

Trick or Treat!

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Hawai'i Navy News

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October 26, 2007

www.hawaii.navy.mil

Volume 32 Issue 42

USS Ohio visits Pearl Harbor

USS Ohio (SSGN 726) arrives at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Oct. 22 to re-supply before continuing on its maiden deployment to the Western Pacific following a recent guided-missile overhaul. USS Ohio (SSGN 726) is the first of four Ohio-class Trident missile submarines being converted to carry guided missiles and Special Operations Forces (SOF). In December 2005, USS Ohio completed conversion to a guided-missile submarine capable of carrying more than 150 Tomahawk cruise missiles and more than 60 SOF members for extended periods. This conversion is a major step forward in the Navy's ability to fight the global war on terrorism. USS Michigan (SSGN 727), USS Florida (SSGN 728), and USS Georgia (SSGN 729) are also undergoing conversion to SSGN.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Luciano Marano



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Brien Aho

President George W. Bush presents the Medal of Honor to Daniel and Maureen Murphy, the parents of Navy SEAL Lt. Michael Murphy, during a ceremony at the White House on Oct. 22.

Bush presents Medal of Honor to parents of Navy SEAL

John J. Kruzal

American Forces Press Service

President Bush posthumously presented the Medal of Honor earned by Lt. Michael P. Murphy, a Navy SEAL [sea, air, land] who sacrificed his life in an attempt to save fellow SEALs during a fierce battle with Taliban fighters in Afghanistan.

The Medal of Honor, accepted by Murphy's parents, Maureen and Dan Murphy, during a White House ceremony on Oct. 22, is the highest military decoration. Murphy's is the first Medal of Honor awarded for service in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

"Today we add Lt. Michael

Murphy's name to the list of recipients who have made the ultimate sacrifice," Bush said. "By presenting Michael Murphy's family with the Medal of Honor that he earned, a grateful nation remembers the courage of this proud Navy SEAL."

On June 28, 2005, as Murphy led a four-man SEAL team in search of key terrorist commander, the unit came under attack by some 50 Taliban fighters. The lieutenant is credited with risking his own life to save the lives of his teammates, according to a summary of action published by the Navy.

Despite intense combat around him, Murphy - already wounded in

See LT. MURPHY, A-2

Military personnel, assets help to battle California fires

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

Military personnel and assets are helping out in the most serious outbreak of wildfires in California in years.

California National Guard and California-based active-duty personnel are providing some of the muscle needed to contain the fires, which have driven more than 300,000 people from their homes in 12 counties.

Officials at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho are working with representatives from U.S. Northern Command to coordinate requests for Department of Defense (DoD) personnel and assets. Northern Command also has personnel working in southern California directly with local authorities.

With 11 fires burning out of control from Los Angeles to the Mexican border, some DoD installations are themselves in danger from the wildfires. Camp Pendleton, the San Diego Marine Recruit Depot and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar are among the installations asking only essential personnel to come in to work.

A total of 17,031 California National Guardsmen are available for employment if the situation calls for it, said officials at U.S. Northern Command. Some 33 active duty, 79 defense civilian personnel and 1,500 California National Guardsmen are actively engaged or directly supporting firefighting response, security and relief operations.

Another 550 Marines from Camp Pendleton have volunteered to help local authorities fight the fires in San Diego



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Theresa Donnelly

Gunners Mate 3rd Class Bryan Marsh, assigned to Destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59), hands out a toy to an evacuee at the Naval Station San Diego Gym. More than 30 Russell Sailors volunteered in response to the wildfires in southern California that have destroyed more than 300,000 acres of land.

County.

California authorities have requested and the DoD has sent significant firefighting assets to the area. Helicopters are the most effective airborne asset, as the Santa Ana winds -- which are driving the fire -- make flying fixed-wing aircraft dangerous. California Guardsmen are flying a CH-47 and five UH-60 helicopters in the effort.

Navy pilots are flying two MH-60 aircraft in support of local firefighting efforts. The Marine Corps have a CH-46 and three CH-53 helicopters on standby at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, and one additional helicopter on standby at Camp Pendleton. All of the choppers can drop water using buckets.

