

USS Missouri CPO Legacy Academy class graduates

Story and photos by
MC1 (AW/SW) James E. Foehl

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Twenty-two chief petty officer (CPO) selectees of the Hawai'i region graduated from the Navy's inaugural USS Missouri (BB 63) CPO Legacy Academy during a ceremony on board the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Sept. 7. Following the ceremony, establishment of the Battleship Missouri Memorial CPO Legacy Center took place below decks, solidifying the historic event and U.S. Navy's CPO legacy at Pearl Harbor.

The CPO Legacy Academy is a five-day training period held in conjunction with CPO selectee induction, which is steep in naval history and brings chief selectees, chief petty officers and veterans together to focus on naval heritage and leadership.

"Witnessing history is one thing and being a part of history is another," said Command Master Chief David Lajoie, assigned to Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i (CNRH). "There was a vision a very long time ago to have a CPO Legacy Center aboard the Missouri. There was another vision of having a leadership academy. I was approached by someone that talked about having our own academy right here and with all the history out of Pearl Harbor - why not try to do it?"

The vision and driving force which made the concept a reality came from Command Master Chief Matthew Welsh, assigned to Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific (ATG MIDPAC).



Chief Petty Officer (CPO) selectees march onto the fantail of the Battleship Missouri Memorial during USS Missouri (BB 63) CPO Legacy Academy Class 001 graduation ceremony. The CPO Legacy Academy is a five day training period held in conjunction with CPO selectee induction, which is steep in Naval history and brings chief selectees, CPO's and veterans together to focus in on Naval heritage and leadership.

"A couple years back, some chiefs got together with retired Chief Boatswain's Mate Harold Estes, a founding father of the USS Missouri Memorial Association, and retired Navy Capt. Don Hess, president, USS Missouri Memorial Association. They put their heads together and came up with the [ideal] for the CPO Legacy Center. I fed off that to develop the concept of the CPO Legacy Academy,"

said Welsh. After brainstorming the idea, Welsh organized his time to fixing heads, tiling decks, painting, and repairing the equipment necessary on board "Mighty Mo," bringing the Missouri CPO mess and legacy center spaces to life.

After the CPO select results for 2007 were announced throughout the fleet, individual commands of the Hawai'i region sent their inputs and

place fixed up," said Welsh.

From July to September, the island chiefs committed their time to fixing heads, tiling decks, painting, and repairing the equipment necessary on board "Mighty Mo," bringing the Missouri CPO mess and legacy center spaces to life.

After the CPO select results for 2007 were announced throughout the fleet, individual commands of the Hawai'i region sent their inputs and

nominations to the command master chief, CNRH.

Based on those recommendations, an inaugural CPO Legacy Academy Class 001 was formed to participate in the historic event and consisted of one command master chief, Command Master Chief Stephen Mitchell, assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor (NAVSTA PH); four leading chief petty officers (LCPO), Senior Chief Information

Systems Technician Keith Horst, assigned to Defense Information Systems Agency Pacific Command, Senior Chief Fire Controlman Brian Rieger, assigned to ATG MIDPAC, Senior Chief Navy Counselor Toby Ruiz, assigned to Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific (NCTAMS PAC), and Senior Chief Navy Counselor Gillian Guy, assigned to CNRH; and 22 CPO selectees; Chief Aerographer's Mate (Sel) Jessica Mihailin, assigned to Naval Maritime Forecast Center/Joint Typhoon Warning Center; Chief Electronics Technician (Sel) Christopher Jenning, NCTAMS PAC; Chief Hospital Corpsman (Sel) Angela Thomas, Chief Fire Controlman (Sel) James Williams, Chief Quartermaster (Sel) Mikey Young and Chief Cryptologic Technician - Technical (Sel) Mathew Mistove, all assigned to Afloat Training Group, Middle Pacific (ATG MIDPAC); Chief Cryptologic Technician (Sel) Shenequa Cox and Chief Cryptologic Technician - Technical (Sel) Jeremy Carter, assigned to Naval Information and Operations Command (NIOC); Chief Aviation Electronics Technician (Sel) Gabriel Gonzales, Chief Culinary Specialist (Sel) Gabriel Gonzales, Chief Aviation Structural Mechanic (Sel) Carrie Perez, Chief Aviation Electronics Technician (Sel) Michael Church and Chief Aviation Warfare Systems Operator (Sel) Dennis Schneider, all assigned to Marine Corps Base Hawai'i

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Humanitarian mission 'Pacific Partnership' returns to Pearl Harbor

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Sailors and civilians aboard USS Peleliu (LHA 5) arrived at Pearl Harbor on Sept. 12, on their way home to San Diego after completing a four-month Pacific Partnership humanitarian assistance mission.

