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# U.S. Navy hosts SAREX with ROK & JMSDF Sailors

Story and photo by  
**MC2 Michael A. Lantron**

Commander, Navy Region  
*Hawai'i Public Affairs*

The Pearl Harbor-based Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) hosted a tri-lateral search and rescue exercise (SAREX) on Aug. 5 alongside the Coast Guard cutter USCGC Kittiwake, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Forces (JMSDF) destroyer JS Haruna (DDH 141) and the Republic of Korea (ROK) destroyer ROKS Munmu the Great (DDH 976) while underway off the coast of Kaua'i, Hawai'i.

The exercise was held to enhance tri-lateral security cooperation between the Navy, Coast Guard, the ROK and the JMSDF militaries.

"This showed that we can continue to work together with ROK and JMSDF and cooperate in a mariner's tradition of saving people who are at distress at sea," said Capt. Ron Boxall, Lake Erie's commanding officer.

During the exercise, Lake Erie, Haruna and Munmu the Great combined forces using their air and sea-based craft to provide Kittiwake, simulating as a distressed vessel, with medical and engineering assistance.

Lake Erie was first to respond to the scene, acting



Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Michael Mullin, assigned to the Pearl Harbor-based, Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70), treats the forearm wound of Coast Guard Seaman Tara Brevins, assigned to the Coast Guard cutter USCGC Kittiwake, during a tri-lateral search and rescue exercise onboard Kittiwake. Kittiwake served as a simulated distressed vessel positioned approximately 20 miles east of Kaua'i, Hawaii. The exercise was held to enhance tri-lateral security cooperation between the Navy, Coast Guard, the Republic of Korea and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force.

as on-scene coordinator, fighting a simulated fire onboard the Kittiwake and providing medical assistance

to two personnel with ROK Sailors from Munmu the Great. At the same time, Japanese sailors fought an

additional simulated fire from their small boat approximately 100 feet away from Kittiwake.

As on-scene leader, Chief Damage Controlman (SW) Derrick Hays was responsible for the vessel and its per-

sonnel onboard along with the coordination between the three ships.

"The most important thing was all the ships working together," said Hays. "If we can work together, we can take care of more of the ocean. Knowing how we each do business can help us all enormously."

Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Apollos Stanek was one of the Sailors who worked alongside the ROK Sailors and was proud to see the nations working together for a common purpose.

"The language barrier was a little difficult, but once everything was understood everything fell together nicely," said Stanek. "Any chance for foreign relations is always a good idea because it helps us work smoothly in order to get the job done."

Following the recent completion of Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008, the exercise served as a last training exercise before the two visiting nations departed across the Pacific Ocean and back to their homes.

"Just like we did during RIMPAC, we worked together with our allies and the results were excellent," said Boxall. "If there's someone in distress at the high seas, I'm absolutely convinced that any of us either individually or collectively could save them."



Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Herbert Ellis places down a folded American flag as Ensign Aimee Lindner and Ensign Matthew Shearer place down urns containing the cremated ashes of Army Pfc. Thomas Houser and his wife Martha during a burial-at-sea ceremony on Aug. 6 aboard the Pearl Harbor-based, Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70).

## USS Lake Erie conducts burial-at-sea ceremonies

Story and photo by  
**MC2 Michael A. Lantron**

Navy Region Hawai'i  
*Public Affairs*

Four former service members and one spouse were laid to rest in the waters of the Pacific Ocean during four burial-at-sea ceremonies Aug. 5 aboard the Pearl Harbor-

based, Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70).

The ceremonies continued the solemn and sacred Navy tradition of the burial-at-sea by honoring those who have served in the armed forces whose wish was for their remains to be committed to the sea.

There's a tradition of burial-at-sea that tran-

scends our time in the Navy and goes back to times of wooden ships," said Capt. Ron Boxall, Lake Erie's commanding officer. "The crew always performs the ceremony with the highest amount of respect, dignity and tradition that moves me as a commanding officer every time I do this."

See LAKE ERIE, A-2

## Congratulations Chief Selectees



Sailors from various commands throughout Pearl Harbor stand in ranks before introducing themselves as Chief Petty Officer selects to the Chief's Mess. After completing six weeks of Chief Petty Officer Induction, the Sailors will have their fouled anchors donned during a Navy-wide Sept. 16 pinning ceremony.

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



NEX Pearl Harbor receives Bingham Award See page A-2



Navy re-opens aviation fire trainer facility See page A-8



NMCRS Thrift Shop opens new shop See page A-4



Pearl Harbor Survivor returns to sea See page B-1

## NEX Pearl Harbor receives Bingham Award

Story and photo by  
Scheherezade Roundtree

*Navy Exchange Hawai'i Marketing*

The Navy Exchange (NEX) at Pearl Harbor celebrated its win as the recipient of the 2007 Bingham Award during a ceremony held Aug. 1 at the NEX.

The win in the Superstores category was an achievement made possible by the loyal patronage of military families and the dedication exemplified by store associates. In 2007, the superstore continued to achieve a remarkable sales growth, exceeding \$280 million.

This is NEX Pearl Harbor's seventh Bingham Award since first receiving the honor 15 years ago and its second 'repeat' win since 2004.

