

USS Crommelin deploys to Caribbean

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The guided missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG37) departed Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Nov. 27 for a six-month deployment to the Caribbean.

Crommelin and her crew of more than 200 Sailors are scheduled to transit to the Naval Forces Southern Command area of operation via the Panama Canal and engage in monitoring, detecting and counter-narcotics activities.

The deployment is aimed at stopping the shipment of drugs to countries that can support the purchase of weapons for terrorism.

The illegal

flow of narcotics into the United States pays for a portion of the weapons terrorists use in their attacks," said Capt. Patrick N. Huete, Crommelin's commanding officer. "This deployment is helping directly on the global war on terrorism by finding and eliminating the flow of drugs."

Huete also talked about returning to sea. "It feels

great. We are ready to go and very excited. There has been a lot of training [that has gone into getting [the crewmembers] up to this point," he said.

Huete said his personal wish for his crew was for everyone to "have a safe and operationally successful deployment and come back better than when we left."

For many of the ship's junior Sailors, this marks their first deployment out to sea.

"I'm so excited. This is my first deployment and my first time to South America. It's going to be a great experience," said Seaman Flen Purvis of Marion, S.C. "During this deployment, I expect to learn everything about the ship so by the time we get back I will already be surface warfare-qualified."

Family members gathered pierside early in the morning to say their goodbyes and to show their support for the

crew. Although many family members are sad to see the Sailors return to the sea, they know it won't be as long as the last deployment.

"The last deployment was for 14 months so for us, this is a short one," said a family member. "We are sad, but we know we will see the men return safe and hopefully soon."

"It's really rough seeing your love go away for six months, but you learn to expect it. But I know it's for the good of this country and for the world for the ship and its crew to go on these missions," said Michelle Pease, Crommelin's ombudsman.

Crommelin's crew began training months ago in the form of pre-deployment underway periods and hours of training evolutions.

"The ship and the crew are ready for this deployment," said Master Chief Damage Controlman

(SW) David D. Gettelman. "The Sailors have been training hard during the pre-deployment work-ups, getting the ship qualified and working on their surface warfare pins."

USS Crommelin is a versatile, multi-mission warship, able to execute a variety of war fighting tasks for the nation.

Frigates fulfill a protection

of shipping (POS) mission as anti-submarine warfare (ASW) combatants for amphibious expeditionary forces, underway replenishment groups and merchant convoys.



photo illustration



Aloha, Cheyenne!

Friends and family anxiously await the return to port of USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Nov. 21. The Cheyenne is returning after a regularly scheduled six-month deployment to the Western Pacific.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Luciano Marano



Sailors, families share Thanksgiving at the 18th annual Operation Aloha

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Naval Computer and
Telecommunications Area
Master Station, Pacific Public
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MC2 (AW) Christopher J. Krucke
U.S. Pacific Fleet Public
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Sailors and their families from Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific (NCTAMSPAC), Navy Region Hawaii and U.S. Pacific Fleet, along with volunteers from the

community, donated their time to help make Thanksgiving a little better for the needy and homeless on Hawaii's North Shore. "Caring and sharing" was the theme of the 18th Annual Operation Aloha Thanksgiving Day celebration at the Waiialua Community Center (WCC) in Hale'iwa on Nov. 22.

The volunteers served a Thanksgiving meal of turkey and all the trimmings to more than 380 people. One young child described her meal as "a sea of sunshine," as she watched the volunteers wear-

ing yellow shirts fill her plate with her favorite foods.

"It was a chance to see a part of Hawaii others rarely see. Other than the natural beauties this island offers, I got to see a community along with the military come together and help those less fortunate, while still visiting with my son," said Varanina Gajewsky, who traveled from Texas to spend Thanksgiving with her son's family. "Seeing the smiles on all the faces made it all worth it," she said.

See ALOHA, B-1



Information Systems Technician 1st Class G.J. Jones (left) of U.S. Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific (NCTAMSPAC) serves local residents a traditional Thanksgiving meal during the 18th annual Operation Aloha dinner in Waiialua, Hawaii.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Christopher J. Krucke



A gift for the holidays
See page A-3



Momilani students say mahalo to FISC on Veterans' Day See page A-8



Sailors show students Navy's career opportunities See page A-4



Operation Aloha See page B-1

Navy Reserve Unit to celebrate 25th anniversary

Jim Murray

Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Public Affairs

In a Dec. 2 ceremony at the Ford Island Navy Lodge, approximately 200 guests will be on hand to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Pearl Harbor Fleet and Industrial Supply Center's first Hawai'i-based Navy Reserve Unit. The ceremony will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Established in December 1982, FISC Pearl's Navy Reserve Unit 220 has about 30 members. It is their mission to provide logistics support for ships and submarines based at Pearl Harbor. In addition, the unit provides industrial supply support to shore

commands.

