

National Hispanic Heritage Month

Hawai'i News

Serving the "Best Homeport in the Navy"



October 5, 2007

www.hawaii.navy.mil

Volume 32 Issue 39

Chosin, Chung-Hoon return from deployment

MC3 Paul D. Honnick

Fleet Public Affairs Center
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The Pearl Harbor-based, Ticonderoga class guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) and Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) returned home Sept. 28 from a five-and-a-half month deployment to the Western Pacific.

The 640 Pearl Harbor Sailors assigned to Chosin and Chung-Hoon deployed April 16 as part of the USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) Expeditionary Strike Group and conducted maritime operations in the U.S. 5th Fleet and 7th Fleet areas of operation.

"It feels great to be back. Our troops did fantastic and our Sailors did fantastic while we were deployed," said Capt. Steven A. Lott, commanding officer of Chosin. "We did lots of great work in support of theatre security cooperation, made some great new friends in Malaysia, India, the Philippines and Hong Kong, and we played a really important role in supporting the global war on terrorism."

"The deployment was outstanding," said Cmdr. James Aiken, Chung-Hoon commanding officer. "We had 300 sea warriors on board that went above and beyond their jobs while doing a lot of interesting things from sea operations to operations in the northern Arabian Gulf."

In addition to providing mar-

itime security, the ships also participated in humanitarian assistance missions in the Philippines.

"We had 120 Sailors participate in helping the needy in the Philippines by building houses and building community relations, which was a major impact not only for the people, but for the Sailors," said Aiken.

The deployment was a learning experience for many of the ships' junior Sailors, some of whom have never been on deployment.

"This deployment was my first one and I had the chance to see what it was like to work aboard a ship and to do my job," said Fire Controlman 3rd Class Ethan Thomas, assigned to Chung-Hoon. "The deployment was long and some days were very hard and demanding, but overall I learned a lot, made good friends and went to places I never thought I would ever go."

The Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group consists of Amphibious Squadron 7, Bonhomme Richard, Chosin, Chung-Hoon, USS Denver (LPD 9), USS Rushmore (LSD 47), USS Milius (DDG 69), and 2,200 combat ready Marines of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit.



Photo illustration



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Chad J. McNeely

Adm. Gary Roughead, center, reports to Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) the Honorable Donald C. Winter, as the 29th Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) during an informal change of office ceremony held at the Pentagon on Sept. 29.

Roughead relieves Mullen as Chief of Naval Operations

Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

In an informal ceremony Sept. 29 presided over by Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter, Adm. Gary Roughead relieved Adm. Mike Mullen as Chief of Naval Operations.

The change of office, coming on the heels of Roughead's Senate confirmation Friday,

was done without formality to allow Mullen to relieve Gen. Peter Pace as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on Monday.

Secretary Winter awarded Mullen the Distinguished Service Medal and praised his leadership. "Thank you for your great leadership and for your great support and the teamwork you have shown during your tour. We will cer-

tainly miss you," said Winter.

Roughead - who becomes the 29th Chief of Naval Operations - echoed Winter's sentiments, saying he felt "fortunate to take over a great Navy."

"As I've said on many occasions, it's never been better. And that's a tribute to the leadership of Mike Mullen -

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Hispanic Heritage Month:

Recognizing the diversity of our Navy



CS1 (SS) Salvador Rico

Naval Station Pearl Harbor

Of Mexican descent from San Antonio, Texas

"It feels great that a lot of Hispanics have put in the effort to do great things without needing to be recognized," said Rico. "We just go out there and get the job done and whatever praises come is great, but if they don't, we still get the job done as if we did get recognized."

YN2 Kristel Maldonado

U.S. Pacific Command Of Mexican descent from Corpus Christi, Texas

"When I see the MCPON is of Hispanic descent, it makes me think that any Hispanic can do it and go as high as they want to in everything they do."

IT2 (SW/AW) Xavier DeHoyas

Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Of Mexican descent from San Antonio, Texas

"There are a lot of people who have set the foundation," said DeHoyas. "Remember your heritage and just do everything you can in a positive nature, so you can help build the foundation for the people who come after you."

As Sailors at Pearl Harbor and around the globe continue to defend the greatest nation in the world, we take a moment to stop and recognize the invaluable contributions to our Navy's cultural diversity during Hispanic Heritage Month.

The month-long celebration is being observed Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 and

gives us an opportunity to increase our knowledge and awareness of the Hispanic culture and the contributions of our Sailors who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, countries of Central and South America and Caribbean.

