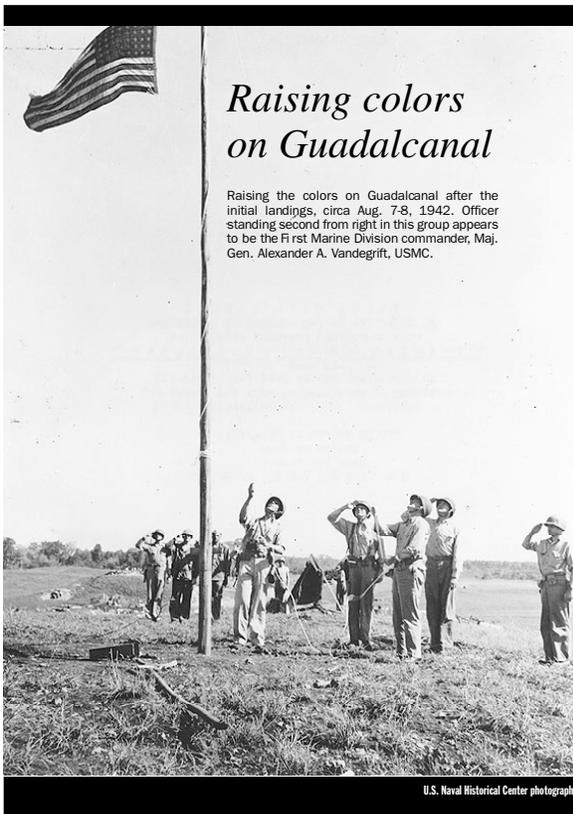
SECDEF announces CNO nomination

Department of Defense

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced Aug. 2 that President George W. Bush has nominated Adm. Gary Roughead for reappointment to the grade of admiral and assignment as chief of naval operations, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Roughead is currently serving as commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, Va.



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Joshua A. Nuzzo



Raising colors on Guadalcanal

Raising the colors on Guadalcanal after the initial landings, circa Aug. 7-8, 1942. Officer standing second from right in this group appears to be the 1st Marine Division commander, Maj. Gen. Alexander A. Vandegrift, USMC.

U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph

Got Questions?

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USS Russell Sailors successfully completes sea trials

Story and photo by
Ensign Theresa Donnelly

USS Russell (DDG 59)
Public Affairs

USS Russell (DDG 59) Sailors stretched their sea legs on July 30 for the first time in over four months by getting underway to complete a series of sea trails, designed to fully check and operate many of its war fighting and propulsion systems.

Many recent upgrades to the ship were done during the selective restricted availability (SRA) period. The SRA was a large-scale maintenance effort where workers from the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard assisted ships force with major equipment installations.

The crew stayed busy and focused as Russell flexed its combat sustainability by engaging in a gun shoot where over 30 rounds successfully shot from its massive five-

inch/54 caliber gun.

Fire control technicians operated with a new remote control station upgrade, as part of the close in weapons system (CIWS), a 20 millimeter Vulcan gun that tracks and detects incoming air targets. The gun now comes equipped with a thermal imaging camera, which assisted technicians to effectively detect, track and engage surface simulated targets.

"The firing exercise was awesome. You go to school to learn how to operate CIWS, but then to actually apply what I learned was great," said Fire Controlman 3rd Class Michael Lour, who has only been onboard since last May.

Perhaps one of the largest pieces to Russell's war fighting capability is the new ballistic missile defense (BMD) installation. CWO3 Robert Houck, the BMD mission coordinator, said, "The system has increased our anti-ballistic

missile capabilities and joins an elite group of engagement capable platforms." The level of teamwork and coordination during the recent BMD test exercises will be essential when the ship begins operations with other ships in the battle group.

Every department had the opportunity to assess their systems. Engineering department did exceptionally well as technicians worked around the clock identifying, locating and troubleshooting maintenance discrepancies. Such underway periods are crucial to the ship's efficient operation, enabling the ship to fully investigate many pieces of equipment that have not been running for long periods of time. By rapidly identifying faulty pieces of gear, crew members pinpointed many discrepancies that could have posed a potential hazard had they not been located and repaired.

Deck department worked especially hard as they were practicing for an upcoming aviation readiness qualification which will test the ship's capabilities to land a helicopter on the flight deck as well as assisting with any firefighting efforts should the need present itself. To prepare for this inspection, teamwork is critical to success and Russell Sailors are already demonstrating their high level of proficiency during the evolutions.

"I was extremely impressed with deck division's motivation level during the drill," said Chief Boatswain's Mate Shawn Salazar. "I felt that they all brought their A game and were well prepared to handle anything and everything that was thrown at them."

USS Russell is assigned to the USS Abraham Lincoln Strike Group and will join the strike group on its upcoming deployment.



Russell Sailors engage in firefighting efforts in preparation for the upcoming aviation readiness qualification, designed to test the ship's aviation capabilities.

