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Hawai'i Navy News

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USS Russell returns from Western Pacific

Story and photos by
MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Sailors aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) returned to their homeport of Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor on Oct. 1 following a six month deployment to the Western Pacific in support of the global war on terrorism.

"It's been a long deployment so it feels great to be home," said Boatswain's Mate Seaman Ryan Cook. "I've been waiting five months to finally meet my daughter [for the first time] and it's an amazing feeling."

Cook added that he was proud of his other shipmates and was glad to be a member of Russell's crew for the deployment.

"We have a great crew here," added Cook. "We all worked long days and nights during the deployment to make sure the job was done."

The U.S. Pacific Fleet Band and hula dancers performed while friends and family held 'welcome home' signs and



Children sit in a scale model of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) as the ship makes her way pier side to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor.

waved to the Sailors as the ship came alongside the pier.

"I'm so excited that I'm at a loss for words," said the wife of a Russell Sailor. "It's great to finally see them come home."

After the ship moored and

the brow was in place, Sailors rushed down the brow to embrace loved ones on the pier and enjoy well-deserved liberty.

"It's great to see all of the family and friends on the pier waiting for us on such a beauti-

ful day," said Cmdr. Jeff Weston, Russell's commanding officer. "It makes coming home that much more special."

Weston also added his thanks to the Sailors for a mission accomplished.

"The crew performed spectacularly," added Weston. "We spent very little time in port and they all did amazing work out there. Every mission we were tasked with we performed flawlessly and it's a credit to them."

Russell and her crew departed Pearl Harbor on March 24 as part of the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) Carrier Strike Group. Supporting maritime security operations in

the [U.S.] 5th Fleet area of operations, Russell helped develop security in the maritime environment and promoted stability and global prosperity.

During the deployment, Russell interacted with coalition forces, offered humanitarian assistance to a stranded boat with 70 Somalis onboard, participated in joint exercises, and pulled into six ports where its crew contributed to the host nation in community relations projects.

Russell is 505 feet in length, 66 feet wide and has a maximum speed of 30 plus knots. The primary mission of Russell is to destroy enemy aircraft, missiles, submarines, surface ships and land targets. Russell is normally assigned to a carrier strike group and brings significant capabilities to the battle force, carrying the latest technology in all areas of modern warfare.

(See page A-5 for more photos)



USS O'Kane, USS Reuben James depart Pearl Harbor for Western Pacific

Story and photo by
MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

The Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) and the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) departed their homeport of Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor on Sept. 25 for a Mid-Pacific Surface Combatant Operational Employment.

The Mid-Pacific Surface Combatant Operational Employment program calls for nine of the 11 Hawai'i-based surface combatants to conduct intermediate/advanced training and regular deployments in the Western Pacific, and is designed to improve the U.S. Pacific Fleet's war fighting readiness and effectiveness.

Friends and families watched from the pier as their loved ones set sail in the Pacific Ocean.

"It's what they're here to do," said the spouse of an O'Kane Sailor. "The best we can hope for is they come back to us safely."

"We're absolutely ready to do this," said Cmdr. Joseph Naman, commanding officer of Reuben James. "We've spent a lot of time underway recently and are trained in all areas, so this is nothing new to the crew."

Reuben James and O'Kane returned June 8 from a two-month deployment as part of the USS Nimitz (CVN 68) Carrier Strike Group (CSG) in support of the global war on terrorism.

Departing their friends and families after a short period of



The Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) departs Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Reuben James and the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) departed from their homeport of Pearl Harbor Sept. 25 as part of the Mid-Pacific Surface Combatant Operational Employment.

time can be strenuous, but the Sailors are ready for the challenges that are to come.

"It's going to be another great experience," said Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class (SW/AW) Adan Ramos, assigned to O'Kane. "We're all confident and ready to do everything we're tasked to do."

Guided missile destroyers provide multi-mission offensive and defensive capabilities and can operate independently

or as part of carrier battle groups, surface action groups, amphibious ready groups and underway replenishment groups.

Frigates fulfill a protection of shipping (POS) mission as anti-submarine warfare (ASW) combatants for amphibious expeditionary forces, underway replenishment groups and merchant convoys.

