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Sea Service Awards recognize top service members

Story and photo by
MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Forty-one Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen were honored during the 2008 Navy League Sea Service Awards sponsored by the Honolulu Council Navy League at the Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu on Dec. 12.

The 48th annual ceremony was held to recognize excellence in service of select enlisted personnel and junior grade officers of the sea services assigned to commands in the Hawai'i region.

Also during the ceremony, Donny Salcedo received the 2008 George S.B. Walters Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Award for civilian shipyard employees. Salcedo was chosen for his overall outstanding performance, leadership, enthusiasm, initiative and team spirit during the 12-month-long inactivation of USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (SSN 708).

Keynote speaker Marine Corps Col. Robert Rice, commanding officer of Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe, recognized each of the awardees as true leaders of their respective commands.

"The Sea Service awards go to leaders," said Rice. "You are here because of your leadership abilities and your command leaders recognized something special in you and nominated you for these prestigious



Naval Aircrewman Mechanic 1st Class (AW/NAC) Amy Smith, assigned to Patrol Squadron Four Seven at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, is presented with the Sea Service Grand Award for enlisted Sailors during the 2008 Navy League Sea Service Awards sponsored by the Honolulu Council Navy League at the Hale Koa Hotel. Navy Lt. Jenna Raunig, assigned to Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific, received the Sea Service Grand Award for junior grade officers. The 48th annual ceremony was held to recognize forty-one senior enlisted personnel and junior grade officers of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard for excellence in service while assigned to commands in the Hawaii region.

awards."

Awards were presented to each winner by Rice and Don Morrison, president of

the Honolulu Navy League. After each of the honorees received their award, Rice and Morrison announced the

winners of the Sea Service Grand Award to the top enlisted and junior officer.

Recipients of the Sea Ser-

vice Grand Award were Navy Lt. Jenna Raunig, assigned to Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific, and

Naval Aircrewman Mechanic 1st Class (AW/NAC) Amy Smith, assigned to Patrol Squadron Four Seven at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i.

Raunig stated that for her and her shipmates to be acknowledged lets them know their hard work is noticed in the military community.

"I was very humbled to be nominated and surprised to be the winner," said Raunig. "I just want to thank the Navy League for recognizing all our hard work and this type of encouragement helps us know we're doing the right thing."

Smith believes that leadership works in a cycle, as she learned tricks of the trade from her leaders as a junior Sailor and now she teaches what she has learned to her junior Sailors.

"My leadership throughout my career has molded me to where I am today," said Smith. "I learn from those who have gone before me, make any changes necessary, and make sure I pass it on to others for when my time in the military is over."

Awardees were selected based on overall outstanding performance of duty, individual achievement, excellence in leadership, participation in community activities, and outstanding military bearing and appearance.

The Navy League is a worldwide civilian organization consisting of more than 65,000 members in more than 250 councils.



U.S. Navy photo

Houston James, a Pearl Harbor survivor, was the guest of honor aboard USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) on Dec. 9, a fitting end to his trip to Hawai'i for the Remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day.

Pearl Harbor is guest of honor aboard USS Chung-Hoon

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93)
Public Affairs

Houston James, a Pearl Harbor survivor, was the guest of honor aboard USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) on Dec. 9, a fitting end to his trip to Hawai'i for the Remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day. James met three Sailors from the ship an hour after he arrived on island from his home in Texas.

Navy Counselor 1st Class Roseanne Corey, Fire Controlman 1st Class Shari Duffy and Storekeeper 3rd Class Valerie Hansen were eating dinner at a local restaurant when James, his friend Jean and Jim Taylor, Pearl Harbor survivors liaison, sat down in the next booth.

The three Sailors noticed James' Pearl Harbor survivor hat and decided to buy his group dessert and go and pay their respects. During this time, they explained that they were stationed at Pearl Harbor on the USS Chung-Hoon and that their ship would be the ship that was honored with the task of going around Ford Island, under the bridge and passing in front of

the USS Arizona on the morning of Dec. 7. An invitation was extended to all to come aboard while on island and James readily accepted and toured the ship on Dec. 9.

James was rendered all honors while aboard the Chung-Hoon and was given the tour by the three Sailors and Command Master Chief David Unnone. While aboard, Cmdr. Mike McCartney, ship commanding officer, presented the Pearl Harbor survivor with the ship's coin and command ball cap.

