

Navy Region Hawaii celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Story and photos by
MC2 Robert Stirrup,

Commander, Navy
Region Hawaii Public
Affairs

Sailors and civilians assigned to commands in the Pearl Harbor area attended a ceremony to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

This year's Hispanic Heritage Month theme is "Many Backgrounds, Many Stories ... One American Spirit."

Capt. John Coronado, commanding officer of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii, served as the guest speaker during the ceremony and offered his remarks to the audience.

"Every year we celebrate a theme that reflects the unique experiences and contributions Hispanics have made to our nation. With this month's theme 'Many Backgrounds, Many Stories ... One American Spirit,' we celebrate the different skills, talents, experiences and diversity of our nation's Hispanic Americans," Coronado said.

"Today, with nearly 70,000 Hispanic-American active-duty and reserve Sailors and



cial. Diversity is our strength," Smith added.

After the ceremony, Ivan and Sophia Ordonez performed traditional Columbian dances for those in attendance. Ivan works as an aircraft mechanic on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed a week in September as National Hispanic Heritage Week. The observance was expanded in 1988 to a month-long celebration, lasting from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, to honor the nation's Hispanic heritage. During this time, America celebrates the culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

(Left photo) Sophia Ordonez performs a traditional Columbian dance for the audience during the Hispanic-American Heritage Month celebration at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (Right photo) Capt. John Coronado, commanding officer of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii, offers remarks to the audience during the Hispanic-American Heritage Month celebration

Photo Illustration

Navy civilians proudly serving our country and protecting our way of life,

it is evident that our strength lies in our diversity," Coronado said.

To conclude the ceremony, Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region

Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, presented Coronado, the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band and Ivan and Sophia Ordonez with certificates of appreciation.

"It is important for us to reflect on the diversity of America and our military," Smith said. "The different backgrounds and cultures is what makes our country spe-

Hawaii-Pacific Combined Federal Campaign starts Oct. 3

U.S. Pacific Command

Starting Oct. 3, Hawaii-Pacific military and federal employees will celebrate 50 years of giving through the Combined Federal Campaign.

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the world's largest and most successful workplace fundraising campaign, with more than four million federal employees and military personnel participating. President John F. Kennedy established CFC by Presidential Executive Order in 1961. This campaign will run from Oct. 3 to Nov. 18.

"Our people are making a lasting impression on people's lives each and every day," said Maj. Gen. Peter Pawling, mobilization assistant, U.S. Pacific Command. "Through this fundraiser, we can continue to make a difference helping others," he said.

This year, two new developments have been added to the campaign. The first is the launch of a Facebook page where fans can "like" the page and view photos from kickoff events, read about local charities, and view the status of the campaign. The other is the



U.S. Navy photo by Ed Foster

Capt. Jeff James, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam commander, talks with Wenona Harris, program director for "Project D.A.T.E." at the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) kickoff at the Hickam Officer's Club on Sept. 27. Project D.A.T.E. is an acronym for: "Discerning to understand the need; Assisting to meet the need; Training to permanently fulfill the need; Empowering to meet the need of others."

ability to donate online through a payroll deduction program.

Each area command or agency has a unit project officer representing them. Training

for CFC volunteers took place through Sept. 30 at locations on Oahu and Kauai. Last year

the Hawaii-Pacific Area, which includes all of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, and Northern Marianas, raised a little more than \$6 million. This year's goal is \$6.5 million.

In total, CFC supports more than 2,200 local, national and international charities helping men, women, children and animals.

These nonprofits provide services and assistance to people in nearly every walk of life. It is only through charitable donations that these organizations can sustain their efforts.

CFC and individual service relief campaigns are the only fund-raising drives authorized for federal and military workplaces.

CFC allows federal employees and military personnel an opportunity to support philanthropy through a program that is employee-focused, cost-efficient and effective in providing all federal employees a chance to contribute to a wide range of charities, both locally and nationally.

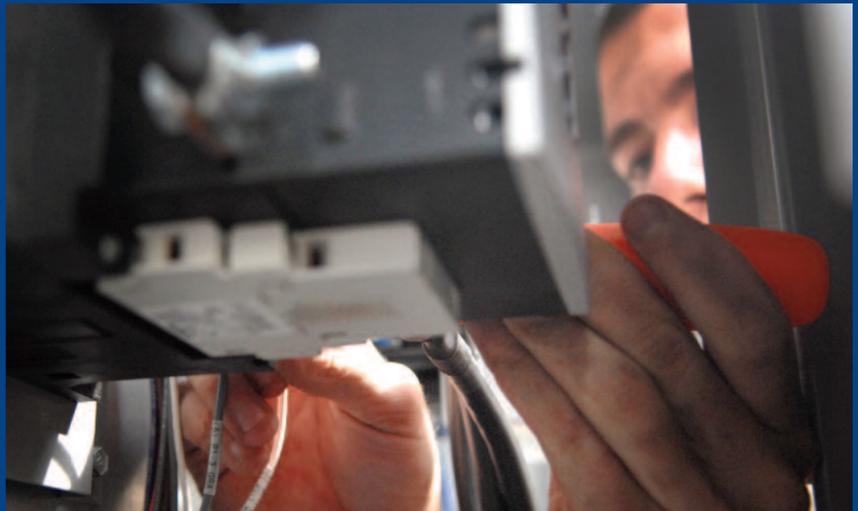
The campaign can be found on Facebook under Hawaii-Pacific Combined Federal Campaign.

