

MEMORIAL DAY

Honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice

Hawai'i Navy News

Serving the "Best Homeport in the Navy"

May 23, 2008

www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii

Volume 33 Issue 20

Sailor battling cancer becomes honorary chief

Story and photo by
MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Under a bright Hawai'i sun, Aviation Ordnanceman (AW/SW) David Eberhart, wearing sharply creased khakis for the first time, was wheeled through the hospital doors of Tripler Army Medical Center.

Clinging to his wheelchair and an oxygen tank containing the Sailor's life-support system, a dream 15 years in the making was now a reality. Anchored by his new family of brothers and sisters, fellow Navy chiefs, Eberhart rose from his wheelchair.

Throughout his career, Eberhart has continued to exemplify the Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment. As a testament to his "never give up" attitude, Eberhart's blurred dreams of becoming "the chief" quickly came into focus despite a nearly six-year battle with cancer.

"He's ready to be a chief, run a division and mentor Sailors. He stands for our core values of honor, courage and commitment in everything he does. Chief Eberhart is the epitome of what we expect from a chief petty officer," said U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief Tom Howard.

During the ceremony held May 15 at the medical facility, Eberhart was appointed as an honorary chief by Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr.

"I've been dreaming about this moment since I was a third class petty officer and I finally did it," said Eberhart. "Now that I'm here, I'm going to be a strong represen-



Aviation Ordnanceman (AW/SW) David Eberhart, assigned to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 (MALS-24) at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe, was appointed as an honorary chief by Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr. Completing his transition to an honorary chief, Chief Culinary Specialist (SS) Benjamin Jones, also assigned to MALS-24, placed the combination cover smartly onto Eberhart's head.

tative of the chief's mess and keep going on all the way to MCPON."

Granted the full honors incumbent to an honorary chief, Eberhart, who is currently assigned to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 (MALS-24) at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe, will carefully and dili-

gently perform the duties as "the chief" as he continues his service on active duty while battling cancer.

Following the reading of a citation from Campa, Eberhart's wife Hiroko and mother Nancy stepped forward and pinned the newly-appointed honorary

chief's anchors.

"David has worked so hard for this," said his wife as her eyes swelled with tears of joy. "It's amazing to see the Navy do this for him. I am so happy for him."

Eberhart's anchors, once worn by Howard who is also a cancer survivor, symbolize the true fighting

spirit of both the Navy and chief petty officers.

"Words can't express the feelings I had to see my anchors pinned on Chief Eberhart," said Howard. "That's why we pass anchors down. MCPON presented him those anchors and it was a privilege seeing them pinned on his collar."

Chief Culinary Specialist (SS) Benjamin Jones, also assigned to MALS-24, placed the combination cover smartly onto Eberhart's head, completing his transition to an honorary chief.

Following the ceremony, Eberhart received a personal phone call from the MCPON who congratulated him on his monumental achievement.

"It is my privilege to welcome you to the chiefs' mess. You have exemplified the guiding principles of a chief petty officer. Your courage and commitment to our Sailors and our Navy has inspired all of us," said Campa.

"Having the MCPON call me and tell me I'm a chief petty officer in the Navy is amazing and is something I will never forget," said Eberhart.

Although becoming an honorary chief completed a 15-year chapter in Eberhart's service to his country and the Navy, he is not quitting. Instead, he is rallying for his next chapter of service as "the chief."

Eberhart stands as a symbol of the Navy's fighting spirit and exemplifies its core values, a Sailor who "never gives up the ship" and continues to serve with honor, courage and commitment. With the help of his loving family and friends, Eberhart continues to strive toward his goal of one day becoming the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy.

Navy Region Hawai'i well prepared for hurricane season

Grace Hew Len

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

The ROC rocked. After two weeks of hurricane preparedness exercises that began May 5, Navy Region Hawai'i's Regional Operations Center (ROC) successfully earned initial certification to validate region hurricane response plans in preparation for the 2008 hurricane season.

"The team proved that they can come together and produce an integrated product to

allow the (Navy Region Hawai'i) commander to be at the right level to make decisions in a crisis," said Capt. Kenneth Lindsey of Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Training and Readiness, who observed the ROC in action during the hurricane exercise.

Lindsey recommended to CNIC headquarters that Navy Region Hawai'i receive the initial operational capability certification. Once the recommendation is approved by CNIC, Hawai'i will be officially certified, validating the

region's ability to perform Command, Control and Communications Navy Mission-Essential Tasks (C3 NMETs) in a post-landfall hurricane environment.

This is the first year that Navy Region Hawai'i will be certified, a testament to the collective and monumental efforts to successfully implement a program that is still fairly new throughout the Navy regions. Official certification is expected before the end of May in time for the hurricane season that starts

See HURRICANE, A-2



Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard earns Navy Ashore Safety Award

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter announced May 19 that Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard was the winner of the Navy's fiscal year 2007 Ashore Safety Award for large industrial activities.

The annual awards recognize Navy and Marine Corps shore activities and fleet occupational support units located ashore for their quality occupational safety and health programs. Nominees displayed their safety achievements through adherence to effective risk management and hazard reduction principles.

"This is certainly a distinctive honor for the shipyard and all its employees," said Capt. Gregory Thomas, shipyard commander. "It reflects the combined achievements of management, the unions and the workforce to embrace safety and health as an integral



part of the shipyard culture.

"This award means the Secretary of Navy commends our workers for excellence in protecting themselves and their shipmates while carrying out the shipyard's mission in a demanding industrial environment," said Thomas.

The shipyard won a Chief of Naval Operations Safety Ashore Award in February. The Secretary of the Navy award represents the next level above that.