Michael Good, chief operating officer of Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM), presented the award on behalf of NEXCOM commander, Rear Adm. Robert Bianchi. Good believes that although NEX Pearl Harbor is a part of the Navy Exchange System (NES) and shares the commitment in taking care of Sailors and their families, it is unique in its exemplary attention to detail. "Delighting our customers is key," said Good.

Capt. Richard Kitchens, chief of staff for Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and commanding officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, attended his first Bingham ceremony and began his opening remarks with, "You people rock!" Kitchens noted how success of this magnitude clearly starts with leadership, which sets the foundation for what he considers the three-order effect.

According to Kitchens, "The first order effect is all military have this fantastic array of services that is top quality; the second order is all the benefits that go toward MWR; and third, it [NEX] serves as a major employment mechanism for many people. It provides tangible and very real effects."

Beverly Hudgins, general manager, discussed achieving her goal of a 'three-peat' victory and said she was confident that NEX Pearl Harbor would fulfill that goal. "We've got the best chance we ever had. For us to win in 2007 was an accomplishment because it wasn't a RIMPAC



(Left to right): Rear Adm. T.G. Alexander, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i; Beverly Hudgins, NEX Pearl Harbor general manager; Capt. Richard Kitchens, commanding officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor; and Michael Good, NEXCOM chief operating officer, cut the cake during the ceremony celebrating the NEX Pearl Harbor's winning the 2007 Bingham Award.

year...it's more exciting because we were still able to make up that sales volume."

Hudgins also attributes the store's continued success to its impressive Customer Satisfaction Index (CSI) and Associate Satisfaction Index (ASI) scores and achievement in its community support initiative as well as valued support from the Navy Region.

Michael Cottrell, district manager, explained how, in spite of current economic trends, the Navy Exchange is doing exceptionally well and striving to win the Bingham is an opportunity to improve its performance across the board. "Winning [the Bingham] two years in a row is a big challenge because they [NEXCOM] compare our performance to the previous year," he said.

Cottrell also believes that NEX employees' dedication to the overall mission is a great contributing factor to the organization's continued success. He said the

Bingham Award, like the ASI and CSI, helps to measure how well the Navy Exchange is doing in sales and service, as the two go hand in hand. By providing only the best in service to its patrons, the Navy Exchange can continue its mission in bettering their quality of life.

Cottrell said he is tremendously proud of the employees and appreciates their focus and desire in pursuing the store's mission and foresees NEX Pearl Harbor winning more Bingham Awards in the future.

The Bingham Award program, named after the late Capt. W. H. Bingham, SC, USNR, chief executive officer of the R. H. Macy's Company, was established to recognize excellence in customer service, operations and management at Navy Exchange Activities, and to promote friendly competition among Navy Exchange Activities striving to promote superior service to Sailors and their families.

## Lake Erie Sailors honor former service members, spouse

Continued from A-1

The ceremonies began at approximately 3:30 p.m. on the ship's fantail with the burial detail in dress blue uniforms.

The ceremonies were each held separately with the exception of one service member, whose ceremony was held together with his spouse. All the deceased were laid to rest with their ashes scattered on the sea.

Five of Lake Erie's junior officers each sent one box of cremated ashes to the sea as Lt. j.g. Megan White, Lake Erie's electrical officer, led the prayers and committals.

Prior to the end of each ceremony, a rifle detail composed of Lake Erie Sailors held a 21-gun salute in honor of the deceased and Master Chief Herbert Ellis, Lake Erie's command master chief, pre-

sented Boxall with a U.S. flag.

"We always try our hardest when we do a burial-at-sea, and everything went very well," said Fire Controlman 2nd Class (SW) Wayne Badstuebner. "This is my second time doing it and it's always an enjoyable experience."

All active duty and former service members who received an honorable discharge are eligible to be buried at sea. Ceremonies are coordinated with ships through local naval hospitals.

Following the completion of the ceremony, the families of the buried service members are sent a message informing them of the date, time and exact location their loved one was buried at sea, and are usually provided with photos and a video of the burial-at-sea ceremony.

## STORY IDEAS?

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## Hawaii Navy News

# Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

## CNO releases podcast on maritime BMD

MC2 (SW) Rebekah Blowers

Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

WASHINGTON - Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead recently recorded a podcast for the fleet in which he discussed the vital role and recent successes of Aegis and maritime ballistic missile defense (BMD) throughout the fleet.

In the podcast, CNO stressed the important work Sailors are doing and how maritime BMD supports the maritime strategy.

"The Aegis system, the capabilities that it brings in ballistic missile defense and area air defense, supports the maritime strategy extraordinarily well. We're a global Navy... We project power when we're required to do so and we provide for sea control," Roughead said.

CNO said the capabilities the Navy has now will prevent ballistic missiles from becoming weapons of blackmail and intimidation in the future. He emphasized that every part of the Navy fits into maritime BMD and supports the global mission.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Marc Rockwellpate  
Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead addresses military members and civilians during an all-hands call at Naval Support Activities Naples, Italy on June 25. Roughead visited Naples as part of a larger trip throughout the [U.S.] 6th Fleet area of responsibility.

