



Happy Thanksgiving!



Hawai'i Navy News

Serving the "Best Homeport in the Navy"



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USS Ronald Reagan visits Pearl Harbor



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Chelsea Kennedy

Sailors aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) man the rails as a rainbow forms across the skyline. Pearl Harbor is the final port visit of the deployment for Ronald Reagan. Ronald Reagan is on a scheduled deployment operating in the U.S. 7th fleet area of responsibility. *More photos on page A-5.*

Navy implements new policy at Pearl Harbor Commissary

Karen S. Spangler
Editor

To reduce overcrowding and provide authorized patrons a safer, more enjoyable shopping experience, beginning Monday, Dec. 8, only authorized patrons will be allowed in the Pearl Harbor Commissary. Authorized patrons will no longer be permitted to sponsor guests.

Delaying implementation of the new policy until Dec. 8 will allow commissary officials time to get the word out, including notifying shoppers at the commissary through a full pay cycle with signs and announcements before the new policy goes into effect.

The commissary program is an integral part of the pay and benefits package for U.S. Government uniformed services personnel. By only allowing authorized patrons in the commissary, the current overcrowding situation will be addressed, and safety concerns that maximum occupancy limits may be approached during peak shopping periods will be alleviated. Limiting access to authorized patrons will also help relieve the congestion in the aisles and longer lines at the registers, which currently result in an unpleasant shopping experience.

The Pearl Harbor Commissary's customer base has grown significantly since it opened six years ago. This customer base growth with a corresponding increase in the number of sponsored guests were not envisioned when the



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

Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Cassandra Pinter, assigned to Navy Information Operations Command Hawai'i, purchases groceries at the Pearl Harbor Commissary on Nov. 17. Effective Dec. 8, the Pearl Harbor Commissary will implement a new guest policy that only allows authorized patrons to enter the store. Authorized patrons will not be permitted to sponsor guests. The purpose of the new plan is to reduce overcrowding and provide authorized patrons a safe and more enjoyable shopping experience.

Pearl Harbor Commissary was built.

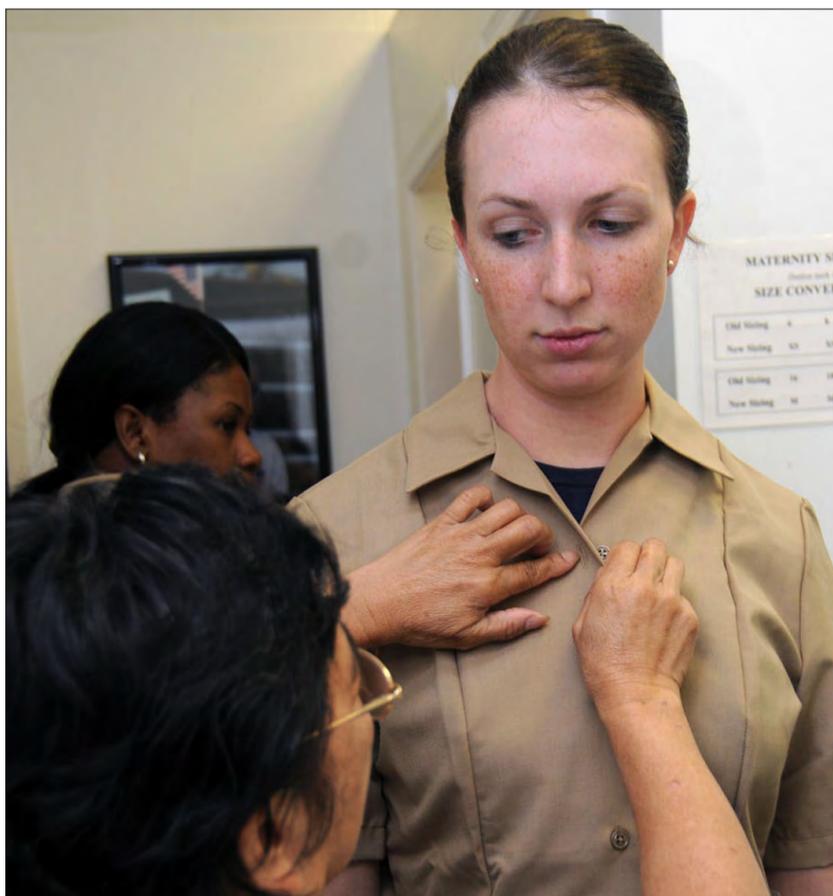
The Navy has commissaries at Pearl Harbor and Barbers Point locations; however the new policy only applies to the Pearl Harbor store. The Navy Exchange guest policy will also be reviewed, but currently is not affected by this decision.

As the new policy goes into effect, commissary employees will continue to check customer IDs at the entrance to the store as well as at the registers. Signs, flyers and announcements at the commissary store will provide reminders about the new policy.

Authorized patrons are reminded that dependent chil-

dren who are ages 10 years and older must have a valid ID in their possession when accompanying their parents to the commissary. To make appointments to procure ID cards for your children, visit the Pearl Harbor Personnel Support Detachment (PSD) Web site at www.psdph.mil.mil. Kiosks are available outside the PSD office at Pearl Harbor and at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange for those who do not have computers or Internet access. For more information or questions about obtaining ID cards, call the PSD ID card section at 471-2405, ext. 2334.

