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# Navy SEAL to be awarded posthumous Medal of Honor

**MCSN Michelle L. Kapica**

*Naval Special Warfare Command Public Affairs*

The White House announced Oct. 11 that the family of U.S. Navy SEAL [sea,air, land] , Lt. Michael P. Murphy, will be presented the U.S. Navy Medal of Honor, awarded posthumously, during a ceremony at the White House on Oct. 22.

The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest military award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the armed services of the United States.

Murphy's father, Daniel, will accept the award on behalf of his son. Lt. Murphy will receive the award for his extraordinary, selfless heroism and steadfast courage while leading a four-man, special reconnaissance mission deep behind enemy lines east of Asadabad in the Hindu Kush of Afghanistan on June 27-28, 2005.

"We are thrilled by the president's announcement today, especially because there is now a public recognition of what we knew all along about Michael's loyalty, devotion and sacrifice to his friends, family, country and especially his SEAL teammates," the Murphy family said in a statement. "The honor is not just about Michael, it is about his teammates and those who lost their lives that same day."

Murphy was the officer-in-charge of the SEAL element, which was tasked with locating a high-level Taliban militia leader to provide intelligence for a follow-on mission to capture or destroy the local leadership and disrupt enemy activity. However, local Taliban sympathizers discovered the SEAL unit and immediately revealed their position to Taliban fighters. The element was besieged on a mountaintop by scores of enemy fighters. The firefight that ensued pushed the element farther into enemy territory and left all four SEALs wounded.

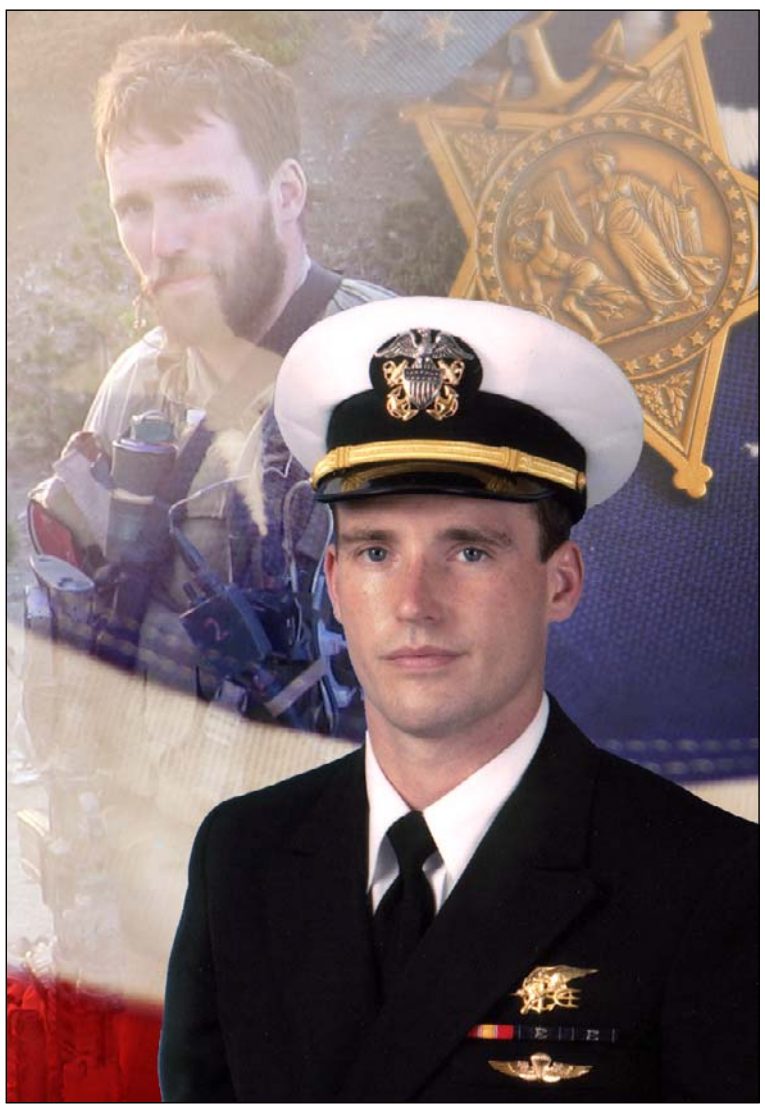

Photo illustration

Navy file photo of SEAL Lt. Michael P. Murphy from Patchogue, N.Y. Murphy was killed by enemy forces during a reconnaissance mission, Operation Red Wing, June 28, 2005, while leading a four-man team tasked with finding a key Taliban leader in the mountainous terrain near Asadabad, Afghanistan. The team came under fire from a much larger enemy force with superior tactical position. Murphy knowingly left his position of cover to get a clear signal in order to communicate with his headquarters and was mortally wounded while exposing himself to enemy fire. While being shot at, Murphy provided his unit's location and requested immediate support for his element. He returned to his cover position to continue the fight until finally succumbing to his wounds.

The SEALs fought the enemy fearlessly despite being at a tactical disadvantage and outnumbered more than four to one. Understanding the gravity of the situation and his responsibility to his men, Murphy, already wounded, deliberately and unhesitatingly moved from cover into the open where he took and returned fire while transmitting a call for help for his beleaguered teammates. Shot through the back while radioing for help, Murphy completed his transmission while returning fire. The call ultimately led to the rescue of one severely wounded team member, Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Marcus Luttrell, and the recovery of the remains of Murphy and Gunner's Mate 2nd Class (SEAL) Danny Dietz and Sonar Technician 2nd Class (SEAL) Matthew Axelson.