On Oct. 22, the National Interagency Fire Center requested six C-130 Hercules aircraft

fitted with modular air firefighting systems.

The Air National Guard will deploy four of these aircraft to Naval Air Station Point Mugu, Calif. In addition, two C-130s from the 153rd Airlift Wing of the Wyoming Air National Guard, and two from the 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina Air National Guard, are on alert.

Two C-130s from the Air Force Reserve's 302nd Airlift Wing Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. arrived at Point Mugu on Oct 23.

On the ground, the Marine Corps and Navy have deployed six fire trucks each to support local fire fighting efforts. The Navy has also provided a brush truck. All these moves are under mutual aid agreements signed with local authorities.

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Sailors can expect predictable deployments See page A-2



USS Reuben James crew performs burial at sea See page A-6



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Have a 'boo-tiful' Halloween See page B-1

Former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff passes away

Wildfire

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Navy News Service

Former Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff, retired Adm. William James Crowe Jr., died Oct. 18 at Bethesda Naval Hospital. He was 82.

"Today our nation has lost a great patriot," said the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Donald C. Winter. "Adm. Crowe served our nation and the men and women of our armed forces since the day he was commissioned in June of 1946. Whether acting as admiral, chairman or ambassador, Adm. Crowe's leadership and counsel were sought and valued by presidents and world leaders alike. He was a man of great conviction and dedication who helped guide our country during challenging times. He touched numerous lives and will be sorely missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to Shirley and the Crowe family."

A 1946 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Crowe's 43-year career started in the diesel submarine community and ended in 1989 when he retired after serving as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Most notably, Crowe helped to determine the military policy many consider to have hastened the end of the Cold War.

"On behalf of the men and women of the U.S. Navy, I extend our sincere condolences to the Crowe family," said Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations. "Adm. Crowe was the finest example of a true gentleman and naval officer who served his country with distinction. He cared

deeply about people, and always approached his duty and life with enthusiasm and a unique sense of humor. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Adm. Crowe."

Crowe began his career with an initial sea tour aboard USS Carmich (DMS 33). After completing submarine school in 1948, he qualified in submarines in March 1950 in the diesel submarine USS Flying Fish (SS 29). Almost all of his follow-on sea assignments were aboard diesel submarines.

By 1954, Lt. Crowe served as assistant to the naval aide to President Dwight D. Eisenhower. After leaving Washington in 1956, he returned to sea duty as executive officer of the USS Wahoo (SS 565) in Honolulu.

In January 1958, Crowe was appointed to lieutenant commander and soon became the personal aide to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Plans, Policy and Operations. This appointment would introduce him to the Navy's role in international politics and set firmly establish his career direction.

By 1960, Crowe received his first command - the Navy's newest diesel submarine - USS Trout (SS 566). By 1962 Crowe was promoted to commander and later selected as one of the Navy's first candidates for a doctorate in social sciences.

After receiving a masters and doctorate in politics from Princeton University, Crowe received his Ph.D. in 1965 and returned to submarine duty as chief of staff



U.S. Navy photo

Navy file photo of Adm. William J. Crowe Jr., former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Crowe served as chairman from 1985 to 1989 under President Ronald Reagan and President George H.W. Bush. He passed away Oct. 18 at National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

to the commander of Submarine Squadron Three.

In 1967, Crowe was promoted to captain. Four years later, he volunteered for service in Vietnam. He served first as an adviser and then as senior adviser to the Vietnamese Riverine Force in Mekong Delta. He returned to Washington in 1971. By 1973, Crowe was promoted to rear admiral. In June 1976, he assumed

command of the Middle East force, based in Bahrain in the Persian Gulf.

Crowe was promoted to vice admiral in 1977 and was appointed the Navy's plans, policy and operations deputy. After receiving his fourth star, Crowe became commander in chief of Allied Forces Southern Europe in 1980 and assumed the additional responsibility of commander in chief of U.S. Naval Forces, Europe in 1983. In the same year, Crowe became commander in chief of the Pacific Command.

Crowe was selected as the 11th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shortly after then-President Ronald Reagan met him during a brief stopover enroute to China.

