

Remembering the legacy of
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
Hawai'i
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Port Royal, Hopper COs discuss Strait of Hormuz incident

U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/5th Fleet Public Affairs

Capt. David Adler, commanding officer of USS Port Royal (CG 73), and Cmdr. Jeffery James, commanding officer of USS Hopper (DDG 70), met with Middle Eastern and U.S. national media at Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/5th Fleet headquarters Jan. 13 to discuss last week's incident in the Strait of Hormuz.

Both commanding officers expressed that the Port Royal and Hopper crews were professional and followed proper procedures when they encountered five Iranian boats maneuvering erratically around the ships.

"As we felt the threat rise, we went through our cautionary steps, such as increasing radio queries and using the ship's whistle to warn the boats," Adler said. "We are very well trained in what we're doing here and I think that we did exactly what we were supposed to do. I was very proud of the way that the crew performed."

James pointed out that the crew's procedural actions prevented a potentially dangerous outcome.



U.S. Navy photo

During a news conference Sunday at the U.S. Navy base in Manama, Bahrain, U.S. Navy Capt. David Adler, right, and Cmdr. Jeffery James discuss the incident where Iranian naval speed boats approached the cruiser USS Port Royal on Jan. 6 near Iranian waters in the Strait of Hormuz. Adler and James would not say how close the Navy was to firing at the Iranian boats.

ed a potentially dangerous outcome.

"We stepped through our measured procedures to let the boats

know who we were and what we were doing and that we perceived their actions as threatening," James said. "We gave them the

opportunity to break off so that we didn't have to go the ultimate, which would have been deadly force."

Adler also mentioned that the U.S. Navy's regular transit through the Strait of Hormuz is to support regional stability.

"We're here with the 19 other coalition countries to keep the sea lanes open for international traffic," Adler said.

Port Royal and Hopper are part of a routine rotation of U.S. warships to the region. Their operations are focused on reassuring regional partners of the coalition's commitment to help set conditions for security and stability. U.S. forces maintain a naval and air presence in the region that deters destabilizing activities while safeguarding the region's vital links to the global economy.

Port Royal and Hopper are well-positioned to respond to any potential emergent situations. Their inherent capabilities will be used to train with regional partners and enhance existing cooperative relationships with an aim to support regional country's struggle against violent extremists. The ships also bring state-of-the-art command and control elements that are well suited to provide humanitarian and disaster relief support if required.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Maebel Tinoko

Musician 1st Class Paul Lindsey, assigned to Navy Band Northwest, prepares to play "Taps" on his trumpet during a remembrance ceremony for the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Naval Undersea Museum Keyport's Jack Murdock Auditorium.

PACFLT Commander recalls legacy of Dr. King

MC2 (SW/AW) John Buckles

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Adm. Robert F. Willard recognized Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s instrumental role in the civil rights movement, especially his part in bringing Americans together, in his latest "Rat-Pac Report" podcast posted Jan. 15.

Willard recalled King's speeches on racial harmony, equality and justice.

"I'm old enough to remember the civil rights movement and old enough to remember the vivid images of Martin Luther King marching, speaking and even the words contained in his speeches," said Willard.

Willard recounted the impact King had on our nation.

"His sacrifice has evolved civil rights in this country to the point it is today, where we enjoy civil liberties across our ethnic groups across our country unlike anywhere else in the world," Willard said.

Vice Adm. Adam M. Robinson, U.S. Navy Surgeon General, validated Willard's statement.

"Martin Luther King Jr. was a great American," said Robinson. "I think he should be counted among some of the great heroes of our nation."

King has been compared to our founding fathers as one of the most influential figures in Western history.

"George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln were all inte-

gral parts of American history and the American story," said Robinson. "Doctor King is also a part of that story. It is very appropriate that we commemorate his life and his birth."

After listening to Willard's podcast, Pacific Fleet Sailors voiced their views.

"The podcast made me think about the unbelievable sacrifices a few have gone through for mankind," Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 1st Class (SW/AW) Luis Holguin said. "I consider Martin Luther King like Abraham Lincoln. While Abraham Lincoln started the movement by abolishing slavery, Martin Luther King pursued this further, fighting for equality and desegregation."

See DR. KING, A-6

Fleet commander focuses on Hawai'i's strategic importance

Ensign Theresa Donnelly

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Adm. Robert F. Willard spoke about the strength of the Navy in the Pacific to Hawai'i business leaders, state representatives and other members of the Oahu community during the seventh annual Hawai'i-U.S. Military Partnership Conference held in Waikiki on Jan. 3.

The conference offered members of the Hawai'i State Chamber of Commerce an opportunity to learn more about dynamic issues planned across the Pacific area of operations.

Willard emphasized Hawai'i's importance as a military asset, in particular the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF).

