

# Happy 233rd Birthday U.S. Navy!

## Hawai'i **Navy News** Serving the "Best Homeport in the Navy"

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### Navy reaches Kalaeloa land agreement with Ford Island Properties

#### Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

On Oct. 6 the Navy announced it has signed an agreement with Ford Island Properties (FIP) LLC, a partnership of Hawai'i Renaissance Builders LLC (a Hunt Companies Affiliate) and Fluor Federal Services LLC, to convey 499 acres of land at Kalaeloa. Under the agreement, FIP will take possession of the property early next year. FIP will eventually acquire title to the land.

"I am pleased we have reached this agreement and am confident it is the right thing to do for our Sailors and their families and the residents of Hawai'i," said Rear Adm. Townsend G. Alexander, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. "The Navy is fully committed to working with FIP and all concerned stakeholders, as we have been doing throughout the process, to ensure that the transition of the remaining Navy-owned facilities to FIP will be as smooth and seamless as possible."

The conveyance is in accordance with the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act which required the Navy to enter a "binding agreement to convey, by sale or lease or combination thereof, to any public or private person outside the Department of Defense" the brokered parcels at Kalaeloa. It also required the Navy to obtain fair market value for the land. The agreement follows through on the 1999 Ford Island Special



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

On Oct 6, the Navy announced it signed an agreement with Ford Island Properties (FIP) LLC, a partnership of Hawai'i Renaissance Builders LLC (a Hunt Companies Affiliate) and Fluor Federal Services LLC, to convey 499 acres of land at Kalaeloa. Under the agreement, FIP will take possession of the property early next year. FIP will eventually acquire title to the land. Although the Barbers Point Bowling Center discontinued normal operations on Oct. 1, the Navy is working toward an agreement with a private entity that could assume the operation.

Legislation and the Master Development Plan that Congress approved in 2003, which allows the Navy to sell or lease properties in Hawai'i and use the proceeds to develop Ford Island. Neither taxpayer funds nor changes to existing laws are required.

"Ford Island Properties is an

excellent choice to jumpstart the development of this area. The company is deeply committed to ensuring that the vision for making Kalaeloa a better place is realized and they are extremely well-qualified to do so," said Alexander.

"We are proud to become a part of this very special community and to

help enhance and improve the area overall while protecting its rich history," said Steve Colón, president of the Hawai'i division of Hunt Development Group LP. "We are sensitive to the needs of the area's residents and we are committed to providing as many of the existing community amenities as possible

as well as, we hope, to offering some exciting new ones."

"At Kalaeloa, the potential exists to create new, badly-needed, high-quality jobs for Oahu. But more than jobs creation, we want to help strengthen the entire area while creating a community that all of Oahu can be proud of," Colón added.

Specific development projects for the property are unknown by the Navy at this time. FIP has indicated a desire to work with all stakeholders in the future of this important community.

The Navy recognizes the former Ewa Marine Corps Air Station's importance in American history when the airfield was attacked on Dec. 7, 1941. As such, the Navy is working closely with the State Historic Preservation Division to ensure compliance under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

For Pride and Pointer Fields, the Barbers Point Child Development Center and other Navy facilities located on the land parcels being conveyed to FIP, it should be business as usual for the foreseeable future.

Pride and Pointer Fields were licensed to the City & County of Honolulu, which decided not to extend their license with the Navy when it expired on July 31, 2007. In recognition of the importance of having the fields available for the community's use, the Navy agreed to a month-to-month arrangement

See KALAELOA, A-4

### Navy Region Hawai'i commemorates Domestic Violence Awareness Month

#### Story and Photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron

#### Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

A ceremony to commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month was held Oct. 6 and was hosted by the Navy Region Hawai'i Fleet and Family Service Center (FFSC).

During the ceremony, Capt. Donald Hodge, chief of staff for commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, signed a Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation to call upon all Navy personnel and their families to increase their awareness and participation in efforts to prevent domestic abuse.

