

Chairman 'respects, honors' Fallon's retirement decision

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said he "respects and honors" the decision of a dear friend and mentor - Navy Adm. William Fallon - to retire as commander of U.S. Central Command effective March 31.

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen spoke to reporters traveling with him from Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. Mullen was visiting U.S. Strategic Command when word of the retirement spread. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced during a Pentagon press conference that he approved Fallon's letter of resignation and request for retirement "with reluctance and regret."

He said no one should take Fallon's retirement as a change in U.S. policy toward Iran. "In my view, this should not be seen as a sign - at all - towards any kind of conflict with Iran," Mullen said.

Fallon is supportive of the policy "to engage Iran diplomatically and economically and not take the military option off the table," the chairman said.

"I'm of the position that we need to engage Iran diplomatically, economically," the chairman said. "My view of Iran hasn't changed. I think they are a very negative, destabilizing impact in that region and in that regard Adm. Fallon and I are of the same view."

In a statement released by U.S. Central Command, Fallon said that "recent press reports suggesting a disconnect between my views and the president's policy objectives have become a distraction



U.S. Navy photo by MCI John Mason

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen speaks to the staff of North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command during a visit to Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. on March 10. It was Mullen's first visit to the commands since he was sworn in as chairman in October 2007.

tion at a critical time and hamper efforts in the CENTCOM region. And although I don't believe there have ever been any differences about the objectives of our policy in the Central Command area of responsibility, the simple perception that there is makes it difficult for me to effectively serve America's interests there."

Mullen said Fallon - who is in

Baghdad - made up his mind "based on his view commanding the most critical command we have fighting two wars. He really made his decision based on what he thought was best for the country, and I respect and honor that decision," the chairman said.

Mullen called Fallon a great naval officer and a great leader.

"I've known him personally

exceptionally well for the last 12 years," the chairman said. "Adm. Fallon fought in Vietnam, commanded in Desert Storm and commanded both PACOM and CENTCOM in two wars. In my view he's a true patriot, a great American, a great warrior and a great leader."

Recommendations from U.S. commanders in Iraq, from Central Command and from the Joint

Chiefs of Staff for the way ahead in Iraq are due to the president and Congress in April. Mullen said Fallon's views on that process will be well-represented in the process.

Army Lt. Gen. Martin Dempsey will serve as acting commander after Fallon's retirement. He is currently the command's deputy commander. Dempsey has been nominated for his fourth star and, if confirmed by the Senate, will take the job of commander of U.S. Army Europe.

The chairman said that Dempsey has been heavily involved in all aspects of U.S. Central Command and arrived at the post from a term commanding the Multinational Security Transition Command Iraq. "I am confident that in his position of acting commander that CENTCOM and the country will be very well served," he said.

The chairman said losing a leader of Fallon's vision, experience and commitment is a big loss. The CENTCOM job is a tough job and it is a critical time in the Middle East and Central Asia. He said Fallon surely took all that under consideration as he made his retirement decision.

"That's why I'm so immediately inclined to support and respect what that decision was," Mullen said. "Those of us who have commanded understand the burden of command, the importance of command and arriving at a decision like this, it's a very personal decision, ... and I believe it's a very noble decision."

"He's a dear friend, he's a mentor of mine. It's a hard decision for him and his family - they are very much on my mind."



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

A U.S. Navy SEAL assigned to Seal Delivery Vehicle Team ONE (SDVT-1) greets Hawai'i State Representatives Robert N. Herkes and John Mizuno during a ceremony at the Hawai'i State Capitol.

SEALs recognized by Hawai'i state representatives

MC2 Michael A. Lantron, Commander

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

The State of Hawai'i House of Representatives formally recognized the Sailors of SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team One (SDVT-1) on March 10 during a ceremony at the Hawai'i State Capitol.

During the presentation, Sailors of SDVT-1 were recognized for their outstanding contributions, unparalleled accomplishments and steadfast service to the people of Hawai'i and the nation.

"We acknowledge and appreciate the sacrifices made by our Hawai'i-based Navy SEAL team for protect-

ing our country at home and around the world," said Hawai'i State Rep. John Mizuno.

Two SEALs from SDVT-1 accepted certificates on behalf of the command from Hawai'i state Reps. Mizuno, Tom Brower and Jerry Chang.

"We definitely appreciate the support of the community here in Hawai'i. Being the only team outside of San Diego or Virginia, it's nice to have special recognition," said one of the SDVT-1 Sailors at the event.

The Naval Special Warfare Foundation Hawai'i was also recognized during the ceremony for its exceptional contributions and dedicated support to U.S. Navy SEALs and

their families.

The Naval Special Warfare Foundation Hawai'i was established in 2007 as a non-profit charitable foundation to take care of widows and children of U.S. Navy SEALs killed in action or training. They assist wounded SEALs where special needs cannot be met and provide support to the families of active duty SEALs who are away from home, serving their country for extended periods of time.

"The foundation supports the families of troops, which is important in times like this. With SEALs dying in Iraq and Afghanistan, they really help the families of those who passed away during their time of need," concluded the SDVT-1 Sailor.

Koonce takes helm of Key West

MC1 (SW) Cynthia Clark

Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Cmdr. Robert Koonce relieved Cmdr. Thomas Ishee as commanding officer of USS Key West (SSN 722) in a ceremony at the USS Bowfin Museum on March 7.