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Roughead takes CNO helm

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his vision, his discipline, his drive to do the right thing all the time for the Navy, and alongside [his wife] Deborah, who I believe is the strongest advocate of our Navy families."

Secretary Winter awarded Mrs. Mullen the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award for her efforts to support Navy families over the last 37 years.

"Remember," he told her, "in our hearts you will always be part of the Navy family. Thank you very much for all you've done in support of our families around the world. I could not imagine a finer service you could have provided our Navy."

Mullen ends his tour as CNO after nearly two and a half years. During that time, he focused on three priorities: sustaining combat readiness, building a fleet for the future, and developing 21st century leaders.

Mullen improved the Fleet Response Plan through the "employability/deployability" program, which preserves the fleet's ability to surge while providing better predictability for Sailors and their families.

He grew the size of the fleet up to today's 278 ships and helped stabilize the shipbuilding program through a plan to eventually build a 313-ship Navy.

He also advanced the diversity of the Navy's workforce through a comprehensive Diversity Concept of Operations and diversity accountability reviews, while focusing early and often on issues of family readiness and quality of life.

Mullen called diversity a "strategic imperative" for the Navy and a critical compo-

nent of combat readiness.

"This is a democratic country and the military must represent the country," he told participants at the Naval Sea Systems Command Diversity Summit Sept. 18. "And then externally, with just the expansion of missions, the places we're going, the challenges that we have, the demands that we have - culturally, ethnically, mission-wise, wherever we go or where we're going to go in the future, diversity is an absolute must for us."

Another "must" for Mullen was better supporting Navy families, particularly during times of need. He stood up Task Force Navy Family in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, which affected some 88,000 Navy families. He said the Navy learned valuable lessons from that experience that proved helpful in dealing with larger issues of family support.

"It had a tremendously positive impact," he said during a recent podcast. "The Navy is so big as an organization, sometimes it's difficult to really create the kind of focus we need to help those kinds of families. There are a couple messages that come from that. One is -- tremendously important that we support our families. Family readiness I equate to readiness to do our mission. And we've got to keep focus on that. The second thing is that because we are so big, you need to set up a task force to go do something like this."

An advocate of strong inter-agency and international cooperation Mullen also fostered the development of global maritime partnerships, known as the "1,000-ship navy."

The "1,000-ship navy" is a concept that unites maritime

forces, port operators, commercial shippers, and international, governmental and non-governmental agencies to address mutual concerns. Membership in this "navy," Mullen maintained, is purely voluntary and would have no legal or encumbering ties.

"It is a fleet-in-being of nations willing to participate in global maritime partnerships," he told an audience in May 2007. "To face the challenges we do today, nobody can do it alone. Many countries are looking for ways to help create security through an international navy. The barriers to entry here are very low. You don't have to sign a treaty."

Such partnerships will likely be one element of the new maritime strategy Roughead is expected to unveil later this fall.

Roughead was relieved as Commander, Fleet Forces Command by newly promoted Adm. Jonathan Greenert. Greenert previously served

as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Integration of Capabilities and Resources.

Mullen called Roughead "exactly the right officer" to lead the Navy and praised Roughead's wife, Ellen, for her support and service as well.

"Whenever you're in command, you always worry about who you leave it to," he said. "I can assure you I don't have a single doubt today. Nobody could be better to lead the Navy in the future than Gary Roughead. And there's no better team than Gary and Ellen."

But it was Sailors who were most on Mullen's mind.

"It's a great Navy," he said. "It's been a privilege to lead it. We will cherish this experience for the rest of our lives. We will miss it. Most of all, though, we will miss the people. It's the Sailors out there, and they are out there today very much in harm's way, and we must always remember them in everything we do."



National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2007

A proclamation by the President of the United States of America

Hispanic Americans have strengthened our country and contributed to the spirit of America. National Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to honor these contributions and celebrate the rich cultural traditions of our Hispanic-American community.

Hispanic Americans have helped establish America as a place of freedom and opportunity, and their contributions have illustrated what is best about our great nation. Their hard work, love of country, and deep commitment to faith and family have shaped the character of our country and helped preserve the values we all cherish. By sharing their vibrant culture and heritage, Hispanic Americans have also enriched the American experience and helped define the unique fabric of our nation.

