

Hawai'i Navy News

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Bonhomme Richard back at sea for RIMPAC



MC2 Justin Webb

USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6)
(BHR) Public Affairs

Following a 14-day port visit to Pearl Harbor, USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) (BHR) returned to sea July 11 to participate in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise.

BHR will spend several days

conducting flight deck and well deck operations as well as other drills and evolutions in preparation for the tactical phase of the exercise.

"This is an excellent opportunity to prepare us for what we do anyway," said Capt. Neil R. Parrott, BHR commanding officer. "The ship just emerged from three months of maintenance availability in San Diego, so this

allows us to get our skills back up to speed. As expected, though, BHR's crew has picked right back up without missing a beat."

During RIMPAC, BHR is transporting a special marine air ground task force, consisting of Marines from the 3rd Marine Regiment and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 362, as well as units from the

Australian and Canadian Armies and three observers from the Republic of Korea.

This interaction with partner nations, in addition to a number of joint and combined evolutions throughout the week, enhances BHR's interoperability with the other participating nations.

"Our maritime strategy is all about doing things with our partner nations," Parrott

explained. "They depend on what we're doing whether it's a response to a natural disaster or humanitarian assistance, and we depend on them. We're not going to go it alone; we'll always do it with coalition partners."

"RIMPAC really strengthens our bonds with the participating nations and teaches us how to work together with other armed forces."

A landing craft air cushion delivers equipment to the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008 at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i on July 9. RIMPAC is the world's largest multi-national exercise scheduled biennially by the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Participants include the U.S., Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Kirk Worley



'Love Guru' Mike Myers visits Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by
MCC (SW/AW) David Rush

Navy Region Hawai'i
Public Affairs

Actor Mike Myers was treated to a boat tour of Naval Station Pearl Harbor on July 15.

The actor boarded the captain's gig and got underway from Merry Point Landing for a two-hour tour conducted by Cmdr. Larry Hill, executive officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Highlights of the tour included historic sites such as the USS Nevada, Battleship USS Missouri, USS Utah and Arizona Memorials.

The final stop following a circumnavigation of Ford Island was the USS Arizona Memorial, where Myers was able to disembark and see firsthand the names of those who lost their lives on Dec. 7, 1941.

According to Myers, the memorial is a powerful place to visit. "There's three spots in the United States where I have had the same feeling. One is the Vietnam Memorial (in Washington, D.C.), the other is ground zero in New York City where I live, and then seeing the Arizona Memorial and all of the names. When you see the names, you can't believe it. That's just a lot of people," said Myers.

"You just can't believe it, it's so sad. You accept it, but it's still so sad that you wish you can go back in time and make it not happen, and that's the sense that I feel here in Pearl Harbor. I wish I can go back in a time



Actor Mike Myers listens to Cmdr. Larry Hill, executive officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, while on a boat tour of various historic sites, including the Battleship USS Missouri, USS Utah and USS Arizona Memorials. Formerly of Saturday Night Live fame, Myers is now widely known as Austin Powers, and also plays his nemesis Dr. Evil. He is currently starring in the movie 'The Love Guru.'

See LOVE GURU, A-6

New service uniform available July 31

Chief of Naval Personnel Public
Affairs

The new E1-E6 Service Uniform (SU) will be available for purchase in Great Lakes and California Navy Exchanges starting July 31, according to NAVADMN 190/08.

The SU is for year-round wear and replaces the summer white and winter blue uniforms. It is authorized to be worn for office work, watchstanding, liberty or business ashore when prescribed as the uniform of the day.

The new uniform is the result of significant research and input from the fleet.

"Over 500 Sailors participated in a six-month wear-test, evaluating four diverse uniform concepts, designs and colors," said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson. Overwhelmingly, the approved SU design was selected above the other three.

Sailors will have up to 24 months to purchase the new uniform, depending on their duty station location. The mandatory wear date for all E1-E6 personnel is July 2010. Clothing replacement allowances for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 were increased to cover the purchasing of two sets of new uniforms by July 2010.

Basic SU components include a short-sleeved khaki shirt for males and a short sleeved khaki overblouse for females, black trousers with black belt and silver buckle for males, and black beltless slacks for females.

Collar insignia consists of miniature silver anodized metal rank insignia for E2-E6. Petty officers will wear large silver anodized metal rank insignia on their garrison cap. Males must wear a white undershirt.

Optional components include a black, Eisenhower-style jacket with epaulets, black pullover V-neck sweater and black skirt, beret and handbag for females.

The SU will be available for purchase via Navy Exchange uniform centers as follows:

- July 08, Great Lakes and California



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Brandon W. Schulze

Yeoman 1st Class Erin Morgan in San Diego, Calif. stands at attention as she models the khaki option of the year-round concept service uniform for Sailors E-6 and below.

- Oct 08, Northwest and Hawai'i
- Jan 09, Gulf region and Millington, Tenn.
- April 09, Naval District Washington
- July 09, Tidewater
- Oct 09, Southeast
- Jan 10, Northeast
- April 10, Europe, Japan and Guam

Existing E1-E6 summer white and winter blue uniforms will continue to be authorized for wear until the July 2010 mandatory wear date.

Reserve component Sailors will receive their uniforms via their respective Navy operational support centers.