See COMMISSARY, A-6



Operational Specialist 3rd Class Sara James, assigned to the Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), is fitted for the new service uniform (SU) at the Navy Exchange Uniform Shop onboard Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

Sailors size up new uniform

Story and photo by
MC2 Michael A. Lantron
Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

(NEX) Uniform Shop onboard Naval Station Pearl Harbor to purchase the new service uniform (SU) on its first day of release to the region on Nov. 15.

The SU is intended for year-round wear and will replace the summer white

and winter blue uniforms worn by E-1 to E-6 Sailors throughout the fleet.

Sailors who were finally able to try on the uniforms complemented the fit and new colors.

See UNIFORMS, A-6



Holiday food basket program spreads holiday cheer to military families See page A-2



Get a 'leg up' on Thanksgiving See page A-3



Cheyenne conducts triple re-enlistment ceremony See page A-6



CREDO helps military couples rekindle marriage See page B-1

ASYMCA holiday food basket program spreads holiday cheer to military families

Story and photo by
Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

This Thanksgiving holiday, Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) will sponsor its annual holiday food basket program for military families in need.

The program provides Thanksgiving meals to military families chosen by various commands from Pearl Harbor and Kaneohe who have expressed the need for help during the holidays.

According to ASYMCA volunteer Kehau Bice, the military community should show their own "thanks" to brave service members by donating to the program.

"Our [Sailors] do so much for our country," she said. "It is great to be able to make their Thanksgiving a little brighter and happier [through this program]. We should always remember them during the holidays and open our hearts and share what we can," she added.

Terri Nelson, ASYMCA outreach program director, said she hopes to feed more than 200 families with the donations raised this year.

"I think holiday meals bring families together," she said. "The [ASYMCA] mission is to help military families in need. So, by gathering everyone together for a meal, even though it might



Terri Nelson, Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) outreach program director, bags donated food items in preparation for ASYMCA's annual holiday food basket program. The program will provide Thanksgiving meals to more than 200 military families from Pearl Harbor and Kaneohe commands this year.

not be the most special meal, is important because it creates tradition and [ultimately], bonds the family," she added.

Nelson noted that instead of traditional "baskets," this year, Hawaiian Electric has donated yellow bags to hold all of the holiday goodies.

The holiday "bag" will include items such as mashed potatoes, stuffing, box desserts and a gift certificate for participants to

purchase a turkey or ham at local Safeway stores, she said.

"Right now the food basket includes pretty much everything you need to do a holiday meal," she said. "But we could always use some more donations in food or money."

ASYMCA volunteer Lise Peacock said people interested in donating can drop off donations at drop boxes at ASYMCA locations at Pearl Harbor and Kaneohe, as well as the local commissary.

"When our families come to get the food, they always tell you how much they appreciate it," she said. "Families can do so much by just donating a few cans."

Peacock also added that families who are PCSing can drop off extra canned food items from their pantries to go toward additional food drives sponsored by ASYMCA.

ASYMCA will begin to distribute holiday bags to families starting Nov. 20 and 21, but will continue to accept canned food items and money donations until mid-December in preparation for Christmas holidays, according to Nelson.

"We are also a distributor for Toys for Tots," she said. "Along with our Thanksgiving [list of] families, we will get the ages

and genders of the children so we can prepare for our Toys for Tots program."

In light of the nation's struggling economy, Nelson said she believes it is even more important for people to give generously this year. "The need is only going to increase because of the economy," she said. "People are struggling, especially many non-profit [organizations]. The biggest thing people can do this year is to give Christmas to our [military] families," she added.

Nelson said most of the families she sees are primarily junior enlisted, with newborns to four-year-old children. ASYMCA will be accepting unwrapped toys or canned food donations until Dec. 15 at the Pearl Harbor and Kaneohe locations.

For more information about ASYMCA, visit www.asymcahi.org. For more information about the holiday food basket program, contact Nelson at 473-3398 or e-mail at asymcabbay@aol.com.

The holiday basket program is only for military families or Single Sailors with children. A Thanksgiving dinner is scheduled for only single Sailors at noon at all of the Liberty Centers. For more information, visit www.greatlifehawaii.com.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Commentary

Chapel Pennant

A Thanksgiving meditation

Chaplain Lt. John Carter

Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific Surface Force Ministry Center

There is an old story about a farmer who sat down with his family at the dinner table to pray and said, "Lord, we plowed it, we planted it, we watered it and fertilized it, and when harvest came we picked it, cleaned it and cooked it... but we thank you for it anyway."

That farmer was onto something. He knew that even though he had done a lot of hard work to provide for his family, ultimately his health and strength and skill came from God.

What if we really believed that all of life is a gift from God? That each day is His gift to us and whatever abundance we enjoy, whatever pleasure we get from our relationships, whatever good thing we might experience in life is the result of God's goodness to us? If we really believed that, do you see how it could totally revolutionize our attitude at Thanksgiving?