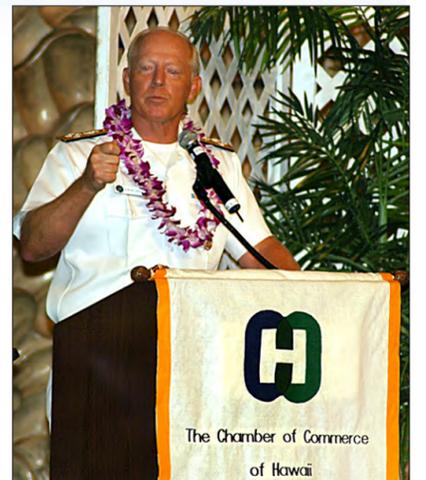
"The strategic importance of the state of Hawai'i hasn't changed in 65 years," said Willard. "It's important that the management of the shipyard workforce remain state-of-the-art on this island and for the Pacific fleet."

PMRF recently conducted testing with the Japanese Defense Ship Kongo which resulted in the successful SM-3 launch, a first for the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force. The facility also works with Pearl Harbor-based ships that have capabilities to track and shoot down long-range ballistic missiles.

"That range plays a pivotal part and, like the shipyard, PMRF must remain state-of-the-art on land, under the sea, and on the sea," said Willard.

Willard not only reflected upon the historic significance of Hawai'i's military assets, but in his first address of 2008, he also emphasized its continued strategic importance to the Pacific Fleet area of responsibility.

"I think you can be proud of your fleet, we are certainly proud of it, and proud of those Sailors, particularly individual augmentees and those that are serving in harm's way forward," said Willard. "We have to protect that water space for all that it represents in



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

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Adm. Robert F. Willard spoke about the strength of the Navy in the Pacific to Hawai'i business leaders, state representatives, and any other distinguished members of the Oahu community during Hawai'i-U.S. Military Partnership Conference on Jan. 23.

terms of our ability to train and exercise."

He also discussed this summer's Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, a large-scale tactical exercise designed to increase operational and interoperational ability and to test PMRF's war-fighting capabilities with nearly a dozen other Pacific nations.

Willard was joined by other Hawai'i military leaders from the Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Air Force and the National Guard. Each component leader discussed upcoming events taking place and held a brief question-and-answer session.

"It's important to hold these events each year and bring this type of information to the local businesses," said Larry Osborn, Northrop Grumman corporate lead executive. "It helps to foster a good working relationship between company leaders and the U.S. military."



Pearl Harbor survivor returns after 50 years See page A-2



USS Russell holds change of command ceremony See pages A-4, A-5



USS Reuben James bids farewell to commanding officer See page A-4



Military children meet and play with Hula Bowl Players See page B-1



Chief Shipfitter (Navy ret.) Leonard Jarvis, who was stationed at what was known as the receiving station (which is now the Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor headquarters) during the attack on Dec. 7, 1941, pays his respects to his fallen shipmates at the USS Arizona Memorial on Jan. 15. This was his first visit to the memorial and served as the last stop on his tour of NAVSTA Pearl Harbor and historic Ford Island.

Pearl Harbor survivor returns after 50 years

Story and photo by
MC3 David N. Dexter

Navy Region Hawai'i Public
Affairs

On Jan. 15, Chief Shipfitter (Navy ret.) Leonard Jarvis returned to Pearl Harbor for the first time in more than 50 years, accompanied by 19 of his family members. During the visit, he shared his experiences of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack while assigned at the receiving station on board Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor.

The receiving station has since been renovated and is currently the headquarters for Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i, Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and commanding officer, NAVSTA Pearl Harbor.

During the tour, Jarvis talked about the Dec. 7 attack and the changes in Pearl Harbor since his last visit.

"It's great to be back in Pearl Harbor," said Jarvis. "My greatest feeling is to bring four generations of my family here so they can learn a little more of what happened."

Jarvis was 17 when he joined the Navy and had just turned 18 three weeks prior to the attack.

"The memory that stands out the most for me was a torpedo bomber shooting at me," stated Jarvis. "I was just a seaman second class, but I didn't wait for orders, I tried to load up [my gun] and ended up getting clipped just barely in my hip."

"Nothing went through my mind, but 'we're in trouble,'" said Jarvis. "Then, a Marine guard at the main gate on Hickam Road told me to help with the machine guns at the pylon. A Japanese Zero needed to pass us to get through, so we fired and the pilot went down."

Since Jarvis' last visit more than 50 years ago, there have been many changes to both NAVSTA Pearl Harbor and Ford Island, and he noticed the differences during the tour.

"I guess a lot of things have happened in between," said Jarvis. "The only two buildings I remember are the old submarine dive tower and the old receiving station."

Jarvis was proud that his family could accompany him on this visit and learn what

had happened to him on that fateful day.

"To be able to relive everything and see what he saw brings a lot of meaning and the emotional effects back to him and us," said Jessica Williams, Jarvis' great-granddaughter.

"No matter how much you watch and read about it, you never really get the grasp of it until you're here. Seeing his eyes water when he saw the Arizona Memorial for the first time made my eyes water," she concluded.