Adm. Jonathan Greenert, commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, traveled from his headquarters in Norfolk, Va. to be guest speaker at the event. A distinguished career submariner himself, Greenert

marveled at the long history of the Los Angeles-class submarine as well as the crew of the Key West under Ishee's leadership.

"The Los Angeles class transcended from the cold war to the global war on terrorism and they're out there getting it done," said Greenert. "Tom Ishee and his crew have shown that in spades over the last three years. It comes as no surprise that these wonderful people were Capt. Edward Takesuye's squadron's Battle 'E' Efficiency Award winner for 2007."

Following the guest

speaker's remarks, Greenert presented Ishee with the Legion of Merit.

Since assuming command in March 2006, Ishee led Key West through two years of "challenging" operations where, according to the award citation, Key West set the "standard for national and theater operations, war-plan development and ambassadorship ... while operating in the most challenging environments in the world."

In his closing remarks, Ishee let his crew know the award as well as the suc-

See KEY WEST, A-7



U.S. Navy photo by MCSA Luciano Marano

Cmdr. Thomas E. Ishee is piped ashore after being relieved as commanding officer of USS Key West (SSN 722) during a ceremony at the USS Bowfin Museum at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i on March 07. During his tour, the Key West crew was recognized for its excellence with the Submarine Squadron Three Battle "E" award for 2007.



Comedian Tommy Davidson tours USS O'Kane See page A-2



Pearl Harbor goes green See page A-4



Sailors donate 'sweat equity' for local homeowners See page A-8



Women's History Month See page B-1

Comedian Tommy Davidson tours USS O'Kane



Tommy Davidson, a comedian and actor of "In Living Color" fame, toured USS O'Kane (DDG 77) on Feb. 28 to thank the Sailors for their service and to show his support for service members. Davidson visited Hawai'i to perform a stand-up show Feb. 29 at the Hickam Air Force Base Enlisted Club.

Story and photo by
Ensign Xyrone R. Ocampo

USS O'Kane Public Affairs

Tommy Davidson, a comedian and actor of "In Living Color" fame, toured USS O'Kane (DDG 77) on Feb. 28 to thank the Sailors for their service and to show his support for service members.

Davidson visited Hawai'i to perform a stand-up show Feb. 29 at the Hickam Air Force Base Enlisted Club.

The ship's tour, hosted by Cmdr. Tom Druggan, O'Kane's commanding officer, marked Davidson's first time aboard a U.S. warship, although he recalled working for seven years as a food service attendant at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Washington, D.C. "I used to work around people in the Navy when I was 13 up to the age of 19," Davidson said. "But I never knew that

my career would allow me to have the privilege to tour a ship like this."

Kenny Hill, Davidson's promoter, said that he and Davidson had traveled to numerous military locations throughout the world, lending their support to the troops abroad. "I remember some troops pulling into Japan for liberty for just 24 hours and Kenny told me they came to see me," said Davidson. "I then told him 'No, I am here to see all of them.'"

Sheri Santospieve, the tour coordinator from an independent public relations firm, added to the tour by explaining the purpose of central control station, or CCS, to Davidson and Hill. She learned the basics of CCS from her husband, the main propulsion assistant on USS Hopper (DDG 70), currently deployed in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of opera-

tions.

O'Kane's crew enthusiastically welcomed its guest. Part of the tour route included the mess decks during lunch where Davidson interacted with many of the crew members. Culinary Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Stephanie Stewart was working in the galley when she heard "attention on deck." She quickly proceeded to greet the captain, but was shocked to see a familiar face. "Tommy Davidson!" she shouted. "I grew up watching you on TV."

Like Stewart, the majority of the crew who knew Davidson's work were elated to have him aboard. Having a celebrity on board during working hours enhanced the ship's morale and Tommy Davidson was pleased to experience the mighty O'Kane welcome.

STORY IDEAS?

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

Phone: (808) 473-2888

Email: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com

Hawaii Navy News

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Shipmates don't let shipmates abuse alcohol



FORCM Gerald E. Haueter

Commander, Naval Surface Force, Atlantic

I know most of you know the Navy's policy on alcohol. Therefore, I am not going to write about policies and instructions. If you don't know, you can go look it up or you can learn more about it during a general military

training (GMT) topic. What I am going to write about is our personal responsibility to ourselves, to our families, to our shipmates and to our Navy. Shipmates don't let shipmates abuse alcohol.

This is a very touchy subject because sometimes when we are friends with people we work with, we may be in the best position in the world to give them advice. Often we don't advise them because we don't want them to think we are getting in their business.

Being a good shipmate means sometimes we have to make some hard decisions and say some hard things that our shipmates might dislike.

For example, if you have a buddy who is showing up five days a week to quarters smelling like alcohol, there could be no telling what he is doing on the weekends, such as drinking and driving. A good shipmate, when he sees

the signs such as the smell, bloodshot eyes and fatigue, would corral his buddy and tell the Sailor he may have a problem and he needs to talk somebody to get help. That's what a true shipmate does - makes hard decisions and says hard things that often don't want to be heard - but they do it anyway.