Americans of Hispanic heritage have carried on a proud tradition of service to our Nation. In times of great consequence, they have answered the call to defend America as members of our armed forces. These brave men and women bring honor to America, and we are grate-

ful for their service and sacrifice. In our towns and communities, Hispanic Americans have also shown the good heart of our nation by volunteering to help their fellow Americans. Their kindness and compassion have made a difference in the lives of others and have made our country a more hopeful place for all.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate the diversity that makes America stronger, and we recognize the many ways Hispanic Americans have enriched our nation. To honor the achievements of Hispanic Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 100 402, as amended, has authorized and requested the president to issue annually a proclamation designating Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 as "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

DoD identifies Navy casualty

Department of Defense

The Department of Defense announced Oct. 3 the death of a Sailor who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Mark R. Cannon, 31, of Lubbock, Texas died Oct.

2 while conducting combat operations in Kunar Province, Afghanistan. Cannon was a hospital corpsman assigned to 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Hawai'i.



Correction

The photo credit for the story, "Russell pins five new chief petty officers," which was published on page A-3 of the Sept. 28 edition of Hawai'i Navy News, should have read Photo by Rita Lawrence. We apologize for the error and any inconvenience this may have caused.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Family readiness



FLTCM (SS/SW) Rick West

US Forces Fleet Command

The Navy's credo is "Mission first, Sailors always." Many see this as a careful balance between the needs of the service with the needs of the Sailors. Others interpret it as taking care of our people ensures the success of the Navy mission.

I subscribe to the philosophy that leaders (at all levels) will ensure mission success by leading and communicating with their people. Few organizations demand as much from its employees' families as the military. We work demanding hours, move and travel constantly, and endure separations reaching or exceeding 12 months at a

time - not always an ideal lifestyle.

But service-over-self is never an easy lifestyle. It explains why the families who accept this life are such honorable people.

Families take it in stride. They understand sacrifice and why it must be done. They endure the long, lonely nights during deployments and they accept the missed family special events because they know how important the job is.

This is why I say the families are the heart of our Navy. Without their support, our Sailors can't effectively do their jobs.

So what do we do to support those who support us? Are you familiar with everything the Navy has set up to give back to the families who give so much to the Navy?

If you're not, let me give you a short primer to Navy family support. All Navy leaders need to be well versed in where to go to obtain assistance and required information.

First and foremost, we have the Navy Fleet and Family Support Centers (FFSC). Around each fleet concentration area, FFSC is chock-full of programs, classes and counselors whose sole purpose in life is to help make things easier for Sailors and their families. They help us make the move from the military to civilian life with tran-

sition assistance, or the move from one duty station to the next with relocation assistance. Money issues are always a challenge so the personal finance programs can help families deal with money management for debt reduction, budgeting and financial planning.

Case in point - did you know financial issues are the number one reason our Sailors lose their security clearance and most of the time, lose the ability to do their jobs? It's a sad, preventable reality.

Few families can experience a challenge the trained professionals at FFSC cannot assist them with so please take advantage of their services. You can check out everything FFSC has to offer by visiting their Web site at <http://www.ffsp.navy.mil/>.

The Navy has embraced a culture of fitness and I hope that you, your Sailors and your family members, have also embraced that culture of fitness. A recent initiative is working to promote Navy regional fitness centers have designed family friendly zones for parents wanting to work out while watching their children. A family fitness room, situated inside the fitness center, offers a convenience to patrons so parents can have the opportunity to receive a quality workout while keeping an eye on their child. Among the installa-

tions currently offering youth and family fitness programs are: Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor, NAS Oceana, Submarine Base Kings Bay, Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville, Comman Fleet Activities (CFA) Yokosuka, CFA Sasebo, NAS Whidbey Island, NAVSTA Rota, NAVSTA Mayport, NAVSTA San Diego, NB Ventura County, NAS Sigonella, Naval Base Kitsap - West Sound and NAVSTA Annapolis.

The target is for all Navy installations to have dedicated space and programs for family fitness by end of Fiscal Year '08.

Another group of incredibly valuable and unique members of our Navy family are our Navy ombudsmen. Navy ombudsmen provide a wealth of information, knowledge and experience whose main mission is providing a direct link between the commanding officer and the families of the command.

If you don't know who your command's ombudsman is, then that's a problem. Ombudsmen are typically very visible, easily accessible and have the CO's ear to provide information flow both ways. Here's the job description straight from the book:

"... a command-operated program intended to improve communication between the command and a Sailor's family members. Most importantly, it keeps members informed

about command policy and the command aware of family concerns. A major function of the ombudsman is providing information and referral services to the families ..."