"It's important because it helps us figure out how to prevent domestic violence from happening," said Hodge. "Our attempt has been to bring it in to focus to show how hurtful it is for domestic violence to happen and what the impact is to the children of those homes."

Hodge, who also received a Hawai'i Senate Certificate of Commendation commending Navy Region Hawai'i on observing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, emphasized the importance of others in preventing domestic violence before the actions occur.



Capt. Donald Hodge, chief of staff for commander, Navy Region Hawaii and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, signs the Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation during a ceremony at the Navy Region Hawai'i Fleet and Family Service Center on Oct. 6. The ceremony helped kick off Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which calls upon all Navy personnel and their families to increase their awareness and participation to prevent domestic abuse since it was first commemorated in October 1987.

"The focus must be to prevent the violence from happening in the first place by recognizing what might be the problems in the home," said Hodge. "If someone sees domestic violence happening anywhere, don't just let it go, do something about it," he added.

More than 1.5 million women are raped or physically assaulted by their current or former spouse and Domestic Violence Awareness Month helps bring this to the forefront once a year.

"The importance is to bring it to peoples' minds," said Chet Adessa, family advocacy prevention and education specialist for Navy Region Hawai'i FFSC. "Throughout the year, we forget about it [domestic violence], but this month pulls people together and reminds us that we all need to take part in this and recommit ourselves to preventing domestic violence."

Adessa also discussed the importance of other people

See PROCLAMATION, A-6



U.S. Navy photo by MCSA Luciano Marano

USS La Jolla (SSN 762) returned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor from a six-month Western Pacific deployment on Oct. 3. Since departing Pearl Harbor on April 3, La Jolla conducted many exercises with foreign navies and performed tasking from the Commander, [U.S.] 7th Fleet operational commander. La Jolla also visited Guam, Sasebo and Yokosuka, Japan and Singapore.

### USS La Jolla returns from Western Pacific

#### MC1 (SW) Cynthia Clark

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

USS La Jolla (SSN 762) returned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor from a six-month Western Pacific deployment on Oct. 3.

"We left with a lot of very high expectations and every member of the crew was really looking forward to getting out and getting involved with some other navies," said Cmdr. Doug Sampson, USS La Jolla com-

manding officer. "One of our many goals was to become experts at submarine operations and we did that."

Since departing Pearl Harbor on April 3, La Jolla conducted many exercises with foreign navies and performed tasking from the Commander, [U.S.] 7th Fleet operational commander. La Jolla also visited Guam, Sasebo and Yokosuka, Japan and Singapore.

"We had a great time and we made some great friends," said Sampson. "We were all very sad to leave." Of course no man does it

alone and Sampson was quick to recognize the outstanding professionalism and work ethic of his crew.

"We were able to keep a 27-year-old submarine at sea and on schedule while maintaining perfect working order, which is really a testament to the guys that work onboard," he said.

Commissioned in 1981, USS La Jolla is 360 feet long and displaces 6,900 tons. The submarine can be armed with both Mark-48 ADCAP anti-submarine torpedoes and Tomahawk guided cruise missiles.



Sailors lend hand in community cleanup See page A-2



Navy confirms sunken sub is USS Grunion See page A-7



Starbase Atlantis celebrates 200th class graduation See page A-



Navy Region Hawai'i celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month See page B-1

# Sailors lend hand in community cleanup

Story and photo by  
Grace Hew Len

Navy Region Hawai'i  
Environmental Public  
Affairs Officer

On Oct. 4, more than 60 Sailors were among 275 volunteers who were all environmental heroes during the City & County of Honolulu's Adopt-a-Stream cleanup project on the popular Pearl Harbor bike path and Kapakahi Stream.

Bright blue trash bags were collected neatly along the edge of murky Kapakahi Stream in Waipahu. Each bag was labeled with the slogan, "Be an Everyday Environmental Hero."

