

New chiefs say 'aloha' to anchors, khakis

Story and photo by
MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Twenty-seven Sailors were presented their new chief petty officer (CPO) anchors and covers Sept. 16 during a traditional pinning ceremony at Sharkey Theatre on board Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor.

The CPO selectees are from Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, NAVSTA Pearl Harbor, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawai'i, Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Pearl Harbor, Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility Pearl Harbor, and Naval Ocean Systems Center, Hawai'i.

During the ceremony, the selectees were joined by their families, friends and shipmates to be formally recognized for their accomplishments, pinned, covered and piped on board as CPOs.

"No single word could describe the feeling; becoming a chief brought me to the point of being speechless," said newly-pinned Chief Engineman (SW) Jerry Milton, assigned to NAVSTA Pearl Harbor.

Becoming a chief is a goal most enlisted Sailors share and strive toward throughout their entire naval career.



Chief Religious Program Specialist (SW) Tshombe Harris, assigned to Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, has chief petty officer anchors pinned onto his uniform by his wife and mother during a chief pinning ceremony Sept. 16. Twenty-seven chiefs from seven Hawai'i-based commands were pinned by friends, families and fellow chiefs in a traditional ceremony at Sharkey Theatre onboard Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

"I would hope each Sailor that comes into the service aspires to be a CPO - it's something that everyone

should experience in their career," said Milton.

Milton added that junior Sailors

need inspiration to become a chief.

"You need a strong desire to be there as well as someone who can

help you get where you need to be," he said.

Upon the announcement to their selection as CPOs, the selectees took part in a six-week induction period to help hone their leadership skills and learn more about naval heritage.

"The induction helped pull all the tools we had that we may not have realized and in turn, showed us what true teamwork and leadership is all about," said Milton.

Guest speaker for the ceremony, Capt. Richard Kitchens, commanding officer, NAVSTA Pearl Harbor, commented on the role the new selectees will take on as a chief.

"Today is the day you move forward reborn in that khaki uniform as leaders of this nation," said Kitchens. "You are charged with an obligation to exercise increased authority and to willingly accept greater responsibility and I know you'll do just that."

Kitchens also spoke about what he expects from the new chiefs in regard to leading junior Sailors.

"As you move forward in your position of leadership, I ask you to keep in mind the three foundation pillars - integrity, vision and communicate your expectations," said Kitchens.

Since establishment of the CPO grade on April 1, 1893, selection for chief continues to be one of most significant and proudest days in an enlisted Sailor's naval service.

Mercy mission accomplished



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

Sonar Technician (Surface) 2nd Class (SW) Kyle Wilcox, assigned to the Pearl Harbor-based Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77), waits to perform line handlers as the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) makes her way pier side to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor. Mercy arrived at NAVSTA Pearl Harbor on Sept. 15 following the conclusion of Pacific Partnership 2008. During Pacific Partnership 2008, Mercy's crew provided humanitarian assistance in the form of medical, dental and engineering projects to the Republic of the Philippines, Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia. The Pacific Partnership humanitarian mission was commanded by Capt. W.A. Kearns III, Commander Destroyer Squadron 31.



Firefighters from Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i's Federal Fire Department render honors to the victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks during a memorial service held at the Federal Fire Department Headquarters on Sept. 11. The firefighters gathered to honor the 343 firefighters who gave their lives seven years ago.

Federal Fire Fighters honor 9/11 victims

Story and photo by
MC2 Paul D. Honnick

Fleet Public Affairs Center
Detachment Hawai'i

Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i (CNRH) Federal Fire Department (FFD) held a 9/11 remembrance ceremony at the FFD headquarters Sept. 11.

The ceremony was held to honor and remember those who lost their lives at the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and onboard flight 93 in Shanksville, Pa.

"Never forget - that's the purpose of this ceremony.

Never forget the 343 firefighters who were running in as others were running out. And it didn't stop. When those buildings collapsed, they still ran in," said Battalion Chief Victor M. Flint, ceremony coordinator.

The firefighters set a special table in honor of the fallen firefighter, symbolic of their heroism and sacrifices.

Firefighter Reid Shimabukuro reflected on the brother and sisterhood that all firefighters share. "9/11 for us is a special day. It's a day for one of us, it's for a firefighter, and the thing that we wanted to get

across to the public and to our personnel here is that we lost 343 brothers in this tragic event and as the years go by, we cannot forget," he said. "It's important for us to relay this message on to the number of recruits that are joining this profession so that they understand the history behind this and that they understand the importance behind this day."

Capt. Douglas J. Waite, CNRH chaplain and keynote speaker for the ceremony, was assigned to the Pentagon at the time of the attack and gave his person-

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McAneny relieves Walsh as commander, Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet See page A-6



Welcome new CPOs See page B-1

Fleet commander provides insight for military leadership

Story and photo by MC2 Michael Hight

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, spoke to the Marine Corps Bases Hawai'i (MCBH) military community during the Pacific War Memorial Lecture Series at the base theater Sept. 2.

The lecture series, which is held annually, is designed to intellectually challenge service members and enhance their professional military education.

"The event was held as a way to expand the knowledge of the new and seasoned leaders of the Marine Corps and Navy stationed at Kaneohe Bay," said Lt. Col. Tim Crowley, base historian, MCBH, and lecture series event coordinator. "The lec-

ture series are a way for us to capture a large audience as well as giving a chance for service members to listen to various professional and seasoned guests as they come to speak and share their experiences," added Crowley.

During the event, Willard not only shared some of his past adventures in the Navy, each dealing with various types of leadership, but also fielded a range of questions from those in attendance.