So my advice to you is simple, get in contact with your ombudsman, get on the command phone tree, and update your address for the command family-program/newsletter. Ensure you and your family members are in the loop so you know what's going on, your voice can be heard, and you can get help when needed.

More information regarding the Navy ombudsman program is available at <http://www.ffsp.navy.mil/ffsp/ombudsman1/index.htm>.

I understand that some problems or issues do not have cut and dried solutions. Some can be painful and personal. While I encourage getting information, I strongly urge you to seek out the help and assistance the Navy offers when you need it. By being proactive with your issues you are more in control. If you become reactive, then it's more difficult to recover. Here are few helpful links to assist you:

- Deployment readiness: <http://www.ffsp.navy.mil/ffsp/deployment.htm>
- Exceptional Family Member Program: <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/ExceptionalFamilyMember/>

• Sexual assault victim: <http://www.ffsp.navy.mil/savi/html/savi.html>

• Repatriation and contingency Planning: <http://www.ffsp.navy.mil/ffsp/contingency.htm>

• Military One Source: <http://www.militaryonesource.com/skins/MOS/home.aspx>

For families with Sailors in the individual augmentee program, you find a lot of useful information at the BUPERS Web site (www.npc.navy.mil) or Navy Knowledge Online (<https://www.nko.navy.mil/>). Remember, every Sailor is a potential individual augmentee (IA) so they, along with their families, need to be ready to support.

Finally, there's the 1-866-U-ASK-NPC phone number to the Naval Personnel Command's Customer Service Center that's manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

I would like to close this week by expressing my deepest thanks to all Navy families supporting Sailors day in and day out.

I know firsthand that we cannot do the jobs we do without your support, and I want you to know how deeply appreciated it is. To my fellow warriors, take the first chance you get to tell your families "thanks," and, more importantly, keep them informed.

New CJCS sends message to troops and their families

Adm. Mike Mullen

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff

Adm. Mike Mullen began his term as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on Oct. 1, and released the following statement to America's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and their families:

... Allow me to thank you for your service at this critical time in our nation's history.

Whether you serve in Baghdad or Bagram, Kabul or Kuwait - whether you find yourself at sea in the Pacific, flying support missions over Europe, on the ground in Africa, or working every day at stateside bases - you are making a difference and so is every person in your family. Your service matters. And I do not take it for granted.

The world is a dangerous place. The hundreds of thousands of you who have deployed since Sept. 11 - many of you more than once - already know that. You've stood up to those dangers. You have lost friends to them. You may even have lost some of yourself to them. The dangers of this new and uncertain era have hit you and the people you love squarely in the gut. I will not lose sight of that.

Nor should any of us lose sight of the need to continue serving. The enemies we face, from radical jihadists to regional powers with nuclear ambitions, directly and irrefutably threaten our vital national interests. They threaten our very way of life.

You stand between these dangers and the American people. You are the sentinels of freedom. You signed up, took an oath, made a promise to defend something larger than yourselves. And then you went out and did it. I am grateful and honored to be able to serve alongside you.

The law says my main job is to advise the president, the Secretary of Defense and the National Security Council on issues of military readiness and capabilities. I will do that. But, I also see myself as your representative to those same leaders, an advocate for what matters to you and your families... I will not forget the impact my decisions have on you.

I am not interested in planning to fight the last war, but neither am I interested in ignoring the valuable lessons we continue to learn from this one. It would be foolish to dismiss the knowledge you have gained. I will not do that.

I know the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are taking a toll on you and your families. They are taking a toll on our equipment, our systems and our ability to train as well. I worry, quite frankly, that they are taking a toll on our readiness for other threats in other places.

But that does not mean our struggles there are not important. They most certainly are important. They are vital.

...My number one priority will be developing a comprehensive strategy to defend our national interests in the region.

Next on my list is resetting, reconstituting and revitalizing our armed forces, especially the Army and Marine Corps. I believe our ground forces are the center of gravity for the all-volunteer force and that we need to make sure that force is correctly shaped and sized, trained and equipped to defend the nation.

Finally, I intend to properly balance global strategic risk. We must stay mindful of our many global security commitments and of the core warfighting capabilities, resources, and partnerships required to conduct operations across the full spectrum of peace and conflict.

The conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan will one day end. We must be ready for who and what comes after.

There is much to do. The speed of war, the pace of change, is too great for any of us to manage it alone. I need your help, your ideas and your input. Whenever I travel to the field and to the fleet, I expect you to tell me what's on your mind. Tell me what you think. I need your constant feedback. I can't succeed - we can't succeed - without it.

You made a promise to defend this country. Let me make one to you: I will listen to you. I will learn from you. And I will endeavor to lead always with your best interest at heart.

The way I see it, that is my job now.

Inchon Invasion, September 1950



First Lieutenant Baldomero Lopez, USMC, leads the 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines over the seawall on the northern side of Red Beach as the second assault wave lands on Sept. 15, 1950. Wooden scaling ladders are in use to facilitate disembarkation from the LCPV that brought these men to the shore. Lopez was killed in action within a few minutes, while assaulting a North Korean bunker. Note M-1 carbine carried by Lt. Lopez, M-1 rifles of other Marines and details of the Marines' field gear. (Lopez was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery).

U.S. Marine Corps photograph, from the collections of the Naval Historical Center

Hawai'i Navy News

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Hawai'i Navy News is a free unofficial paper published every Thursday by The Honolulu Advertiser, 605 Kapiolani Blvd., Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96813, a private firm in no way connected with DoD, the U. S. Navy or Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i.

All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com World Wide Web address: www.hawaii.navy.mil

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Crommelin Sailors complete Fox Hunt training

Story and photo by
Ensign Andrea L. Sholtes

USS Crommelin (FFG 37)
Public Affairs

The Sailors of USS Crommelin (FFG 37) returned to their homeport of Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 14 after spending five weeks in the southern California operating area in preparation for their counter narco-terrorism deployment this November.

After picking up her new air department in San Diego (the "Red Stingers" of HSL-49 Det. 6 under air boss Lt. Cmdr. Eric Wever), Crommelin began the first part of training with week one work-ups (WOWUs). WOWUs were an excellent way for the air department to integrate into the command, both professionally and socially. Each pilot was required to qualify in areas such as deck landing qualification, helo in-flight refueling, vertical replenishment, torpedo loading, and low visibility and emergency approaches to the ship.

"WOWUs went extremely well. The flight deck crew and helo control officer (HCO) on Crommelin are very well trained," said Lt. Sarah Flaherty, HSL-49's maintenance officer. She added that Crommelin welcomed them with the spirit of aloha for which Pearl Harbor ships are renowned and that integrating into the crew of the "Indestructibles" was something she wished every air detachment could enjoy.

WOWUs were successful in every way. HSL-49 attained level qualifications Charlie, Bravo and Alpha and Crommelin resumed her role as a supported tactical platform in surface warfare, undersea



An SH-60B (HSL-49) conducts a helicopter in-flight refueling for WOWUs qualification. After picking up her new air department in San Diego (the "Red Stingers" of HSL-49 DET 6 under air boss Lt. Cmdr. Eric Wever), Crommelin (FFG 37) began the first part of training with week one work-ups (WOWUs).

warfare and maritime interdiction operations with the air assistance of an embarked helicopter.

Upon completion of WOWUs, Crommelin and HSL-49 moved into FOX HUNT training with the assistance of Coast Guard District 11 and the law enforcement team (LEDET) from the USCG Tactical Law Enforcement Team Pacific. FOX HUNT was a three-day event designed to prepare Crommelin for her upcoming deployment.

Lt. Joseph Droll, Crommelin's operations officer, summed it up best, "FOX HUNT was excellent training for Crommelin, especially considering the majority of crew members having never deployed with the mission being focused on counter narcotics." He

added that "it was a great way for Crommelin, HSL-49 and the Coast Guard LEDET team to operationally integrate to achieve a common goal."

In addition to valuable training during FOX HUNT, HSL-49 was able to certify in airborne use of force, an essential tactic that will be used in counter narcotic operations.

While homeward bound from southern California, Crommelin conducted her inaugural kite flying contest. Crew members constructed their own kites out of materials that they could find on board and were judged based on both design and flying capabilities. Team "Ramrod," consisting of Damage Controlman 1st Class Charles Friend, Operations

Specialist 2nd Class Austin Gunkel and Storekeeper 3rd Class Uy Vo, won the contest with their POW/MIA kite that flew for 15 seconds, a major feat considering none of the other entries flew longer than five seconds.