"Everyone played an important part in making this one of the most successful cleanups to protect the Pearl Harbor basin," noted Iwalani Sato, coordinator of the city's program. The three-hour long cleanup resulted in half a ton of litter (burnables) collected, along with 100 trash bags of green waste, 150 tires, 50 pieces of metal and 10 car batteries.

The stream connection linked up five sites on the Pearl Harbor bike path, including Leeward Community College, Waipahu High School, Kapakahi Stream, Waialeale Stream, and Pupuole Community Park. Volunteers lined up along those sites to help clear the path and clean out Kapakahi Stream.

Navy volunteer coordinator, Lt. Ben Abney of Naval Station Pearl Harbor, said,



Information Systems Technician Seaman Allyson Oller and Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Eric Hanst of Navy Information Operation Command were among the more than 60 Sailors who volunteered to help with the cleanup of the Pearl Harbor bike path and Kapakahi Stream on Oct. 4. The Sailors were among 275 volunteers who were all environmental heroes during the City & County of Honolulu's Adopt-a-Stream cleanup project.

"It's times like this that make me proud to serve in the Navy. These Sailors took their personal time on a Saturday morning and dedicated it to supporting this resource, the bike path, of our community."

The Sailors included Navy Information Systems Technician Seaman Allyson Oller and Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Eric Hanst, who retrieved a discarded car seat, plastic cooler and other bulky items carelessly tossed into Kapakahi Stream. Bryan Peterson, also of NIOC, swooped up large metal pieces that settled

to the bottom of the stream. Other Navy volunteers came from Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific, and Navy Munitions Command East Asia Division.

Among the goals of the Adopt-a-Stream project are to create awareness of non-point source pollution and water quality issues and encourage partnerships among citizens and local government.

Navy Region Hawai'i has enjoyed an active partnership with the City & County of Honolulu's Dept. of Environmental Services for

many years. Other volunteers included the Department of Facility Maintenance, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Planning and Permitting, Department of Transportation, U. S. Department of Justice Weed & Seed, Honolulu Police Department, Leeward Community College and members of the Waipahu Neighborhood Board, Waipahu Community Coalition and the surrounding community.



U.S. Navy photo by CSC (SW) Jesus Del Rosario  
The captain and crew of USS Lake Erie receive their Surface Line Week 2008 Champions Plaque.

## Sailors compete in Surface Line Week

Lt. Rob Holt

Afloat Training Group  
Middle Pacific

Naval Station Pearl Harbor ships participated in the 24th annual Surface Line Week competition which was held Sept. 22-27.

Designed to bring together the surface ship community in the spirit of friendly competition, this year's events were held at various locations at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. At the completion of 21 hard fought events throughout the week, USS Lake Erie (CG 70) emerged as the waterfront champion.

Testing both professional skills and teamwork, teams from eight ships around the Pearl Harbor waterfront competed in a variety of challenging events, ranging from outrigger paddling and damage control olympics to dodgeball and visual communications.

Highlights included USS Hopper's (DDG 70) impressive turnout of dozens of Sailors for the 5K competition on Sept. 24 at Ford Island.

Also notable was the Taste of Pearl Harbor put on by culinary specialists at the awards picnic on Sept. 26. The distinguished panel of judges was dazzled by the works of art during the centerpiece competition, and hungry Sailors and their families appreciated the Iron Chef barbecue and other delights from the grill.

The week wrapped up with a well-attended picnic at Ward Field on Friday afternoon. The ships flexed their muscles at the Tug-O-War, with Lake Erie toppling USS Port Royal for the trophy.

At the end of the celebration, plaques were presented by Capt. Dell Epperson, commanding officer of Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific (ATG MIPDAC), to first through third place in the individual events. Overall, Hopper, trying to repeat its first place performance of last year, finished third. USS Crommelin (FFG 37) ended the week as the runner-up and Lake Erie dominated the competition, winning 10 individual events and taking home the overall trophy.

# Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

## Chief of Naval Operations releases voting message

MC2 (SW) Rebekah Blowers

Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) discussed the importance of voting in a video message Sept. 30.

"For our Sailors and our families, get to the polls and vote. If you can't get there, make sure that you're working with your voting assistance officers to ensure that you can have an absentee ballot and be able to vote that way," said Adm. Gary Roughead, CNO.

CNO reminded Sailors and their families that it is their Constitutional right as American citizens to vote for the candidate they would like to be their commander in chief.

"Our role is to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic and to abide and obey the orders of the commander in chief, regardless of who that commander in chief may be. We have to keep that in mind. That's what the American people expect of us, and that's the code by which we live," Roughead said.

CNO encouraged Sailors and their families to make sure they are registered to vote, especially if they are using an absentee ballot. Go to [www.fvap.org](http://www.fvap.org) for registration, absentee ballots and information about voting.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Tiffini M. Jones  
Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead speaks to Sailors and Marines during an all-hands call aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73) in San Diego. CNO spoke about the importance of the upcoming forward deployment of George Washington to the western Pacific and the role of Sailors as ambassadors for the Navy and the nation.

## Chief of Naval Operations sends birthday message to fleet

MC2 (SW) Rebekah Blowers

Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) sent a video message to the fleet in honor of the Navy's birthday.

"This year our Navy celebrates our 233rd birthday. Two hundred and thirty-three years of great service

to our nation. As we observe this day, I thank all of our Sailors and civilians for their service, and I thank our Navy families for all of their support," said Adm. Gary Roughead, CNO.

Since the Navy's inception in 1775, CNO said the values that the Navy holds were built upon by the capability and versatility of Sailors. The Navy today is conducting the maritime

strategy, operates across the full spectrum of warfare and is known as much for its compassion as for its capability.

"We return peace and stability after conflict and in the wake of devastating disasters, our Navy team brings food, shelter and medical care for those in need. Sailors, civilians and our families who support us are making the world a better

place," Roughead said.

CNO emphasized his pride in the selfless commitment of the Navy team that is continuing the legacy of those who have gone before and will serve as an inspiration for years to come.

To watch or download the CNO's birthday message, go to [www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil) and click on the 'Navy Birthday Celebration Resources' button.

Commentary

## Chapel Pennant

### God's will for your life!

Chaplain Doug Waite

Region Chaplain, Navy Region Hawai'i

Have you ever wondered what God's will for your life was? Does God have a will for every human being? I submit to you that God does have a will for every human life. We read about it in the Christian Scriptures, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you".

In this short passage, the writer Paul was trying to tell us that there are three things God wants all of us to do. First, God wants us have joy or to praise the creator all the time. God is God no matter what is going on in our lives, good or bad. We need to acknowledge God's goodness and power regardless of our circumstances. When we praise God regardless of our circumstances, it produces joy supernaturally in our lives. We can and should have God's joy all the time when we praise.

Secondly, God wants us to pray all the time. Praise is acknowledging God for who God is. Prayer is talking to

God. God wants us to talk to our higher power all through the day and night. Just take a few minutes throughout your waking hours to tell God how things are going or not going. God wants to hear from you all the time.

Last but not least, God wants us to be thankful in everything. Thanks is acknowledging what God has done in the past, present and future. God didn't say to be thankful FOR everything but IN everything. God is good and doesn't cause all the evil in this world. But even though God doesn't create evil, God is still involved bringing goodness wherever evil is and wherever we are. Whether good or evil is involved in our life, God is still there bringing goodness. Because of this, we can be thankful to God regardless of the circumstances.

Why don't you take a few moments this week to praise God and be filled with God's joy, pray to God throughout your waking hours, and to thank God no matter what you are facing or dealing with in your life? In so doing, you will be fulfilling an important part of God's will for your life.

