

Navy Region, NAVFAC celebrate 'America Recycles Day'

Story and photo by Denise Emsley

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i

Navy Region Hawai'i (COMNAVREG) and Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawai'i celebrated 'America Recycles Day' at the Pearl Harbor Navy Recycling Center on Nov. 15.

For this year's special day, NAVFAC Hawai'i's Navy Recycling Center hosted an open house and distributed free re-useable shopping bags. Rear Adm. T.G. Alexander, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and commander, Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific, joined the center's employees, NAVFAC Hawai'i environmental and Public Works Department Pearl Harbor personnel along with self-help Seabees, COMNAVREG Hawai'i safety workers and a Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard representative to rededicate the center and officially open its newly renovated drop-off windows.



"Your efforts are commendable," said Alexander. "We really need to continue to do this important mission of recycling Navy waste and find additional ways to divert recyclables from local landfills." The Navy Recycling Center operates from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Its drop-off window bins are available 24/7 for aluminum and steel cans, plastic/glass bottles and jars, paper, shredded paper, newspapers and magazines, corrugated cardboard, metal, wire, toner cartridges, and cell phones.

Navy commands with bulky items may schedule and deliver them from 8-11 a.m. on Fridays. For special pick-ups, Navy commands can request and/or schedule regular pick-ups of recyclable material.

Please join the Navy Recycling Center's team. As this year's 'America Recycles Day' theme states, ... "It all comes back to you!"

For more information about the Navy Recycling Center, call Wendy Ray, center operations manager, at 474-9207.



Rear Adm. T.G. Alexander, commander Navy Region Hawai'i and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, helps Victorino Tan, Navy Recycling Center employee, untie the maile lei for the rededication of the facility on 'America Recycles Day' on Nov. 15.



Sterling Cale, a Pearl Harbor survivor, visits building 150 at Naval Station Pearl Harbor which was a receiving station at the time of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on the Navy's fleet. The photo illustration shows building 150 and some of the scenes from the Pearl Harbor attack in the background.

Pearl Harbor survivor remembers Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Navy fleet

Karen S. Spangler
Editor

It has been almost 66 years since the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. But Sterling Cale, a Pearl Harbor survivor, remembers it as though it was yesterday.

Cale recently paid a visit to building 150 at Naval Station Pearl Harbor and the memories of that day came flooding back. At the time of the attack, building 150 served as a receiving station for Sailors stationed at the naval base.

Cale, a pharmacist's mate at the shipyard dispensary, had just finished night duty at the dispensary and on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, he signed out with the master-at-arms (MA) at the building

150 receiving station and walked outside.

He talked about that morning. "I said 'I'm going home' and then looked over at Battleship Row and said, 'Why are planes over at Battleship Row? That's a lot of activity for Sunday.' Then I saw the rising sun on a plane and said, 'Those are Japanese planes.'"

He ran into the armory in building 150 and broke out some old Springfield single-shot guns. "You had to reload. By the second round, the war was over," he joked.

Cale offered vivid memories of what it was like. "Suddenly I heard a big noise coming from the east. Rising sun [on the plane] was about eye level. It went right over my shoulder, dropped bombs about 10 feet out in the water. We

were all needed out at Battleship Row. We ran down the dock, got on a barge and headed for the Oklahoma." He recounted that they didn't get there because about that time, they saw the Oklahoma roll over.

According to the Pearl Harbor survivor, Sailors were swimming in the water in T-shirts and shorts. "All the oil leaked from the ship. We were swimming underwater because of the fire on the water," Cale said.

"In four hours, I picked up about 45 people. Some were dead, some were badly burned, some were just tired. We would get them in a boat going by," he said. "I was in the water when the Arizona blew up. The Arizona burned for two-and-a half days,"

See SURVIVOR, A-7

Bush counts troops among America's blessings this Thanksgiving holiday

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

President Bush issued his Thanksgiving greeting on Nov. 19, counting members of the U.S. military among the many blessings Americans have to be thankful for.

