

CH-53D copter returned home

Marine Corps Base Hawaii Public Affairs

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII, Oahu – A CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 lifted two pieces of another CH-53D from Kaneohe Bay on April 8.

The heavy lift operation brought the last two pieces of the downed aircraft back to Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Kaneohe Bay after it had rested on a sand bar since it came down there March 29. The mishap claimed the life of one Marine, aerial observer Corporal

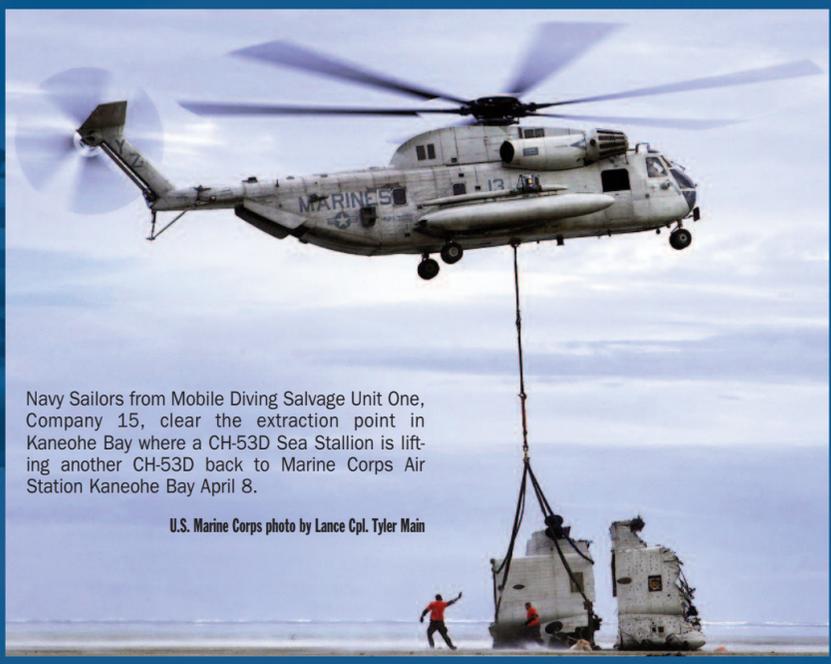
Jonathan D. Faircloth, and injured the other three crew members.

Prior to the operation, divers from the Navy's Mobile Diving Salvage Unit One at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Marines from aircraft rescue and fire fighting at MCAS had cut and removed more than 10,000 pounds of the helicopter's remains, including the aircraft's engines, ramp, tail and cockpit. The pieces were taken to MCAS Kaneohe Bay by boat or with floats within the Coast Guard's safety zone on the water.

The first lift of approximately 7,000 pounds brought the aft section of the fuselage

and landing gear to the air station's west field. The main rotor assembly and fuselage mid-section were next hoisted from the shallow water. The 8,500 pound piece rotated slightly before it was gently brought to rest on its side.

A crane waited with its crew to then lift each section onto a truck that would take the pieces to an air station hangar. Inside the hangar, the investigation that began immediately following the incident continued to examine every piece of evidence to help understand the mishap's cause and help prevent its recurrence.



Navy Sailors from Mobile Diving Salvage Unit One, Company 15, clear the extraction point in Kaneohe Bay where a CH-53D Sea Stallion is lifting another CH-53D back to Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay April 8.

U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Tyler Main

2011 Rodeo team announced

Airman 1st Class Lauren Main

15th Wing Public Affairs

Teams from the 15th Wing and 647th Security Forces Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam have been selected to compete in the biennial 2011 Air Mobility Command Rodeo held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

The rodeo is an Air Force-wide and multinational competition that tests every aspect of the different teams'

career fields. The events are physically and mentally challenging and

include an obstacle course, combat challenges, the engines run-

ning on/off load event, and air drops.

The three teams from

the 15th Wing consist of members from the 96th

Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the 535th Airlift Wing. A total of 23 members from the 15th Wing will be competing and four members from the 647th Security Forces Squadron will also compete.

Hickam's active duty and Air National Guard units will begin training in the coming months leading up to the competition in July. Hickam also brought home the rodeo trophy in 2007.



96th Air Refueling Squadron

535th Airlift Squadron

15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Airmen, base communities in Japan raise nearly \$110,000 for relief efforts – Volunteers from JBPHH help effort



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Rachel Martinez

U.S. Air Force Airmen from Misawa Air Base uncover rows of strawberries at a farm in Japan April 1. A tsunami, triggered by the March 11 earthquake, flooded this coastal area where base volunteers spent the week cleaning up local farms.

Tech. Sgt. Matthew McGovern

Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

To date, Airmen and community members from Kadena, Misawa and Yokota air bases have donated nearly \$110,000 and volunteered more than 19,000 community-service hours to assist with relief efforts after a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and destructive tsunami hit

Japan on March 11.

