

VETERANS' DAY

WE REMEMBER *and* HONOR THOSE WHO SERVED

Hawai'i Navy News

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Defense Department readies for new Commander in Chief

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department has made extensive plans for a smooth transition from the present administration to that of the president-elect Barack Obama, Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said on Nov. 4.

Pentagon officials are ready to begin briefing a new president-elect's transition team as soon Whitman said.

The transition between administrations comes when the United States is at war, the first time this has happened since 1969, when the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson transitioned to that of President Richard M. Nixon in the midst of the Vietnam War.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates has launched early preparations to minimize disruptions as the administrations change, Whitman said. Gates has created a transition task force that will operate under five guiding principles:

- Maintaining continuity of operations.
- Assuring efficient and effective transition of outgoing leadership.



- Assuring the efficient and effective in-processing of the incoming leaders.
- Facilitating the transfer of information to the new administration.

- Sustaining focus on existing programs and processes while allowing the incoming administration to focus on its governing processes.

“One of the important components of this is ensuring that we've identified and highlighted some of the key department events, actions [and] milestones that a new administration will

face in its first 90 days,” Whitman said.

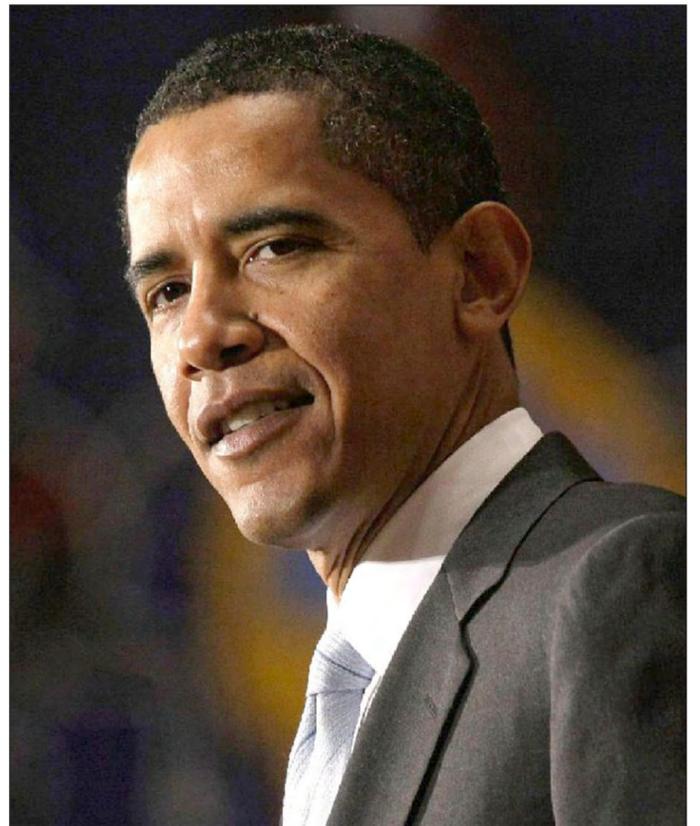
These include normal yearly actions such as the submission of the DoD [Department of Defense] budget in early February to other events that a new administration must work on immediately. “These are recurring or cyclic things that perhaps a new administration needs to be reminded of,” Whitman said.

Gates also has taken an inventory of the political leadership of the Pentagon – roughly 250 people – to see who would be willing to stay on in their jobs if asked by the new administration.

“There are a number of people that have given an indication that if they were asked to stay on and serve as a bridge after Jan. 20 until their replacement is on board, they would do so.”

Whitman said the department has office space for a couple of dozen transition team members and remains leaning forward, ready to help.

“We have troops in harm's way in the war on terror, and ... I know that there will be herculean efforts on the part of this department to ensure that things go as smoothly as possible, so that on Jan. 20, this will be as seamless as possible,” Whitman said.



Navy intercepts ballistic missile target in fleet exercise Pacific Blitz

Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet Public Affairs

Vice Adm. Samuel J. Locklear, Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet, announced Nov. 1 the successful Navy intercept of a ballistic missile target over the Pacific Ocean during Fleet Exercise Pacific Blitz.

This was the first fleet operational firing to employ the Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) against a ballistic missile target. Command and control of this mission resided with Commander, U.S. Third Fleet, based in San Diego, Calif.