Eight more SEALs and eight Army "Nightstalker" special operations personnel comprising the initial reinforcement also lost their lives when their helicopter was shot down before they could engage the enemy. The entire battle, the culmination of Operation Redwing, resulted in the worst single day loss of life for naval special warfare personnel since World War II.

The sole surviving SEAL, Marcus Luttrell, wrote a book about the battle after he departed the Navy this summer. In his book, Luttrell credited all three of his teammates for their heroism, including Murphy's sacrificial act that eventually led to his rescue.

Murphy will be inducted into the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon during a ceremony scheduled Oct. 23. His name will be engraved beside the names of some 3,400 other service members who have also been awarded the nation's highest honor.

Awarded by the president in the name of Congress, the Medal of Honor was created in 1861 as a personal award of valor for members of the Navy. Soon thereafter, another version was created for the Army and ultimately, the Medal of Honor was presented to more than 1,500 Civil War veterans. Later the Air Force created its own unique Medal of Honor design. Marines and Coast Guardsmen are awarded the Navy's version of the Medal of Honor.

U.S. Navy Illustration by MC3 Jay M. Chu

Photo Illustration of maritime operations from the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

## Sea service chiefs present strategy for new maritime era

**Special release from the Department of the Navy**

The Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard released Oct. 17, "A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower," a unified maritime strategy that explains the comprehensive role of the sea services in an era marked by increased globalization and change.

This is the first time a unified maritime strategy has been signed by all three of the sea services.

The strategy integrates seapower with other elements of U.S. national power in addition to that of friends, partners and allies. It states that protecting the U.S. homeland and winning the nation's wars is matched by a corresponding commitment to preventing war.

"This strategy addresses the balance of capabilities of our maritime services. It reaffirms our core capabilities of forward presence, deterrence, sea control and power projection. It also commits our maritime forces to increased international cooperation for the benefit of all," said Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations. "It reflects the expectation of the people of the United States to be a strong maritime force to protect our homeland and work collaboratively with partners around the world to secure and stabilize the global waterways that are critical to our prosperity."

"While we must maintain a balance of forces to be able to deliver credible combat power as deterrence, we also believe preventing wars is as important as winning wars," said Gen. James Conway, commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. "We need to be the most ready when the nation is least ready."

"Keeping the seas safe and secure from a broad range of threats and hazards is in everyone's best interest," said Adm. Thad Allen, commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. " The key to global prosperity and security is through cooperation and coordination."

The strategy codifies the requirement for continued development and application of existing core capabilities of forward presence, deterrence, sea control and power projection, while recognizing the need for expanded capabilities of maritime security and humanitarian assistance and disaster response.

The strategy was developed collaboratively, using an open and inclusive approach that drew upon the insights of academic, business, civic and military leaders and strategists. The resulting strategy binds maritime services more closely together than they have ever been before to promote stability, security and prosperity at home and abroad.

For more information visit www.navy.mil/maritime.

# Navy, families remember World War II submarine USS Wahoo

**Story and photo by MC1 (SW) Cynthia Clark**

*Commander Submarine Force Pacific Fleet Public Affairs*

Rear Adm. Joe Walsh, commander, Submarine Force Pacific Fleet, led families in a final farewell to the USS Wahoo (SS 238) as the guest speaker at a ceremony Oct. 11 at the USS Bowfin museum at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

"They are at peace together just as they fought together," said Walsh about the crew of the Wahoo – one of the greatest fighting submarines in the history of the U.S. Navy. "Wahoo is a legend and you should all be assured and proud the legend of Wahoo lives on. I am both honored and humbled to be part of this ceremony, reminding us all of the sacrifices made by the crew and the families of the USS Wahoo."

More than 180 family members came from all over the U.S. to mark the 64th anniversary of Wahoo's disappearance and to toll the bell, remembering their family members still on "eternal patrol."

"It was a very emotional and powerful ceremony," said Clifton Anderson, nephew of Lt. Ritchie Neal Henderson, Wahoo crew member. "It's been 64 years to finally have closure to this. I came here representing my family and was very honored to ring the bell in remembrance of my uncle."

Wahoo was last heard from Sept. 13, 1943 as the Gato-class submarine departed the island of Midway enroute to the "dangerous, yet important" Sea of Japan. Under strict radio silence, Cmdr. Dudley W. "Mush" Morton and his crew proceeded as ordered. Radio contact was expected to be regained with Midway in late October upon Wahoo's departure from the Sea of Japan through the Kurile Island chain. No such contact was made. Following an aerial search of the area, Wahoo was officially reported missing Nov. 9, 1943.

At the time, the loss of Wahoo was believed to be due to mines or a faulty torpedo. Japanese reports later stated that one of its planes had spotted an American submarine in the La Perouse Strait on Oct. 11, 1943. These reports indicate that a multi-hour combined sea and air attack involving depth charges and aerial bombs finally sunk Wahoo.

Command Master Chief (ETCM) (SS) Tyrone Oien tolls the bell of the USS Wahoo (SS 238) during a remembrance ceremony Oct. 11 at the USS Bowfin Museum at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The ceremony honored Sailors from the Wahoo which was last heard from Sept. 13, 1943.