"Even though it may be the Aegis ships that are the ones launching the missiles that intercept the ballistic missiles, it's the total Navy approach. It's the ability for all of the information to be fused, for all of our ships to be out operating globally, operating forward, providing for that sea control and being ready to project power wherever and whenever needed. We're a total Navy, we're a great Navy and we're a Navy made up of great Sailors," Roughead said.

## Navy visits Republic of Palau

EA2 (SCW) Keith Casey

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133

It's not every day that a Seabee unit receives a four-star visit, but the Runnin' Roos of Civic Action Team (CAT) 133-24 can now claim membership in that exclusive club.

On July 14, the Runnin' Roos of Civic Action Team (CAT) 133-24 hosted Adm. Robert Willard, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT), and Rear Adm. (select) Troy "Mike" Shoemaker, executive assistant to the commander.

Although this was Willard's second visit to Palau, it was the first time he was able to visit the Civic Action Team. He and his party observed firsthand the importance of the CAT mission to Palau. After meeting with representatives from the Republic of Palau president's and vice president's offices, the admiral and his party joined the team for a tour of CAT projects.

The first stop was the Melekeok bathroom facility, a building constructed by CAT 133-24 to provide rest-



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Riley Smith

Adm. Robert Willard, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, observes the restoration process of a WWII-era Japanese anti-aircraft (AA) gun at Camp Katuu, Republic of Palau on July 14. The weapon is being restored by Civic Action Team (CAT) 133-24. Once complete, it will be the only restored AA-gun in the Republic of Palau. CAT 133-24 is a detachment from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, homeported at Gulfport, Miss.

room and shower facilities for a public beach in Melekeok State. Willard's enthusiasm for the team's efforts was obvious to Builder 2nd Class Jason Katzenberger. According to Katzenberger, "It was cool to give a tour to a four-star who was so interested in Seabees and the Civic

Action Team."

The next stop on the tour was a solar pasteurization unit installed by CAT 08-04 to provide clean drinking water for children attending the Melekeok Head Start and Elementary Schools. The final stop was a police and fire substation constructed by previous

Civic Action Teams that will serve as a model for the new substation the CAT plans to construct on the opposite side of the island of Babeldaob.

At the end of the tour and after lunch at Camp Katuu, home of CAT 133-24, Willard addressed the team. He reiterated the value of the Civic Action Team in Palau and of Seabees in general. "Seabees do so much around the world.....the missions Seabees undertake are of great importance," said Willard.

Willard's support for the CAT buoyed the spirits of the team and reinforced the Seabees' determination to build on everything they have accomplished thus far in Palau.

Before departing, Willard recognized each member of the team individually with a PACFLT coin, a gift they will appreciate long after they return home to Mississippi. In return, the team presented the admiral with an official CAT 133-24 team T-shirt and NMCB 133 command coin. After a brief tour of Camp Katuu, the official party left for the airport and continued their travels in the west Pacific.

Commentary

## Your Money Matters

### Christmas in the summer?

Accredited Financial Counselors

Pearl Harbor Fleet and Family Support Center

As financial counselors, we are amazed at the number of people who are shocked in November that Christmas is Dec. 25. Christmas is always Dec. 25; it should never come as a surprise to us. For those who do not plan ahead, it's almost as if the Ghost of Christmas Past appears in your mailbox around mid-January, wrapped in credit card bills, to slowly deplete your savings and bank account.

This kind of experience will make the first few months of the new year dreary and stressful with financial concerns. Why not start now while you will still have more than four months to save, shop and plan for your holiday season. Here are a few suggestions on getting started:

- Make a list (check it twice) of the people for whom you will purchase gifts. Don't forget the extra gifts that everyone usually needs such as grab bag for the office, etc.
- List what you would like to purchase for that person.
- Set a price that you plan to spend on each gift.
- Decide how much you can afford to spend each payday on gifts.

- Each payday, head out to see what may be on sale that is on your list. You would be surprised. There are lots of sales coming up before Christmas such as Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

- Having that list prepared and marking off items as you purchase them will make the entire process painless.

- Make it a goal for this year to be a "credit" free Christmas. All gifts should be purchased with cash only. What a great feeling that will be in January/February with no more credit card hang-over from the holidays.

- Consider joining up with parents/grandparents to split large gifts, such as a stereo or bike.