Pearl Harbor-based Aegis destroyers, USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) and USS Hopper (DDG 70), which have been upgraded to engage ballistic missiles, fired SM-3 missiles at separate targets. During this event, a short-range ballistic missile target was launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawai'i. Upon detecting and tracking the target, Paul Hamilton launched a SM-3 missile, resulting in a direct-hit intercept.

Following Paul Hamilton's engagement, PMRF launched another target. Hopper successfully detected, tracked and



U.S. Navy photo

A Standard Missile - 3 (SM-3) is launched from the Pearl Harbor-based guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) enroute to an intercept over an open ocean area northwest of Kauai as part of Pacific Blitz 08. The SM-3 successfully collided with a ballistic missile target launched from the Pacific Missile Range Test Facility at Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawai'i.



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

Pearl Harbor survivors and state officials break ground during a ceremony for the new Hawai'i Pearl Harbor Memorial Museum and Visitor Center on the back lawn of the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center on Nov. 5. The \$58 million, 23,600-square-foot center nearly doubles the size of the current museum allowing for a greatly expanded and comprehensive interpretation of the attack on Pearl Harbor and WWII in the Pacific, and is scheduled for completion in September 2010 and an official opening in December 2010.

Groundbreaking ceremony held for new Pearl Harbor Memorial Museum and Visitor Center

National Park Service, USS Arizona Memorial

The National Park Service, Navy Region Hawai'i and the USS Arizona Memorial Museum Association officially broke ground on a new Pearl Harbor Memorial Museum and Visitor Center Nov. 5 during a groundbreaking ceremony on the back lawn of the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center in Pearl Harbor.

The new \$58 million facility will replace the current USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center shore side facility.

Hawaii State Senator Daniel Inouye served as the keynote speaker.

“I can think of very few other places that so symbolically represent our nation's resilient spirit than Pearl Harbor and this memorial,” said Inouye.

“I want to thank all of you and the hundreds of thousands of others for your collective efforts, for now we will be able to remind our young citizens of the pain and sacrifice that made those who came before them, so that they in turn, may enjoy the fruits of freedom.”

Other guest speakers included Hawai'i Gov. Linda Lingle; John Jarvis, Pacific west region director for the National Park Service; Rear Adm. Charles W. Martoglio, director for operations, at U.S. Pacific Command; Paul Deprey, Superintendent for the National Park Service at the USS Arizona Memorial; Mal Middlesworth, national president of the Pearl Harbor Survivor Association; Capt. George Sullivan (ret), board chairman of the USS Arizona Memorial

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Polk relieves Epperson as Middle Pacific Afloat Training commander See page A-2



USS Chung-Hoon enjoys a visit from USS Sigsbee crew members See page A-6



'Eyes in the Sky': Signal control tower keeps Pearl Harbor moving See page B-1

MCPON announces intent to retire

MCCS (SW/AW) Bill Houlihan

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Public Affairs

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr., the 11th Sailor to serve in that capacity, has announced his plans to retire from active duty at the end of his enlisted active obligated service (EAOS) on April 1, 2009.

His last day in office will be Dec. 13.

Campa, who assumed the duties July 10, 2006, said he feels an immense sense of pride at the opportunities he's been provided to lead the Navy's enlisted force.

"This generation of Sailors is unlike any other. Our men and women serve a war-time Navy and I have a deep sense of pride in each one of them," said Campa. "Their values, their effort and their contribution to the defense of our nation continue to humble me. Leading them has been the greatest privilege of my career."

Within three months of taking office, Campa had released a document that would set the tone and course for his tenure as MCPON. The "Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles for Chief Petty Officers" has been ingrained in the fleet, described by many as a return to deckplate leadership.

Campa systematically emphasized the guiding principles as he had them inserted into chief, senior chief and master chief selection board precepts, the Command Master Chief Instruction and, finally, the new evaluation (CHIEFE-



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

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr., the 11th Sailor to serve in that capacity, has announced his plans to retire from active duty at the end of his enlisted active obligated service (EAOS) on April 1, 2009.

VAL) for the Navy's senior enlisted force.

"The CHIEFEVAL was always the end state I'd hope we'd reach. But we had to be deliberate," said Campa. "I'm very satisfied that the guiding principles will endure because our chiefs and commanding officers can now see them as expectations in black and white."