Upon arrival at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Crommelin enters both a complex maintenance availability and a pre-deployment standdown period. During standdown, Sailors will get a chance to rest and spend time with their loved ones before departing on a six-month deployment. With the hard work of her Sailors and a successful five weeks of integrated training, Crommelin can feel confident that she is prepared for the operations that lie ahead.

Navy Information Operations Command welcomes new chiefs

Ensign Carrie K. Sanders
Navy Information
Operations Command
Hawai'i Public Affairs

In a ceremony held at the USS Utah Memorial on Sept. 21, 12 Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Hawai'i Sailors reached a milestone in their Navy careers when pinned with the gold-fouled anchors of chief petty officers (CPO).

The guest speaker for the event was retired Command Master Chief Dave Tyner. He stood proudly before the chiefs' mess and spoke about the history of the Navy chief and how in the beginning Sailors were temporarily appointed to chief.

"We, as chiefs, are not afforded a trial run to see if the hat fits. Once you put on the hat, all of the requirements in the CPO creed rest squarely on your shoulders as the chief. You must fulfill that position with the utmost integrity to not only

build trust with your CO, but to set the proper example for the Sailors you will lead," said Tyner.

With more than 100 guests and the entire chiefs' mess present, the new chiefs had their anchors pinned on by fellow chiefs and family members.

Then, the chiefs' sponsors placed the sought-after combination cover on their heads for the first time and they were individually piped into the chief petty officers' mess.

The ceremony was the final step in becoming a Navy chief petty officer. Prior to this day, they underwent a six-week induction period that included physical training, classes and camaraderie that set the foundation for their life as chiefs.

The chief, being the guardian of naval heritage and tradition, is expected to stand taller and be wiser than anyone onboard. It is these awesome responsibilities that all real chiefs readily bear as they earn the right to be called 'the chief.'

Hispanic Heritage Month

Continued from A-1

All commands are strongly encouraged to increase their knowledge and awareness of the Hispanic culture and their contributions through programs, exhibits, publications and participation in military and community

events as we celebrate their traditions, ancestry, talents and experiences during Hispanic Heritage Month.

For more information on diversity conferences, events and observances, visit www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/diversity

www.hnn.navy.mil
Hawaii Navy News Online

Pearl Harbor Highlights



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Rachael Pitchford

USS Port Royal (CG 73) Sailors onboard the guided missile cruiser demonstrated their ability to protect the ship in a foreign port through a series of force protection exercises. The force protection exercises in San Diego marked the beginning of a week-long inspection that continued through Port Royal's transit home to Pearl Harbor. Inspectors assessed the ship's basic seamanship, tactical expertise, and damage control efforts. From hunting submarines to responding to a missile hit, every aspect of Port Royal's mission capabilities was reviewed. The ship's return to Pearl Harbor will mark a period for the crew to rest and prepare for their upcoming deployment. Port Royal will set sail for her next Western Pacific Deployment with ESG-3 in November.



Pearl Harbor-based guided missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) returned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor from deployment as part of USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) Expeditionary Strike Group on Sept. 28. It conducted maritime operations in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

US Navy photo by MC3 (AW) Eric J. Cutright



A member of Jimmy Buffet's tour crew looks at a replica of the "Old Betsy" rifle during a tour of Los Angeles-class submarine USS Greenville (SSN 772). During the tour, the 10 crew members visited the control room, navigation room, sound navigation and ranging room, the chief petty officer quarters, the crew's mess, torpedo room and the wardroom.

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



(Below) A Sailor stands ready to receive lines from guided missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) as she returns to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 28 after completing a five-and-a-half month deployment to the Western Pacific.

US Navy photo by MC3 (AW) Eric J. Cutright



Sailors assigned to Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) depart the brow after mooring pier side at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The Pearl Harbor-based ships, Chosin and Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon, returned Sept. 28 from a Western Pacific deployment as part of the USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) Expeditionary Strike Group. The ships departed Pearl Harbor on April 16 to join Expeditionary Strike Group Five and conducted operations in the Pacific and Central commands to help set the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment, as well as complement the counter-terrorism and security efforts of regional nations.

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



Admiral Mullen says thank you

Adm. Mike Mullen

Chairman Joint Chief of Staff

Hello everyone. I wanted to simply say thanks. Thanks to all our great Sailors and to your families.

You are the best I've ever seen in my four decades of service, and we simply wouldn't be the Navy we are today without you.

