



“Navigator” HO'OKELE

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NAVY REMEMBERS WEST LOCH DISASTER



Story and photos by MC2 Daniel Barker

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Detachment Hawaii

Military service members and civilians attended a celebration of life for the victims of the West Loch disaster at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in the Puowaina Crater (Punch-bowl) on May 21.

The West Loch disaster was previously classified top secret as an American World War II maritime accident until 1960, and this was only the third official ceremony recognizing the event at Punchbowl.

"I don't think it's unusual for people not to know about this, and I think that's something that needs to be changed as soon and as quickly and as effectively as possible," said Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle. "We're doing a great service to the people of Honolulu by remembering and memorializing the personnel who sacrificed and created awareness for future generations."

On May 21, 1944, 34 ships were in Pearl Harbor's West Loch to load ammunition and supplies for an invasion of Saipan. The LSTs (landing ship, tank), or small ships designed to land battle-ready tanks, were close together along six berths. At 3:08 p.m., an explosion occurred resulting in a chain reaction of

explosions that sank six of the LSTs and severely damaged several others. In all, 163 men were killed and 396 wounded.

Sailors, Marines and Soldiers were preparing the vessels for the upcoming operation. Nearly one-third of the casualties came from the Army's segregated African American 29th Chemical Decontamination Company.

Because of the tragedy at West Loch, the mission was delayed – but by only one day. In fact, the Northern Attack Force LSTs were able to make up that one day enroute to the western Pacific. The invasion of Saipan was a major victory for U.S. amphibious forces, further constraining the enemy and taking America closer to victory in the war.

The West Loch Disaster was Pearl Harbor's second greatest disaster in terms of casualties. The exact cause of the disaster was never determined.

"Today we gather to honor, remember and pay tribute to the brave young men who perished on 21 May, 1944 at West Loch in Pearl Harbor," said Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

"Today we remember them not just as Sailors, not just as Soldiers, not just as shipmates, but as fallen fathers, sons and brothers of

a heroic generation," the admiral said.

"They were a diverse group that came from all walks of life -- different backgrounds, different experiences and with different outlook and aspirations," Ponds said. "They had answered to a greater cause than themselves ... to serve their country and do their part in defense of our nation and our nation's values."

Participants at the ceremony conducted an ancestral libation pouring cere-

mony as well as a wreath laying, a 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps.

"It is fitting, that we reflect on the legacy of the West Loch event, especially this close to Memorial Day and during this bicentennial year of the War of 1812, considered the birth of our Navy and the true independence of our nation. Today, we celebrate and commemorate the sacrifices during the West Loch event...as an opportunity to share a legacy," Ponds said.

"Today, we chase away

the memory of that horrific day in order that we can embrace and lay claim to the bravery of those who perished on that fateful day, for they represent our nation's greatest strength—our strength of honor, our strength of courage, and most of all, our strength of conviction. May that strength continue to glow bright in the night, as a beacon of hope for all of humanity," Ponds said.

The commemoration was hosted by the African American Diversity Cul-

tural Center Hawaii (AAD-CCH) to honor the service members killed during the West Loch disaster.

The AADCCH was founded in 1997 as a museum repository to archive 200 years of African American history in Hawaii, to share the collections by displaying and exhibiting artifacts, educating the people in Hawaii about the cultural heritage of African Americans in this country.

(See story and additional photos about the ATGMID-PAC ceremony on page A-2)

Fini flight for Dague



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

Family members of Col. Joe Dague, 15th Wing vice commander, douse him with champagne at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to celebrate his "fini flight" May 23. Dague, a master navigator with more than 2,900 flight hours, has been the 15th Wing vice commander since June 2010.



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Photo illustration

Sailors honor victims of West Loch disaster

Story and photos by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Hawaii-based Sailors in five rigid-hulled inflatable boats (RHIBs) held a wreath-laying ceremony May 21 at the site of the West Loch disaster to honor the men who lost their lives in 1944.

Hosted by the Surface Navy Association, Sailors from Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific (ATG MID-PAC), USS Chosin (CG 65), USS Hopper (DDG 70) and USS Crommelin (FFG 37) took RHIBs to the site of the wreckage of LST-480 to remember the events of

May 21, 1944. "This is one of those not-well-known disasters," said Capt. John Figuerres, the commanding officer of ATG MID-PAC. "If you ask Sailors, even on the waterfront, about the West Loch disaster, probably not too many of them know about it. It is important that we get this out and say, 'hey, there were others who lost their lives here, and it's important that we remember that.'"

Up until 1960, the West Loch disaster was a secret American World War II maritime accident. Six ships docked at the West Loch peninsula in Pearl Harbor sank, and 163 service members loading the

vessels with munitions and supplies were killed. West Loch served as a staging area for ships in preparation for Operation Forager, the invasion of Japanese-held Mariana Islands.

"We wanted to go out there this morning as part of the Surface Navy Association and remember the lives that were lost out there," Figuerres said. "We like to tie everything into training. Subsequently, due to this disaster and other disasters that happened with ordnance handling, we, the Navy, have changed the way we handle ordnance and the

way we train people. Some of that training still exists today."