Japan Maritime Self Defense Force retired Vice Adm. Kazuo Ueda assisted the group with providing historical records from the Imperial Japanese Navy that identified the location where Wahoo was sunk.

With the combined efforts of the Wahoo Project Group which was coordinated by Bryan MacKinnon, a relative of Wahoo's skipper, Cmdr. "Mush" Morton, and a group of Russian divers who photographed the wreckage, Commander, Submarine Force Pacific fleet was able to review analysis and photos to confirm the submarine was indeed Wahoo.

"Closure is always difficult," said Douglas Morton, son of Cmdr. Morton, who was four years old when USS Wahoo went missing. "It's been a long time and I think that having the crew members' families here was really important since the loss everyone here had never really goes away and hopefully, this type of ceremony will help."

The Navy has no plans to salvage or enter the Wahoo wreck. Naval tradition holds that the sea is a fitting final resting place for Sailors lost at sea. The Sunken Military Craft Act protects military wrecks, such as Wahoo, from unauthorized disturbance.

(Additional photo of USS Wahoo rememberence ceremony on page A-5)

Pearl Harbor Survivor is buried at sea
See page A-4

Chung-Hoon shows appreciation for food service assistants See page A-6

Cell phone restrictions
See page A-7

Blues on the Bay
See page B-1

# Rear Adm. James E. Beebe retires after 32 years of service

**Story and photo by MC3 John W. Ciccarelli**

*Fleet Public Affairs Center Detachment Hawai'i*

Rear Adm. James E. Beebe, deputy commander of Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet and deputy commander of Navy Region Hawai'i, retired after 32 years of honorable service on Oct. 6 during a ceremony held at the U.S. World War II Submarine Memorial at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

As Beebe was piped ashore for the last time, he took time to thank the Navy and the hundreds of family, friends and old shipmates in attendance for their support throughout his distinguished career.

"With all the Navy has given me and my family, I hope that the little bit of aloha I was able to give back has made our Navy a better place to serve," said Beebe.

Beebe, through his three decades of dedicated service, has encountered people of many different backgrounds and has always enjoyed watching his shipmates excel and grow in both their personal and professional lives.

"My most memorable experience in the Navy is seeing all my shipmates return from deployment, grow in their careers, and get to that next level of achievement," said Beebe. "I admit it was tough in the beginning, but if I had the chance to do it all over again I truly would not do anything different."

Beebe's naval career began with an assignment aboard George Washington-class, nuclear-powered fleet ballistic missile submarine USS Robert E. Lee (SSBN 601) as a first lieutenant. This was followed by completion of the naval nuclear propulsion training program at Mare Island, Calif. and Idaho Falls, Idaho in 1977.

Beebe commented on how much the Navy has changed since his days as a junior officer.

"The Navy has changed a great deal since I joined over 32 years ago with new technology and ships, but the thing that kept me fueled and made my love for the Navy continue to grow over the years is the great people that I have had the privilege to not only command, but also build lifelong friendships with," said Beebe.

A native of Wahiawa, Hawai'i, Beebe graduated from Leilehua High School and decided at an early age that he wanted to see the world outside of Hawai'i.

"In my life, the Navy has made a life-changing impact by showing me the world outside Hawai'i and by allowing me to grow as a person," said Beebe. "These opportunities gave me a chance to see countries, meet people, and learn about things I would have never learned if I would have stayed here."

Beebe joined the Naval Reserves in 1981. His first command was Competent (AFDM 6) Floating Dry Dock Reserve Support unit at Pearl Harbor, which earned the Battle Efficiency 'E'. Beebe also commanded Commander Submarine Squadron 7 staff reserve unit, United States Pacific Command Naval Reserve Detachment 120, U.S. Naval Forces Japan, Naval Reserve Detachment 219 and Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet Detachment 420 Management Assessment Team (MAT) unit.

Beebe is a graduate of the Naval War College Joint Operation, Strategy and Policy and National Security/ Decision Making courses.

His personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), the Navy Achievement Medal and various service ribbons.

Rear Adm. James E. Beebe, deputy commander of Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet and deputy commander of Navy Region Hawai'i, receives the ensign during his retirement ceremony Oct. 6 held at the U.S. WWII Submarine Memorial at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Beebe bid farewell to friends and fellow shipmates after 32 years of honorable service.

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Hawaii Navy News

# Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

## DON objectives for 2008 released

**Department of the Navy**

The Secretary of the Navy, Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marine Corps issued a joint document on Oct. 9 publishing objectives for the Department of the Navy DON for fiscal year 2008.

As summarized in an ALNAV 071/07 message, the leadership of the Navy and Marine Corps described the strategic value of the 2008 DON objectives and explained their intent to personally track them. They set a high priority on providing a total naval workforce capable and optimized to support the national defense strategy. This objective includes building active Marine Corps end-strength and providing high quality support services to naval personnel and their families.

The leadership of the Department of the Navy also highlighted the requirement to utilize the Navy and Marine Corps to aggressively prosecute the global war on terrorism, which includes providing combatant commanders with skilled forces for full spectrum operations; optimizing naval contribution to special operations forces; and supporting Joint IED [improvised explosive devices] Defeat Office efforts to field working solutions to IED threats.

The objectives emphasized building the Navy and Marine Corps force for the future to include numerous programs and processes, such as implementing a strategy for Marine Corps modernization and reconstitution, operationalizing theater ballistic missile defense naval capability, and delivering maritime domain awareness capability.