Shipyard safety officials said this was the first time

in at least 10 years that the command has won the Secretary of the Navy Ashore Safety Award. The shipyard was a runner-up in 2000.

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is the largest industrial employer in the state of Hawai'i with a combined civilian and military workforce of about 4,700. It has an operating budget of \$600 million, of which more than \$390 million is payroll for civilian employees. Strategically located in the Pacific Ocean, it is a full-service naval shipyard and regional maintenance center for the U.S. Navy's surface ships and submarines.

For more information on Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, visit <http://www.phnsy.navy.mil>.

(Editor's note: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i won the SECNAV Safety Ashore Award for a medium industrial facility. A story will run in the next week's Hawai'i Navy News.)



Speed is factor in 40 percent of Navy/Marine auto accident fatalities See page A-2



Navy operationalizes military support to civilian authorities See page A-7



Memorial Day events See page A-3



Family Day at Rainbow Bay Marina See page B-1



Speed is factor in 40 percent of Navy/Marine auto accident fatalities

Naval Safety Center

On Feb. 19 at 11:03 p.m., a 22-year-old Marine private first class (PFC) was driving at a high rate of speed on the H-3 Freeway, Kamehameha Highway off-ramp on his way to Honolulu. He apparently attempted to correct his steering while traveling in excess of 100 mph, spun out of control, and flipped into a nearby tree line. The vehicle caught fire with him trapped inside. Emergency services responded and put the fire out, but the Marine who was the sole vehicle occupant died at the scene.

He had purchased the 1986 Chevy Camaro from a Honolulu dealership at approximately 4 p.m. on the day of the fatal crash. He had not yet registered the vehicle on base.

A fellow Marine stated that he was preceding the mishap victim by about 100 yards when the crash occurred. He returned to the crash site, but was unable to assist as the vehicle was engulfed in flames.

Alcohol was not a factor in this fatality. The primary causal factor points to speed and loss of control.

Traveling near double the allowable speed limit on an

interstate highway is not only unnecessary, it is deadly. Speed is prevalent in over 40 percent of all Navy/Marine fatal personal motor vehicle (PMV) crashes. An underlying causal factor is inexperience; the Marine had owned the car for only a few hours prior to his fatal crash. Unfortunately, the PFC failed to identify the risks involved in speeding and driving a vehicle that he was unfamiliar with.

As of May 9, there have been 29 USMC PMV fatalities in Fiscal Year '08, compared to 29 for the same time frame in Fiscal Year '07.

USMC PMV Fatalities	Navy		Marine		Navy/Marine	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
FY06 thru 9 May	54	22.88	38	32.29	92	26.01
FY07 thru 9 May	27	11.85	29	24.66	56	16.21
FY08 thru 9 May	35	15.82	29	24.52	64	18.85

Consider these actions to help prevent PMV mishaps:

- Supervisors should educate younger service members that the dangers of speed far outweigh any time saved.

- Inform personnel that speeding reduces your reaction time in the event of an emergency.

- Stress to Sailors and Marines that the posted speed control signs are maximum allowable speed for ideal road conditions. Nighttime driving speeds should be reduced due to reduced visual cues.

- Remind Sailors and Marines that the hours of 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. are high risk times for traffic mishaps.

- Explain to Sailors and Marines that they must drive defensively at all times.

- Reiterate that risk management is a full-time commitment.

- For more information regarding general traffic

safety, visit the Traffic Safety Toolbox at: <http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/ashore/motorvehicle/toolbox/default.htm> or go to the National Traffic Highway Safety Administration site <http://www.nhtsa.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/menuitem.67> for more on traffic safety.

Hurricane preparedness top priority for Navy Region Hawai'i

Continued from A-1

June 1.

From May 5 to 9, Navy Region Hawai'i conducted Hurricane Exercise (HURREX) 2008 to execute pre-landfall tropical cyclone conditions of readiness (TCCOR). This exercise encouraged communications between tenants and installations, an important step as preparations begin in anticipation of the storm's landfall. The HURREX also focused on the region's destructive weather plan operations.

After the HURREX, Makani Pahili 2008 kicked off in May 12-15, exercising post-landfall recovery operations in coordination with Commander, U. S. Pacific Fleet. Makani Pahili is a U.S. Pacific Command-directed joint exercise that focuses on how the military can help the state recover after a hurricane hits Oahu. During Makani Pahili, the Navy worked with Joint Task Force Homeland Defense, which designed its exercise in close coordination with the state's civil defense agency.

As part of the exercise, Hurricane Makani, a fictitious category four storm, passed through the Hawaiian Islands, causing considerable and widespread damage, closures and outages throughout Pearl Harbor and at outlying Navy commands on Oahu and at Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai.

Prior to the storm making landfall, Navy commands reviewed and practiced their personnel accounting procedures and reviewed their checklists for the appropriate TCCOR level. For example, at TCCOR II, or 24 hours within landfall, non-essential personnel would be released to take care of their families and homes. During this level of readiness, Navy safe haven registration sites are activated so Navy personnel and their families may be assigned to an appropriate safe haven location.

Following the Navy's HURREX, exercise Makani Pahili ("strong wind" in Hawaiian) swept the ROC as attention was focused on recovery operations.

The battle watch team members worked in sync to maintain situational awareness and rapidly receive and respond to requests for information and requests for forces (RFI/RFF). RFIs can include the number of displaced service members, availability of shelters and reports on damage assessments. Requests for sandbags, generators and plywood inundated the ROC and the Naval Station Emergency Operations Center who responded swiftly to the requests. Navy reservists were on hand to assist the battle watch team in responding to and prioritizing the RFIs/RFFs.

After quickly attaining and sustaining situational awareness, a threat working group stood up to serve as "assessors" and define the crisis situation. Finally, a crisis action team was activated with the resources and subject matter experts to develop courses of action to accomplish recovery actions.