During Crowe's chairmanship, Reagan met with Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev and suggested they rid Europe of all intercontinental ballistic missiles. This proposal ultimately led Crowe to initiate dialogue with the chief of the Soviet General Staff. Together, they worked to lessen the likelihood of an accidental armed conflict between the countries.

Crowe's tenure as chairman also included adopting new rules of engagement in response to a string of terror attacks throughout Europe. Crowe allowed U.S. units to respond to apparent threats rather than waiting until they were fired upon.

Crowe retired in 1989 and served as ambassador to the United Kingdom in 1994-1997. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2000.

Sailors can expect predictable deployments

David Mays

Special to American Forces Press Service

Sailors can continue to expect predictable deployment lengths and new ships on which to serve, Adm. Gary Roughead, the new chief of naval operations, said Oct. 18.

"If you look at our deployment patterns, only on a couple of occasions have we exceeded our objective of six months," Roughead explained.

"We have been able to live within those with the exception of a couple unique deployments and also with the exception of some of our high-demand, low-density forces that I continue to watch very carefully, specifically our SEALs [sea, land, air], our explosive ordnance disposal (teams), and then some of our medical people."

Roughead spoke with online journalists and "bloggers" during a conference call from the Naval War College



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Kevin S. O'Brien Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead addresses the 18th Biennial International Seapower Symposium at the Naval War College, Newport, R.I. on Oct. 18.

in Newport, R.I. where he attended the International Seapower Symposium. On Oct. 17, he and the commanders of the Marine Corps and Coast Guard released the first "unified maritime strategy."

The admiral elaborated on

that plan and the Navy's future, including the aggressive goal of greatly expanding its fleet.

"With regard to the 313 shipbuilding plan, I consider that to be the floor," Roughead said. "We are introducing several not just new classes, but new concepts. The littoral combat ship is new, LPD-17 (amphibious transport dock ship) is new. There's a new class of aircraft carrier. We've just taken delivery of some of our new Virginia-class submarines. So we're at a period where we're making some significant changes in capability and operating concepts."

As the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard each continue to build capacity and capability, Roughead has been working with his colleagues in the sister services to figure out what the country expects of its maritime forces and how those forces might best align to serve in a time of increasing globalization.

"The American people want our maritime forces to remain

strong, to protect them and their homeland and then a significant desire for us to work with partners around the world," Roughead said. "And that's a theme that continued to echo as we held our conversation and worked and discussed our way ahead with some of the strategic thinkers."

The result of those conversations is a 20-page document called "A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower." It was presented at the Navy War College to 90 navy and coast guard commanders from 98 countries attending the symposium, the largest such maritime gathering ever, the admiral said.

"It is not a document that we will print and have a glossy and leave it on a coffee table someplace," Roughead said. "We intend to continue to have the discussions and the dialogue. We intend to make the investments that enhance our ability and capability."

The strategy pledges to bind the maritime services more closely than they have ever been in order to advance America's prosperity and security despite the demands of an uncertain world, and stresses not just the ability to employ military might, but the need not to.

"It is equally important to prevent wars as it is to win wars and to make the decisions on that which contribute to both," Roughead said.

A key part of the strategy is to concentrate our "credible combat power" in parts of the world where the United States has "historic and current interests," Roughead explained, including the Western Pacific, the Arabian Gulf and Indian Ocean regions.

"By having these forces distributed globally, we are able to deepen and foster relationships with friends and international partners and our allies and then use relationships and our forces to pre-

vent and contain local disruptions," Roughead said.

The strategy also stresses enhancing global maritime security and increasing the forces' combined ability to respond effectively and efficiently whenever and wherever disaster strikes.

"For me, having been out in the Pacific, the tsunami was something that had a great effect on me professionally and personally," Roughead said. "But it was shortly followed by Hurricane Katrina and we realized that those types of disasters, that we're not immune to those."

Enabling his Sailors to serve in concert with maritime forces around the planet, during times of war and peace, is a commitment the admiral said he takes seriously.

"Our Navy is globally deployed. It is well trained, well prepared, well equipped," he said. "And my responsibilities are to be able to ensure that the Navy remains that way."

Navy SEAL Lt. Murphy remembered, honored for his sacrifice

Continued from A-1

the firefight - moved into the open where he could gain a better transmission signal and request backup from headquarters. At one point, Murphy was shot in the back, causing him to drop the transmitter. The lieutenant picked it back up, completed the call and continued firing at the enemy as they closed in.