"The Airmen and base communities have opened their hearts and considered the plight of our Japanese neighbors as our own," said Master Sgt. Shanti Leiker, a drive organizer from Yokota Air Base, Japan. "They have focused their energy towards any effort to alleviate in some way the suffering of our neighbors."

Besides the monetary donation, Airmen and base residents have supplied and delivered items,

including clothing, food, blankets and toiletry items. Volunteers also helped out where they could, especially at hardest hit areas.

"I helped to remove plastic, dirt and other debris from a strawberry field at Hachinohe, Japan near the ocean," said Capt Kimberly Schardel, a volunteer deployed from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii to Misawa Air Base, Japan.

See AIRMEN, A-7



Paul Belanger (right), director of Pearl Harbor Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS), presents the Pearl Harbor Kokua Award to Jeanette Kotheimer (center right) for devoting more than 450 hours as the Pearl Harbor NMCRS caseworker and the 2010 Pearl Harbor NMCRS Volunteer of the Year award to Lorna Mae Keaunui (center) for contributing more than 6,000 hours of volunteer service. Capt. Richard Kitchens (left), commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and Jennifer Cox, Pearl Harbor NMCRS chair of volunteers, participated in the 15th annual Volunteer of the Year Luncheon.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Pearl Harbor honors volunteers

Story and photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

HONOLULU, Hawaii--The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam hosted the 15th annual Volunteer of the Year luncheon, recognizing the NMCRS Volunteer of the Year, at the Hale Koa

Hotel, Honolulu April 11.

As a volunteer organization, the NMCRS relies on the dedication, efforts and commitment of its volunteers. This awards luncheon recognizes volunteers who exemplify Hawaii's spirit of aloha and who embody the spirit of the NMCRS.

Paul Belanger, director of Pearl Harbor NMCRS, recognized and praised all of the volunteers who attended the luncheon for

all of the outstanding volunteer work they have done this past year.

"It is always a pleasure to welcome you to this special luncheon because your being here today shows your support for our most valuable asset, our volunteers who support our military members and their families and the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society," said Belanger.

See NMCRS, A-7



Airman's Attic helps military families recycle
See page A-2



Navy Region Hawaii gets smart on DADT repeal
See page A-4



USS Bremerton departs for western Pacific deployment
See page A-6



Meteorologist turns 'social worker' as SARC
See page A-7



Crack up at egg drop contest and more
See page B-1



Hickam bowlers reclaim All-Military championship
See page B-2

Earth Day events begin this weekend

**Jim Murray
Fleet and Industrial
Supply Center Pearl
Harbor FISC PH Public
Affairs and
Grace Hew Len
Navy Region Hawaii
Environmental Public
Affairs**

In celebration of Earth Day, held annually on April 22, Navy Region Hawaii, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Pearl Harbor (FISC) are gearing up for a series of environmentally friendly events beginning this weekend.

- 5th Annual Pearl Harbor Bike Path Cleanup, April 16, 8:30 to 11 a.m.: Earth warriors are invited to volunteer in the annual Earth Day Pearl Harbor Bike Path cleanup in partnership with the City & County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services. Check in at 8 a.m. at the volunteer tent located across from the Honolulu Police Department's training academy, 93-093 Waipahu Depot St., Waipahu. Volunteers will help clear debris, remove invasive plant life and weeds, and plant native plants along Kapakahi Stream in Waipahu, as well as pick up trash along the bike path, from Aiea to Waipahu. The city will provide bus transportation from Waipahu to designated cleanup locations along the bike path. Wear covered shoes and sunscreen, and be prepared to get dirty.
- FISC Earth Day at Navy Hale Keiki School, April 19:

One of the primary goals of Earth Day is to instill in young minds an appreciation of the wonders of nature. With that in mind, FISC personnel will gather their gardening tools and travel to Navy Hale Keiki School on April 19. For the past month, Navy Hale Keiki students have been gathering organic materials and making compost piles, and, on April 19, the FISC volunteers will shovel the compost into planters and then carefully place a papaya tree seedling into each one. As part of the same event, the students will apply their hand prints to eco-friendly fabric shopping bags and participate in a coloring contest.

- FISC Earth Day Fair and Car Show, April 22, 9 a.m. to noon: The fair, which will take place on the first deck of building 475 at FISC headquarters, will offer tips on how to reduce household expenses through energy conservation. In addition, attendees will find booths covering everything from rodent biosecurity to invasive species to restoration management. The car show will take place in the parking lot, but don't expect to find any Hummers or "muscle" cars. This is an alternative energy vehicle car show, with hybrids, electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles on display. Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam personnel are welcome to display their own alternative-energy vehicles and perhaps drive away with a "green" award.
- MWR Springfest and Earth Day Fair, April 23, 4 to 7 p.m. at Ward Field, JBPHH: In celebration of the Month of the

Military Child, MWR is sponsoring the popular annual event, Springfest, with free activities, fun and food for the entire family. Enjoy bounce houses, climbing wall, batting cages, petting zoo, games and crafts, youth performances, and much more. At the same time, families will have fun learning how they can protect, preserve and restore our earth and its natural resources at the JBPHH Earth Day Fair, held in conjunction with Springfest.