"I think we will see some best practices that came out of [Navy] Region Hawai'i that will be sent out to other regions," observed Lindsey. "The RFI and RFF practice was outstanding and the use of reservists was phenomenal."

According to Skip Garrett of the Center for Asymmetric Warfare, "The level of readiness for a hurricane is excellent in this region. It's very important to be ready, to work as a team, and work quickly to get things done. We saw that and it was really excellent." The Center for Asymmetric Warfare conducted crisis action planning (CAP) training here earlier this year.

In addition to the CAP, Navy Region Hawai'i exercise participants were required to take online FEMA courses on the incident command system. ICS is practiced along most federal agencies to allow the Navy and other military services to use the same language and practices during a crisis.

CNIC commended N7 training and readiness department, Cmdr. Obra Gray and his staff, for planning the extensive and detailed exercises, sequence

of events and scenarios. "It's a complicated process and they pulled it off," said Garrett.

According to N7 exercise planner Eric Koch, more than 50 permanent and reserve staff members and well over 100 personnel from various components and commands participated in Makani Pahili.

The exercises involved personnel throughout Navy Region commands, including Pacific Missile Range Facility, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i, Fleet and Industrial Supply Center and Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Representatives from various departments, including total force manpower, operations, facilities/environment, communications, fleet and family, public affairs and legal formed the threat working group and crisis action teams.

"The honest desire by the Navy forces in Hawai'i to pull together and improve readiness for a hurricane made the exercise successful this year," Koch said.

"The certification means the ROC can validate itself without the oversight of higher headquarters," said Chad Payeur, fellow exercise planner.

"It was a great experience to be a part of such a large exercise and to witness great leaders working together to accomplish a common goal," he noted.

Hurricane season starts June 1 and runs through the end of November. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Central Pacific Hurricane Center in Honolulu expects three to four tropical cyclones in the central Pacific basin in 2008, a slightly below average season.

Hawai'i Gov. Linda Lingle and Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona declared May 18-24 as Hurricane Preparedness Week in Hawai'i. They signed a proclamation calling upon government agencies, private organizations, schools and the news media to share information about hurricane preparedness and asking everyone to take appropriate safety measures.

STORY IDEAS?

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

Phone: (808) 473-2888

Email: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com

Hawaii Navy News

Hawaii Navy News Editorial

Americans will observe true meaning of Memorial Day

Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

For many Americans, the true meaning of Memorial Day can easily get lost amidst the barbecues, picnics and extensive planning for a three-day federal holiday.

But on May 28, the nation's present generation will pause from life's daily demands and "memorialize" the invaluable contributions of its fallen heroes.

Traditionally observed on the last Monday of every May, Memorial Day serves as a sanctioned holiday that not only marks the beginning of summer, but also recognizes the brave American men and women who have given their lives for their country.

Formerly known as Decoration Day, the holiday was originally intended to honor Union soldiers

who died during the American Civil War. After World War I, the day was extended to honor active-duty service members who gave their lives in any war or military action.

General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, officially proclaimed Memorial Day on May 5, 1866. Tradition has it that he chose that particular date because flowers across the nation would be in full bloom.

Taking his cue from nature, Logan decided to properly commemorate the day by placing flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers who had been slain in the Civil War and laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

While issuing his official decree, Logan said the day was "for the purpose of strewing flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country" and "with the hope that it will be kept up with year to year."

Although the flowers have now

changed to flags, the tradition still continues. This Memorial Day, hundreds of white tombstones gracing the country's various national and veterans memorial cemeteries will bear small American flags at every gravestone - tributes from a grateful nation. In Hawaii, floral lei are also placed on the graves.

American mythology professor Joseph Campbell once said, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

As Americans pay their respects this Memorial Day, the immeasurable sacrifices given by its many sons and daughters will not be forgotten.

Memorial Day message from Secretary of the Navy

Since May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate Soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery, Americans have set aside a day in May to remember those who have died in our nation's service. Those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the United States have earned our gratitude and a day of honor in their remembrance.

Our liberties were hard-won on the field of battle. The signers of our Declaration of Independence pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. They understood that nations must fight for

their freedom - and that freedom, once achieved, must be defended.

On this day of solemn tribute to those who have taken their eternal reward while defending their fellow citizens, let us resolve to be worthy of their sacrifice and let us honor those who have sacrificed so much to preserve the blessings of liberty that we claim as our birthright.

Honorable Donald C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy



Memorial Day events

May 23

- 10:30 a.m. Veteran's Affairs Center for Aging Memorial Ceremony, Tripler Army Medical Center
- 7 p.m. Special Olympics, University of Hawai'i, Les Murakami Stadium

May 25

- 10 a.m. Pacific American Foundation Roll Call of Honor, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl)
- 11 a.m. Memorial Day Service, Naval Station Pearl Harbor Chapel. Hear testimony from former POW, Capt. Jerry Coffee.
- 6 p.m. Vietnam Veterans Memorial Ceremony, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl)

May 26

- 9 a.m. Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremony, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl)
- 11 a.m. U.S. Submarine Vets of WWII Ceremony, USS Parche Submarine Memorial Park, Naval Station Pearl Harbor
- 1 p.m. Governor's Memorial Day Ceremony, State Veterans Cemetery, Kaneohe

Commentary

Chapel Pennant

It's a matter of r-e-s-p-e-c-t

Lt. Cmdr. Scott Carlson, CHC

U.S. Naval Reserve

The celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, worldwide Hispanic Cinco De Mayo festivities (celebrated in the Navy in September), and Martin Luther King Day remembrances are much more than politically correct Navy attempts to recognize racial diversity. They say much more about us than Department of Defense (DoD) mandated efforts to address the ethnic mosaic that comprises the sea services. It's a matter of respect.