By the time the two-hour gunfight had concluded, Murphy and two others SEALs had been killed. An estimated 35 Taliban died in the fighting.

As a somber postscript to Murphy's bravery, the helicopter that he requested crashed after being struck by a rocket-propelled grenade, killing everyone on

board. In total, 19 Americans died in what Bush referred to as "the deadliest for Navy Special Warfare forces since World War II."

The president characterized Murphy as a born Navy SEAL.

"SEALs get their name from operating by sea, air and land, and even as a toddler, Michael could find his way through any obstacle," Bush said. "When he was just 18 months old, he darted across a neighbor's yard and dove into the swimming pool. By the time his frantic parents reached him, Michael had swum to the other side with a big smile on his face."

In addition to his physical strength, Bush said Murphy's strong moral char-

acter also was apparent at an early age.

"One day in school, he got into a scuffle sticking up for a student with a disability. It's the only time his parents ever got a phone call from the principal and they couldn't have been prouder," Bush said. "Michael's passion for helping others led him to become a caring brother, a tutor, a life guard and eventually a member of the United States Armed Forces."

The president welcomed Murphy's parents and brother, John, who hail from Patchogue, N.Y., to the White House's East Room, noting that Murphy's decision to join the U.S. military was not easily accepted by his family.

"As a Purple Heart recipient during Vietnam, Michael's father understood the sacri-

fices that accompany a life of service. He also understood that his son was prepared to make these sacrifices," Bush added.

Murphy is remembered by fellow SEALs as a wise-cracking friend who went by "Mikey" or "Murph," a patriot who wore a New York City firehouse patch on his uniform in honor of the heroes of 9/11, Bush said.

"And they remember an officer who respected their opinions and led them with an understated yet unmistakable sense of command. Together, Michael and his fellow SEALs deployed multiple times around the world in the war against the extremists and radicals," Bush said. "And while their missions were often carried out in secrecy, their love of

country and devotion to each other was always clear."

Murphy is one of three service members to receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for gallantry in action during the war on terror. The president has presented medals to the families of Army Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith and Marine Cpl. Jason L. Dunham, who died in Iraq.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Contest underway to redefine 'Shipmate'

MCCS (SW/AW) Melissa F. Weatherspoon

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief (SW/AW) Tom Howard invites all Sailors throughout the Navy to enter a writing contest to redefine the term "Shipmate" in today's Fleet.

Howard will announce the winner in early 2008. The Sailor whose definition is selected will be presented a rendition of the winning entry by Adm. Robert F. Willard, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. The winning entry will also be published in All Hands magazine, on Navy Newsstand (www.navy.mil), and on the Pacific Fleet Web site (www.cpf.navy.mil).

The theme of the special event is "What Being a Shipmate Means to Me" as written through the eyes of today's Sailors.

The contest carries on the rich traditions of the Navy as it will tell the story of today's Shipmate and, at the same time, honor those who have served in the Navy throughout the past 232 years as well as those who have yet to serve.

"Sailors will be forever identified

by their courage in the face of danger and the moral conviction to stand up for what's right," wrote Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr. in his birthday message to the fleet. "The term 'ship, Shipmate, self' was created at sea. To a United States Sailor, there is no better description of our culture and our character," he said.

Howard joins the U.S. Pacific Fleet Chief Petty Officer Mess and Navy League of Hawai'i in sponsoring the writing contest to honor Sailors past and present. In early October, Howard sponsored a Senior Enlisted Leadership of the Pacific Symposium here in Hawai'i. During the week, the senior enlisted leaders talked about today's Sailor and about what being a Shipmate means.

"It is our responsibility to our commanders and to our Navy to listen to our Sailors and to provide advice to Navy leadership," Howard said. "So, we thought, who better to define 'what being a Shipmate means' than our Sailors - our Sailors who are willing to sacrifice everything. In an all-volunteer force, it's the personal sacrifices of today's Sailors who make the deci-

sion every day to fight for the freedoms of not only our own country, but also those countries that might not be able to fight for themselves."