"Today, the men and women of the United States armed forces are taking risks for our freedom," the president said at historic Berkeley Plantation in Charles City, Va. "They're fighting on the front lines of the war on terror, the war against extremists and radicals who would do us more harm."

Bush noted that many U.S. troops will spend Thanksgiving far away from the comforts of home and expressed thanks for their service and sacrifice, as well as that of their families. "We keep their families and loved ones in our prayers," he said. "We pray for the families who lost a loved one in this fight against the extremists and radicals, and we vow that their sacrifice will not be in vain."

Americans are grateful to live in a time when freedom is taking hold in places where liberty was once considered unimaginable, the president said. He noted that the number of democracies in the world has more than doubled since the early 1980s.

"From our own history, we know

these young democracies will face challenges and setbacks in the journey ahead," he said. "Yet as they travel the road to freedom, they must know that they will have a constant and reliable friend in the United States of America."

Bush expressed gratitude for U.S. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines and all other Americans "who serve a cause larger than themselves," from police officers to firefighters to religious leaders to ordinary citizens who become good samaritans in times of distress.

The president noted America's long tradition of giving thanks during Thanksgiving celebrations. He recalled the first Thanksgiving celebration in the New World, at Berkeley in 1619, and the Pilgrim's Thanksgiving after their first harvest in New England.

He also noted times in the nation's history when fighting forces have paused to reflect on all they have to be grateful for. "We remember that George Washington led his men in thanksgiving during the American Revolution," he said. "And we remember that Abraham Lincoln revived the Thanksgiving tradition in the midst of a bloody civil war."

The sound of a bugle call first adopted by Union forces at Berkeley during the Civil War serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made for the freedoms Americans enjoy today, Bush said. "The bugle call has become known as 'Taps.' And when we hear it play, we remember that the freedoms we enjoyed have come at a heavy price."

MV-22B Ospreys fly over U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Troy Juarez, assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 29, as he acts as an injured pilot waiting to be rescued during a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel (TRAP) exercise at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.

U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Michael Haas



New homes to open to Navy families in December See page A-2



USS Port Royal takes families and friends to sea See page A-4



Russell Sailors augment to the Middle East See page A-4



Russell Sailors complete COMPTUEX See page B-1

Pearl Harbor manager wins Navy League Award

Marshall Fukuki

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

Eleanor Shimogaki, a Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard employee, was selected Nov. 7 as the recipient of the Hawai'i Navy League's George S.B. Walters Shipyard Service Award.

Cmdr. Gunter Braun, project superintendent, announced Shimogaki as the winner during a production meeting. "Everybody applauded," recalled Shimogaki, "but I was thinking to myself there were other people who deserve it more than I do."

Shimogaki is the project material manager assigned to the shipyard's fleet maintenance availability project for submarines (FMB) where her job is, in her words, "whatever material is required for FMB, I get."

That sounds simple, but it's a demanding position with a lot of responsibility and short deadlines. On the day she was interviewed, Shimogaki was busy ensuring that five submarines at FMB had all the material required for their fast-paced repairs. Her biggest concern at the moment was acquiring a hydraulic valve control mechanism from a submarine facility on the mainland.

"It's challenging. It's not boring, that's for sure," she said.

According to Henry Matsuoka Jr., project engineering and planning manager, Shimogaki "epitomizes thoroughness, accuracy and responsiveness" in logistics support. "She delivers to the customer every time. If it exists, she gets it here. If it doesn't exist, she gets it made," he said.

"Eleanor's quiet, confident style makes things happen while achieving outstanding results," he said. He described her as "the center of gravity for the FMB. ... She carries the weight of the project on her shoulders. She knows that without the material in the hand of the mechanic, the submarines will not be able to carry out their missions."

Shimogaki's workday officially begins at 6:30 a.m., but "I'm usually at my desk at 5:30 [a.m.]," she said.