From Chinese Trans Continental railway workers (more of whom died laying the rails than survived) to the first Navy ship stewards (whose 23,000 children and now grandchildren proudly serve in the Navy alone), we are reminded that our nation was founded on high expectations, physical labor and an outstanding work ethic that made this country great.

Regardless of our personal views on immigration, the rewards we reap today are the result of previous generations' training, dedication, and a standard of "setting the bar high" to ensure that their children succeeded in the new world.

Seeing the tremendous opportunities that this great land offered above and beyond their own, they sacrificed home and family to arrive upon these shores to carve out a better future for the generations that would follow them. Making great strides from humble beginnings, they are worthy of the greatest respect and admiration.

The challenge is to remember this with our entertainment driven, attention deficit, instantly gratified minds.

Unfortunately, many of us (who are not Native Americans) who come from similar humble origins (my grandfather arrived from Sweden almost a hundred years ago during an Irish style depression, drought and famine), have long forgotten the tremendous opportunities we enjoy from birth and the privileged lifestyle we have borrowed from those that paved the way before us.

As a culture, we have taken our elevated status for granted and even demanded it as a right, a given and something that is "owed" us without having to work hard for it - or even work at all for that matter.

As a result, we can presuppose an unspoken class system whereby respect is given only to those with perceived power and influence from birth, and not to those whose hard work and dedication made this possible.

From time to time we need reminding that in order to receive respect, we need to show it. This same "privilege" can be applied with regard to military customs, courtesies, tradition and bearing.

Why should a senior show respect to a junior when respect is not offered? If a junior can simply preface his remarks with "sir," or "ma'am," does that bode better for the junior? To state the obvious, the senior "was not born yesterday." He attained his or her present position through the same blood, sweat and tears that his or her underlings will have to pass through if they want that same respect.

When we respect others, we show how much we respect ourselves. That's what the Golden Rule reminds us to do: "Treat others as you would like to be treated."

Hawaii 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 - Antonio Verceluz

Hawaii Navy News is a free unofficial paper published every Thursday by The Honolulu Advertiser, 605 Kapiolani Blvd., Honolulu, Hawaii, 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, Hawaii, 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 Hawaii. 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. Hawaii 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.

Makani Pahili makes landfall on Oahu

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Shepherd and Les Ozawa

United States Army, Pacific, Public Affairs

Imagine a category four hurricane slamming Waikiki and downtown Honolulu.

With sustained winds of more than 135 mph and a 15-foot storm surge, Oahu, Hawai'i's most populous island, could see hundreds of deaths, billions of dollars in damage and hundreds of thousands of people without power, food and water.

Members of Joint Task Force-Homeland Defense trained for such a scenario May 12-15 during Makani Pahili 2008, the annual U.S. Pacific Command-directed, joint military exercise held at Ford Island.

The exercise focused on how the military can help the state recover after a hurricane hits Oahu, in the post-landfall phase of operations.

"This is a great opportunity for the military to demonstrate how it supports civil authorities post catastrophic natural disaster," said Lt. Col. Ed Toy, Joint Task Force Homeland Defense chief. "As hurricane season approaches us on June 1, we want to take the opportunity to demonstrate how we can support response and recovery efforts for the state of Hawai'i."

Makani Pahili ("strong wind" in Hawaiian) is an inter-agency exercise designed to test the coordinated efforts among all levels of government and private sector organizations. While this exercise validated JTF-HD's hurricane recovery plans, the state's exercise focused on all phases of its hurricane plans.

"It is critical because we are all collectively in this together," Toy said. "We understand, given the isolation of the island chain, that



U.S. Navy photo
Lt. Col. Ed Toy, Joint Task Force-Homeland Defense chief, speaks to local media members during Exercise Makani Pahili, a United States Pacific Command exercise designed to provide military resources when requested by state and local governments during hurricanes.

we have to have dependency and reliance on each other so that we can sustain and maintain life support following a natural disaster."

U.S. Army, Pacific is the executive agent for the U.S. Pacific Command's JTF-HD, whose mission is to help Hawai'i and other mid-Pacific island communities prepare for and recover from hurricanes and other major disasters.

Although USARPAC is the executive agent for JTF-HD,

liaisons from the Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard also play a pivotal role in assessing and aiding in recovery efforts during a hurricane. All services have the capability to provide medical aid and damage assessment teams, plus engineering assets to help with the clean-up effort.

Toy also stressed that JTF-HD can only aid in post-hurricane recovery when called upon by state or federal authorities. "We are not in charge. We are in sup-

port of the civil authorities," he said. "All emergencies, regardless of type or magnitude, start and end at the local level. The Department of Defense is a piece of that process. Certainly, we can provide a significant amount of capability. Demographically, we have more military here than any other state in the country."

Toy said that after lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina and Rita, mechanisms were put in place at the federal level to expedite declaration of an emer-

gency.

Once local or federal authorities decide to call upon the DOD for help during a hurricane, JTF-HD has the ability to forward deploy a command center to track relief efforts closer to the affected area. If JTF-HD is asked to help before the hurricane makes landfall, then they are able to pre-position equipment to respond quicker once the storm has passed.

"First, we identify the emergency response assets," Toy said. "That might be helicopters, trucks, people, power generation, medical capability or engineer capability. We predetermine the status of those so that we can pre-position the equipment where we think there's a likely safe haven so when requested, it can be provided to the state of Hawai'i."

This year, the JTF-HD staff set up a forward-deployed command center at Ford Island, continuing to build on last year's Makani Pahili exercise.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the most powerful hurricane to ever hit Hawai'i was Hurricane Iniki which passed through the island of Kauai in September 1992. It was because of this category four hurricane that the state of Hawai'i started Exercise Makani Pahili.