In 75 words or less, Sailors are encouraged to explain their personal definition of Shipmate and what it means to be a Shipmate in today's Navy. The contest is open to all Sailors, from E-1 to O-10. All work must be original and unpublished. The word "Shipmate" must be capitalized in all entries.

Those who wish to participate should send e-mail entries to cpf.fleetfeedback@navy.mil. The subject line should read "What Being a Shipmate Means to Me." Mail-in submissions should be sent to:

What Being a Shipmate Means to Me

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
c/o FLTCM (SW/AW) Tom Howard
250 Makalapa Drive
Pearl Harbor HI 96860-3131

All entries must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 16. Entries not received by Dec. 31 will not be judged.

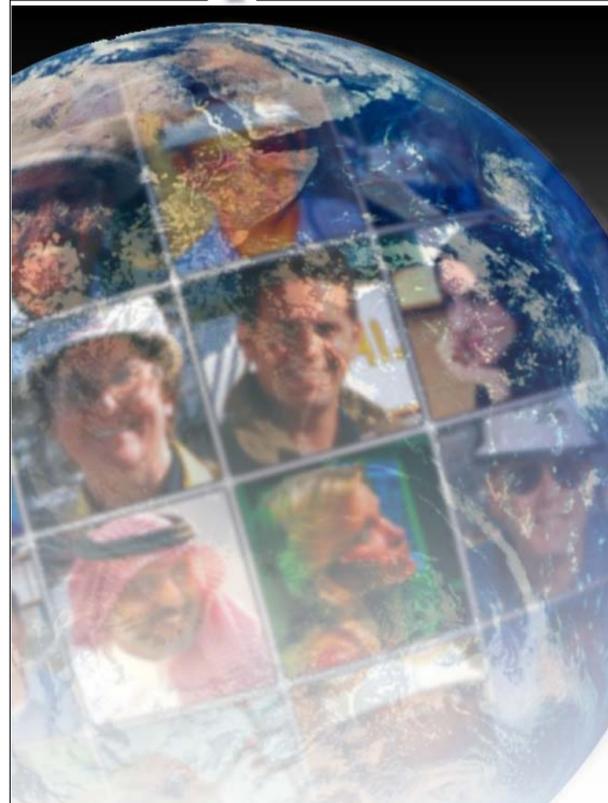
Questions about the contest should be sent to cpf.fleetfeedback@navy.mil.



Photo illustration

Commentary

Chapel Pennant



"E Pluribus Unum" - Strength in diversity

Cmdr. P.J. McCormick,
CHC, USN

Naval Station Pearl
Harbor Command
Chaplain

"E Pluribus Unum," one of the oldest mottos to describe what was special about our American society, is a Latin phrase that can be translated, "From Many Peoples, One People."

In the Navy, we celebrate often throughout the year the wonderful diversity of our Sailors. We have Black History Month, Hispanic History Month, Asian-Pacific Month and Women's History Month to name some of the better known groups that we give thanks for as we try to learn more about their great contributions to our society and our Navy. It is the strength of our diversity that makes us truly a special people on the face of the earth.

While appreciating diversity and anything different always takes personal effort, especially to overcome instinctual prejudices or prejudices, we are always the better as a people when we come

to more fully appreciate and celebrate our diversity. When diverse ethnic, religious and racial groups are strong and have clear identities and a deep appreciation about what makes each group special, the result is always to the benefit of the "Unum," the one "People" that they help to create. In America, we have always prided ourselves on being a "melting pot" of many different peoples. And when the diverse groups are strong and appreciated and understood by the whole society, as a people we always add to the blessings of our past diversity.

Let us enjoy the great tradition we have in the Navy of getting to know one another, of getting to celebrate our diversity and uniqueness, and of growing in our knowledge and appreciation of our differences so that we may become more truly "One People" made up of many diverse strong parts.

May our diversity be appreciated and respected as a source of strength as a people and the cause of our special identity in this world, "From Many Peoples, One People."

Invasion of Leyte, October 1944



General Douglas MacArthur (center), accompanied by Lt. Gen. George C. Kenney and Lt. Gen. Richard K. Sutherland and Maj. Gen. Verne D. Mudge (commanding general, First Cavalry Division), inspecting the beachhead on Leyte Island, Oct. 20, 1944. Note the crowd of onlookers. The swamped LCVP [landing craft, vehicle, personnel] in the right background is from USS Ormsby (APA-49).