(See page A-5 for more photos)

Welcome USS Abraham Lincoln



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

Sailors aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) wave to friends and family on the pier as the ship makes its way to Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Abraham Lincoln and embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2 arrived Sept. 30 for a port visit prior to the completion of the Abraham Lincoln Strike Group's seven-month deployment in support of 5th and 7th Fleet Maritime Security Operations and Theater Security Cooperation, as well as Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.



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Hawai'i-Pacific Area Combined Federal Campaign kicks off See page B-1

School liaison officer bridges gap for military families

Story and photo by Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

In an effort to bridge the gap between military families and local schools, the school liaison officer (SLO) position was created to help newly stationed military children transition smoothly into local school systems.

According to Chuck Clymer, child and youth program (CYP) education program manager for Fleet and Family Readiness Command, the purpose of the SLO is to work with local school districts to ensure that school personnel are aware of the stress involved by frequent moves and extended deployments for many military families.

"They [SLOs] will work closely with local school personnel to identify and resolve issues that impact transitioning military students, serve as a link between military families and schools during in and out processing periods, and deployments," he said.

The first SLO position was created in 2003 and adopted by the Marine Corps, but since then other military branches have followed suit. Navy Region Hawai'i was the first in the Navy to hire an SLO to serve Navy families, according to Ruth Davis, current SLO for Navy Region Hawai'i. Davis, a former "teacher of the year" at Moanalua High School, said her position is a balancing act that constantly keeps her on her toes.

Serving as SLO for more than 13 months, Davis said her primary focus is to help Navy families deal with



Ruth Davis, school liaison officer (SLO) for Navy Region Hawai'i, interacts with keiki during a Navy Home Schooling Group meeting at Catlin Clubhouse on Sept. . Davis' SLO position was created to assist Navy families with school-related issues and act as a liaison between local schools and the military community.

school transition issues, such as graduation requirements and extra curricular activities.

"My job helps Navy families better transition into Hawai'i's school system," she said. "[Basically,] I provide real answers rather than rumors. My job is intended to bridge the gap between the Navy and Hawai'i public schools and helps build relationships between the Navy commu-

nity and the school community," she added.

In addition to helping Navy families transition into local schools, Davis said she runs the school partnership program, which partners 43 various naval commands with 51 local schools to assist with community involvement and support.

Capt. Donald Hodge, chief of staff for Navy Region Hawai'i, said that

thanks to Davis there is an effective partnership between the Navy and schools that fosters unlimited opportunities for Sailors to make an impact on local youth.

"Because of this liaison, the military is able to have a positive impact on our [local] school systems," he said. "Some of the schools the Navy partners with don't even have any military kids [in attendance],

but the fact we are putting a [Sailor] in their whites there to help out only reinforces a positive military image here in Hawai'i."

Hodge, who works routinely with Davis on the Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF), a program that facilitates interaction between the military community and Hawai'i's Department of Education, insists that having a central point of contact, such

as an SLO, for school-related issues is especially crucial for military families who are stationed overseas in locations such as Hawai'i.

"Given the Navy's routine six-month deployments, [military] children are faced without seeing [their] mom or dad for a significant period of time," he noted. "It is important to have someone [such as an SLO] who can communicate the specific needs of our military children. I think all schools, having a significant amount of military children, should understand what kinds of transitions these kids are facing," he continued.

A Navy spouse who has home schooled her children for five years said Davis helped put her in contact with the Navy Homeschooling Group, a military support system that provides networking opportunities, community service projects and field trip opportunities to all members.

"She has done a really great job with getting all of the school groups together," she said. "It has been a big help for her being the voice of our group and in turn, making valuable resources available to us, such as free lessons and activities for our kids."

For many military mothers, Davis' SLO position has helped ease the stressful transitions of many military children moving on and off the island. For more information about Hawai'i schools, visit the fleet support page at www.greatlifehawaii.com or contact Ruth Davis at 471-3720 or e-mail at ruth.davis2@navy.mil.

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Hawaii Navy News Editorial

Riders' Toolbox Part 3

Story and photo by
James E. Foehl

Motorcycle Safety
Foundation
(MSF)
RiderCoach

Motorcycling - there's just no other feeling like it. Despite warnings from concerned friends and family members, we roll into the elements of nature and traffic, welcoming the added risk of our two-wheeled freedom.