Airman keeps it cool

Airman 1st Class Joseph Gannon repairs the air conditioning for the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam passenger terminal Sept. 28. Gannon is a heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician (HVAC) for the 647th Civil Engineer Squadron. The HVAC shop here maintains all of the facilities on

the installation to provide cooling for mission-critical buildings along with comfort cooling for the entire base. Equipment here is energy-star rated to ensure maximum energy savings for the U.S. government.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn Herrick



Sailors help clean up Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
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USS Reuben James welcomes two new chief petty officers
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Pearl Harbor Survivor, USS Missouri Sailor laid to rest
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Job seekers dressed to impress at the 24th Annual JEMS Job Fair
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Federal Fire encourages residents to keep homes safe during Fire Prevention Week
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Defense leads 647th FSS to shutout victory
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Air Force pays 'tribute to heroes' at 64th birthday ball

(Clockwise from left) Chad Hennings, former A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot and Dallas Cowboys defensive lineman, was the guest speaker at the 64th annual Air Force Ball, held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki, Sept. 16.

Hawaiian performers welcome guests of the annual 64th Air Force Ball into the ballroom at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

Chad Hennings, former A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot and Dallas Cowboys defensive lineman (left), sings "Happy Birthday" to Ashely Kolfage, wife of Senior Airman Brian Kolfage (right)

The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Honor Guard presents the colors at the 64th annual Air Force Ball.

U.S. Air Force photos by Sr. Airman Lauren Main



Commands help clean up Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Story and photos by MC Sean Furey

NPASE West Det. Hawaii

Base and tenant commands joined together to help clean up Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Sept. 22.

This is the fifth quarterly clean-up and is geared toward cleaning the parking lots and barracks on JBPHH.

"The base clean-up is a good thing," said Operations Specialist 2nd Class James Darden, assigned to JBPHH. "It involves us doing more than just cleaning, such as interacting and getting together as a group and making the base look better."

According to the JBPHH 1st Lieutenants Division, each quarterly clean-up yields an average of 2 1/2 tons of green waste, trash



(Left) Boatswain's Mate Seaman Rachel Walker helps clean up on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The base wide clean-up was part of a quarterly clean-up started by the 1st Lieutenant division on JBPHH. (Right) Culinary Specialist 1st Class Miguel Zavala helps clean up on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

and debris.

"The clean-up promotes cleanliness and gives us a chance to take care of our buildings," said Culinary Specialist 1st Class Raymond Lee, 1st Lieutenant's leading petty officer. "We have 15 to 16 tenant commands that come out here, check out equipment, trash bags and cleaning gear to do base cleanup."

All the tenant commands on JBPHH were encouraged to get involved in the clean-up by helping maintain the immediate area of their commands and work on any special projects the command had in mind.

"Today is a good day for the base," said Chief Warrant Officer Carlos Choto, the 1st Lieutenant for JBPHH. "I am very proud of 1st Lieutenant and all the departments that are helping us do this."

Job seekers dressed to impress at the 24th Annual JEMS Job Fair

Story and photo by Anna Marie General

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Public Affairs

Job seekers had the opportunity to network with recruiters from local businesses, mainland companies and government agencies at the 24th Annual Joint Employment Management System (JEMS) Job Fair held at Club Pearl, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on Sept. 21.

With more than 108 companies recruiting for all types of positions from entry level to highly technical professional positions, more than 800 job seekers came dressed to impress in their business attire to find the job that suits them. Capt. Jeffrey James, commander, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, delivered opening remarks at the job fair.

Susan Hodge, JEMS director, said, "We had a successful turnout and companies were very impressed with the amount of job seekers that attended this year."

Job seeker Jennifer Dietzler, an Army spouse who had just moved to Oahu, said, "I heard about the job fair through the Army Community Service (ACS) and was told that they had the event last year and that it was a great place to get your foot in the door to network."

As job seekers filled out job applications and submitted resumes to companies of their interest, companies supplied informational material and networked with potential candidates to fill a job vacancy.

Amanda Tolentino and Kara Scammell of the Naval Criminal



An active duty Sailor transitioning from military to civilian life inquires about a job opportunity at the 24th Annual JEMS Job Fair held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam's Club Pearl on Sept. 21.

Investigative Service (NCIS) were one of the companies at the job fair who supplied information about the types of jobs they offer. "We find the job fair very beneficial because it helps us find candidates with a military background and gives the opportunity for those who are getting out of the military to look for a job in federal law enforcement," Tolentino said.

Machinist Mate 2nd Class Dominic Moreno of the USS Key West is an example of one who is transitioning from military to civil-

ian life. "I will be getting out of the Navy in a few weeks and plan to go back to school and get my degree in mechanical engineering and I'm here to look for a part-time job in between," Moreno said.