## Tribute to Nimitz and Medal of Honor vets



U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph  
Parade for Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz and Medal of Honor veterans in New York City on Oct. 9, 1945. Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) of the Navy march on lower Broadway during the parade.



## Letter to the Editor policy

Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i Navy News may be published and/or distributed in print and electronic form.

E-mail letters to: [hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com](mailto:hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com).

## Hawai'i Navy News

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# Starbase Atlantis celebrates 200th class graduation Kalaeloa

Story and photo by  
MC2 John Ciccarelli Jr.

Fleet Public Affairs Center  
Detachment Hawai'i

The Pearl Harbor-based Starbase Atlantis program celebrated its 200th class graduation Oct. 2 at the Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific (NSTCP) at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

Starbase Atlantis is a Department of Defense (DoD) program which is designed to provide STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education to the local school communities to help them develop positive self-esteem, goal-setting skills and to encourage teamwork through hands-on activities.

Since the opening of the NSTCP in 2002, more than 5,000 students have attended the Starbase Atlantis program.

The graduation class was made up of students from Pearl Harbor Elementary's fifth grade, who attended a one-day-a-week class, designed to increase interest in and knowledge of the STEM subjects: science, technology, engineering and math, for five weeks

Corrie Heck, chief communication officer for Hawai'i Governor Linda Lingle, addressed the class about the contribution of the state's youth to the future.

"I am excited for what the students of this class represent," she said. "They represent our future and these students are the ones who will change the world we live in



Vice Adm. Robert Kihune (Ret.) speaks to a group of fifth grade students from Pearl Harbor Elementary School who graduated from Starbase Atlantis on Oct. 2, at Naval Submarine Training Center on Ford Island. Starbase-Atlantis promotes math, science, drug demand reduction, and goal-setting skills through hands-on activities. Since the opening at the Naval Submarine Training Center on Ford Island in 2002, more than 5,000 students have already attended Starbase Atlantis programs.

and know.

"These classes can help teach students not only about the hands-on experience, but it also can teach teamwork and to come up with solutions to problems," said Heck.

Retired Navy Vice Adm. Robert Kihune served as guest speaker. "One day these fifth graders will be running this country so we need to start early by giving them the

chance to learn about these well desired jobs in the United States Navy today," Kihune said.

Kihune started the Starbase Atlantis program for the Navy in Pensacola in 1994. It was patterned after the Starbase program originally started by the National Guard in 1991. Since then, Starbase has become a DOD-funded program and has

grown to 60 locations within the United States operating on National Guard, Navy, Marine, Air Force and Air Force Reserve bases, including 13 sites on Navy installations.

Following the graduation ceremony, the students participated in a launch of model rockets they built as part of the program.

Joseph Barrett, program

director, said that due to NSTCP's success with the program and the governor's STEM initiative in Hawai'i public schools, Hawai'i's Air National Guard is opening a location at its armory for local residents in Hilo on Hawai'i.

For more information about Starbase Atlantis, visit [www.netc.navy.mil/community/starbase/sa.html](http://www.netc.navy.mil/community/starbase/sa.html).

Continued from A-1

until a new license could be signed between the City & County and FIP.

An official transition date for the Child Development Center has not yet been determined; however, authorized patrons will be given as much advance notice as possible. The Navy will continue to operate the center while it works with FIP to transition to another operator.

Although the Barbers Point Bowling Center discontinued normal operations on Oct. 1, the Navy is working toward an agreement with a private entity that could assume the operation. "The bowling center has served the Navy well all these years," said Theresa Phillips, director of community support for the Navy. "Anticipating an agreement with FIP, we began notifying the bowling leagues months ago that operations would be changing hands at the end of the fiscal year. We could not, in good conscience, continue to schedule league play without knowing what the situation would be beyond Oct. 1," said Phillips. "We will maintain the condition of the bowling center so that the next operator can step right in," Phillips added.