Admiral outlines challenges in 2008



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

Rear Adm. T.G. Alexander, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i (CNRH) and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific (CNSG MIDPAC), speaks to E-6 and below Sailors during an admiral's call on Jan. 16 at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel on board Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor. This was part of his calls for all active duty military and Department of Defense civilians attached to CNRH and CNSG MIDPAC. During the call, Alexander referred to the Chief of Naval Operations Guidance for 2008, covering topics such as the future force, warfighting readiness and personnel.

FISC Pearl Harbor receives NDTA Award

Jim Murray

Fleet and Industrial Supply
Center

For the second time in seven years, the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Pearl Harbor Ocean Terminals Department has been awarded the National Defense Transportation Association (NDTA) Military Unit Award for the Navy. The award, which was presented in Charleston, S.C. was for calen-

dar year 2006. The FISC Pearl Ocean Terminals Department won the same award in 1999.

Presented annually, the award recognizes military transportation units that have distinguished themselves in an operational environment. FISC Pearl was recognized for its superior transportation services in the air, on the land and in the ocean and also for its postal service operation.

Despite a 37 percent

increase in workload in 2006, the team provided superb transportation support to 250 shore activities, 30 homeported ships and submarines, and more than 400 transient ships, representing nations from across the globe. In addition, its air clearance authority kept cargo flowing efficiently throughout the mid-Pacific area of operations.

FISC's ocean terminal is the only Navy-operated and Navy-owned terminal in the Department of Defense.

Hawaii Navy News Editorial

NMCRS offers alternative to payday loans

Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Pearl Harbor

In January 2008, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Quick Assist Loan (QAL) Program, which has been under evaluation during 2007 at eight of the society's offices, will be expanded to all NMCRS full service offices. The maximum loan available will be \$300, repayable within 10 months.

Both the Pearl Harbor and Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) – Kaneohe offices are gearing up to begin offering the Quick Assist Loan Program to Hawaii Sailors and Marines. The Quick Assist Loan Program is being offered as a reasonable alternative to payday loans and other forms of predatory lending which have exposed many of Sailors and Marines to exorbitant interest fees, often in excess of 400 percent APR. Loans will be limited to \$300 no more than twice a year only to active duty Sailors and Marines.

Volunteers are needed to help with the new program. The Quick Assist Loan Program is intentionally designed to process clients in a quick and efficient manner. The processing is uncomplicated and will require minimal training for new volunteers.

For more information, call 423-1314 or email paul.belanger@nmcrs.org.

Following are some frequently asked questions

(FAQ) regarding the new program:

What is the purpose of a QAL?

Quick assist loans of up to \$300 are designed to help with emergency needs for basic living expenses such as housing, utilities, food and clothing; medical or dental expenses; vehicle or transportation expenses, or to assist during family emergencies. Like the society's other loans, QALs are interest-free.

Who is eligible?

Any active duty Sailor or Marine who has no outstanding loans from the society and who is in good standing. Our goal is to serve our clients in as little as 15 minutes. To help us reach that goal, please bring your most recent leave and earnings statement and your active duty ID card. You can speed up the short process by filling out the single-page application available on line at www.nmcrs.org.

When will the QAL program begin at the NMCRS offices that do not now have it?

Society-wide roll-out is planned on the organization's 104th birthday – Jan. 23.

Why has the maximum loan been reduced to \$300?

Wasn't \$500 available during the pilot program?

Yes, the ceiling of quick assist loans during the pilot period was \$500. It is simply a matter of affordability. Quick assist loans have

increased the level of loan activity by more than 77 percent at the eight test sites. Because of the popularity of this new program, the society wanted to make QALs available to Sailors and Marines serving our nation around the world. In order to accomplish that objective, we have reduced the loan ceiling to \$300.

When will the reduction to \$300 go into effect at the eight offices which have been part of the pilot program in 2007?

Jan. 1
Will QALs be available at emergency services offices and through shipboard offices?

No, active duty Sailors and Marines will need to come to one of the society's 53 full services offices to apply for a QAL.

Why has the repayment period been shortened

from 12 to 10 months?

This is also an affordability step. If this repayment cycle is unacceptable, then the client can set up an appointment with a caseworker to explore other alternatives.

What if my financial need exceeds \$300?

If a Marine or Sailor requires more than \$300, they have several options available to them. They can obtain a QAL for \$300 and make an appointment to return to the society's local office when they have time to sit down with a caseworker to review their circumstances, prepare a budget and discuss their financial needs in detail. Or, in some cases, they may be able to remain in the office for the next available appointment.

Can a Sailor or Marine have a QAL and another loan from the society run-

ning concurrently?

If a client has a regular society loan, they are ineligible for a QAL. Before they can apply for a second QAL, their first QAL must be paid in full. If they have a QAL, but find they need additional financial assistance, they may request regular society loan assistance and be provided an additional loan that would run concurrently. This would involve the normal loan process of developing a budget with a society caseworker.

What if I don't qualify for a QAL?