The job fair was open to active duty personnel, Department of Defense (DoD) civilians, retirees, family members and reservists. "The main goal of the job fair is to connect the military jobseeker with local, mainland and international companies and agencies," Hodge said.

With companies offering job vacancies in various fields, most technological fields look for candidates with a military background because most personnel possess a security clearance.

Tom Thornton, principal engineer of ActioNet, mentioned how effective the job fair has been for the company. "Being in the Information Technology (IT) industry, we have received a couple of resumes that have the potential of being hired," Thornton said.

"Hiring people straight out of the

military has its advantages because they know our customer which is the DoD, they have the current skill set that we need to service our customers, and most have established security clearances," Thornton added.

After hearing about the job fair on a website, Nathan Kimura, a job seeker, prepared his resume for the event. "The job fair had a lot of big-named companies that needed someone with a security clearance. I have a security clearance and skills in programming and system admin, I definitely submitted my resume to those companies and hope to find one with better pay," Kimura said.

Keiki Sitters owner, Kathy Custer, explained the purpose of her company being at the job fair. "Since there are so many military families that move here and don't know anybody, many of them are looking for child care, so we are looking for military spouses who would like to care for other people's children," Custer said.

The fair helped job seekers and employers network in a face-to-face environment, making this a successful event.

Another job seeker, Jocelyn Pasion of the Hawaii Air National Guard, said, "In this economy, it has been hard looking for a job, so the JEMS job fair really supports the military community and helps us out."

Sponsored by Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Marine Corps Base Hawaii, JEMS assists military-affiliated members in finding employment in this high cost-of-living area through their job fairs and online job bank with more than 2,000 job listings in Hawaii. For more information, visit www.JEMJobs.com.



Navy bids Roughead farewell, Greenert takes helm

MC2 (SW)
Kyle P. Malloy

Chief of Naval Operations
Public Affairs

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (NNS) — With 38 years of service, Adm. Gary Roughead stepped down from the position of Chief of Naval Operations during the change of command ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy, Sept. 23.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus was the keynote speaker for the ceremony and highlighted Roughead's accomplishments during his naval career while thanking him for his leadership.

"I don't think anyone can ever fully express how much we're going to miss Gary Roughead's counsel and absolutely unwavering commitment to the Navy (and the United States," Mabus said. "Admiral Roughead has had the genius and the skill to turn so many of the challenges he's faced into opportunities."

Mabus reviewed Roughead's career milestones including being one of only two admirals in the United States Navy to command both the Pacific and Atlantic fleets.

"As Chief of Naval Operations, his leadership has helped to reshape the Navy into the 21st century operationally and strategically," Mabus said.

"Gary Roughead's leader-



Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead, third from left, is relieved by Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert, far left, as the Chief of Naval Operations during a change of command ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy Sept. 23.

ship skills follow great officers and a willingness to innovate while respecting the deep traditions of the sea service," Mabus said.

Mabus spoke about Roughead's commitment to his Sailors and always making them his first priority. Mabus said, "He never lost sight of the primary responsibility of leadership - taking care of the people entrusted

to you and to the office you hold."

As Roughead took the podium for the last time as Chief of Naval Operations, he thanked his counterparts, both foreign and domestic, friends, and his family for the continued support and guidance during his tenure. He spoke about his unique experiences in the armed service,

especially in the relationships built.

"There has been a lot of change but throughout there has been the decisive, constant and the aspect of the Navy that will be my enduring memory — our Sailors," Roughead said.

In an emotional conclusion, Roughead did the best he could to summarize his naval career. "To echo what

another Navy man said nearly five decades ago at this academy, when asked what I did to make my life worthwhile I will respond with a great deal of pride and satisfaction, I served in the United States Navy," he said.

Mabus spoke about the transparent transition the Navy will go through when Roughead is relieved by

Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert as the top Navy officer.

"Admiral Roughead's contributions may be hard if not impossible to surpass but I am confident that if anyone can match them it is Jon Greenert," Mabus said. Greenert, the newly appointed 30th Chief of Naval Operations, took the podium after Roughead, thanking him for his service and bringing the Navy to where it is today.

Greenert said Roughead has done a magnificent job and the plan would be to keep it that way.

"My priorities, our course, are one we've got to remain ready to meet the current challenges today, we've got to build a relevant and capable future fleet, and we have got to continue to care for our Sailors, our civilians and their families, and recruit and nurture a motivated, relevant and diverse force," Greenert said. He then talked about the three tenets he will focus on during his time in office which include warfighting first, operate forward and be ready.

"We will approach our challenges and we will implement our changes that will have to be done in the future with three tenets in mind," Greenert said. "They will be effective (and) efficient. Our solutions will be joint and the Marine Corps will remain our primary partner," he added.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Shannon E. Renfro

Diverse Views



Who is your favorite author and why? What was the last book you read?



Alyce Chicoine
Hickam librarian

"Rick Riordan. He writes the series 'The Lightning Thief' which are full of action but teaches you Greek mythology at the same time. The last book I read was 'Heaven is for Real' by Todd Burpo; it was good."

Tom Setera
HQ PACAF



"I like to read historical or autobiographical books. I recently read James Stewart's biography."