Other facilities located on the 499 acres of land parcels will continue to operate in the near future to allow a smooth transition to FIP. Those facilities include: Touch 'N Go Mini-Mart Gas Station, Commissary, Subway and the West Oahu Federal Credit Union.

The Navy will continue to operate the Barbers Point Golf Course, the picnic areas and cottages at White Plains and Nimitz Beaches. These facilities were not impacted by Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and are not part of the 499 acres of land parcels being conveyed.

## STORY IDEAS?

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

## Hawai'i Navy News

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# Pearl Harbor Highlights



(Above) Rear Adm. T.G. Alexander, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, re-enlists Senior Chief Culinary Specialist (SW) Bradford Lemieur, Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SW) Henrie Cosme and Culinary Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Angel Marte, all assigned to the Pearl Harbor-based, Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70), during a ceremony onboard the USS Arizona Memorial on Oct. 6.

U.S. Navy photo by STG3 Eric Ordonez-Campo

(Right) Rear Adm. T.G. Alexander, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, teaches the child of a Sailor assigned to the Pearl Harbor-based, Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) how to operate the Navy Region Hawai'i admiral's barge prior to a re-enlistment ceremony onboard the USS Arizona Memorial on Oct. 6.

U.S. Navy photo by STG3 Eric Ordonez-Campo



(Left) Members of the Naval Special Warfare community hand out water and cheer on children competing in the Ironkids Biathlon at Kailua-Kona. Six Sailors from Naval Special Warfare and other commands are scheduled to compete in the Ironman World Championship triathlon Oct. 11 as part of the All Navy Team. The race includes 2.4 miles of swimming, 112 miles of biking and 26.2 miles of marathon running over volcanic rock-covered terrain.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Eric J. Cutright



U.S. Navy photo by Grace Hew Len  
Information Systems Technician 2nd Class William Young from Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific was one of more than 60 Sailors who volunteered to help with the cleanup of the Pearl Harbor bike path and Kapakahi Stream on Oct. 4. He was among 275 volunteers who were all environmental heroes during the City & County of Honolulu's Adopt-a-Stream cleanup project.



(Left) A USS La Jolla (SSN 762) Sailor is greeted upon return to Naval Station Pearl Harbor following a six-month Western Pacific deployment on Oct. 3. Since departing Pearl Harbor on April 3, La Jolla conducted many exercises with foreign navies and performed tasking from the Commander, [U.S.] 7th Fleet operational commander. La Jolla also visited Guam, Sasebo and Yokosuka, Japan and Singapore.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSA Luciano Marano

## Proclamation

Continued from A-1

in the community taking a stance to help prevent domestic violence and help others who are affected by it.

"If someone sees a person hurting or notice bruises that aren't normal, they should reach out to them and offer help," said Adessa. "For a victim of domestic violence, knowing that someone does care and there is a way out of their situation is one of the biggest things."

Domestic Violence Awareness Month was first commemorated in 1987 and is used as a time where federal, state and local organizations and agencies join forces to promote public awareness of the problem, and prevention of domestic violence and its harmful effects on our families and shift focus on preventing domestic violence.

Throughout the month, special events such as a candlelight vigil and an 'empty place at the table display' will be held at various military facilities. For more information on these events and other information on Domestic Violence Awareness Month, contact FFSC at 474-1999.



## Parents urged to return federal survey cards

**Karen S. Spangler**

*Editor*

Parents are reminded that it's time to complete and return their children's federal survey cards to the schools.

The surveys were distributed on Sept. 2. School officials requested that the survey cards be returned by the next school day. However, many of the cards have not been returned and the Department of Education is strongly encouraging parents to complete and return the cards immediately.

If parents no longer have the cards, they can pick them up at the front office of their children's school.

Ruth Davis, school liaison officer for Navy Region Hawai'i, said, "For every

card that is filled out, the money goes directly back to the school that the child attends."