In fact, just about every Thanksgiving sermon I have ever heard has mentioned the fact that we shouldn't be thankful for just one day, we should be thankful all year long. Imagine if we really believed that all of life is God's good gift to us. Can

you see how that would make it easier for us to be thankful every day?

Our beliefs don't just happen. We choose what we're going to believe. Our environment and background and circumstances might provide some input for what we believe, but the bottom line is that we choose what we believe. That's why there are some people living in poverty on the streets of Calcutta who believe that life is sacred, while there are many others living in the prosperity of America who think life is meaningless.

We can believe that life is meaningless, or we can believe that life is God's good gift. There is "evidence" for either argument; we can choose to believe either one. Believing life is meaningless might cause us to react to situations negatively and in a manner detrimental toward ourselves. On the other hand, believing that all of life is a blessing from God will help us to face challenges in a way that is more positive and extend our possibilities. It only makes sense that we should want to adopt beliefs that open doors to God's work in our lives.

We all want to improve. We all want to change our lives in a positive direction. When we change our beliefs we'll change our world – and we'll be able to change ourselves in the process.

CNO releases holiday safety message

MC2 (SW) Rebekah Blowers

Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) released a holiday safety message to Sailors and their families Nov. 19.

Adm. Gary Roughead, CNO, reminds Sailors that operational risk management, on and off duty, is essential to preventing mishaps at home or while traveling during the holidays.

"Over the holidays and throughout the year, use common sense and simple risk management. Get enough rest and give yourself adequate driving time if travelling. Know your limits and use good judgment when celebrating," CNO said.

While Sailors are with their families and loved ones celebrating at home, they are reminded to keep in mind those shipmates who are serving forward. It is because



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Tiffini M. Jones
Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead speaks with Sailors while visiting the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Columbia (SSN 771).

of these hard working men and women that those at home can enjoy the holiday season.

"We have many things for

which to be thankful and many reasons to celebrate. Doing so safely is the best gift I can think of," Roughead said.

To view the CNO's holiday safety message, visit www.navy.mil/media/multi-media/hol08/holiday_safety.html.

Commentary

Fireside Chat

Navy Region Federal Fire Dept.

Fried turkey is good ... but don't cook your goose

Victor M. Flint

Battalion Chief, Federal Fire Department

Deep fried turkey is a delicious Thanksgiving holiday alternative. Deep turkey fryers can be purchased from a number of retail outlets. You can purchase complete kits as well. The price you pay will be related to the size and model of fryer that you pick. When done right, the aroma, the presentation and the taste are a delight. It also takes way less time to cook. Turkey cooks at three and-a-half minutes per pound. A 17-pound turkey can be fully cooked and ready to go in about an hour - not bad. The Federal Fire Department recommends the following guidelines if you are planning to deep fry your next turkey:

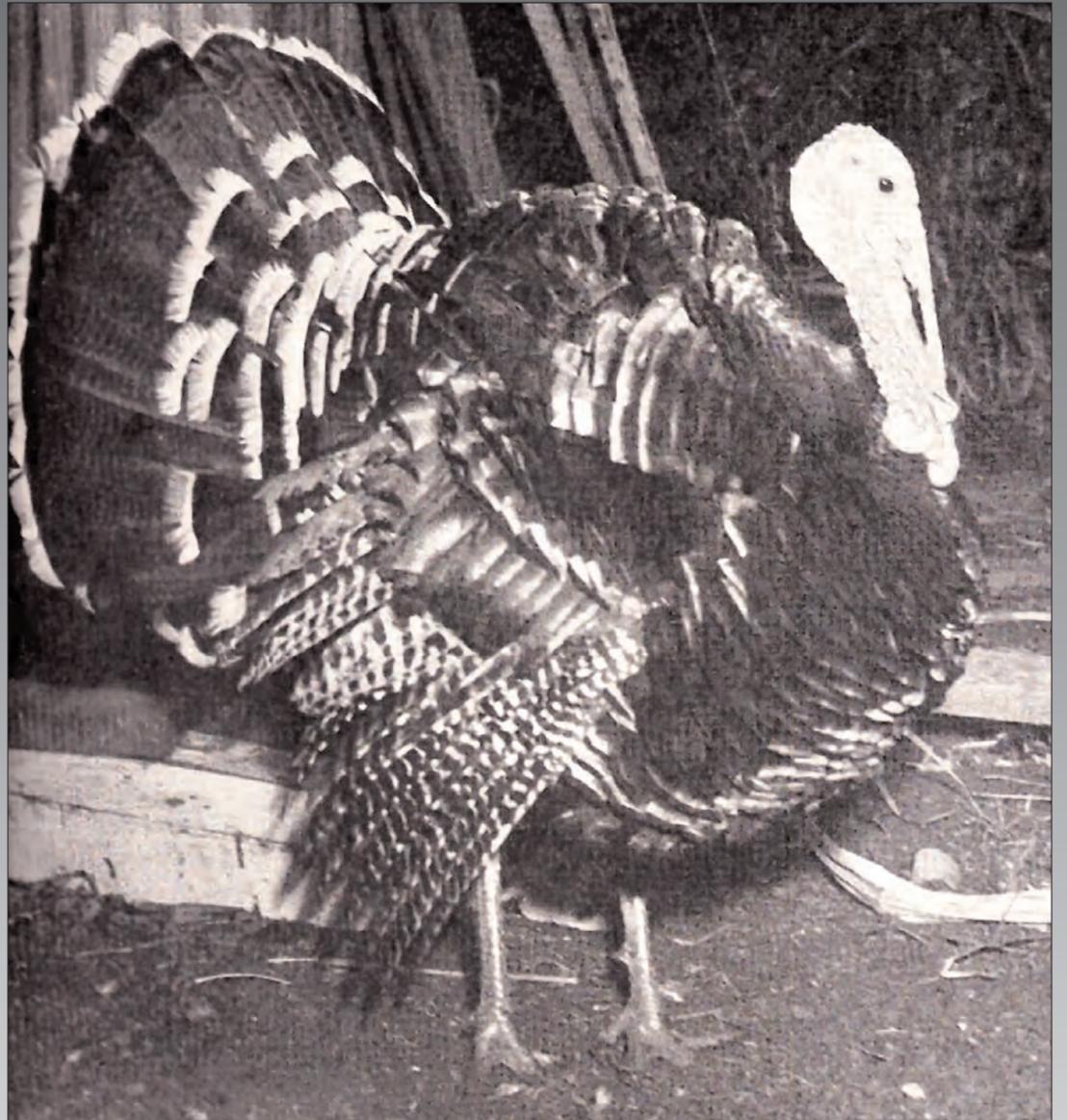
- Do not use the fryer inside. Fry outside only.
- Do not attempt to place the deep fat frying pot filled with oil and turkey over a campfire. Use a gas-operated type of burner with a retaining ring.
- Do not use animal fat frying oil. Use only a vegetable, peanut or cottonseed oil.
- Do not attempt to put a big turkey in a little pot. To avoid oil overflow spills, place turkey in the pot, then fill pot with water to four inches from the top. Mark the level of the water on the pot. Then remove the turkey from the water and mark that