Emily Pigott
Leeward Community College student

"I'm a big Harry Potter fan, so I would have to say J.K. Rowling. I like the way she writes, it's easy to relate to her writing and easy to lose yourself in it. The last book I read was 'Deja Dead' by Kathy Reichs."

Staff Sgt. Robin Crisostomo
15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



"My latest book was the Professional Development Guide (PDG), to prepare for promotion testing."



Senior Airman Crystal Rose
15th Maintenance Group

"I haven't read anything in a while, but I am looking for a good book to read while I am deployed."

(Provided by David D. Underwood Jr. and Jazzmin Williams)

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views? Got opinions to share?

Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

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Ho'okele welcomes letters to the editor for the editorial page on any subject as long as they are in good taste.

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

Letters and articles that are submitted to Ho'okele may be published and/or distributed in print and electronic form.

E-mail letters to: editor@hookelenews.com.

Call CNIC Support Center for telephone issues

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Personnel at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam can call CNIC Support Center at 1-888-CNI-4ALL (1-888-264-4255) if they are experiencing any telephone issues.

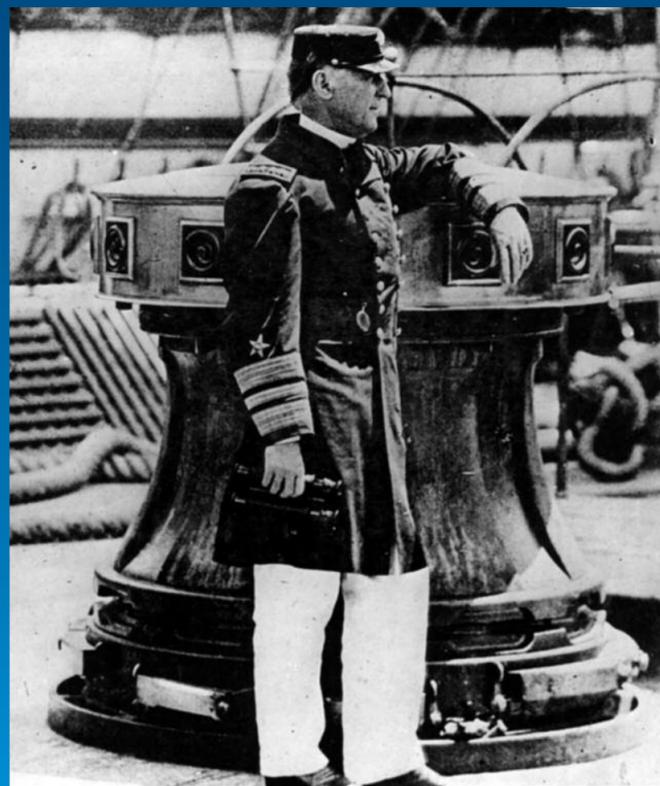
The caller will then be prompted by an automated message.

Press "4" for telecom support and "4" again to select Hawaii as the location. The caller will be connected to a live operator who will begin initial troubleshooting steps with the caller. After troubleshooting, if the caller

is still experiencing telephone issues, the operator will connect the caller to the specific help desk and stay on the line to make sure the caller is assisted.

Personnel can call this hotline for any telephone-related issue such as static on the line, no dial-tone, etc.

Farragut served as Navy's first admiral



Adm. David G. Farragut is shown on board his flagship USS Franklin during his European Cruise. Hispanic Americans have served in the U.S. Navy since the foundation of the United States. Farragut's father, Jorge Anthony Magin Farragut, was from Spain and fought against the British during the American Revolution. Following his father into the Navy, David G. Farragut became a national hero and was the Navy's first full admiral.

U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command photo

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USS Reuben James welcomes two new chief petty officers

Story and photo by
Ensign Damon
Goodrich-Houska

Two Sailors from USS Reuben James (FFG-57) were pinned as chief petty officers during a ceremony held Sept. 19 in Pearl Harbor.

"We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful backdrop to this ceremony, the USS Missouri," said Cmdr. Daniel Valascho, USS Reuben James commanding officer. "Out of the ashes of the attack on December 7th rose the strength of the U.S. Navy. Chiefs, they promoted the right men."

Gas Turbine System Electrical Technician Jose David and Cryptologic Technician Robert Zimmerman put on khaki uniforms and chief combination covers for the first time for the pinning ceremony, joined by their families and shipmates. David joined the Navy in 1999 and his previous assignments include USS Shiloh (CG-67), USS



Gas Turbine System Electrical Technician Jose David and Cryptologic Technician Robert Zimmerman Join the Ruben James chief's mess.

Chung-Hoon (DDG-93) and Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Los Angeles. Zimmerman joined the Navy in 2001 and his previous assignments include USS Shoup (DDG-86) and Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Colorado.

"Your duties and responsibilities as a chief petty officer are not all found in writing, you can't just refer to an instruction. You must have knowledge, understanding, and wisdom," said Navy Counselor Johannes Gonzales, Reuben James command senior chief. "You will at times be overwhelmed by everything that is expected of you as a chief petty officer. 'Ask the Chief' is a resident phrase both on and off the ship, and for good reason. You have not merely been promoted to the rank of E-7, you have joined an elite brotherhood; You are a chief petty officer in the United States Navy," Gonzales said.