She said that non-responses could result in millions of dollars lost that could benefit both military and local communities. This is the only way for the Department of Education to account for the number of federally-connected children in the local schools and to receive federal impact aid.

"Filling out the cards enables their child's school to accurately account for the number of military-affiliated children who are enrolled in the school. It also enables the child's school to qualify for additional services and funding," explained Davis.

Since 1950, the federal government has paid a share of the cost of educat-

ing each child whose parent or legal guardian either lives on or works on federal property. These funds are authorized under Public Law 103-382.

According to figures provided by the State of Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE), the DOE received an average of \$1,586 per federally-connected child for the 2006-2007 school year. However, the cost of educating each child for that same year was \$11,531.

The cards only take a couple minutes to complete and all information is kept confidential.

If you have any questions, call Ruth Davis, school liaison officer for Navy Region Hawai'i, at 471-3720 or email [ruth.davis2@navy.mil](mailto:ruth.davis2@navy.mil).

# Navy confirms sunken sub is USS Grunion

MC1 (SW) Cynthia Clark

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

Rear Adm. Douglas McAneny, commander, Submarine Forces Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC), announced Oct. 1 that a sunken vessel off the coast of the Aleutian Islands is in fact the World War II submarine USS Grunion (SS 216).

"I am honored to announce that, with records and information provided by the Abele family and assistance from the Naval Historical Center, USS Grunion has been located," said McAneny. "We are very grateful to the family of Grunion's commanding officer, Lt. Cmdr. Mannert L. Abele, for providing the underwater video footage and pictures that allowed us to make this determination. We also appreciate the efforts of the USS Cod Submarine Memorial for their assistance in this matter. We hope this announcement will help to give closure to the families of the 70 crewmen of Grunion."

The submarine Grunion arrived at Pearl Harbor on June 20, 1942. The vessel completed pre-patrol training before departing on its first war patrol June 30. Grunion's commanding officer, Lt. Cmdr. Abele, was ordered to proceed to the Aleutian Islands and patrol westward from Attu on routes between the Aleutians and the Japanese Empire.

On July 10, Grunion was reassigned to the area north of Kiska. Over the next 20 days, the submarine reported firing on an enemy destroyer, sinking three destroyer-type vessels, and attacking unidentified enemy ships near Kiska.

Grunion's last transmis-



USS Grunion (SS 216). U.S. Navy photo

sion was received on July 30, 1942. The submarine reported heavy anti-submarine activity at the entrance to Kiska and that it had 10 torpedoes remaining forward. On the same day, Grunion was directed to return to Dutch Harbor Naval Operating Base. There was no contact or sighting of the submarine after July 30, and on Aug. 16, Grunion was reported lost.

Abele was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for heroism. A destroyer, USS Mannert L. Abele (DD 733), was commissioned in his honor and was later lost in action off Okinawa in 1945. Japanese anti-submarine attack data recorded no attack in the Aleutian area at the time of Grunion's disappearance so the submarine's fate remained an unsolved mystery for more than 60 years.

After discovering information on the Internet in 2002 that helped pinpoint USS Grunion's possible location, the sons of Grunion's commanding officer, Bruce, Brad and John Abele, began working on a plan to find the submarine.

In August 2006, a team of side scan sonar experts hired by the brothers located a target near Kiska almost a mile below the ocean's surface. A second expedition in August 2007, using a high definition camera on a remotely operated vehicle (ROV), yielded video footage and high reso-

lution photos of the wreckage of a U.S. fleet submarine.

"This discovery has come about through a stream of seemingly improbable events; it's like we won the lottery 10 times in a row," said Bruce Abele, eldest son of Grunion's commanding officer. "It is so dramatic to see the underwater photo and be certain it was in fact Grunion. Not only is this announcement important for the families of the crew members, it's also important for the Navy and the country."