Shimogaki attributed her work ethic to her upbringing. "My parents told me, 'Give the best you can. If you can do more, do more,'" she said.

Shimogaki shared that she started out in the shipyard as a clerk typist. She entered two upward mobility programs and eventually worked her way up to her present position six years ago.

She will be honored by the Honolulu Council of the Navy League at the organization's annual Sea Service Awards luncheon Dec. 5 at the Ford Island Conference Center. The league specifically created the George S.B. Walters Shipyard Service Award last year to recognize an outstanding civilian shipyard employee. The award comes with a \$1,000 cash prize.

Shimogaki said although she is the person being honored, "This award is not because I did it all by myself. Others helped me out. I couldn't have done it without all the other people who give me support."

New homes to open to Navy families in December



Photo courtesy of Forest City Military Communities

New homes at Battleship Cove on historic Ford Island (in photo above) and Catlin Park will open to Navy families in December. The homes are part of the public-private venture project between the Navy and Forest City Military Communities.

Forest City Military Communities

New construction homes are available for pre-assignment to Navy service members in two of Forest City's newest communities in Hawai'i, Battleship Cove and Catlin Park.

Forest City would like to encourage junior and senior enlisted Navy families to contact their relocation office at 839-8690 if they are interested in becoming the first residents in these new, first-class communities. Both communities will be open for families to occupy by mid-December.

Catlin Park

Catlin Park is a previous Navy community, built in 1968, that originally consisted of 390 units. Forest City Military Communities has since completely leveled the community and is rebuilding Catlin Park with 319 homes

that feature larger spaces and modern utilities.

Catlin Park is reserved for junior and senior enlisted Navy service members. The first phase of new construction homes will be available for residents to move in by mid-December.

Homes in Catlin Park offer free alarm systems and monitoring, 24-hour neighborhood patrol, 24-hour emergency maintenance and call center, courtesy landscaping, central air conditioning, dishwasher, microwave, oven and a refrigerator with water and ice dispenser. Homes also feature subtle styling enhancements, such as maple wood cabinets with cherry oak finishes and matching ceiling fans.

The homes range in size from 1,647 to 1,967 square feet.

Battleship Cove

Battleship Cove is a brand

new community of 102 homes located on historic Ford Island.

Boasting both mountain and ocean views, this community sits adjacent to the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

Battleship Cove is reserved for senior enlisted Navy service members. The first phase of new construction homes will be available for residents to move in by early December.

Homes in Battleship Cove offer alarm systems, 24-hour emergency maintenance and call center, courtesy landscaping, central air conditioning, dishwasher, microwave, oven and a refrigerator with water and ice dispenser. Homes will also feature subtle styling enhancements, such as maple wood cabinets with cherry oak finishes and matching ceiling fans.

Homes range in size from 1,737 to 1,966 square feet.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Americans send troops thanks by the thousands

Samantha L. Quigley

American Forces Press Service

Since 6 a.m. Nov. 17, thousands of Americans across the country paused to text a message of gratitude to the nation's service members for their sacrifices through the "Giving Thanks" text messaging program.

"It already feels like a terrific, successful campaign, because from the thousands and thousands of messages that have come in already, we're seeing that the American people really just want a chance to say 'thanks,' said Allison Barber, deputy assistant secretary of defense for internal communication and public liaison, of the America Supports You initiative.

America Supports You is a Defense Department program connecting citizens and corporations with military personnel and their families serving at home and abroad.

The "Giving Thanks" text messaging initiative, which officially began at 6 a.m. Nov. 17, and ends at midnight PST, Nov. 22, already has received more than 40,000 messages of thanks, according to the tally board on the America

Supports You Web site.

"I think we got off to a great start," Barber said, adding that she thinks the desire to thank the troops will spread throughout the public in the coming days. "What you'll see over the next several days is that more and more people will be looking at how to let Americans know how to text message and thank our troops."