On May 21, 1944 at 3 p.m.,

the first explosion occurred aboard LST-353 and subsequently spread fire among the tightly packed ships loaded with fuel and munitions. The resulting fires, which led to the sinking of six LSTs, lasted for about 24 hours.

The exact cause of the disaster was never determined, but some believed a mortar round exploded during an unloading operation.

Another ceremony was conducted later in the day at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, presented a keynote address about the meaning and legacy of the West Loch disaster.



647th Contracting Squadron change of command

Lt. Col. Damian Wilborne (center of lower right photo) assumes command of the 647th Contracting Squadron as he takes the guidon from Col. Dann Carlson, commander of 647th Air Base Group and deputy commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Lt. Col. Jason Bock relinquished command during a ceremony (shown in the photos here) May 18.



U.S. Navy photos by David D. Underwood Jr.

Commentary

CNO Memorial Day message: Your American Sailor



Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert

Chief of Naval Operations

Though the U.S. Navy is made up of ships, submarines and aircraft, its true strength lies in the skill and dedication of its people. As the chief of naval operations, it is my honor to lead the 625,000 active and reserve Sailors and civilians who propel the Navy forward

and protect our nation's security and prosperity. As we prepare to mark this Memorial Day, it is a privilege to recognize the service and sacrifices of your American Sailors and their families.

Our Sailors are among the brightest, most committed and courageous individuals our nation has to offer. They are the sons and daughters of America, representing every state and territory as well as the rich heritage of a diverse nation. In my travels around the Navy, I am continually reminded of how different perspectives and backgrounds come together to form our Navy team. They are a team that is committed to operating forward and being ready to respond.

From their first year in the Navy, Sailors and their families quickly gain an appreciation for what it means to serve.

Deployments abroad for several months at a time and emergent operations in response to dynamic world events form the routine of their lives.

While they keep the watch overseas, Sailors often miss birthdays, anniversaries and other family milestones. I am impressed by their endurance and resilience, which sustains our Navy's forward presence on land and at sea around the globe. It is the sacrifice of the Sailors and their families that supports the high demand of today's Navy and our many missions.

Today more than half of our 285-ship Navy, including five aircraft carriers and six large-deck amphibious ships, are deployed overseas or at sea getting ready to deploy. We have more than 20,000 Sailors supporting operations in the Middle East. Of that number, more than 17,000 Sailors are at

sea, and about 4,500 are serving on the ground in Afghanistan.

Navy aircraft provide about a third of the air support for U.S. and NATO forces in the current campaign to secure Afghanistan. As part of the world's pre-eminent maritime force, American Sailors are engaged in protecting the interconnected systems of trade, information and security that support our economy and those of our friends and allies. They are also on watch to keep the peace in volatile regions and support our diplomatic efforts.

In many places, the American Sailor is the face of U.S. global leadership, maintaining trust that sustains our partnerships and alliances as well as demonstrating unshakable resolve that deters aggression.

This is today's all-volunteer force and today's military family. We are grateful that so many high-

caliber young Americans have answered the call to serve. But we are also mindful of, and pay tribute to, those who shaped our nation's history and paid the ultimate sacrifice. Indeed, freedom is not free. Our rich heritage has demonstrated the importance of having capable Sailors willing to go into harm's way. We must never forget these Sailors and their families for their sacrifice and dedicated commitment to their country.

I am very proud of their heroism as they serve throughout the world. The knowledge, high standards and productivity required of them, in some of the most challenging environments, prove how exceptional they truly are. So, as we recognize their service during this Memorial Day, I am confident that the spirit and passion of your American Sailor will never be forgotten.

Commentary

PACAF commander sends Memorial Day message



Gen. Gary North

Commander, Pacific Air Forces

On May 28, 2012, we will pause to honor the memory of our service members who gave their lives in their service to our great nation. For 236 years, our military has protected our national interests, at home and abroad in both peacetime and wartime. While our world and our armed forces have changed over the centuries, certain elements of our armed forces remain constant: courage, selfless-

ness, sacrifice and dedication to duty are the timeless qualities of our men and women in uniform.

Memorial Day is a time for us to pause, reflect and reconnect with our nation's history and our national values by honoring those who fought and died for the very ideals we cherish and to also thank those that stand between us and tyranny today.

Just last month I was at a ceremony honoring the 70th anniversary of the Doolittle Raiders. While only five of the 80 Doolittle Raiders are still with us, we honor them all by remembering what they did for our country in our darkest days after the attacks on Oahu and our entry into WWII. Eight of those Airmen were captured; three were shot by their captors, another died in captivity, and the last four were in captivity for a total of three years. Our duty

and obligation is to ensure we carry forward the legacy of these brave souls and millions of others who have sacrificed in service and dedication to this county, since our forefathers fight for independence.

Many American servicemen and women have selflessly given their lives – some more than 200 years ago, some this week in Afghanistan – all in the defense of freedom. When called upon to defend the rights and liberties of this nation, American Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen have responded courageously. Their sacrifice will not be forgotten, and their achievements will forever be woven into the history of the United States and the legacy of valor for their courageous service and sacrifice.

We ask you continue to keep these patriots in your thoughts

and prayers and to realize we enjoy America's freedoms because of the brave men and women who selflessly answer their nations' call to protect our freedoms and our way of life. May we never forget the sacrifices of our service members, or those of their families, from Lexington and Concord to today's fight for freedom around the globe.