Risk, it's a big part of why we ride. It's common knowledge among motorcyclists that if an accident should occur, our bodies would be no match for the elements of the road. Yet, we continue to roll on.

One tool every skilled rider will have in their rider's toolbox is the ability to accept and manage risk. We all take risks, but some are willing to take higher risks than others.

Imagine a ladder. We'll call it a "ladder of risk." Each rung on the ladder represents a factor of risk. On the first rung, most of us are comfortable and still quite stable. If we fell, the price we pay would be quite moderate. However, with each step we progress up the ladder, the added risk makes us more uncomfortable, less stable and the fall more painful.

Before we can accept or manage risk factors involved in motorcycling, we must first become aware of them. Once we've become

aware of these factors, we can accept that risk, reduce the factors involved, and stay relatively low on the ladder.

A simple way skilled riders reduce risk factors that lead to crashes is by applying a strategy. One basic and outstanding strategy we can use is SEE - search, evaluate, execute.

Traffic and road conditions that can move into our path of travel. Special consideration should always be given at intersections since the opportunity for traffic and other objects to move into your path of travel is much greater.

Search - Look for factors that could lead to potential dangers situations such as water, oil, gravel, sand or other conditions of the road; degree, slope or radius of turns; cars, pedestrians, animals and other objects that can move into our path of travel. Special consideration should always be given at intersections since the opportunity for traffic and other objects to move into your path of travel is much greater.

Evaluate - Come up with a plan or course of action which allows you to reduce, eliminate or safely maneuver your motorcycle smoothly with precision. Anticipate problems and ask yourself: How will these risk factors interact? What if the driver doesn't see me? What if that car turns out in front of me?

Execute - Put your plan into action. Adjust speed, change lane position, cover your controls, and communicate your intentions. Maintain a margin of safety or margin of error. How much extra time and space cushion will you need at your given skill level?

There are three factors that will affect your personal time and space requirements for the safety margin you will need - your capabilities and limitations; capabilities and limitations of your motorcycle; the roadway and traffic conditions.

If you exceed one of these three factors and no more time and space is available to avoid the hazard - you crash. Time and space is the one thing you have the most control over when riding, so give yourself a little extra.

Having the ability to accept and manage risk and stay low on the "ladder of risk" is a tool in every skilled rider's toolbox. Repeatedly, we accept the challenges of becoming responsible motorcyclists by developing proper skill, technique and judgment, and accept personal responsibility for the consequences of our decisions and actions.

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.



Air Force Master Sgt. Dishon Gregory, assigned to Hickam Air Force Base Hawaii, participates in 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.

CFC contributions aid less fortunate citizens

Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press
Service

Americans socked by natural disasters can get assistance through aid provided by donations to the Combined Federal Campaign, Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon R. England said at the Pentagon's CFC kickoff ceremony.

Hurricanes Gustav and Ike devastated the homes and lives of millions of Gulf Coast residents, England said.

Giving to the CFC, England said, provides a way to "help out our fellow Americans get back onto their feet." More than 3,600 charitable organizations are

listed in the CFC beneficiary catalog.