James commented that while he was observing the Dec. 7 ceremony and the Chung-Hoon sailed by, he almost lost his footing because he was so overcome with emotion at how majestic the ship looked while passing in front of the USS Arizona Memorial.

James will be 85 next month and still gets around pretty good. When the Chung-Hoon Sailors commented on it to James' friend, she stated that the reason they were still so active was that they dance every Friday night at their local VFW.

USS Ohio visits Pearl Harbor

MC1 (SW) Cynthia Clark

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

USS Ohio (SSGN 726), the first operational Trident guided-missile submarine, pulled into Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Dec. 8, before returning to its homeport of Bangor, Wash. from its maiden deployment.

"It's a great opportunity to be in Hawai'i," said Capt. Dennis Carpenter, USS Ohio commanding officer. "Our ship has been deployed for 15 months and for a lot of our guys it's their first time here. We're also excited some of the families were able to come out and welcome their guys home in paradise, before we actually have to go home to winter."

The submarine departed Naval Base Kitsap on Oct. 14, 2007 for its maiden deployment, which began a month ahead of schedule. Claiming many firsts, Ohio was the first Trident guided-missile submarine to complete an equator and prime meridian crossing, the first to achieve SEAL (sea, air, land)/diver dry deck shelter certification, the first to complete three highly-successful national tasking missions, and the first to earn two Navy Expeditionary Medals.

"It's unprecedented," Carpenter continued. "To get out there and conduct mission after mission and demonstrate to our allies our capabilities, it's extraordinary."

Ohio visited Busan, Republic of Korea; Subic Bay, Philippines; Yokosuka, Japan and Guam, where the submarine conducted crew exchanges between the blue and gold crews, which allowed the submarine to remain on station in support of national tasking.

During the visit to Busan, Ohio



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

USS Ohio (SSGN 726) visits Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Dec. 8 on the return leg of its historic first deployment Trident guided-missile submarine, the final stop before returning to its home port of Bangor, Wash. The submarine departed Naval Base Kitsap on Oct. 14, 2007 for its maiden deployment, which began a month ahead of schedule.

accomplished another submarine first: the ship hosted a joint special operations task force during Exercise Key Resolve/Foal Eagle to demonstrate the joint command and control capability of the new SSGN platform.

"That's the great thing about USS Ohio. We can go anywhere in the world in a relatively short period of time," Carpenter said. "We've put a lot of miles on our submarine."

Another memorable event during Ohio's maiden deployment was the burial at sea of a veteran of World War II. Ohio crew member, Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SS) Jason Witty, spread the ashes of his grandfather, Eugene Stanley Morgan, in the Philippine

Sea, honoring Morgan's request to be buried with his shipmates of the World War II cruiser USS Indianapolis (CA-35). Morgan was one of 316 survivors of the sinking of the cruiser on July 30, 1945.

Ohio, the first Trident submarine ever built, returned to the fleet February 2006 after a \$250 million, one-year refueling and a \$750 million, two-year conversion from a ballistic missile submarine. With this conversion, Ohio and the subsequent convert submarines provide the fleet with the ability to quickly embark and deploy to provide command and control functions for special operations forces and a large volume strike platform in its operating theater.



USS Hawai'i to be homeported at Pearl Harbor See page A-2



USS Lake Erie hosts friends, family cruise to Maui See page A-3



'Olelo Community Television to air U.S. Navy Band's holiday concert See page A-4



MCPON West sends holiday greeting to fleet See page A-7

USS Hawai'i to be homeported at Pearl Harbor

MC3 Luciano Marano

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

Commander, Submarine Force Pacific Rear Adm. Douglas McAneny announced Dec. 4 that USS Hawai'i (SSN 776) will be the first Virginia-class submarine to be homeported at Naval Station Pearl Harbor next summer.

"SUBPAC is thrilled to be welcoming the most technologically advanced submarine in the U.S. inventory to our ohana," said McAneny. "Virginia-class submarines like USS Hawai'i are the first to be designed post cold war to excel in the littorals, while maintaining the ability to conduct open ocean operations, which will directly support my ability to meet and defeat threats to maritime securi-



U.S. Navy photo by John Narewski

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Commissioned May 5, 2007, Hawai'i was the third Virginia-class attack submarine constructed and the first submarine to be named after the island state. Her crew is excited to

represent its namesake state, as they continue to build upon our already sustained relationships with our multi-national partners in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Adm. Robert Willard, Com-

mander U.S. Pacific Fleet, was eager to take advantage of the capabilities USS Hawai'i will bring to the Pacific. "USS Hawai'i represents our very newest technologies and advancements in submarine design and capability," said Willard. "These boats contribute to a great deal of what we do to maritime security, to the employment of our special operations forces, and all dimensions of warfare in the Pacific."