For more information on uniforms and uniforms policy, visit the uniform matters Web site at www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/usnavyuniforms/.



NCTAMS PAC hosts Pearl Harbor survivor See page A-6



USS Russell transits through Suez Canal See page A-8



Bonhomme Richard Sailors give Mighty Mo a face lift See page A-9



Navy divers get their feet wet with NJROTC cadets See page B-1

Lake Erie Sailor returns from IA duty in Iraq

Ensign Brittany Lynn

USS Lake Erie (CG 70)
Public Affairs Officer

USS Lake Erie (CG 70) Sailors gathered at Honolulu International Airport on June 20 to welcome home one of their shipmates from Iraq. Fire Controlman 2nd Class James Brown returned to Pearl Harbor after serving as an individual augmentee for more than a year.

Approximately 12,000 Sailors and Airmen are currently deployed to the Middle East to fill or supplement Army jobs. Brown said the experience was difficult, but rewarding. His work in Iraq exemplifies how effective Sailors are on the ground, not just at sea.

Before reporting to the Middle East, Brown was sent to MacGregor Base Camp for two months of combat training in the deserts of Texas and New Mexico. He trained side-by-side with Army Soldiers on a mock forward operating base (FOB) learning convoy operations, combat life saving and room clearing. He also obtained weapons qualifications on the 9mm pistol, M16 rifle and 240B and 249 fully automatic machine guns.

After leaving MacGregor Base Camp, Brown attended a specialized school for close-in weapons systems (CIWS) technicians in Fort Bliss, Texas. CIWS is a remarkably effective weapons system used as a last line of defense against anti-ship missiles and can be found on nearly every combat ship in the United States Navy. Its effectiveness motivated the Army to adapt it to be used on the ground to protect base camps in Iraq.

In the desert, CIWS is mounted on the back of a five-ton truck and can be moved from place to place depending on the security needs of the base. Once in place, CIWS technicians must secure the weapons system and set up firing "cutouts" that prevent the system from accidentally firing in friendly territory.

Upon arrival in Iraq, Brown reported to counter-rocket artillery and mortar (CRAM), also known as Task Force Hurricane, at Camp Victory in



U.S. Navy photo

Fire Controlman 2nd Class James Brown returned to Pearl Harbor after serving as an individual augmentee for more than a year.

Baghdad. He worked with an Army unit along with 120 other Sailors to defend the base and protect more than 40,000 of its international inhabitants.

A typical day consisted of eight hours of watch standing on the CIWS platform, followed by daily system maintenance, and free time for exercising and sleeping. On the weekends, Sailors from his unit visited the medical center on base to play soccer with local children who were there to receive first aid care.

Nearly every day, Camp Victory received fire that CIWS helped to defend against. Brown recalled one incident when his squad was able to shoot down 12 rockets firing at the base. "The rocket intercepts were a bonus for us. The important part is that we are able to sense the incoming rockets and give people early warning to take cover. That is what saves lives," he explained.

Stray fire was always a concern for base inhabitants. Militia insurgents were constantly firing random shots that would strike Soldiers and Sailors as they walked around base, ate at the dining facility, and slept in their tents. Even though the containerized housing units (CHU) that the Sailors and Soldiers lived in were surrounded by concrete walls that protected against shrapnel, the tents were still vulnerable to direct hits.

Despite the day-to-day danger and the successful attacks by the insurgent militia,

Brown maintained that his experience in Iraq was a constructive one that changed his life. "I wish I could say I'm still the same person as before I left, but that just isn't true. Living in a war zone really puts things in perspective for you and forces change and adaptation. I would say though, overall it has been a positive aspect in my life. There are going to be negative aspects of anything you do, but the ability to learn from life experiences is what makes us who we are. Given the opportunity, I would do it all again," he said.

Brown's division chief petty officer, Senior Chief Fire Controlman Robert Rock, said he was reluctant to send him to Iraq. "He was a valuable asset to our division and I didn't want to lose him, but he volunteered. However, I knew that it would be good for him to get additional experience on CIWS and broaden his skill set which would make him even more beneficial to the division when he returned," Rock said.

Brown's honorable service as an individual augmentee earned him two Army Achievement Medals for professional achievement as a CIWS operator and for his selfless devotion to duty that resulted in the saving of countless lives.

The crew of Lake Erie is happy to have Petty Officer Brown back home safely and is proud of his performance in Iraq while representing the Navy and Lake Erie.



Kido received the award for service as explosive ordnance disposal officer in charge of the Special Operations Task Force – West between April 6 and Oct. 1, 2007.

EOD OIC receives Bronze Star

Story and photo by
MC2 James Kimber

USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63)
Public Affairs

Lt. Sean S. Kido, officer in charge of the USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) Carrier Strike Group explosive ordnance disposal unit, was presented the Bronze Star with Combat "V" device for service in Iraq on July 2.

The Hawai'i Kai, Hawai'i native was awarded the medal by Rear Adm. Rick Wren, strike group commander, during a ceremony on the aircraft carrier hich moored in Pearl Harbor the day before.

Kido received the award for service as explosive ordnance disposal officer in charge of the Special Operations Task Force – West between April 6 and Oct. 1, 2007.