Campa served two chiefs of naval operations, current Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Adm. Mike Mullen and CNO Adm. Gary Roughead. Roughead, in a message to Navy leadership, said that Campa's legacy will be felt for years to come and that the Navy owes him a debt of

gratitude for what he has accomplished on behalf of Sailors around the world.

"Early in his tour, it was very clear that his intent was to reset the chief's mess and return its members to the role of deckplate leaders. Watching that happen aboard our ships and shore stations has made our Navy stronger and inspired our Sailors," said Roughead. "MCPON Campa's energy and passionate commitment to our Sailors and their families is infectious and it has swept across our entire Navy. He is a Sailor's MCPON, a MCPON who changed the Navy based on his love of leading Sailors."

Pacific Blitz exercise successful

Continued from A-1

engaged the target. The SM-3 followed a nominal trajectory; however, intercept was not achieved. Extensive analysis of the flight mission will be used to improve the deployed Aegis BMD system. The Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) flight record is 16 of 19 intercepts.

"The successful engagement of ballistic missile targets from ships at sea is extraordinary," Locklear said. "Pacific Blitz highlights the successful transition from developmental test flights to operational

fleet execution and demonstrates the viability of the maritime BMD concept of operations."

Ballistic missile defense is a Navy core mission and a key warfighting capability for the U.S. maritime strategy, which calls for credible combat power to be continuously postured to protect America's vital interests. BMD provides the ability to use international waters to defend against established and emergent threats, which underlies the importance of free and lawful use of the seas.

"Hitting a bullet with a bullet" is a phrase often

used to explain the complex engineering challenge of conducting a direct hit of a ballistic missile with a closing rate of thousands of miles per hour. Such an intercept capability is referred to as "hit-to-kill." The missile collides with the target, destroying the target with the sheer force of impact. The energy released from the impact is equivalent to the force released when a ten ton truck traveling at 600 miles per hour hits a wall.

For more information, contact Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet Public Affairs at (619) 884-2820 or (808) 482-0036.



Capt. Dell Epperson salutes as he is piped through sideboys at the end of a change of command ceremony onboard historic Ford Island on Oct. 30. Epperson was relieved by Capt. Ricks Polk as commanding officer of Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific following a 39-month tour. Polk will oversee comprehensive and detailed shipboard and classroom training and assessment to Pacific Fleet ships and other military units in order to maintain a high state of combat readiness.

Polk relieves Epperson as Middle Pacific Afloat Training commander

Story and photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Capt. Ricks W. Polk relieved Capt. Dell W. Epperson as commanding officer of Afloat Training Group, Middle Pacific (ATG MDPAC) during a change of command ceremony held Oct. 30 on historic Ford Island.

"From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank everyone for making this an extraordinary day and an extraordinary tour of duty," said Epperson.

Epperson assumed command of ATG MDPAC in July 2005. As ATG MDPAC commanding officer, Epperson oversaw more than 1,000 shipboard assessments, led in the efforts of standardizing the seven ATG sites worldwide, and assisted in the development of a formal command strategy.

As he leaves Hawai'i following 11 years at com-

mands throughout the island, Epperson thanked the ATG MDPAC Sailors he has commanded in his tour.

"Today, I have to say goodbye to what has truly been the best three years of my professional life," said Epperson. "The people I am most proud of serving with are the ATG MDPAC Sailors standing in ranks."

Capt. Pete Morford, commodore of ATG Pacific, commended Epperson on his leadership tactics during his time as ATG MDPAC commanding officer.

"Whenever I talk to ATG Pacific Sailors, I always start and end with three words – important, best and proud," said Morford. "Capt. Epperson embodied those three words in everything he has done in his 39 months at ATG MDPAC. I don't know how you did it all, but you set an aspiring example for the rest of us."

After assuming command, Polk discussed his future goals for ATG MDPAC.

"Under my command, we

will continue to work across the waterfront to create training solutions that serve warfighters and help make warships ready for tasking," said Polk. "I am blessed to lead these proud warriors and I look forward to working with many of you as we continue to tap the potential of our collective resources to provide our nation with the best fighting force possible."

During the ceremony, Morford presented Epperson with the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services.

Epperson will be reporting to Auburn University in Auburn, Ala. to serve as professor of naval science.

Polk previously served at the U.S. Naval Academy. As commanding officer of ATG MDPAC, Polk will oversee comprehensive and detailed shipboard and classroom training and assessment to Pacific Fleet ships and other military units in order to maintain a high state of combat readiness.