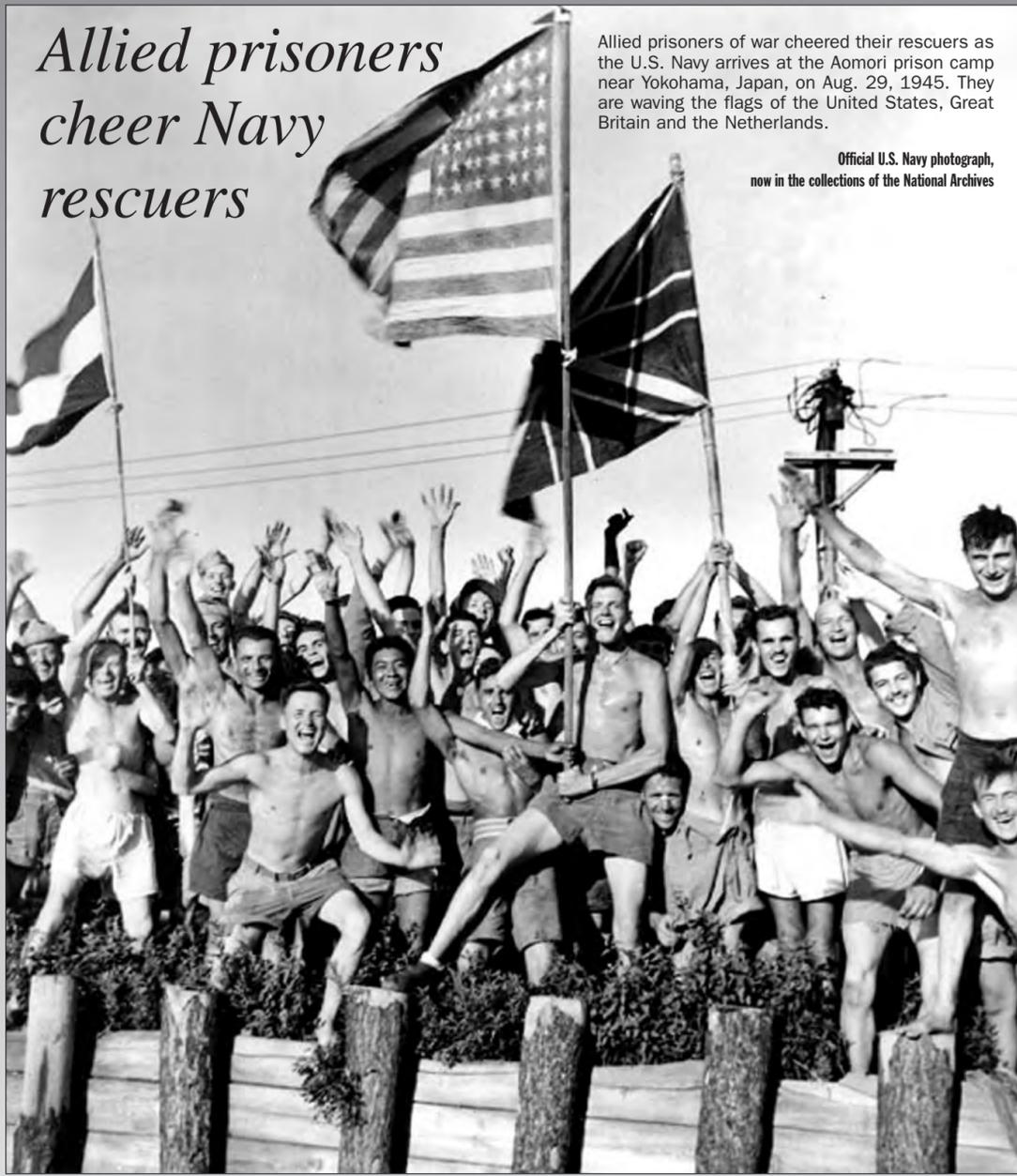
- Save receipts and staple them in a small notebook. You can keep a running total of what you have spent and if you need to make a return after Christmas, the receipt is easy to locate.

If you would like assistance, the financial counselors at the Pearl Harbor Fleet and Family Support Center are available for free, confidential appointments. To schedule an appointment call 474-1999, ext. 6103 or visit the Web site for the financial classes that are offered at [www.greatlife-hawaii.com](http://www.greatlife-hawaii.com).

## Allied prisoners cheer Navy rescuers

Allied prisoners of war cheered their rescuers as the U.S. Navy arrives at the Aomori prison camp near Yokohama, Japan, on Aug. 29, 1945. They are waving the flags of the United States, Great Britain and the Netherlands.

Official U.S. Navy photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives



## Hawai'i Navy News

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# USS Los Angeles returns from RIMPAC 2008

MC1 (SW) Cynthia Clark

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

USS Los Angeles (SSN 688) returned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on July 30 after participating in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008.

According to Cmdr. Erik Burian, Los Angeles commanding officer, the submarine participated in two different phases of the exercise: one where they were an overt participant and another where they were playing a covert role.

"It was very valuable training for us," he said. "RIMPAC 2008 was a great opportunity for Los Angeles to exercise our tactical capabilities and really think on a large scale with tactical engagements."

Burian mentioned that Los Angeles' crew took extensive efforts to hone in on the role they were playing, a task they

performed superbly.

"The watch standers were very aware of the important role we were playing in this large multi-national exercise," he said. "We had some very successful engagements. We went out and did exactly what submarines were supposed to do. I'm so proud of how my crew handled their role. They came home walking pretty proud."

The pride among Los Angeles crew members and their participation in their role in RIMPAC was very evident, especially in such an important, high-visibility exercise.

"It was really impressive to see so many countries working together for one purpose," said Electrician's Mate 2nd Class (SS) Brian Hudson. "Especially seeing the 20-ship formation ... it was amazing."

Not only did RIMPAC give Los Angeles an opportunity to participate in the "largest biennial maritime exercise," it

also gave the fast-attack submarine the opportunity to host the Japanese submarine, JS Narushio (SS 595), a submarine and crew they were already familiar with.