Hawai'i's Governor Linda Lingle, the submarine's sponsor, was also pleased with the announcement of USS Hawai'i's new homeport. "As governor, I am elated the USS Hawai'i (SSN 776) will make Pearl Harbor home," said Lingle. "This fabulous journey began with the keel laying in 2004, continued with the christening in 2006, and the proud day of commissioning in 2007. As the subma-

rine's sponsor, watching our submarine be 'brought to life' has been an honor and a privilege. Now, to have our namesake submarine call Hawai'i home is the culmination of an important and exciting venture. I look forward to welcoming the entire crew and the families to our state."

Measuring 377 feet long, weighing 7,800 tons when submerged and with a complement of more than 130 crew members, Hawai'i is one of the Navy's newest and most technologically sophisticated submarines. USS Hawai'i conducted its first operational deployment prior to its post-shakedown availability, demonstrating the Virginia-class program's capability to immediately support the fleet.

Hawai'i's Senator Daniel Inouye reflected on the importance of USS Hawai'i's home porting in the aloha state. "It is

indeed fitting that the first Virginia-class submarine to arrive into Pearl Harbor will be the USS Hawai'i," said Inouye. "I have no doubt that the men and women of the shipyard will ensure that she is fit and remains fit to fight today and in the years to follow. The USS Hawai'i will be a national security beacon throughout the Asia-Pacific region. I wish its crew Godspeed and calm seas."

USS Hawai'i is a state-of-the-art submarine capable of supporting a multitude of missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike, naval special warfare involving special operations forces, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, strike group support, and mine warfare. She will join the force of 15 Los Angeles-class submarines presently homeported at Pearl Harbor.

USS Lake Erie hosts friends, family cruise to Maui

Lt. John A. Carter

USS Lake Erie (CG 70)

USS Lake Erie (CG 70) hosted hundreds of guests aboard for a trip to Maui on Nov. 28. While the 180 passengers might have missed the day after Thanksgiving "Black Friday" super sales at the shopping centers, they were in for an exciting and unforgettable experience going to sea aboard a Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser.

This was the ship's much anticipated "dependents cruise" to Lahaina, on the western shore of Maui. There the crew enjoyed liberty for the weekend with their families and friends before return-

ing to Pearl Harbor the following Monday.

Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, was aboard with his family and commented on the experience, "We enjoy putting on events like this because we know it is an exciting time for the families and guests as they get to see what shipboard life is like and what their Sailor does when the ship goes out to sea."

The cruise also served as a real morale booster for the crew. Their families and friends had the opportunity to tour the ship, observe a damage control demonstration, see a gun shoot, and examine the workings of a naval



U.S. Navy photo

USS Lake Erie (CG 70) hosted 180 friends and family aboard for a trip to Maui on Nov. 28.

ship at sea. Years from now as they look back on this memorable family experience, this

event will likely be one of the highlights of their tour in Hawai'i.

PACFLT Commander releases holiday greeting

MC1 Luke Perry

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Adm. Robert Willard and his wife, Donna, released a holiday greeting on Dec. 10. Mrs. Willard wished Sailors and their families a safe and happy holiday season.

"We hope you can be together with family this time of year. If not please know

that our thoughts and prayers are with you," Mrs. Willard said.

Adm. Willard took the opportunity to thank Sailors for their hard work and dedication.

"We'd also like to say thank you for an outstanding 2008. This past year has been one of great achievement, progress and learning for our Navy," said Willard.

To view the holiday greeting, visit www.cpf.navy.mil

‘Olelo Community Television to air U.S. Navy Band’s holiday concert

‘Olelo Community Television

‘Olelo Community Television will include in this year’s holiday programming its first-ever cablecast of the United States Navy Band’s Washington, D.C. holiday concert.

‘Olelo will be the only local television outlet, not affiliated with the military, to air the concert. The performance, entitled “Season of Magic,” features a mix of traditional and contemporary holiday music and will air on O’ahu on ‘Olelo cable channel 49 on Dec. 28 at 4 p.m. and Dec. 30 at 3 p.m.