Photograph from the Army Signal Corps Collection in the U.S. National Archives

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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SNA holds annual award luncheon

Story and photo by
MC3 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i
Public Affairs

Lt. j.g. Kathleen Ball, assigned to USS Russell (DDG 59), received the Robert K.U. Kihune award and Senior Chief Gunner's Mate (SW) Joseph Cassista, assigned to USS Lake Erie (CG 70), received the Harold B. Estes award for junior officer and chief petty officer leadership, respectfully, during an annual Surface Navy Association (SNA), Pearl Harbor chapter luncheon ceremony. The event was held Oct. 19 at the Pearl Harbor Navy Lodge on board Ford Island.

The purpose of the ceremony was to honor the two Sailors for their exemplary performances in leadership while stationed on naval surface ships at Pearl Harbor.

"Leadership for me means just being a chief," said Cassista. "You push your Sailors in the right direction, you answer their questions, just live the Navy lifestyle 24/7/365."

When looking back at what he believes helped win him the award, Cassista thinks his diversity is what put him over the top.

"I've been through four departments and eight divisions while on the Lake Erie and my key to success was I went where they needed me to go and did the best I could," said Cassista.

Leadership is an important factor in how the Navy runs throughout the fleet and for Cassista, he believes it's necessary to see how it is for the lowest Sailor on the totem pole.

"For me, I try to put myself in my Sailor's shoes and pass along the good



Senior Chief Gunner's Mate (SW) Joseph Cassista, assigned to USS Lake Erie (CG 70), receives a small statue of a Sailor and a certificate from retired Chief Boatswain's Mate Harold B. Estes after being announced as the winner of the Harold B. Estes award for chief petty officer leadership.

advice that people gave me when I rose through the ranks," said Cassista.

Winning the award is an accomplishment in leadership and Cassista hopes that he can use his knowledge of leadership to show the true potential of his junior Sailors

"I just try to push them in the right direction," said Cassista. "Whether they serve four years or 40 years, I want them to have gotten something out of the Navy when they leave."

Capt. Dell Epperson, president, SNA Pearl Harbor chapter, believes that is a great importance to recognize these Sailors for their achievement in leadership.

"We are looking at the future of our surface warfare leaders and the future command master chiefs and possible admirals," said Epperson.

To be nominated for the award, Ball, Cassista and other Sailors from surface commands stationed in Pearl Harbor, had to be chosen by their commanding officer for officers or the

command master chief for chiefs and then chosen by the SNA committee members for final approval.

"By nominating these Sailors for the awards, command leaders are saying that these people are the best of the best in the fleet," said Epperson.

During the ceremony, retired Chief Boatswain's Mate Estes, who presented Cassista with the award, spoke about how the chief has always been a true leader in the Navy and said he was honored to be a part of the event.

"Since I first joined the Navy, the chief has always been the one person to lead others and it's an honor to give this award to a fellow chief and to be a part of this award," said Estes.

The SNA was incorporated in 1985 to promote greater coordination and communication among those in the military, business and academic communities who share a common interest in naval surface warfare and to support the activities of surface naval forces.

USS Russell sails through 'ULTRA E' certification

Story and photo by
Ensign Theresa Donnelly

USS Russell (DDG 59) Public Affairs

Less than one month after USS Russell's (DDG 59) highly successful Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV), the ship certified during its Unit Level Training Assessment, Engineering (ULTRA E) on Oct. 13-15.

Held onboard naval ships approximately every two years, the inspection assesses the ship's engineering department's ability to train in a variety of different drills and evolutions. Additionally, crew members must be able to self-access their performance and expertly manage several different administrative programs.

ULTRA E gives the ship's immediate superior in command (in this case Commander, Destroyer Group Nine) the big scale picture of Russell's state of readiness in the event of an engineering casualty as well as the crew members' proficiency in operating equipment in accordance with preventive maintenance system (PMS) guidelines.