Service members who don't qualify for a QAL are still encouraged to seek financial counseling and assistance through the local Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Office before they seek loans from any other source.

How often can I apply for a quick assist loan?

An individual Sailor or Marine can receive no more than two QALs in a given 12-month period. Before a second QAL will be provided, the first one must be paid in full.

What is the maximum number of QALs I can receive?

QALs are not intended to be a recurring short-term supplement to a service member's income. The society will need to address third (or higher) QALs on a case by case basis. QALs are designed to meet emergency financial needs. If your situation involves substantial debt that cannot be remedied by one or two short term \$300 loans, you should consider sitting down with a caseworker to review your budget, identify cost savings measures you can take, and design a financial plan to help give you financial stability.

A dream to remember

I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today.

I dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its hanging from the trees, whipping with the words of interposition and nullification, in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to play with white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I dream that one day, every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made plain, and the crooked shall be made straight.



Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy

Commentary by Karen S. Spangler

Editor

On Jan. 21, Americans will celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, a holiday which honors the life of a man who brought hope and vision to our country.

Dr. King worked with people of all ages, races and backgrounds, encouraging Americans to join together to alleviate poverty, further peace, strengthen communities, and have dignity and respect for all human beings. His vision recognized service as the great equalizer.

Although legislation was introduced to create a federal Martin Luther King Jr. holiday just four days after King was assassinated in 1968, the bill went through a number of stalls. Finally in 1983, Congress passed the legislation and President Ronald Reagan signed it into law. The holiday was observed for the first time on Jan. 20, 1986.

A compromise moved the holiday observance from Jan. 15, King's birthday, to the third Monday in January.

The celebration of Dr. King's legacy has evolved into a national day of volunteer service. In 1994, Congress enacted the King Holiday and Service Act, asking Americans to memorialize Dr. King by participating in service projects in their communities.

Americans are asked to make the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday "a day on, not a day off" and to turn community concerns into civic action.

Through the past decade, participation in the King Day of Service has grown. As Americans reflect on King's life and teachings, they have become involved in such projects as beautification efforts at schools and senior centers, delivering meals, building homes, and tutoring and mentoring children. However, many of the projects that have been started on King Day have continued beyond the holiday and support the community throughout the year.

The Chief of Naval Operations has encouraged everyone in the Navy community to educate themselves and their commands on the principles that Dr. King stood for and how they contribute to Navy diversity and their ability to accomplish assigned missions.

On this holiday, Americans will pay tribute to a man who didn't just "talk the talk," but "walked the walk," a visionary who put his life on the line for freedom and justice.

And, in the end, he made the ultimate sacrifice – giving his life to uphold the ideals to make democracy a reality for all Americans, regardless of race, gender or creed.

Happy birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King!