Hawaii Navy News Editorial

SECNAV names new Zumwalt-class destroyer USS Michael Monsoor

From the Department of Defense

Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter announced Oct. 29 at a Navy SEAL Warrior Fund Benefit Gala at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, the name of the newest Zumwalt-class destroyer will be USS Michael Monsoor.

Designated as DDG 1001, the name honors Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Monsoor, a Navy SEAL [sea, air, land] who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in Ramadi, Iraq on Sept. 29, 2006.

Winter discussed the qualities, values and dedication to duty that Navy SEALs exemplify, including the extraordinary acts of Michael Monsoor.

"Tonight I would like to single out one of those heroes from the community of Navy SEALs," Winter said. "Those

who served with Michael Monsoor will remember him always as a consummate professional who faced terrorist enemies with aplomb and stoicism."

"The full extent of Michael's courage, gallantry and selfless heroism were revealed on the 29th of September, in Ramadi. When his team was surprised by an enemy grenade, Michael could have escaped and saved himself," Winter said. "But he chose a different path, a path of honor that embodies the way of a Navy SEAL. For having chosen that path, Petty Officer Michael Monsoor joined the ranks of those who have earned our nation's highest distinction, the Medal of Honor."

Winter concluded that Michael Monsoor's heroism and self sacrifice for his teammates and his nation epitomize the Navy's core values and will forever provide prideful admiration

for our Sailors.

"Michael Monsoor's name will now be linked with one of our nation's most visible examples of military power, a U.S. Navy warship," Winter said. "His legacy will inspire the hearts of future Sailors who serve on the ship that bears his name."

The USS Michael Monsoor will be a multi-mission surface combatant tailored for advanced land attack and littoral dominance. The ship's mission is to provide credible, independent forward presence and deterrence and to operate as an integral part of naval, joint or combined maritime forces.

The USS Michael Monsoor will be the second Zumwalt-class destroyer. The ship will be 600 feet in length, have a beam of 80.7 feet and displace approximately 15,000 tons. Michael Monsoor will have a crew size of 148 Sailors; it will make speed in excess of 30 knots.



U.S. Navy illustration by MC2 Kevin S. O'Brien

A photo illustration of the Zumwalt-class destroyer USS Michael Monsoor (DDG 1001). The ship will be named after Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Michael Monsoor (SEAL) who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during combat on Sept. 29, 2006 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

Veterans Day, 2008

A proclamation by the President of the United States of America

On Veterans Day, we pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of the men and women who in defense of our freedom have bravely worn the uniform of the United States. From the fields and forests of war-torn Europe to the jungles of Southeast Asia, from the deserts of Iraq to the mountains of Afghanistan, brave patriots have protected our nation's ideals, rescued millions from tyranny, and helped spread freedom around the globe.

America's veterans answered the call when asked to protect our nation from some of the most brutal and ruthless tyrants, terrorists and militaries the world has ever known. They stood tall in the face of grave danger and enabled our nation to become the greatest force for freedom in human history. Members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard have answered a high calling to serve and have helped secure America at every turn.

Our country is forever indebted to our veterans for their quiet courage and exemplary service. We also remember and honor those who laid down their lives in freedom's defense. These brave men and women made the ultimate sacrifice for our benefit. On Veterans Day, we remember these heroes for their valor, their loyalty and their dedication. Their self-

less sacrifices continue to inspire us today as we work to advance peace and extend freedom around the world.

With respect for and in recognition of the contributions our service members have made to the cause of peace and freedom around the world, the Congress has provided (5 U.S.C. 6103(a)) that Nov. 11 of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor America's veterans.

Now, therefore, I, George W. Bush, president of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Nov. 11, 2008, as Veterans Day and urge all Americans to observe Nov. 9 through Nov. 15, 2008, as National Veterans Awareness Week. I encourage all Americans to recognize the bravery and sacrifice of our veterans through ceremonies and prayers. I call upon federal, state and local officials to display the flag of the United States and to support and participate in patriotic activities in their communities. I invite civic and fraternal organizations, places of worship, schools, businesses, unions, and the media to support this national observance with commemorative expressions and programs.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, 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

Veterans' Day....America honors her military

Karen S. Spangler

Editor

Rows of white tombstones on neatly manicured expanses of grass, miniature American flags fluttering in the breeze, the sharp report of 21-gun salutes, melancholy strains of Taps echoing through the air, patriotic-themed parades with marching bands performing and war veterans as honorees - these poignant visions of Veterans' Day observances will be enacted this holiday at services and celebrations throughout the nation as America honors her veterans who have served and continue to serve in the military services.