Since July 2005, numerous members of the unit have been mobilized to active duty to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. Three of its personnel are currently deployed to Kuwait. In addition to deployments to Iraq and Kuwait, members of the unit have been sent on supply support missions to London, England; Naples, Italy; Tel Aviv, Israel; Yokosuka, Japan; Guam; and various locations in California.

Guests at the event will include current and former unit members, commanding officers, family members, and friends. The event's program will include a history of the unit as well as Capt. Leslie Dunlap's vision of its future. Dunlap is the unit's commanding officer. The executive officer is Lt. Jonathan Markrich.

MCPON releases holiday safety message

Special from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr.

The holiday season is upon us and it's my hope that each of you are able to spend as much time as possible with your loved ones. For those of you far away from home, keep in mind the fact that we all appreciate what you continue to do on behalf of our Navy and our nation.

This time of year centers around family, friends and taking part in holiday traditions. As you travel our nation's highways, please be aware of the following: Since 2002, Navy traffic deaths are 21 percent higher during the holidays than at any other point and 50 percent of all traffic fatalities in America between Thanksgiving and New Years are alcohol-related. Of those killed in drunk-driving related accidents, around 30 percent are not the ones behind the wheel.

For the sake of your families, your shipmates and yourselves, be careful

on the nation's roads over the course of this holiday season. The minute you step into a vehicle, there is potential for you to become a statistic if you don't remain aware of your surroundings and use a great deal of common sense.

Do not drink and drive. I believe every one of you understands the consequences of getting behind the wheel with alcohol in your system. At the very least, a driving under the influence (DUI) is a potential career ender. At worst, you could end up taking someone's life or losing your own.

All of you should be familiar with the Travel Risk Planning System. You can find it on the Navy Safety Center Homepage at

www.safetycenter.navy.mil

along with a number of other tools to assist you in preparing for the weeks ahead. I also urge you to visit the Navy Alcohol and

Drug Abuse Prevention Web site, www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/nadap. You'll find information there related to the Navy's "Prevention for the Holidays" campaign and reminders that December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.

Those Web sites are effective tools, but don't replace the impact of leadership - especially when dealing with a subject as serious as this one.

I'm proud of all of you for what you do every day at sea and ashore.

Have fun and enjoy the time you'll spend with your families, but do so safely.



Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Younger Sailors, Marines cautioned about drinking and driving

April Phillips

Naval Safety Center Public Affairs

It's a safe bet that very few young Sailors and Marines start out an evening of fun with the plan of driving home drunk. Yet, every year some of them wind up in jail cells, sleeping it off and watching helplessly as their once-bright futures slip away in the aftermath. And that's just the lucky ones who got caught. Others never get the chance to learn from this mistake and instead become tragic statistics. Unfortunately, the number of drunken driving arrests and traffic fatalities increases every year during the holiday season.

"It could be the result of family get-togethers or command parties," said Dale Wisnieski, a traffic safety specialist at the Naval Safety Center. "I believe the biggest problem is that most commands don't offer safe rides back from these functions."

It's important to plan for a

safe ride home before taking the first sip of alcohol, Wisnieski said. The best of intentions can fall apart as alcohol impairs judgment.

Young service members are at increased risk for driving impaired. Many are away from home for the first time. Nonetheless, personal responsibility is key and Sailors and Marines will be held accountable, regardless of their ages. That's why it's important to look out for one another.

"We know that the young Sailors and Marines are going to go out and have fun, but the biggest asset they have in terms of safety is their peers. Everyone carries a cell phone these days so if you've had too much to drink, call a friend to come pick you up."

up or take advantage of the safe ride programs that many ships offer," Wisnieski said.

The safe ride programs is usually sponsored by a command's morale, welfare and recreation department. They involve "no questions asked" rides back to the ship and Wisnieski said there is no punishment for using the service.