That phenomenon began with talk of the "Giving Thanks" program at sporting events, on nationwide radio programs and even a Sunday news show. Tim Russert, host of "Meet the Press," encouraged his viewers to text their support to the troops during his program.

"During this week of Thanksgiving, let our troops know we're thinking about them through the Pentagon's America Supports You program," Russert said. "You can send your message of thanks by texting to 89279."

All of the messages received express the sender's gratitude for the military and the sacrifices the service members are making. Some messages are longer, others are much shorter but just as powerful, like the one from a supporter in Pennsylvania who wrote, "You are heroes of the heart."

Each message, like the one from Pennsylvania, will receive a response thanking the sender for thinking of the troops this holiday season.

In response to the public outpouring of support, service members have sent in statements of gratitude as well. Most, like the one from Rick, a Marine master sergeant stationed in Iraq, carry the same sentiment; the troops are glad to know they still have support back home.

Rick wrote, "I'd like to thank everyone back home for their continued show of support for those of us deployed around the world. It means a lot knowing that we're not alone over here in Iraq."

Barber said her goal is to give everyone in the country who has the ability to send text messages the opportunity to send in a message like the supporter from Pennsylvania.

"That's a pretty big goal," she said. "If we can find and maximize every opportunity to invite people to text our troops, and to have them invite their friends (to do the same), that'll be success for us."

Major mobile wireless providers, including AT&T, Verizon, Sprint Nextel, and T-Mobile, will provide access to the Giving Thanks program.

GWOT support assignments give Sailors options

MCC (SW) Maria Yager

Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

More predictability for Sailors is the goal as the Navy transitions from individual augmentee (IA) assignments to global war on terrorism support assignments (GSA), announced Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP) on Nov. 7.

"The more I talk to Sailors around the fleet the more I'm convinced global war on terrorism support assignments is the right thing to do. I look forward to pressing ahead on this plan," said Vice Adm. J.C. Harvey, CNP, who released the latest GSA NAVADMIN 297/07, Nov. 7, to provide an update on the transition.

The Navy first introduced the GSA detailing concept in June 2007, via NAVADMIN 147/07.

This process allows Sailors to negotiate for an IA when it fits their needs. Eventually it will replace the need to pull Sailors from other assignments mid-tour in order to fill an IA, according to Rear Adm. Sonny Masso, deputy chief of naval personnel.

"We're done studying the issue. We've tested enough billets to make sure the system will work. It's time to



U.S. Navy photo by MCC Daniel Sanford Gunner's Mate 1st Class Justin Hoffman, a native of Munising, Mich., mans the gun turret of a humvee while maintaining perimeter security in Al-Shuflah, Iraq.

South America, Cuba, Kosovo, Philippines, and even stateside duty in Tampa, Fla. and Arlington, Va.

"The feedback from the Sailors I've detailed has been positive so far. They get to choose where and when they go, and it helps commands because they don't have to choose what Sailors they are going to send," said Stone.

Currently, information systems technician, master-at-arms, and yeoman are the most in-demand enlisted ratings, added Stone. However, Sailors with comparable skills sets from other ratings may also volunteer, said Stone.

To date, more than 372 Sailors have negotiated orders to an ECRC for GSA, which coordinates and supervises Sailors' pre-deployment training before sending them in theater.

Approximately 1,500 enlisted GSA billets are currently available on career management system-interactive detailing, the program enlisted Sailors use to apply for orders.

The Web address is <https://www.cmsid.navy.mil> Billets are listed under the category code 90GS. Officers can contact their detailer directly for information on GSA billets.

move out and make this happen," added Masso.

The plan allows Sailors to negotiate eight-month or 14-month PCS orders to an expeditionary combat readiness center (ECRC) for an assignment in theater in support of GWOT, according to Master Chief Sonar Technician (surface) (SW) James Stone, head, enlisted GSA detailer.