In our Navy, alcohol abuse not only affects the abuser, it affects their shipmates, their command and their families as well. If a Sailor gets a driving under the influence (DUI), not only do we lose them to jail time, but someone has to pick up their slack in the shop. But more importantly, what this Sailor is doing is not helping himself or his family.

Alcohol abuse can snowball like drug abuse. When you first start drinking, it can start with a few drinks to "feel good" and over time it will take more and more alcohol to achieve the same feeling until it becomes a

problem. Then the family suffers, the Sailor suffers and the Navy suffers.

When you have a good Sailor who is doing great things for the Navy, we all should have the same mind set: "Not only do I owe it to him and the Navy, I owe it to myself to get this Sailor some help and get them into treatment."

We have to realize that our ship may suffer as a result, but taking the time to get the Sailor some help will pay dividends later in most cases. We also have to realize we can't save everyone and that we are going to lose some shipmates. We have to take a hard stance and get them some help.

One of my success stories of shipmates looking out for one another was also one of the biggest challenges I ever had to face as a chief petty officer. I had a command master chief (CMC) who obviously had a drinking problem and the other mas-

ter chiefs, senior chiefs and chiefs in the mess were afraid to approach him. He was a great CMC.

On one occasion, I actually followed him home one night and said to him, "Master chief, I think you are killing yourself. I've seen several of my uncles drink themselves to death and I think you are headed in the same direction. I honestly feel you should see somebody for help."

The end result was the CMC ended up getting help. I saw him several years later and he told me I had given him some of the best advice that someone has ever given him. It was a tough thing to do to one of my heroes who was a mentor to me. But he had a chink in his armor and he needed someone to tell him about it.

One of my failure stories took place at one of my previous commands. One of the most intelligent, articulate and best petty officers that I

ever had come in contact with was abusing alcohol. Initially we picked up on it because we could smell the alcohol on him. We acted on it and got him help. However, he would eventually fall on his own sword. We were so busy operationally that we forgot about him and during that time he relapsed. Instead of treating him as an alcohol treatment failure and getting him out of the Navy along with additional help, we let him slip through the cracks and as a result, he had two DUIs within six months of one another.

We lost a good Sailor, a family was destroyed, and he no longer has a retirement. That is why it is so important that we don't let our shipmates slip through the cracks - it is a sin. I certainly take some personal responsibility for that failure and we all should take personal responsibility and not let our shipmates abuse alcohol.

Women's History Month, 2008

A proclamation by the President of the United States of America

During Women's History Month, we celebrate the courage, foresight and resolve of women who have strengthened our democracy.

America has been transformed by strong women whose contributions shaped the history of our country. Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic and she inspired generations of women to follow their dreams. Physicist Chien-Shiung Wu helped advance our knowledge and understanding of the world through her achievements in atomic research. Harriet Tubman fought racial injustice and opened doors for more Americans to participate fully in our society.

Today, women are continuing this legacy of leadership as entrepreneurs, doctors, teachers, scientists, lawyers, artists and public officials. They are also providing guidance and care to their loved ones and strengthening America's families and communities. We also

remember the women of the United States Armed Forces who are serving our country with honor and distinction across the world.

This month, we honor the extraordinary women of our nation's past and recognize the countless women who are demonstrating leadership in every aspect of American life.

Now, therefore, I, George W. Bush, president of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2008 as Women's History Month. I call upon all our citizens to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities that honor the history, accomplishments and contributions of American women.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

Remember cell phone policy

Karen S. Spangler

Editor

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

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

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

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

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

The policy applies to all military personnel, civilian employees, family members, contractors, tenants and visi-

tors who operate motor vehicles on Navy shore installations. It also includes all areas where the Navy provides law enforcement, such as the Navy Exchange complex, Navy-Marine Golf Course and Navy housing areas.

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

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

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

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

Women's History Month salutes those who have served...



This poster shows Uncle Sam pointing at the viewer. The poster is titled, "Navy! Uncle Sam is calling you—enlist in the Navy!", and has the caption, "I want you in the Navy and I want you now." The poster was created in 1917.

Hawai'i Navy News

Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i
Rear Adm. T. G. Alexander

Chief of Staff, Navy Region Hawai'i
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

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.

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication pri-

marily for members of the Navy and Marine Corps military services and their families in Hawai'i. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U. S. Government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps and do not imply endorsement thereof.

The civilian publisher, The Honolulu Advertiser, is responsible for commercial advertising, which may be purchased by calling (808) 521-9111.

The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products and services advertised by the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps, Commander, Navy

Region Hawai'i or the Honolulu Advertiser.

Everything advertised in this paper shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

A confirmed violation of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source.

Hawai'i Navy News is delivered weekly to Navy housing units and Navy installations throughout Oahu. Housing residents may contact the publisher directly at (808) 538-NEWS (538-6397) if they wish to discontinue home delivery.



U.S. Navy photo

Stationed onboard USS Chung-Hoon, Fire Control Chief Angelina Lamb returned from a 14-month individual augmentation (IA) billet in Iraq where she served as an Army CIWS maintenance technician leading chief petty officer for the Alpha Battery 5-5 Air Defense Artillery unit.