Record number of Pearl Harbor Shipyard Sailors pinned as chief

Katie Vanes

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

Twelve Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Sailors — the largest number in recorded history — received the gold anchors and combination cover of a pinning ceremony Sept. 16. They were among the more than 3,500 first class petty officers the Navy announced Aug. 1 as selected for advancement in 2011.

"The Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard 'chief selects' this year are unique because of the wide variety between submariners, divers and (Sailors on) surface craft," said Command Master Chief Gary Smedley. "They are being recognized for not only what they bring to this Shipyard but to the Navy as a whole."

In the past three years, the number of chief selects at the shipyard has grown from four to six, and now 12.

The newly promoted CPOs are Chief Machinist's Mates Maya Art and Joseph Smith, Chief Enginemen Timothy Frazier and James Rubin, Chief Navy Divers Daniel O'Brien and Benjamin Sheltmire, Chief Electronics Technician Jonathon Chasse, Chief Hull Maintenance Technician Ryan Cooper, Chief Gas Turbine System Technician (Mechanical) Nhon Nguyen, Chief Fire Controlman Natalie Stein, Chief Damage Controlman Stephen Weyant and Chief Yeoman Raymond Boyd.

"The large number can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of all the selected Sailors, and additionally to the Military Personnel Office (staff) for their hard work getting the chief evaluations done the way they should be. They're well-written and get to the point," Smedley said.

Deputy Military Personnel Officer Reginald Custard explained that several of the CPOs were selected solely because of the "information and impact to the Navy as given on their resumes."

"Some of the chosen Sailors spent a lot of time on shore duty and may not have had as many

opportunities to earn warfare designators. It's highly competitive," he said.

The new chiefs were all leading petty officers of their respective shops, according to Stein, who is originally from Stuttgart, Germany, and has been in the Navy 17 years. As chief selectees, they went through a seven-week induction period to prepare them for their new responsibilities. "Every weekend we (did) some kind of fundraiser or community service event as well," she said.

"We're all alpha personalities, and we're learning to work together and learn 'followership' again," Stein said. When asked what has been the highlight of her naval career thus far, she recalled, "The best memory I have is when I had been in the Navy only two years, and we had to do a replenishment at sea on the USS George Washington (CVN 73). I saw this huge vessel in front of me — and it kind of hit me that this was definitely a grown-up job."

Rubin, from Pasadena, Texas, has been in the Navy for nine years. "I hope to bring a fresh perspective to (my work.) Throughout my time in the Navy, I've had the privilege to work with and learn from a lot of great deck plate leaders — both civilian and military — here at the shipyard and throughout the fleet," he said.

Boyd, of Detroit, Mich., has been in the Navy for 15 years. "My most memorable experience in the Navy is making chief petty officer, but a close runner-up would be the time I went to dive school," he said.

Sheltmire, from southeastern New Hampshire, has been a Sailor for 11 years. "I joined the Navy to travel and help the country," he said. "I hope to bring more efficient work procedures to the fleet."

Becoming a CPO is a huge accomplishment, Smedley said. "It's a transformation from solely enlisted to senior enlisted ... They are the deck plate leadership. They are 'the chief.'"

For more information on the shipyard, visit www.navsea.navy.mil/shipyards/pearl.

Emergency management campaign helps Airmen to 'Be Ready'

Robert Genova

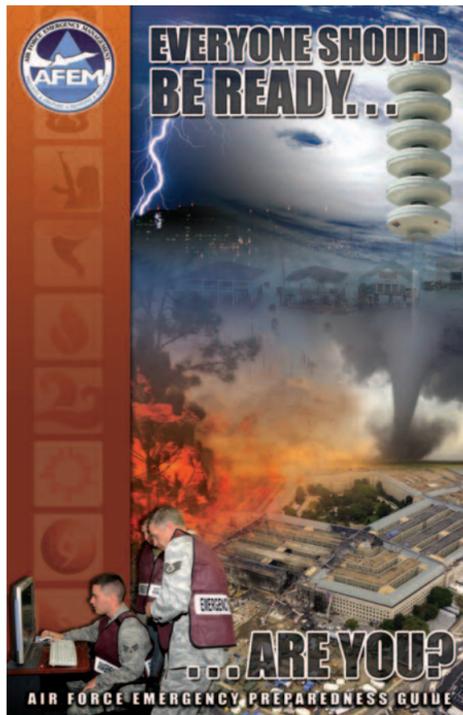
Headquarters Civil
Engineer Support Agency

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFNS) — The Air Force Emergency Management's Be Ready Awareness Campaign features a new website and products designed to raise awareness and promote readiness on military installations and within local communities.

Emergency Management planners said they hope the messages will educate both military members and civilians about common home or workplace hazards and encourage them to begin their emergency planning to protect themselves and their loved ones in the event of disaster.

"Military (members), civilians, contractors — really anyone living or working on a base — needs to know about the types of emergencies or hazards they might face and what they can do to survive them," said Fred Casale, the chief of emergency management support at the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency here.