Certifying during this inspection is a testament to the relentless efforts that crew members dedicated to perfecting the drills and evolutions, making sure that they were ready. Immediately following Russell's departure from Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 23, the ship launched a full scale preparation period. Every day, two separate watch teams trained and fine tuned procedures to combat main space fires, flooded compartments, set fire boundaries, and adequately handle a variety of different engine casualty.

Each watch team was carefully monitored by engineering training teams (ETT), senior experienced personnel who graded the evolutions and drills.

"Our goals during the training were to choreograph watch standers' actions and their reporting procedures," said Enginemen 1st Class Mark Honsa, a member of the ship's ETT. "This way, we ensured verbatim compliance with engine operating casualty control regulations."

Everything from the communication procedures to the engineering log books were regularly examined and inspected. Cmdr. Brad Cooper, the ship's commanding officer, held program review meetings ensuring that all administrative programs were ready for the Afloat Training Group (ATG) inspectors.

The crew worked night and day harnessing their skills, using debriefs after training events that focused on what needed improvement and parts of the drills that were done well. This steady strain process encouraged watch standers to continue to make improvements along the way.

"I think the repetition was imperative to our success. It really improved people's ability to react



From Left: Gas Turbine System Mechanical 3rd Class Joseph Rocha receives instruction on the proper handling of a fire hose by Engineering Training Team lead Gas Turbine System Mechanical 2nd Class Gerald Sistoso.

to a casualty and conduct evolutions properly," said Electricians Mate 2nd Class Eddie Ko.

Not only was engineering preparing for success, but the entire crew came together to help make the inspection successful. During the main space fire drills, Sailors from all departments are responsible for setting material condition zebra, a vital step in the firefighting process. This involves closing key hatches and scuttles, making sure those boundaries to a fire-filled compartment are isolated and localized.

On the third day of inspections, the ship set the time for zebra at seven minutes, well below the required time frame.

The constant attention to detail leading up to the inspection paid off. The inspectors recommended the ship for certification, a feat not usually accomplished at this stage in the training. Often, ships must re-inspect with ATG on portions of the drills or evolutions that need a little improvement and then certify at a later time.

The ship's firefighting teams also did well, scoring a 99 percent and 96 percent on each of the main space fire drills. In fact, the repair locker teams-groups of Sailors specifically trained to isolate and combat shipboard fires demonstrated such a high competency level that inspectors shortened the second drill. Led by Lt. j.g. Daniel Bond, damage control assistant, the ship's firefighting team proved that they are well trained and ready in the event of an actual fire. Their efforts directly contributed to the success of the inspection.

Russell is currently underway operating with the USS Abraham Lincoln Strike Group and will work with her during Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) later this month.

Pearl Harbor Highlights



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

Navy Diver 2nd Class (SW/DV) Nathan Kralemann, assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One, explains the day-to-day job of a Navy diver in the fleet to Sailors assigned to USS Lake Erie (CG 70) during Career Day on Oct. 18 at Ward Field on board Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The event allowed Hawai'i Sailors a chance to view various special programs and career possibilities available to them during their naval career.



Fire Controlmen 3rd Class Steven Johndrow and Sailors onboard USS Russell (DDG 59) carry boxes of water that will be distributed for wildfire evacuees on Naval Station San Diego.

U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Theresa Donnelly

(Below) Firefighters from Federal Fire Department (FFD) at Pearl Harbor shared information about fire safety with youngsters at Navy Hale Keiki School on Oct. 17. FFD presented fire safety events at various schools on Oahu as part of National Fire Safety Month.

Photo by Brister Thomas

Heather Weaver, coordinator, off-campus military education Programs at Honolulu Community College, discusses the different college courses available at HCC to Culinary Specialist 2nd Class (SW) LaToya McDaniel, assigned to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor, during Career Day on Oct. 18 at Ward Field on board NAVSTA Pearl Harbor.

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



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 (AW) Eric J. Cutright

Lt. Justin Hoes from Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL-37), assigned to Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe Bay, instructs students in their physical fitness exercises for the day at Ka'a'awa Elementary on Oct. 18. The Sailors from HSL-37 visit the school every Thursday to help the students with their physical fitness education as part of HSL-37's school sponsorship program.