Chung-Hoon fire control chief returns from Iraq

Ensign Sarah Welsch

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93)
Public Affairs

Fire Control Chief Angelina Lamb spent the last 12 months overheated, overworked and thousands of miles away from homeport - and she wasn't under-way for a single day.

Stationed onboard USS Chung-Hoon, Lamb departed in December 2006 for a 14-month individual augmentation (IA) billet in Iraq where she served as an Army close-in weapon system maintenance technician leading chief petty officer for the Alpha Battery 5-5 Air Defense Artillery unit.

Lamb arrived onboard Chung-Hoon on Sept. 10, 2004, making her one of the

elite group of plank owners who commissioned the ship in Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i and led Chung-Hoon's strike team through two separate and successful cruise missile tactical qualifications.

Although she started her tenure on the Chung-Hoon as a first class petty officer, she completed the ship's maiden deployment and successfully transitioned as chief petty officer.

Following her IA tour, Lamb's perspective remained positive. "It's not every day that the average seagoing Sailor gets to spend a year working with a different branch of the military in a combat zone and away from the ocean.

Although my job did not require me to go outside the wire, I am proud of the mis-

sion we had at hand to protect thousands of military and civilian personnel and important assets on base from rocket and mortar attacks."

She added, "While our job at sea is very important, this is the first time I have been able to see my gear in action vice an exercise and that is a great feeling to hear those weapons go off and to find out that it was a successful event."

While the time in Iraq has provided her many "sea" stories for her return to Chung-Hoon, she looks forward to rejoining her shipmates and enjoying the cool breezes of Pearl Harbor. Lamb is scheduled to detach from Chung-Hoon this month to join Afloat Training Group, Mayport, Fla.

Pearl Harbor goes green

Story and photo by
MC3 John Wallace
Ciccarelli Jr.

Fleet Public Affairs, Center
Detachment Hawai'i

Today's Navy is going green by recycling waste that can harm the environment for future generations.

Whether this means tossing their items into a recycle bin or taking them to a recycling center, Sailors are doing their part to help keep the environment clean through the recycling center on base.

The Naval Station Pearl Harbor Recycling Center helps by eliminating day-to-day waste generated by commands into funds that can help improve recycling programs and create awareness for its impact on the environment.

"The purpose of the recycling program is to give Navy personnel the opportunity to be the best stewards of the environment that they can be," said Wendy Ray, operation manager of the Naval Station Pearl Harbor Recycling Center. "The recycling center is continually making improvements to accommodate the needs of the Navy personnel in making recycling as convenient and accessible as possible, as we want the Navy to be leaders in greening the environment."

Last year, the recycling center processed three million pounds of material with one third of that in paper products and one half in scrap metal.

"The Navy participation in recycling has grown tremendously in the past few years and as a result it is continuing to help cut back on use of landfill space, reducing air emissions from incinerating and it is also saving energy," said Ray.

The center recycles aluminum and steel cans,



Electrician's Mate 3rd Class (SS) Christopher Caron, assigned to Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, deposits old newspapers into a recycling bin at the Naval Station Pearl Harbor Recycling Center on March 5. Base recycling centers help eliminate day-to-day waste generated by commands into funds that can help improve overall recycling programs and create awareness of its impact on the environment.

plastic and glass bottles and jars, paper products, scrap metal, wire, toner cartridges and old cellular telephones.

The recycling center has individual drop-off windows for each item they recycle and forklifts for bulkier items.

"The Navy has taken the necessary steps in preventing waste that can damage the environment by implementing this recycle center," said Lance Cpl. Joshua Abuzaid, assigned to U.S. Marine Corp Forces Pacific. "The center is very convenient for us with the new drive-up-and-drop-off windows."

Once materials are

dropped off, technicians strip all wire, shred paper and pack cardboard into large bales while bottles and cans are separated into individual containers. All materials and bins are then prepared for delivery to companies who reprocess the material for distribution.

"Having this recycling center here on base helps the Navy save money, promote a cleaner environment, cut cost and provide an opportunity to buy better equipment for the Sailors," said Engineman 1st Class Christopher Capers, Naval Station Pearl Harbor Fleet Family Readiness Program.



FLEET ACTION



U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Christopher Perez

Navy Diver 1st Class Julius Mcmanus, assigned to Mobile Diving Salvage Unit (MDSU) 1, plants an American flag on the site where an American WWII military aircraft crashed into the Pacific Ocean. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) in Hawai'i recovers and identifies all Americans missing as a result of the nation's past conflicts.

MDSU 1 recovers lost aircrew

Staff Sgt. W. Michael Houk

Special to American Forces Press Service

A drama unfolded in the skies above the western Pacific island nation of Palau on Sept. 1, 1944, as intense fighting between American and Japanese forces was getting under way. During a raid, comrades of the U.S. Army Air Forces looked on helplessly as the crew of a B-24 Liberator bomber, the Babes in Arms, was brought down by anti-aircraft fire. Three of the crew reportedly bailed out, one without a parachute, before the bomber dove headlong into the ocean never to be found -- or so it was thought back then.

A volunteer Kansas Air National Guard crew in a KC-135 Stratotanker from 190th Air Refueling Wing returned the human remains recovered from that ill-fated bomber back to this country in early March.