"When we stopped in Yokosuka, Japan, at the end of our western Pacific deployment last year, Narushio was our host submarine," Burian explained. "A lot of their crew remains the same so it was very enjoyable to see them all again, especially to be able to reciprocate and host them here."

RIMPAC has been conducted since 1971. This year's exercise consisted of 10 nations, 35 ships, six submarines, more than 150 aircraft and 20,000 Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Soldiers and Coastguardsmen. Units from Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore, United Kingdom and the U.S. participated.



U.S. Navy photo by EM2 Brian J. Hudson

The fast-attack submarine USS Los Angeles (SSN 688) moors in Pearl Harbor after the conclusion of Rim of the Pacific 2008.

## NMCRS Thrift Shop opens doors at new location

Story and photo by  
Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

After closing for nearly three months for building renovations, the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Thrift Shop re-opened its doors on Aug. 4, following a ribbon-cutting ceremony, at its new location at building 1492 behind the Navy Uniform Shop near Utah Hall.

Paul Belanger, director of NMCRS Pearl Harbor, said the thrift shop aims to provide Sailors, Marines and their families with discounted household items and clothing, provided by the generous donations of active duty and retired service members.

"We help young Sailors, Marines and their families buy items at unbelievably great

prices," he said. "Plus, all the money goes back to a revolving fund for general assistance, that is set to direct assist Sailors, Marines and families who need the help."

Cmdr. Larry Hill, executive officer at Naval Station Pearl Harbor who cut the ribbon during the grand opening ceremony, said the thrift shop provides a valuable service to the military community.

"The NMCRS Thrift shop is one of the greatest things we have on base for Sailors," he said. "It offers families and Sailors discounted items that are still in good use and also offers the ability for people to recycle uniforms who are either leaving the Navy or may have outgrown their uniform. Another huge benefit is the fact that all the profits go back to the [NMCRS] fund so they can help Sailors and families



NMCRS Director Paul Belanger, Cmdr. Larry Hill, executive officer at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, and thrift shop volunteers celebrate during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 4, marking the re-opening of the NMCRS Thrift Shop at its new location at building 1492 near Utah Hall.

in need," he continued.

Last year, Belanger said the shop generated more than \$65,000 in revenue and hopes the newly-renovated facilities will provide a more spacious and organized area where customers can shop.

"We are really excited because [the new location] has given the shop a whole new face," said Belanger. "This is a major upgrade for us and is an opportunity to turn over a brand new leaf [as well as] give the volunteers something they

can be proud of."

The shop's 15 rooms, converted from former barrack suites, house a variety of household items such as furniture, lawn equipment and toys, as well as clothing apparel, including men's and women's uniforms.

Jo Hickok, chairman of the thrift shop, said young service members stand to benefit most from the newly donated merchandise found at the thrift shop.

"We always hope that the young Sailors and Marines can find their uniforms here," she said. "We have tons of stuff they can get at great prices. [This shop] is for them, really."

According to Hickok, prices range from \$2 for a working uniform (including dress whites) to \$5 for shoes and \$7 for work boots. Also featured in another room is baby clothing

and furniture, including strollers for \$5 and baby clothes for as low as 25 cents per piece of clothing.

Onofre Briones, a Navy retiree, said he has been donating to base thrift shops for more than 20 years because he thinks it not only benefits military families, but also the environment.

"[The thrift shop] is a great thing because it saves [the military community] a lot of money because we are recycling the materials that we use," he explained. "So, this shop not only saves our families money, but it saves the environment because of the recycling."

The NMCRS Thrift Shop is open from 8 a.m.-noon Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. For more information, call the NMCRS office at 423-1314.

# Pearl Harbor Highlights



Sailors from various commands throughout Pearl Harbor are congratulated after introducing themselves as chief petty officer selects to the Chief's Mess. After completing six weeks of Chief Petty Officer Induction, the Sailors will have their fouled anchors donned during a Navy-wide Sept. 16 pinning ceremony.

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



U.S. Navy photo by Paul Mauro

(Above) Sailors and Soldiers discuss patient issues during the pandemic influenza exercise Lightning Rescue, held July 23-25 at Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Kauai, Hawai'i. It was a joint exercise with JTF-HD Region Hawai'i, Kauai Civil Defense and PMRF. The week-long exercise started at Honolulu International Airport with a plane load of passengers who were sick, displaying symptoms of the "bird flu." The passengers were isolated and transferred to PMRF for quarantine. Navy, Army and civilian doctors set up triage isolation and quarantine facilities at PMRF to contain the simulated outbreak.