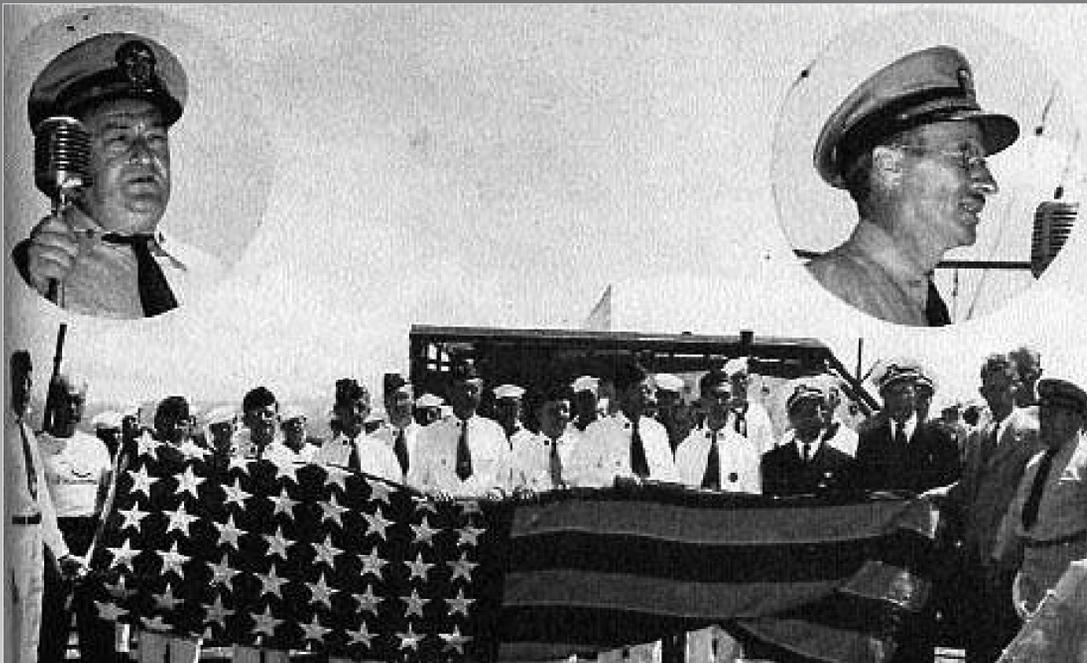
The Defense Department's goal for this year's CFC campaign is \$13.3 million, which is \$100,000 more than last year.

Due to the type and nature of their employment, military members and Defense Department civilians enjoy good, secure jobs with great benefits and are in a good position to assist citizens undergoing hard times, England said.

"We are blessed," England told military members and defense civilians attending the kickoff ceremony. "And so, we are in a position that we can help people who are less fortunate."

The 2008 CFC campaign started Sept. 1 and runs through Dec. 15

This flag will fly again



U.S. Navy photo

The flag of USS Oklahoma is held reverently by Legionnaires of Pearl Harbor's Post 24, just before the famous banner was folded for the last time aboard the once proud battleship on Oct. 27, 1944. Capt. Frank Craven of the Navy Yard assumed charge of the vessel after it's decommissioning.

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Hawaii Navy News welcomes letters to the editor for the editorial page on any subject as long as they are in good taste.

All letters must be accompanied by the writer's name, E-mail address and daytime telephone number. Letters are subject to editing to meet space constraints.

Letters and articles that are submitted to Hawaii Navy News may be published and/or distributed in print and electronic form.

E-mail letters to: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com.

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Artist Rendering

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific awarded Watts Constructors, LLC a \$32.6 million firm-fixed price contract Sept. 24 for the construction of the Arizona Memorial Visitors Center replacement facility.

Arizona Memorial Visitors Center will get new look

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific Public Affairs

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific awarded Watts Constructors, LLC a \$32.6 million firm-fixed price contract Sept. 24 for the construction of the Arizona Memorial Visitors Center replacement facility.

The work to be performed provides for the construction of new buildings to

support exhibits, education, security, other offices, restrooms and resting areas. Subsequent renovation of the existing theater and demolition of the existing facility will follow after the majority of these buildings are completed.

"We are pleased to work with the Navy to bring about much-needed changes to the shore-side visitor center," said Frank Hays, acting superintendent, USS Arizona

Memorial, National Park Service. "It will enable us to provide an even better experience for our visitors by creating more exhibit and educational space and a newly refurbished theater."

The work includes pile foundations, reinforced concrete floor slabs, steel joists and decking, flashing and sheet metal work, concrete masonry work, photovoltaic panels, a shade structure, air conditioning

and fire protection.

Supporting work includes landscaping, asphalt concrete pavements, connecting utilities, electrical and communication ducts, fencing, and site improvements.

Work is expected to be completed by September 2010. The exact contract award amount is \$32,680,286. It was competitively procured via the Navy Electronic Commerce Online Web site with seven proposals received.

COMSUBPAC hosts Eighth Annual Asia-Pacific Submarine Conference

MC1 (SW) Cynthia Clark

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



Rear Adm. Douglas McAneny, Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC), hosted 13 nations for the Eighth Annual Asia-Pacific Submarine Conference (APSC), held Aug. 23-25 in Waikiki.