Throughout the Pacific Partnership mission, Peleliu served as a platform for military and civilian health care providers to provide medical, dental, construction and other humanitarian-assistance programs. The same flexibility and configuration that makes Peleliu an effective warship also made it an extraordinarily effective ship for performing humanitarian assistance missions.

Pacific Partnership participants visited locations in Southeast Asia and Oceania, including the Philippines, Vietnam, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, providing a variety of medical, dental, educational and preventive medicine services to more than 31,600 patients.

In addition, the ship deployed a team of Sailors from the Naval Construction Force (Seabees) to perform repair and construction projects



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (AW/SW) James E. Foehl Sailors assigned to the Pearl Harbor-based guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), perform line handlers for Tarawa-class amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) as she moors pier side NAVSTA Station Pearl Harbor.

See PELELIU, A-8



A Sailor assigned to the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock USS New Orleans (LPD 18) drives down the ramp onto the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center pier in Pearl Harbor as part of the opportune lift program. The program provides service members and their families in the Hawai'i area an alternative to transporting privately owned vehicles between the mainland and Hawai'i.

'Opportune Lift' moves vehicles to mainland and Hawai'i

Story and photo by
MC3 Michael A. Lantron

Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific's (COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC) Supply Department, with help from the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock USS New Orleans (LPD 18), home ported at Naval Station San Diego, conducted

Opportune Lift (OPLIFT), a program in which military personnel stationed in the Oahu area have their personally owned vehicles (POVs) transported to and from the mainland, from Sept. 10-13.

The purpose of OPLIFT is to increase the quality of life of military personnel by shipping their POVs or boats at a cheaper price than the civilian sector by using Navy vessels as a transport.

"The cost to ship a car from

Hawai'i to the mainland, or vice versa, is at the least \$1,100, but on average we would charge \$60 for crane service," said Storekeeper 1st Class (SW/AW/SS) Brian Brown, COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC Supply leading petty officer and OPLIFT coordinator.

When transferring, the Navy allows Sailors to move one POV free of charge, but

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CPO selectees participate in Waianae community project See page A-2



Commander Task Group 152 Completes Focused Ops See page A-9



COMSUBRON Three changes command See page A-4



Sailors, community remembers 9/11 See page B-1

CPO selects participate in Waianae community project



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Paul D. Honnick

Chiefs and chief petty officer selects from various commands at Pearl Harbor work on the landscaping at the Waianae Transitional Shelter on Sept. 7. The Sailors participated in the community project at the shelter as part of their transition from petty officers to chief petty officers. The Waianae Transitional Shelter is one of three state-funded facilities on Oahu that provides a clean, safe environment for approximately 300 homeless people to live temporarily while they get back on their feet and start new lives.

MC3 Paul D. Honnick

*Fleet Public Affairs Center
Detachment Hawaii*

Chiefs and chief petty officer selects from various commands under Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC), participated in a community relations project at the Pai'olu Hai'ulu Transitional Shelter in Waianae on Sept. 7.

More than a dozen Sailors performed landscaping and general cleaning of the facility which services nearly 300 previously homeless people, including approximately 90 children.

"It's important to me, as well as to the Navy, to be here. Our presence shows a sense of Navy pride in the community and where there's a need in the community and for those less fortunate, we'll always be here," said Chief Select Cryptologic Technician Administration (AW) Norris Cantrell of Special Security Office Pearl Harbor.

The service project is part of the chief petty officer selects' transition from a petty officer to a chief.

For some of the chief selects, it was about giving back to the community in which they serve. "We get so wrapped up with our jobs and going out to sea. This is an opportunity for

us to give back to the community and do some good to help other people," said Chief (Sel) Sonar Technician-Submarine (SS) Michael Smith of USS Columbia (SSN 771).

As the Sailors spent the morning under the sun working in the gardens pulling weeds and removing rocks, residents of the shelter expressed their thanks to the workers as they passed by.