Memorial Day is a time to reflect and remember those who paid the ultimate price while, at the same time, reminding ourselves of what service to our nation ultimately means.

This Memorial Day, we remember, we celebrate, and we thank those who have served and especially those who have given their all to preserve our freedoms. They are our heroes. We honor their courage and sacrifice by remembering them, this and every day.

Diverse Views



This year is the 50th anniversary of the creation of the USS Arizona Memorial. Why is it important to have created this memorial to honor those who died in the attack on the Arizona Dec. 7, 1941?



Tech. Sgt. Arlo Frederick
561st Network Operations Squadron,
Det. 1

"If we forget the past, how are we going to improve on the future?"

Charles Dinoto
Vietnam veteran/Australian visitor
Melbourne, Australia

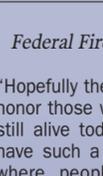


"It is the only way to properly remember those who died for their country, for the love of the people and to make America and the world a better place. Everyone 'cans' on America, but without America the world would be a much darker place."



Capt. Darrell Randolph
PACAF IG

"Memorializing great triumphs of the past and honoring heroes of that era encourages our young people to fight for what's right...Freedom is right!"



Michael Lodge
Federal Fire Department, Ford Island

"Hopefully the memorial will continue to honor those who served, some who are still alive today. It is a great honor to have such a memorial here in Hawaii, where people can visit and gather together in appreciation of a symbol of our freedom. This isn't something that most will associate with the conflicts we are dealing with in the Middle East, but hopefully it is something that will keep the fight for our freedom alive."



Senior Master Sgt. Susan Kittel
561st Network Operations Squadron,
Det. 1

"It is tremendously important to honor those service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the nation. The Arizona allows the public to learn about and appreciate the contributions of the 'Greatest Generation' of Americans."

Shasta Oliveira
Sharpshooter Imaging, USS Missouri



"It's important because innocent people had lost their lives fighting to protect our island, also because they deserve to have a memorial. They deserve to be honored. I think it is very important that we have these memorials."

(Provided by MCl Donald W. Randall and David Underwood Jr.)

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

Chief Steward Chang served on Oahu



U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command photograph

Chief Steward Yung Chin Chang, a Chinese American, enlisted in the 1930s and served during World War II. His hometown was Hangkow, and he served on board USS Luzon (ARG-2). He also served on Guam and Oahu, Hawaii. During World War II, he was also a prisoner of war at Cavite, Philippines.

May is Asian and Pacific Heritage Month.

HO'okele

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It's hurricane

Hurricane Categories

Tropical Storm

Winds 39-73 mph

Category 1 Hurricane — winds 74-95 mph, storm surge 4-5 ft. No real damage to buildings. Some damage to poorly constructed signs. Also, some coastal flooding and minor pier damage.

Category 2 Hurricane — winds 96-110 mph, storm surge 6-8 ft. Some damage to building roofs, doors and windows. Flooding damages piers and small craft in unprotected moorings may break their moorings. Some trees blown down.

Category 3 Hurricane — winds 111-130 mph, storm surge 9-12 ft. Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings. Large trees blown down. Mobile homes and poorly built signs destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain may be flooded well inland.

Category 4 Hurricane — winds 131-155 mph, storm surge 13-18 ft. More extensive curtainwall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach areas. Terrain may be flooded well inland.

Category 5 Hurricane — winds 156 mph and up, storm surge 19 ft or more. Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Flooding causes major damage to lower floors of all structures near the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas may be required.

Hurricane Watches

Weather/marine advisories:

Issued when storms are within 1,000 miles of Honolulu, Hawaii.

Hurricane watch:

Issued when there is a strong possibility that the storm could threaten coastal or inland communities within 36 hours or less.

Hurricane warning:

Issued when there is a high possibility that hurricane force winds will arrive within 24 hours or less.

Tropical Cyclone Conditions of Readiness (TCCOR)

TCCOR levels are based on the arrival of destructive winds and trigger specific actions.

TCCOR V Hurricane season (June 1 – Nov. 30)

The Pacific hurricane season runs from June through November. This is the time to dust off your family emergency plan, restock your disaster kit before a hurricane occurs. Learn your evacuation routes and the location the nearest state shelters. Stock your kit now... before the rush.

TCCOR IV (72 hours before destructive winds arrive)

- Maintain areas around the house and keep them clear of debris and loose material.
- Prune dead branches from trees.
- Get needed supplies.
- Maintain storm shutters in good repair and keep them easily available.
- Determine location of official shelters.
- Stock and maintain your hurricane supply locker.

TCCOR III (48 hours before destructive winds arrive)

- Start monitoring the news.
- Review emergency plans with your family.
- Practice where to go in the house as the hurricane intensifies.
- Expectant mothers, beyond 37th week of pregnancy should make hospital arrangements.
- Knock down coconuts and secure outside potted plants.
- Ensure loose debris is picked up around the house.
- Refill any special medications.
- Ensure gas tank is full and check your battery, water and oil.
- Move small boats to secure and safe havens.