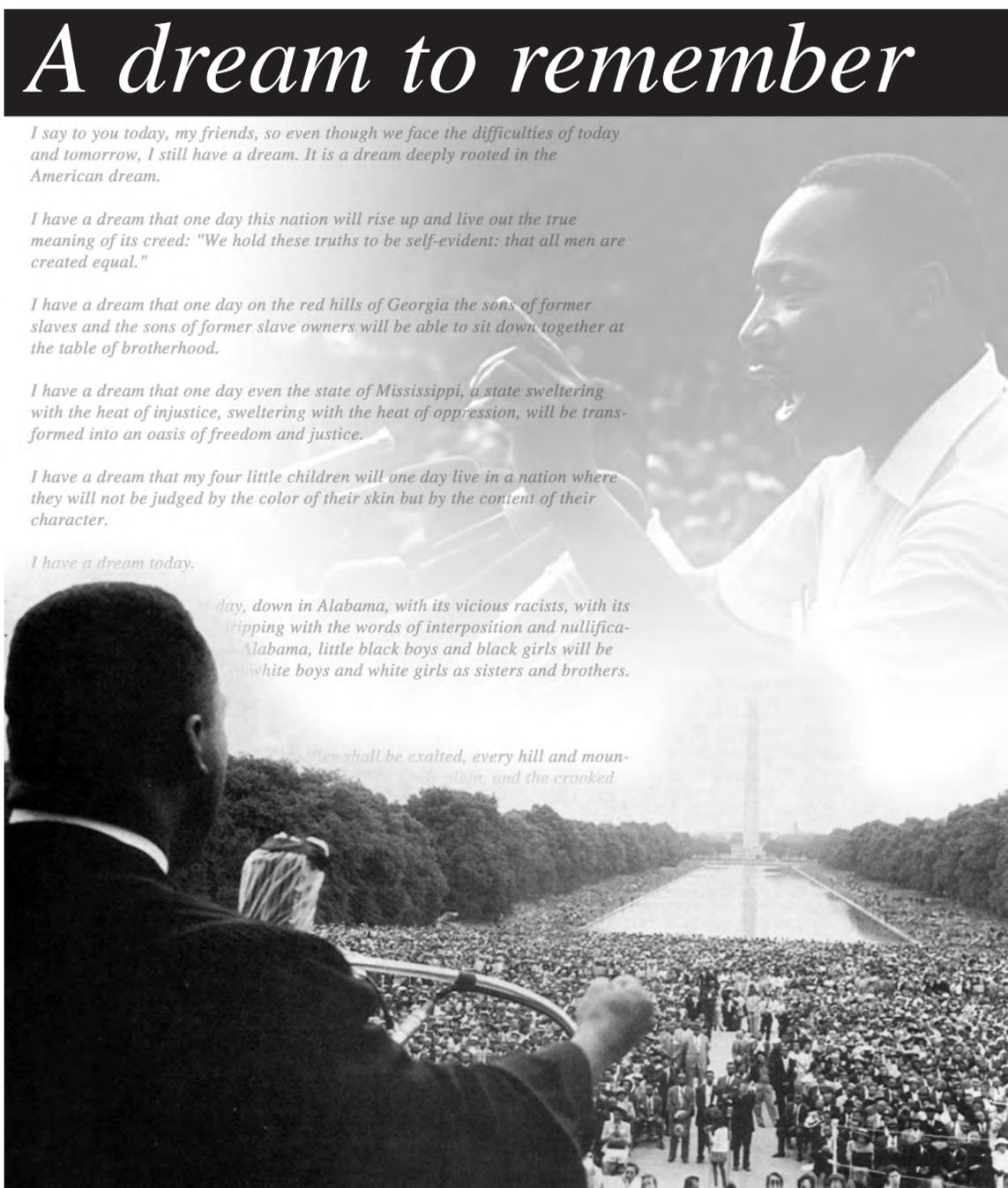


Photo illustration

Each year many Americans pay tribute to the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Starting as a leader for the civil rights movement in the 1960s, King's interests soon widened to include the Vietnam War and American poverty. His plans for a poor people's march to Washington were stopped short on April 4, 1968 when he was shot and killed as he stood on a balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn. James Earl Ray, a career criminal, plead guilty to the murder and was convicted. In 1983, Congress approved a bill for a national holiday to honor King. The bill was quickly signed into law by President Ronald Reagan.

Hawaii Navy News

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii

Rear Adm. T. G. Alexander

Chief of Staff, Navy Region Hawaii

Capt. Donald D. Hodge

Director, Public Affairs - Agnes Tauyan

Deputy Public Affairs officer - Terri Kojima

Managing Editor - MCC (SW/AW) David Rush

Leading Petty Officer -

MC1 (AW/SW) James Foehl

Editor - Karen Spangler

Staff Writer - MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Contributing Writer - Blair Martin

Technical Adviser - Joe Novotny

Layout/Design - Tony Verceluz

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U.S. Navy photo

USS Reuben James commanding officer, Cmdr. Rich Haidvogel, turns over command to Cmdr. Joe Naman during a change of command ceremony on Jan. 8.

USS Reuben James bids farewell to commanding officer

Ensign Fallon Rossi

USS Reuben James (FFG 57) Public Affairs

To say that Cmdr. Rich Haidvogel will be missed onboard USS Reuben James (FFG 57) might just be the understatement of the year. In fact, many members of the crew have proclaimed that he is the best commanding officer they have ever had and are sad to see him go.

During a Jan. 8 change of command ceremony, Haidvogel passed the torch to Cmdr. Joe Naman, who met the ship in Malaysia. Naman, who recently completed a tour as executive officer onboard USS Mobile Bay, said, "I feel privileged to have been selected to command Reuben James. I could not have asked for a better ship or crew and I'm honored to have the opportunity to lead them while doing our part in the global war on terrorism."

Haidvogel's next assignment is to Carrier Strike Force Training Pacific in San Diego as the maritime operations officer. The mission of Carrier Strike Force Training Pacific is to train deploying strike groups for operations in an integrated naval and joint environment.

Immediately upon taking command of Reuben James, Haidvogel found the delicate balance between pushing his crew toward greatness while still maintaining a high level of motivation and morale. As a result, his tour as commanding officer has been triumphant.

The ship participated in several afloat operations throughout his tour,

including sea combatant command (SCC) operations with the Canadian navy, a Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX) with the Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group, a tactical maneuvering exercise with the Japanese navy and most recently, a Western Pacific deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-Philippines (OEF-P).

Although Reuben James has provided outstanding support to several operations throughout the past year and a half, Haidvogel still made time for swim calls, fish calls, steel beach picnics and cinemas at sea. He instilled in his crew the importance of working hard while still leaving room to have fun. "From my point of view, he embodies exactly what a captain should be. He cares about his people and always puts them first," said Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Sean Cruz. "I wish I could give him back even half of what he's given me," commented Lt. Melissa McEwan.

Haidvogel noted that he has enjoyed his tour as much as the crew has enjoyed his leadership. "Regardless of scope, the crew has excelled at every task during my tour. This tour has been the most challenging and professionally rewarding tour of my career. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching junior Sailors develop and the crew working together, especially during our Seventh Fleet deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom - Philippines," he said.