water level on the pot. Make sure that the pot is big enough for the job. The turkey needs to be completely immersed in the oil.

- Do not attempt to place a frozen or partially thawed turkey in the hot oil. The oil will splatter, pop and spit all over the place.
- Do not overheat the oil. Maintain a temperature of 325 degrees, not to exceed 350 degrees. Use a thermometer that clips to the pot.
- Do not attempt to remove the turkey from the hot oil with the burner on. Turn the burner off before removing the turkey.
- Do not use water on the hot oil in case it flashes or catches on fire. Have a five-pound B-C type of extinguisher in the immediate area, just in case.
- To avoid burns, wear gloves, eye protection and shoes (not slippers) when frying. If you get burned, cool burned area immediately with water.
- Have a phone handy to call the fire department (911) if there are any problems (fire, burns, spills).
- Never, ever leave the deep fryer unattended - not even for a minute. Always have someone standing by who knows what to do if you must leave the area.

For more information about deep frying and other fire-related questions, call Battalion Chief Victor M. Flint at 471-3303, ext. 633.

May he rest in pieces...



U.S. Navy historical photo by CHA3 Hal Root

Photo and outline from Thanksgiving 1944.

In well seasoned memoriam: Tom G. Gobbledgook Gobbler; Born: too soon; Died: just in time; Father, Mother: doesn't make a difference now. Interment: Cemeterius Stomachus; No flowers just sprigs of celery and parsley; may he rest in pieces - next to the mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce. The funeral is Thursday, Nov. 23, and it's an all day affair at the CHA3 mess halls. Platebearers will be very close admirers from Pearl Harbor Navy Yard and CHA3. It will be one swell wake. Be sure to attend.

Hawai'i Navy News

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Sailors, civilians earn homeland security certification

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

On Nov. 6, more than 50 Navy professionals – Sailors and civilians – completed homeland security certification after attending a two-day seminar at Pearl Harbor.

Following the days after Sept. 11, 2001, a call to action was made for all Americans to come together in defense of the country and the discussion of homeland security became a leading topic of the day.

“... there is an overriding and urgent mission here in America today and that’s to protect our homeland. We have been called into action and we have got to act,” said President George W. Bush.

In response to such call to action, the American College of Forensic Examiners (ACFEI) developed a program in January 2003 for people around the nation to become certified in homeland security. The Certified in Homeland Security (CHS) program, according to the program’s Web site (www.chs.acfei.com), provides certification, training and continuing education to professionals committed to improving homeland security.

The seminar rounded out five progressing levels of qualifications “designed to recognize (individual) expertise and to increase (each person’s) knowledge of homeland security matters,” reads CHS’s brochure. The first three levels were completed by the recent CHS attendees prior to the seminar.

Level I is an entry-level certification that covers disasters and introduces emergency preparedness basics. Level II focuses on terrorism and the weapons associated with terrorism. Level III is an advanced study into



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Jeremy S. Brandt

Andrew J. Jurchenko Sr. of the American Board for Certification in Homeland Security (CHS) trains students about radiological materials and nuclear weapons during a CHS certification conference held at Pearl Harbor on Nov. 6.

proactive emergency preparedness during disasters and their aftermath as well as strategies and tactics of terrorists and violent criminals.