- JBPHH Earth Day Clean Up and Outplanting at Ahua Reef, April 30, 8 a.m. to noon: The Ahua Reef wetlands, located across the Hawaii Air National Guard headquarters and near Hickam Beach, provides a special refuge for seabirds and native Hawaiian plants. Volunteers will help to remove invasive mangrove and kiawe, sharpen their plant identification skills, and put some aloha in the ground by increasing plant diversity on base. Wear closed-toe shoes and proper gardening or working attire. Some tools will be provided; however, bring gloves, shovels, rakes, and wheel barrows, if you have one. Water and a pizza lunch will be provided upon completion of the event.

For more information or to volunteer at FISC events, contact Lt. John Casilio at 473-7818 or john.casilio@navy.mil. For information on other JBPHH Earth Day events, contact Grace Hew Len, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office at 473-2926.

Adm Walsh presents banner for Operation Tomodachi



U.S. Army photo by Spc. April de Armas, U.S. Army Japan

Adm. Patrick M. Walsh, commander U. S. Pacific Fleet and Joint Support Force, presents a banner from the U.S. military, signed by various service members and their families stationed in Hawaii to Lt. Gen. Eiji Kimikuza, Japan Ground Self-defense Force (JGSDF), Northeast Army and Joint Task Force (JTTF) commander, April 10. Walsh wants to reiterate his and the U.S. military's commitment to the JGSDF and the JTTF as well as the Japanese people to help in any way possible during the rebuilding phase of Operation Tomodachi.

JO Spouses' Committee event planned for April 26

The Junior Officer (JO) Spouses' Committee invites participants to a free event called "Come Fly With Us" from 6 to 8:30 p.m. April 26 at Lockwood Hall, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The event is open to all spouses of Navy/Coast Guard 01-04 and CWO 1-5. Learn more about space "A" travel and

Information, Tickets and Travel offers. There will also be a question and answer session with Donna Willard. A light buffet meal will be served.

RSVP to hawaiiiospouse@gmail.com or call 474-1999.

See the committee's Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/JO-Spouse-Ohana-Hawaii/129635382082>.

Airman's Attic helps military families recycle

Story and photo by
Chris Aguinaldo

Contributing Writer

When Tech Sgt. Martin Vicente started his career, he was like many young Airmen.

"I didn't have a lot of stuff," said Vicente, 15th Medical Operations Squadron, NCOIC, physical therapy. "I got my first microwave at the Airman's Attic."

He still remembers how that microwave and other housewares helped him years ago. Now Vicente is among those who give back to their fellow service members with donations to the Hickam Airman's Attic. On April 5, his family visited the Hickam Airman's Attic to drop off bicycles, housewares, costumes, clothes — and a microwave.

"We've given a lot of stuff to the Airman's Attic. But people have given things to us, too," said Vicente's wife. "The kids have outgrown the bikes, but they can still be used."

"People need a place to pick up things when they need it," she said.

And as the cost of goods and gas prices continue to rise, it's a place where Airmen and Sailors can find things like furnishings, clothing, uniforms, electronics and housewares for free.

"It's a way to recycle and help others," said manager Christine Jackson, while walking the floor. She passed by racks of toys, clothes (including some uniforms), a wall of stereos, bundles of assorted electronics and even section just for maternity items — "things for every room in your house," Jackson said.

"We have suitcases for people who PCS," she said.

She's struck by the generosity of the service members who give their well-taken care of items to help others, without expecting anything in return since donations aren't tax deductible.

"An Army family basically donated [the contents of] their entire home," marvelled assistant manager Terri Hornbuckle.

The Soldier was to deploy and gave seven truckloads of furniture alone.

"With that, we were able to fulfill several wishes from our wishbook," Jackson said.



Christine Jackson Hickam Airman's Attic manager, and volunteer Norm Masse sort through donations on April 5. The organization, near Kuntz Gate, offers household goods and clothes for free to enlisted Airmen and Sailors.

"There is a need for this resource," said Staff Sgt. Viniesha D. Shorteeth-Shaw, NCOIC, Air Operations Center Records Management, who serves on the Airman's Attic Executive Council and donates her time to the Airman's Attic.

"It can help families without them spending money," she said.

Other members of the council give their time to help out the organization, including the all important job of sorting donations.