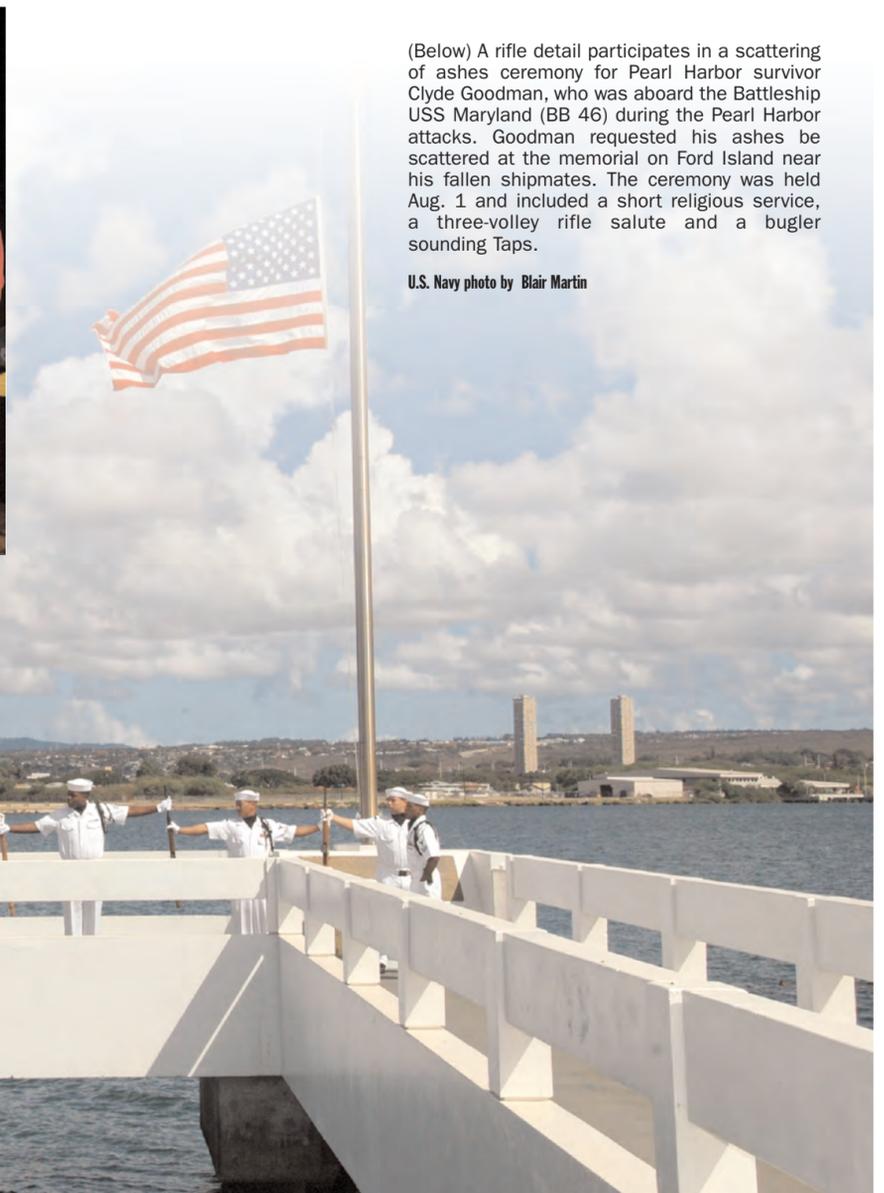
(Below) The aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) departs Pearl Harbor following a brief port visit after the conclusion of Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008. RIMPAC is the world's largest multi-national exercise and is scheduled biennially by the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

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



A damage controlman observes a mock helicopter fire at the Center for Naval Engineering Learning Site, Pearl Harbor on Aug. 1. The mock fire was held as a demonstration of the center's newly implemented propane system. The propane system replaced an outdated oil fuel source, is more easily controlled, and is better for the environment. See story on page A-8.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 (AW) Eric J. Cutright



(Below) A rifle detail participates in a scattering of ashes ceremony for Pearl Harbor survivor Clyde Goodman, who was aboard the Battleship USS Maryland (BB 46) during the Pearl Harbor attacks. Goodman requested his ashes be scattered at the memorial on Ford Island near his fallen shipmates. The ceremony was held Aug. 1 and included a short religious service, a three-volley rifle salute and a bugler sounding Taps.

U.S. Navy photo by Blair Martin

# Shipyards donate goods to support IAs

Story and photo by  
Liane Nakahara

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard  
Public Affairs

Approximately 50 Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Sailors and Reservists serving overseas in the war against terrorism will be receiving some well-deserved comfort, thanks to their fellow shipyarders.

Civilian and military personnel donated more than \$1,500 worth of items in just a few hours at the shipyard's individual augmentee (IA) care-package donation drive on July 10.

"Most of our Sailors overseas are working 12-hour shifts, six days a week, in 130-plus degree temperatures," said Chief Sonar Technician (Submarine) (SS) Decker Jordan, the shipyard's IA program coordinator. "The care packages are a big message to them that we still care."

The 64-square-foot donation box was filled to the top with items like coffee, some toiletries, books, and magazines.

"This was a great outcome," said Fire Control Technician 2nd Class Steven Robertson, one of the care package drive organizers. "Seeing the shipyard come out and support



Thora Theisen, National Security Personnel System Program Manager, was one of more than 100 shipyarders to donate bags full of items to Fire Control Technician 2nd Class Steven Robertson to support the IA Care Package Donation Drive on July 10.

these guys is incredible."

Jordan explained that the Chief Petty Officers Association at the shipyard decided last winter to sponsor and subsidize the cost for Christmas care packages. It had been the group's goal for each IA to receive a care package from the command two times while on deployment.