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. i.g. James A. Roberts

The Golden Swordsmen of Patrol Squadron (VP) 47 and Combined Maintenance Organization (CMO) 2, Maintenance Detachment Team Alpha leave Marine Corps Base Hawai'i-Kaneohe in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. This is the first of several airlifts that will carry VP-47 and CMO-2 personnel on deployment.

Electricians Mate 1st Class Joel Lohrmann is surprised by his wife Lori and his son, who he was not expecting to see at the USS Charlotte (SSN 766) homecoming at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Charlotte returned home after completing a two-year depot modernization period at Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Va.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Luciano Marano



Sailors aboard the nuclear-powered fast attack submarine USS Los Angeles (SSN 688) man the bridge as she pulls into Fleet Activities Yokosuka. The submarine's visit to Japan marks the final port call of its six-month Western Pacific cruise before she returns to her homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Gabriel S. Weber

USS Reuben James crew performs burial at sea



The crew of USS Reuben James (FFG 57) honors six Navy and Marine Corps veterans at a recent burial at sea on Sept. 22.

**Story and photo by
Ensign Fallon Rossi**

USS Reuben James (FFG 57) Public Affairs

The crew of USS Reuben James (FFG 57) honored six Navy and Marine Corps veterans with a burial at sea on Sept. 22. Conforming to naval tradition, the ship slowed, colors were displayed at half-mast, and the officers and crew were paraded in summer whites as the cremains were committed to the sea one by one.

Among those remembered were Radio Technician 1st Class Phil Sweeney, Chief Machinist's Mate George Cramer, Damage Controlman 3rd Class Howard Himli, Corporal Richard Claxton, Electronics Technician 2nd

Class Norris Pullin and Cmdr. Donald Carlson.

Each family will be presented with flags used in each ceremony, along with shells from the rifle salute and a nautical chart marking the location of the ship at the time of the committal. Lt Cmdr Travis Sisk, the ship's executive officer and the military commander of the burial ceremony, said, "Every service member deserves to be honored for their sacrifices and commitment to our military. We were proud to remember them on this day. Although the ceremony is a solemn one, we were honored to be able to fulfill their last wishes in such a dignified manner."

Reuben James is currently deployed in the Western Pacific as part of U.S. Seventh Fleet. The frigate is homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i.

HSL-37 Sailors lead Ka'a'awa Elementary students in physical education

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

*Fleet Public Affairs Center
Detachment Hawai'i*

Five Sailors assigned to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37 (HSL-37) at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe Bay, led Ka'a'awa Elementary students in physical education exercises Oct. 18 as part of the Adopt-a-School program.

HSL-37 sends a group of volunteers to the elementary school every Thursday to instruct students in kindergarten through third grade in physical education and exercises. The exercises are especially designed for children to help improve coordination, agility and motor skills.

The exercises that the Sailors showed the students included beanbag tosses, bunny-hop races, leap-frog-

ging and distance jumping.

Along with teaching the young students, the Sailors also gain the added bonus of being positive role models, while helping to generate an example of health and well-being for the younger generation.

"I enjoy coming out here and seeing the kids so happy. It just makes me feel more positive and I guess it makes me get in a little physical fitness, too," said Yeoman 2nd Class (AW/SW) Tiya Bonn.

The helicopter squadron was initially introduced to the school through Kaneohe Bay's public affairs office where there was a school sponsorship list posted for schools that could use some volunteer work.

"We selected this school because it's more of a lower income school and it's kind of out in an area where there's only one way in and one way out. I think it's just a good

community service for us to do. It shows the community that the Navy cares, not only about the military, but the people on the island as well," said Senior Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (AW/SW) Mark Cabrera.

Todd Watanabe, Ka'a'awa Elementary School principal, recognizing the Sailors' characteristic of being physically fit and being assertive leaders, chose to have the volunteers help with the school's physical education program.

"As a school, we're always looking for community partners to help us because we feel education is a partnership between us, the family and the community. It's always good to have these types of resources that we can bring in and help create more opportunities for the kids, especially these Sailors, because they're young and energetic and very good at what they do," stated Watanabe.



Yeoman 2nd Class (AW/SW) Tiya Bonn from Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL-37), assigned to Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe Bay, instructs students in their physical fitness exercises for the day at Ka'a'awa Elementary on Oct. 18.