Pearl Harbor Shipyard, University of Hawai'i partner to produce better engineers



(From right) Lt. Cmdr. Dana Simon, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard docking officer, explains dry docking procedures to Peter Crouch, University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UHM) dean of the college of engineering, during a tour of the shipyard's dry dock one.

Story and photo by
Marshall Fukuki

Pearl Harbor Naval
Shipyard Public Affairs

The dean of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UHM) College of Engineering and his department chairmen received a top to bottom view of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard during a recent visit. Their waterfront tour included a steep climb into the operator's cab of a 125-foot tall portal crane and a below-sea level descent to the floor of a 43-foot deep dry dock.

"This visit represented a continuing effort by the shipyard to reach out and partner with the university in developing highly-qualified engi-

neers and technicians for employment at ... the shipyard," said Chief Engineer Brian Yim.

Peter E. Crouch, dean of the UHM College of Engineering, said, "It was really important for us to see the environment for ourselves and, speaking personally, it will leave a lasting impression. There are all sorts of reasons why it is important for the college to be better connected to the shipyard."

Yim said, "Bringing the leadership from the college of engineering into the yard to see firsthand the type of work we do here will enable the university to better mold its curriculum to support the skills the shipyard values in our people, both at the entry level and through continuing

education."

Yim and James Kenny, nuclear engineering and planning manager, briefed the UHM faculty about the shipyard and how engineers help maintain, repair and modernize the Navy's ships and submarines. Yim and Kenny manage the two departments that employ most of the nearly 800 engineers in the shipyard's 4,100-person civilian workforce.

"We say the shipyard is the largest industrial employer in the state," said Yim. "What's lost in that is the shipyard is also the largest employer of engineers in Hawai'i."

The university is an essential and highly coveted pool of talent for the shipyard. Forty-four percent of the 314 engineers hired by Yim's and

Kenny's departments since 1999 came from UHM.

Yim listed other desirable traits of engineers graduating from UHM: a solid engineering foundation with great work ethics; the ability to communicate with the shipyard workforce, and an attrition rate less than half of those from other sources.

Following the visit, Crouch invited the shipyard to send representatives to sit on several of the college's advisory committees and asked for a follow-up meeting to discuss education issues.

Yim said efforts like the visit "reinforces the bridges being built between the shipyard and the university as the shipyard pushes to be the employer of choice within the technical community."

Pearl Harbor Highlights



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Perez

Sailors and civilians from Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet take a moment to learn about the historical significance of the USS Arizona before returning to their morning run. More than 80 personnel from the command ran three miles around historic Ford Island on July 31, stopping at the USS Utah Memorial, the Battleship Missouri Memorial and the USS Arizona Memorial's lookout point. See story on page A-2.

(Below) Ship's Serviceman 2nd Class Gene Rivera presents an American flag to Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Hugh Smith during his re-enlistment onboard Lake Erie on July 18. See story on page A-6.

U.S. Navy photo by PS2 (SW) Marcelo Baquerovarez



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Cleary

Damage Controlman Fireman Derek Holder stationed aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) storms the bridge of decommissioned ship Cushing during training exercises for the Ship's Reaction Force-Advanced Class. Exercises such as these held at the Center for Security Forces Pearl Harbor Learning Site educate Sailors for real-world shipboard security situations.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Cleary

Students of the Ship's Reaction Force Advanced Class enter and secure the bridge during a shipboard force-protection simulation at the Center for Security Forces Pearl Harbor Learning Site. Simulations such as these educate and train for real-world situations.



U.S. Army Strykers are staged at Pearl Harbor waiting for their ship to arrive.



U.S. Navy photo by PS2 (SW) Marcelo Baquerovarez

Capt. Randall Hendrickson, Lake Erie commanding officer, leads Lake Erie re-enlistees in the oath of enlistment during Lake Erie's 14th birthday celebration at sea on July 18. *Additional photo on page A-5*

Sailors re-enlist aboard USS Lake Erie

Story and photo by Lt. j.g. Tommy Buck

USS Lake Erie Public Affairs

Guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70), currently deployed to the western Pacific, held a re-enlistment ceremony on its flight deck on the morning of July 18. As the warship steamed through the Philippine Sea, nine Sailors renewed their oaths of enlistment.

"I hope these next four years are as good as the last four years have been," said re-enlistee Gas Turbine Systems Technician (electrical) 3rd Class Nathan Pyeritz.

The ceremony took on a level of extra meaning as it occurred within one week of Lake Erie's 14th birthday. "Re-enlistments are always special occasions," said Capt. Randall Hendrickson, Lake Erie's commanding officer. "It was very fitting to have this group of outstanding Sailors re-enlist not only around the same time as the ship's birthday, but also while we are deployed, doing our mission."

In addition to the re-enlistments, Lake Erie also celebrated its birthday by holding a pinning ceremony for five newly-qualified air warfar-

ers from Lake Erie's embarked Easy Rider 54 air crew from Kaneohe Bay, as well as a "steel beach" picnic featuring a birthday cake large enough for the entire crew to enjoy. These festivities were held just days prior to July 24, Lake Erie's actual birthday.