The APSC is designed to enhance regional cooperation and develop relationships among Asia-Pacific submarine operators, focusing on submarine escape and rescue. For the first time in the history of the APSC, Peru participated in the annual conference along with the more than 40 participants from nations such as Australia, Canada, Chile, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, United Kingdom and the United States.

According to Chet Young, COMSUBPAC plans and policy officer, "This was a valuable forum where the U.S. and other regional nations could discuss

submarine rescue issues as well as establish partnerships and agreements."

Submarine rescue training, in addition to the APSC has been at the forefront of naval submarine training with exercises like Pacific Reach and Bold Monarch, which tested the submarine rescue diving and recompression system in June of this year.

With the exception of Peru, along with this year's participants other countries participating in the conference included China, Colombia, India, Pakistan and Russia.

Aside from Honolulu, the APSC was held in Fremantle, Australia in 2004 and Yokosuka, Japan in 2006. Singapore is scheduled to host the conference in 2009.

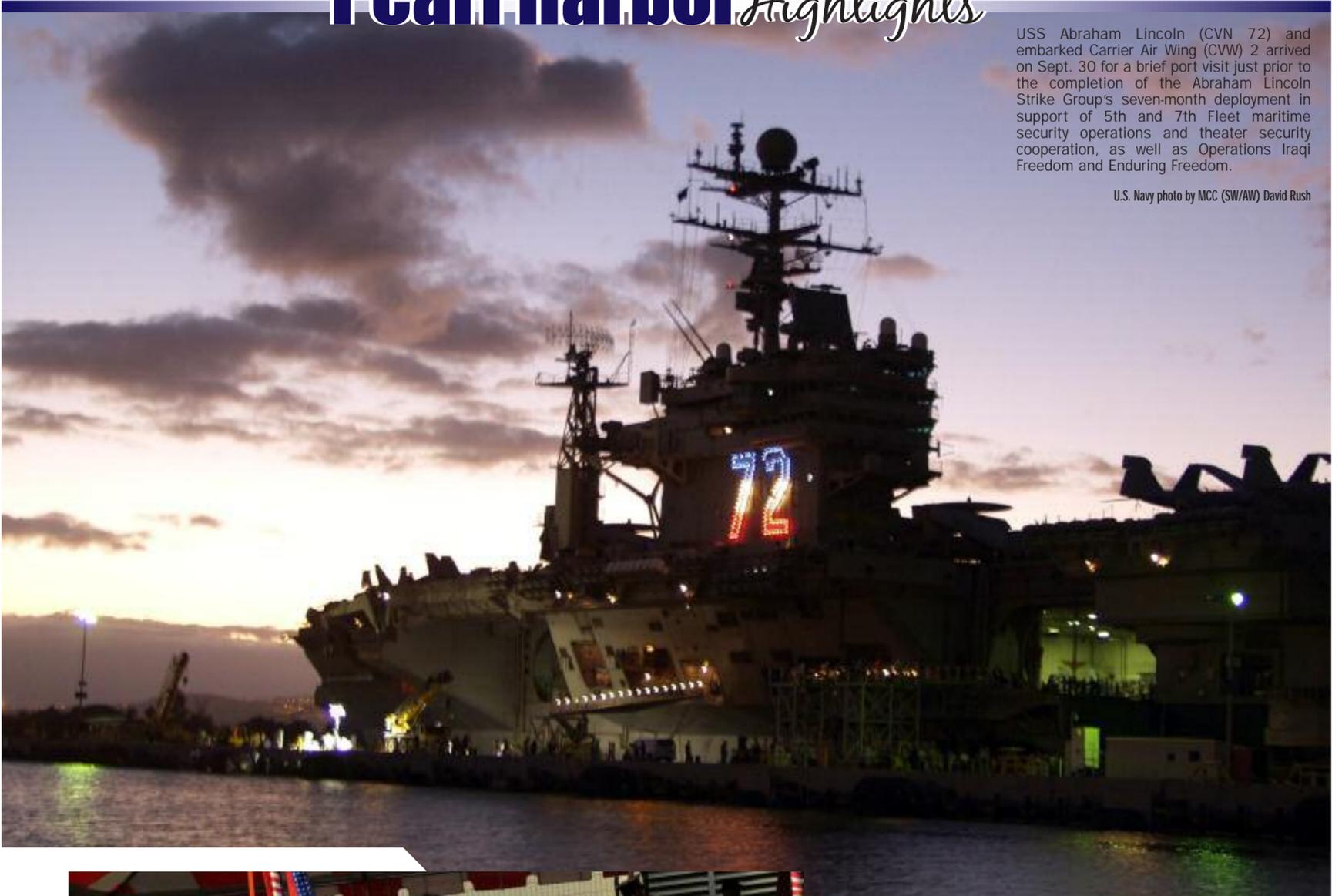
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Got Questions?