"Obviously, a category four hurricane is a significant event in the state of Hawai'i, especially when it crosses the most populous island in the chain," Toy said.

"This forces the agencies from the state of Hawai'i to think worse case scenario so that they posture the correct capability and train their people accordingly. If we don't do that, then we're kidding ourselves and it can be a serious error on our part."

GOT SPORTS
hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com

Phone: (808)473-2888

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



Pearl Harbor Highlights

(Right) Aviation Ordnanceman (AW/SW) David Eberhart, assigned to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 (MALS-24) at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe, was appointed as an honorary chief by Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr.. Eberhart's wife Hiroko and mother Nancy pinned the newly-appointed honorary chief's anchors.

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



(Left) Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handler) 2nd Class Desiryl Co assists Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW) Gemma Simon with the Filipino benderitas in preparation for Asian-Pacific Heritage Month this May onboard USNS Mercy (TAH 19) on May 19. Benderitas are colorful trimmings used as decorations during Philippine festivals. The Republic of the Philippines is one of the nations Mercy is scheduled to visit during its Pacific Partnership 2008 mission. Pacific Partnership 2008 is a humanitarian mission aimed to build friendship between partner nations and strengthen relationships developed from past missions. Mercy is also scheduled to visit Vietnam, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico



U.S. Navy photo by MCSA Byung K. Cho
 Military members from the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, 25th Infantry Division Band (Army), U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific, Marine Forces Pacific Band, Coast Guard Band and the 11th Army Band (Hawaii Army National Guard) stand at attention and wait for further instruction from the conductor during the 2008 Combined Military Band Concert at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall in Honolulu on May 16. The annual concert takes place every May to thank the community supporting the military.

John Thackrah, assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition (acting), discusses ballistic missile defense with Lt. j.g. Corry Lougee, fire control officer on USS Port Royal (CG 73), during a visit to the ship on May 14. Thackrah visited Port Royal to gain an appreciation for issues facing the fleet during his visit to Hawai'i.

U.S. Navy photo by ISC (SW/AW) Burke Johnson



CREDO retreats offer enrichment, growth

CREDO Hawai'i

When Chaplain Jeff Benson tells people he works at the CREDO office on base, he often gets blank looks.

"It's a hidden gem," said Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class SW Michael Tolbert, who also works there. "This touches lives in a way that many others (programs) can't."

CREDO – Latin for "I believe" – teaches people how to communicate effectively and work together in a positive manner, usually through weekend retreats and one-day seminars. Many people don't realize the office exists. Those who do usually refer to the marriage enrichment retreats it sponsors.

"The purpose of CREDO is to enhance the family and spiritual readiness of Sailors and Marines," Benson said.

CREDO, which stands for Chaplain's Religious Enrichment Development Operation, achieves this through marriage enrichment retreats, personal growth retreats and spiritual growth retreats. New this year is a father-son retreat, to be held in June.

"It's a personal passion of mine to see fathers connecting and leading their sons in healthy ways, especially in light of deployments," Benson said.

CREDO's one-day seminars train leaders to positively motivate people through insights into personality. Additionally,



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

instructors offer team building and warrior transition training as well as specialized key volunteer and ombudsman sessions. The goal is to promote healthy communication in all areas of life.

"The healthier and (more) stable their home life and personal life are, the more productive they (Marines and Sailors) will be," said Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class SW Andrea Baggett, who also works in the CREDO office.

Most of their work centers around marriage retreats. These are held eight times a year, Benson said.

"They're the most popular," he said. "There's a lot of stress in a marriage relationship in the military and this is an avenue to do something positive about it."

Marriage retreats are held Friday evenings through Sunday mornings at various locations around the island. They are open to all ranks and all faiths. Benson said his material comes from a Christian perspective, but the retreats are not religious in nature. They are designed to enrich marriages and can be useful in reconnecting couples who are struggling.

"We've had people call and they'll say, 'This is our last chance,'" Benson said. "Through the weekend, they take serious steps and they leave smiling, arm in arm."

Tolbert and Baggett both agree that positive changes come out of the weekend.

"Everybody says, 'We learned how to speak in a way we never have before,'" Tolbert said. "There is emo-

tional, physical and verbal communication. People say, 'We're finally talking in a way we can understand. We're finally getting it.'"

One person who appreciated a recent marriage retreat is Lt. j.g. Marc Tinaz, officer in charge of waterfront operations at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH) – Kaneohe.

"It was great, it was absolutely great," he said.

Tinaz and his wife of 13 years, Cori, decided to go because of recommendations from previous participants. He said they wanted new ways to improve their communication skills. They did that and gained a better understanding of each other in the process.

"It was really well done," he said. "Nobody talked shop and that was the best. I liked the atmosphere, the openness of other couples;

it was easygoing, no rank structure. The sequence of events was really well done. The chaplain did a great job. It was a great time with a great crew."

Another man who enjoyed a marriage retreat was Sgt. David Cunningham Jr., a Motor T mechanic with CSSG-3 at MCBH. He and his wife, Jessica, have been married two years and went "just to learn more stuff to better interact with each other, learn more the way of marriage," he said.

"We learned communication, big time," he said. "Listening to your significant other and really paying attention to them, knowing how to call a timeout, seeing how you fit and loving them just the same" were some of the techniques Cunningham found useful.

"People actually walk away with tools to make their marriage better," Baggett explained.

While marriage retreats are for couples, other retreats are geared toward individuals, married or single. The personal growth retreats help people set goals and make life plans.

"They're designed to put your life in perspective, to take time out of a busy, hectic schedule to evaluate the course your life is going," Benson said.