“We are honored to bring the always-popular Navy Band holiday concert to O’ahu



U.S. Navy photo by MUC Stephen Hassay

cable viewers,” said Keali’i Lopez, president and CEO of ‘Olelo. “The program will allow a brand new audience to delight in the magical performances of these talented musicians.

From choral and jazz selec-

tions to country music and concert band pieces, there will be something for everyone to enjoy during this holiday season.”

The United States Navy Band, recognized as “the world’s finest,” presents their

holiday concerts twice each year at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. The performances will be recorded on Dec. 20 and 21. Representatives of the Navy Band invited ‘olelo to air the event on O’ahu and expand coverage of the group’s performance.

Throughout the year, the Navy Band provides musical support to the president of the United States, the Department of the Navy and other senior military and government officials.

(The “Season of Magic” Navy Band concert will air on the Pentagon Channel at these HST: Dec. 23 at 10pm, Dec. 24 at 5 a.m. and 12 a.m., Dec. 25 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.)

Navy Capt. enlists son-in-law



U.S. Navy photo

U.S. Navy Capt. Richard Kitchens, commanding officer of Naval Station Pearl Harbor, congratulates son-in-law Tony Eid after administering the oath of enlistment to Eid at the Pearl Harbor Military Entrance Processing Station Dec. 15. Eid will report to Fort Jackson in Columbia, S.C. in Feb. 2009 to begin basic training in the U.S. Army, where he will serve as a language specialist.

MCPON West sends holiday greeting to fleet

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick West

In anticipation of the upcoming holiday season, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick West sends the following message.

"I'd like to take a few moments and wish each of you a happy holiday season and to thank all of our Navy families for the support they provide us all.

As you read this, thousands

of our shipmates are underway standing the watch. They are hundreds of feet below the surface, on the surface and thousands of feet above it.

Our Seabees are helping to re-build nations while our Corpsmen and our IAs continue to put their lives on the line every day with the Marines and Army in places like Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa.

My thoughts and prayers will continue to be with them, and all of you. But I won't be alone. All of America will give thanks for the sacrifices you

and your families make. If there is one common theme that unites us as a nation, it could very well be the overwhelming respect each citizen has for the men and women who serve in our military.

If you're away from family and friends during the holidays, please consider that and remember that the people you've volunteered to defend appreciate what you do for them every day.

No matter where you are the next few weeks, keep safety in mind. If you're driving, take your time and use com-

mon sense. Your family will thank you for it.

Shipmates, I can't begin to describe the pride I have in each one of you. I am humbled by the opportunity to lead the greatest enlisted force in naval history and I look forward to the year of challenges that await us.

Thank you for continuing to serve this nation and our Navy. Please extend that gratitude to your families and make sure they know how much we appreciate their role in our success as a service.

Hooyah Shipmates!"

Staying fluent in anti-submarine warfare

**Story and photo by
MC2 Luciano Marano**

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

The Navy's educational hierarchy is constructed on two key pillars: training sessions and certifications. It is through group training sessions, in which more experienced technical experts pass on their hard-earned knowledge to up and coming young Sailors, and the certification process, where those same Sailors prove their comprehension through tests and review boards, which ensures the Navy maintains a continuous cycle of improvement.

In a perfect example of both, the Pearl Harbor-based, Commander, Anti-submarine Warfare Force U.S. Third Fleet (CTF-34) is hard at work ensuring some of America's finest vessels are staying fit to fight in the constantly-changing field of modern anti-submarine warfare (ASW).

"We're working with the USS Boxer (LHD 4) and its strike group to ensure they are capable of conducting ASW operations," said Operations Specialist 1st Class (SW) Brandon Moore, CTF-34 watch supervisor.

"We're teaching them how to find an enemy submarine and what to do once that vessel is located," said Moore. "Should the strike group use a helicopter to drop a torpedo in the water, or should they use a friendly sub to confront the other vessel?"

Modern ASW is a multifaceted operation involving numerous types of vessels and spans several communities including submarine, aviation and surface fleet Sailors. To combine so many personnel and so much equipment into one exercise would seem a daunting task.

"Coordinating ASW is never easy," said Lt. Cmdr. Scott Newman, CTF-34 surface operations officer. "Working with so many different kinds of assets, be it

surface vessels, aircraft or submarines, however, is not too difficult as long as you understand the capabilities and limitations of each."