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Pearl Harbor Highlights



USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2 arrived on Sept. 30 for a brief port visit just prior to the completion of the Abraham Lincoln Strike Group's seven-month deployment in support of 5th and 7th Fleet maritime security operations and theater security cooperation, as well as Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

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



Children hold 'welcome home' signs as the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) makes her way pier side to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor. Russell returned to its homeport of NAVSTA Pearl Harbor Oct. 1 following a six month deployment to the Western Pacific in support of the global war on terrorism as part of the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) Carrier Strike Group. During the deployment, Russell interacted with coalition forces, offered humanitarian assistance to a stranded boat with 70 Somalis onboard, participated in joint exercises, and pulled into six ports, where its crew contributed to the host nation in community relations projects.

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

The wife of a Sailor assigned to the Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) waves goodbye as the ship departs Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Reuben James and the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) departed from their homeport of Pearl Harbor on Sept. 25 as part of the Mid-Pacific Surface Combatant Operational Employment.

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



Sailors aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) man the rails as the ship departs Naval Station Pearl Harbor. O'Kane and the Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) departed from their homeport of Pearl Harbor on Sept. 25 as part of the Mid-Pacific Surface Combatant Operational Employment.

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

Engineman 2nd Class (SW) Dustin Buckler, assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77), says goodbye to his daughter prior to the ship departing Naval Station Pearl Harbor. O'Kane and the Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) departed from their homeport of Pearl Harbor on Sept. 25 as part of the Mid-Pacific Surface Combatant Operational Employment. The Pacific Fleet's Mid-Pacific Surface Combatant Operational Employment program calls for nine of the 11 Hawai'i-based surface combatants to focus on the Western Pacific by conducting intermediate/advanced training and regular deployments in the Western Pacific, and is designed to improve the on U.S. Pacific Fleet's war fighting readiness and effectiveness.

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



Fire Prevention Week planned for Oct. 5-11

Victor Flint

Battalion Chief, Federal Fire Department

It's Fire Prevention Week: "Prevent Home Fires" is the theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week from Oct. 5-11. The Federal Fire Department would like to increase the public's awareness on the dangers of smoke and fire. The best way to fight a fire is to prevent a fire and knowing what to do if you are involved in one.

Statistics show that everyone will be involved in a fire. In the United States, there were nearly 400,000 home fires in the last year. Almost 3,000 people were killed and more than 14,000 were injured in fires last year.

Knowing what to do is so important. The way to do that is to prevent home fires. The Federal Fire Department is asking for the public's help to reduce the number of fire deaths and injuries through fire prevention and



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

public awareness.

Federal Fire Department will conduct a series of dis-

plays and demonstrations at various locations around Oahu.

Oct. 6 - 6-8 p.m., Porter Community Center, Schofield Barracks

Live fire demo and fire extinguisher training, fire trucks and the FFD House of Hazards will be on display. Freddy the Robot Fire Truck and Sparky the Fire Dog will perform. Keiki ID, fire prevention demos, drawing contest and give aways, live music by FFD Band "Na Kinai Ahi."

Oct. 7 - 6-8 p.m., Aliamanu Community Center, Aliamanu housing

Live fire demo and fire extinguisher training, fire trucks and the FFD House of Hazards will be on display. Freddy the Robot Fire Truck and Sparky the Fire Dog will perform. Keiki ID, fire prevention demos, drawing contest and give aways, live music by FFD Band "Na Kinai Ahi."

Oct. 8 - 5-8 p.m., Marine Corps Base Hawai'i Kaneohe, base exchange

Fire trucks and ambulance will be on display. Take your picture with Sparky the Fire Dog. Fire prevention demos, drawing contest and give aways, Live

Music by FFD Band "Na Kinai Ahi".