"I'm proud to have this award and be in the company of the very deserving recipients who have and do wear

this award," said Kido. "We were just trying to do what we could to complete the mission, make the area safer, and get everyone back home safely."

He is credited with leading his 12-man detachment in 109 direct-action missions, 16 counter improvised explosive device operations, and 33 reconnaissance missions.

According to the award citation, Kido's efforts contributed to the capture of 315 known or suspected insurgents, and the seizure and destruction of 198,000 rounds of enemy small arms and 2,600 pounds of ordnance.

Additionally, after his convoy was hit by two buried improvised explosive devices which killed two coalition personnel, Kido, "calmly took charge of the situation, dismounted to sweep the area of other dangers, while coordinating an airborne over watch and casualty evacuation.

"His quick thinking and

bravery ensured the rest of the force returned safely," stated the citation.

"It's a bittersweet honor," said Kido. "Looking back to my time in Iraq and knowing that we did a lot of good stuff; we took the right guys off the street, cut off their resources in obtaining materials for [improvised explosive devices], and made the area safer for everyone.

"We really helped turn the tide, especially in western Iraq," he said.

The Kitty Hawk is on its last deployment and is taking part in the 21st biennial Rim of the Pacific exercise, which includes units from Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States.

For more news about the Kitty Hawk Carrier Strike Group, visit Navy NewsStand at

www.news.navy.mil/local/cv63.

Hawaii Navy News Editorial

Pacific Fleet's blog keeps Sailors, families informed

MCCS (SW/AW) Melissa F. Weatherspoon

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

U.S. Pacific Fleet officially launched a blog on June 9, providing a new method of communication for Sailors and families throughout the Pacific Fleet area of operations.

Pacific Fleet Master Chief (SW/AW) Tom Howard introduced the blog, "Mooring Lines," which offers another way for Sailors and families to discuss issues affecting their daily lives with the fleet's senior-enlisted leader.

With more than 100,000 Sailors and families serving in the Pacific Fleet, across 15 time zones, Howard saw the need to speak with Sailors in a way in which they are accustomed.

"I felt it was important to use all means available to connect to today's Sailor," Howard said. "Today's Sailors often don't remember a time when there was not Internet or electronic methods of communication."

"I want to speak with Sailors and hear from them in a way that's familiar and comfortable to them."

Howard hopes to include sponsorship program,

advancement opportunities, mentorship, military customs and courtesies, professional development, leadership, uniforms and finances on Mooring Lines.

"I am looking forward to discussing anything that is of interest to our Sailors and their families," he said.

In his first post, Howard stepped away from the traditional military biographical format as an introduction and opened up about his early years in the

Navy to show Sailors he has been where they are and has experienced many of the situations facing them today.

"I'm a Sailor first who was a prior boatswain's mate and was almost an electronics technician (ET) before that, but was kicked out of ET 'A' school for what they referred to at the time as a 'non-military' attitude.

"I've been in the Navy since February 1982 and, like many of you, had planned to

get out at the end of each tour," reads Howard's blog post. "So what makes me think I can relate to young Sailors' today? I'm a common-sense person with a common-sense approach to the issues and challenges that face our Navy and Sailors today."

According to Howard, standing orders have been set on the blog to ensure only accurate information is posted. The standing orders are also in place to remind those commenting that some level of consent and review is in place.

To access the blog, visit mooringlines.blogspot.com.

Navy seeking applicants for LDO/CWO programs

MCC (SW) Maria Yager
Navy Personnel Command
Public Affairs

The Navy seeks applications from highly qualified Sailors in pay grades E-6 through E-9 for the fiscal year 2010 Active Limited Duty Officer (LDO) and Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) programs. Applications must be postmarked no later than Oct. 1.

"Limited duty officers and chief warrant officers bring a variety of experience and perspective into the wardroom from their enlisted service," said Chief of Naval Personnel, Vice Adm. M.E. Ferguson.

Eligibility requirements for LDO include U.S. citizenship, serving in pay grade E-7 through E-9 or an E-6 who has passed the exam for E-7. Active-duty applicants for LDO must have at least eight, but not more than 16 years of active-duty service.

Eligibility requirements for CWO include U.S. citizenship, serving in pay grade E-7 through E-9. Active-duty applicants for CWO must have at least 12, but not more than 24 years of active-duty service.

These programs do not require applicants to have a college degree.

Complete application procedures, eligibility requirements and a listing available designators can be found in OPNAVINST 1420.1A.



Commentary

Your uniform is their security blanket

Bette Kalohi

Navy Region Hawaii
Community Relations Officer

I will never forget what a veteran police officer told me years ago while I accompanied him in his squad car on patrol in the "bad" part of Indianapolis. "Police presence is important here. No matter how bad the criminal is or how much they hate us, they still tell their children to find a police officer if they are ever in trouble or need help."

When you have lunch in a local restaurant during your duty day, do you feel as though people are looking at you? Do you wonder what they are thinking about the military or if they are looking at you with disdain? I can tell you, they ARE looking at you. They want to see "who" is behind the uniform. They WANT to see the hero.

It's the uniform and what it stands for; it is the 'confidence you display that is the security you convey' to the community when you wear the Navy uniform or represent it. Regardless of what the vocal minority or the neigh-sayers say about the military or the war in Afghanistan, the majority of those in the community around you still feels reassured and confident that you will look out for their best interests and be there to protect them when the going gets tough.