Thanks to an organization called BentProp, who found the crash site in 2004, the location is no longer a mystery. BentProp is a privately funded organization that searches for planes and their crews who crashed after being shot down by the Japanese in 1944-45. They reported it to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, who for the last three years investigated and recovered the remains from the site. The Kansas Coyotes had the honor of transporting the fallen back to U.S. soil -- to Hawai'i for identification.

"That seemed like a pretty good thing to do to give some closure to some families back home in the states," Air Force Master Sgt. Mark Mertel said, adding that it was an honorable thing to do and "a fine way to end my career with the Kansas Air Guard. I jumped on it. It's a great opportunity."

The Kansas crew flew from its home at Forbes Field, just outside Topeka, to Hawai'i then Guam and, from Guam, another hour and a half to the Republic of Palau.

"It was really moving to see that island and kind of imagine what might have happened that day," Maj. Jeff Warrender said from the pilot's seat. "It really made me think about how brave those guys must have been and what they might've gone through before they died. To see how beautiful the island was, it was just kind of eerie."

Warrender first did a flyover inspection of the destination, a short airstrip with no tower that is usually used by smaller aircraft, in order for the crew to ensure conditions on the runway would permit a safe landing. Standing water, among other conditions, might keep the lumbering tanker from landing. Satisfied, Warrender circled back around, smoothly

touched down, and brought the big plane to a quick halt on the island nation.

Local officials, without whom any of the Palau recovery efforts would have been possible, met the KC-135 crew on the runway. Jennifer Anson, executive assistant to the vice president of Palau, said the event was emotional for her. "A lot of my relatives were here during the war, and a lot of them went missing and we never found them," she said.

"I'm happy for whoever's family has that peace of mind now, knowing that their family members are being returned back home," Anson added.

U.S. Navy divers sat in the back of a large truck with their cargo: two sealed black cases containing the remains of the B-24's lost crew. These divers, dispatched by Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command to this site, spent a month and a half under 70 feet of water meticulously recovering the remains and, in some cases, personal effects of the bomber's crew.

When BentProp personnel find a site, they tell JPAC, and an investigation is begun involving archaeologists, doctors, forensic scientists, divers, and whoever else is required to recover and identify a servicemember so that a family might be notified and the remains appropriately honored.

At the tanker, Air Force Capt. Jarrod Ramsey, a pilot, and Master Sgt. Matt Miltz, a refueling boom operator, carefully helped the divers, who handed the cases up from the truck into the side cargo door of the KC-135. Other members of the crew got the aircraft ready to fly again, checking and rechecking its structure and systems.

At the end of the runway, the engines whined louder and louder about not going anywhere as the pilot let their power build. Finally, the pilot released the brakes, and the tanker rocketed down a rapidly shortening runway and into the Pacific sky with the remaining crew of the Babes in Arms finally on their way to completing a trip that took much longer than anyone would have imagined.

After a quick stop back in Guam, the KC-135 flew east to Hawai'i, where the remains of the B-24 crew would be examined forensically by JPAC experts to verify their identities. Once identified, the service members will be flown the rest of the way home to their families, but that honor will be for another aircrew. The Kansas Coyotes had accomplished their mission.

"We've had some fairly long days, and not a lot of ground time," Miltz explained. "But it's all been worth it, helping to bring these people back."



Navy Diver 2nd Class Marion Lorde prepares to dive on a WWII crash site to search for remains of fallen service members. Divers assigned to Mobile Diving Salvage Unit (MDSU) 1 are deployed with Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) tasked with accounting for all Americans missing as a result of the nation's past conflicts.



A deep sea diver assigned to Mobile Diving Salvage Unit (MDSU) 1 at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, deployed with Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), dives into the waters of the Pacific Ocean near Palau to investigate the crash site of a WWII military aircraft to search for human remains of fallen service members.

Seabees celebrate 66th birthday at 2008 Seabee Birthday Ball

Story and photo by
MC3 John Wallace
Ciccarelli Jr.

*Fleet Public Affairs Center
Detachment Hawai'i*

Sailors from Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific (NAVFAC) and Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) attended the 2008 Hawai'i Seabee Birthday Ball held at the Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu, Hawai'i on March 1.

The birthday ball was held in celebration of the 66th anniversary of the Seabees, the 141st anniversary of the CEC and the 166th anniversary of NAVFAC.

"All over the world at this time of the year, Seabees, CEC officers and NAVFAC employees are joining together to celebrate our common heritage, to remember our fallen comrades and to share with each other our collective and undying 'can do' spirit," said Rear Adm. Michael Giorgione, commander of NAVFAC Pacific and deputy commander of First Naval Construction Division Pacific.

Giorgione talked about the importance of Seabees in the Navy's mission and how they have made a difference over the past 66 years.

"Seabees have never been more important to the Navy and to our nation as we are today. As goodwill ambassadors for the Navy, Seabees are involved in numerous humanitarian efforts that

help reduce the influence of terrorism in underdeveloped parts of the world. We also proudly serve in Iraq and Afghanistan, and provide disaster response and recovery support worldwide," he said.

The ceremony began with the masters of ceremony remarks celebrating the history of the Seabees.

"Tonight we have come together in this lovely luau garden to celebrate our traditions, remember our heritage, and look forward to another proud year of service to the fleet and Marines," said Lt. Cmdr. Tom Lyons, master of ceremonies.