He takes participants snorkeling or on hikes as part of the retreat. "Learning happens in environments outside a class," he explained.

CREDO also works with commands to offer professional development training days.

"With these, we're trying to get leaders to understand their leadership styles and the people working for them," Benson said. "It's useful for anyone who works with people."

Cunningham attended one of these seminars and found it useful. "It was real good," he said. "We did the personality (inventory) ... and we could see how our actions carry along with the way we think. I started thinking about how it might be a better way to approach them (Marines) and get more work out of them."

Cunningham said that learning to understand personality types could help leaders avoid conflicts or misunderstandings.

"You can help people bring out what they're trying to say by approaching them differently," he said. "As a military tool, the leadership class would be recommended. I'd push that as hard as I can to everyone."

All retreats and seminars are offered at no cost to active duty members. Future marriage enrichment retreats are scheduled for Aug. 15-17 and Sept. 19-21. A personal growth retreat will be held July 11-13 and a professional development day will be June 11. For more information, call 257-1919 or email michael.tolbert1@navy.mil.

Navy operationalizes military support to civilian authorities

Capt. B. J. Keepers
 Commander, Navy
 Installations Command, N72
 Shore Response Plan Officer

Dr. Raymond Roll
 Battelle Memorial I, Shore
 Force Training Center

During the wildfires in California last October, at least 1,500 homes were destroyed and more than 500,000 acres of land burned. Nine people died as a direct result of the fires while 85 others were injured.

More than 900,000 residents evacuated to escape the projected path of the fires. Many of these evacuees were San Diego-based military members and their families. The Department of Defense (DOD) provided a variety of support to civilian authorities to help battle the California fires. Additionally,

Commander, Navy Region Southwest, led by Rear Adm. Len Hering, stood up a region operations center and crisis action team for seven days of sustained operations.

The response and relief efforts by federal, state and local agencies involved in the California wildfires were widely praised. While this response was not without communication and coordination difficulties, the overall improvement in emergency management was not accidental, but the result of a determined effort to integrate governmental efforts in preparing for and responding to major incidents.

This effort began in earnest after 9/11 with Homeland Security Presidential Directive Number Five (HSPD-5). The HSPD-5 stated objective was "to ensure that all levels of government across the nation have the capability to work efficiently and effectively together, using a national approach to domestic incident management."

A significant feature within



The Harris Fire (San Diego, Calif.) burns on Mount San Miguel the morning of Oct. 23.

U.S. Navy photo

this national approach is the mandate that DOD has the responsibility to prepare for domestic emergencies, through measures taken in advance and during an incident, in order to reduce loss of life and property and to protect the nation's institutions.

Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) has actively embraced this concept by aggressively establishing and manning regional and installation emergency operation centers throughout the CNIC enterprise. This effort is driven by CNIC's foresight to operationalize the shore forces and align them with fleet warfighting capabilities.

"My intent is that Navy Installations Command will enable the Navy's operating concept through the enterprise alignment of all shore

installation support to the fleet, fighter and family," said Vice Adm. Robert T. Conway, Jr., Commander, Navy Installations Command.

To further this strategic vision, an emergency management classroom and war gaming center of excellence for the shore force enterprise is being built on Naval Base Coronado. This center, the Shore Force Training Center (SFTC), is scheduled to open in August and will be the cornerstone of CNIC's vision to transform Navy installations and specifically address HSPD-5's objective to ensure that all levels of the government have the capability to work efficiently and effectively together using a national approach to incident management.

To accomplish this objective, the SFTC will provide an

emergency management learning continuum focused on both regional and installation emergency managers and emergency operations center personnel. This continuum will include classroom instruction, an information library, SFTC-generated individual and unit level distributed learning, self-paced interactive computer based war gaming scenarios, and all-hazards exercise events that are scalable from the unit level to the full CNIC enterprise.

Additionally, the emergency management training and exercises will be enhanced by leveraging and incorporating realistic synthetic training methods.

"The challenge in meeting the chairman, JCS high interest training issues is developing a realistic training envi-

ronment that matches the operational environment. The SFTC is a key capability in our CNIC adaptive enterprise that will sense and respond to unpredicted changes in the netted command and control ashore. It will provide the live, virtual and constructive "hub" that will be linked to the Navy continuous training environment and the Joint National Training Capability," said Randy Morgan, training and readiness program director, CNIC N7.

SFTC classroom instruction will initially consist of four courses: an emergency manager course, an emergency operations center (EOC) incident management team course, an installation training officer course, and a crisis action planning team leader course.

"Our focus is based on deliberate planning to ensure that we are prepared to save lives, protect property and to continue critical missions against an all hazards environment," said Owen McIntyre, emergency program director, CNIC N37.

The SFTC is completely compatible with the Navy Warfare Training System process and ensures the alignment of training to mission essential tasks in order to meet the needs of Navy installations. The SFTC will provide a training process that supports the Shore Response Training Plan. This process will first build a solid foundation of basic training that is conducted at the individual and unit level.

Then the SFTC will provide training opportunities with multiple units and installations that are integrated. Next, using the existing exercise schedules, training and assessment will be aggressively honed and evaluated. The complexity and tempo of the training is increased for certification and sustainment.

The overall aim of the SFTC is to help facilitate the Navy's

Emergency Management Program's mission to serve as a force multiplier and service provider, as well as, support the integration the Navy's response to emergencies across the shore force enterprise. This purpose is compatible with Conway's desire to align the shore forces' functional responsibilities and processes to support the fleet, fighter and family.

While it is true that the SFTCs will train personnel to provide support for civilian authorities when required, its primary focus will be in ensuring that Navy installations are prepared to shelter Navy personnel and their families and to protect Navy property during times of catastrophic emergencies.