Oct. 9 - 6-9 p.m., Pearl City Community Center, Pearl City Peninsula

Fire trucks and the FFD House of Hazards will be on display. Freddy the Robot Fire Truck and Sparky the Fire Dog will perform. Keiki ID, fire prevention demos, drawing contest and give aways, live music by FFD Band "Na Kinai Ahi."

Oct. 10 - 6-9 p.m., Halsey Community Center, Halsey Terrace Housing

Fire trucks and the FFD House of Hazards will be on display. Freddy the Robot Fire Truck and Sparky the Fire Dog will perform. Keiki ID, fire prevention demos, drawing contest and give aways, live music by FFD Band "Na Kinai Ahi."

Come check out the action, meet the firefighters, and increase your fire safety awareness.

Have your picture taken with Sparky and Freddy.

For more information, contact Battalion Chief Victor M. Flint at 471-3303, ext. 633 or 722-5057.

STORY IDEAS?

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Hawaii Navy News

Navy honored with Normandy Memorial

MCC (SW/AW) Jason Morris

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Commander, U.S. 6th Fleet Public Affairs

The United States Navy was honored with the unveiling of a D-Day memorial statue in Saint Marie du Mont on Sept. 27.

Construction of the statue, commissioned by the Naval Order of the United States, began more than five years ago at the hands of Stephen Spears after realization that no monument existed to honor the U.S. Navy's involvement with D-Day.

"Five years ago, we learned that among all the armed services of France's allies that fought here, the U.S. Navy alone had no tribute on the beaches of Normandy," said retired Capt. Kenneth Johnson, commander general of the Naval Order of the United States. "At long last this statue will be a fitting tribute to the service and sacrifice of the U.S. Navy at Normandy."

The monument is dedicated to the brave Sailors who fought in the invasion of Normandy. More than 1,000 Sailors gave the final full measure of devotion, laying down their lives for others. In attendance at the ceremony were veterans of World War II and Sailors from United States European Command; Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe; and the crew from USS The Sullivans (DDG 68).

"We are here to thank and pay tribute to all the men of the United States Navy who gave or risked their lives for our freedom in the battle of Normandy," said retired Capt. Gregory Streeter, president of the Naval Order of the United



World War II Navy veteran Don Krebs renders a hand salute during the playing of the French and United States national anthems at the dedication ceremony for a U.S. Navy monument on the Utah Beach battleground.

U.S. Navy photo by MCC Jason Morris

States Foundation and chairman of the Navy D-Day monument project.

"We especially honor those who traveled around the globe to be in attendance today. These brave men sitting in the front row were right over that dune or walking on this very soil on the morning of June 6, 1944 and we are honored to have them among us today."

During the ceremony, three D-Day veterans received the Legion of D'Honneur, France's highest decoration, and awarded the order of Chevalier or "Knight" of the Legion of Honor. The awards, presented by Adm. Pierre-Francois Forissier, Chief of Naval Staff of the French Navy, and the Honorable Gordon England, Deputy Secretary of Defense, were presented to retired Capt. Richard Zimmermann, Jim Gaff and Chester Collins.

The monument has been placed on land located on the battlefield of Utah Beach and was donated by the town of Saint Marie du Mont.

"The landing here in Saint Marie du Mont, and all over Normandy, was full of promises that, by the sacrifices of numerous young men, were transformed to great hope for France and all of Europe," said Henri Milet, Major of Saint Marie du Mont. "We are proud to donate this land for this great monument and are proud to be its caretakers. We are pleased to tell you today in peace and in full freedom, thank you, and we reassert our commitment to honor your memory so that this friendship between our people long remains."

On April 10, 1944 the Allied Navy officers received the confirmation that a landing would take

place on the Normandy coasts. This operation would be code-named Neptune. A total of 5,300 craft of all kinds plus 4,000 relay ships were used, making it the largest fleet in the history of the world.

"Throughout history, brave men in decisive battles like Thermopylae, Gettysburg and Midway have changed the course of civilization. The same can be said of the men who fought here on D-Day 64 years ago. They too, were a part of something huge and historic," said England. "Victory or defeat at Normandy would determine the future, not just for France or Europe, but for all of humanity. This operation proved to be the largest operation in human history, and none of it would have been possible without the United States Navy."