"Historically, Air Force emergency managers did not have a formally recognized program that pushed information to the public," Casale said. "Our goal is for



The Air Force's "Be Ready" campaign includes a 64-page full-color emergency preparedness guide that provides instructions for natural and man-made disasters. It also includes tear-away sheets for important key resources, an emergency supply checklist and a family emergency plan form. The guide is available through installation emergency management offices or the Be Ready website at www.BeReady.af.mil.

everyone to 'get a kit, make a plan, and be prepared,' and the Be Ready Awareness Campaign provides a variety of tools and resources to help Airmen

and members of the public do just that."

The Air Force Emergency Preparedness Guide is a 64-page handbook that includes removable sheets for key resources, phone numbers and helpful sites. It also contains an emergency supply kit checklist and a template to help families develop an emergency plan. The guide is available through local base emergency management offices or the Be Ready website.

Emergency management planners have also created a series of awareness posters to reinforce basic messages about individual preparedness.

Part of the campaign, "Be Ready Kids," is just for children. It includes several activity sheets educating two groups, ages 4 to 7 and 8 to 11, about a variety of emergency and disaster situations. The sheets use easily understood disaster terms and present safety messages and preparedness practices using crossword and word search puzzles, matching games, decoder puzzles, mazes and more.

For more information about the Air Force Emergency Management Be Ready Awareness Campaign, call or visit your local emergency management office or visit www.BeReady.af.mil.

Federal Fire encourages residents to keep homes safe during Fire Prevention Week

Angela Sanders

Federal Fire Department
Fire Inspector

What's the best way to protect your family from fire? Be ahead of the game, of course. With more than 384,000 home fires reported in the United States in 2010, according to the non-profit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), your best defense is a good offense.

That is why the Federal Fire Department is partnering with NFPA during Oct. 9-15, to let the community know: "It's Fire Prevention Week. Protect your Family from Fire!"

This year's campaign theme focuses on preventing the leading causes of home fires — cooking, heating and electrical equipment, as well as candles and smoking materials. Additionally, it urges people to protect their homes and families with life-saving technology and planning.

In 2010, 2,665 people

died in home fires. Nearly all of those deaths could have been prevented by taking a few simple precautions like having working smoke alarms and a home fire escape plan, as well as keeping things that can burn away from the stove. Fire is a dangerous opponent, but by anticipating the hazards, you are much less likely to be one of the nearly 17,720 people injured in home fires each year.

The Federal Fire Department offers the following tips for protecting your home and family from fire:

- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a 3-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.

- Replace or repair damaged or loose electrical cords.
- If you smoke, smoke outside.
- Use deep, wide ashtrays on a sturdy table.
- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.

While preventing home fires in military family housing is always the number one priority, it is not always possible. Military residents need to provide the best protection by being responsible to keep their homes and families safe in the event of a fire. This can be achieved by developing an escape plan, which you practice regularly, and equipping homes with life-saving devices like smoke alarms and home fire sprinklers. The following tips will help keep your family safe if there is a fire in your home:

- Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, out-

side each sleeping area, and on every level of the home (including the basement).

- Interconnect all smoke alarms in the home so when one sounds, they all sound.
- Test smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries at least once a year during Fire Prevention Week in October.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond when tested.
- Make sure everyone in your home knows how to respond if the smoke alarm sounds.
- Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible ways out. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors.
- If you are building or remodeling your home, consider installing home fire sprinklers.



Photo by Albert D. Balderama

Federal Fire Department will hold prevention week activities

The Federal Fire Department will be hosting the following activities during Fire Prevention Week to promote "It's Fire Prevention Week. Protect your Family from Fire!"

- 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 12 at Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange
- 4 to 7 p.m. Oct. 13 at Schofield Barracks Kalakaua Community Center
- 4 to 7 p.m. Oct. 14 at Kaneohe Marine Corps Base Mokuauia Mall.

Through these educational, family-oriented activities, residents can

learn more about the power of prevention and available technologies to protect their own families from fire.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs and activities in your community, call the Federal Fire Department Fire Inspector Angela Sanders at 471-3303, ext. 617 or angela.sanders1@navy.mil.

To learn more about "It's Fire Prevention Week. Protect your Family from Fire!" visit the website at www.firepreventionweek.org

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



(Left) Honor Guard members Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii perform a 21-gun salute in honor of those fallen and missing in action during the POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in Honolulu, Hawaii on Sept. 16. More than 200 past and present military members and civilians gathered with the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) as they honored those held in captivity or are missing in action from past conflicts. The third Friday of Sept. has served as the National POW/MIA Recognition Day since 1986 and honors and recognizes the sacrifices of those Americans who have been prisoners of war and to remind the Nation of those individuals who are still missing.

DoD photo by Master Sgt. Cohen A. Young

(Right) U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Padilla of Watkins Glen, N.Y. carries the Air Force flag as the Pacific Command Color Guard marches in at the start of the POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in Honolulu, Hawaii.

DoD photo by Master Sgt. Cohen A. Young



(Left) Musician 3rd Class, Shelby Tucci, a native of Huntington, W. Va., performs Taps at the conclusion of the POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in Honolulu, Hawaii on Sept. 16.