"It is an honor for me to be here tonight," said Willard. "I take great pride in the opportunity to talk with the various service members about what it means to be a leader in today's military and the roles they play within it."

"The speech by the admiral was really good and very educational," said Yeoman 1st Class William Miller, administration leading petty officer for Patrol Squadron Two. "I

learned some different techniques that can help with the motivation of junior personnel. I will take what I learned here tonight back with me to the squadron and share with my fellow leaders."

Another person captivated by Willard's words was Master Gunnery Sgt. Anthony St. Parish, MCBH information systems chief.

"It is always interesting to hear different views regarding leadership from various senior military leadership and ways to help the professional development of our junior Marines," said St. Parish. "The admiral touched on a lot of good points tonight in his speech. I greatly enjoyed hearing about the admiral's past experiences, especially when he talked about his time aboard the USS Tripoli. I can take what I learned here with me wherever I go."

According to Crowley, the

event was a great success not just due to Willard's lecture, but also because of those who helped in the coordination and those in attendance.

"I feel the event went very well," said Crowley. "The support I received helped with everything running smoothly. We had a nice turnout for the series and Adm. Willard's lecture was great. I think people learned a lot from him tonight and can pass that knowledge on to their fellow leaders regardless which branch they serve."

Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, delivers a speech to Marines and Sailors during the Pacific War Memorial Lecture Series held at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i at Kaneohe on Sept. 2. The annual lecture series is designed to intellectually challenge service members and enhance professional knowledge.



U.S. Navy photo by MCSA Luciano Marano

USS Columbus (SSN 762) returns to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 11, following a successful six-month deployment to the Western Pacific. Columbus is of the Los Angeles 688 Improved-Class and includes a vertical launch system for Tomahawk cruise missiles and an improved hull design that supports under-ice operations.

USS Columbus returns to Pearl Harbor

MC1 (SW) Cynthia Clark

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

USS Columbus (SSN 762) returned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 11, following a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific.

As he greeted his family, fellow submariners and other guests, Cmdr. James Doody, Columbus commanding officer, took a moment to reflect on the seven-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

"We had a great deployment," said Doody. "I think it's especially nice to be able to come home on 9-11, so we can come home and not only

see the people we did this for, but the reason why we do it."

As Columbus' more than 130 Sailors were reunited with families and friends, Machinist Mate's 2nd Class (SS) Jared Redmile reflected on the deployment.

"It was exciting," Redmile said. "It was something I was glad I got to do, a great life experience, but nothing beats coming home."

Columbus departed Pearl Harbor in March on a regularly scheduled six-month deployment, during which they supported theater security cooperation efforts and conducted port visits to Guam, Okinawa and Japan.

Columbus joined the U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Force in September 1994.

Firefighters battle warehouse blaze



U.S. Navy photo courtesy of Federal Fire Department

Firefighters from Federal Fire Department (FFD) battled a warehouse fire belonging to the Navy/Marine Golf Course on Sept. 13. Due to the quick action of a 911 caller from Navy housing, the FFD kept the fire contained to the maintenance warehouse. FFD and Honolulu Fire Department deployed large water cannons and hoses to prevent other buildings, shops and homes from catching fire.



Ford Island Bridge closure

The Ford Island Bridge will be closed for routine maintenance from 8:30 to 8:40 a.m. on Sept. 24.

Hawaii Navy News Editorial

Riders' Toolbox Part 1

Story and photos by
James E. Foehl

Motorcycle Safety Foundation
(MSF) RiderCoach

Motorcycling, it's freedom on two wheels. There's nothing more American than the raw power, smooth lines and sexy curves of a motorcycle.

No matter what you ride or how long you've been riding, having the right tools in your rider's toolbox of knowledge can make all the difference for a long life of motorcycling.

What will you do when you must react in traffic? Is your motorcycle ready? Are you ready?

Here in Hawaii, we're blessed with the opportunity to ride all 365 days of the year.

Riding a motorcycle skillfully requires great responsibility and presents challenges that other drivers never encounter. Let's take a look at some of the tools we can use to keep us riding all year long.

Motorcycles, unlike four-wheeled automobiles, must be balanced and do not share the same stability properties as cars. The type of motorcycle, add-on accessories, rider weight, cargo and skill level will all have an impact on how well you're stabilized.

Touring, sport, cruiser, dual-purpose and off-road motorcycles all have different capabilities which give them their own unique feel. The bike should fit you comfortably relative to your size and weight.

It should also allow you full access to the motorcycle's controls with ease of operation. Difficulty operating the

controls, balancing at complete stops, and turning handlebars to the full left and full right positions should be immediate indicators to make adjustments on your current ride or that should be considered before buying your next motorcycle.

Taking a minute to consider the weight, location and security of your cargo can be a great tool to keep you on the road and out of trouble.

Cargo can have a large impact on how your motorcycle will handle and balance in certain situations. Added weight makes starting off more difficult and reduces your acceleration capabilities.

Keep the load low and as close to the center of the motorcycle as possible.

Imagine a triangle formed from the top of your head to the two axles. This space, often referred to as the load triangle, is ideal for carrying heavier items.

One might think that luggage racks, saddle bags and top trunks are perfect places for carrying loads, but the truth is they can lighten the front suspension and cause handling instability. Be sure to adjust your suspension and tire pressure as recommended by your motorcycle owner's manual.

When riding with a passenger, ensure they are wearing personal

protective equipment (PPE) and know what you expect of them while riding.