Veterans' Day is the American name for the international observance, called Armistice Day. The Nov. 11 date marks the anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended World War I. Armistice Day was originally commemorated in America in 1919 during the presidency of President Woodrow Wilson.

In 1926, Congress passed a resolution inviting all

Americans to observe the day and in 1938, it became a legal holiday. Since that date, it has been observed annually on Nov. 11 - first as Armistice Day and later as Veterans' Day. One exception to that was a brief period when the annual observance was held on the fourth Monday of October.

It has evolved as a time to honor living veterans who have served in the armed forces as well as those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

As Americans gather on this Veterans' Day to pay respects to all who have died in our nation's wars, to all of those who have bravely served - and continue to serve - their country, it will be a time to offer tributes and to reflect upon the sacrifices and the contributions of so many.

The immortal words of nineteenth century American poet Oliver Wendell Holmes embrace all American heroes who have made the supreme sacrifice and those who serve their country: "One flag, one land, one heart, one hand, one nation evermore."

Veterans' Day events

- 10 a.m. Oahu Veterans Center, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl).
- 10 a.m. Wahiawa Veterans Day Parade, California Avenue, Wahiawa.
- 11 a.m. Veterans Day ceremony at Parche Memorial Park, Naval Station Pearl Harbor.
- 1 p.m. State Veteran's Cemetery, Kaneohe.
- 4:45 p.m. Battleship Missouri Veterans Day Sunset Ceremony.

Survivors of war from another era

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

Survivors from USS Yorktown at the Battle of Midway in June 1942 board trucks for transportation to Camp Catlin, Oahu soon after their arrival at Pearl Harbor on board USS Fulton (AS 11) on June 8, 1942. Note Marine directing traffic in lower right and U.S. Navy bus in the background.

Hawaii Navy News

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'Tis the season for mail at Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by
MC2 John Ciccarelli Jr.

Fleet Public Affairs Center
Detachment Hawai'i

The personnel at the Pearl Harbor Fleet Mailing Center (PHMC) are readying themselves for this year's seasonal holiday mail rush.

According to PHMC personnel, holiday mail volume will likely top 70,000 letters, parcels and accountable mail in the coming months, a 13 percent jump from the 61,856 handled in the same period last year.

"We have already seen a large increase in mail this month and it's not even the holiday season yet," said Jamie Holmes, PHMC barracks liaison. "We keep everything as streamlined as possible so we will not get backed up because when the holidays packages back up, things tend to



Postal Clerk 3rd Class Andrea Lindsay, assigned to Pearl Harbor Fleet Mailing Center (PHMC) receives a package from Storekeeper 2nd Class Yolanda Hopeau, assigned to Pearl Harbor Fleet Industrial Supply Center, on Oct. 28. Hopeau is sending the package home to her family on the U.S. mainland. PHMC center personnel are readying themselves for the 2008 seasonal rush which will start Dec. 7.

take longer to reach the Sailors who are expecting presents from their loved ones."

The mailing center's 15-member staff plans to log a total of 60 extra hours per week during this holiday season to process incoming and outgoing mail from 234 shore commands, 11 ships, 16 boats and 10 barracks with 3,200 mailboxes. The center is also the mail platform for all visiting ships and submarines.

"Handing out those presents from home to Sailors during the holiday season is probably the best part of my job," said Postal Clerk 3rd Class Andrea Lindsay, who has distributed mail to Sailors stationed at Naval Station Pearl Harbor for the past three years. "When I see them getting off deployment from being at sea for so long and receiving all that mail that's

saying, 'Look what my family sent me,' it makes me really appreciate being there for them."

For mail to be delivered before the Christmas holiday, PHMC personnel said international shipments need to be post-marked by Dec. 8, while packages to the U.S. mainland must be mailed before Dec. 17.

"There is a large portion of mail coming and going from the barracks during this time of year and it's really important that the Sailors get the mail that they are sending to the post offices before the December due date to make sure it arrives on time," said Lindsay.