"It gives [the shelter's residents] a chance to see that there are people out here to help them try to help themselves become better people," said Smith.

Pai'olu Hai'ulu, a Hawaiian phrase meaning "lift of encouragement as the journey begins," is a state-funded facility, managed and operated by the non-profit organization U.S. Vets.

The shelter provides a safe environment and various programs for homeless people and their families to get back on their feet and start new self-sufficient lives.

"I think as someone who is very supportive of the military, I'm glad to see that at this time when so many men and women are involved in protecting our country, they are willing to come out here and take the time to be with us," said Michael McNulty, logistics coordinator for the shelter.

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Navy ship to become homeless shelter?

The Associated Press

Several community groups are hoping to convert a decommissioned Navy vessel at Pearl Harbor into a floating homeless shelter.

Navy officials say if the groups succeed in acquiring the 642-foot Acadia, the retired destroyer tender would be the first Navy vessel converted for such a purpose.

Many ships have been turned into museums, but most are used for scrap or training after they are retired.

The Acadia was built in 1981 and sailed around the world several times with a crew of 1,500 before it was decommissioned in 1994. In January, Navy officials decided to dispose of, sell off or give away the vessel.

"Land is a high commodity. We live on

a rock," said Pastor Gary Shields, director of the Victory Ohana Prison Fellowship. "Hawaii has to do something different and out-of-the-box. And this is out-of-the-box."

A coalition of community groups is negotiating with the state for space at Honolulu Harbor or Kalaheo in West Oahu. Its proposal calls for Acadia to start housing people as early as May 2009.

But organizers say that the plan is still in its infancy and could fall through without the right funding or community support.

The Acadia Acquisition Committee is made of about 30 community and religious groups. Members include the Hawaii Coalition of Christian Churches, the Navy League, H-5 Ministries and others.

They are trying to determine how much the program would cost but are expecting to spend \$2 million just to get the ship ready for basic accommodations, with air conditioning, revamped bunks and bedrooms.

"It is a tough undertaking," said Pat Dolan, a spokeswoman for the Naval Seas Systems Command.

Dolan said she remembers only one other group trying to use a Navy ship for a humanitarian program, and that was in Virginia in the 1990s. The plan was eventually scrapped.

Homelessness is a growing problem in Hawaii, as low-income families are faced with some of the highest living costs in the nation. The number of unsheltered homeless counted at seven areas on Oahu in January was 3,750, up 28 percent from a year ago.



Photo courtesy of National Park Service

The retired destroyer tender Acadia was decommissioned in 1994. A coalition of community groups in Hawaii would like to see it converted to a shelter for the homeless.

Gen MacArthur aboard Missouri off Korea

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

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



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U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Kerryl Cacho

Steelworker 3rd Class Brian Laferriere of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 photographs Riarok Elementary School students at Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands on Sept. 3 as they enjoy their new playground, built by battalion personnel.

Clockwork-like logistics key to humanitarian mission's success

MC2 Michael Perez

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet's humanitarian mission "Pacific Partnership" came to a close when USS Peleliu (LHA 5) and its diverse team return to Hawai'i on Sept. 12 and on their way toward Peleliu's homeport of San Diego later this month.

Pacific Partnership 2007 brought together military and civilian health care providers, civil engineers, and many caring people who helped participating host nations in Southeast Asia and Oceania.

The team repaired schools, refurbished hospitals, provided medical and dental care, offered health care information, and donated supplies and equipment in the Philippines, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Just like a giant clock situated on top of a colossal building, the Pacific Partnership helped many people, but its success was only possible thanks to a vast array of "gears" behind the scenes.

"I played a small role in the Pacific Partnership mission, but I would like to think of this ship as a big machine and everyone in it are the gears that make the machine run," said Storekeeper Seaman Daryl Dasilva, shipping and receiving department. "Without the gears, the machine can't run."

While not every department was visible to visitors or clients, departments like supply were critical to the mission's success.

"We all work as one team on the ship," said Senior Chief Storekeeper Casimiro Masikip, materiel control and hazmat division leading chief petty officer. "We are bringing in the needed supplies and food so the rest of the departments can perform."

Keeping the ship well-stocked ensured all on board could focus on their mission.