Never assume your passenger knows what to do. Tell them to "hold on to your waist, keep both feet on the pegs at all times, and look through the turns." Sudden movements and excessive lean angles while cornering with a passenger can bring a catastrophic end to your ride quickly.

Whether you prefer to ride two-up or solo, there's nothing quite like the sensation of the open road while cruising on your motorcycle. You smell the air and feel the elements as you become a part of your surroundings.

As we enjoy this freedom, we need to take a minute to realize that we're leaving ourselves more vulnerable, especially in a crash.

Motorcycles are less protected than cars. Instead of bumpers, seatbelts, airbags and five-star crash test ratings, we have personal protective gear.

Since head injuries account for the majority of motorcycle fatalities, helmet selection is critical.

There's a ton of helmets out there and prices can range from reasonable to very expensive. So before choosing

A group of sport bike riders prepare to ride a range exercise during a Military Sport Rider Course (MSRC) for Commander, Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) Safety at Ford Island.

a helmet, consider this; how much does a good helmet cost?

When choosing a helmet, your primary consideration should be protection. A good helmet will be constructed with an outer shell, impact absorbing liner, comfort padding and a retention system.

A quick way to find helmets that offer good protection is by looking for a Department of Transportation (DOT) or Snell Memorial Foundation sticker on the helmet.

A better helmet might consist of all the above protection plus more. Helmets that offer the most protection for your head and face, such as a full-face helmet, are always the best.

So, how much does a good helmet cost? Since the function of a helmet is to protect the head and brain from injury, the cost of a helmet will likely have little significance in the event of a crash. Maybe a better question would be - how much is your life worth?

These are just a few of the basic tools every rider should have in their toolbox. Each day we ride, we gain experience and refine our ability to ride smoothly with precision. The more experience and ability we gain, the higher level of skill we attain. Ride well.



Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class (AW) Michael Ransom, assigned to Special Projects Patrol Squadron Two, waits to ride a range exercise during a Military Sport Bike Rider Course (MSRC) for Commander, Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) Safety at Ford Island. The one-day MSRC provides specialized training tailored to military sport bike riders and focuses on the critical skill sets and decision making incumbent with riding high-powered sport motorcycles.



You Are Not Forgotten

National POW/MIA Recognition Day, 2008

A proclamation by the President of the United States of America

On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we honor the brave and patriotic Americans who were held as prisoners of war and we remember those who are still missing in action. For their valor and selfless devotion to protect the country they love, our nation owes them a debt we can never fully repay.

On this day we underscore our commitment and pledge to those who are still missing in action and to their families that we will not rest until we have achieved the fullest possible accounting for every member of our Armed Forces missing in the line of duty. To observe this important day, the National League of Families POW/MIA flag is flown over the Capitol, the White House, the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and other locations across our country. The flag is a solemn reminder of our nation's enduring obligation and promise to our coura-

geous service members who remain missing and a tribute to those who have been imprisoned while serving their country in conflicts around the world.

Now, therefore, I, George W. Bush, president of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, Sept. 19, 2008, as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in honoring and remembering all former American prisoners of war and those missing in action for their valiant service to our nation. I also call upon federal, state and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush



Making history

An original artwork for a World War I Navy recruiting poster painted in oil by artist James Montgomery Flagg.

Courtesy of the Naval Historical Center

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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.



Operations Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Danielle Trujillo crosses the quarterdeck of USS Port Royal (CG 73) for the first time in nearly a year.

Back from Iraq: Port Royal Sailor returns home

Story and photo by Lt. j.g. Cassidy Rasmussen

USS Port Royal (CG 73)
Public Affairs

Operations Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Danielle Trujillo of Phoenix, Ariz., assigned to USS Port Royal (CG 73), returned Aug. 27 from a 12-month individual augmentee deployment to Iraq and received a warm "welcome home" from shipmates and friends.

Trujillo arrived at Honolulu International Airport while Port Royal was underway in the Hawai'i operating area. She met Port Royal at the pier as it pulled in and was surprised to see a large banner hanging from the boat deck and her division manning the rails in their summer whites to welcome her back.

"I was really excited to see everyone," said Trujillo. "It was humbling to see the banner and everyone dressed up for me. It's a good feeling to be back."

Trujillo is the last of nine Port Royal Sailors to return who deployed as individual augmentees this past year. While in Iraq, she served with the Army and Marine Corps conducting detainee operations.

Residents can help keep crime on the decline

Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

The bad news is that Hawai'i leads the nation in property crime incidents. The good news is that crime rates for privatized military housing on the island of Oahu is on the decline, according to officials from Forest City Residential Management (FRCM).

Jeff Sandstrom, security director for FRCM, said that privatized military housing communities in Oahu experiences less crime than neighboring communities, such as Moanalua, Salt Lake and Aliamanu. "Over the past year, there has been a decrease in crime," he said. "When compared to Honolulu Police Department's statistics (HPD), our crime rate is 50 percent less than what you would experience in the nearby communities."

According to Sandstrom, the majority of crime that occurs in privatized housing communities is petty larceny, which includes theft of items such as bicycles, purses or golf clubs when left unattended.

"Rarely do we ever see major theft, like home break-ins or stolen vehicles," he said. "But what we do see are what I call 'crimes of opportunity,' which are valuables left unattended in vehicles, yards or out in an open garage," he explained.

Fortunately, many of these crimes can be prevented by taking preventative precautions, said Sandstrom.

"The number one thing I would advise is if you have something valuable, don't leave it in a place where criminals can see it," he warned. "Most criminals won't go into a car if they don't see something that piques their interest - like a purse in the front seat."