"The only thing is you'll be asked to pay the taxi bill later," he said. It's a lot cheaper than the fines, lawyer bills, community service and career ramifications that come with a [driving under the influence] DUI charge.

Drunk driving doesn't just affect one Sailor or Marine and his or her career.

The ramifications

ripple through the unit and the surrounding community.

"When a shipmate is lost, it's not just a military member," said Bonnie Revell, also a traffic safety specialist. "That person is also a father, mother, brother, sister, son or daughter."

Revell has talked to members of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and said she has seen the anguish in the faces of those who have lost children as a result of an intoxicated driver.

"The heartbreak is intense," she said. "Knowing they will never hear 'I love you' again, or that they will never have grandchildren because they lost their only child - it's just devastating."

When she speaks to Sailors and Marines across the fleet, Revell said she tries to get this point across. One night on the town isn't worth the risk. She reminds people that it's not just their careers at stake, but lives.

The Naval Safety Center offers more resources to combat drunk driving at www.safetycenter.navy.mil.

A gift for the holidays

I drive it in a day or will it take two days? What's the anticipated weather forecast and road condition for the trip? Do I have or need an ice scraper or other gear in case of bad weather? What about fatigue? Have I considered the importance of stopping frequently for rest and snacks, and having passengers share the driving? Do I have the primary telephone numbers for my command in the event of any unplanned circumstances? Finally, before turning the ignition, have I and all passengers buckled up, including safety seats for the little ones?

Supervisors, you need to ask these same questions of your people - not at quarters in the hangar bay where everyone can raise their hand and simply say they have a plan - I mean face-to-face where you can get the details. That may seem a bit intrusive, but I'm telling you this is what it takes. In Fiscal Year 07, the Navy had 51 personal motor vehicle fatalities. Statistics from the last five years showed that every 17 days a Sailor died in an alcohol-related, motor vehicle crash, and 40 percent of traffic fatalities nationwide were from lack of seat belt usage. The Naval Safety Center Web site (<http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/toolbox/default.htm>) has some great tools to keep us on the right track.

One of their tools available to all Sailors is the TRiPS program. TRiPS is an online, automated risk-assessment tool. Sailors and Marines use it before they go on liberty or leave, driving outside command travel limits. The system helps them recognize - and avoid - the hazards they face on the highway: fatigue, not buckling up, and driving too far.

The final thing I'd like to leave you with this week is that we all need to be aware when our friends, our family and our co-workers are in emotional trouble. You have to look carefully for the signs that may indicate or lead to depression: alcohol abuse, broken relationships, impulsive anger, financial problems, isolating oneself from others, and preoccupation with death. Regrettably, suicide is common during the holidays. It remains the second leading killer of military personnel behind traffic accidents.

Shipmates, whether you're celebrating with family or staying on the ship this holiday season, there are many ways to make this a safe, enjoyable season. It's up to you to actively pursue them. Look for ways to keep involved. Check with your Morale, Welfare and Recreation folks about upcoming events or outings; many commands and local communities host an Adopt-a-Sailor program. The chaplain's office often sponsors community relation projects this time of the year as well. Why not volunteer?

This holiday season, let's look out for ourselves and those around us. Take the time to recognize a warning sign and take appropriate action. It's the most valuable gift any of us can give or receive this season.



FLTCM (SW/SS) Rick West

Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command

For most of us, the holidays are a happy time, a chance to rekindle bonds of friendship and to share our lives with others. I believe that's one of the things that makes the season special.

Unfortunately, the holidays can also be one of the most stressful times of the year. With the hustle and bustle, trying to squeeze in one more activity in an already packed schedule, sometimes people become too complacent or too compulsive. With so much going on, subtle warning signs can be easily overlooked.

Shipmates, how often have you heard about the Sailor, who, not wanting to waste a minute's worth of leave, rushed home after a long day at work, gathered up the family with suitcases already packed, then sped off for an overnight long-distance road trip? Or about the Sailor who sat down with his supervisor, talked about upcoming plans for the weekend, then went to a party and intoxicated despite the earlier conversation, got behind the wheel of a car.

Maybe this holiday leave period you'll have friends or family to come home to. That's all fine and good, but I wonder - do you know what's going on during this time in the life of your friend who lives on the ship? What about the young, single Sailors who recently checked aboard and are not going on leave? What do you think happens when the ship's hours and services are reduced? Left with nothing to do and no one to turn to, the results are sometimes tragic.