During the seminar, levels IV and V were obtained by the attendees. These senior-level certifications dealt with incident awareness, response and terrorism and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosives.

The CHS program “adds to the security of our homeland,” said Andrew J. Jurchenko Sr., the facilitator for the certification course. “People who have become certified are already making a difference. Without them we could not have recovered from hurricanes Rita, Katrina or Ike.”

“I wanted to learn more about what goes into emergency response and disaster relief efforts,” said Chief Information Systems Technician Kyle Redding. “I was stationed on USS San Antonio and we were pierside during Hurricane Katrina. I personally wanted to see

what ‘lessons learned’ have been documented since. Also, with this training I will be able to better respond if the need arises.”

Attendees cited “preparedness for a national emergency” and “protecting the nation from further terrorist attacks” as the primary reasons for earning the certification. However, career progression from the military into the homeland security and emergency management professions also appealed to them.

“Though I won’t always wear the uniform, I want to always do my part for the nation. This certification will allow me to do so,” said Master Chief Operations Specialist John A. Hall. “I am also very interested in using the information from this course and the expertise I have gained from being in the Navy in possibly working for the Department of Homeland Security after I retire.”

The CHS program is part of the Navy’s Credentialing Opportunities Online (COOL) program. For more information, visit www.cool.navy.mil.

Thanksgiving...with a Hawai'i twist

Karen S. Spangler

Editor

Through the centuries, from 1621 when the Pilgrims observed the first Thanksgiving feast to the present day, the holiday has been celebrated in many different places, many different ways and with a variety of menu selections.

But one thing has remained constant through the years – it is a time when we give thanks for not just what is on the table, but for all of the blessings that we have. It is also traditionally a time when families and friends and communities get together to share the holiday and especially a time when we reach out to those in the community who are less fortunate. Frequently, it is a time to share our dinner and our blessings with our service members who are far away from home or are separated from their families.

Ever since that first Thanksgiving observance, turkeys have been a mainstay of the holiday feast. Traditionally on the mainland, turkeys are stuffed with bread, cornbread or wild rice stuffing. But in Hawai'i, the Thanksgiving bird may itself show a blending of cultures - seasoned with soy sauce and stuffed with such ingredients as Japanese mochi rice, Chinese lup cheong sausage and black-eyed peas. Other families may season their turkeys with such ingredients as salt, ti leaves, lemon-grass or garlic.

Island turkeys represent a broad spectrum of ethnic households and become an expression of America’s melting pot in Hawai'i.

Here in the islands,

turkeys are often the centerpiece of a luau and are cooked in an imu, an underground oven that uses kiawe wood and lava rock to fuel the heat and dates back to ancient Hawaiian times. Frequently, community groups in Hawai'i create communal imus that may cook as many as 1,000 turkeys.

Other popular foods served at the Thanksgiving feast in the islands may be kalua pig, various types of fresh fish, poi and sweet potatoes, complemented with puu puus and desserts that feature island fruits, such as guava, lychee, pineapple and coconut.

The traditional Thanksgiving menu – roast turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie - will also be served at homes throughout the islands. For those who opt to dine at Thanksgiving Day feasts offered at island restaurants, the selection will usually offer traditional mainland foods as well as island favorites.

Although most people are well informed about the beginnings of this bountiful and blessed tradition, perhaps the evolution of the holiday is not as well known.

America’s first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 by the Pilgrims and Indians from neighboring tribes. The Pilgrims, who were fleeing religious persecution in their native England, set sail for the New World in 1620 on a ship called the Mayflower. The original Thanksgiving feast occurred sometime between Sept. 21 and Nov. 11 and lasted for three days.

The true beginning of the present day Thanksgiving Day is believed to be Nov. 29

in the third year after the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth, Mass. That year, the spring and summer was hot and dry and crops died in the field. Pilgrim Governor William Bradford ordered a day of fasting and prayer and soon after, the rain came. Nov. 29 of that year was proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving.

It was that custom of an annually observed day of thanksgiving, held after the harvest, that continued through the years. A day of national thanksgiving was suggested by the Continental Congress during the American Revolution.

The state of New York adopted the Thanksgiving observance as an annual custom in 1817. By the middle of the 19th century, many other states also celebrated a Thanksgiving Day.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln appointed a national day of Thanksgiving and designated the last Thursday in November for the Thanksgiving observance. It is believed that this correlated with the anchoring of the Mayflower in Cape Cod, Mass. On Nov. 21, 1621.

It wasn’t until 1939 that President Franklin D. Roosevelt set the date for Thanksgiving to be the fourth Thursday of November. It was approved by Congress in 1941 and has been observed on that day ever since.

But regardless of how and where Thanksgiving is observed, it’s as American as – well, pumpkin pie – and it celebrates the many blessings that we have and opportunities to offer thanks.