In addition to billets in Iraq and Afghanistan, GSA detailing will also cover assignments to the Horn of Africa, Kuwait, Bahrain, Germany,

Enjoying 'turkey day' aboard ship



Official U.S. Navy photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives Adm. William F. Halsey, USN, Commander, Third Fleet, eats Thanksgiving dinner with the crew of his flagship, USS New Jersey (BB 62), on Nov. 30, 1944.

Teamwork

John Burns

Navy Region Hawai'i

Whether working on a ship, submarine, airplane or in an office, everyone's combined military and civilian efforts toward the final product is a result of teamwork. The active participation of each member within a work center or office is very important to its overall success. Each member should realize that his or her contributions truly are necessary.

One should not think that he can "hide in the woodwork" and that his efforts won't be noticed. In the end, effort (or a lack of it) will be noticed. Without teamwork, a ship or office might not perform its mission properly.

Everyone is a key player.

The following story, written by an anonymous author, demonstrates how the lack of only one person's effort can cause the end result to be less than successful:

Vxnx though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll xxxcpt for onx thx kxys. I havx wishxd many timxs that it workxd pxrfxctly. It is trux, that thxrx arx 36 kxys that function wxll nough, but onx kxy not working makxs thx diffxrxncx. It sxxms to mx that mxmbrs in vxvry officx arx likx my typxwritxr; all of thx kxys nxxd to work pxprxrlly.

You may say to yoursxlf, "Wxll, I am only onx pxrson. It won't makx any diffxrxncx." But, it doxs makx a diffxrxncx, bxcausx for thx officx to bx xffixxnt, it nxxds thx activx participation of vxvry mxmbrx.

So, thx nxxt timx you think that you arx only onx pxrson, and that your xfforts arxn't nxxdxd, rxmmbxr my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I am a kxy pxrson in my officx, and I AM NXXDXD!" (Author unknown)

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

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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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Russell Sailors augment to the Middle East

ET3 Tyler Kirkland

USS Russell (DDG 59)
Public Affairs

Individual augmentation is an integral part of fighting the global war on terrorism (GWOT) and Sailors onboard the Pearl Harbor-based, guided missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) have stepped up to do their part.

In joining the Navy, most expect to go to a ship, see the world, and become fluent in whatever field it is that they work in. A select few of those Sailors, after reporting to their command, decide that they want to get a different kind of experience. Being an individual augmentee (IA) is an option that some Sailors can choose to diversify their careers.

An individual augmentee is a Sailor who, while permanently assigned to a duty station, takes temporary orders to overseas locations. These Sailors directly impact the global war on terrorism by offering a wide variety of expertise to the goal of the mission.

The IA program is currently undergoing a facelift of sorts, with the Navy's recent announcement to change IA billets to a permanent duty billet in early November. The option for Sailors to fill "global support assignments" (GSA) can offer more flexibility in planning for their families and themselves. Instead of leaving their command mid-term, a Sailor can negotiate an eight or 14-month billet to serve in the GWOT theater when they execute permanent change of station orders.

Operations Specialist 1st Class Peter Wirebaugh of Russell, stationed in Kabul, Afghanistan, is pleased with the diversity of his assignment.

"I like the fact that I am working in a joint-interna-



U.S. Navy photo

Individual augmentation is an integral part of fighting the global war on terrorism (GWOT) and Sailors onboard the Pearl Harbor-based, guided missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) have stepped up to do their part.

tional environment learning more about how the politics work in Afghanistan," said Wirebaugh.

Wirebaugh is serving the six-month tour as the focused development non-commissioned officer in charge of combined security transition command-Afghanistan. "I am in charge of reforming the police throughout the nation," said Wirebaugh. "I am also a convoy driver getting people to where they need to go around Kabul and outlying areas."

Serving in an overseas area for an extended period of time can be tough on a family and takes a lot of preparation personally and professionally before the ship date.

As a command, Russell is dedicated to making sure that it takes care of its Sailors. Many programs, such as the command e-mail list and Russell's ombudsman, Senior Chief Sonar Technician Loren Nowatzki's wife, keeps the communication lines open between the ship and the families that are left behind.