I've been asked by several people over the last couple of weeks what it is I will miss most about this job and about the Navy. I tell them pretty simply, it's the people. It's all of you.

It's people like Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Morgan B. Bradley.

I met Bradley back in January of 2006, when I was on a tour of the Haditha Dam in northern Iraq.

While serving with the Mobile Assault Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment in the fight for Fallujah in November 2004, Bradley had repeatedly braved enemy fire to care for his wounded Marines.

At one point in the fire-fight, he sprinted more than 50 yards out in the open, fully exposed to reach two Marines wounded by snipers. He pulled them to safety behind a covered position and calmly treated their wounds.

It happened in an instant. But everyone who witnessed it agreed it was an act of incredible courage not uncommon for the young man from Sacramento. Bradley himself was a little less sure about all that.

"I was just doing my job," was all he would say.

Just doing my job.

If I've heard that once, I've heard it a thousand times



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

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Adm. Mike Mullen is named an honorary master chief by Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON), Joe R. Campa in a ceremony that took place in the CNO's office. Mullen moved on to take charge as Chairman Joint Chief of Staff on Oct. 1.

since becoming CNO. And, it hasn't just come from Sailors like Bradley, though I've certainly pinned many medals on the chests of deserving hospital corpsmen.

It came from Seabees as they worked to dig out Gulfport, Miss., in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Most of their own homes had been obliterated, their own families evacuated, and yet they

rolled up their sleeves, picked up their hammers and helped put that town back together. It was just like something out of a John Wayne movie.

I heard it from a group of ombudsmen there as well.

Many of them had lost absolutely everything. They were hurting, barely getting by, and yet there they were at the Fleet and Family Support Center looking for ways to

help other Navy families. And, in so many ways families have made a difference in these last couple of years. The support of our families has been at the highest level I've ever seen it. I and my wife Deborah are incredibly appreciative of that support.

I've heard it from Sailors and Marines stationed far away from home in Japan, Korea, Guam, who know

their presence in that vital region helps preserve the peace.

"Just doing my job" is what the Navy security personnel who assist the Iraqis guarding the oil platforms in the Persian Gulf told me.

I heard it from explosive ordnance technicians working hard to find and disarm those IEDs, which are killing our other men and women in uniform.

From the men and women of Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, who know that setting the conditions for security there is vital to eliminating the threat of terrorism, and from some of our finest young naval officers commanding provincial reconstruction teams in Afghanistan.

They will all tell you they are just doing their jobs.

Many of them, in the places I just mentioned, are individual augmentees. Some 50,000 or so, over the last several of years from the Navy - individual augmentees. Their families, and supporting them, is a critical mission for all of us and they have performed at an exceptionally high level. Many of them tell me that's the best year they have ever had in their Navy career.

Doing incredible jobs, like the doctors and nurses aboard our hospital ships, USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) and USNS Comfort (T-AH 20), or the crew of USS Peleliu (LHA 5), which just returned last week from a four-month Pacific Partnership mission during which they helped provide care to more than 31,000 people.

Speaking of doctors and patients, I ran into a Navy doctor by the name of Saleem Khan during another trip to

Iraq. Khan is a reservist. He was 59 years old at the time, with 18 years in the Navy.

Raised in Pakistan, he can read Arabic and speak Persian. He was on his fifth tour in Iraq.

On the day I visited him, he was trying to save the life of an insurgent who only an hour or so before had been trying to kill our Marines. Khan said it was his job to save that life, and he was proud to do it.

A reporter who was traveling with us asked him why he joined the Navy at age 40.

He said, and I quote: "I never wanted anybody to look at me and say, 'Hey, you came over here and made a lot of money and you didn't pay your dues.' My kids were born in the United States. I want them to know their father paid his dues."

He was, he believed, just doing his job.

I'm convinced it's more than modesty, though it certainly reflects a good deal of that. It's a quiet, resolute pride that all of you harbor deep within, pride in doing what this nation has called you to do - pride in service and duty and honor.

For my part, I want you to know how proud I am, incredibly proud, to have had the opportunity to serve with you these past two years and to watch you at work, just doing your jobs - active, reserve, civilians.

It's been inspiring to me and to my wife, Deborah.

My tour as your CNO may be getting cut a little short, but my gratitude for all that you and your families do, every day, will endure the rest of my life.

Thank you for doing your jobs so well. Thank you for your service. And God bless.