"Making patients, non-governmental organization (NGO) volunteers, auxiliary engineering, medical forces and distinguished visitors feel comfortable on board helped them concentrate more on improving lives in the nations we visited than on the unfamiliar environment of the ship," said Lt. Cmdr. Frederick Dini, assistant supply officer of Peleliu. "It showed our guests the professionalism and humanity of our Sailors."

While the doctors aboard Peleliu are well trained to meet their mission, it's Sailors like Dasilva who made sure the right tools reached their hands.

"I would have to say that the highlight of my participation - was making sure that medical received the supplies they need for the mission," said Dasilva.

U.S. Fleet & Industrial Supply Center (FISC) detachment Singapore played a key role in supporting the ship's supply department and meeting the mission's operational logistics needs, despite the challenge of providing support in remote areas.

"Not knowing the ability of

the local economy (via contractors) to provide basic ship support items like breasting barges, CHT disposal, potable water, water taxis and the like made this truly expeditionary," said Cmdr. Tab Austin, officer-in-charge of U.S. Fleet and Industrial Supply Center detachment Singapore.

"We strive to get the USS Peleliu exactly what is requested, but must also manage expectations and come up with alternate solutions when or if the assets cannot be obtained in such austere locations," said Austin.

Helping the United States and host nations provide humanitarian assistance were Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, India, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore.

Lt. Cmdr. Ashok Bhandari, pediatrician with the Indian Navy, was one of the health care providers who supported Pacific Partnership and who relied on U.S. Navy logistics support.

According to Bhandari, helping those in need of relief strengthened the partnership between the United States and host nations.

"We're in a global world now and we can't separate from each other. Ultimate happiness, to me, is in taking care of others, giving them compassion and love," he said. "This humanitarian mission is one aspect of that and the things we're doing for people gives happiness to us."

Timely logistics support led to the success of the Pacific Partnership mission and translated to satisfied customers in remote islands and villages.

"If we were not on this mission, they probably wouldn't get the services we provide," said Masikip. "To hear them speak their gratitude for what we do makes this mission more important to me."

Spoken and unspoken expressions of thanks were rewarding to the crew.

"I think we really made a difference," said Dasilva. "These people went from living in tent homes to living in stable concrete houses. The people of that town showed us their gratitude by making us meals during our lunch breaks, so I know we really touched them."

The four-month Pacific Partnership deployment continued the long tradition of U.S. Navy support of humanitarian-assistance operations throughout the world and reflects American compassion for the people of the Western Pacific region with whom Americans share common bonds.

Throughout the summer, individual Sailors and civilians of Pacific Partnership were featured frequently in media throughout Asia, including television, radio and newspapers.

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet maintains a Web site of photos and news stories dedicated to the mission at www.cpf.navy.mil/news_image/s/Peleliu/index.html.

While not always in the glare of publicity, Sailors and civilians who provided logistics support behind the scenes helped make the Pacific Partnership mission run like clockwork.

COMSUBRON Three changes command

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

Fleet Public Affairs Center
Detachment Hawai'i

Capt. Edward L. Takesuye relieved Capt. Joseph E. Tofalo as commander, Submarine Squadron (COMSUBRON) Three, during a change of command ceremony Sept. 6 held aboard Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (SSN 708) at the Naval Station Pearl Harbor submarine piers.

Rear Adm. Joe Walsh, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, presided over ceremony and praised Tofalo for his visionary command leadership skills and command accomplishments during his two-year tenure as commander of COMSUBRON Three.

"[Commodores] must train their boats and their crews to be naval combat ready forces, capable of winning the global war on Terror and any other armed conflict while promoting peace and security here in the Pacific," stated Walsh. "We are, and will remain, a war-fighting, sea-going service and Commodore Tofalo has done an outstanding job doing his part to support our Navy's mission."

Tofalo, who has been the commander of COMSUBRON Three since September 2005, has prepared and certified six submarines for independent Western Pacific deployments, all of them on time and without any equipment casualties.

Tofalo also personally mentored 11 submarine commanding officers and oversaw the successful execution of three homeport shifts.

Under Tofalo's leadership, USS Honolulu (SSN 718) completed its final deployment after two decades of service.