As we look forward to rising

gas prices, increases in goods shipped to the islands and other indicators of a worsening economic situation, the future could look bleak to many community organizations and individuals in need.

We have Sailors who volunteer in the community, despite their long work hours, and give more of their time and efforts to make a difference in the community. We have folks who give their free time to the Red Cross, to literacy programs or clean-up projects in the local schools, who help as part of the aloha patrol in Waikiki, and those who volunteer to help with shelter management during a natural disaster.

They do these things out of a sense of responsibility and because they know they can help where others may not be mentally or physically strong enough. Pride and confidence don't get sewn onto your uniform like patches or pinned on like badges, but they are there nonetheless, if you wear it well. The uniform can calm fears or reassure someone in need.

While you may not be a Superman or Superwoman, that uniform comes with special powers. And as Spiderman's dad said, "With great power comes responsibility." Wear the uniform well, with pride and strength. You will find you can do almost anything!

Sailors of "Great White Fleet" surfriding at Waikiki Beach



U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph
During the world cruise of the "Great White Fleet" from 1907-1909, officers of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet enjoy surfing at Waikiki Beach, Oahu, Hawaii, circa mid-July 1908. (From collection of Lt. Cmdr. Richard Wainwright, USN, 1928.)



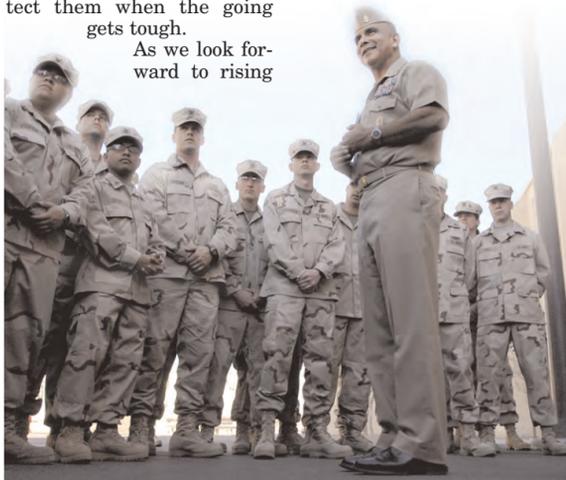
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U.S. 4th Fleet officially re-established

MC3 Alan Gragg

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command Public Affairs

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead officially re-established U.S. 4th Fleet and named Rear Adm. Joseph D. Kernan as its commander during a ceremony at Naval Station Mayport on July 12.

The ceremony followed the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (NAVSO) change of command, during which Kernan relieved Rear Adm. James W. Stevenson Jr.

Kernan, the dual-hatted NAVSO and [U.S.] 4th Fleet commander, is responsible for U.S. Navy ships, aircraft and submarines assigned from east and west coast fleets to operate in the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) area of focus, which encompasses the Caribbean, Central and South America and surrounding waters.

"Re-establishing the [U.S.] 4th Fleet affirms our support for, and our desire to, enhance cooperative relationships with the navies and maritime services in the Caribbean and Central and South America. It recognizes the immense importance of maritime security in the region," said Roughead.

"Our maritime strategy raises the importance of forming global maritime partnerships by working with international partners as the basis for global maritime security. Re-establishing [U.S.] 4th Fleet allows us to more effectively employ naval forces to build confidence and trust among nations through collective maritime security efforts that focus on mutual interests."

U.S. 4th Fleet was first established in 1943 as one of the original numbered fleets. During World War II, the United States needed a



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Regina L. Brown

Adm. James Stavridis, right, commander of U.S. Southern Command, receives a salute from Rear Adm. Joseph D. Kernan, center, after assuming command of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (NAVSO), U.S. 4th Fleet, during a dual change of command and fleet re-establishment ceremony held July 12 on board Naval Station Mayport. Kernan relieved Rear Adm. James W. Stevenson Jr., pictured left, who retired after 32 years of naval service.

command in charge of protecting against raiders, blockade runners and enemy submarines in the South Atlantic. U.S. 4th Fleet fulfilled that mission until it was disestablished in 1950 and U.S. 2nd Fleet took over its responsibilities.

The new [U.S.] 4th Fleet will be headquartered in Mayport and co-located with NAVSO, taking advantage of the existing infrastructure, communications support and personnel already in place. U.S. 4th Fleet's re-establishment

will not involve an increase in forces assigned in Mayport or result in any permanently assigned ships or aircraft.

With a focus on strengthening friendships and partnerships, [U.S.] 4th Fleet will directly support the U.S. maritime strategy by conducting five ongoing missions: support for peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, traditional maritime exercises and counterdrug support operations.

"It is an honor to assume com-

mand of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and to be granted the privilege of re-establishing U.S. 4th Fleet," Kernan said. "I look forward to continuing the great work Rear Adm. Stevenson has accomplished in demonstrating the United States' commitment to our regional partners in this immensely important part of the world."

The re-establishment and change of command ceremony concluded with Stevenson's retire-

ment after 32 years of naval service.