Got Questions?

Write to us at
hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com

STORY IDEAS?

Contact HNN for
 story/photo
 submission
 requirements
 Ph: (808)473-2888

Email: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com

Hawaii Navy News

Free classified advertising for military in Hawaii Navy News

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 ikaneshi@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.

Commentary

Sailors urge shipmates to practice safety while riding bikes

STG1 (SW) Paul Gambill

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93)

Recently, one of our USS Chung-Hoon shipmates was struck by a motor vehicle while riding his bicycle. While his injuries were not life threatening, his normal activities certainly are on hold for a few weeks. In the interest of the many bicyclists zipping around the base and Oahu in general, here are a few safety tips for riders of all ages.

I've operated a bicycle as a commuter throughout high school and my entire Navy career (some of you probably weren't born yet when I started riding a bicycle). I've commuted in three different countries and operated a bicycle in too many cities to mention so I've certainly had plenty of experience on the seat. Yes, I've had my share of accidents as well so I'm well qualified to talk about safety. The following tips come from my own experiences and those of my fellow bicyclists.

The most important safety tip I have for an operator of a bicycle is to be seen. Base regulations help everyone out - when operating a bicycle in the hours from dusk to dawn, you must have a forward-facing, solid white light and a rear-facing flashing light. LED lights, while expensive, draw less power than regular bulbs and are brighter so will pay for themselves in time.

As for the rear-facing light, I suggest that you buy a light with multiple settings and set yours to the most annoying one. It has been proven that a motorist will see a blinking light five to six times further away than a solid light. As for your body, always wear a reflective vest, which is sold at the uniform shop and at any bike store on the island. If you have a large back pack, buy a larger vest so it fits around you and the back pack. Of course, always wear a helmet.

As with operators of a motor vehicle, a bicyclist should never operate a bike while upset or in an extraordinary hurry; it greatly impairs your decision making. Ride with more experienced bicyclists when first learning local trails. Don't try to outrun or zoom ahead of vehicles or other bicyclists just to show off. Think smart. How cool are you going to look when you get sideswiped? And, of course, never operate a bicycle under the influence. You can absolutely get a DUI for operating a bicycle while drunk and are likely to seriously injure yourself and look like an idiot.

Most importantly, take the time and effort to keep your bicycle in good repair. Think about blowing a tire at 20 miles an hour. A few pieces of metal are the only things between you and the pavement. Your brakes, if in good condition, will stop you every time. If they are too strong, they will throw you off the bike; if they are too weak, they won't stop you or your bike in time.

When you do repairs to your bike or get it back from the shop, make sure all the nuts and bolts are back on and tightened (no leftover parts is always a good sign). All jokes aside, if you aren't able to do the repairs and upkeep yourself, always take the bike to a trusted repair shop; it will be well worth the money to keep yourself safe.

Two true stories come to mind to emphasize these tips. My LPO [leading petty officer] on my previous ship had several horrendous scars on his cheeks so I asked him how he came by them. Before he came to the ship, he was an instructor in San Diego and rode his bike every day. He always took a little short cut, which entailed hopping his bike over a low fence and riding down the side of a bridge onramp.

One weekend he did maintenance on his front tire, but failed to put the nuts back on properly. Monday morning he went through his usual routine, but while hopping the fence his tire came off in mid air. When the bike landed, his

forks dug in the dirt and launched him from the bike, flinging him 20 feet and ending with him landing face first on the street. They had to peel his face off, literally down to his lower jaw, to perform the facial reconstruction. They said if he had been wearing a helmet, it would have absorbed 80 percent of the impact force. Lesson learned? Put your bike back together properly and always wear a helmet.

A personal anecdote: while riding the Aiea Loop one day, I laid my bike down and damaged the rear brake. Still needing to ride home, I simply disconnected it. On the way back, I found a great place to jump some pylons on the left side of the Nimitz bike trail. I had finished my last jump and wasn't paying attention to what was around

the curing cement retaining wall until the last moment and when I hit the rear brake, what do you think happened? I hit the wall without slowing at all and was thrown clear of the bike. One thing kept me from having facial reconstruction myself - my helmet, which did just what it was supposed to do and cracked in half from the impact force. The bike, you ask? Thank goodness for warranties. I had to replace the entire frame.

When commuting to base, use the bike trails whenever possible. That's what they are there for. For the areas you need to ride along the road, use all your senses - sight, hearing, signals and even your voice when need be. And for those of you driving cars to work each morning, share the road, shipmates.



A Navy Sailor ensures that he has the proper protective and reflective gear before setting out on his bicycle

U.S. Navy photo

Senators introduce legislation to ensure fair benefits

Office of Senator Daniel K. Akaka

U.S. Senators Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawaii), Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) have introduced the Non-Foreign Area Retirement Equity Assurance Act to continue the discussion of how best to ensure pay and retirement equity for federal employees in Hawaii, Alaska and the U.S. Territories.

Federal workers in those areas currently receive a non-foreign cost of living allowance (COLA) based on the difference in the cost of living between those areas and the District of Columbia, but, unlike locality pay, this amount does not count for retirement purposes. Furthermore, while locality rates generally increase, non-foreign COLAs have been gradually declining.

"For years, federal employees in my home state of Hawaii and in other non-foreign areas have been disadvantaged when it comes to their retirement," Akaka said. "Extending locality pay to these employees would help address this disparity and could improve efforts to recruit and retain federal workers in those areas. I hope this bill will lead to further discussion of the pros and cons of making this change."

"This bill will provide for meaningful discussion on the options federal workers in Hawaii, Alaska and the territories will face in converting from a non-foreign cost-of-living allowance to a locality pay system, including a one time opt-out option," Inouye said. "There are many factors to be considered depending on whether you are a relatively new federal employee with a long path ahead, or are fairly near retirement after a productive career."