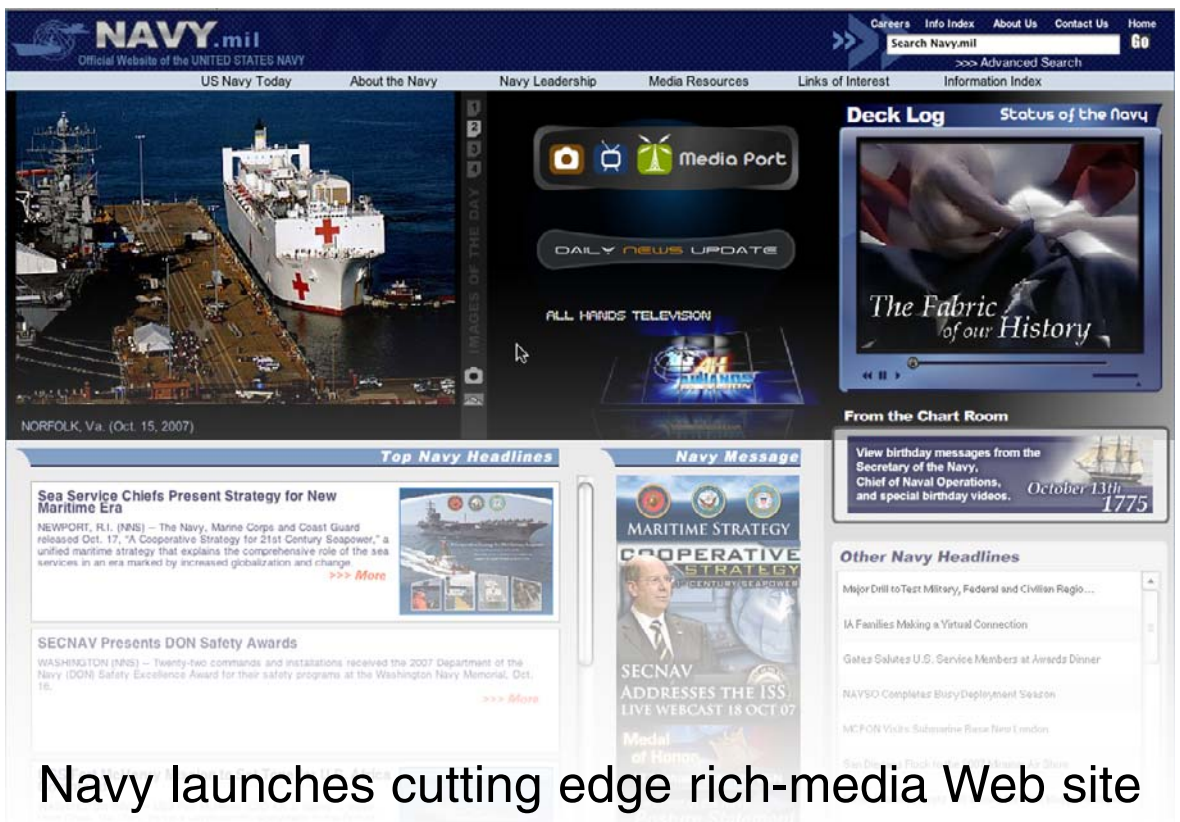
The importance of integrating safety and risk management into all on and off-duty evolutions was included in the 2008 DON objectives. This emphasis on safety is intended to establish DON as an organization with a world-class record where no mishap is accepted as the cost of doing business.

The need to strengthen ethics as a foundation of exemplary conduct within the Department of the Navy and providing first-rate facilities to support stationing, training and operations of naval forces was also stressed.

New this year was an objective that set a high priority on providing first rate facilities to support stationing, training and operations for the Navy and Marine Corps.

To review the 2008 DON objectives in its entirety, visit http://www.navy.mil/features/2008%20DON%20Objectives%20_signed.pdf

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Eduardo Zaragoza




## Navy launches cutting edge rich-media Web site

**Lt. j.g. Marie Tillery**

*Navy News Service*

On the eve of its 232 birthday, the Navy introduced a new, user-friendly Web site which will better serve its Sailors, their families and the public. The new www.navy.mil Web site design now has a more appealing and intuitive rich-media focus, rather than an electronic print focus.

The highly interactive site offers a variety of new multimedia capabilities, which means visitors can more easily browse the extensive video, radio, print and multimedia stories produced by and for Navy members.

One of the most noticeable changes to the site is the presentation. The redesign of Navy.mil is now focused on rich media content instead of electronic print media, thereby providing equal visibility and access to all products. Clicking on the media port logo will take the user to a carousel interface of rotating icons. These icons offer all Naval Media Center products including All Hands Radio, All Hands Television, Daily News Update, Podcasts, Photo Gallery, Every Day in the Navy (short multimedia pieces that showcase Navy activities and events) and All Hands Magazine.

One other visible change will be the full integration of Navy NewsStand into Navy.mil. All "top stories" and "headlines" will now be offered on the Navy.mil front page, with the main Navy NewsStand page being phased out. Local stories will still be available on local NewsStand sites as before.

"Our goal in this redesign is to provide the U.S. Navy and its public the type of site they'll not only like, but use regularly as a source of reliable information," said William Spencer, the interactive media program manager for Navy.mil. "The feedback we've received in beta testing has been extremely positive and people think the site's high-speed, cutting-edge look and feel better reflects our high-tech Navy."