During Stevenson's tour as NAVSO commander, U.S. Navy's operational focus in the region was greatly increased, resulting in enhanced partner nation cooperation and improved collective capabilities. Recent missions championed under Stevenson, such as USNS Comfort's (T-AH 20) 2007 humanitarian medical assistance deployment and the first global fleet station deployment in 2007 with HSV Swift, highlight this increased focus.

In 2008, Stevenson oversaw planning and execution of the third-annual Partnership of the Americas deployment, which included the George Washington Carrier Strike Group; as well as Continuing Pearsarge (LHD 3). Currently, Military Sealift Command rescue and salvage ship USNS Grasp (T-ARS-51) is conducting Navy diver – global fleet station with Caribbean Island partner nations.

As the Navy component command of SOUTHCOM, NAVSO's mission is to direct U.S. naval forces operating in the Caribbean, Central and South American regions and interact with partner nation navies within the maritime environment. Various operations include counter-illicit trafficking, theater security cooperation, military-to-military interaction and bilateral and multi-national training.

U.S. 4th Fleet is the numbered fleet assigned to NAVSO, exercising operational control of assigned forces. It conducts the full spectrum of maritime security operations in support of U.S. objectives and security cooperation activities that promote coalition building and deter aggression.

Pearl Harbor Highlights



USS Lake Erie (CG 70), an Aegis cruiser homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, launches a Harpoon missile during the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) maritime exercise in the Pacific Ocean on July 11. RIMPAC is the world's largest multi-national exercise and is scheduled biennially by the U.S. Pacific Fleet. This year's participants include the United States, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, the Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

U.S. Navy photo



Actor/comedian Mike Myers looks at the Arizona Memorial Visitor Center during a boat tour of Pearl Harbor hosted by Cmdr. Larry Hill, executive officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Myers was shown various historic sites, including the Battleship Missouri, USS Utah and USS Arizona Memorials. Formerly of Saturday Night Live fame, Myer's is now widely known as Austin Powers and also plays his nemesis Dr. Evil. He is currently starring in the movie "The Love Guru."

U.S. Navy photo by MCC (SW/AW) David Rush



Lt. Gen. Zhang Qinsheng, Commander, Guangzhou Military Region China, tours the control room with Cmdr. Vernon Parks, commanding officer of USS Santa Fe (SSN 763), during a tour at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, on July 8. Qinsheng, who oversees the Guangdong, Guangxi, Hunan, Hebei and Hainan Provinces of China, visited Pearl Harbor as part of the continuum of reciprocal exchanges between the two countries, designed to promote peaceful development in the Asia-Pacific region.

U.S. photo by MCI Cynthia Clark

Sailors assigned to Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific install the first of three new state-of-the-art Mobile User Objective System (MUOS) satellite dishes. The MUOS is a next-generation narrowband tactical satellite communications system intended to significantly improve ground communications for U.S. forces on the move.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 John W Ciccarelli Jr.



NCTAMS PAC hosts Pearl Harbor survivor

Lt. Cmdr. Todd Chipman

Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific Public Affairs

Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific (NCTAMS PAC) had the opportunity to host a couple from the "Greatest Generation" recently.

Arnie Schwichtenberg, a Pearl Harbor survivor, and his wife Lilly were hosted by Capt. Janet Stewart, commanding officer of NCTAMS PAC, and their niece, Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Shannon Tomaszewski, a Sailor stationed at NCTAMS PAC.

Stewart presented the Schwichtenbergs with a letter of appreciation for their service to our country, command coffee mugs, a command coin, and a signed picture of the satellite communications facility. The couple also attended the NCTAMS PAC annual command picnic on June 13 and Schwichtenberg delivered the invocation and the pledge of allegiance to kick off the festivities.

After visiting NCTAMS, Schwichtenberg noted, "The morale at NCTAMS was terrific and we really enjoyed our stay."

He was a fireman onboard the minesweeper USS Trever (DMS



Capt. Janet Stewart, NCTAMS PAC commanding officer, presents Pearl Harbor survivor, Arnie Schwichtenberg, and his wife, Lilly, with a letter of appreciation, command coin, command coffee mugs, and a photograph of the satellite communications facility. Schwichtenberg's niece is also pictured.

16) when the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor occurred. Trever sortied out to sea and Schwichtenberg watched the action from her deck as she engaged aircraft with her .50-caliber Browning machine guns, was solely responsible for shooting one down, and con-

tributed (with her sister ships) to another enemy plane's demise. Arnie served in the Navy from September 1940 to August 1946 and advanced to chief diesel machinist mate.

He has visited Hawai'i at least 25 times since the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. As an active member of the Navy League, Schwichtenberg returned to Pearl Harbor for the 65th anniversary in December 2006.

His current trip to Hawai'i was to visit with family and friends. "I will take my fondness of Capt. Stewart, the NCTAMS Sailors and stories of great morale back to the Navy League [in Florida]," said Schwichtenberg. He and his wife will return to Florida, where they currently reside.

As a member of the Navy League, Schwichtenberg recently had the pleasure of meeting the Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Gary Roughead, and received a coin from him.

During his visit to Hawai'i, Schwichtenberg was also able to spend some time at the USS Arizona Memorial signing books and talking with visitors for about five hours on June 27.

Upon departing, Schwichtenberg said, "Please tell the chiefs' mess to keep up the great work."

'Love Guru'

Continued from A-1

machine and do something to make it not happen," Myers said.