Sandstrom also encouraged residents to practice good judgment, such as securing all windows, doors and garages when leaving the house. "We stress all the time to our residents to be more conscientious of their surroundings," he said.

Despite the occasional outbreak of petty theft incidents, Sandstrom noted that there has been a significant decrease in the number of crimes in Forest City's residential communities since 2004, when the

U.S. Navy first partnered with Forest City to provide privatized housing for military service members.

Master Chief Boatswain's Mate Todd Thom, Navy military housing liaison, said both the U.S. Navy and Forest City meet routinely with HPD to evaluate and assess any patterns of escalation that could contribute to crime.

"For four years solid, we have been working together to create a safe environment where people will enjoy living," he said. "During monthly meetings with HPD, we share statistics of incidents we have encountered throughout the month in order to see how our security level compares with other communities."

Thom also added that Navy Housing and Forest City keep in contact with local schools to evaluate possible crime activity that could potentially affect residential communities.

"The lines of communication goes both ways," he said. "We are also glad to say that up to this point, according to HPD officers that are responsible for tracking gang-like activity, there have not been any gangs or crime [associated with gangs] that has been identified in any of the [privatized military housing] areas," he added.

Thom maintains that special security measures have been taken for residential areas that do not have security check points, gates or Department of Defense guards.

Such precautions include 24-hour security patrol, provided by Securitas, which monitors neighborhoods daily as well as an alarm system placed in every house located in outpost areas that are monitored by a central security point.

In addition to the preventative measures, Thom said residents living in privatized housing have access to "two-lines of defense" of security support for their neighborhoods.

"Residents should realize they have two security options available to them that other communities don't necessarily have," he said. "First, you have your central line of security [Securitas] provided to assist in the event that a crime occurs. Then secondly, they always

have the option of notifying HPD as another security option."

Thom also encouraged local residents to be more proactive in their community as well as on the lookout for suspicious activity.

"When somebody even suspects something is out of ordinary or sees anything suspicious, we want them to make a report so we can respond," he said. "We would rather have 15 or

20 reports in a week of suspicious activity than to have something more severe happen later on not be notified at all."

For non-life threatening emergencies such as suspicious behavior or excessive noise, call Forest City dispatch at 479-1869 or 838-HELP. For more information on crime prevention or Forest City, visit www.fcnavyhawaii.com.

Tips for safeguarding your personal property

Residents, living in Navy privatized housing as well as those in the civilian community, can do a number of things to safeguard their personal property. Here are a few suggestions:

- Always keep your vehicle locked with your windows closed. Store vehicle in closed garage when available.
- Never leave your keys in your vehicle or leave your vehicle running if you are not present.

- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle. Criminals often survey a vehicle before determining to break into the vehicle. If a valuable must be stored in the vehicle, remove it from plain sight.

- Consider installing an alarm and/or visible steering wheel locking device.

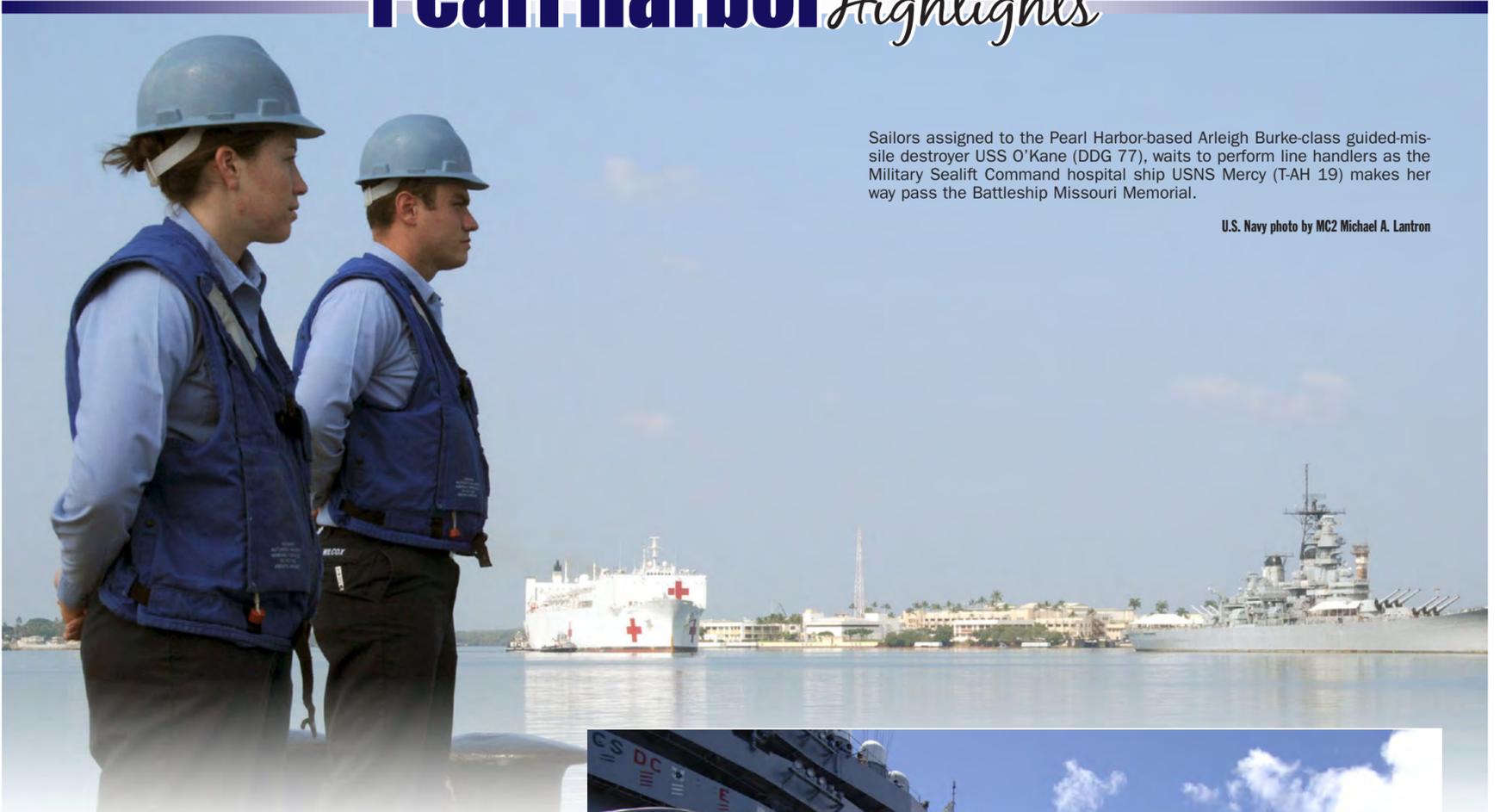
(Information provided by Securitas and Forest City Residential Management.)