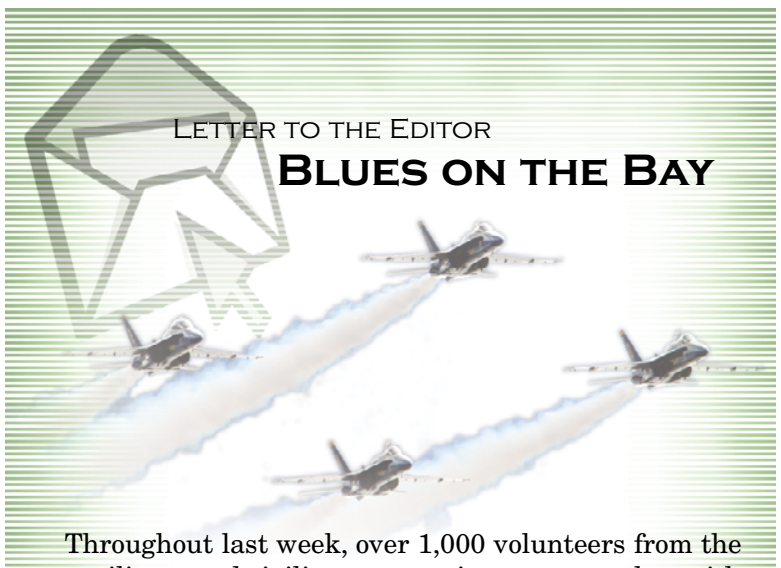
Those who prefer video-specific media will be pleased to learn all video will be available for download in the Windows media video format.

However, viewing will be integrated into the site using flash player.

This new capability makes products more accessible regardless of the user's computer operating system. Additionally, the site will now offer products for download at any time, whether the material is current or archived.

Letter to the Editor

## Blues on the Bay



Throughout last week, over 1,000 volunteers from the military and civilian community came together with a common purpose - to offer their spare time enthusiastically helping with the U.S. Navy Blue Angels air show at the Marine Corps Base Hawai'i at Kaneohe Bay. Each and every one stepped up to the plate, as a team, and got the job done. More than 7,000 hours of volunteer work helped over 100,000 visitors have an enjoyable and memorable day.

The organizers also went above and beyond the call of duty. They successfully pulled everything together by utilizing the outstanding support of all branches of the military, the many professional aircraft personnel, food caterers, security forces, and scores of other organizations at the event and behind the scenes who simply did what they do best - and more.

And last, but even most importantly - our hats are off to the many daring pilots of the Blue Angels and the other amazing aircraft. Because, for a brief moment in time, they made young and older eyes who looked skyward feel as if they, too, were soaring above the clouds.

Bravo Zulu to all of those involved.

John Burns
Civilian, Navy Region Hawai'i

## *Burial at sea for Sailors aboard USS Houston (CL 81)*

Photograph from the Bureau of Ships Collection in the U.S. National Archives

Burial at sea for crewmen killed when the USS Houston (CL-81) was torpedoed off Formosa on Oct. 14, 1944. Photographed while Houston was under tow on Oct. 15. The following day, Oct. 16, she was hit in the starboard quarter (just aft of where this view was taken) by another aerial torpedo.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**Hawaii Navy News**



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# Pearl Harbor Survivor is buried at sea

**Story and photo by**
**MC3 Paul D. Honnick**

*Fleet Public Affairs Center Detachment Hawai'i*

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Illianna Thomas of Naval Station Pearl Harbor's honor guard presents Carole Cook, wife of Pearl Harbor survivor Chief Shipfitter Gordon E. Cook, with the American flag during a burial-at-sea held Oct. 4 at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island. Cook's ashes were scattered into the water by the family next to the sunken ship as the honor guard performed a 21-gun salute. Cook was serving aboard destroyer tender USS Whitney (AD-4) when Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

A Sailor who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor was committed to the sea Oct. 4 during a ceremony held at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor.

In accordance with his wishes, the family of Chief Shipfitter Gordon E. Cook honored his memory by scattering his ashes into the harbor next to the sunken ship where 54 crew members lost their lives Dec. 7, 1941.

"Thanks to Gordon's loving wife of 45 years, his daughters and other family members, we will now honor him as he so richly deserves," said retired Master Chief Yeoman Jim Taylor, burial at sea coordinator for the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

Cook was serving aboard destroyer tender USS Whitney (AD-4) when Japanese planes attacked and explosions were heard at approximately 8 a.m. on Dec. 7, 1941.

He watched from the fantail of the ship as the day's horrific events unfolded from the bombing of Ford Island and Battleship Row, including the massive explosion caused by a single bomb that penetrated the deck of USS Arizona and ignited the ship's forward ammunition hold.

Cook participated in the salvage operations that followed and later in his military career, he participated in the battle of Guadalcanal.

Cook enlisted in the Navy in February 1940 and was honorably discharged June 1946.

He passed away July 3.

In attendance were Cook's wife Carole, daughter Lauri Bookter, daughter Kathy and her husband Cmdr. Lance Fewel, Naval Reserve Officer Corps; grandson Connor Fewel and granddaughter Ashtyn Fewel.

"He was a wonderful, caring husband. He was very sweet. Everybody that knew him really liked him and he'll be very missed for a long time," said Carole Cook.

"I'm awe-struck with how wonderful the ceremony was and having the opportunity to come out here and honor his service and sacrifice makes me very proud," said Cmdr. Fewel.

As his ashes drifted by USS Utah, the NAVSTA Pearl Harbor ceremonial guard rendered a 21-gun salute followed by the playing of Taps by the Pacific Fleet Band.