As someone who comes from a military family, Myers expressed his understanding and appreciation for those who serve. "I come from a military family, the British military. I am very proud to be a new American citizen. I became a citizen about 10 years ago," explained Myers.

"As an American I am very proud of all the work that the people who are in the military are doing. I am humbled by their sacrifice and having had parents that were in the military I know what it means. I have not served in the military, so I won't know 100 percent, but it certainly was instilled in me at the dinner table how important it is," he added.

As for his visit to Pearl Harbor, Myers concluded that it has certainly left an impression on him. "It's a very humbling experience to come and see the sacrifices and the commitment made by all of the people in the military."

Seaman Joseph Calabro, a member of the USS Arizona Detachment, was glad to be a part of the boat crew for Myers. "I have been watching him since Saturday Night Live and of course Wayne's World. I am a big fan and he makes me laugh every time I go to see his movies."

Although a big fan of Myers' comedic talent, especially his role in 'So, I Married an Axe Murderer,' Calabro said he would like Myers to show more of his acting range, as he did in Studio 54. "Every once in a while I'd like to see him do serious roles. All around he is a solid actor."

Formerly of Saturday Night Live fame and now widely known as Austin Powers and nemesis Dr. Evil, Myers is currently starring in the movie "The Love Guru."

Freedom Rings at Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by
MC2 (AW) Eric J. Cutright

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

Members of the National Park Service (NPS) and Pearl Harbor Survivors Association kicked off Pearl Harbor Fourth of July festivities at the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center with the annual "Let Freedom Ring" bell ringing event.

During the event, 13 people, including several Pearl Harbor survivors, NPS members and military service members, rang a bell for each of the 13 original states signifying independence.

"It's always important for me to honor my shipmates that gave their lives. Four hundred twenty nine on the Oklahoma gave their lives and I'm always honored to come to the memorial," said George Brown, a surviving crew member of the battleship USS Oklahoma during the Pearl Harbor attack.

Daniel Martinez, an NPS historian at USS Arizona Memorial Visitors Center, conducted the observance.

"Today is the day that we want people to pause and reflect on those sacrifices that were made over the centuries to keep America alive," said Martinez. "Today is that moment where we think about that and we let them pause and reflect on the importance of the ship's bell, what the ship's bell means and to have all of these veterans and National Park Service employee's ring those bells in celebration of that freedom. I can't think of a more appropriate thing to happen."

After the ceremony, visitors at the center met with some of the Pearl Harbor survivors who gave their accounts of the December 7 attacks.

"Let Freedom Ring" is a national event introduced by the U.S. Congress in 1963, asking that ceremonial bells be rung 13 times all across the country at 2 p.m. Eastern Standard Time in honor of the patriots of the original 13 states who helped secure our liberty.

The Arizona Memorial Visitor's Center has held this event for the past eight years using one of the bells recovered from the battleship USS Arizona (BB 39).

The "Let Freedom Ring," event has grown exponentially since its inception by Congress in 1963. Originally held at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, it has since grown to include more than 800 satellite ceremonies throughout the country, including all U.S. Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine ships.

For more information on, "Let Freedom Ring," visit the Web site at www.let-freedom-ring.org.



Pearl Harbor survivor and retired U.S. Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer George Brown participates in the annual "Let Freedom Ring" event held at the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center on July 4. The event is held every year on the Fourth of July as a re-enactment of when our forefathers declared independence from the British in 1776.

Hurricane Condition Readiness

Condition Readiness IV

- Maintain areas around the house and keep them clear of debris and loose material.
- Prune dead branches from trees.
- Maintain storm shutters in good repair and keep them easily available.
- Determine location of official shelters.
- Stock and maintain your hurricane supply locker.

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Hawaii Navy News



U.S. Navy photo

USS Lake Erie (CG 70) Sailors and their families enjoyed Military Appreciation Day at the Honolulu Zoo on June 28. The event was sponsored by the United Services Organization (USO) with free admission provided for all military ID holders, as well as free picnic lunches and live music. Lake Erie Sailors and their families took advantage of the opportunity to spend time together before the three-week international Rim of the Pacific exercise.

Lake Erie Sailors, families enjoy 'ohana day' at the zoo

Ensign Brittany Lynn

*USS Lake Erie (CG 70)
Public Affairs Officer*

USS Lake Erie (CG 70) Sailors and their families enjoyed Military Appreciation Day at the Honolulu Zoo on June 28.

The United Services Organization (USO) sponsored the event. Free admission was provided for all military ID holders, as well as free picnic lunches and live music.

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Diane McMinn, Lake Erie

ohana member, coordinated with the zoo to ensure that Lake Erie had a designated area for socializing and kept the table packed with plenty of food. According to Chief Cryptologic Technician Michael Smith, ohana liaison, "About 100 Lake Erie Sailors and family members came out to enjoy the picnic and the zoo. We look forward to doing more events like this in the future and having even more Sailors participate."

Not only did Sailors and their families get to enjoy the free services provided by the USO, but they also enjoyed interacting with many wild and exotic animals. At the keiki zoo, kids could get close enough to pet a variety of

farm animals. Cryptologic Technician 1st Class William Stasko said, "It was a lot of fun. My 18-month-old son loved petting the goats."