What not to do...



To ensure that members of the military community do not fall victim to a crime of opportunity, remember to always keep your windows closed and vehicle doors locked. Criminals often survey a vehicle before determining to break into the vehicle. All valuables should be either taken out of the vehicle or if they must be stored inside the vehicle, be removed from plain sight.

Pearl Harbor Highlights



Sailors assigned to the Pearl Harbor-based Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77), waits to perform line handlers as the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) makes her way pass the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

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



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Phillip Pavlovich

Hawai'i community leaders and educators from Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet's Distinguished Visitors Embarkation Program crowd around and listen on Sept. 9 aboard USS George Washington (CVN 73) as Sailors from air department explain how they use the 'ouija board' to keep track of flight deck operations. George Washington is transiting to Japan where the ship will replace USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) as the U.S. Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Phillip Pavlovich

Hawai'i community leaders and educators from Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet's Distinguished Visitors Embarkation Program observe flight operations on the flight deck of USS George Washington (CVN 73) on Sept. 9. George Washington is transiting to Japan where the ship will replace USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) as the U.S. Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier.



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Luciano Marano

Cmdr. James F. Doody, USS Columbus (SSN 762) commanding officer, is greeted by his wife and children upon returning to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 11, following a successful completion of a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific.



Electronics Technician 3rd Class Shantel Robinson Walker of San Antonio, Texas, currently stationed at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific (NCTAMS PAC), and her husband, PFC Charles Walker Jr. of New Brockton, Ala., currently on a 15-month deployment to Iraq, re-enlisted during a dual ceremony via video teleconferencing (VTC) on Aug. 28. ET3 Walker re-enlisted at the Army Community Service facility at Schofield Barracks. PFC Walker, who is assigned to the 536th Maintenance Company, re-enlisted in Taji, Iraq. The dual military family is supporting the global war on terrorism, both volunteering to do their part for their country and making the decision to re-enlist at the same time. Freedom Calls provided the VTC services.

U.S. Navy photo by ET1 Joseph Moore



Cmdr. Kristin Barnes, officer-in-charge of Afloat Planning System, Pacific, trains for the Ironman World Championship triathlon at the Camp H. M. Smith running path. Her rigorous training program requires her to follow a strict diet and involves 26-36 hours of weekly endurance training. Barnes is scheduled to compete in the world's biggest triathlon race, held annually at Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Paul D. Homick



U.S. Navy photo by MCSA Luciano Marano

Rear Adm. Joe Walsh is piped ashore after being relieved as Commander, Submarine Force Pacific Fleet, during a ceremony on board USS Charlotte (SSN 766) at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 12.

McAneny relieves Walsh as commander, Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet

MC1 Cynthia Clark

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

Rear Adm. Douglas McAneny relieved Rear Adm. Joe Walsh as commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC) during a change of command ceremony on the submarine piers at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 12.

Adm. Robert Willard, Commander, Pacific Fleet, guest speaker at the event, said Walsh served as a strong, persistent voice for the Pacific Fleet Submarine Force.

"During World War II, the Pacific Fleet earned an exceptional reputation," Willard said. "That tradition of excellence continues today by the finest collection of boats and submariners anywhere in the world. COMSUBPAC forces are quietly and professionally observing and protecting in some of the most challenging waters in the world, and Joe Walsh has ensured their readiness to do this."

Willard presented Walsh with his fifth Legion of Merit for his command of the Pacific submarine force. Walsh propelled the Pacific submarine force to the absolutely highest state of operational and personnel readiness, Willard said. This included the conversion of USS Ohio (SSGN 726) from a ballistic missile submarine to a conventional guided-missile submarine (SSGN) and her subsequent maiden deployment as a SSGN.

Walsh, who will next serve as deputy commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, said serving as commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Force has been one of his favorite assignments.

"I'm a little sad to be leaving," Walsh said. "I will also tell you I think it's been two very productive years so I leave with a great deal of professional satisfaction."

Walsh praised the commanding officers, the submarine squadrons and the COMSUBPAC staff for their contributions to the operational success of Pacific Fleet submarines.

"I want you to know that leading you these past two years has been a privilege and one of the highest honors of my life," Walsh continued. "You are serving in an important place at an important time. Thank you for your service to the submarine force, to our Navy and to our great country."