This is the center's ninth holiday season. It was formed in October 1997 with the consolidation of the Pearl Harbor Submarine Base mailroom and Fleet Mail Center operations.

Groundbreaking ceremony

Continued from A-1

Museum Association; Adm. Tom Fargo (Ret.), national vice chairman of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund; Rear Adm. Ron Tucker (Ret.), chairman of the USS Arizona Coordinating Committee of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund; and Denny Watts, president and CEO for Watts Constructors, LLC. Kahu Kamaki Kanahale and Kahu Herbert Kalena Hew Len conducted the traditional Hawaiian blessing during the groundbreaking ceremony.

The new visitor center will include an additional six acres of land, bringing the total land area to approxi-

mately 17.4 acres. The new museum and visitor center, at 23,600 square feet, nearly doubles the size of the current museum allowing for a greatly expanded and comprehensive interpretation of the attack on Pearl Harbor and WWII in the Pacific.

Construction of the new visitor center will be done in phases over the next two years enabling the center and tours to the USS Arizona Memorial to remain open throughout the entire construction period. Construction is expected to begin within the next few months with completion scheduled for September 2010 and an official opening in December 2010.

Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet holds Senior Enlisted Medical Conference

MC1 Cynthia Clark

Submarine Force U.S. Pacific
Fleet Public Affairs

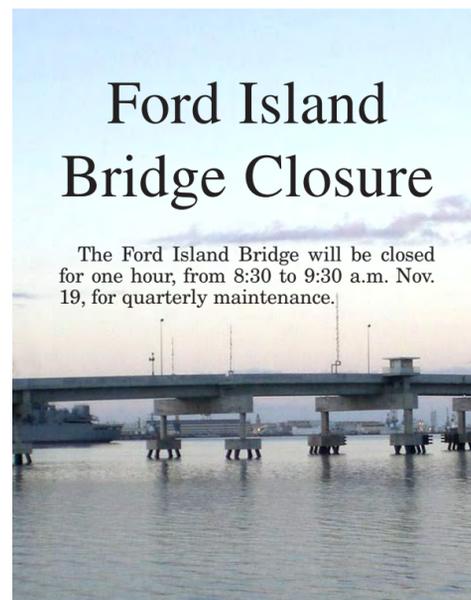
Along with U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine Force Master Chief (FMF) Laura Martinez, nine members of the submarine independent duty corpsman community met at Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUB-PAC) Headquarters at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Oct. 22-24.

According to COMSUB-PAC Force Corpsman Hospital Corpsman Senior Chief (SS) Craig Soleim, the senior corpsman from both coasts met to discuss the implementation of new radiation health procedures and the supervision of the submarine independent duty corpsman training program.

"This conference went great," said Soleim. "I brought the east and west coast submariners together to discuss these new procedures."

Ford Island Bridge Closure

The Ford Island Bridge will be closed for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Nov. 19, for quarterly maintenance.



Pearl Harbor Highlights



Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and Jon Jarvis, regional director, National Park Service, make the first cut into a cake following a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Hawai'i Pearl Harbor Memorial Museum and Visitor Center on the back lawn of the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center. The \$58 million, 23,600-square-foot center nearly doubles the size of the current museum allowing for a greatly expanded and comprehensive interpretation of the attack on Pearl Harbor and WWII in the Pacific and is scheduled for completion in September 2010 and an official opening in December 2010.

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

A ballistic threat target missile is launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, Kauai, enroute to an intercept over an open ocean area northwest of Kauai as part of Pacific Blitz 08. The target was successfully intercepted by a Standard Missile - 3 (SM-3) launched from the Pearl Harbor-based guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) on Nov. 1.

U.S. Navy photo

Chief Hospital Corpsman (SS) Dave Matthews does his part to fight influenza by administering the influenza vaccine to Electrician's Mate 2nd Class (SS) Steven Burgess on Oct. 29 during the annual vaccination administration at Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC). According to Cmdr. Edward Waters, COMSUBPAC force surgeon, a yearly flu vaccine is the first and most important step in protecting service members and their families against this serious disease. The vaccine protects against strains of the flu or it can make illness milder if you contact a different flu strain. In addition, people should take everyday preventive steps such as frequent hand washing to decrease chances of getting the flu.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Cynthia Clark



Family members of Sailors and Marines gather on the flight deck to watch historical landmarks slide by as the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) embarks on a Tiger Cruise during the last stage of a scheduled six-month deployment. Peleliu is the flagship of the Peleliu Expeditionary Strike Group.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Dustin Kelling

The Japan Maritime Self Defense Force guided-missile destroyer JS Ashigara (DDG-178) passes the Arleigh-Burke class guided missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) as she makes her way pierside to Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Ashigara was commissioned on March 13, 2008 and is in Pearl Harbor for a port visit.