However, the elephants and the monkeys were overwhelmingly voted the kids' favorites.

"I think the Lake Erie ohana did an outstanding job organizing the day at the zoo. More events would be great, especially a family fun day at the water park," added Stasko. Master-at-Arms 1st Class Justin Alderson took his wife and eight-year-old son. "We all had a great time. It was really nice to interact with other Lake Erie families in such a relaxed setting," said Alderson.

USS Russell transits through Suez Canal

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

The Pearl Harbor-based destroyer, USS Russell (DDG 59), passed through the Suez Canal for the fourth time during its deployment with the Abraham Lincoln Strike Group (ALSG). The latest transit allowed Russell to participate in the first ever ballistic missile defense exercise between 5th and 6th Fleets.

USS Russell and USS Benfold (DDG 65) became the first BMD-capable ships to operate simultaneously in the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf during the exercise," said USS Russell commanding officer, Cmdr. Jeff Weston.

"This was an incredible opportunity for a Hawai'i-based crew to see the Mediterranean as well as it allowed the crew to demonstrate their proficiency in conducting the missile defense exercise," Weston said.

"For a Hawai'i, or even a West Coast ship, to visit the Med and travel the Suez is a unique experience," said Ensign Sean McDonnell, Russell's com-



U.S. Navy photo by Cmdr. Jeff Weston

Hawai'i-based destroyer, USS Russell (DDG 59), passes through the Suez Canal to participate in a multi-theater BMD exercise.

bat information center officer, noting that the Mediterranean is usually heavily populated with East Coast-based ships.

The Suez Canal has been in use since 1869 and acts as a major thoroughfare for ships to get from the Mediterranean Sea and the Middle East. It is 101 miles long and 984 feet wide at its narrowest point. It sees eight percent of the world's shipping traffic every year, amounting to about 17,500 ships a year, and in 2003 it brought revenue in the amount of \$3.25 billion, according to

Wikipedia.org.

Russell is part of the Abraham Lincoln Strike Group, which is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations to support Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom as well as maritime security operations (MSO). Operations in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility are focused on reassuring regional partners of the United States commitment to security, which promotes stability and global prosperity.

The ALSG is on a scheduled seven-month deployment to the region.

Star spangled baptism aboard Lake Erie



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Michael Moriatis

Lt. Cmdr. Julie Sellerberg, center, holds her four-month-old child, Liesel Sellerberg, as Command Chaplain Timothy Koester conducts a baptism on board the guided missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) in the ship's bell on July 4. The child's name will be engraved inside the bell along with previous children who have been baptized in the bell.

Pearl Harbor Sailors celebrate Fourth of July with 'Iron Chef' competition

MC1 (SW) Jason Thompson

Peleliu Expeditionary Strike Group Public Affairs

The officers and crew of USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) celebrated the Fourth of July with a traditional steel beach picnic, along with a cooking competition modeled after the famous 'Iron Chef' television series.

Teams from different departments and the chiefs' mess competed for bragging rights. Commanding officer, Cmdr. Xavier F. Valverde, served as the final judge.

"This competition is really about the camaraderie between

the teams," said Ensign Anthony Bryant, ship's first lieutenant. "We could just have a cookout, but a little competition between everyone just makes it that much fun."

Each team had to create a salad, a barbecued meat and chili. The teams all had the same ingredients to work with, which were provided by the ship's supply department. Each team was also allowed to begin marinating their barbecue the night before.

"It was a madhouse in the galley, just crazy," said Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class (SW) Steven Benitez from the deck department. "Everyone was reaching for something at the same time.

People were trying to hog all the good ingredients first. It was a lot of fun."

On the morning of July 4, each team grilled their barbecue and put the finishing touches on the chili.

"We wanted to make a few last-minute adjustments to make sure everything was just like we wanted it to be," said Yeoman 1st Class (SW) Mike Staton from the executive department. "You can't send your chili to the judge without thinking it's the best you've got."

After all the dishes were in and all the points tallied, Pearl Harbor's deck department won the competition by a narrow margin over the supply department.



U.S. Navy photo by Bob Goodwin

Sailors and Marines man the rails aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) during her arrival at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, for a scheduled port visit.

Bonhomme Richard Sailors give Mighty Mo a face lift

MC2 (SW/AW) Jennifer R. Hudson

USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) Public Affairs

Sailors from USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) (BHR) volunteered their time and skills during a community relations (COMREL) project on board USS Missouri (BB 63) at Pearl Harbor on July 9.

Sailors from various departments aboard BHR worked together to renovate most of the pier furniture as well as help build an awning mold that will be used to cover one of the many display models on board the ship.

"We rely on volunteer groups; our volunteers are the backbone of our organization," said Beth Remick, director of volunteers for Missouri.

"We need as much help as possible and every little bit we get helps out tremendously. We really appreciate active duty volunteers because they are well disciplined and because we like to share the ship's history with them. After all, it's their naval history."

One Sailor, who was stationed on the Missouri as his first ship from December 1989 to the decommissioning in 1992, explained how happy he was to revisit his first ship.

"I am excited to be back here and see the ship, but mainly I'm just glad to be able to give back to the ship in any way I can," said Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SW) Ron Ramage.