In his final remarks, Tofalo thanked his staff, submariner commanding officers and



Capt. Joe E. Tofalo makes his final remarks as commanding officer of Submarine Squadron Three (COMSUBRON) during a change of command ceremony held Sept. 6 aboard USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (SSN 708) at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Capt. Edward L. Takesuye relieved Tofalo as commanding officer of COMSUBRON.

crews, his ombudsmen, and the families of Sailors who worked together to create the synergy that helped make COMSUBRON Three a successful command.

"As I look back on the past two years, I am overwhelmed by one singular theme. Simply put, I love my job," stated Tofalo to his colleagues in attendance.

His previous two mission assignments included Northrop Grumman at Newport News, Va. where he oversaw the construction of Virginia-class submarines and the training of their new crews and Command Submarine Force Atlantic (COMSUBLANT) as senior member of the tactical readiness evaluation team.

Tofalo's personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Navy Commendation Medal (four awards) and Navy Achievement Medal.

Takesuye came to Hawai'i from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington D.C. where he earned master's degree in national resource strategy.

His previous mission assignment was in Yokosuka,

Japan, where he served as both chief and deputy chief of staff for operations and intelligence.

Takesuye has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (two awards) and other personal campaign and unit awards.

"It is my privilege and honor to follow a superb officer, my friend and colleague Capt. Joe Tofalo. Assuming the helm of Submarine Squadron Three takes on special significance of meaning because of my admiration of its personal dedication and contributions to our nation, our Navy, our people and their families," said Takesuye.

COMSUBRON Three includes five Los Angeles-class submarines, USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (SSN 708), USS Olympia (SSN 717), USS Chicago (SSN 721), USS Key West (SSN 722) and USS Louisiana (SSN 724).

Their missions include Tomahawk strike, mine warfare, anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, special forces insertion and extraction, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, as well as combat search and rescue.

Firefighters honor 9/11 heroes



Photo by Federal Fire Department

Personnel from Federal Fire (Fed Fire) Department line up and close ranks to pay respects for their fellow firefighters and other emergency responders who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks during a ceremony held Sept. 11 at the Fed Fire headquarters.



Construction projects around Pearl Harbor

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i

Scheduled road closures around Pearl Harbor:

- Ford Island: A new temporary road will be opened off Chafee Boulevard to provide access to area for public-private venture (PPV) construction ongoing through June 30, 2008.
- Submarine base area of

Naval Station Pearl Harbor: Four parking stalls in the parking lot at the corner of Nimitz and Pierce Streets will remain closed due to repairs to the USS Parche Memorial through Sept. 28.

• Naval Station Pearl: The parking lot at the corner of South Avenue/Fuller Way will be unavailable for parking in support of a new environmental and preventative medicine unit mili-

tary construction project in the area from Aug. 29 through November 26, 2008.

• NAVFAC Hawai'i will be repairing several LPA dock outlets at Bravo Piers. This project is slated to be completed by Sept. 30.

• Fleet Industrial Supply Center Pearl: Quincy Avenue, between buildings 475 and 1900, will be closed for a waterline replacement job through Sept. 24.

Pearl Harbor Highlights



(Above) Tugboats assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor assist the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS New Orleans (LPD 18) through the harbor waters as she comes alongside the battleship USS Missouri (BB-63). New Orleans was commissioned March 10, 2007 in New Orleans, is home ported in San Diego, Calif. and is currently in Pearl Harbor providing an opportune lift for Sailors and service members assigned to the Hawai'i region.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Michael A. Lantron



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (AW/SW) James E. Foehl

Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Roberto Bonilla (right) and line handlers, assigned to the Pearl Harbor-based guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), salute during morning colors as Tarawa-class amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) makes her way pier side to Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Peleliu is currently at Pearl Harbor for a port visit en route to their homeport of San Diego after completing a four-month Pacific Partnership humanitarian assistance mission.



U.S. Navy photo by Ens. Theresa Donnelly

Gas Turbine System Technician (Mechanical) 2nd Class Gerald Sistoso performs routine maintenance on a fuel manifold assembly in the gas turbine engine module onboard USS Russell (DDG 59).