DoD photo by Master Sgt. Cohen A. Young

(Right) Major Laurie Jackson briefs other members of a triage outside a "DECON" center as part of "Lightning Rescue Exercise."

U.S. Navy photo by Ed Foster



(Left) Personnel from the 15th Medical group scrub down Airman 1st Class Mackenzie Bumphus in a "DECON" center as part of "Lightning Rescue Exercise."

U.S. Navy photo by Ed Foster

(Right) Staff Sgt. Charlene Chamblee passes out medication to Airman 1st Class Chad Jensen during "Lightning Rescue Exercise."

U.S. Navy photo by Ed Foster



USS Pasadena arrives at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

Deborah White

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

Attack submarine USS Pasadena (SSN 752) and her crew of 18 officers and 126 enlisted personnel arrived Sept. 21 at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

While at the shipyard, Pasadena will complete various maintenance work and several system upgrades.

Pasadena is the U.S. Navy's second "improved" Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered submarine. Originally assigned to the Atlantic Fleet, Pasadena conducted an inter-fleet transfer in October 1990 to San Diego, Calif. and became an integral part of the U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Force. In April 1996, Pasadena changed homeports to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii where she was assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron Seven.

Throughout the subma-



(Left) Portsmouth Naval Shipyard workers tie down the USS Pasadena after the Navy submarine arrived for its scheduled overhaul and maintenance. U.S. Navy photo courtesy of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

(Right) The USS Pasadena arrived at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine for maintenance on Sept. 21 and Eliot, Maine will serve as the crew's host community. U.S. Navy photo by Robert Cook

rine's 20-year history, Pasadena has conducted operations in virtually every part of the Pacific Ocean, from the west coasts of North and South America to Australia. Pasadena's participation in exercises with various foreign navies from around

the Pacific Rim has produced numerous firsts for U.S. nuclear-powered submarines and solidified the United States' important role in international maritime operations.

Pasadena's commanding officer, Cmdr. Luis Molina, earned a bachelor of science

in electrical engineering from the United States Naval Academy. Commissioned in May 1993, Molina reported to USS Grayling (SSN 646). During this tour, he completed two eastern Pacific deployments, a Mediterranean deploy-

ment, and a ship inactivation. Molina then served as an instructor at Nuclear Propulsion Training Unit, Charleston, S.C., where he was assigned as a shift engineer and staff training officer.

Molina then reported to USS Jefferson City (SSN

759) as the combat systems officer in November 2000. During this tour, he completed a western Pacific deployment.

In January 2003, he reported as the initial manning engineer officer, PCU Hawaii (SSN 776), and was reassigned in November 2003 as engineer officer onboard USS Virginia (SSN 774). In August of 2005 Molina attended the Naval War College, Newport, R.I. where he graduated with distinction and earned a master's degree in national security and strategic studies and certification as a joint planner.

In March 2007, Molina reported to USS Kentucky (SSBN 737) (BLUE) as executive officer, completing two strategic deterrent patrols. Following this tour, in December 2008, Molina reported to Headquarters U.S. Special Operations Command, where he served as a future operations joint planner.

On July 22, 2011, Molina assumed command of Pasadena.

AF officials announce civilian early retirement, separation incentive options

Debbie Gildea

Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) — The Air Force is implementing civilian Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay programs, Air Force officials announced Sept. 22.

"Our goal with these programs is to mitigate the impact of reduced fiscal year 2012 funding on our permanent civilian workforce," said Maj. Gen. Sharon K. G. Dunbar, the Air Force director of force management policy.

Reduced Air Force funding starting in fiscal 2012 is the result of a Secretary of Defense efficiency initiative that holds civilian manning at fiscal year 2010 levels Department of Defense-wide. This initiative reduces previously planned growth in the Air Force civilian workforce by nearly 9 percent. Air Force officials estimate that reduced funding levels are

sufficient to support just over 180,000 civilians as of Oct. 1.

"Complying with lower civilian funding levels requires adjusting the size of our civilian workforce by about 1 percent this next fiscal year," Dunbar said. "To do this, we're postured to approve up to 6,005 VSIP applications along with implementing VERA. These voluntary programs will also help generate flexibility to balance positions with mission priorities."

Air Force officials also implemented hiring controls in May, followed by a 90-day hiring freeze that went into effect last month. Much like the voluntary programs, the temporary hiring freeze and ongoing hiring controls are designed to reduce the size of the civilian workforce and generate vacancies for permanent employees whose positions may be restructured, transferred or eliminated, the general explained.

"Our civilians have been asking about VERA and VSIP options, so we worked to make these voluntary programs available early in the

fiscal year," Dunbar said.

Service civilian personnel offices have already started surveying eligible civilians for their interest in these programs. Surveys are targeted to those in job series that may be affected by downsizing or restructuring.

Targeting the surveys requires balance, the general explained.

"If we target too narrowly, the number of volunteers may fall short of what we're seeking. At the same time, an overly broad survey may cause angst among employees in positions that will not be affected," Dunbar said.

To be eligible for VERA, employees must be at least 50 years old with 20 years of creditable service, or have 25 years of creditable service at any age.