The period between Thanksgiving and ending shortly after New Year's is the second most hazardous for Navy personnel in terms of death, injuries and accidents.

I'm sure no one intentionally plans to endanger the lives of others or themselves, yet the statistics show this happens too often. So how can you help?

Before departing on that long-distance road trip, think about what you must do to arrive and return safely.

Ask yourself some questions. Is my vehicle in good running condition? Are the tires (including the spare) and fluids up to par? How far is the travel distance and can

Old Man Winter aboard USS Philippine Sea



Official U.S. Navy photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives
USS Philippine Sea (CV 47) flight deck scene, looking aft from the island, as the carrier is enveloped in a snowstorm off the Korean coast on Nov. 15, 1950. Planes on deck include Vought F4U-4B "Corsair" fighters and Douglas AD "Skyraider" attack planes. Note men on deck, apparently tossing snowballs, and what may be a toppled snowman just in front of the midship's elevator.

Hawai'i Navy News

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Sailors show students Navy's career opportunities

Story and photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Ten Sailors from various commands in the Pearl Harbor area visited Radford High School to participate in the school's 10th annual Career Fair on Nov. 27.

During the visit, the Sailors spoke with more than 200 students about various job opportunities and benefits the Navy has to offer.

"It's important to do this because we want to show the students all the opportunities they can have if they choose the Navy after high school," said Chief Culinary Specialist (SW/AW) Adeline Lopes, assigned to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor. "We want to show them the Navy's various aspects and the benefits the Navy has for them."

Robert Frye, vice principal,

Radford High School, stated that the Sailors provided the students with a model example of what people think Sailors are.

"For our career day, we look for speakers who can not just give information on their career, but people who look, talk and act like a person in that profession would," said Frye. "The Sailors who came here acted as professionals and answered all the questions the students had for them about their careers."

Sailors who attended the event loved the opportunity to visit the students and to let them know the requirements and benefits of joining the Navy.

"Coming here and talking to the kids was a great opportunity," said Navy Counselor 1st Class (SW/AW) Richard Stewart, assigned to NAVSTA Pearl Harbor. "This is the new generation, and giving them the requirements for the Navy

early on so they can prepare and get a better viewpoint of what the Navy has to offer is very important."

Students who listened to the Sailors were grateful for the information they learned about the Navy and how it can help in planning their futures.

"The Sailors coming here helped me learn a lot of things I never knew about the military," said Christopher Barbee, a sophomore at Radford. "Having help with college is something I look for and knowing the Navy can help me is amazing."

Radford High School holds the annual school-wide fair to provide students with a comprehensive view of occupations they have shown interest in as well as introduce new careers they may never have considered.

For more information on joining the Navy, contact the Navy Recruiting Office, Pearlridge at 488-0934.



Navy Counselor 1st Class (SW/AW) Richard Stewart, assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor, speaks to students from Radford High School during the school's 10th annual Career Fair.

Adm. Keating makes first visit to Maldives



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Elisia V. Gonzales

Adm. Timothy J. Keating, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, salutes during the presentation of the Maldivian Honor Guard in Male, Maldives on Nov. 21. This was the first visit to Maldives for Keating as the commander of U.S. Pacific Command.

Got Questions?

Write to us at
hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com

Pearl Harbor Highlights

A Sailor manning the rail on board Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) gives a "thumbs up" to pier side family members as the ship departs Naval Station Pearl Harbor for a six-month deployment on Nov. 26. More than 200 officers and Sailors, assigned to the Pearl Harbor-based frigate, commanded by Cmdr. Patrick Huete, deployed to Naval Forces Southern Command area of responsibility to engage in monitoring, detection and counter-narcotics activities. Frigates fulfill a protection of shipping (POS) mission as anti-submarine warfare (ASW) combatants for amphibious expeditionary forces, underway replenishment groups and merchant convoys.



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



U.S. Navy photo by Blair Martin
Sailors on board USS Crommelin (FFG 37) man the rails as they depart Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Nov. 26.

(Right) Sailors on board Oliver Hazard Perry-class, guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) heave in a mooring line as the ship prepares to depart Naval Station Pearl Harbor for a six-month deployment.