- Check flashlight and radio batteries and make sure you have extras.
- Charge cellular phones.
- Get cash (t least \$250 in cash).
- Prepare to put up hurricane shutters.
- Put important documents in safe deposit box, a home safe or another safe and dry place.

TCCOR II (24 hours before destructive winds arrive)

- Install typhoon shutters, siding or plywood on windows.
- Move vehicles out of flood-prone areas and away from trees.
- Move grills, patio furniture, potted plant and other loose objects inside.
- Tie down anything that you can't bring inside.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest setting and pack your freezer with newspaper to keep the food colder longer.
- Move furniture away from windows or cover with plastic.

TCCOR I (12 hours before destructive winds arrive)

- Fill your tub and bottles with water.
- Secure and brace external doors.
- Move as many valuables off the floor as possible.
- Continue to listen to the radio or television for weather advisories.
- Stay inside and off the roads.
- Stay off the phone unless it's an emergency.

During the storm

- Stay inside.
- Stay away from windows and doors.
- If the storm becomes intense, retreat to a designated interior safe room.

After the storm

- Don't leave your home or shelter until emergency officials tell you it's safe.
- Don't go out on the roads until you get the all-clear.
- Watch and listen for reports on flooding or other storm-related activities.
- Don't call the police or other officials unless there is a life-threatening situation or emergency. Stay off the phone unless it's an emergency.
- Watch for and don't touch downed power lines.
- Watch your step. There may be broken glass and other debris lying about.
- Report dangling or downed power lines, broken water or sewer lines or broken or downed telephone lines to the proper authorities.

The day after the storm

- Don't sightsee. Authorities may be out repairing downed power poles, lines, sewer lines, etc.
- Use batteries and cell phones sparingly; you may not be able to replace them so easily.

Important Telephone Numbers:

- Emergency, police, fire ambulance** - 911
- State Department of Emergency Management** - 723-8960
- Hawaii State Civil Defense** - 733-4300
- National Weather Service (weather advisories)** - 973-5286
- Military and Family Support (formerly FFSC)** - 474-1999
- Navy Marine Corps Relief Society** - 473-0282
- Air Force Aid Society** - 449-0300
- JBPHH Straight Talk Line** - 421-4000
- HECO Service Center**: 548-7961
(to report power outages, downed power lines, trees on power lines)
- Board of Water Supply Trouble Line** - 748-5000 (normal hours)
748-5010 (after hours)
- Hawaiian Telcom repair service** - 611
- The Gas Company emergency service** - 526-0066
- Street lights out** - City - 768-5300
State - 831-6714

Where to find hurricane preparedness information

Get emergency updates on Facebook:

- Navy Region Hawaii - www.facebook.com/NavyRegionHawaii.
- JBPHH - www.facebook.com/JointBasePearlHarborHickam

Navy Region Hawaii website: www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii

JBPHH website: www.cnic.navy.mil/PearlHarbor-Hickam

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam TV (Channel 2): Hurricane information on Joint Base TV 2 will be on the text crawl 24 hours a day. Seven days a week.

Department of Emergency Management (DEM): Information is available on the DEM website at www.honolulu.gov/dem or by calling 723-8960. Residents can also call the DEM office and request a free packet of hurricane readiness information.

Hawaiian Humane Society: For information on how to prepare for your pets in a disaster, contact the Hawaiian Humane Society at 946-2187.

Telephone directory: Disaster preparedness information is available at the beginning of the white pages section in your local telephone directory.

CNIC Operation Prepare: <http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/navy.html>

State Civil Defense: www.scd.hawaii.gov

FEMA: ready.gov

JBPHH Office of Emergency Management: email: jpbhh.oem@hickam.af.mil or call: 448-2741 for emergency preparedness information.





Build a disaster kit for your family. Bring it with you if you have to evacuate to a shelter or a safe haven.

- Water - one gallon/person/day for at least seven days.
- Non-perishable food for at least seven days.
- Manual can opener.
- First aid kit and include any prescription medications, at least a 14-to-30 day supply.
- Personal sanitation supplies such as moist towelettes, garbage bags, and plastic ties.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- Pet supplies: Crate, leash, food and water.
- Specialty items for children (toys, coloring books) or elderly.
- Extra glasses.
- Candles and waterproof matches.
- Money – at least \$250 cash, credit card and travelers checks, extra car keys.
- Local maps and your evacuation plan.
- Family communications plan.
- Battery-powered or hand-cranked radio with NOAA weather channel (many models can also charge your cell phone).
- Important family documents (passports, IDs, deeds, wills, etc).
- Dust masks and gloves.
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- Sleeping bags, change of clothing (if you evacuate).
- Fuel for camping stoves or lanterns.

Hurricane Shelters on Oahu

State-run emergency shelters will be opened selectively, depending on the severity and type of incident or disaster. You should know the location of your two nearest shelters in the community, but do not go there until instructed to do so. Listen to radio and television for shelter locations, instructions and opening schedule. Be aware that all shelters do not stock supplies. You must bring all of your emergency supplies with you.

Military families living on base should also be aware of their nearest shelter in the community as an option if it is necessary to evacuate. Navy "safe havens," or facilities located on base that provide protection from natural disasters, provide an option for selected personnel to take refuge inside the installation.