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Illianna Thomas, a volunteer honor guard member, presented Cook's wife with his flag.

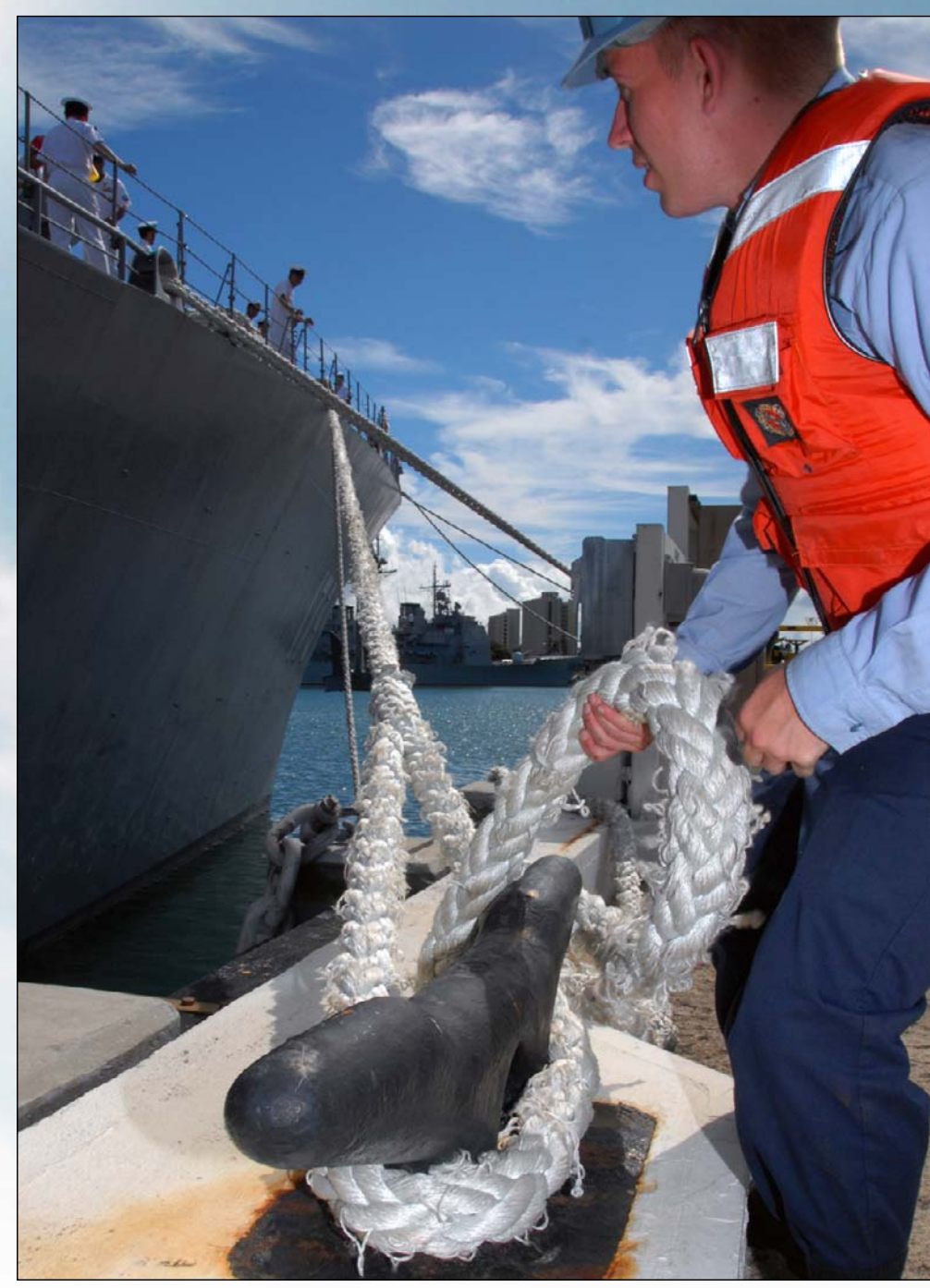
(Background) Family members scatter the ashes of Chief Shipfitter Gordon E. Cook into the water by USS Utah during a burial-at-sea ceremony on Oct. 4 at the memorial on Ford Island. The Naval Station Pearl Harbor Honor Guard performed a 21-gun salute as the leis and his ashes drifted by the sunken ship.

Photo illustration

# Pearl Harbor Highlights

U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Theresa Donnelly

Seamen Jeremy Henthorne enters machinery space two with a fire bottle. The Sailors from USS Russell (DDG 59) were participating in a main space fire drill, one of several engineering drills done recently in preparation for Unit Level Training Assessment, Engineering (ULTRA E).



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

Operations Specialist Seaman Jerry Carpenter, assigned to USS Lake Erie (CG 70), performs line handlers for Japanese destroyer, JS Kongo (DDG 173), as she moors pierside Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Currently in Pearl Harbor, Kongo is the first Japanese ship with the capability to detect, track and intercept short to medium range ballistic missiles. Later this year, Kongo will conduct a flight test, designated Japan Flight Test Mission-1, at Pacific Missile Range Facility, Hawai'i.