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



(Below) Onboard USS Russell (DDG 59) LT. j.g. Daniel Bond, the ship's damage control assistant, updates the crew with the status of a main space fire during a general quarters drill. The ship was preparing for Unit Level Training Assessment-Sustainment (ULTRA S). This upcoming inspection, conducted by Afloat Training Group, will test the ship's readiness and proficiency levels in a variety of different shipboard areas, including engineering, navigation, combat systems, medical and damage control.

U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Theresa Donnelly



A crew member of the USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) returns to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on, Nov. 21, to an affectionate reunion.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Luciano Marano



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 John Wallace Ciccarelli Jr
Fireman Jason Hazenfield, assigned to guided missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37), kisses his daughter before departing for a scheduled deployment to the Caribbean on Nov. 26.



U.S. Navy photo by Blair Martin
Family members watch as USS Crommelin (FFG 37) departs Naval Station Pearl Harbor for a six-month deployment to the Caribbean.



A crew member of the USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) returns to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on, Nov. 21, to an affectionate reunion.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Luciano Marano



USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) returns to Pearl Harbor on, Nov. 21, following a regularly scheduled six-month deployment to the Western Pacific.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Luciano Marano

Construction projects around Pearl Harbor

Denise Emsley

Naval Facilities Engineering
Command Hawai'i Public Affairs

The following scheduled road/bridge closures are ongoing around Naval Station Pearl Harbor:

Submarine base area:

- All parking stalls along Oakley Road on Submarine Base between buildings 666 and 654 will be closed for the placement of a temporary chiller through Jan. 3, 2008.

Makalapa compound:

- An electrical power outage is scheduled between 7:30 a.m.-noon on Dec. 3. Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawai'i will

replace a utility pole that caught fire on Nov. 4 in front of quarters 37, Halawa Drive at Makalapa housing. A momentary outage to all Makalapa housing customers will occur between 7:30-8 a.m. to perform switching to isolate the work area. Outages for customers on Halawa Drive, Betio Place, building 550 and the surrounding recreational areas will continue from 8 a.m.-noon. Specifically, the following facilities will be affected: Units 31, 33-44, 49-52 Halawa Drive and units 47, 49, 51 Betio Place, building 550 and recreation facilities near building 550, and buildings 1775, 1776 and 1756.

- There will be an electrical power outage from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Dec. 6

for the same areas while distribution lines, equipment and devices are transferred to the new pole.

At the end of the outage, from noon-12:30 p.m., there will be a momentary outage to all Makalapa housing to restore the electrical distribution system to its normal configuration.

Ford Island:

Langley Avenue, at the fork in the road before quarters 339 heading north on Ford Island, will be closed through Dec. 6. This road closure is required to allow NAVFAC Hawai'i to connect a new waterline from the new 24-inch waterline to the existing waterline servicing the sewer lift station.

Navy leadership expresses thoughts on diversity

AFCM (AW) Michael G. Cook

Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i/Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, Equal Opportunity Advisor

Do the below paragraphs look familiar?

"The Department of the Navy is deeply committed to our nation, its citizens and those who serve the naval service. The men and women who comprise our total naval force reflect our culture and our values as a nation, and bring us the formidable strength that lies in our diversity. The term diversity encompasses not only the traditional categories of race, religion, age, gender, national origin, but also all the different characteristics and attributes of individuals that enhance the mission readiness of the Department of the Navy and strengthen the capabilities of our total force - Sailors, Marines, government civilians and contractors." - Honorable Donald C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy, Diversity Policy Statement.

"Everyone in our Navy contributes to mission success, and everyone brings to that collective effort unique capabilities and individual talent. How we harness those capabilities and foster that talent bears considerable effect on our ability to successfully accomplish the mission. Like any organization in time of change, we thrive on the infusion of new ideas and the diversity of thought. This is particularly true today, when understanding the mores, customs and ideals of diverse cultures, as well as the perspectives of other people, remains critical to winning the long war." - Adm. Mike Mullen, former Chief of Naval Operations (current chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff), Diversity Policy Statement.

As you can see, our leadership is well aware that diversity is a critical element of our mission capabilities.

STORY IDEAS?

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

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Hawaii Navy News



Momilani students say mahalo to FISC on Veterans' Day

Story and photo by
Jim Murray

*Fleet and Industrial Supply
Center Public Affairs*

In honor of Veterans' Day, Momilani Elementary School students wanted to thank Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC), Pearl Harbor personnel for their many contributions to the nation and to their school.