Last year, the administration submitted proposed legislation to Congress which would freeze non-foreign

COLA rates at their current levels and phase-in locality pay over the next seven years while non-foreign COLA is phased out. According to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the locality rate for Hawaii is estimated to be 20.38 percent, the rate for Alaska is estimated to be 27.68 percent, and the rate for other non-foreign COLA areas is estimated to be 12.64 percent. At the end of the seven-year period, if the locality pay rate is less than the amount of non-foreign COLA for a particular area, employees would continue to receive the difference in non-foreign COLA and locality pay until the locality rate reaches the COLA amount. Only at that time would employees no longer receive non-foreign COLA.

However, the proposal did not address the impact such a change would have on postal employees, employees who receive special rates, members of the Senior Executive Service, and others who are in agency specific personnel systems or those who do not receive locality pay, such as employees under the National Security Personnel System at the Department of Defense.

The Non-Foreign Area Retirement Equity Assurance Act seeks to clarify how all civilian employees in the non-foreign areas will be affected by the conversion to locality pay and protect employee's take home pay.

Akaka said, "The legislation we introduce today is the result of the many comments and questions we have received from employees in the non-foreign areas and the collective efforts of Senators Stevens, Inouye, Murkowski, and me to find an equitable solution to a difficult issue that continues to lack a consensus. This bill is not the last word, only the latest step forward toward retirement equity. I continue to encourage employees in Alaska, Hawaii and in the territories to write me or attend our meetings

and let me know your questions and concerns. It is my goal to ensure that federal workers in these areas are not disadvantaged when it comes to their pay and retirement."

Inouye said, "I am pleased that the Hawaii and Alaska delegations are working together as we endeavor to represent the best interests of our federal employees in our respective states. We thank all our federal employees for their honorable service and will work to do right by you."

Over the Memorial Day recess, the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management will hold a series of meetings to hear from federal employees in Hawaii on the administration's proposal and the Non-Foreign Area Retirement Equity Assurance Act.

The Oahu meeting will be 3-4:30 p.m. May 29 at Oahu Veterans Center, 1298 Kukila St., Honolulu.

Meetings on other islands will be as follows:

- Hilo: 11 a.m.-1 p.m., May 27, Dept. of Labor, conference room, 1990 Kinoole St.

- Kona: 5-7 p.m. May 27, Royal Kona Resort, 75-5852 Alii Drive, Kailua-Kona.

- Maui: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. May 28, Maui Community College, Kalama 103, 310 W. Ka'ahumanu Ave., Kahului.

- Kauai: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. May 30, Moikeha Building, 4444 Rice St., rooms 2-A and 2-B, planning commission room, Lihue.

Specialists from relevant agencies and committees will attend to go over the various proposals and answer questions.

Additionally, a formal subcommittee field hearing chaired by Akaka to discuss the proposals will take place at 1 p.m. May 29 at the Oahu Veterans' Center in Honolulu.

More information on the various proposals and how to provide feedback is available by visiting Akaka's Web site akaka.senate.gov and clicking on "COLA Update."



Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan Knotts (left) from Naval Health Clinic Hawaii conducts a class on proper food handling and sanitation at the Punjadara Hotel in Korat, Thailand, during a course offered to local hotels and restaurant owners as part of Exercise Cobra Gold 2008.

Making your food safe, one bite at a time

Story and photo by MC2 Michael Hight

Combined Joint Information Bureau

As military personnel are deployed to various locations around the world, they are cautioned about eating at local food vendors. This warning is especially stressed around local areas of Thailand.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jonathan Knotts from Naval Health Clinic Hawaii, who is currently participating in Exercise Cobra Gold 2008 as a member of the preventive medicine team (PMT), is helping to raise the standard and ease this concern one restaurant at a time.

"As a member of the PMT, we perform a daily inspection on all areas of hotels and the camps where military members can become ill due to sanitation issues," stated Knotts. "One of our main responsibilities is inspecting the food preparation areas and food handling."

"We accomplish this by daily inspections as well as teaching a basic course on

proper food handling," Knotts continued. "Our basic course is only 15 minutes long and just covers the basics, but we also offer the full food handler's course free to all hotels if they wish."

With a wide range of topics taught in the eight-hour course, the Punjadara Hotel has opened their doors and arms for the medical team from Hawaii.

"The course, which is the U.S. standard for food service handlers, covers proper food service sanitation, various types of sicknesses associated with improper food safety, and how to prevent those illnesses," said Knotts. "As well as the basics, we also cover how to check the source of the food, whether the food received has been properly stored and also the proper storage and cooking of the different foods from meats to produce."

Along with the local kitchen staff of the hotel, a wide range of local restaurants and food vendors were in attendance for the basic course on May 17.

"Not only are we seeing the changes being made now, but having the local commu-

nity involved with the seminar shows everyone's willingness to help change the standard in food preparation for the people as a whole," said Navy Lt. Jennifer Remmers, assistant PMT officer in charge, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. "It is an honor and a pleasure to know that I have the opportunity to help the people here in Korat, not only now, but for future generations to come."

"It has been a great honor to have this medical team from Cobra Gold here with us today," stated Arnon Orachai, executive director for the Punjadara Hotel. "The lessons that they have taught us today will stay with us for a long time."

Cobra Gold is an annual combined, joint multi-national exercise designed to improve U.S., Thai, Singaporean, Japanese and Indonesian military readiness and combined, joint interoperability, enhance security relationships and demonstrate U.S. resolve to support the security and humanitarian interests of its Pacific partner nations. This year is the 27th evolution of Cobra Gold.