Sonar capabilities are the main focus of this particular exercise. The strike group is working to further develop their sonar capabilities to familiarize their junior sonar technicians with the procedures and the many different signals that they may encounter while underway.

"Our submarines can emit many different kinds of frequencies so as to mimic a diesel sub or a foreign vessel," said Moore. "The strike group is working to locate and identify our subs as they pretend to be these possible targets to ensure that they will know what they're looking at if they encounter those signals in a real-world situation."

"Some of these sonar technicians may be seeing these signals outside of the classroom for the first time," continued Moore. "The next time they see them they may be in foreign waters."

The exercise lasts three days, with the CTF-34 staff closely monitoring and recording the strike group's performance in each scenario.

"This is a necessary pre-deployment certification for any strike group," said Newman. "I really hope those involved in the exercise remember that even when this is done, there are commands and assets in place to help them accomplish their mission."

It is the hard work and dedication of Sailors like the CTF-34 staff that perfectly exemplifies the Navy training and certification system which continues to work so well. To remain fluent in an ever-advancing field like anti-submarine warfare is not an easy task, yet these professionals remain candid about their accomplishments.

"We do our best with every asset we work with," said Moore. "These are all experiences they can take with them on deployment."



Operations Specialist 2nd (AW/SW) Class Kalani Dailey, CTF-34 staff member, works Dec. 3 to plan a training scenario for one of the many exercises CTF-34 conducts in the field of anti-submarine warfare (ASW) operations.

MCBH remembers 'day which will live in infamy'

Story and photo by
Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ochoa

Combat Correspondent, Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe Public Affairs

Dec. 7, 1941, is a day known throughout American history as a 'day which will live in infamy.' On that fateful Sunday 67 years ago, aircraft from the Japanese Imperial Fleet attacked the island of Oahu, killing countless service members and civilians aboard multiple military installations on the island.

Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, which was then Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay, was the first base attacked that morning and the 18 Sailors and two civilians who lost their lives here became the first of many during America's fight in the Pacific.

Service members, retirees, veterans, family members and base personnel gathered at the Kaneohe Klipper Memorial on Dec. 5 for a ceremony to honor and remember those lives lost.

The Klipper memorial was dedicated on Dec. 7, 1981 - 40 years after the attacks - and bears the names of the lives lost aboard the base, along with an inscription that eloquently reads, "They gave their today for our tomorrow."

The names forever engraved on the memorial include Sailors: Walter Brown, John Bucklet, Stanley Dosisk, Clarence Formoe, Rodney Foss, Leo Fox, Daniel Griffin, Charles Lawrence, Milburn Manning, Laxton Newman, Carl Otter-Stetter, Robert Porterfield, James Robinson, Joseph Smartt, Robert Uhlmann, Raphale Watson and Luther Weaver. Isaac Lee and Kamiko Hookano, both civilian contractors, also perished in the attack.

The Marine Forces Pacific Band played colors as a color guard raised the American flag over the ceremony. Chaplain Richard House, base chaplain, began the ceremony by asking those present to remember and honor the lives lost, as well as bear in mind the similarities between the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the attack on Oahu.

"For the current generation, it is difficult to recall Dec. 7 without remembering Sept. 11," he said.

Col. Robert Rice, base commander, welcomed those at the ceremony, bringing specific attention to the family



Matilda Naipo and Edna Shiroma, daughters of Kamiko Hookano, one of the two civilian contractors killed during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay, stand by the Kaneohe Klipper Memorial at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i Kaneohe Bay after a ceremony Dec. 5 in honor of the lives lost during the attack. Shiroma and Naipo's father was one of the 20 lives lost aboard the base that day, and one of the first lives lost during the Japanese Imperial Fleet attack.

members of Kamiko Hookano, one of the civilian contractors killed here, and three Pearl Harbor survivors present, including Ray Emory, the ceremony's guest speaker.

"It is my deepest honor to introduce Mr. Emory, a true American hero," Rice said.

Emory, who was stationed that day aboard the USS Honolulu, spoke of his memories of the attack on Pearl Harbor, reminding those present it was more than the USS Arizona that was attacked and how many gave their lives to defend the base. He told of his experience fighting the Japanese and about how those present began the morning thinking it was a practice drill, and soon realized they were at war.

"I was the first to arrive at my battle station and had the cover off the machine gun when I saw a torpedo going by," he recalled. "I thought 'this is a really good mock air raid,' so I stayed to watch. When the torpedo hit [a ship], I realized it wasn't supposed to do that in a practice. Then I looked into the sky and saw that big red ball and I wondered who declared war on whom and how they got there so fast."