FISC's Sailors were invited to the school's Veterans' Day assembly, where they were presented with leis and songs and thanked for all that they have done.

"I want our kids to grow up aware of the big role the military has in their lives," said Doreen Higa, principal of Momilani Elementary School. "Sometimes it is easy for the students to take freedom



Doreen Higa, principal of Momilani Elementary School, displays the flag presented to her by Cmdr. Dan Gray, FISC Pearl Harbor (right). The flag was flown over Camp Eggars, Afghanistan, during Gray's recent deployment. (Earlier this month, Gray received the Bronze Star for his service in Afghanistan.)

for granted."

"Look around you," said Higa to the assembled students. "These are the men and women who keep

America free."

For the past eight years, the Navy has played a big role in the lives of Momilani students. In 1999, FISC Pearl Harbor

established an educational partnership with Momilani and since then, FISC military and civilian personnel have been regular contributors to Momilani's success. They have tutored students, led them in physical training, constructed a Hawaiian garden, painted everything that doesn't move, weed-whacked, donated textbooks, air conditioners and benches, and tackled an array of beautification projects.

"You name it and FISC is right there," said Higa. "Some commands enter school partnerships out of obligation. FISC does it from the heart. It's a matter of pride."

"Seeing the smiling faces of more than 400 students gives us added reason to serve our country," said Sgt. 1st Class Donnie Blanding, U.S. Army. "You can look in their eyes and see their bright future and

their hopes for improving our nation," said Blanding. (Note: Although FISC is a Navy command, it has one "Army strong" member - SFC Blanding - on its food management team.)

A highlight of the ceremony came when Cmdr. Dan Gray, who recently returned from a six-month deployment to Afghanistan, presented Higa with a flag that had been flown over Camp Eggars in Afghanistan.

"In my office in Afghanistan, I displayed dozens of hand-drawn cards from Momilani students thanking me for my service and imploring me to come home safely. I have to

admit that a few of those cards could leave me a little misty-eyed. I'll always keep them," said Gray.

Situated in the cool highlands overlooking Pearl Harbor, Momilani has won two national Blue Ribbon School awards and is admired across Hawai'i for the quality of its academic program. It is consistently near the top in statewide test scores, but its rigorous academics are balanced by an equal emphasis on character education. The May 2006 issue of Honolulu Magazine ranked Momilani as number one in its "Grading of Public Schools" article.

Navy League seeks role models in safety

From Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Safety

The Navy League of the United States is seeking Navy and Marine Corps personnel or organizations that have made the Department of the Navy safer.

The Navy League is now accepting nominations for the Adm. Vern Clark and Gen. James L. Jones Safety Awards to recognize individuals or groups whose actions and example have significantly improved the safety culture within the Navy or the Marine Corps.

"The Navy League sponsors these awards to stimulate safety ideas, suggestions, or programs that will reduce mishaps and fatalities by providing special recognition to individuals, units or organizations that exemplify and advance a culture of safety," said J. Michael McGrath, Navy League national president.

In addition to a Navy League scroll, recipients of the safety awards will receive a cash award from proceeds generated by contributions from former Secretary of the Navy Gordon England and his wife as well as multiple corporate sponsors. The amount of the award is determined by the Navy League Awards Selection Board.

The awards will be presented to recipients at the Navy League Sea-Air-Space Exposition, March 18-20, 2008, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC.

Nomination deadline is Feb. 1.

For criteria and submission guidelines, visit the Naval Safety Center Web site, <http://www.navysafetycenter.mil>; Headquarters, Marine Corps Safety Division Web site, <http://hqinet001.hqmc.usmc.mil/sd/index.htm>; or Navy League of the United States Web site, http://www.navyleague.org/public_relations/safety_awards.php.

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Ray Lofink

U.S. Pacific Fleet

The sixth annual U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) Inspectors General (IG) conference was held at the Ford Island Navy Lodge from Oct. 16-18 with 35 attendees engaged in three days of intensive discussion, training and lectures.

IGs representing 20 major commands and subordinate activities attended, including representatives from the Naval Inspector General, U.S. Pacific Command, Naval Installations Command, Naval Sea Systems Command, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, U.S. Army Pacific, Pacific Air Forces, Marine Forces Pacific, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, and Board for Corrections of Naval Records.