Information Technician 1st Class David Chaney said, "My chain of command and I are in constant contact." Chaney, who left Russell to serve as a network administrator for 5th Fleet, is happy with his decision. "Seeing what goes on is eye opening," he said.

"I really enjoy the diversity of the job, and the open minded possibilities within the chain of command," Chaney added.

Russell offers many other services to Sailors who are serving as individual augmentees. Ensign Danielle Flannery, Russell's legal officer, helps arrange wills and powers of attorney and the ship's command financial specialists (CFS) offer guidance on preparing the families' bank accounts, credit cards, loans and everyday expenses.

Electronics Technician 1st Class and Divisional CFC Jimmy Croughen advises Sailors who are going on an IA on their financial situations. "Sailors onboard can talk to your CFS about money saving options such as Thrift Savings Plan and to

ensure that your family knows when and how to contact financial companies for loans, credit and other financial assets," explained Croughen.

Becoming an individual augmentee is open to all echelons of both the enlisted and officer ranks. Cryptologic Technician (technical) 3rd Class Geoff Small is serving at Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq. "You don't really know what you are getting into until you are there...it's important to keep a positive attitude," said Small.

Going IA can be an important turning point in a Sailor's career and can bring a whole new point of view to serving your country. "It feels pretty good knowing that I'm making a difference," said Wirebaugh.

Russell is currently operating in the 3rd Fleet area of responsibility participating in Composite Training Unit Level

Exercise (COMPTUEX), a large-scale exercise designed to increase interoperability between assets of the USS Abraham Lincoln Strike Group.

USS Port Royal takes families and friends to sea

Ensign Cassidy Rasmussen

USS Port Royal (CG 73)
Public Affairs

More than 130 guests had the opportunity to embark USS Port Royal (CG 73) for a day underway in the waters off the coast of Oahu on Nov. 7. The family day cruise allowed Port Royal Sailors to share with their families and friends the lives they lead as crew members on a U.S. naval warship.

"Besides the sea sickness, it was pretty cool," said the son of one of the ship's crew members.

"My wife is new to this Navy thing, so it was great for her to see what I do," said recently married Operations Specialist 2nd Class Brandon Aguirre.

Family day activities included several demonstrations from Port Royal's trained crew. The visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team showed guests the different tactics they use to board a vessel or control a non-compliant sus-

pect. Also, the flyaway squad, which responds to emergency floods and fires, allowed guests to don shipboard fire-fighting equipment and see how these critical first responders fight damage control emergencies at sea.

In addition to the sundry activities, the cruise provided the setting for two special ceremonies. As family and friends watched, Electronics Technician 1st Class Nevin Box re-enlisted on the flight deck with Chief Warrant Officer Brian Martin as his re-enlisting officer.

Retired Master Chief Hughes embarked Port Royal for the cruise to present the Morale, Welfare and Recreation fund with a gift check for \$1,000. Hughes offered the gift in gratitude for the professionalism and dignity with which Port Royal Sailors recently performed a burial at sea ceremony for one of his deceased shipmates.

The day concluded with a naval gun demonstration, a helicopter fly-by and a barbecue lunch on the flight deck.

Green deck, helo inbound...