DoDEA: Kindergarten entrance age to change

Department of Defense Education Activity

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) has announced an important change to its entrance-age eligibility requirement that will affect the kindergarten program for the 2009-2010 school year.

The entrance eligibility birth date will be adjusted from Oct. 31 to Sept. 1. That means a child must be five years old by Sept. 1 to enroll in kindergarten. The change aligns DoDEA with national trends as well as the age requirement in many military-impacted states.

This change will also affect students in DoDEA's pre-kindergarten, Sure Start, and first-grade programs. A child must be four years old by Sept. 1 to attend pre-kindergarten or Sure Start and six years old by Sept. 1 to attend first grade.

DoDEA is informing families about this change well in advance so everyone can plan ahead to make the beginning of their child's educational journey a rewarding experience. This decision is the result of careful consideration and coordination between parents, educators and administrators as well as extensive coordination with the military services. Current trends were reviewed and researched, resulting in a recommendation to change the minimum entrance-age requirement.

During the 2009-2010 school year, exceptions to

this change will accommodate all students who have attended a DoDEA kindergarten or Sure Start program in the 2008-2009 school year. It will also accommodate families who move under permanent change of station (PCS) orders after the start of the school year and whose family members are already enrolled in an accredited kindergarten or first grade.

Defense Dependents Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS) pre-kindergarten programs, DoDEA Preschool Services for Children with Disabilities (PSCD) and other pre-kindergarten programs will not be grandfathered in, but will be allowed to attend the DoDEA programs for an additional year if they do not meet the new entrance age. Families should coordinate with their school principal for further details.

DoDEA is a field activity of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. It is headed by a director who oversees all agency functions from DoDEA headquarters in Arlington, Va. DoDEA's schools are divided into three areas; Department of Defense Schools - Europe (DoDDS-E), Department of Defense Schools - Pacific (DoDDS-P)/Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools - Guam (DDESS-G), and the Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS).

For more information, visit www.dodea.edu.

Got Questions?

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Equal opportunity and diversity key for Navy success

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Navy Personnel Command

The 2008 Navy Equal Opportunity Advisor (EOA) and Diversity Training Symposium was held Sept. 22 through Sept. 26 in Memphis.

This year's theme, "Accentuate the Positive: Pathway to a Healthier Command Climate," promoted the notion that a healthy organizational climate is critical to mission readiness.

Rear Adm. Scott Hebner, assistant commander, Navy Personnel Command for Career Management, spoke to an audience of approximately 300 fleet-wide EOAs, command managed equal opportunity (CMEO)

officers, command master chiefs and civilians, during a brief Sept. 23.

"Equal opportunity and diversity are both very important elements of our Navy Total Force and are an absolute necessity as we go forward to continue to remain highly competitive with the private sector workforce," said Hebner.

"Everyone is different. Diversity is based on the concept of recognizing and embracing these differences. We must respect and encourage those differences to further our mission and to remain the best."

The primary goal of the symposium is to conduct professional development training for command level EOAs, CMEOs and other leadership that address equal opportunity and

diversity issues.

The schedule included briefs from senior leadership, diversity and equal opportunity subject matter experts and experienced training professionals. The training focus was on effective interpersonal communications, current diversity strategies, equal opportunity policies and the Navy's diversity campaign plans.

"We are way more diverse now than we were when I was on my first ship," said Cmdr. Bill Garren, executive officer, Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Atlanta, a prior-enlisted limited duty officer who has served more than 30 years in the Navy.

"The Navy's (EO and CMEO) programs are better than a lot of private sector organizations and we're going to continue to get bet-

ter. I've learned a lot here that I can take back and apply to our recruiting efforts," added Garren.

The Navy continues to demonstrate its commitment to equal opportunity and diversity through continued training extended to its Sailors and civilians. The Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), opened in 1971, was established to address the education and training of military and civilian personnel on these topics.

For more information about equal opportunity and diversity in the Navy visit:

www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/EqualOpportunity/ or www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/Diversity/.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Tyler Jones

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead speaks on the importance of diversity in the sea services at the Association of Naval Services Officers (ANSO) luncheon May on board Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va. After speaking, CNO took questions from the group about subjects including future leadership opportunities for minority Sailors, the importance of diversity and changes to uniforms.