Rear Adm. Joe Walsh, Commander, Submarine Force Pacific Fleet, and Cmdr. Mike Schutz, presented a wreath honoring Sailors from USS Wahoo (SS 238) during a rememberance ceremony, on Oct. 11 at the USS Bowfin Museum at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

MC1 (SW) Cynthia Clark

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

(Left to Right) Cmdr. Ton Druggan, commanding officer of USS O'Kane (DDG 77) explains the meaning of the ship's Battle Ensign to family members of Rear Adm. O'Kane.

U.S. Navy photo

Ensign Xyrone Ocampo of USS O'Kane (DDG 77) discusses the ship's recent deployment with members of the Asia-Pacific Center for Strategic Security (APCSS) when the group toured O'Kane on Oct. 12. The tour focused on crew habitability and quality of life.

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

Sailors assigned to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor wash a car during a fundraiser for the 2007 Hawai'i-Pacific Area Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) on board NAVSTA Pearl Harbor. The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

# Chung-Hoon shows appreciation for food service assistants

**Ensign Sarah Welsch**

*USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) Public Affairs*

The culinary specialists and food service attendants (FSAs) of USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) labor around the clock to provide tasty and nutritious meals for the 300 Sailors aboard the ship.

Over the course of its recent deployment, Chung-Hoon developed a number of ways to show her appreciation for those who serve the crew onboard the ship. The wardroom and the chiefs' mess both hosted FSA appreciation luncheons, enabling the FSAs to enjoy a meal on the "other side of the table." Those they normally serve took the role of taking their orders and serving them meals on china. The Second Class Petty Officer Association took over the mess and galley for another meal, both cooking and serving, in order to give the FSAs and cooks a well-deserved break.

Culinary Specialist Chief Petty Officer Roberto Diaz noted that Chung-Hoon is the first ship on which he has been assigned that has hosted appreciation luncheons for the FSAs. In addition, Chung-Hoon also awards "FSA of the Month" to one of the assistants. Diaz had great things to say about the FSAs, who are up before reveille and washing up until long after taps. He said that not only does he rely on them to keep the messes running, but their hard work and service keep the ship's crew running on schedule as well.

The FSAs are a large part of the supply organization onboard as over 50 percent of the food service personnel are working at any one time. They are actually a group of Sailors from various divisions throughout the ship, including weapons, operations and engineering. These young men and women are filling a vital service role and their hard work enables the Chung-Hoon to support the mission.

Fire Controlman 3rd Class Michael Lynam, a recent addition to the galley, said he enjoyed the appreciation luncheons and only wishes there could be "more of them." "There's no such thing as holiday routine for the galley and it's nice to see that the ship recognizes that," he said.

U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Michelle K. Stanforth

Members of USS Chung-Hoon's wardroom reverse roles with the food service assistants and serve the crew from the mess line.

# Drivers reminded to heed policy on cell phone use while driving

**Karen S. Spangler**

*Editor*

Drivers are reminded of the Navy's policy regarding cell phone use while driving on Navy installations.

The Department of Defense policy is aimed at reducing additional distractions that impede drivers from safely operating a motor vehicle.

"This is all part of an effort to keep our drivers' full attention on safely operating their moving vehicles," explained C.B. "Buff" Shaw, public safety director for Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i. "And restricting the use of ear devices such as blue tooth or ear buds is in accordance with Commander Naval Installations Command (CNIC) cell phone policy," he noted.

Under the policy implemented by Navy Region Hawai'i on Aug. 1, 2006, drivers may use hands-free cellular phone devices, including console/dash-mounted or otherwise secured cellular phones with integrated features such as voice activation, speed dial, speakerphone or other similar features.

Drivers cannot hold, dial, text or adjust a cell phone while the vehicle is in motion. However, passengers in the vehicle may continue to use cell phones or other similar, hand-held audio-visual devices.

The use of any portable, personal listening device worn inside the aural canal, around or covering the driver's ear while operating a motor vehicle, except for fire and emergency response or law enforcement/security purposes, is prohibited. Prohibited listening devices include wired or wireless earphones and headphones (including blue tooth or similar technology), but do not include hearing aids or devices designed and required for hearing protection.

"The intent of this change is to eliminate distractions that are not related to driving - with the end result a change in driving behaviors," explained Shaw.

The policy applies to all military personnel, civilian employees, family members, contractors, tenants and visitors who operate motor vehicles on Navy shore installations. It also includes all areas where the Navy provides law enforcement, such as the Navy Exchange complex, Navy-Marine Golf Course and Navy housing areas.

The policy affects drivers of all privately-owned motor vehicles while on Navy property, as well as operators of government-owned vehicles both on and off installations. The policy does not apply to fire and emergency services personnel, emergency medical personnel, or law enforcement and security personnel while performing their official duties. However, emergency and security personnel are advised to be aware of the potential for driver distraction and to avoid the use of cell phones while driving as much as possible.

The citations will result in a three-point penalty assessed to the violator's driving record. If a driver accumulates 12 points within a 12-month period or 18 points within a 24-month period, they are subject to suspension of installation driving privileges for a period of up to one year.

All drivers, including military, civilians, contractors and visitors, who fail to comply with the policy are subject to administrative action. This could result in a loss of driving privileges on base and removal from or denial of re-entry to the base.

Information from studies and investigations provided by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Insurance Information Institute show an increased number of traffic accidents related to cell phone use while driving.

Base security officials and local law enforcement remind drivers of the dangers of any type of distraction while driving. This includes not only the use of cell phones, but also other activities that may deter or reduce the driver's attention from driving. Such distracting activities frequently practiced by drivers include such habits as eating, drinking, trying to read a map or directions, disciplining children, putting on makeup, putting CDs into the CD player, and tuning radios.