Reuben James is homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i and has been operating as part of the U.S. Seventh Fleet.

USS Russell holds change of command ceremony

Ensign Theresa Donnelly

USS Russell (DDG 59) Public Affairs

Cmdr. Jeffrey Weston relieved Cmdr. Brad Cooper during a change of command ceremony held underway on the flight deck of guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) on Jan. 14.

With both commander's families and ship's crew in attendance, Commander, Carrier Strike Group Nine Rear Adm. Scott Van Buskirk and Commander, Destroyer Squadron Nine Capt. James Loeblein each took a moment to recognize the ship's accomplishments while under Cooper's leadership as commanding officer.

"You guys epitomize excellence and you are the standard that the fleet aspires to," said Buskirk.

"You are proud, you're confident, and you're professional," Loeblein told the crew. "Russell has and will continue to sail smartly in defense of the freedoms that we cherish as Americans."

Cooper assumed command of Russell in August 2006. Under his stewardship, the ship received the 2006 Battle Efficiency "E" award, recognizing a combination of achievements in the following warfare areas: maritime warfare, engineering/survivability, command and control and logistics management.

Additionally, last fall the ship received the highest Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) exam score in the last six years and was one of only three ships in the Pacific fleet ever to certify at Ultra Level Readiness, Engineering (ULTRA-E) inspection.

Most recently, the ship has been selected as a finalist for the 2007 Capt. Edward F. Ney Award, given annually to the best food service organization in the fleet. It won the 'golden Anchor' award for retention excellence in 2007.

After receiving a Meritorious Service Medal and performing an on-the-spot promotion to petty officer first class for Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Derrick Compton, Cooper took a moment



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Hight

Cmdr. Brad Cooper, commanding officer of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59), is relieved by Cmdr. Jeffrey Weston during a change of command ceremony conducted on the flight deck of the Russell on Jan. 14. Cooper was relieved as CO by Weston after successfully completing a 15-month tour. (See page A-5 for more photos)

to reflect on his tour while serving as Russell commanding officer.

"Today marks an occasion where we can relive many of the concepts and ideals that we've lived during our tour on this great ship," said Cooper. "Pride, character, achievement, readiness and when it's appropriate, thanks."

When asked what it was like leaving the ship as commanding officer, Cooper said, "I am proud and honored beyond words."

After the ceremony, many of the crew reflected on Cooper's time on board.

"I am so honored to have served under someone as wonderful of a leader as Cmdr. Cooper," said Russell's assistant communications officer, Ensign Lisa Bydairk.

"It's sad to see him go, but I am optimistic about the future working under Cmdr. Weston," said Damage Controlman Fireman Derek Holder.

Cooper's next assignment will be to U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) where he will be part of the commander's action group as a special assistant to the deputy commander under Vice Adm. Robert Moeller.

Weston enlisted in the Navy in 1979 and entered into the Navy's nuclear power program. In 1990, he was selected into the Limited

Duty Officer Program while serving as an instructor at Surface Warfare Officer School.

His most recent assignment was a Pentagon tour to the OPNAV Staff, N86 Surface Warfare Directorate as a requirements officer for Network Integration and Combat Systems. Previous commands include department head tours aboard USS Nicholson (DD 982) and USS Porter (DDG 78), where he served as engineering officer.

Weston's decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with four gold stars, and the Defense Achievement Medal.

Russell departed Pearl Harbor on the day of the ceremony to participate in Joint Task Force Exercise and to prepare for its upcoming Unit Level Training Assessment - Sustainment (ULTRA-S) inspection. The ship is currently assigned to the USS Abraham Lincoln Strike Group and will join the carrier on its upcoming deployment.

"It's hard to express the excitement that I feel right now," said Weston. "It really is an incredible opportunity to command a warship like this."

Pearl Harbor Highlights



(Above) Rear Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, commander, Carrier Strike Group Nine, salutes the national ensign for the playing of the national anthem during a change of command ceremony on the flight deck of the Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) on Jan. 14. Russell's commanding officer, Cmdr. Brad Cooper, was relieved by Cmdr. Jeffery Weston after successfully completing a 15-month tour aboard the Russell. Russell is currently underway conducting a Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFX) in preparation for an upcoming deployment.



(Left) Sailors stand in ranks during a change of command ceremony on the flight deck of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) on Jan. 14. (See story and additional photo on page A-4.)