Due to the limited availability of safe havens, a priority for occupancy can be ordered. Personnel with priority include category one and five personnel and their family members and residents in housing areas most vulnerable to a hurricane.

Before reporting to a Navy safe haven, personnel must register first at the Makai Recreation Center for assignments and transportation to the designated location. When going to an installation safe haven, take your emergency kit, sleeping bags and a five-day supply of food and water.

Evacuation and shelter information for Oahu will be provided by:

**Dept. of Emergency Management
City & County of Honolulu
Telephone: 723-8960**

List of state public emergency shelters for general population on Oahu:
S – Provides limited support to persons with special health needs.
P – Pet friendly shelters. Pets must be caged for safety.

**North Shore
(Kaena Point - Kahuku)**
Waialua High and
Intermediate [S/P]

**Leeward Coast
(Makua-Waipahu and Vicinity)**
August Ahrens Elementary
Barbers Point Elementary
Campbell High [S/P]

Ewa Beach Elementary
Ewa Elementary [S]
Honowai Elementary [S]
Ilima Intermediate [S/P]
Kaimiloa Elementary
Kaleiopuu Elementary
Kamaile Elementary
Kanoelani Elementary
Kapolei Elementary [S]
Kapolei High [S]
Leihoku Elementary
Maili Elementary
Makaha Elementary
Makakilo Elementary
Mauka Lani Elementary [S]
Nanakuli Elementary
Nanakuli High & Intermediate [S/P]
Pohakea Elementary
Waianae Elementary
Waipahu Elementary [S/P]
Waipahu High [S/P]
Waipahu Intermediate [S]

**Central Oahu
(Wahiawa-Mililani and Vicinity)**
Hanalani Elementary
Helemano Elementary [S]
Iiahi Elementary
Kaala Elementary [S]
Kipapa Elementary [S]
Leilehua High [S/P]
Mililani High [S/P]
Mililani Ike Elementary
Mililani Mauka Elementary
Mililani Waena Elementary [S]
Mililani Middle [S/P]
Mililani-Uka Elementary [S]
Solomon Elementary
Wahiawa Elementary [S]
Wahiawa Middle [S]
Wheeler Elementary
Wheeler Middle [S/P]

Pearl City-Aiea and Salt Lake
Aiea Elementary [S]
Aiea Intermediate [S]
Aiea High [S/P]
Aliamanu Elementary [S]
Aliamanu Middle [S]
Halawa District Park
Hickam Elementary
Highlands Intermediate [S/P]
Lehua Elementary [S]
Makalapa Elementary [S]
Manana Elementary [S]
Moanalua Elementary [S]
Moanalua Middle [S/P]
Moanalua High [S/P]
Mokulele Elementary
Momilani Elementary

Nimitz Elementary
Palisades Elementary [S]
Pearl City District Park
Pearl City Elementary
Pearl City High [S/P]
Pearl City Highlands Elementary [S]
Pearl Harbor Elementary
Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary
Pearlridge Elementary [S]
Radford High [S/P]
Red Hill Elementary [S]
Salt Lake Elementary [S]
Shafter Elementary
Waiau Elementary
Waimalu Elementary [S]
Webbing Elementary

Salt Lake-Punchbowl and Downtown

Central Middle [P]
Dole Middle [S]
Farrington High
Fern Elementary
Kaahumanu Elementary
Kaewai Elementary [S]
Kaiulani Elementary [S]
Kalakaua Middle [S/P]
Kalihi Elementary
Kalihi-Kai Elementary [S]
Kalihi-Uka Elementary [S]
Kalihi Valley District Park
Kalihi-Waena Elementary [S]
Kapalama Elementary [S]
Kauluwela Elementary
Kawanakoa Middle [S]
Lanakila District Park
Lanakila Elementary [S]
Likelike Elementary
Linapuni Elementary [S]
Maemae Elementary [S]
Makiki District Park
Nuuanu Elementary
Pauoa Elementary
Puuhale Elementary [S]
Roosevelt High [S/P]
Royal Elementary [S]
Stevenson Middle [S/P]

Punchbowl-Waialae and Vicinity

Aliolani Elementary [S]
Anuenue Elementary
Hawaii Convention Center [S]
Hokulani Elementary [S]
Jarrett Middle [S/P]
Kaahumanu Elementary
Kaimuki High [S/P]
Kaimuki Middle [S/P]
Kuhio Elementary

Liholiho Elementary [S]
Lincoln Elementary
Lunalilo Elementary
Manoa Elementary [S]
McKinley High [S]
Neal Blaisdell Center [S]
Noelani Elementary [S]
Palolo Elementary [S]
Waialae Elementary [S]
Waikiki Elementary
Washington Middle [S/P]
Wilson Elementary [S]

Aina Haina-Hawaii Kai and Vicinity

Aina Haina Elementary [S]
Hahaione Elementary [S]
Kahala Elementary [S]
Kaiser High [S/P]
Kalani High [S/P]
Kamiloiki Elementary [S]
Koko Head Elementary [S]
Niu Valley Middle [S]

Windward coast (Kahuku - Makapuu Point)