Whether or not it's a law or policy, law enforcement officials advise drivers that it is safer to pull off the road while talking on cell phones or dialing numbers on their cell phones.

For more information, contact your supervisor.

# MCBH announces new no cell phone use policy

**Marine Corps Base Hawai'i Safety Office**

Effective Oct.1, the Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH) policy on the use of cell phones has changed. Drivers are no longer permitted to use cell phones while operating a vehicle aboard MCBH regardless if a hands-free device is used.

Drivers cited for using a cell phone while driving on MCBH or drivers who have a seatbelt violation will receive the following penalties: First offense, 30-day suspension; second offense, 90-day suspension, and third offense, six-month suspension.

Military police will remove the base decal at the time the driver is cited and issue a letter of temporary suspension. Vehicles must then be immediately removed from MCBH. Authorized family members may request a "no male"/ "no female" decal be placed on their vehicle if a driver is suspended or revoked.

The third party traffic complaints policy enables a qualified individual who witnesses a traffic violation and can positively identify the violator to initiate administrative action against the violator. The person reporting the incident is required to attend traffic court to testify about the incident they observed. The online report is located at http://www. mcbh.usmc.mil/

The increase in penalty for seatbelt and cell phone violations coupled with the re-emphasis of the third party traffic complaint policy have been implemented to encourage and promote safe driving habits both on and off MCBH.

Losing your driving privelege on base is "no fun." Let's get use to the rules; after all, it is all for your own safety and the safety of others.

# Construction projects around Pearl Harbor

The following scheduled power outages and road closures have been announced:

**Ford Island:**

• A new temporary road will be opened from Chafee Boulevard to provide access to the area for public-private venture (PPV) construction through June 30, 2008.

**Naval Station Pearl Harbor:**

• 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 military construction project in the area through Nov. 26, 2008.

• An electrical power outage has been scheduled between the hours of 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Oct. 20. The electrical power for the following areas will be affected: Buildings 277, 166 west, 158, 159, 38, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAFVAC) Hawai'i gas station and car wash area, 397, and 1315 bachelor officers' (BOQ) quarters. The NAVFAC Hawai'i gas station will operate as usual under backup power. BOQ 1315 will be provided with a generator. Building 397, telephone exchange, has a backup generator and phone service will not be affected.

• A street light repair project along North Road is scheduled for two weekends, Oct. 20-21 and Oct. 27-28 between the hours of 7 a.m.-3 p.m. North Road's right westbound lane between Merry Point and Makalapa Drive will be closed during light repairs.

• A street light repair project along Nimitz Street is scheduled for Nov. 3 on Nimitz Street's right westbound lane between North Road and Morton Street during the hours of 7 a.m.-3 p.m. From 7 a.m.-10 a.m., entry to the submarine base area shall be either through Bole or Shane Streets.

**Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Pearl:**

• A street light repair project along North Road near FISC Pearl is scheduled for Nov. 4 from 7 a.m. -3 p.m. The right southbound lane of North Road between Kuahua Avenue and Waterfront Street will be closed to traffic.

# CNP powers up advanced technology suite

**MCC (SW) Maria Yager**

*Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs*

With a snip of the scissors, the Chief of Naval Personnel streamlined the process of selecting the Navy's future chiefs, officers and even astronauts, during a ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 10.

Vice Adm. John C. Harvey Jr. and Rear Adm. Edward "Sonny" Masso, commander, Navy Personnel Command/Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel, visited the selection board center at Navy Personnel Command (NPC) to launch the newest version of the Electronic Military Personnel Records System, known as EMPRS-TR. The TR represents the technical refreshment the system has undergone.

"It gives me great pleasure to be here to dedicate the EMPRS Tech Refresh project. The people in this room have put in a great effort in bringing this massive system online. Your efforts have improved system response time, reliability, maintainability and our security posture. You have provided a much-needed service to the Navy selection board process," said Harvey.

First introduced in 1995, EMPRS is used to conduct promotion and selection boards here. It allows board members to access a Sailor's official military personnel file.

These documents are stored electronically and can be viewed from one of the 220 work stations in the selection board center. More than 100,000 records are reviewed annually during board proceedings. The technical refreshment is the first major upgrade to the system since its inception.

NPC conducts promotion and selection boards 50 weeks out of the year. These boards include promotions for officers and chiefs, selection boards for test pilots, and Seaman to Admiral applicants, limited duty officer/chief warrant officer in service procurement, and even NASA astronaut screening. The largest is the active-duty E-7 board with more than 20,000 eligible candidates whose records will be reviewed through EMPRS-TR.

"The system we use to conduct promotion and selection boards must be dependable and provide the capability to comply with statutory records retention requirements. EMPRS-TR provides this platform and ensures the Navy's ability to meet these requirements now and in the foreseeable future," said Chris Zaller, branch head, at NPCs selection board support section. Statutory boards are promotion boards required by law, he added.

More than 100 military, civilian and contract personnel support EMPRS-TR and the selection board process.

For more information about selection and promotion boards, visit http://www.npc.navy.mil/Boards .

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Ken Ingram

Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. J.C. Harvey cuts the ribbon commissioning the new Electronic Military Personnel Records System technical refreshment (EMPRS-TR) on Oct. 10 at Navy Personnel Command, Millington, Tenn. EMPRS-TR is used to conduct promotion and selection boards.