U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Michael Hight

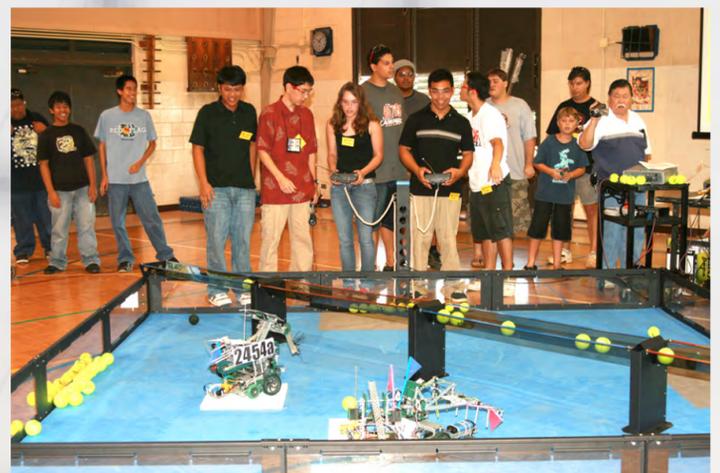


Photo courtesy of Carlos Manuel Santiago Guzman
 Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard volunteers are helping students gear up for the first For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) regional robotic competition to be held in Hawai'i on March 28-29 at the University of Hawai'i. (See story and additional photo on page B-6.)

On Dec. 19, Sailors from USS Port Royak (CG 73) loaded boxes of toys and hygiene items into a truck for delivery to the U.S. Embassy warehouse, where representatives from three non-governmental organizations received them for distribution to the city and in Indonesia's rural interior. The boxes were donations from Project Handclasp, which is a program that allows private organizations to donate toys and other items for forward-deployed military units to distribute overseas.
 U.S. Navy photo



Royal Malaysian Navy training vessel KLD Tunas Samudera transits the Pearl Harbor channel as she makes her way pier-side Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Tunas Samudera departed Port Klang, Malaysia on March 12, 2007, for a tall-ship race around the world and is scheduled to return to Malaysia in April 2008 after visiting more than 25 countries and traveling for more than 400 days. Tunas Samudera's overseas sailing mission provides an avenue for sea training of Malaysian naval cadets and promotes goodwill in tourism, culture and international relationships.

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



Russell underway

(Left) Ensign Lisa Bydairk and Ensign Danielle Flannery go over the underway checklist onboard guided missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59). The ship got underway Jan. 14, to participate in Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFX), a large scale tactical exercise with the USS Abraham Lincoln Strike Group. The destroyer is making preparations for an upcoming scheduled deployment.

U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Theresa Donnelly

Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Homer Smalls of Poplarville, Miss., renders a salute toward the national ensign during morning colors aboard the Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59).

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Hight

Dr. King: Remembering the man behind the dream

Continued from A-1

"Adm. Willard's insight was very accurate," said Yeoman 1st Class (SW/AW) Aleshia Mitchell. "Dr. Martin Luther King was a remarkable man of courage, faith, passion, brilliance and wisdom."

Willard described how one person can make a profound and positive difference.

"I think in every great evolution in a country, in our world, there is one man or one woman whose vision is behind it, fundamental to it. And in the civil rights movement in this country, in the 20th century, I think Dr. King was that one man," Willard said.

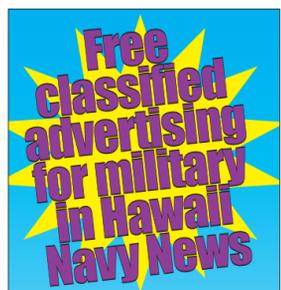
King influenced the lives of many different people - people who now honor his accomplishments and remember his dream.

"Dr. King faced adversity head on and stood firm behind a deeply rooted vision with the aspiration to emerge and blossom," said Mitchell. "A nation united, seeking equality and justice for all is a nation that should be proud."

To honor the late civil rights leader and his values and beliefs, Robinson encouraged people to live King's "dream" every day, not just on the holiday in January.

"I think more than just commemoration and remembering, we should also live the philosophy that he espoused and try to attain the goals that he set for us during his lifetime," he said.

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Adm. Robert F. Willard's "Rat-Pac Report" podcast can be found at www.cpf.navy.mil with a new release every Wednesday.



Active duty and retired military, civil service and family members can advertise the sale of their personal property (including real estate) and services in HNN at no charge. The details are as follows:

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Sailors from USS Port Royal (CG 73), homeported at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, play a volleyball game during a four-day port visit to Jakarta.

USS Port Royal visits Jakarta

Story and photo by
Ensign Cassidy A. Rasmussen

USS Port Royal Public Affairs

Indonesian naval officers stood in formation on the pier and a military band played patriotic songs Dec. 20 as USS Port Royal (CG 73) pushed away from her berth at Tanjung-Priok Port in Jakarta, after a four-day port visit to Indonesia's capital province.

"We were thoroughly impressed and honored by the warm welcome extended to us here," said Capt. David B. Adler, Port Royal commanding officer. "The hospitality was remarkable. I already knew that this port visit would provide my crew with the chance to interact with the culture, but on a grander scale we saw an expression of the friendship that exists between the United States and Indonesia."

The farewell show as Port Royal pulled away from Jakarta was only a small demonstration compared to the festivities during the first hours of her arrival Dec. 17. As local dignitaries welcomed Adler with flowers and fruit, while traditional dancers, fire-breathers and other performers entertained the crew on the pier. "In my 20 years in the Navy, I don't think I've ever received a warmer welcome ... even when returning to homeport," said Cmdr. Steven Okun, executive officer.