As one of the key oversight organizations for the Navy, IGs

provide direct, candid information to increase efficiency and identify Navy-wide systemic issues. The IG's role in government and the Navy is essential for the prevention, detection and correction of fraud, waste and abuse. Typical IG functions include investigations into allegations of rule, regulation or law violations, assessments of various operations and inspections, and audits of commands and programs.

Wayson Lee, deputy PACFLT IG, explained "These functions depend on a Navy-wide network of IG offices and are the last line of accountability." According to Lee, "We can't do our job without other IGs and the annual conference provides an open forum to share ideas, best practices, and new developments that ultimately helps us do our job better."

As with previous conferences, this year's conference reinforced

the IG network by allowing IGs from all over the world to meet in person and share information. Rear Adm. John M. Bird, deputy commander for PACFLT, provided the opening remarks and challenged the participants to, "Master your profession, applying the core competencies to improve performance and capabilities of our Navy's programs, business, and people." He set the stage for the three-day conference by reinforcing the critical role IGs play in the Navy and PACFLT to identify changes in processes and procedures "for success." Other key speakers included Col. John Stratis, PACOM IG; Sue Conaway, NAVINSGEN director of training; George Brezna, Naval Installations Command IG; and briefs from direct reporters to PACFLT.

In furthering the conference goal to share ideas and learn from each other, attendees heard presenta-

tions that included preserving prosecutorial options, Military Whistleblower Protection Act, operations of the Board for Corrections of Naval Records, developing 21st Century Leaders through diversity, and Navy Criminal Investigations Service (NCIS) interaction with Naval Inspectors General.

New for this year's conference was three workshops: Investigations, Joint and Operating Forces IGs, and Audit Functions in IG operations. Reinforcing the joint IG role was a presentation by Lt. Col. Jim Gribble, U.S. Army National Guard, who recounted his experiences and challenges as the inspector general for Joint Task Force GITMO.

During an awards luncheon on the second day, the outstanding achievements of IGs in the Pacific area of responsibility were recog-

nized. Judy Yamashita, IG for Commander Naval Forces Japan, and Debra Richardson, IG for Southwest Region Maintenance Center, each received the award for Pacific Fleet's Outstanding IG for 2007. Both awardees were recognized for their significant accomplishments in building IG operations in their respective areas. On the last day of the conference, the group took a tour of the Joint POW/MIA Accountability Command (JPAC), Hickam AFB. JPAC is the operational agency responsible for worldwide investigations, recoveries, and identifications of the more than 88,000 Americans still missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War.

The annual conference continues to be an essential means to achieve continuous process improvement through training and networking with other IGs and participants.

Change out old holiday lights and save

Krista Stehn

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i Resource Efficiency Manager

Displaying holiday lights are just one way that people express the spirit of the holiday season. Many of us decorate our homes and offices with strings of lights. While holiday lights can certainly bring joy to the season, they can also significantly increase energy use and electrical costs.

Decorating with standard incandescent holiday lights, which are significantly less energy efficient than other available lighting options, makes the season more expensive. One simple way to reduce energy consumption and cost is by using light emitting diode or LED holiday lights.

These energy efficient lights can dramatically reduce energy consumption. LED lights use one-tenth the energy of regular holiday lights and can last 10 times longer (tens of thousands of hours). In addition, the lights are consider-

ably safer. Unlike incandescent bulbs, LED lights are made of epoxy lenses and remain cool, making them sturdy and virtually unbreakable.

Besides decorating with LED lights, there are several simple steps you can take to reduce energy consumption during the holidays:

- Reduce the time your holiday lights are on by waiting until the sun goes down before flipping the switch.
- Avoid leaving lights on throughout the night while you are sleeping.
- Use a light timer to avoid turning lights on too early or forgetting to turn them off.
- Reduce your lighting display by one, two or three strands of lights.

You may not even notice the subtle changes.

You certainly do not have to "pull the plug" on your holiday lights to save energy this season. By making just a few simple adjustments, you can not only reduce energy use, but have a little more money in your pocket.



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Christopher Weis

IA stands guard during ceremony

Lt. Robert Holt, the executive officer of Provincial Reconstruction Team Khost, stands guard during the opening ceremony for an agricultural demonstration farm for Khost University at Khost, Afghanistan on Nov. 21 as Gul Hassan Wali Zai, the university chancellor, makes a phone call to prepare for the coming events. The farm is designed to test new seeds and crops for the Afghan environment. Holt is an individual augmentee Sailor from Hawai'i.