In addition to his duties as the Pacific Submarine Force commander, Walsh also served

as commander of Task Force 134, which oversees operations of ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs). During his tenure, eight SSBNs completed 40 strategic deterrent patrols. He also led the overhaul and shift of force-wide training to a skills-based, outcome focused program, through implementation of the continuing training manual.

McAneny told the submarine force he was "(looking) forward to working with and for each and every member of that great team as we continue to deliver dominant, full spectrum war fighting readiness to our Navy and our nation."

His previous assignment was Commander, Submarine Group Seven in Yokosuka, Japan. He is a 1978 graduate of the University of Nebraska. McAneny has served on five submarines, including command of USS Philadelphia (SSN 690). He also served as deputy director for politico-military affairs (Europe/NATO/Russia/Africa) (J5) on the joint staff in Washington, D.C.

Lanikai Elementary, Marines renew Adopt-A-School Program

Story and photos by Marine Corps Base Hawai'i Kaneohe Public Affairs

The sun glinted off the metal from the Marine Forces Pacific Band drums on Aug. 12 at Lanikai Elementary School for the annual ceremony to renew the partnership between the school and Marine Corps Air Facility (MCAF) at Kaneohe Bay.

Just before the school bell rang, Lanikai students emerged from their classrooms with chairs under their arms. The youngest students sat on a colored rug in the grass.

"Alohhha," the young ones crooned in the familiar elementary school greeting way, clapping along to music teacher Jolene Kim's drum taps. Kim Sankovits, student council advisor at Lanikai Elementary School, introduced the student council representatives for each grade level as they approached the microphone.

Each representative introduced an attendee to the special event, including State Sen. Fred Hemmings, district 25, Hawai'i state legislature; Lt. Col. M.P. Antonio, commanding officer, MCAF; and Amy Madsen and Carl LaJoie, school liaisons, Marine Corps Base Hawai'i.

This particular ceremony is special because Antonio recently relieved Lt. Col. Joseph Butler, the former air facility commander. Madsen said the ceremony occurs each year for the participating schools in the Adopt-A-School Program to "reaffirm our commitment to the school." The program is funded by the Joint Venture Education Forum, an organization made up of local school officials and the military.

In the Adopt-A-School Program, military units partner with a local school, including but not limited to those that have a high population of military students, and support them through various activities throughout the year.

Antonio and Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Joe Nowak, MCAF, said their Marines and Sailors do several activities throughout the year with the school, from a haunted house to physical fitness activities and regular Wednesday after-school tutoring. Nowak is a native of Littleton, Colo. and the unit representative to the school.

"We value them so much as part of our ohana here," said Ronnie Wilkie, curriculum instructional coordinator at the school. "Everyone's willing to help with the students. It's all



Navy Cmdr. Robert Pereboom, executive officer at Marine Corps Air Facility, along with Lt. Col. Michael P. Antonio, commander, MCAF, and State Sen. Fred Hemmings, 25th District, Hawai'i State Legislature, stand with the school children during the playing of the Star Spangled Banner at a Lanikai Elementary School ceremony on Aug. 12. The ceremony celebrated the newly-renewed friendship between the school and MCAF.

about the kids."

Wilkie said the school is more than willing to support MCAF in turn when they might need assistance. Recently, MCAF helped the school obtain recumbent trikes, which are tricycles with chair-like seats.

"We're honored to be able to continue this partnership," said David Saucedo, school principal. "The impact is not just a one-day situation. It really gives the children an opportunity to connect with what our freedom means to them to see the military in action in a different setting. It also is an educational experience because they see the band, the different instruments, [and it] reinforces what's happening in the classroom."

The Marine Forces Pacific (MarForPac) Band began the ceremony with a presentation of colors by the color guard. Gunnery Sgt. Adrian Shields, band conductor, then introduced the Party Band, a smaller section of the group, to come to the front and play. The band played many songs to excite and amuse the children, who laughed and applauded as each member of the Party Band played their way in and around the crowd. Different band members taught the children

what kind of musical instrument they played and how it sounded.

"Having the Marines participate in [the programs and the activities] is a huge asset," Hemmings said.

Hemmings, who the children refer to as "Uncle Fred," offered an impromptu speech and then gave the microphone to Antonio.

Antonio acknowledged the greeting from the children and decided to arouse interest with a traditional Marine "Ooh-rah!" as he called on the children to imitate him.

After his brief speech, Antonio called on Nowak who presented Saucedo with a framed photo of a MCAF's "Gray Ghost" aircraft and a recognition note for the school.

"Personally I couldn't be happier," Nowak said about working with the Lanikai students. "The kids are awesome. It definitely brings a smile to your face."

"It's pretty fun," said one 10-year-old boy and the student council president, referring to his experience having Marines come to his school.

A Kailua resident, he comes from a multi-military family. His father is a retired Navy commander.

Sailors lend a 'helping hand' to local non-profit organization

Story and photo by Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

Last week, Sailors from Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor bachelor enlisted housing personally delivered nearly 150 donated items to Helping Hands Hawai'i, a local non-profit organization that provides low-income families with basic living necessities free of charge.

"We have had a long partnership with the military community for many years and they definitely came through for us this time," said Scott Morshige, program manager for Helping Hands Hawai'i. "The donations came at such a crucial time because recently there has been a spike in people requesting our services. These are typically people who have been homeless and have been living on the beach or in their car, and just now have been able to move into an apartment for the first time. They are starting all over again and need our help," he explained.