Indonesia's hospitality did not stop at the pier. Local citizens embraced Port

Royal Sailors as they ventured off the ship to explore the city and participate in athletic games and community relations events. On Dec. 19, a small group of Sailors loaded boxes of toys and hygiene items into a truck for delivery to the U.S. Embassy warehouse, where representatives from three non-governmental organizations received them for distribution to the city and in Indonesia's rural interior.

The boxes were donations from Project Handclasp, which is a program that allows private organizations to donate toys and other items for forward-deployed military units to distribute overseas. "The timing of these gifts is perfect," said Sister Maria from Yayasan Emmanuel, which provides housing, education and medical care to orphaned, abandoned, and neglected children. "At this time of year we want to give more, but we have so little to give. Thank you for these gifts." Port Royal Sailors also spent two days welcoming aboard various groups for ship tours and receptions. A tour with groups from local high schools Dec. 19 impressed many students and teachers. "The kids were all really excited to be there," said Lt. Keith Ludwick. "I could tell they really appreciated the opportunity to tour our ship." "Everyone was really friendly," remarked Interior Communications Electrician 3rd Class Van Hill, reflecting on the port visit. "I was really excited to get to experience this."

Navy admiral assumes JPAC command

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Chlosta

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command

Navy Rear Adm. Donna L. Crisp assumed command of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command from Army Brig. Gen. Michael C. Flowers on Jan. 4 at Hickam Air Force Base.

Navy Adm. Timothy J. Keating, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, officiated at the ceremony.

Crisp, a graduate of California State University at Long Beach, was commissioned in 1974. She is the former director for manpower and personnel for the Joint Staff in Washington, D.C.

"JPAC has a unique and critical mission of accounting for the men and women of our armed forces that preserved our freedom and protected the security of others," Crisp said during the ceremony.

"Those whose fate has never been resolved have been in the minds and hearts of their families, fellow Americans and the members of JPAC," she added.

This assignment to Hawai'i is the fourth for Crisp during her more than 30 years of service. She was most recently stationed on Oahu with Pacific Fleet between 2002 and 2004.

"America will not forget those who sacrificed so much," Crisp said. "We also remember the concerns of our families who have maintained a steadfast vigil and continue to search for answers and the peace that comes with certainty."

Flowers is the second commander in JPAC's history. During his two-year assignment, JPAC conducted over 150 recovery missions and identified over 200 missing service members, including the first-ever World War I identification and the first identification using nuclear DNA.

The ceremony marked the end of a 30-year career for Flowers, who received his commission



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Derrick C. Goode

U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Donna L. Crisp, incoming commander of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, hands off the JPAC flag to U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Jackie Brown, JPAC, after receiving it from U.S. Navy Adm. Timothy J. Keating, Commander, Pacific Command, during JPAC's change-of-command ceremony at Hickam Air Force Base on Hawai'i, on Jan. 4.

in 1977 as an aviation officer through the University of Kansas ROTC. During his service, Flowers served in combat during Operations Urgent Fury, Desert Storm and Desert Shield. He also took part in peace-keeping operations in Haiti and Kosovo.

"Thank you, JPAC. Until they're home," Flowers said in his final remarks, ending with the JPAC motto.

Crisp takes command as JPAC teams prepare for the first deployments of 2008. Teams will depart over the next two weeks to Cambodia, Laos and Palau.

Reuben James Sailors compete in "Iron Sailor" Triathlon

Ensign Fallon Rossi

USS Reuben James (FFG 57)
Public Affairs

Navy fitness reached a whole new level on Dec. 23 when Sailors from USS Reuben James (FFG 57) competed in the first "Iron Sailor" Triathlon. Twelve crew members, including the commanding officer and executive officer, lined up on the main deck to jump, two by two, over the side for a 300-meter swim around the ship. After racing up the pilot's ladder, contestants completed a five-mile ride on a stationary bike, followed by a one and a half mile run on a treadmill.

For most Sailors involved, this was their first multi-sport competition and all felt a sense of pride and accomplishment upon completion of the race. "I really surprised myself with my own performance in the race," said Seaman Byron Langston. "Pushing myself like that made me feel great about my own level of fitness and inspired me to take it to the next level. I might even sign up for a race when we get back to Hawai'i."

The race could not have been a success, however, without the support of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR), which provided the funding for the new fitness equipment, purchased

prior to Reuben James' deployment to Seventh Fleet.

The triathlon gave the crew an opportunity to participate in an activity that was both fun and rewarding, and it was in keeping with the command's strong emphasis on physical fitness. Cmdr Rich Haidvogel, commanding officer, said, "Everyone who participated had fun and got a good workout at the same time." Reuben James plans to make this a recurring event to continue to instill a drive for fitness in the crew.

Reuben James is currently deployed to U.S. Seventh Fleet in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-Philippines.