While most of the volunteers helped

sand and paint the pier furniture, two Sailors worked with members on board Missouri in the carpenter's shop, to help build an awning mold for a display case model.

"I enjoyed carpentering for the first time. Cutting wood isn't as easy as I thought though. It requires dead-on cutting and there is very little room for error," said Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class (AW/SW) Leonard Eugene.

"I think I'll have to stick to being an AO for now, but if I ever decide to do this type of work again, I'll be sure to take a wood working class," he said.

According to community relations (COMREL) project manager and ship chaplain, Cmdr. John Shimotsu, Missouri is the crown of the surface Navy battleships.

After Sailors ate lunch, they were given a tour of the Missouri with a little lesson about naval history.

"This is my first COMREL I've ever been on and I'm very happy that I volunteered for this project. It makes me feel as though I've contributed in some sort of way," said Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Manuel Penas. "I feel like I'm helping out. Even though it may be a small contribution, I feel like I'm doing something good for the ship and it is great to learn about our history."

While in port in Hawai'i, BHR Sailors volunteered for six COMREL projects, with the Missouri as their last.

BHR is currently in the region for the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise 2008, the largest biennial maritime multi-national exercise.

Motorcycle, vehicle accidents dominate off-duty summer fatalities

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

Midway through the "101 Critical Days of Summer," 50 service members have died in off-duty accidents, half on motorcycles, defense officials reported. "The 101 Critical Days of Summer" refers to the period between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day that typically sees a spike in vehicle and recreational accidents. "It's the time when more people get outside and enjoy off-duty activities and more people are traveling," said John Seibert, the Defense Department's assistant for safety, health and fire. "But unfortunately, it's also a time when we see more accidents."

Motor vehicles remain the number one cause of off-duty military deaths and despite, broad safety awareness efforts military-wide, that trend shows no sign of diminishing this summer. Thirty-seven service members have died in motor vehicles since May 23.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates noted in a safety



Photo illustration

message to the field sent just before Memorial Day that 77 servicemen and women were killed in private motor accidents during last year's "101 Critical Days of Summer."

Officials say they're particularly concerned about the incidence of motorcycle deaths - 25 military-wide since Memorial Day weekend. Citing high fuel prices and cash accumulated during deployments that are driving up motorcycles' popularity within the force, officials say they fear these numbers will only go up.

Similarly, ten of the 12 Sailors who died in off-duty accidents since May 23 were involved in vehicle accidents, according to

April Phillips from the Naval Safety Center in Norfolk, Va. Eight of the Navy fatalities involved motorcycles.

The Marine Corps reported eight off-duty losses since the "101 Critical Days of Summer" campaign launched. Six of the eight Marines died in vehicle accidents, with three killed on motorcycles, said Marine Lt. Col. Mike Miller, who heads up the corps' ground safety branch in Washington.

It's little surprise that young service members, attracted by the adrenaline rush sports bikes promise and their relatively low cost, are lining up to buy them. And while disturb-

ing, officials say, it's also not surprising that they're contributing to more military deaths.

For example, 19 of the 21 motorcycle fatalities so far this fiscal year occurred on sport bikes, Phillips reported. Intent on bucking this trend, the military is taking action. In addition to the basic motorcycle safety course all military riders must take, the services now promote specialized training for those who ride high-performance motorcycles.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Military Sport Bike Course is now mandatory for all Sailors who ride sport bikes, Phillips said. The course also is being offered to Soldiers at a growing number of Army bases.

Meanwhile, the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force at Fort Lejeune, N.C., which is leading the Marine Corps' sport bike safety effort, is contracting with a professional motorcycle school and expanding the training to several Marine Corps sites, Miller said.

As the "101 Critical Days of Summer" continue, military leaders are urging vigilance and a focus on safety.

Gates emphasized in his safety message to the field each service member's responsibility in promoting motor vehicle safety. "Know that the choices you make at sporting events, barbecues and other summer activities can impair your judgment and reaction times, all of which are necessary for safe driving," he said.

He reminded service members that most vehicle accidents involve alcohol, fatigue or excessive speed, and most are preventable. "Don't put your life or the lives of others in danger by making poor decisions," he said. "Your safety and the safety of those around you is in your hands."

The Air Force and Navy also reported fatality-free July 4 weekends in terms of off-duty accidents.

The Marine Corps suffered two off-duty fatalities during the holiday weekend. A corporal died July 5 after his motorcycle hit a curb and threw him onto the street, officials said. A staff sergeant was killed July 6 when his motorcycle veered off the road, struck a

curb, then ran into a tree.

Rear Adm. Arthur J. Johnson, commander of the Naval Safety Center, reminded the fleet this week it's not too late to begin a summer safety campaign. "Now that we're back from the Fourth of July holiday, it's time to take a hard look at the job we've done managing risk to far this summer," he said. That, he said, includes reinforcing behaviors and attitudes that can make the all-important difference between life and death.

Military-wide, officials emphasized the importance of leadership in promoting safety awareness and preventing off-duty accidents.

Ultimately, safety boils down to a readiness issue, because the military needs every single member to carry out its mission, said Air Force Chief of Safety Maj. Gen. Wendell Griffin. "As we continue to wage the global war on terror, we can't afford to lose a single one of our most precious resources," he said, adding, the men and women in uniform "who make the mission happen every day."

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