After the introduction, the guests were given a chance to mingle with other Seabees and their families while they were treated to a four-star meal and tradi-

tional Hawaiian entertainment.

After the social interaction, Giorgione welcomed the guests and introduced Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Willard explained how the Seabees helped form the backbone of the Navy and their importance to the Pacific Fleet.

"Through their conception in World War II, what the Seabees have accomplished for our nation currently in Iraq, Afghanistan and North Africa, to what you're doing in our Pacific Partnership activities where you are helping us win the hearts and minds in the Pacific theater, thank you Seabees for everything you do," said Willard.

After Willard's remarks, the crowd gathered for the

re-enlistment of Equipment Operator 2nd Class (SCW) Andrew Osbourne as he was sworn in by Willard.

"I've been a Seabee for five years so re-enlisting in front of my peers is truly amazing and a true honor to do it tonight," said Osbourne.

At the end of the night, the youngest Seabee, Builder 3rd Class Carolyn Hoffman, assigned to NAVFAC Pacific, and the oldest, Cmdr. Thomas C. Thetford, assigned to J132-Exercise and Readiness, U.S. Pacific Command, cut the Seabee's birthday cake using a ceremonial cutlass.

As the event finished, the Pacific Fleet Band played each service's traditional song, followed by a toast to the men and women who served and died defending our nation.



The oldest Seabee, Cmdr. Thomas C. Thetford, assigned to J132-Exercise and Readiness, U.S. Pacific Command, and the youngest Seabee, Builder 3rd Class Carolyn Hoffman, assigned to Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific (NAVFAC), cut the Seabee birthday cake with a ceremonial cutlass during the 2008 Seabee Birthday Ball held March 1 at the Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu. The birthday ball was held to commemorate the 66th anniversary of the Seabees, the 141st anniversary of the Civil Engineer Corps and the 166th anniversary of NAVFAC.

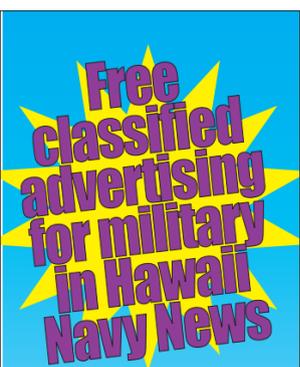
JPAC arrival ceremony held today

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command conducted an arrival ceremony today at Hickam Air Force Base to honor fallen U.S. military personnel whose identities remain unknown.

There are four flag-draped transfer cases. Two of the cases are associated with the Vietnam War: one from the Lao People's Democratic Republic and one from the Kingdom of Cambodia. One of the cases is associated with the Korean War from the Republic of Korea. The remaining case is associated with a World War II loss in Palau.

Following the ceremony, the remains of these fallen service members were transported to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Central Identification Laboratory where the forensic identification process begins. Once identifications are established, the names will be announced following the notification of next-of-kin.



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:

Classified items and services must represent an incidental exchange between the aforementioned personnel and not business operations. Requests for three-line free classified advertisements can be submitted via email, if from a ".mil" address (submit to lkaneshi@honolulu.gannett.com), by phone at 521-9111 or by visiting www.honoluluadvertiser.com and clicking on "classified ads." More lines of advertising can be purchased at an additional fee. Requesters should include their military ID number and a call-back phone number.

Naval Surface Forces top fleet, shore Sailors announced

MC2 (SW/AW) Elena Velazquez

Commander, Naval Surface Force Public Affairs

Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet (SURFPAC) and the San Diego chapter of the Surface Navy Association announced the 2007 SURFPAC sea and shore Sailors of the Year (SOY) at a banquet in the Hotel Del Coronado on Feb. 25.

Four hundred guests, including local SURFPAC Sailors of the Year, their spouses, command leadership teams, distinguished military guests and community supporters, were in attendance at the ceremony where Yeoman 1st Class Juanette A. Martin (SW) and Master-at-Arms 1st Class Chad V. Bearden (SW/AW/PJ) of Naval Station, Pearl Harbor were named shore SOY.

“We have tremendous role models here tonight, fantastic models that are exceptionally successful in their professional career and personal life,” said Vice Adm. Terrance T. Etnyre, commander, Naval Surface

“They are examples that both their senior and subordinates can respect. They are the best of the best.”

- Vice Adm. Terrance T. Etnyre

Forces (SURFOR). “They are examples that both their senior and subordinates can respect. They are

the best of the best.”

Martin, a 12-year Navy veteran and leading petty officer for OT division in the operations department on board USS Shoup (DDG 86), said, “The best thing that I will take with me is the friendships I made with the other SOY finalists. To my shipmates, keep working hard because you will get rewarded. Hard work does pay off.”

Bearden, the leading petty officer of a boat house, manages five boats and six jet skis, in addition to serving as an anti-terrorist force protection assessor at Afloat Training

Group, Pacific. Of his selection, the six-year Navy veteran, said, “This week has been overwhelming. All I can really say is wow. This is an honor that I represent SURFPAC Sailor of the Year for the shore commands. I honestly didn’t think I was going to win. It was a good competition.”