Emory said the reality settled in when one of his fellow Sailors came to help him and Emory finally said, "The Japanese are attacking."

Rice, Emory and Navy Capt. Rodney M. Urbano, commodore, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2, placed a wreath, provided by the Kaneohe Klippers Association, in front of the memorial. The names of the fallen Sailors and civilians were then read, each followed by the ringing of a bell. A firing detail fired a 21-gun salute, followed by the playing of Taps in memory of the lives lost.

After the ceremony, a solemn Hookano family approached the memorial and the wreath, taking pictures of each other in memory of their fallen father.

Matilda Naipo, one of Hookano's five children, told of her father's actions that day and the impact it left on her family. She said her father heard about the attacks on the radio and immediately left home to see what he could do. On his way to the base, he was shot and killed by enemy fire. Naipo and her sister, Edna Shiroma, said they have come to the ceremony every year since they found out about it in 2005.

"It's nice to be recognized today, especially that the base recognizes the military and civilians who gave their lives," Naipo said. "If my father were here today, he'd say the base looks good. He'd be proud of what's happening here today."

Pearl Harbor Shipyard trainee named University of Hawai'i Co-op Engineering Student of the Year

Sarah Fry and Marshall Fukuki

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

A Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard student trainee has been selected as the University of Hawai'i's 2008 Cooperative Education Program (Co-op) Engineering Student of the Year.

Matthew J. K. Patterson of Hilo, Hawai'i received the award at a special meeting of current and former shipyard co-op engineers Nov. 14 at the shipyard. A University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UHM) senior majoring in electrical engineering, Patterson works part-time at the shipyard as an engineering intern. Another shipyard engineering co-op, William Law, was recognized as an award nominee.

James Kenny, shipyard nuclear engineering and planning manager, along with Dr. Francisco Hernandez, UHM vice chancellor for students, presented the award which consists of a plaque and \$250 scholarship.

Patterson will go on to compete for co-op honors at the national level. In 2002, Chad Kaanoi, presently an electrical engineer at the shipyard, was the UH Co-op Engineering Student of the Year and a national co-op student of the year finalist.

Patterson was unaware of his selection until he heard his name announced at the meeting, but I didn't know why. It was a very well-kept secret," he said.

Patterson works two to three days a week in the shipyard's testing engineering and work control division, code 246. "I really like it," he said. "It's a very family-oriented atmosphere."

Patterson, who started at the shipyard in May, said his coworkers "really take the time to show you how to do certain things. They make (the job) enjoyable."

The pace of work "can be hectic at times, but at the end of the day, we're still friends," he said.

Patterson described the shipyard as "definitely interesting. It's one thing seeing a submarine on TV or in the movies. It's way different to go down there and walk around in it. It's pretty amazing how it's put together ... and to see the ship's force running it."

The co-op program is a nationwide



U.S. Navy photo courtesy of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. Matthew J. K. Patterson of Hilo, Hawai'i received the University of Hawai'i's 2008 Co-op Engineering Student of the Year award at a special meeting of current and former shipyard co-op engineers Nov. 14 at the shipyard.

work experience program that formally integrates student academic and career interests with productive work experiences. Co-op partnerships offer employers an opportunity to recruit talented, trainable prospective employees and give students an opportunity to gain paid, career-related work experience.

The shipyard has supported and been a proponent of the cooperative education program, sponsored by the UHM Center for Career Development and Student Employment, since the program's early beginnings in 1986.

According to UHM career counselor Iris Takushi, about 100 engineering co-ops have been placed at the shipyard in the past nine years. Of that number, "over 40 have actually converted to full-time employees," she said.

Mechanical engineer Jonathan Aniya, a recruiter in the shipyard's engineering and planning department, estimated the number of engineers employed at the shipyard as "more than 800 ... (and) approaching 900. Last year alone, we hired 80," he said.

The shipyard is the largest recruiter of co-op engineering majors, Takushi said, but opportunities are available in other disciplines. Students have been assigned to the shipyard in a variety of areas, including business, accounting, finance, computer science, management information systems and environmental science.

If you are interested in participating in the co-op program, call the UHM Career Development and Student Employment office at (808) 956-7007 or e-mail Coop2600@hawaii.edu. Additional information is also available online at <http://cdse.hawaii.edu>.