With two donation sheds filling up quickly, the help of volunteers is certainly appreciated, Jackson said. She credits the volunteers and the Airman's Attic's board for much of the success.

"Our current board and the one in 2010 have made

a great impact," she said. "They've really been supportive, advising us and helping with fundraisers."

But shed duty is critical because the two stations — which are monitored with security cameras — are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The generosity of donors keeps volunteers busy at the private organization, which isn't part of any Department of Defense agency.

Aside from sorting through donations, volunteers help mind the store.

Hornbuckle has also been decorating the walls, like painting colorful pictures of Disney characters in

the toy section.

If there are excess donations, such as items that have been on the floor a long

time, Jackson works with local community groups to help needy people. She's shared clothes with local shelters and transitions centers, and books with a charter school.

Volunteers typically donate 10 hours a month. Jackson and Shorteeth-Shaw invite anyone who wants to help to drop by or give them a call.

The Hickam Airman's Attic is building 1723, behind GSA on Kuntz Avenue, near the recycle center. Scheduled business hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to noon; and the third Wednesday of the month, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Airman's Attic is closed the third Saturday of the month. "AB-CMSgt Days" are the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, the third Wednesday of the month and Saturdays. Navy E-5 and below days are the third Wednesday of the month and Saturdays. Call ahead for details.

For more information and learn what donations can be accepted, call 449-5677.

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Health clinic renovations slated for Branch Health Clinic, Wahiawa (NCTAMS PAC)

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii

Commencing April 18, Branch Health Clinic (BHC), Wahiawa will be getting an internal "facelift."

This renovation project will include new spaces with new equipment, cabinetry, counters, shelving and flooring. These improvements will serve to enhance the delivery of health care to the patients who are served. The project is expected to last for approximately six months.

For medical emergencies, go to Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC), dial 911, or go to the nearest emergency department and for active duty dental emergencies call 864-4705.

During the renovation period, medical care services will be relocated to building 401, adjacent to the gym at NCTAMS PAC and dental services will be provided by the Naval Health Clinic Hawaii mobile dental van in the chapel parking lot, next to building 424 on Center Street. BHC Wahiawa hours of operation will remain 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday for medical services and 7 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., Monday through Friday for dental services.

Since telepharmacy will not be available during the renovation, some medications prescribed by specialty or civilian providers may not be available at the BHC Wahiawa during the renovation.

Patients have several options in regards to filling those specialty/civilian prescriptions. They may fill these prescriptions at Schofield Army Health Care Clinic, Makalapa Clinic, TAMC, or a civilian pharmacy. Pharmaceutical services will return to normal immediately following the renovation.

For more information or to check medication availability, call one of the following numbers: BHC Wahiawa front desk 653-1400; Makalapa Clinic pharmacy 473-1880, ext. 2229; Schofield Army Health Clinic pharmacy 433-2778 ext. 302; or TAMC pharmacy 433-7880. Laboratory services will not be available during the renovation. To help minimize the impact to patients, patients needing laboratory services will be referred to Schofield Army Health Clinic laboratory, 433-3778, ext. 108 or Makalapa Clinic laboratory, 473-1880, ext. 2249.

647th ABG Airman troubleshoots computer problems

SSgt Carolyn (Viss) Herrick

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Staff Sgt. Tyesha Staton, a client support technician (CST) with the 647th Air Base Group (ABG), is this week's Warrior of the Week.

A Lancaster, S.C. native, Staton has been at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) for five months and said that she enjoys hiking, hanging out with friends and playing pool in her time off.

"I enjoy troubleshooting computer problems and meeting new people," said the staff sergeant, who provides CST support for the emergency operations

center (EOC) at JBPHH and 647th ABG staff. She also reserves classrooms for training, and is her section's training monitor.

The thing she likes most about being stationed in Hawaii is the weather.

"Sergeant Staton is a true Air Force professional," said Master Sgt. Christopher Purington, 647th ABG superintendent of the knowledge operations cell. "When given a task to do, she always makes that the number-one priority and gets the job done. She is highly proficient in conducting her CST duties. She supported JBPHH EOC during the Dec. 7 ceremonies and also during the recent earthquake and tsunami which struck Japan."



STORY IDEAS?

Contact the Ho'okele editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements

Phone: (808) 473-2888

Email: editor@hookelenews.com



Diverse Views



Why is it important to observe the Month of the Military Child this month?



Master Sgt. Tracy Reagan-Ogas
NCOIC Military Justice
PACAF/JA

"Military children are an integral part of who we are. They endure what the active duty members go through, and their lives are changed each time we move. They should absolutely be honored!"

Staff Sgt. Amanda Simonsen
647 CES

"Military kids have difficult times with the deployments and moves. They deserve to be recognized."