Ahuimanu Elementary [S]
Aikahi Elementary
Benjamin Parker Elementary
Brigham Young University of Hawaii [S]
Castle High [S/P]
Enchanted Lake Elementary [S]
Heeia Elementary [S]
Kahaluu Elementary [S]
Kahuku Elementary
Kahuku High and Intermediate [S/P]
Kailua Elementary [S]
Kailua High [S/P]
Kailua Intermediate [S]
Kainalu Elementary
Kalaheo High [S/P]
Kaneohe Elementary
Kapunahala Elementary
Keolu Elementary
King Intermediate [S/P]
Lanikai Elementary [S]
Maunawili Elementary [S]
Mokapu Elementary [S]
Pope Elementary [S]
Puohala Elementary
Waihole Elementary [S]
Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate [S/P]



World War II veterans tour Pearl Harbor, Arizona Memorial

Story and photos by
Jazzmin Williams

Contributing Writer

More than 40 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines from different generations connected with 24 World War II veterans during a May 18 visit to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

Forever Young, a charitable organization that grants the wishes of senior veterans, sponsored the trip to JBPHH, which included a USS Arizona Memorial and Pearl Harbor tour.

"It brings back a lot of memories," said World War II veteran Earl Harrell, who served from 1944 to 1945 with the 24th Infantry Division. "I came over with guys in the Navy, Air Force, Marines. It was teamwork in our time. Nobody was jealous of the other, and nobody could have won the war without the other."

The visit included a base tour and luncheon at the Silver Dolphin Galley at Pearl Harbor. The veterans discussed stories of their military past with young active-duty members.

Capt. Lawrence Scruggs, JBPHH chief staff officer,

hosted the tour. Once at the Arizona Memorial, participants entered the shrine room, which displays a list of all of those who were killed aboard the ship during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack.

Diane Hight, founder and president of Forever Young, spoke about the trials and tribulations World War II veterans have gone through.

"[It was] such a huge sacrifice and loss. And so we just want to present this wreath to those men who gave their lives for our country," Hight said as she and several of the veterans stood at the front with a wreath that read "Forever Young."

After a moment of silence, Scruggs approached the wreath and the five veterans standing honor guard around it. He saluted and was followed in his salute by every enlisted Sailor, Airman and Marine present.

"It's an honor and a privilege... Being able to come here with these individuals and being able to see parts of the wreckage, it gets a little emotional," said Culinary Specialist Seaman Apprentice Sheldon Alvarez. "I'm glad I volunteered for it."

After the wreath-laying ceremony, Scruggs guided a tour around the harbor, describing the differences in the harbor from World War II to the present day.

The tour ended with Scruggs thanking the veterans for their sacrifices.

"To get them out on the memorial, to spend time with them, to show them that they're remembered and they're cherished, that they've given us so much, to give them this little bit is a good feeling," Scruggs said.

"I'm happy because I feel like I'm contributing a little something that we can never pay back for their sacrifices," he said.



Photo illustration

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



Culinary Specialist 1st Class Michael Sanders helps his team during a tug-of-war battle May 21 with students from Chiefess Kamakahahei Middle School. More than 140 students participated in a physical fitness challenge day hosted by the Pacific Missile Range Facility. Sixteen Sailors and Pacific Missile Range Facility employees created several fitness and career stations to help emphasize an active lifestyle for the youth on Kauai.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jay C. Pugh

Col. Dann Carlson, deputy commander, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Commander, 647th Air Base Group, speaks to unit and family members during a key spouse appreciation luncheon at the residence of Gen. Gary North, commander, Pacific Air Forces, Hawaii on May 23. The key spouse program is an official unit and family program designed to promote partnerships with unit leadership, the Airmen and Family Readiness Center, volunteer spouses appointed by the commander, and other community support agencies to address the needs of all military families.

U.S. Navy photo by David D. Underwood Jr.



Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, hands out diplomas May 23 at the Armed Services YMCA preschool graduation ceremony for 37 preschool children at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Submarine Memorial Chapel.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

The remains of a Korean War unknown are brought aboard an awaiting Republic of Korea transport aircraft by a representative from the Republic of Korea and the Ministry of National Defense for killed in action recovery and identification during a repatriation ceremony hosted by the U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command on May 22 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam. A total of 12 sets of remains of Korean War unknowns, which were determined not to be U.S. service members by JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory, were transferred custody for further analysis. This is the second time in the past approximately 10 years JPAC has repatriated remains to South Korea.

U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Ben Sakrisson



Intelligence Specialist 1st Class Brian Stanley, assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90), listens May 19 as a student explains how a steam-powered boat works during the 34th annual Guam Island-Wide Science Fair at the University of Guam. The Sailors volunteered as judges, evaluating projects from students in kindergarten through high school from Guam and other Mariana Islands.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Corey Hensley

Families and friends say *aloha* as USS Hawaii deploys to western Pacific

Story and photos by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

Friends and families of Sailors from USS Hawaii (SSN 776) gathered at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to say goodbye May 21 as Hawaii's namesake Virginia-class submarine departed for a scheduled western Pacific (WESTPAC) deployment.