The Abele brothers then contacted the USS Cod Submarine Memorial for assistance in identifying the wreckage. The vessel is lying at a depth of about 3,200 feet and the very cold water and lack of significant currents has preserved much of the wreckage.

Dr. John Fakan, director of the USS Cod Submarine Memorial, remarked about the importance of having an unmodified example in USS Cod, a fellow Gato-class submarine, in identifying the wreckage of USS Grunion.

"USS Grunion and USS Cod shared the same blueprints," he said. "It is very gratifying for me and my crew to help with the identification of the submarine."

With the information provided by the Abele family and the USS Cod Submarine Memorial, COMSUBPAC and the Naval Historical Center examined the evi-

dence and historical records and determined that the submarine found at the reported position could only be USS Grunion.

"The synergy of our group working together with the Navy for the common cause has been a wonderful group effort," Bruce Abele said. "The teamwork combined with everyone's compassion and wisdom has resulted in our success."

According to Bruce's brother John Abele, those responsible for contributing to this discovery included historians and engineers from the U.S., Australia, Israel and Japan. Of particular note was the involvement of Japanese naval architect Yutaka Iwasaki, who provided information critical to pinpointing the location of the submarine.

Bruce and John's brother, retired Lt. Brad Abele, who recently passed away, also played a significant role in the find. As his brother John explained, "Brad's experience as a naval aviator helped a great deal by helping us to plot the strategy for the discovery."

Unfortunately, the cause of Grunion's sinking remains a mystery. No matter what the cause, the end result was the loss of all hands. As the Naval Historical Center noted, "no amount of analysis or speculation will change or alter the fact that families lost fathers, husbands, uncles and brothers...

the Navy and the nation will always be grateful for their service and their sacrifice."

Former Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz once said, "When I assumed command of the Pacific Fleet on 31 December 1941 our submarines were already operating against the enemy, the only units of the fleet that could come to grips with the Japanese for months to come. It was to the submarine force that I looked to carry the load until our great industrial activity could produce the weapons we so sorely needed to carry the war to the enemy. It is to the everlasting honor and glory of our submarine personnel that they never failed us in our days of great peril."

By the end of World War II, submarines had made more than 1,600 war patrols. Pacific Fleet submarines like Grunion accounted for more than half of all enemy shipping sunk during the war. The cost of this success was heavy: 52 U.S. Pacific Fleet submarines were lost and more than 3,500 submariners remain on "eternal patrol."

A representative of the submarine force will speak on behalf of the U.S. Navy at a memorial service in Cleveland, Ohio on Oct. 11. The service, hosted by the USS Cod Memorial, will honor the 70 crew members killed when USS Grunion was sunk near the Aleutian Islands on or about July 30, 1942.

"To provide ourselves and the families this closure, it's icing on the cake," said John Abele. "The memorial service is a symbolic event; we've discovered family we didn't know we had. Not only is this an honor for all of us, it increases the feeling of community we've been able to achieve."



## Construction projects around Pearl Harbor

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i

### Two paving projects almost completed

Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff and Sailors in building 584, Liberty in Paradise in the submarine base area, will soon have a newly-redesigned and repaved parking lot that will correct a drainage problem along Nimitz Street. In addition, a traffic flow revision was required, making the parking lot one way, with its entrance along building 679, the Navy College Building, and the exit at Nimitz Street.

A second paving project is located on Kuahua Island at building 427. The Navy Exchange maintenance compound and the L & L Drive-In will both benefit from a newly-repaved parking lot. Paving at both buildings 584 and 427 has been completed. However, finishing work such as striping, signage and fencing has yet to be done. Total completion is estimated by Oct. 15.

### Road closures:

•West Loch: Iroquois Drive will be reduced to a single lane due to the installation of a waterline from Oct. 16-31.

•Ford Island: The Ford Island Bridge will be closed for 10 minutes for routine maintenance from 8:30-8:40 a.m. Oct. 22.