Pearl Harbor Highlights



Quartermaster 3rd Class Nicholas Rader hoists the battle flag onto the mast aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan's (CVN 76). The battle flag is modeled after President Reagan's time in the military and carries the ship's hull number.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Class Gary Prill

The crew of attack submarine USS Chicago (SSN 721) welcomes aboard visiting members of the 721 Club, prominent community members from the namesake city of Chicago, for a brief embarkation and tour at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Nov.14.

U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Cmdr. David Benham



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

Quartermaster 1st Class (SW) Raymond Bone, assigned to Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i, receives an Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) Excellence award certificate from Rear Adm. Alan Hicks, program director of Aegis BMD. Bone received the award for his exceptional achievement as an audio visual technician during Operation Burnt Frost from Jan. 4 to Feb. 20. During the operation, he established and maintained optimal secure communications links with other operation participants throughout the mission, which was instrumental in the successful interception of a disabled U.S. government satellite on Feb. 20.

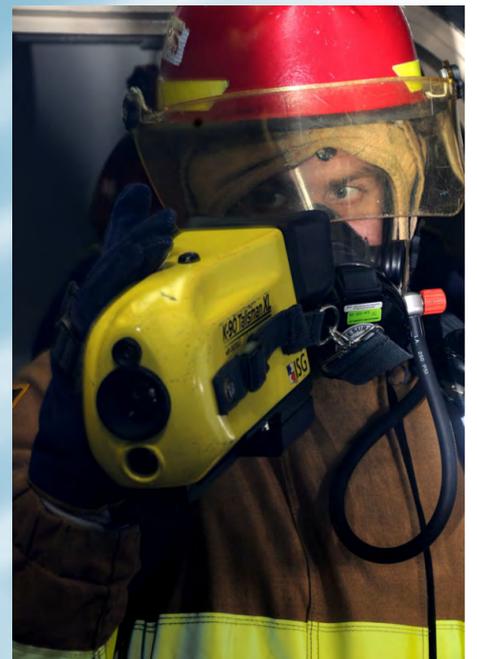


U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Gary Prill

The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) departs Pearl Harbor.

Damage Controlman 3rd Class Alex Joppe, assigned to the Pearl Harbor-based Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), uses a naval firefighting thermal imager to search for hot spots during a fire drill in the ship's wardroom galley. Paul Hamilton is currently undergoing a Unit Level Training Assessment-Sustainment (ULTRA-S) evaluation. ULTRA-S is an assessment of the ship's training proficiency level in warfare areas such as engineering, damage control, combat systems, medical and aviation.

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



The Kamaha'o Canoe Club and members of Nakoia O Palehua canoe past the USS Utah Memorial during the seventh annual celebration of the Makahiki at Moku Umeume (historic Ford Island). The ceremony is an important celebration of the past that helps redefine Hawai'i's relationship as contemporary people and parallels the western tradition of Thanksgiving. Throughout the day, canoers traveled from Iroquois Point to the USS Utah Memorial, finishing at Hickam Air Force Base.

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



Uniforms available at NEX

Continued from A-1

"The comfort level for the uniform is excellent," said Personnel Specialist 1st Class (EXW) Channell Beaugard, assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor. "Also, the white uniforms are harder to keep clean because they get dirty too easy. These colors will be much easier to maintain."

Others were fond of combining the summer white and winter blue uniforms into one.

"Instead of having a few pairs of two different uniforms, this uniform shrinks that number in half," said Musician 1st Class Jennifer Lange, assigned to U.S. Pacific Fleet Band. "The fewer amounts of uniforms we have will make it easier to fit into our sea bags."

With the numerous Sailors filling up the aisles, employees at the uniform shop worked hard to get the Sailors tailored and checked out in a timely fashion.

"It was a steady flow of Sailors since we opened the doors," said Julie Herring, manager of (NEX) uniform shop. "I expect that once other Sailors see people wearing them, they'll come buy it for themselves."

For the first shipment, more than 1,000 uniforms were ordered. Herring stated that if a size was unavailable, Sailors should expect a re-supplying soon.

"If we're out of a size, Sailors shouldn't be worried because replenishment will normally be quick for these items," said Herring.

The SU is intended for year-round wear and will replace the summer white and winter blue uniforms. The mandatory wear date for all E1-E6 personnel is July 2010. For more information on the SU, Sailors should refer to NAVADMIN 190/08.

Commissary

Continued from A-1

As is currently the case, authorized commissary patrons who require assistance to shop should apply for an "agent card" to allow an agent to accompany them in the store or shop on their behalf. For Navy patrons only, the Navy Exchange is the local executive agent for issuing agent cards. Navy patrons requiring assisted shopping should contact the Navy Exchange at 423-3207 for further assistance.

Authorized patrons affiliated with other branches of the uniformed services must follow their service's procedures by contacting Hickam AFB Pass and ID at 449-9394, Schofield Barracks at 655-0497, Fort Shafter at 438-6996 or the Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe DEERs office at 257-2077.

The Pearl Harbor Commissary's priority is to provide the highest quality commissary shopping experience possible. The new policy will reduce overcrowding and improve safety and quality of service for all authorized commissary patrons.