Capt. Richard Verbeke, deputy shipyard commander who has a great amount of

personal interest in the IA program, encouraged the military personnel at the shipyard to do more with the care package program.

"With his direction, the heart our Sailors put into organizing it and the outstanding generosity of everyone in the shipyard, we have expanded the program to ensure Sailors see a care package once a quarter and on their birthdays," said Jordan. "In a sense, this drive

was really just the beginning."

Jordan, who has been the IA program coordinator for the past year, works with the IAs and their families throughout the entire process. He applies feedback from the Sailors to help make new IA processing easier. Former IAs are even asked to speak to those beginning the process to give them a no-nonsense feel of what is ahead of them.

"We take an active approach in looking after IA families while our Sailors are deployed," said Jordan. "We maintain regular contact with them, have gatherings, and invite the spouses to all of the command's functions."

Every returning Sailor that Jordan has spoken to in the past year said that care packages are one of the best things that their commands can do for them while they're deployed.

This feedback from former IAs has also helped Robertson and Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SS) Alfredo Medina to put together a list of requested items to donate.

"We've learned from some of our current and former IAs that a baby-wipe bath may be the only bath they have for days," said Medina.

About 35 active duty military personnel and 13 civilian employees in the Reserves are serving as IAs overseas.

The next care package donation drive is scheduled to take place in November. Some items in need are batteries, flashlights, handheld and board games, DVDs and non-perishable snacks.

Jordan said, "We have a good start and watching talk turn into reality has been truly amazing."

## STORY IDEAS?

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# 'Predict-to-Fill' IA billeting increasingly successful

MCSN (SW) Tyler H. Jones

Fleet Public Affairs Center Atlantic

**PORTSMOUTH, Va.** – At a National Naval Officers Association conference July 25 in Portsmouth, Va., the Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel announced steady progress in improving the way Sailors are detailed to fill individual augmentee (IA) billets.

Today, about two percent of the Navy's active component and eight percent of its Reservists are serving as IAs in Iraq, Afghanistan and other global war on terrorism (GWOT) areas of responsibility. A total of approximately 70,000 Sailors have served as "boots on the ground" since the GWOT IA process began.

New changes were implemented in June 2007 when the Office of Naval Personnel released NAVADMIN 147/07, which integrated reoccurring "GWOT support assignments" (GSA) as part of the normal detailing process for Sailors within their regular projected rotation dates (PRD). Thirteen months after the NAVADMIN's release, the number of Sailors slated to fill GSAs, versus so-called legacy "rip-to-fill" billets, is up to more than 60 percent.

Detailing Sailors via GSAs to fill IA missions allows for the Navy to better support and plan for Sailors and their families, as well as parent commands, during a Sailor's PRD and IA process, noted Rear Adm. Sonny Masso.

"We are absolutely committed to providing our Sailors and their families with the support they need,



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jennifer A. Villalovos

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Joe R. Campa Jr. speaks with Sailors who are undergoing training at the Joint Interface Battalion (JIB) 2 at Fort Bliss, Texas on Feb. 12 before they begin their seven-month individual augmentee assignment to Iraq.

especially when they are serving on the front lines in support of this global war on terror," he said.

However, Masso stressed that because of the fluid nature of the global war on terrorism (GWOT), not all billets can be planned-to-fill through GSA. Currently, about 75 percent of IA billets are relatively stable and meet the requirements to be loaded into the Navy's personnel distribution system.

"Even so, sometimes members expected to fill IA billets within their normal detailing window are unable to fill the billet because of problems with medical or security clearance, non-judicial punishment and other factors. This is when detailers are often forced to pull Sailors mid-tour to fill GWOT positions around the world."

Making this point, Masso reiterated the importance of mission readiness and said Sailors who serve in GWOT-critical ratings

should take that into consideration when making life-changing decisions. He also encouraged commanding and executive officers to take an active role in the readiness of the IA mission.

"Eighty percent of Sailors who fill IA billets are volunteers and many choose to accept the challenge because of the opportunities it affords their careers and futures in the Navy. These Sailors can enjoy a number of incentives, including extra points toward advancement, flexible exam schedules and future detailing privileges, such as choice of coast," Masso explained.

In fiscal year 2008, the selection rate for chief petty officers was 33 percent for IA Sailors, compared to the fleet-wide average of 21 percent.

Above all, Masso stressed the pride many Sailors feel when they actively and visibly support the Navy's role in fighting global terrorism.



## Construction projects around Pearl Harbor

**Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i**

*Scheduled road work and parking closures*

- Submarine base area:
- The parking lot on the west side of building 427 will be closed for repair and paving through Sept. 9.
- Marine Barracks:
- Due to underground utility installation for the new NEMPU-6 building, Russell Avenue by buildings 1572 and 397 will be

closed through Aug. 19.

West Loch:  
The following schedule has been set for phase two installation of a new 12-inch waterline.

- Aug. 5-15: Installation will be within the roadway fronting the bachelor enlisted quarters area. One lane will remain open at all times and traffic will be contraflowed. Work will progress across the bare area toward Iroquois Drive.

- Aug. 18-19: Installation will cross Iroquois Drive

and connect to an existing waterline.