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Theresa Donnelly

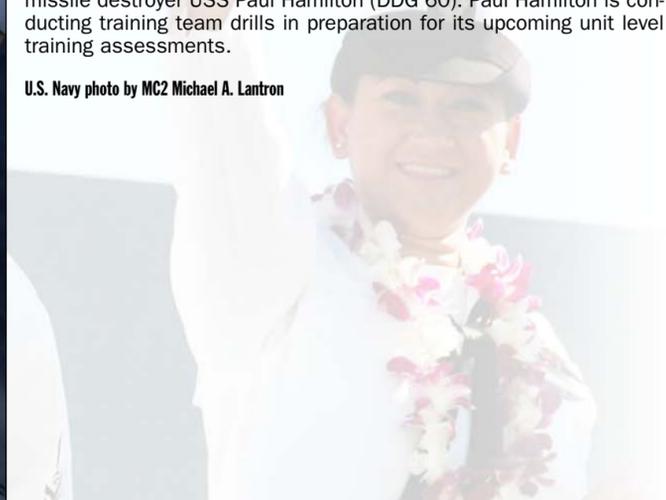
Sailors onboard USS Russell (DDG 59) stand by to unload pallets delivered by an MH-60S, assigned to Sea Combat Squadron 23 (Wildcards). The ship received 17 pallets of food and two pallets of mail during the vertical replenishment. USS Russell was underway off the coast of southern California and has just finished Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX), a tactical warfare exercise with the USS Abraham Lincoln Strike Group.

Pearl Harbor Highlights



Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SW) conducts a full-body search on simulated suspect Master-at-Arms 1st Class (SW) David Nolf during a force protection training drill onboard the Pearl Harbor-based, guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60). Paul Hamilton is conducting training team drills in preparation for its upcoming unit level training assessments.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron



Storekeeper 2nd Class (SW) Gary Friday and Electronics Technician 1st Class (SW) Donny Faavi search for surface and air targets during a force protection training drill onboard the Pearl Harbor-based, guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60). Paul Hamilton is conducting training team drills in preparation for its upcoming unit level training assessments.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron



(Above) Sailors and Marines aboard the San Diego-based, Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) render honors as she passes USS Arizona Memorial while making her way pierside to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Nov. 9. Bonhomme Richard arrived in Pearl Harbor enroute to its homeport of San Diego after participating in maritime security operations while in the Persian Gulf for more than four months.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron



(Above) The San Diego-based, Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) passes USS Arizona Memorial as she makes her way pierside to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Nov. 9.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron



A Sailor says goodbye to a loved one as fast attack submarine USS Pasadena (SSN 752) prepares to get underway on a scheduled deployment to the Western Pacific.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSI Luciano Marano

Pearl Harbor survivor shares memories of Pearl Harbor history

Continued from A-1

he recalled.

In a strange turn of events, when Cale returned to shore he was told by the MA that he was going to captain's mast for breaking into the armory because it was peacetime. (Cale explained that a wartime declaration wasn't made until Dec. 8). "When I went to captain's mast, they gave me a carton of cigarettes and an award," he remembered, laughing as he recounted the story.

More horrific experiences were in store for the pharmacist's mate when he was ordered to pick up a 10-man detail from the receiving station and go to the Arizona and start removing bodies. He countered the order with, "I've never been aboard a battle wagon. I'm just a farm boy from Illinois."

Cale said that he and his detail went aboard USS Arizona and were in the area of the quarter deck where he "saw something strange blowing across the deck." He teared up as the memories of more than 60 years ago came flooding back. "It was ashes from the men who had been burned right down to the deck. I sank down on my haunches and cried," he recalled.

Noting that "none of these people have any ID tags," Cale realized the heat from the fire had been so intense that it had melted them and the five-inch 50 guns were also burned to ashes. When he and his detail came across the men in the fire control tower who had been burned, "they came apart in pieces" he said. For three weeks, the detail annotated where they found the victims of the attack on the Arizona and the condition they were found in, then placed them in sea bags.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron
Sterling Cale, Pearl Harbor survivor, shares his story with visitors at the USS Arizona Memorial Museum.

But again, a quirk of fate would take over. When Cale returned to building 150, he said, "I'm going home." But the commanding officer in charge of the receiving station had other ideas. "You can't go home. You're going to have a summary court martial for keeping a war diary," he told Cale.

The Navy veteran explained that annotating and inventorying the remains of the victims had been reported as keeping a war diary. But Cale was able to satisfactorily explain the situation. He smiled, "They dismissed the court summary and gave me another carton of cigarettes and an award." His detail returned to the Arizona for about three weeks, removing about 107 bodies that could be identified and a number of unknowns.