U.S. Navy photo by Ens. Theresa Donnelly

Ens. Steve Collins gives orders to change the ship's course while Adm. Victor Fedorov, Commander, Russian Pacific Fleet, speaks with Adm. Robert Willard, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, during an at sea visit aboard the Pearl Harbor-based guided missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) on Sept. 10, 2007. The visit was designed to facilitate positive relations between the United States and the Russian Federation.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (AW/SW) James E. Foehl

Retired Capt. Gerald Coffee shares his experiences as a prisoner of war (POW) to chief petty officer's (CPO) and CPO selectees of USS Missouri (BB 63) CPO Legacy Academy Class 001 during a special guest speaker presentation in the VIP room of the Silver Dolphin Bistro on board Naval Station Pearl Harbor. In February of 1966, Coffee was shot down while flying combat missions over North Vietnam. He parachuted safely but was captured and held for seven years as a POW in the Communist prisons of North Vietnam. The CPO Legacy Academy is a five day training period held in conjunction with CPO selectee induction, which covers Naval history and brings chief selectees, chief petty officers and veterans together to focus in on Naval heritage and leadership.



U.S. Navy photo by Ens. Theresa Donnelly

Members of the Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) team of the Pearl Harbor-based guided missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) stand by to render honors to Adm. Robert Willard, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Russian Federation Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Victor Fedorov, Commander, Russian Pacific Fleet.

CPO Legacy Academy focuses on naval heritage and leadership

Continued from A-1

(MCBH) - Kaneohe; Chief Hospital Corpsman (Sel) Curtis Hall, Chief Master-at-Arms (Sel) Bernardo Gomez, Chief Master-at-Arms (Sel) Derrick Vaughn, Chief Gunner's Mate (Sel) Dean Avellaneda and Chief Culinary Specialist (Sel) Donovan Scott, all assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor (NAVSTA PH); Chief Engineman (Sel) Jeremy Marks, assigned to Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Chief Navy Diver (Sel) Charles Parson and Chief Navy Diver (Sel) Dalbert Rivera, both assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit ONE (MDSU-1); and Chief Yeoman (Sel) Michael Diaz, assigned to U.S. Pacific Command.

"Class 001 was made up of Navy Region Hawai'i Sailors from all different warfare areas including sub-surface, air, cryptology and divers," said Welsh.

The CPO Legacy Academy course, which is intended to be a full five days, convened on Sept. 3 and the CPO selectees of class 001 were underway with their training.

The academy LCPOs and selectees were organized into four different departments: weapons, engineering, deck and supply, with the command master chief directly leading the week's activities.

Course curriculum was based on the 'Chief Petty Officer's Guide' and each selectee was issued a copy of the book at the beginning of the course. Training events were centered on teaching CPO leadership and naval heritage through a variety of tours, exercises, guest speakers, physical training and written assignments.

"We tried to focus on naval heritage and leadership. Those were our two key elements," said Welsh.

The 22 selectees and LCPOs stayed on board for the duration of the course - eating, sleeping and living in the CPO mess just as it was in the early 1990s after the ship was activated for the Gulf War.

The heritage portion of the training consisted of various visits to historic naval sites and landmarks in the Pearl Harbor area, sharing and discussion of first-hand experiences from veterans and guest speakers, and a heritage run around historic Ford island.

"We mixed heritage with physical training. For the heritage run, we ran around the island, stopping at all the significant [historical] places and did presentations. We also did a Red Hill march," said Welsh.

Leadership training included presentations, discussions and case studies, which were centered on the four core competencies of a U.S. Navy CPO: leading, developing, communicating and supporting.

"The bottom line is - it's an enhancement to the induction season. Naval heritage is one of things that Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) is stressing in his mission, vision and guiding principles," said Welsh.

According to the MCPON's guiding principles, sense of heritage defines our past, guides our future and the chiefs will use heritage to connect Sailors to their past, teach values and enhance pride in service to our country.

"This academy is different than any other academy out there. It brought together traditions, heritage and history of yester-years and tied them with today," said U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief Tom Howard. "This process was mirrored with what's happening on the Atlantic side with the USS Constitution, but with their own history right here in the Pacific."

USS Constitution CPO Heritage Training consists of 240 CPO selectees, who are hand-selected by nominations from various commands throughout the Navy and spend one week living aboard "Old Ironsides" at the Navy Yard in Charlestown, Mass., learning the underlying principles of heritage, teamwork and leadership.

"Spending time aboard the Constitution means to truly go back to where our Navy began



A U.S. Navy senior chief petty officer's cover, in Naval Station Pearl Harbor's Silver Dolphin Bistro, reminds visitors of Navy values and purpose. The cover emblem is an anchor, which bears a length of chain that is symbolic of flexibility. Its letters, USN, stand for United States Navy and for unity, service and navigation.