Bart Nakamoto
Principal, Mokulele Elementary School, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam

"Every child needs to be recognized, but especially the military child. They go through a lot more because their families get deployed."

"Military children need to be recognized because they are the ones left behind when we deploy and they need to know they are loved."



Chief Cryptologic Technician (Technical) (SW) (AW) David Smith
Center for Information Dominance, Learning Site Hawaii

"It is important to give them recognition; they make sacrifices like anybody else in the military. Being here is like an overseas environment and there is a partnership with the school. At my child's school, they have a military appreciation day for the grown-ups and the children benefit from it, too. It is one thing to be appreciated, it is another thing to be appreciative. I get so much out of giving to my children."

(Provided by David D. Underwood Jr. and MC1 Katherine Brooks)

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

Aircraft crew seen in 'plane view'



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Air Force Historical Resource Agency

This photo from the Capt. Joseph J. Merhar Jr. collection depicts an interesting view of a Martin B-26C in flight. The B-26C was the Omaha, Neb.-produced version of the B-26B. A total of 1,210 C models were produced. The first rolled out of the Nebraska plant in August 1942.

HO'okele

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Navy Region Hawaii gets smart on DADT repeal



Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, conducts all-hands "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal Tier 3 training at Sharkey Theater at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on April 8.

Story and photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Navy Region Hawaii conducted "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) repeal tier three training for all Sailors and civilians at Sharkey Theater at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 8.

Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and Command Master Chief (CMC) Patricia Roebuck, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, provided the training.

"We are currently providing education to every member of the Navy, including all active duty Sailors and civilian government employees, to make sure they understand the military's policy on the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't

Tell," said Smith. "This forum is to let everyone know what is changing and what is not changing, and this also allows us to provide answers to the questions they have."

The Navy is currently providing three levels of training. Tier one is provided to experts who may deal frequently with repeal issues, including chaplains, judge advocates and military law enforcement personnel. Tier two is provided to command leadership, including commanding officers, executive officers and command master chiefs. Tier three is for the greater fleet, which includes the active force, reserve force and civilians.

Smith and Roebuck spoke about the importance for Sailors and civilians to receive training on the DADT repeal policy.

"We want to make sure all personnel have facts and not rumors," Smith

said. "We also want them to have the ability to ask questions and understand that this is about policy, not beliefs."

"It is important that all Sailors and civilians know that the policy is for the DADT repeal and that is why senior leadership is conducting this training - to clear up any misconceptions that they may have had," added Roebuck.

The current DADT policy remains in effect. The final repeal will not occur until 60 days after the president, secretary of defense and chairman of the joint chiefs certify to Congress that the repeal can be made in a manner consistent with the standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion and recruiting and retention of the armed forces. Additionally, no policies, regulations or benefits will change until 60 days after the final repeal.

Former USS Rigel Sailor laid to rest at Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

A memorial service for a Pearl Harbor survivor was held on April 8 at the USS Utah Memorial on historic Ford Island.

Carpenter's Mate 2nd Class Lawrence Eugene Jessip joined his fellow shipmates as his nephew Terry scattered his ashes into Pearl Harbor.

The ceremony included a short religious service and a three-volley rifle salute provided by the Navy Region Hawaii ceremonial guard. A U.S. Navy bugler was also on hand to sound "Taps," and a Sailor presented an American flag to Jessip's nephew.

Jessip was an 18-year-old seaman stationed aboard the destroyer tender USS Rigel at Pearl Harbor on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941. When the attack on Pearl Harbor commenced, Jessip was on guard duty and could see the USS Arizona on fire from the bombing strike.

Jessip was quoted by the Quincy, Ill. Herald Whig newspaper as saying, "Just stand around and watch was all you could really do."

"They came in from the east mostly, and then they came down over Hickam Field, then right in on the ships at Pearl," he said. "In both directions, I could watch everything going on. All you could see was fire."

Before he saw the fire, he thought it was a mock attack like the one or two that occurred on base each year to ensure military



Retired Sgt. Maj. Terry Jessip, nephew of Carpenter's Mate 2nd Class Lawrence Eugene Jessip, pays respects to his uncle during a memorial service at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island. Jessip was serving aboard the destroyer tender USS Rigel during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

readiness, but knew the attack was real when live bombs exploded around him.

Jessip said that he would have used the firearm strapped to his hip if it would have done any good.

"The gun I had couldn't even be loaded," Jessip said, noting that the magazine was purely for looks and made of wood. "Even the Marines at the main gate didn't have ammunition."

In 1943, Jessip was training to be in the Navy's underwater demolition team. During part of his training, he was assigned to help prepare the USS Arizona for salvaging. Jessip said he will never forget what he saw when he dived to the bottom of the harbor.

"You got nothing but skeletons laying around there, and everything is topsy-turvy. It's a rough site to see, but there's nothing you can do about it. It's

already happened."