Eight finalists from across SURPAC spent a week in San Diego where they were interviewed, observed and judged in areas including military bearing, professional performance and leadership. They and their spouses were also treated to activi-

ties, including dinner with retired SURFOR Force Master Chief Karen O’Conner, a visit to the San Diego Zoo, and a harbor dinner cruise.

“It was very inspiring to spend the week with high quality Sailors that the SURFOR community has produced and comforting knowing that the Navy has hundreds more just like them in the fleet,” said Force Master Chief Michael Schanche. “I feel confident that the Navy will be successful in the future with the leadership being provided by Sailors such as these.”

Martin and Bearden will now carry the competition to Hawai’i, where they will compete against Pacific Fleet nominees vying for the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) shore and sea Sailor of the Year titles. The sea and shore-based commands of COMPACFLT represent more than 200,000 Sailors. The top COMPACFLT Sea Sailor will be eligible for meritorious promotion to chief petty officer and the shore SOY will move on to competition in Washington, D.C. for designation as the 2008 CNO shore SOY.

NAVFAC awards contract for new communication facility

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific awarded Watts Constructors, LLC, Honolulu, Hawai’i, a \$46.8 million, firm-fixed-price contract on March 5 for construction of a new communications center at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific (NCTAMSPAC).

The work includes construction of a new single-story, steel framed building that will be equipped with raised floors, movable interior walls, fire-suppression system, conference rooms and emergency electrical power. Supporting facilities work will include a parking lot, sidewalks, landscaping, fencing and lighting.

Work is expected to be completed by March 2010. This contract was competitively procured with 57 offers solicited and five proposals received.

Key West: Change of command

Continued from A-1

cess of Key West under his leadership was because of their efforts during his time as commanding officer.

“For my crew, although I get to wear the award, it belongs to each of you,” said Ishee. It [the award] recognizes your achievements and hard work during my command tenure. The crew of the Key West has been outstanding and has risen to every challenge.”

While assuming command, Koonce thanked Ishee for the great turnover and promised to “carry on his excellence.”

To his new crew, he said “I am extremely proud of this wardroom and crew already. You’ve all impressed me greatly with your resourcefulness and tenacity.” Koonce also reminded them that in spite of being in the shipyard, they’re still a mighty warship and “we’re going to return Key West to a front-line warship on time and in superb condition.”

Ishee’s sea commands include USS La Jolla (SSN 701), USS Tunny (SSN 682) and USS Sea Devil (SSN 664). He is a 1987 graduate of the University of Georgia.

Sailors donate 'sweat equity' for local homeowners

Story and photo by
MC1 (SW/AW) Johnny
Michael

*Pacific Missile Range
Facility, Barking Sands,
Kauai*

A group of 25 Sailors from Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands, Kaua'i lent their muscle to the families of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) development in Kekaha on Feb. 29, putting in a day's work for the housing project which provides affordable housing for native Hawaiians on the west side of Kaua'i.

The Sailors were divided into teams working on exterior painting, fabrication of exterior wood railings, hanging dry wall and assembling cabinetry. The work they put in helped push several homes further along toward the end goal of getting the entire 19-home project complete by the middle of this summer.

"We are trying to have them done by the end of June," Doug Kennedy, a project manager with Kikiaola Construction, Inc. confirmed. "All the houses must be done before anyone can move in."

For the Sailors involved in this project, this was an opportunity to help these families get a little closer to their dream of owning a home.

"At first I didn't realize what the project was for. After I found that it involved helping the community by providing affordable housing, I was excited to work hand-in-hand with the families building their homes," said Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Jessica Truax. "This project is something I want to be part of on a regular basis."

Trying to time the simultaneous completion of 19 homes can be challenging, however, especially when the bulk of the work is completed by the families themselves on each other's homes.

"It's a mutual self-help so everyone works on everyone else's house. You don't build your own house, you build everyone else's," said Kennedy.

The project calls for the families to do the work, but the Hawaiian Homes organization also contracted Kikiaola to manage the construction process.

"We started in January of 2007 and our contract is to help the self-help," said Kennedy. "We are a TA contract, which is a technical assistance contract, and that's myself and Richard Carvalho. We supply the equipment, organize the materials, help show the families the construction process and basically that's the TA contract. We provide tools that they aren't required to bring themselves."

In addition, subcontractors are assigned to complete specialized tasks including septic, electric, plumbing and tape and texturing. Each family is responsible for hiring these subcontractors as part of the completion process.

Besides the TA representatives from Kikiaola, the subcontractors and the homeowners themselves, the project depends on volunteers to make up the difference in getting the work done. With volunteers from local churches and now PMRF, the project has moved at a steady pace, but could always use

more help.

"We really appreciate all the help," said Kamuela Cobb-Adams, DHHL home-stead development coordinator. "These families have a year to get their homes ready so they do need help. They are moving along, but there is still a lot to do."

Spread out over 20 acres, the DHHL project calls for 20 homes to be built using the self-help model as well as 29 houses to be built entirely by contractors. Those interested in volunteering at the Kekaha site can contact Kikiaola Construction at 338-0021 for more information.

Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Jessica Truax (left) and Storekeeper 2nd Class Sheniece Bryant secure part of a rail assembly for one of the 19 homes at the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) development in Kekaha, Hawai'i. Twenty-five Sailors from nearby Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) spent the day working at the project which provides affordable homes to native Hawaiians on the island of Kaua'i.