- they do rigging; they do things on wooden ships," Howard said. "But for our group on the Missouri, the time aboard open the selectees' eyes to the local Navy history, the war in the Pacific, and things that have happened here in the last 70 years."

By placing the academy here, on board the Missouri at Pearl Harbor, Sailors were

able to experience naval heritage and leadership training from the beginning of WWII with the attack on Pearl Harbor and the sinking of the USS Arizona (BB 39), to the end of WWII with the Japanese surrender signing on board the Missouri and everything in between.

"We tied the old Navy into the new Navy with that

process," said Howard.

Howard also addressed CPO selectees, participants and attendees as the guest speaker during the graduation ceremony on board the Missouri.

"You can't know where you're going until you know where you've been, or in this case - until you know what those who've gone before you really went through. This

week, 22 CPO selectees found out in a most historic way, what those Sailors who have gone before them went through as they lived a week in their shoes. You learned more naval history and anecdotes concerning leadership expectations in four short days than you have in your collective naval careers to date," said Howard. "The question now is - what are you going to do with it? My answer to you is simple. Lead. Lead Sailors."

Directly following the ceremony, academy guests and participants moved below decks to witness a ceremonial lei cutting presentation for the Battleship Missouri Memorial CPO Legacy Center.

"What we received here this week was immeasurable. This class was an awakening for strengthening leadership inside ourselves," said CPO Legacy Academy graduate, Chief Fire Controlman (Sel) James Williams. "We'll all remember these four days for the rest of our lives."

"The best part was the speakers. Each one passed on their knowledge that they had that made them successful in their careers in the Navy," said Chief Culinary Specialist (Sel) Donovan Scott.

CPO Legacy Academy, Class 001, Command Master Chief Stephen Mitchell noted the

success of the inaugural course and its impact on the CPO selectees.

"To see the change in those 22 selectees from Monday afternoon when we checked aboard Missouri until Friday afternoon when graduation was done and dedicated the CPO Legacy Center - it's hard to describe that feeling - you could see the fire in their eyes. They responded and jelled so well together, so quickly, and my departmental LCPOs were fantastic. Everything just came together and to be the first to do this here is an incredible honor and one that I'm going to continue to have a passion for."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Welsh was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal, silver star in lieu of his sixth award, for displaying exceptional leadership and resourcefulness by single-handedly conceiving and designing, organizing and executing the first ever USS Missouri CPO Legacy Academy.

Welsh was directly responsible for obtaining the funds and materials, designing an exceptional training program, and coordinating a myriad of schedules and details, which culminated in an inaugural event that has set the standard for all future Navy-wide academies.

USS Chicago transits Bay of Bengal



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Stephen W. Rowe

Attack submarine USS Chicago (SSN 721) transits in formation in Bay of Bengal on Sept. 5 during Malabar 2007, an exercise involving Kitty Hawk and Nimitz Carrier Strike Group and ships of the navies of Australia, India, Japan, and the Republic of Singapore.

Sailors 'get a lift' from USS New Orleans

Continued from A-1

when a family has more than one vehicle they would like to take with them to their next duty station, they must pay the cost for moving all other vehicles.

"Even if you are like me, a married E-6, it is still very expensive to move your car and every time we get to do this, it's a huge help to those who have second cars to get them off the island at little or no cost," said Brown.

Prior to the Global War on Terrorism, OPLIFT was held monthly, but in the past three years, the program occurs on a space available basis.

"Unfortunately, ships that used to help with the transfer, such as [the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship] USS Boxer (LHD 4), come back with their ship full of gear from being in the Persian gulf, so they can't carry any POVs back to the mainland," said Brown.

Because of the limited availability of ships, the wait to move a POV has increased substantially.

"Usually the wait is about nine months to a year, but it all depends on the ship and the person," said Brown. "If a person is not ready to move their vehicle, they can pass and we move them up on the list for the next ship."

Brown adds that regardless of when you are scheduled to

Continued from A-1

ashore at medical and community facilities.

The deployment was carried out in conjunction with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and in close coordination and partnership

"Shipping costs from Hawaii can run up to \$1,000, so this is a wonderful Quality of Life initiative."