In June 1945, Jessip was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for professionalism and his steadfast devotion to duty. He was also chosen as a member of the first landing party to enter Tokyo Bay when the Japanese surrendered aboard the battleship USS Missouri.

Jessip's nephew Terry, who is a retired Marine sergeant major, spoke about what it means to have his uncle's ashes scattered at Pearl Harbor.

"I'm humbled to be a part of this ceremony here today, and this is very important because I know how much time my uncle spent here and how much it meant for him to come back here for every Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremony," Terry said.

The family and friends of Jessip and personnel assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam attended the service.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

Los Angeles-class submarine USS Bremerton (SSN 698) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 5, for a regularly scheduled six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.



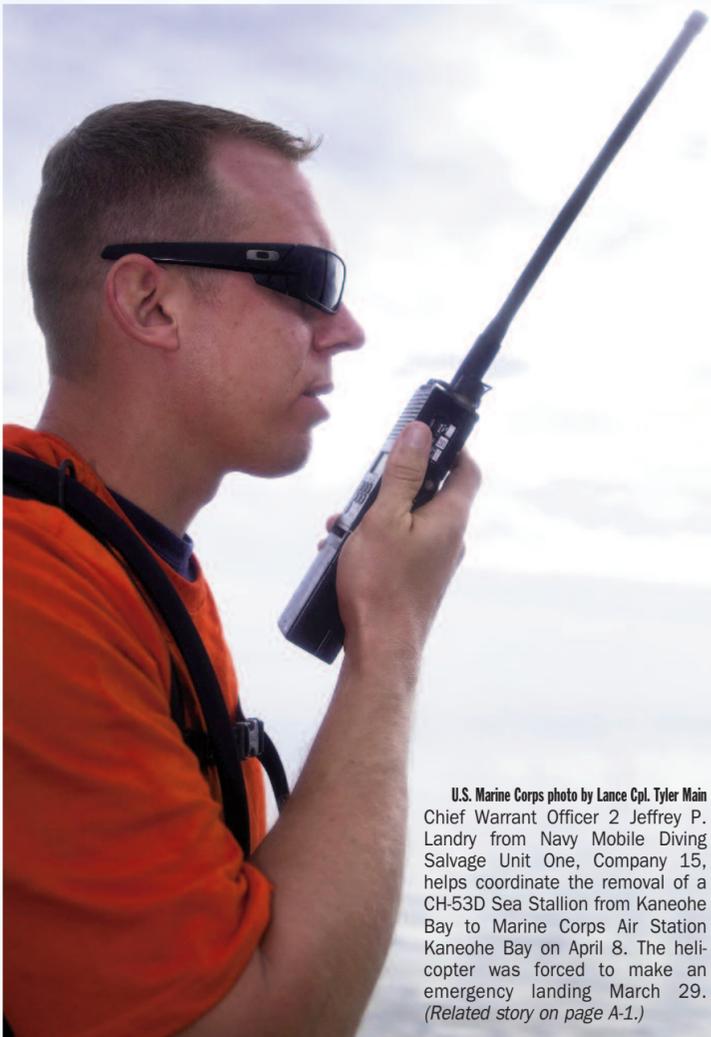
U.S. Navy photo by Denise Emsley

Crane operators and Kiewit Building Group ground crews hoist tilt-up concrete panels into place to create the external structure of the new fitness center adjacent to Club Pearl at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The two-story facility will feature amenities such as combination basketball/ volleyball courts and an expansive workout area with cardiovascular and weight training equipment.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

The "Friends of Hickam" is hosting the 12th Annual Keiki Fishing Tournament on June 1. The tournament will be held at the Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens. All Air Force dependents are welcome to participate. Applications are due no later than May 18. Applications can be found under the "Friends of Hickam" tab on www.15wing.af.mil. Applications can be faxed, emailed or hand delivered to the 15th Wing Public Affairs office. Registration is limited to the first 250 Air Force dependents, ages 5-12 years old. Children must have an accompanying parent, guardian or escort, and signed liability waiver.



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Tyler Main
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jeffrey P. Landry from Navy Mobile Diving Salvage Unit One, Company 15, helps coordinate the removal of a CH-53D Sea Stallion from Kaneohe Bay to Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay on April 8. The helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing March 29. (Related story on page A-1.)



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

Airmen from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, participate in the monthly "Warrior Run" Apr. 1 which begins and ends at Hickam Mall. The run, which spans approximately two miles, was hosted this month by the 15th Medical Group.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

A Sailor from the Navy Region Hawaii Ceremonial Guard presents retired Sgt. Maj. Terry Jessip, nephew of Carpenter's Mate 2nd Class Lawrence Eugene Jessip, with the national Ensign during his uncle's memorial service at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island. Jessip was serving aboard the destroyer tender USS Rigel during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. (Related story on page A-4.)