Cheyenne conducts triple re-enlistment ceremony

Story and photo by
MCSN Luciano Marano

Commander Submarine Force U.S.
Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

The promising future of the United States submarine force took a step into its honored past as three USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) crew members chose to have their re-enlistment ceremony together onboard the famed WWII submarine, USS Bowfin Museum, at Pearl Harbor Memorial Park on Nov. 14.

The three re-enlisting Sailors, all young petty officers from the sub's machinery division, committed to another six years of military service as their captain and shipmates observed. Machinist's Mate 3rd (MM3) Caleb Clonts, MM2 Timothy Griffin and MM2 (SS) Anthony O'Hare each chose to "Stay Navy."

Together the three Sailors received a combined re-enlistment bonus of \$247,000.

"It's not completely about the money," said O'Hare. "I had to think about it a while, but this is what I want to do."

"This is a big help for my future," said Griffin. "I hope to stay in the Navy and maybe put some of this money toward retirement."

The decision to continue service is not an easy one and not something to be taken lightly. The ceremony was a happy occasion with many shipmates there to support those who were re-enlisting. The seriousness of the oath they were retaking, however, was obvious to all in attendance.

"We're not all about the money and the numbers," said Cmdr. M.J. Tesar, Cheyenne commanding officer, "but when somebody decides that staying in the Navy is the



Cmdr. M.J. Tesar, commanding officer of USS Cheyenne (SSN 773), conducts a triple re-enlistment ceremony onboard the USS Bowfin Museum at Pearl Harbor Memorial Park on Nov. 14. MM2 (SS) Anthony O'Hare, MM3 Caleb Clonts and MM2 Timothy Griffin each re-enlisted for six more years of naval service and received a total combined re-enlistment bonus of \$247,000.

right choice for them, it's a nice reward for all the hard work these men have done and all the hard work that they will still do."

Clonts and Griffin received more than money. Along with the bonus, both Sailors were promoted to the rank of petty officer second class

upon re-enlistment through the Navy's Selective Training and Reenlistment (STAR) program, it guarantees a Sailor assignment to an appropriate training school, automatic promotion to petty officer second class upon completion of that school, and

a monetary re-enlistment bonus to all who qualify.

For more information about STAR and the Navy's other re-enlistment programs, visit your command career counselor and ask about re-enlistment incentives.

STORY IDEAS?

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

Phone: (808) 473-2888

Email: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com

Hawaii Navy News

Commissary holiday shopping hours

Thanksgiving Day,
Nov. 27
Closed

Nov. 28
9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Christmas Eve,
Dec. 24 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Christmas Day
Closed

New Year's Eve,
Dec. 31 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
New Year's Day, Jan. 1
Closed



Test pile driving to begin at current Navy Deperming Station

Denise Emsley

Naval Facilities
Engineering Command
Hawai'i Public Affairs

Unusual noises may be heard along the waterfront areas of Pearl Harbor from Mid-November to mid-December due to preliminary test pile driving at the old Navy Deperming Station, or Magnetic Silencing Facility (MSF) at Beckoning Point, near the

entrance to Middle Loch. Part of a recently awarded Navy construction project, the work of driving 12 test piles, began on Nov. 18. The effort will include load testing the piles and is expected to take approximately one month to complete.

The testing will obtain data about the stiffness and bearing capacity of a foundation pile. This work will help the contractor determine future pile driving actions that will

occur for the new Submarine Drive-In Magnetic Silencing Facility project that is to start in January 2009.

The \$84 million project was awarded to Watts-Healy Tibbitts (Joint Venture), Honolulu, Hawai'i on Aug. 11. It is a multi-phased, incrementally funded job that is estimated to be completed in October 2010. After additional installation and testing, the facility is slated to be fully operational by October 2011.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Hight

Collage documents journey of historical birdbath

Capt. Scott Gureck, the U.S. Pacific Fleet public affairs officer, and Vanessa Godaire, the new executive home manager for Forest City Residential Management, present Donna Willard and Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, with a framed photo collage of the Nimitz bird bath Nov. 12 in the garden adjacent to the Pearl Harbor Nimitz house. The concrete birdbath, now located in the north yard of the Pearl Harbor Nimitz House, was originally located at quarters one on Yerba Buena Island in San Francisco Bay, Calif. Nimitz enjoyed gardening and nature and he erected the birdbath in his yard at quarters one, also known as the Nimitz House, sometime between 1964 until his death on Feb. 20, 1966. The Department of Defense closed the Yerba Buena Island Naval Training Station in 1993. Seabees from Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303 in Pearl Harbor joined the 30th Naval Construction Regiment based in Port Hueneme, Calif. in refurbishing and reinstalling the birdbath. The collage, which documents the history of the bird bath and its journey to Pearl Harbor, is now hanging inside the Willard's home in the Nimitz House.



Volunteers wage Pouhala marsh cleanup

John Burns of Navy Region Hawai'i clears Kapakahi Stream in Waipahu of invasive plants during the Pouhala Marsh service project Nov. 15. The 70-acre Pouhala Marsh is the largest of the remaining wetland habitats in Pearl Harbor and home to the endangered Hawaiian stilt. It is composed of a remnant fishpond and coastal marsh in the western loch of Pearl Harbor and is considered part of the Waikele watershed.