-Capt. Donald Hodge

PCS, signing up for the program early increases the chance of having the vehicle moved when ready.

"The sooner you sign up, all you need to do is wait for a call-back from us [COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC Supply] on where to drop off your vehicle," said Brown.

According to Gina Roberts, COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC Supply Officer and OPLIFT Manager, Opportune Lift is a chance for the entire command of COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC to come together and work as a team.

"Every time OPLIFT comes around, all of COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC comes together to help out," said Roberts. "Without us, the program would not exist and people would not be able to move their vehicles."

Roberts added that the program is helpful for Sailors during the stressful PCS move.

"This program increases the

quality of life for Sailors on the island by giving them one less thing to pay for out of their own pocket during their move," said Roberts.

Capt. Donald Hodge, Chief of Staff, Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, said the service is a definite bonus for those who take advantage of it. "With the current DoD limit of shipping only one vehicle per set of government orders, OPLIFT provides our Navy families with an inexpensive way to get their second, or sometimes third, vehicle to CONUS. Shipping costs from Hawaii can run up to \$1,000, so this is a wonderful Quality of Life initiative."

Seventy-five cars were shipped to San Diego and 68 were transported to Hawai'i during the four-day process and Sailors from the Oahu area are pleased to know they have found an inexpensive and easy way to move their POVs to and from the mainland.

"It's a good deal if you have the patience," said Lt. j.g. Michael Yeager, stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i. "To be able to send a POV back to the mainland without costing a lot is a great opportunity."

To be put on the list, fill out a two-page application located on the OPLIFT section at <http://greatlifehawaii.cnic.navy.mil/>. For more information on Opportune Lift, contact Brown at (808) 473-0572.

Peleiu heads home via Hawai'i

Continued from A-1

with local medical care professionals. Participants in this endeavor included volunteers from Project Hope, the Aloha Medical Mission of Hawai'i and the University of California at San Diego Pre-Dental Society. They joined a contingent of med-

ical specialists from the militaries of the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Japan, India, Republic of Korea (ROK) and Vietnam's Ministry of Health.

Commander Task Group 152 completes focused ops

MC1 Ryan Tabios

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/
Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet
Public Affairs

Commander, Task Group (CTG) 152 completed focused operations in the Central Persian Gulf Sept. 7 to increase awareness amongst regional mariners of the coalition efforts to help maintain security and stability in the region.

During focused operations, coalition forces concentrated on a particular maritime traffic area to conduct interaction patrols (IPATS). IPATS are an element of maritime security operations (MSO) which help generate support and awareness of the coalition's efforts to ensure a safe and secure maritime environment, to commercial vessels sailing in the region. Coalition forces also

conduct MSOs under international maritime conventions to ensure security and safety in international waters so that commercial shipping and fishing can occur safely in the region.

"We want to show local mariners that coalition forces are here to help and assure them that they can conduct their business without fear of maritime crimes," said Lt. j.g. Ron F. Luning, CTG 152 planner.

During IPATS, coalition forces visited dhows and talked with the crews about ways the coalition can assist them should they need medical attention, engineering assistance or if they have any form of an at-sea emergency. The fishermen shared their knowledge of the local fishing and traffic patterns with coalition forces which helped enable a better situational awareness of

the maritime environment.

Luning said the continued presence of and coalition forces helped create stability and security for all, from the fishermen to those engaged in international trade.

CTG 152 is led by the Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group (BHRMSG) and Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 7. The BHRMSG is comprised of PHIBRON 7, USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), USS Denver (LPD 9), USS Rushmore (LSD 47), USS Milius (DDG 69), USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), USS Chosin (CG 65) and 2,200 combat-ready Marines of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

MSOs help set the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment and complement the counterterrorism and security efforts in regional nations' littoral waters.



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Kiona Mckissack

Sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) transfer midshipmen to the the Pearl Harbor-based Ticonderoga Class guided-missile cruiser (AEGIS) USS Chosin (CG 65) using a rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB). The Chosin is currently underway on a scheduled six-month deployment in support of the global war on terrorism.



Chief selectees 'in the running'

Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Fleet Master Chief Tom Howard (left) lead Sailors recently selected to become chief petty officers in an early morning run on Sept. 5 as part of the new chiefs' induction process.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Sarah Murphy

STORY IDEAS?

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

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