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



USS Chung-Hoon enjoys a visit from USS Sigsbee crew members

Ensign Sarah J. Welsch

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93)
Public Affairs Officer

USS Chung-Hoon's (DDG 93) port visit in San Diego on Oct. 26 presented Billy Roberts the rare opportunity to visit the ship bearing the name of his former commanding officer of USS Sigsbee (DD 502), Rear Adm. Gordon Chung-Hoon.

A former gunner's mate, Roberts saw action on April 14, 1945 during a kamikaze attack on Sigsbee that claimed the lives of 23 Sigsbee Sailors and wounded 74 others. He was accompanied on his visit to Chung-Hoon by another Sigsbee crewman, Gerard Marchand, a former radioman, as well as by his wife, Edith Roberts, John Mastin, Carolyn Curtis and Patty Simons.

Mastin is the nephew of Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Guy Amburgey, who was killed in the April 1945 attack, and Simons is the granddaughter of former Sigsbee officer Lt. Harry Isett. The visit provided the crew of Chung-Hoon with a unique opportunity to learn about the experiences of the Sigsbee Sailors and broaden their understanding of Rear Adm. Chung-Hoon.

Cmdr. Mike McCartney, commanding officer of Chung-Hoon, said, "USS Chung-Hoon exists because of the heroic actions of Cmdr. Chung-Hoon and his crew aboard USS Sigsbee on 14 April 1945. It was deeply humbling to meet and talk with several shipmates from the Sigsbee crew."

The Sigsbee story is one



Enjoying lunch in the USS Chung-Hoon CPO mess are Lt. Cmdr. Chase Patrick, executive officer; Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Fahner, supply officer; Lt. Cmdr. Brian Pistek, weapons officer; Ship's Serviceman 1st Class Jose Martinez, Chung-Hoon and MIDPAC Senior Sailor of the Quarter; Ensign Sarah Welsch, strike officer; and USS Sigsbee veteran, Gerard Marchand

that the Chung-Hoon crew has celebrated and memorialized in the destroyer's short lifetime. In April 1945, while on station off the island of Okinawa, a kamikaze fighter dived into the aft end of Sigsbee. Despite massive flooding and damage to the ship's stern, Cmdr. Chung-Hoon led his ship and men in combating the damage while continuing to provide additional anti-aircraft fire against the brutal enemy air attack. He was awarded the Navy Cross for his leadership and returned to Hawai'i after retiring from the Navy in 1959 as a rear admiral.

Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) was commissioned in September 2004 as "Hawaii's Destroyer" in honor of Rear Adm. Chung-Hoon's leadership and the men he led on

the USS Sigsbee.

The Sigsbee Sailors and guests enjoyed lunch in the chief petty officers mess before taking a full tour of the Aegis destroyer. Marchand and Roberts spent time on the mess-decks with the crew and shared old photographs, deck logs and memorabilia accounting for their experiences in Sigsbee. They provided an oral history that was videotaped concerning their firsthand accounts of the kamikaze attack and related several stories about Rear Adm. Chung-Hoon.

During his description of the kamikaze attack, Roberts discussed his assignment as the pointer on Mt 4-3, a starboard-side midships 40mm gun, and how the kamikaze charged directly inbound at his gunnery station. He described

how "the kamikaze grew bigger and bigger" in his sights and when it reached 75 yards from the ship, the aircraft winged over and hit the fantail. McCartney said, "That's courage! The ship survived because Billy and other ordinary Americans took extraordinary actions."

Following the ship tour, Mastin and the two Sigsbee crew members presented McCartney with a painting commemorating the survival of the Sigsbee during the attack, as well as a photograph of the inflicted damage.