U.S. Navy photo by Grace Hew Len

DoD authorizes adult family members to return to Bahrain

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Public Affairs

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT), in cooperation with the American Embassy in Bahrain, announced that adult family members for all Department of Defense personnel permanently assigned in Bahrain will be allowed to return effective immediately.

This decision marks a change to the Defense Department policy that has been in place since July 2004 when families were required to relocate following security concerns.

"We are extremely pleased with the policy change," said Vice Adm. Bill Gortney, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command. "The return of our adult family members reinforces the security and stability of the region, demonstrates our enduring commitment to Bahrain, and will make the quality of life for our service members and Department of Defense civilians even better."

Gortney speaks from experience; four years ago, then-Capt. Gortney was the chief of staff for NAVCENT and he oversaw the departure of all of the family members.

"I have been committed to having family members return to Bahrain ever since," he said.

U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Christopher Henzel and Rear Adm. Kendall Card met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Nov. 2 to inform the Government of Bahrain.

"The return of the adult dependents of Defense Department personnel will restore an important personal dimension to the strong relationship between Bahrainis and Americans," said Henzel. "It was a pleasure to be the bearer of such good news. We look forward to welcoming Department of Defense adult family members back to Manama."

School-age dependents and below school-age dependents will be considered at a later date, after the Department of Defense Education Activity completes its supplemental support review.

Defense Department personnel currently serve 12-month unaccompanied tours in Bahrain, with some assignments designated as 18-month tours. This authorization will return accompanied tours to 24 months.

Operations in the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command area of operations are focused on reassuring regional partners of the United States' commitment to security which promotes stability and global prosperity.

USS Freedom commissioned in Milwaukee

MCC Rhonda Burke
Navy Region Midwest

The crew of USS Freedom (LCS 1) ushered in a new era in naval warfare on Nov. 8 as the ship was brought to life at Milwaukee's Veterans Park before a crowd of nearly 10,000.

The ship was officially placed in commission by Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter, who remarked the Navy was commissioning not just Freedom, but a new class of naval war ships.

"In this platform, we are making the right investments in our future security and in our prosperity," Winter said. "For those of you who will have the privilege of serving in Freedom, you will play a leading role in protecting our nation's interest and in ensuring stability of the global economy. You will also be called upon to serve in a ship whose namesake defines the very aspirations of the American people and of people the world over."

Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Gary Roughead, said Freedom will never have a more important crew than its first one, for they are the ones that set the tone and standards that will endure.

Freedom also represents a new concept in how and where the Navy is going to operate in executing the maritime strategy.

"USS Freedom will sail as an instrument of that strategy. Hers will be the march of



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Katherine Boeder

Sea Cadets stand in formation as the crew of the littoral combat ship USS Freedom (LCS 1) mans the rails during her commissioning ceremony at Veterans Park in Milwaukee, Wis. Freedom is the first of two littoral combat ships designed to operate in shallow water environments to counter challenge threats in coastal regions.

the mind, with the spear and the shield; she will proclaim and insure the freedom of the seas and the freedom of the nation," Roughead said.

Freedom is an innovative combatant designed to operate quickly in shallow water environments to counter challenging threats in coastal regions, specifically mines, submarines and fast surface craft.

Following the secretary's commissioning, the ship's two commanding officers, Cmdr. Donald Gabrielson, Blue Crew, and Cmdr. Michael

Doran, Gold Crew, took command, set the first watch, and raised the ensign.

The first ensign flown over the ship had previously been flown over Baghdad. After its ceremonial unfurling, it was hauled down and presented to the ship's sponsor, Birgit Smith, in honor of her late husband's sacrifice in defense of freedom. Smith is the wife of Army Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith, who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the first in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Clutching the American

flag and flanked by the ship's two commanding officers and two senior enlisted leaders, Smith tearfully gave the order to the crew of Freedom, "man our ship and bring her to life."

For the crew, the commissioning was the culmination of three years of hard work.

"It is great to be part of a first of class new ship that is outfitted with 21st century technology," said Mineman 1st Class (SW) Jeff Steele, who has been with the crew since July 2006. "We have worked long and hard for this

day and to bring her to life and go out and operate."

A fast, agile and high-technology surface combatant, Freedom will act as a platform for launch and recovery of manned and unmanned vehicles.

Its modular design will support interchangeable mission packages, allowing the ship to be reconfigured for antisubmarine warfare, mine warfare or surface warfare missions on an as-needed basis.

The LCS will be able to swap out mission packages adapting as the tactical situation demands. These ships will also feature advanced networking capability to share tactical information with other Navy aircraft, ships, submarines and joint units.

Freedom is the first of two LCS sea frames being produced. Freedom will be manned by one of two rotational crews, blue and gold, similar to the rotational crews assigned to Trident submarines. The crews will be augmented by one of three mission package crews during focused mission assignments.

The 378-foot Freedom was constructed at Marinette Marine Corporation, Marinette, Wisc. and was the first naval vessel to be built and commissioned on the Great Lakes since World War II. She will be homeported at Naval Base San Diego, Calif. as part of the Pacific Fleet.

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