Pacific Shore Sailor of the Year looks ahead

MCSA Luciano Marano

Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs Office

Yeoman 1st Class (SW) Latoyna Grace isn't quite as satisfied as one might expect the recently announced 2007 Pacific Submarine Force Shore Sailor of the Year to be. "I wake up every day and can't believe it," she said. "I never saw this happening."

Despite her recent achievement at competition in San Diego on Feb. 25, Grace still doesn't take much time to revel in her success. Instead, she is now concentrating on the next milestone in her Navy career. "My next big challenge will be making chief," said Grace, who just celebrated 14 years of naval service in February. "Then I will have to adjust my own methods for leading because the leadership style from first class to chief is very different. Once you get to this level, it stops being about technical expertise and more about how you take care of your people."

After arriving in San Diego, Grace competed with four other Sailors from various submarine commands in the Pacific region where a board of four master chiefs from around the submarine community and Orange County, Calif. Supreme Court Judge Frederick P. Aguirre reviewed their recommendation and evaluations.

The five Sailors also appeared before the board and fielded questions as part of the selection process. Her next step is the Pacific Fleet-wide competition here in April, another challenge to which she is looking forward.

"I'm excited and scared," she said. "I think a healthy level of

fear is a good thing; it keeps you more willing to learn and adapt."

Grace is not only a successful Sailor and yeoman, but she has held leading petty officer (LPO) positions both at sea and on shore, as well as remaining active in community service. According to Grace, she has been working at the Hope Chapel Kapolei church for four years. At the church, she volunteers by teaching Sunday school and helping with maintenance and landscape projects. "I think community service is good because it keeps you grounded," said Grace. "I know I'm not above taking the trash out."

Grace began her Navy career as an undesignated seaman and after four years worked her way into the cryptologic technician administration (CTA) rate in 1998, which was merged with the yeoman rating in January. "Once rated I moved up pretty quickly and made E-6 at right about the 10-year mark," she said.

Always quick to recognize the many people in her life who have made her success possible, Grace credits her current success as a leader to numerous influential superiors who have aided her throughout the years. "I've been very blessed with so many good leaders who gave such great guidance," she said.

"People from my past commands have always encouraged me to see the big picture. They stood behind me and believed in me all along. Now I try to lead my people the same way," said Grace.

Grace is also quick to thank all of her current subordinates. "We work as a team. Everyone learns from everyone," she said.

Some may think that Grace

being the submarine SOY is particularly noteworthy considering the field's history of male exclusiveness.

"I was expecting some opposition when I came to a submarine command," Grace said of her transition to a field that has always been, and remains today, very male-dominated. "I was the only female competing in San Diego and that made me even more nervous."

Despite her initial anxiety, Grace said that she has not once felt excluded based on her gender. "I've found no opposition here, they are all good people and I've never had any difficult dealings."

Grace modestly downplays the entire occasion. "I would like to believe that I was the best," said Grace. "I would understand losing to any of the other Sailors there because at that level everybody is good and I could see any of those contestants winning easily."

"All the contestants were very friendly and things weren't that competitive at all," said Grace. She recounted what fun she had while in San Diego with her fellow contestants. "We all went out together sightseeing and even to the zoo. It was a great time."

To junior Sailors, Grace has a few hard-learned lessons to pass on. "Always set goals for yourself, then when you meet those goals set new ones. Look outside your box and be open to change."

Even if things aren't going well at the moment, remember that it's just a short tour, she continued. "Change is healthy and there's nothing wrong with being a little unsure of yourself," she said. "Always ask questions and press ahead."

Port Royal Sailors visit RIA Center for children with special needs

Ensign Mikaela A. Rodkin

USS Port Royal (CG 73) Public Affairs

Sailors from guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73) visited the Kid's Castle Nursery (RIA) center for children with special needs during a port visit to Bahrain on March 3.

The community relations project focused on interaction with students and faculty while also reaching out to the neighboring community.

"We established ourselves as an educational center for anyone, of any nationality," said Christine Gordon, founder of the RIA center. "When my son, who is autistic, couldn't put on his backpack and walk to school, I knew I had to do something."

The non-profit RIA center is influenced by western education and teaches students in English.

Port Royal Sailors participated in daily exercise classes, classroom activities, a field trip to a camel farm and an impromptu soccer

game with the children.

The center's 'can-do' motto caters to students of all types of disabilities including spina bifida, Downs syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy and emotional disorders.

"The positive impact we had on the children and the joy they brought to me were special," said Cryptological Technician 1st Class Christina Nestel. "When on deployment there are only a few programs that allow Sailors to share their hearts. I appreciate RIA giving us this opportunity."



IA Transition Group announced

Fleet and Family Support Center, Navy Region Hawai'i

Sailors who have been engaged as individual augmentees (IAs) face weeks, months or years of unique challenges when returning home from the global war on terrorism. The Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) will offer an IA Transition Discussion Group meeting from 3-4:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursday of the month at the Fleet and Family Support Center, room 292.

The forum will provide a place for Sailors, post-IA mobilization, to connect with peers and share their experiences and challenges in an effort to identify and manage adverse effects of operational stress on their health and functioning abilities at work and home. For more information, call 474-1999, ext. 6104.