In August 1942, he was promoted to chief pharmacist's mate, serving with the First Marine Division at Guadalcanal. He later was assigned to the firing range at Puuloa Point in 1948 when he was told, "Get your bag packed. You're going to sea duty."

It was at that point that Cale decided not to continue his career with the Navy and went to enlist in the Army at Aloha Tower recruiting. He became an Army tech sergeant stationed at Shafter Flats and was later in charge of the pharmacy at Tripler Hospital until the position was changed to a civilian job. Then he headed to a medical company at Schofield Barracks. Soon after, fate again intervened. With a twinkle in his eye, Cale recalled the conversa-

tion. "They said, 'Cale, we're sending you on advance party. You're going to Korea.' I said, 'Why me?' They said, 'You were in the Navy and you're used to water.' I said, 'I'm just a farm boy from Illinois.'"

From July 1950 to September 1951, the veteran Navy Sailor turned career Army Soldier with duty spent in Korea. He recounted that he was on the front lines for all but four days of that time.

Returning to Schofield Barracks as a sergeant major, Cale spent about three months in charge of the honor detail and burial detail at Punchbowl before the duty was transferred over to the Marines.

He served follow-on assignments on the mainland and from 1955-1965 was assigned to the intelli-

gence center at Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam. Subsequently, he retired as a sergeant major with the U.S. Army in Hawai'i.

But Cale's service to his country was not finished. "I had taken courses in the North Vietnamese dialect and an accelerated course in French. I got a call from the state department and was sent back to Da Nang, Vietnam in 1966 as a medical supply advisor taking care of refugees." After that, the military veteran was assigned to various roles – in hospital administration for the Da Nang referral system, as deputy director of the regimental public health division in Vietnam, and finally as the medical liaison to the minister of health.

He left Vietnam and returned to Honolulu in May 1974. Back on American soil, Cale told himself, "I have to go the Arizona and pay my respects," but noted, "I had no realization back then."

In 1982, he met up with a Marine at Fort DeRussy who said he needed a supply clerk and Cale took the job at a pay rate of \$2.67 an hour. He explained that he later transferred to Nohelani at Schofield Barracks.

Living by his philosophy, "A sergeant major never quits. A quitter never wins," Cale remained there for the next 23 years until he learned in March 2005 that his position would be abolished.

After such a long and illustrious military and civilian career, the Pearl Harbor survivor still wanted to work. At that point, he said, "I'm 84 years old and I don't have a job. I might as well go to the Arizona Memorial and volunteer. Instead of doing things I have to do, I'll do things I

want to do."

He began volunteering at the Arizona Memorial Museum in 2006 and spends three mornings a week at the center, sharing his story with visitors and school groups from around the world.

"Young kids always ask me, 'Did you hate the Japanese?' Being a medical man, hate stops with you. People who are fighting any war, you're doing what they tell you to do. The Japanese thought we knew they were coming. It's a matter of kill or be killed – it's a matter of preservation," Cale offered.

"You're trained to do a job and you don't have time to think about it," he added.

Cale has been married for 65 years to his sweetheart to whom he was wed in Kawaiahao Church in Honolulu on Dec. 12, 1942. The couple has a son and daughter, four grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

A veteran of many years of wedded bliss, the golden ager had some sage advice for husbands and boyfriends. "I'm telling you with the voice of experience. The man wears the pants in the family."

He chuckled as he added, "I learned after three years, they're always right. If you remember all of these things, you'll have a long and happy marriage."

With a long lifetime of experiences and memories to look back on, Cale still vividly remembers Dec. 7, 1941 and the devastation at Pearl Harbor.

He related that it's still difficult for him when he visits the Arizona or attends the Dec. 7 commemoration ceremony. He explained that the memories return, recounting, "On Dec. 7, it really bothers me and I find myself in the water picking up bodies."

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