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mark Logico

(Left) Dr. M. R. C. Greenwood, the 14th president of the 10-campus University of Hawaii, speaks to Navy leadership at the Learn from the Leaders speaking event on April 12. It was sponsored by the Workforce Development team of Commander Navy Region Hawaii.

USS Bremerton departs for western Pacific deployment



Senior Chief Fire Control Technician (SS) Samuel Tweedy from Vincennes, Ind., assigned to the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Bremerton (SSN 698), says goodbye to his family before Bremerton departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 5 for a regularly scheduled six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

Story and photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

The Los Angeles-class submarine USS Bremerton (SSN 698) departed from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 5 for a scheduled six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

Cmdr. Caleb Kerr, Bremerton's commanding officer, said that the crew is enthusiastic and motivated to deploy.

"The morale of the crew is

the best that I have observed during my 18 years in the Navy," said Kerr. "The submarine is in top material condition from bow to stern due to their professional work efforts."

For many crew members of Bremerton, this deployment will be their first where, according to Kerr, they have a robust plan for both submarine operations and strengthening ties with allied foreign nations.

"This will be the first deployment for over half of the crew and our first and foremost goal is to safely complete all of our assigned tasking," said Kerr. "The

officers and crew performed extremely well during the pre-overseas movement certification period and I have no doubt that they will perform brilliantly on deployment."

Bremerton is named in honor of the city of Bremerton, Wash., home to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and a city with a long association with both the Navy and the submarine force. She is the 10th ship of the Los Angeles-class. Her keel was laid by General Dynamics' Electric Boat Division in Groton, Conn. in May 1976. She was commissioned March 28, 1981.

Government leaders view damage along Kolekole Pass route

Story and photo by Grace Hew Len

Acting Director, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

Capt. Richard Kitchens, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, hosted a group of state representatives, council members and neighborhood board representatives from the leeward coast of Oahu, and representatives from Hawaii State Civil Defense and the City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services, on a tour of Kolekole Pass Road on April 9.

The Navy closed the road in January when significant road damage after heavy rains and further pavement deterioration of the roadway rendered the road unsafe for vehicular travel.

Kitchens hosted the tour to discuss the issues and possibilities surrounding the reopening of Kolekole Pass as a state evacuation route.

Kolekole Pass Road is a four-mile stretch of winding, rugged road that starts from the lower reaches of Lualualei Naval Magazine. It winds its way up the Waianae Mountain Range through Kolekole Pass down into the U.S. Army installation at Schofield on the Wahiawa side of the mountain range.

In July 2001, a memorandum of understanding between the U.S. Navy, Army and Hawaii State Civil Defense was signed to allow use of Kolekole Pass Road as an alternate emergency evacuation route for the public during civil



A group of state representatives, council members and neighborhood board representatives from Nanakuli Neighborhood Board and reps from Hawaii State Civil Defense and the City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services toured Kolekole Pass Road on April 9 to view the damage caused by heavy rains.

emergencies. Military ID cardholders are authorized to use the road as an alternative to Farrington Highway.

"There is no short-term solution to safely open the road due to the additional damage caused by the slide," said Kitchens, referring to the damage to an existing slide area on the road, including longitudinal cracks forming on the existing pavement that require further monitoring.

"The roadway and embankment at the slide area requires major repair for it to be safely used," he said.

Since 2008, heavy rains during past and current rainy seasons have caused rock slides and severe erosion. A portion of Kolekole Pass Road was washed out

and closed for several months to complete a geotechnical survey and engineering study. Kitchens said an in-depth assessment of the rock fall and roadway slope failure was completed last month. The engineering study provided recommendations for repairs to the landslide area and erosion control measures.

"The Navy is committed to being good neighbors and good stewards, and understands the compelling need to restore the road as an emergency egress," said Kitchens. "We are ready to partner with other government agencies and the community to find the funds to restore this important emergency evacuation route for civil emergencies."



Meteorologist turns 'social worker' as SARC

Staff Sgt. Carolyn (Viss) Herrick

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

As an ROTC cadet, Brandon Alford had his first encounter with the serious subject of sexual assault when a friend confided in him about a prior incident. Alford was majoring in meteorology and Chinese, not social work, and he felt helpless not knowing his resources or what to do to be there for his friend.

After going on a long run to clear his head, he sought out any and everything he could do to give that friend support during a time of distress. Little did he know that, as a result of his contact with someone who was the victim of such a heinous crime, he would eventually become a full time sexual assault response coordinator (SARC).

"I got here in October of '08, and by March I went through the course to become a victim advocate (VA)," said Alford, now an active-duty first lieutenant for the 17th Operational Weather Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) where he is the officer in charge of standardization and evaluations.