Morshige said donations from Navy bachelor enlisted housing included more than 30 chairs, 40 microwaves, 40 beds and 30 refrigerators. "Our number one requested items are big things like beds and refrigerators," he said. "The night before [they delivered donations], our warehouse was almost empty, but thanks to the Navy we now have many appliances that can go directly to families and people who are in dire need of these items."

According to Morshige, Helping Hands Hawai'i has been helping indigent families get back on their feet by providing basic living necessities free of charge. All recipients are either financially screened or referred by



Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SW) Stanley Miller and Ship's Serviceman 3rd Class (SW/AW) Arnold Luke move furniture out of Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor enlisted bachelor housing so it can be donated to Helping Hands Hawai'i, a non-profit organization that supplies basic housing necessities to the indigent at no cost.

social services agencies, including the state welfare office.

Chief Culinary Specialist (SS) Benjamin Jones, leading chief petty officer for bachelor housing administration at NAVSTA Pearl Harbor, said the furniture that was donated was in good condition, but had to be replaced due to his command's housing policy.

"We have a mandate that calls for us to get rid of furniture every four to five years so we can bring in new things for our Sailors," he said. "We were going to give these items to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) where they would either keep them, give them to other military installations, or take them to the dump to get rid of it. Instead of us getting rid of it, we thought it would be better to give it to an [organization] that really needs it," he added.

Jones said he learned

about Helping Hands Hawai'i through a local friend, who worked as a social worker, and thought the organization would best be able to utilize all of the excess furniture.

"It is a great thing because it not only gets rid of the furniture, but also helps people in the community," he said. "Also, it takes the strain off of our taxpayers or people from the state who help fund these programs."

Ship's Serviceman 3rd Class (SW/AW) Arnold Luke, who helped deliver furniture to the organization's warehouse, said he saw firsthand the beneficiaries of their donations.

"It was a great feeling to give back to the community, especially in a time of war," he said of his command's contribution. "When we dropped off the last load [of furniture], that same day we saw people coming in and picking up some of the things. There is definitely a real need for these [kinds of] donations in the community," he continued.

Culinary Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) Franklin Reid, who also delivered furniture with Luke, said that it was important that the Navy be represented in a positive light in the local community.

"As service members, you need to take care of the community you live in first," Reid said. "It is important people see Sailors are not just coming on and off the base, but involved outside in the local community. We want them to see that we do care about our local neighborhoods, people and community," he added.

For donations to Helping Hands Hawai'i, call 440-3800 to schedule house pickup or drop off items at 2100 N. Nimitz Hwy. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Photo courtesy of Navy League, Put-in-Bay, Ohio

Capt. Ron Boxall, USS Lake Erie (CG 70) commanding officer, tosses a wreath overboard at the battle site to commemorate the 195th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie while onboard USCGC Biscayne Bay.

Lake Erie Sailors visit Put-in-Bay, Ohio

Ensign Brittany Lynn

Public Affairs Officer, USS Lake Erie (CG 70)

It has become tradition for USS Lake Erie (CG 70) Sailors to be invited to Put-in-Bay, Ohio to participate in the city's annual Historic Weekend, an event held to commemorate the American defeat of the British in the Battle of Lake Erie on Sept. 10, 1813.

Even though the Sailors were only in town for two short days, they were able to participate in many of the Historic Weekend activities and provide several community services.

Honor guard members gave a helping hand at the Put-in-Bay Senior Center by cleaning and tidying up the facility and making small repairs. "I enjoyed our service projects because it was a great way for us to give back to the community that treated us with so much respect and hospitality," remarked Operations Specialist 2nd Class Zachary Hayden. In the meantime, Capt. Ron Boxall, Lake Erie's commanding officer, visited the Put-in-Bay School to talk to students in the seventh through 12th grade about Lake Erie's famous "satellite shot" last February.

Boxall and his Sailors, along with 70 Put-in-Bay residents, went aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Biscayne Bay (WTGB 104) and sailed out to the site of the Battle of Lake Erie. After a short speech in honor of those who fell in the fight, Boxall tossed a commemorative wreath overboard as the honor guard saluted and "Taps" filled the air.

The voyage was followed by a "meet the Navy" dinner at the local Crescent Tavern, hosted by the Navy League. As the guest of honor, Boxall took the opportunity to not only speak about Lake Erie's recent successful missions, current events and upcoming activities, but also highlighted how proud he was of his crew. "Everything our ship has achieved is due to the hard work and dedication these Sailors put forth every day. I could not be more proud of what they have already accomplished and what

I know they will accomplish in the future," said Boxall.

The next morning, Sailors stood by the USS Lake Erie exhibit and talked to more than 1,000 boy scouts as they made their way through the local museum. They answered questions about the ship, its mission and the daily life of a Sailor.

Shortly after, the honor guard donned their dress uniforms and unfurled the National Ensign and Navy flag to march in the Historic Weekend Parade. At the conclusion of the parade, Boxall, as keynote speaker, addressed the Put-in-Bay community.

He elaborated on the importance of Capt. Oliver Hazard Perry's victory 195 years ago in expanding our nation and building confidence in our Navy. He commented that, "Lake Erie's motto is 'Don't give up the ship.' Just as it was Perry's battle cry two centuries ago, it is still ours today. We will persevere to make this nation and its Navy stronger, and we will never give up the ship."

When asked what the best part of the trip to Put-in-Bay was, one Sailor commented that "Without a doubt it was the warm reception that we were given by the residents of Put-in-Bay. We were greeted with hugs and thank yous everywhere we went. You could tell that they genuinely appreciated our military service and are proud to be USS Lake Erie's hometown sponsor."