Lake Erie was commissioned on July 24, 1993 at Pearl Harbor. It was the first naval ship to be commissioned in Hawai'i. Its sponsor is the late Margaret Meyer, wife of Rear Adm. (Navy ret.) Wayne E. Meyer, known as the "father" of the Navy's state-of-the-art Aegis weapons system.

In her 14 years of service, Lake Erie has completed four deployments and is currently on its fifth. In 2000, it was named as the Chief of Naval Operations test ship for the Navy's ballistic missile defense (BMD) program. It has since accomplished 10 successful and increasingly complex BMD test missions, the latest occurring this past April.

For the past two quarters, Lake Erie has exceeded Navy retention goals to become eligible for the annual Golden Anchor Award for retention excellence. "There are a lot of different reasons that cause a Sailor to re-enlist," said Hendrickson, the re-enlisting officer for the ceremony. "A

common theme I hear is that they like what they are doing in the Navy and they like the people whom they serve with. That says something about this great crew and our important mission."

Chief Navy Career Counselor (surface warfare) Johannes Gonzales organized the ceremony. "My job is so special because I get to be the first one to hear the Sailors say, 'Yes, I am re-enlisting,'" he said. "To know that you had a part in that is just awesome," he added.

Those who re-enlisted aboard Lake Erie on July 18 were Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW) James Lewis, Quartermaster 2nd Class (SW) Dillon Burns, Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (SW) Joshua Gant, IT2 Andrew Nelson, Storekeeper 3rd Class (SW) Vincent Martinez, Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class (BM3) Eric French, BM3 Hugh Smith, Gas Turbine Systems Technician (electrical) Nathan Pyeritz, and Engineman 3rd Class David Reshaw. The re-enlistees combined earned more than \$120,000 in re-enlistment bonuses.

USS Lake Erie is scheduled to return to Pearl Harbor later this summer.

Pearl Harbor Shipyard receives Liberty Award

Marshall Fukuki

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

Vintage World War II aircraft and historic displays in a refurbished Ford Island hangar created a fitting setting as Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard received the Research Institute for Hawai'i USA's (RIHI,USA) second annual Liberty Award on July 20 at the Pacific Aviation Museum.

That wasn't all. Christopher Haig, institute founder and past president, presented shipyard non-profit organizations with a \$76,000 check to help support the shipyard's centennial in 2008.

The institute is a non-profit organization committed to researching and publishing findings on literary legal precedents in U.S. and Hawaiian constitutional history. The shipyard and its present and past employees were selected to receive the Liberty Award in recognition of their contributions to "our nation's freedom, safety, security and economic stability."

In presenting the award before an audience of nearly 200 shipyard workers and distinguished guests, RIHI,USA President Andresen Blom noted that the shipyard was established as a coaling and repair station in the early 1900s. The Navy Yard played a pivotal role during World War II by



Photo courtesy of RIHI,USA

Capt. Gregory Thomas, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard commander, and Christopher Haig, USA founding president of Research Institute for Hawai'i (RIHI), display the Liberty Award presented to the shipyard by the institute.

repairing the USS Yorktown (CV 5) in record time, he said. The near-miraculous turnaround enabled the carrier to join U.S. forces in the Battle of Midway, turning the tide of the war in the Pacific.

Capt. Gregory Thomas, shipyard commander, accepted the award. The shipyard continues to serve the fleet to this day, not only at Pearl Harbor but throughout the Pacific basin, he said. He cited as examples the shipyard's role in collision-damage repairs to the fast-attack submarines USS San Francisco (SSN 711) two years ago in Guam and USS Newport News (SSN 750) earlier this year in Bahrain. Haig explained that as the institute researched the shipyard's history, "we realized that your centennial would be coming up and we decided to

find a way to help you prepare for that very significant event." He presented an oversized check to representatives of shipyard non-profit organizations.

The shipyard and its employees were "twice honored" that evening, said Thomas. "We very much appreciate the recognition given us by the institute and thank them for their very generous gift."

According to Randy Sawyer, shipyard executive staff director and centennial planning committee chairman, a week-long series of events are being planned in May 2008 to celebrate the 100th birthday of the shipyard. Part of the institute's gift will fund historical research for a hard-cover book documenting the yard's century of service to the fleet.

Mullen pledges full effort of military

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veillance and reconnaissance, and efforts to combat weapons of mass destruction, Bush said.

He has met these responsibilities "with honor, skill and integrity," the president said, noting that he will apply these same principles in his position as vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

During their confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee on July 31, Mullen and Cartwright pledged to do

their best to represent the men and women of the U.S. military.

Mullen told the senators he would represent the nation's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines and their families "with the full measure" of his "effort, to listen, to learn and to lead."

As chairman, Mullen will spend much of his time focusing on U.S. military operations in Iraq. He told the senate committee he plans to visit the U.S. Central Command area soon to help him understand the conditions on the ground.