Whereas VERA is a temporary measure to increase retirements, VSIP is a financial incentive to encourage eligible employees to voluntarily separate from civil service. A VSIP payment is equivalent to an employee's severance pay entitlement, up to a maximum of \$25,000, before taxes.

Officials are authorized to approve a maximum of 6,005 VSIP applications from eligible civilians. VSIP applications may be approved if there is a direct link between an employee's separation and avoiding adverse personnel impact elsewhere.

"Employees who received surveys should familiarize themselves with the VERA and VSIP material on the Air Force Personnel Services website at [https://gum-](https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil)

[crm.csd.disa.mil](https://gum-crm.csd.disa.mil)," the general said.

Specific VERA and VSIP information can be accessed via the News and Announcements link. In addition, servicing civilian personnel offices are postured to assist interested civilians.

Employees should thoroughly consider all options therefore, prior to submitting an application for VERA or VSIP, officials said. Employees who apply for VERA and/or VSIP make a commitment to separate Dec. 31, 2011 if their application is approved. This commitment cannot be withdrawn except for extreme hardship or extraordinary circumstances.

"We're grateful for the immense contributions of our civilian workforce, and are

committed to providing support through the changes ahead," Dunbar said. "We'll move through these changes and challenges together as a team."

The Air Force Personnel Services site includes a link to all secure applications (top right corner of the home page), as well as a VERA/VSIP link that will take users to a one-stop-shop of related links and information sources.

For specific eligibility information and guidance, employees who have been surveyed should go to their local civilian personnel strategic advisors in the Civilian Personnel Section.

For information about other personnel issues, visit the Air Force personnel services website at <http://www.afpc.af.mil/>.

Hickam Communities receives national recognition

Hickam Communities LLC

Hickam Communities' and the Air Force commitment to preserving the historic district has earned them national recognition from Building Design + Construction (BD+C), a leading trade publication and website serving the information needs of designing, building, and owning firms in the construction industry.

After reviewing more than two dozen entries representing a broad scope of projects, judges recognized Ka Makani Community Center with a Silver Award in its 28th Annual Reconstruction Awards.

BD+C's Reconstruction Award seeks to find the best



Photo courtesy of Hickam Communities LLC

Ka Makani Community Center has received accolades as a result of a partnership between Hickam Communities, the Air Force and consultants and subcontractors who helped bring life back to the former NCO Club.

reconstructed, renovated or remodeled projects, based on overall design, engineering, and project quality, and collaboration of the building team.

"The community center was a tremendous undertaking for everyone involved. From our Air Force partner and base and state historic preservation offices to our development, design and construction teams and our many consultants and subcontractors," said Jerry Schmitz, project director of Hickam Communities.

Earlier this year, Hickam Communities received the Preservation Honor Award from the Historic Hawaii Foundation, recognizing it for the restoration of 24 museum-type historic homes.

Pearl Harbor shipyard docks USS Charlotte for challenging availability

Katie Vanes,

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY and IMF) workers dry-docked USS Charlotte (SSN 766) Sept. 8 for what is projected to be one of the largest dry-docking selected restricted availabilities (DSRAs) ever performed on a Los Angeles-Class submarine at Pearl Harbor.

The Engineering and Planning Department finished all of Charlotte's task group instructions (TGIs) before the project began, something that has not been accomplished at PHNSY and IMF since the USS Columbia (SSN 771) depot modernization period (DMP) in 2008, according to chief engineer Brian Yim. TGIs define the work that needs to be performed on naval submarines.

"Finishing the TGIs ahead of schedule can be attributed to the dedicated effort of the Engineering and Planning Department," Charlotte project superintendent Lt.

Cmdr. Paul Costanzo said. "Charlotte will be a very challenging work package - over 60,000 man-days for shipyarders alone - with an additional 14,000 man-days of alteration installation teams," Costanzo added.

"As we continue to support waterfront projects, this is a milestone we are proud to achieve - and a standard to maintain," Yim said.

"(Finishing the TGIs for Charlotte) reflects the commitment of our engineers and technicians. They are not doing the extra work because they have to, but because they want to achieve it," Yim added.

The primary job on Charlotte will be a first-time main engine mount replacement, according to Costanzo. Other significant maintenance includes a shaft replacement and steering and diving maintenance.

"A large amount of work will be pushed to second shift to alleviate the work space conflicts," Costanzo said. "For example, in shaft alley on the submarine, we have two jobs going on in the same area, and there is very limited space."

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

- Oct. 6 — Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Oct. 13 — Navy Birthday or Fire Prevention Month
- Oct. 20 — Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard
- Oct. 27 — To be determined
- Nov. 3 — To be determined
- Nov. 10 — Marine Corps Birthday
- Nov. 17 — Pearl Harbor Day 70th Anniversary
- Nov. 24 — TBD (Thanksgiving Day)
- Dec. 8 — Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

(The segments currently air between 6:20 and 6:30 a.m. each Thursday. Previous segments can be viewed at <http://www.bit.ly/KHONNavy>)

Got a story for KHON Hawaii Navy News?

Email editor@hookelenews.com or call Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs at 473-2875. Stories must have a Navy tie and be of interest to the general public.