In fact, one night as Sonar Technician (surface) 2nd Class Daniel Miller walked into a local restaurant along with his parents where "God Bless America" just happened to be playing, the entire room stood up to cheer for him. He recalled, "I really didn't know how to react except to smile, wave and shake the hands that frequently began to reach out in my direction. As I made my way around the crowd, I remembered my parents were right there. I could tell they were a little choked up so I had to try my best to maintain that military swagger without letting them know that inside it touched me too."

COMNAVSEA lauds Pearl Harbor Shipyard for performance, safety

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

"I tip my hardhat to all of you," said Vice Adm. Kevin McCoy, the new commander of the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), to nearly 5,000 Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard workers as he commended them for their improvements in performance and safety and presented awards to two employees.

McCoy spoke during a "Lunch on the Lanai" on Sept. 12 at historic building one at Pearl Harbor. "Lunch on the Lanai" is a unique Hawaiian-style, all-hands meeting where shipyard workers and leaders share lunch under sprawling monkeypod trees and talk about work issues.

"The principal reason I am here today talking to you is that I want to recognize you for your efforts to significantly improve performance on '688' submarines and to cheer you on to keep going," he said. "I have been coming to this yard since the early 1990s and I can tell you, there's a sense of excitement here - you can really feel it."

The 688-class (or Los Angeles-class) attack submarines are the backbone of the Navy's undersea force with about 48 in commission. McCoy commended the workers for their success in completing two 688-class submarine maintenance projects earlier this year.

"We need every single (688) returned to sea as soon as possible," said McCoy. "Your recent efforts to successfully complete the USS Key West extended SRA (selected restricted availability) and the USS Columbia DMP



U.S. Navy photo by Liane Nakahara
Vice Adm. Kevin McCoy, commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), speaks to Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard workers in front of historic building one on Sept. 12.

(depot modernization period) are clear indicators that progress is being made here at Pearl Harbor."

The 15-week test program on the Columbia project tied the naval shipyard corporate record. He noted, "I commanded Portsmouth Naval Shipyard when that ... record was set and I know how tough that level of performance is to achieve."

McCoy also recognized the shipyard's safety performance. "You are now bonafide safety leaders on a national level," he said. He cited the shipyard's achievement of "Star" status in the

Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Protection Programs, two consecutive Chief of Naval Operations Shore Safety Awards, and the Department of the Navy 2008 Safety Excellence Award.

"You are truly living the motto 'Mission First, Safety Always.' This directly translates to mission success, which is to keep the U.S. Pacific Fleet 'Fit to Fight,'" he said.

During his talk with the workforce, McCoy called two shipyard employees to the stage. He presented his personal COMNAVSEA command coin to Paul Marietti, program analyst, for being the first in the 53,000-person NAVSEA team to respond to McCoy's first all-hands e-mail, in which McCoy invited direct feedback.

The three-star admiral then presented a Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award to Joseph Mendonsa III, project superintendent. Mendonsa was cited for exceptional leadership in executing the shipyard's best-ever DMP, on the USS Columbia.

McCoy spoke to the workers from a platform in front of building one, the first headquarters building at "Navy Yard Pearl Harbor" and where U.S. Navy intelligence officers broke the Japanese codes in World War II that allowed victory in the Battle of Midway. In the shadow of this historic building, McCoy asked that all shipyard workers remember that "all of us at NAVSEA have the awesome responsibility of keeping America's Navy number one in the world. This is far more important than simply coming to work every day. It's a call-

ing, and it's vital for our national defense."

McCoy also asked the workers to go about their workday "as if they owned this (NAVSEA) business, and their family's livelihood and well-being depended on how well this business ran. If you owned the yard - and in some sense, you do - would you do things exactly as you do them today? If not, then get involved and work to make it better. We are the stewards of an incredible amount of the nation's resources and we can never forget that."

McCoy shared how his former command at Portsmouth, N.H. came out of the 1990s with a negative reputation before turning itself around. "After the second on-time, on-budget performance in a row, the yard became a new shipyard and we were determined to never go back to the old level of performance," he recalled.

"That's exactly where you are today," he said. "From my own experience in the business... to stay at this level and ... to move to the next level is not easy. But the submarine force, our Navy and our nation are looking for you to keep going. It's that important."

"Stay focused. Stick to your learning organization plan. Take lean and moonshine to the next level and make Houston and Cheyenne even better performers than Key West and Columbia. And let's get Olympia back to sea in the shortest possible time!"

McCoy concluded, "Thank all of you so much for all that you do every day. You are making a difference. Don't let up. Build on your recent successes and keep going! ... Stay safe and keep charging!"



Firefighters from Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i's Federal Fire Department set a table for the fallen firefighter during a 9/11 memorial service held at the Federal Fire Department Headquarters on Sept. 11.

Federal Fire Fighters honor 9/11 heroes, victims

Continued from A-1

al account of the aftermath. "I spent the whole night there. I was down in the court yard. It was so smoky; it was so acid that we had to wear masks. Your brothers were fighting terrible heat. I think they told it was something around 2,000 degrees," said Waite. "I developed a bond that day with fire and police, rescue and emergency people, FBI and FEMA that will always be there in my heart."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, firefighters performed a flower drop from the FFD's rescue apparatus in honor of the 343 firefighters and emergency responders who gave their lives.

"I just want to ask everybody to continue to pray for the families, the spouses, the children, the moms and dads, all those who perished not only on 9/11, but also in the war on terror that were fighting and those that are left behind that have to bear the brunt of this war," Waite said.