His weather squadron is in charge of all the operational weather across the Pacific Command - 113 million square miles of responsibility where they handle all forecasting and



1st Lt. Brandon Alford, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii Air Force Sexual Assault Response Coordinator.

resource protection.

"We do airfield forecasts for all airfields with American assets and we do resource protection for various places where Americans are working, and then we handle large-scale forecasting - things you see on TV with weather fronts, etc. - for the whole Pacific," he said.

Coming from a job handling all the standardizations, evaluations, training and compliance for the section, Alford said becoming a VA helped redefine him as a person.

"I figured if I can't stop sexual assault, at least I can help treat it," he said.

He liked being a VA so much he decided to go to SARC school.

"After the course, one of the trainers who's been doing social work for 30 years ... came up to me and said, 'You're not a weather guy,'" Alford recalled. "I

said, 'Yeah I am.' She said, 'No, you're not - you're a social worker.' I thought about it, and I said, 'Oh wow... that's pretty cool.'"

Alford said being involved with the program has made him realize there is a way he can have a bigger impact on people besides predicting the weather. Now he is the acting Air Force SARC at JBPHH while the full-time SARC is deployed. He hopes when he moves on to a future assignment he can be the base SARC.

"I love weather," Alford said. "I'm a scientist. But at the same time, I want to be able to affect more people."

According to the 2010 Prevalence/Incidence Survey of Sexual Assault in the Air Force Gallup Survey, the incidence of sexual assault in the Air Force is 3.4 percent among women and 0.5 percent among men.

Although he is a male dealing with mostly female victims, the young lieutenant said it isn't difficult for him. In fact, he feels it's what he's "supposed" to do.

"As a male, I think it has something to do with my innate desire to protect people," Alford said. "It also gives them the opportunity to see that (a) not all men are the people who attack them, and that (b) there is someone strong and caring out there."

During extensive training as a VA and SARC, he has heard the post-traumatic stress level of one rape equated to a year of ground combat countless times. Being a part of the solution is this lieutenant's way of combating the problem.

"The fact that the military has given me the opportunity to step outside my normal realm and reach out to various people, whether by awareness or treatment, is really inspiring," Alford said. "It shows the military does have a way ahead on this kind of thing. They know it's a problem, and they are willing to find ways to make it better."

(April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. For more information on sexual assault prevention, response or reporting procedures, or to becoming a victim advocate, contact your installation SARC. Information is also available on the DOD SAPR Web site at <http://www.sapr.mil/>).

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Pearl Harbor honors volunteers

Continued from A-1

"There is not only one winner here today; you are all winners, and I thank you for your hard work and congratulations on a job well done," he said.

Two awards were presented this year for the volunteers who went above and beyond, personally making a difference in the lives of many service members. Lorna Mae Keaunui was awarded the 2010 Pearl Harbor NMCRS Volunteer of the Year. Since coming to NMCRS Pearl Harbor in February 2006, she has contributed more than 6,000 hours of volunteer service. All of these hours were served at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Thrift Shop.

The NMCRS Pearl Harbor Thrift Shop is one of the society's largest shops operated by volunteers. Since becoming the chair of the thrift shop in January 2010, Keaunui has volunteered more than 2,000 hours dedicated to that position.

The Pearl Harbor

Kokua Award is presented to the volunteer who presents a positive impact in helping service members in need. This year's award was presented on behalf of the NMCRS to Jeanette Kotheimer for devoting more than 450 hours as the Pearl Harbor NMCRS caseworker.

"It is such a great honor and a surprise to receive this award," said Keaunui. "This award represents all of the wonderful volunteers who have selflessly worked so hard to make the NMCRS a success."

Founded in 1904, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is a private non-profit charitable organization. The society established its first service center at the Washington Navy Yard with a staff of 19 volunteers helping widows and orphans. It is sponsored by the Department of the Navy and today there are more than 250 service offices ashore and afloat. Volunteers are still the mainstay of the society's workforce.

Airmen, base communities in Japan raise nearly \$110,000 for relief efforts

Continued from A-1

"It was an amazing experience to help out," Schaerdel said. "It is one thing to assist with

Operation Tomodachi on base, but it's another thing to step outside and see who you are helping out. I met the Japanese farmer at the strawberry

field who would have had to do all this work by himself. I will never forget helping him."

To date, Pacific Air Forces Airmen have flown

more than 440 missions and transported more than seven million pounds of supplies and equipment in support of Operation Tomodachi.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

April 21 – Earth Day

April 29 – Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard – surface ships

May 5 – Dengue prevention

May 12 – Pacific Missile Range Facility and the Centennial of Naval Aviation

May 19 – HURREX

May 26 – Deterring designer drug abuse

(The segments currently air between 6:15 and 6:45 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.