The visit celebrated both the history and the heroism of the Sigsbee crew and the mantle borne by the relatively young destroyer Chung-Hoon and her crew. It was an emotional visit, particularly when Roberts expressed his "gratitude to



U.S. Navy historical photo

Sailors inspect damage to USS Sigsbee from the kamikaze attack while in dry dock in Apra Harbor in 1945.

the commanding officer, Cmdr. Mike McCartney, and his crew for making our visit to the USS Chung-Hoon a once in a lifetime experience. Every member of our party was overwhelmed with the attention and interest shown to the USS Sigsbee, veterans, family members and to the history of our ship."

McCartney said, "It was great to see Sailors from different eras reviewing

deck logs from 1944 and talking about the Navy, then and now. We represent the Sigsbee Sailors and having them aboard and hearing their stories reinvigorates our connection with our storied past."

Truly, Chung-Hoon's motto "Imua e Na Koa Kai," - Go Forward, Sea Warriors - is one that both Sigsbee and Chung-Hoon Sailors embody - past, present and future.

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Navy formalizes support constructs for all IA Sailors, families

U.S. Fleet Forces Public Affairs

Individual augmentee (IA) continuum leaders have announced a policy update to identify individual augmentee (IA) Sailor parent commands and to establish Navy-wide support for all IA Sailors and their families, ensuring the same fervor and vigilance that traditionally deploying Sailors and families receive.

In addition to identifying parent commands, the new policy, in NAVADMIN 293/08 (IA Gram 08-03), identifies specific minimum-levels of support parent commands are required to provide all three types of IA Sailors and their families in preparation for, during and after an IA deployment.

"With approximately 13,000 Sailors on IA orders, one of Navy leadership's top priorities is supporting the mission and communicating every facet of the IA process with families. Site visits where we talk to people who have been there or who are going, give us great feedback to make sure we have a good measure on this IA program," said Adm. Jonathan Greenert, commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

Individual Augmentee Manpower Management Assignment Sailors (IAMM) are Sailors who are traditional IAs completing their tour in a temporarily assigned duty status and who will return to their previous commands at the completion of their IA tours. Commands deploying IAMM Sailors will maintain traditional command responsibilities for IA Sailor and family support.

Sailors serving on a Global War on Terrorism Support Assignment (GSA) will also receive traditional



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Christopher Weis

Personnel Serviceman 2nd Class Cory Ianamoreli, an individual augmentee (IA) Sailor attached to Provincial Reconstruction Team Khost, drives a high mobility-purposed wheeled vehicle during a recent quality assurance mission for road construction throughout the province.

family support from their detaching command while on an IA tour; however, Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC) will provide all administrative Sailor support. This administrative support will include, but is not limited to: exam ordering and exam administration; deployment pay, housing, medical and legal support; personnel accounting of Sailors during a disaster; and continuous reach

back support for emergent deployment issues. The Navy is currently filling approximately 60 percent of the GWOT assignments through this GSA process.

Mobilized Reserve Sailors not mobilized as part of an established commissioned Reserve component unit will receive command and family support from their assigned Navy operational support centers. They will receive IA

administrative support from ECRC.

The IA Sailor and family support set forth in this new policy includes, but is not limited to: pre-deployment Sailor screening; family support via ombudsmen or family readiness groups; periodic contact with IA Sailors while deployed; periodic contact with families while IA Sailors are deployed; and the inclusion of

families in accounting and evacuation orders during disaster response efforts.

With more than 27,000 Sailors executing one of the types of IA orders in 2008, ensuring clear, consistent support throughout the deployment process is a top priority for Navy leaders.

"Our mission is to ensure a streamlined, standardized oversight of IA support programs Navy-wide. This challenge includes supporting the organization, training and equipping these IAs, supporting their families, providing a predictable and consistent accession process and integrating the IA process into the respective career paths of all of our IAs," Greenert added.

The success of this new policy is also heavily dependent on the efforts of the command IA coordinator (CIAC). As mandated in IA Gram 08-02, every active command must designate a CIAC. These CIACs will work closely with command ombudsmen to ensure commands provide the adequate levels of support identified in IA Gram 08-03, as well as to ensure a smooth hand-off of support responsibilities when a family moves from one region to another.

With IA Gram 08-03 identifying who holds parent-command responsibilities for IAs and their families, future IA grams will clarify what those responsibilities include.

Additional IA Sailor and family support will continue to come from Navy Fleet and Family Support Centers, regional commanders and ECRC. To view IA Gram 08-03 in its entirety, visit <http://www.cffc.navy.mil/augmentees/>.

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