**Scheduled long-term road closures**

- Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Pearl Harbor: Construction work will close portions of Simms Street between wharf K-9 and building 1900 through Sept. 30.

- Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard: Installation of a sewer main will cause the closure of one lane on Lake Erie Avenue during normal working hours through Aug. 15.

## Reducing the Navy's footprint at Pearl Harbor



U.S. Navy photo by Joel Ustare

Building 193 is gone. Across the parking lot from Pearl Harbor's Navy legal building, the old wooden structure that was once the Fleet and Family Services office has been demolished. Abatement efforts, carefully removing hazardous building materials, was conducted by Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawai'i environmental. The work began in the first half of June. Black dust-barriers were erected around the jobsite to secure the area during the July 4th Block Party. From mid-June to present day, NAVFAC Hawai'i transportation and utilities have been working together to remove the remnants of building 193 and its associated electrical substation. Demolition efforts are expected to be completed in early August. All of the royal palms and canopy trees on the site will remain and a lush green lawn will take the place of the dilapidated structure. This action is all part of the region's ongoing demolition program to reduce the Navy's footprint at Pearl Harbor.

# Mercy arrives in Papua New Guinea, Navy re-opens aviation fire trainer facility

## continues Pacific Partnership 2008

MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

USNS Mercy (T-AH 19)

**ABOARD USNS MERCY (T-AH 19)** - The naval hospital ship USNS Mercy arrived at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on Aug. 4 to provide humanitarian civic assistance (HCA) in a coordinated effort with local and partner non-government organizations (NGO) and international militaries.

During the ship's 13 day visit, the crew aboard Mercy is scheduled to conduct medical, dental and engineering civic action programs in multiple areas in and around the capital of the country as part of the Pacific Partnership 2008 mission. They will also be admitting patients aboard the ship for any further examinations, surgeries and care.

"The Pacific Partnership team is a unique team formed from organizations with very different skills and capabilities, but unified in purpose to conduct a very important mission," said Adm. Robert Willard, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. "They carry with them a spirit of caring, commitment and compassion on this deployment for our Pacific neighbors."

Pacific Partnership is a humanitarian mission that is composed of multiple organizations which includes representatives from Australia, Canada, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Chile and India. The effort will be carried out in conjunction with local NGOs such as Rotary Club of Port Moresby, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Papua New Guinea Organization of Civic Service Organization and St. John Ambulance. U.S. based NGOs will also be



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Amy Yoon

Steelworker 3rd Class Michael Featherston, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, hands out coloring books, crayons and frisbees to children attending the Uni Elementary School on Popondetta, Papua, New Guinea on July 30. NMCB-133 is working on the BottomTown Health Clinic Project, a Pacific Partnership engineering civic action project across the street from the school.

part of the operation: University of California, San Diego Pre-Dental Society, Project Hope, Operation Smile and relief teams.

Papua New Guinea is located in the southwestern Pacific Ocean and consists of numerous offshore islands and the eastern half of the island of New Guinea. While the country is considered one of the most diverse in the world with more than 850 indigenous languages and traditional societies, the

official languages are English, Tok Pisin and Hiri Motu.

Mercy has visited the Republic of the Philippines, Vietnam and Timor-Leste and following much needed rest and relaxation in Darwin, Australia, will continue the HCA mission in Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia.

For more news from Pacific Partnership 2008, visit [www.navy.mil/local/PP08/](http://www.navy.mil/local/PP08/).

Story and photo by MC3 (AW) Eric J. Cutright

Fleet Public Affairs Center Detachment Hawai'i

The Center for Naval Engineering Learning Site (CNE) held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Aug. 1 to re-open its aviation fire-trainer after having it outfitted with a new fuel system. The event took place in front of the upgraded facility.

Replacing an older, JP-5 oil-fuel source for conducting its fire training exercises, the Navy installed a newer, more environmentally-friendly propane-based system while maintaining the integrity of the exercise.

"Everything is pretty much the same," said Damage Controlman 2nd Class (SW/AW) Manuel Ford. "The fire is still there; it's still big. Training is the same and the effects are the same so training, which is the main thing, is the same."

Helping to teach Sailors the critical task of fighting a fire, CNE's fire-trainer is a valued resource to the Navy.

"What this has done for us here is provide us the tools that we need to provide the best training to the Sailors



Capt. Michael Turner, commanding officer of the Center for Naval Engineering Learning Site cuts the ribbon to a fire trainer that was recently upgraded from an oil-fuel based system to a more environmentally-friendly propane system.

on the waterfront in fire-fighting and damage control," said Capt. Michael Turner. CNE, commanding officer. The propane system is also computer operated which allows the option to shut down the fire which in turn reduces the risk to the Sailors involved in extinguishing it in the event of an emergency.

"This allows us to have superb control over the fire-fighting trainer compared to when we used the old oil-based trainer. Once you lit the fire, they stayed lit until

you put them out," said Turner.

Adding to the benefits of the new trainer is that propane is also a cleaner burning fuel source and is cheaper than JP-5, effectively reducing the pollution and CNE's training costs.

"Going from oil to propane, we saved some money," said Turner. "It also allowed for us to go ahead and become better stewards for the environment. It's a big part of the Navy and we're proud to be part of that."