"We are very excited to be deploying, and the experience that the ship and our crew will gain during this deployment is extremely valuable operationally. On a personal level, it will help to form memories that a Sailor will carry with him long after he departs the naval service," said Cmdr. Steve Mack, USS Hawaii commanding officer.

"We are very proud to be the USS Hawaii, in Hawaii, and take a tremendous amount of pride in the fact that we will be representing

these beautiful islands, our Navy and our nation while deployed."

Since returning from her maiden western Pacific deployment in February 2011, the first for the Virginia class submarine, Hawaii has undergone maintenance and conducted training in preparation for the current deployment.

"The submarine is in excellent material condition. Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and the fleet maintenance branch team do an outstanding job of keeping our ships 'fit to fight,' and we are well prepared for sustained operations at sea away from all shore-based maintenance support," Mack said.

"Hawaii was commissioned in 2007 and, although only five years old, she is now ready for a second six-month WESTPAC," he said.

This will be the first time deploying for many of Hawaii's Sailors and for others who have deployed previously, this will be their first

chance to deploy to the western Pacific, according to Mack.

For Electronics Technician 2nd Class Brian Woody, who has been in the Navy for two years, this will be his first deployment.

"I am really glad to finally get to deploy and utilize my training," said Woody. "I am looking forward to gaining the experience of a deployment, getting submarine-qualified and enjoying different parts of the world during our port visits."

Measuring 377 feet long, weighing 7,800 tons when submerged and with a crew size of 129, Hawaii is one of the Navy's newest and most technologically sophisticated submarines.

"We intend to have Hawaii consistently ready for operations in order to carry out all assigned tasking on time, every time and to represent the United States as responsible ambassadors of our country, our Navy and our beautiful island state," said Mack.



Information Systems Technician Submarines 1st Class (SS) Mike Swachuk, assigned to the Virginia-class submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776) operations department, says goodbye to his family on the submarine pier before the namesake submarine departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on May 21 for a six-month deployment to the western Pacific.

The state-of-the-art submarine is capable of supporting a multitude of missions, including anti-subma-

rine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike, naval special warfare involving special operations forces,

intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, irregular warfare and mine warfare.



Hawaii's namesake Virginia-class submarine, USS Hawaii (SSN 776), departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled six-month western Pacific deployment May 21.

Friends of Hickam and JBPHH unveil new Gathering Place lanai

2nd Lt. Jessica Rowe

15th Wing Public Affairs

Leaders from 15th Wing and the chaplain staff, along with the Friends of Hickam, unveiled the new Gathering Place lanai May 17 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"The Air Force does a great job of taking care of our Airmen, but the Friends of Hickam has added so much, both monetarily and with their time, by creating a place where senior leaders can come in and spend time with our most precious resource - our Airmen," said Col. Sam Barrett, 15th Wing commander.

The project was initially conceived in 2010 by Nicholas Tuck, son of Brig. Gen. Giovanni K. Tuck, former 15th Wing commander. Nicholas approached Chaplain Joseph Deichert for assistance with his goal of achieving Eagle Scout.

At that time, the Gathering Place, where dormitory residents unite to relieve the stress of a long day, seemed to be overflowing. The dream of expansion began in the form of a lanai. However, the original plan fell by the wayside as funds proved insufficient and personnel left.

Subsequently, the Friends

of Hickam joined with the chapel staff to breathe life back into the project.

"For me, and the Airmen and Sailors living in the dorms that come after me, this lanai will be a magnet," said Airman 1st Class Raymart De Asis of the Gathering Place Council. "It will draw us into a safe place where we can relax, decompress and connect with others."

Volunteers open the doors of the Gathering Place six

nights a week. Twice a week, they offer home-cooked meals, prepared and served by various units and leaders. The lanai provides the opportunity for more people to participate and interact with one another.

"From the eagle eyes of a Boy Scout, through the kindness of wing leadership and Friends of Hickam, to the here and now, we've come a long way... for when people gather here, ohana happens," Deichert said.



U.S. Navy photo by David D. Underwood Jr.

Chaplain Lt. Col. Joseph Deichert speaks at the grand opening ceremony of The Gathering Place on May 17 on the newly built lanai of King Hall Dormitory at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The lanai was built in partnership with the Friends of Hickam and the Hickam Chapel.

2012 Work Force Job Fair helps Sailors transition in Hawaii

Story and photo by MC3 Sean Furey

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West Detachment Hawaii

HONOLULU - Veteran job seekers, active duty military members, Guard and Reserve members and military spouses attended the 2012 Workforce Job Fair at the Neal Blaisdell Center in Honolulu on May 16.

The event offered a free opportunity for job-seeking Sailors to interact with employers through the Shipmates to Workmates program.

"Basically our job here is to help enlisted retention board Sailors with their transition out of the Navy," said Yeoman 1st Class Thai Lima, assigned to Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) in Washington, D.C. "We are helping them with affiliating themselves with the private or federal aspect of civilian jobs."

The Shipmates to Workmates program seeks to actively assist separating Sailors in finding jobs in partnering commands such as (NAVSEA), Naval Air Systems Command,



Eileen Tsukayama, a human resource specialist at Navy Region Hawaii, talks with Master Chief Joseph Mack from Personnel Command, Millington, Tenn. At the 2012 Workforce Job Fair.

Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Naval Supply Systems Command, Military Sealift Command, Commander Navy Installations Command, the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service, Hawaii Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, NBC News, and other local partners.

The event is part of the larger Workforce 2012 event being conducted by

Hawaii Hires Heroes, in partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Shipmates to Workmates civil service initiative.

"Ideally our mission is to help with the transition as well as streamlining the process—how to build a resume, how to navigate through USA Jobs, resources that the Sailors can use to benefit them, and hopefully build a resume that is presentable to not only federal entities but the private sector as well," Lima said.

THIS WEEK IN USAF & PACAF HISTORY

Charles Nicholls

PACAF historian

- On May 25, 1953, George Welch, North American test pilot, flew the prototype YF-100 Super Sabre for the first time, taking off and landing at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. He broke Mach 1 during the flight. The F-100 was an unsolicited, company-funded North American project to improve on the F-86 Sabre, and this maiden flight was seven months ahead of schedule. Welch shot down four Japanese aircraft over Oahu on Dec. 7, 1941 and had a total of 16 kills flying in the Pacific theater during World War II.
- On May 21 and 22, 1960 the Hawaiian tsunami hit. Tremendous earthquakes in Chile produced tsunami waves that



From left, ACC Commander Gen. Richard E. Hawley, Sen. Dan Inouye, Sen. Dan Akaka, CINCPACFLT Adm. Joseph W. Prueher, COMPAACAF Gen. John G. Lorber and Ken Kresa, president of Northrop-Grumman take part in the B-2 stealth bomber ceremony held at the former Hickam Air Force Base.

pounded the east coast of the island of Hawaii. Ignoring warn-

ings, many Hilo-area residents had stayed in their homes near

the bay, where up to 61 people died and hundreds were left homeless. By the end of May, the 1502nd Air Transport Wing from the former Hickam Air Force Base airlifted more than 12 tons of emergency equipment and supplies to Hilo. The wing's 50th Air Transport Squadron flew C-124 Globemaster II airplanes for the relief operation, delivering a generator, refrigerator, vans, clothing, and food.

On May 23, the Air Force began one of its largest humanitarian airlifts to relieve the earthquake victims in Chile. Within a month, cargo aircraft had delivered more than 1,000 tons of equipment and supplies from bases in the United States, some 4,500 miles away from the stricken region. The airlift was called Operation AMIGOS.

- On May 21, 1976, Super Typhoon Pamela hit Guam with 150 mph winds and 27 inches of rain in a 24-hour period, flooding the island and tearing apart most buildings. Despite preparations, the typhoon killed at least five people, injured 500 and deprived thousands of their homes. Andersen Air Force Base suffered the same level of destruction.

Communication with the outside world was lost for 14 hours, and the runways were flooded and buried under debris. Through June 9, MAC supervised the airlift of 2,652 tons of cargo to Guam in seven C-141s, six C-5s, and one C-130.

- On May 27, 1996, the USAF gave the name "The Spirit of Hawaii" to the nation's newest B-2 stealth bomber at a ceremony held at the former Hickam Air Force Base.

Miss Hawaii visits USS Hawaii

Story and photo by
MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

The reigning Miss Hawaii visited the Virginia-class, fast attack submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776) May 16 to show her support of her title namesake submarine at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

During the tour, Lauren Nicole Kealohilani Cheape had the opportunity to learn about daily submarine operations, dined with the crew

on the mess decks, took photos with the crew and signed autographs.

"It is an extreme honor to visit our namesake submarine, and I am very grateful for what the Sailors do to protect our nation on a daily basis," said Cheape. "I have never been on a submarine before. I did not realize the amount of skill it takes to operate one and the amount of knowledge and pride of all the crew. It is truly an experience of a lifetime."

The crew of Hawaii was excited about having Cheape visit their submarine.

"I think it is great to have

Miss Hawaii to take time out of her schedule and tour the submarine that she represents," said Machinist's Mate 2nd Class (SS/DV) Kevin Dillon. "It was a real privilege meeting her and showing her what we do. I am glad she had a good time, and I hope she considers visiting us again."

Cheape, a native of Mililani and a graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a bachelor of arts in film production, is the 63rd Miss Hawaii and will hold the title until the next competition that will be held in June.



Machinist's Mate 2nd Class (SS/DV) Kevin Dillon of the Virginia-class, fast attack submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776) explains some basic submarine operations to the reigning Miss Hawaii, Lauren Nicole Kealohilani Cheape, during a tour of the submarine May 16. Cheape toured USS Hawaii, dined, and took photos with the crew while on board her title namesake submarine.

Banner, displays at Navy Fleet Store honor 'Year of the Chief'

Story and photo by
Don Robbins

Assistant Editor

Sailors placed a ceremonial banner and informational display boards at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange Fleet Store entrance May 21, commemorating the "Year of the Chief."

Chief Construction Electrician Rolando Cayetano of Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303, Det. Pearl Harbor and Senior Chief Operations Specialist James Hastings of Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet set up the banner and display boards so they can be viewed by fleet store patrons. The banner and displays will remain at the store at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam until June 15.

The United States Navy Memorial is spotlighting the Year of the Chief, which began April 1 and runs through March 30, 2013.

Cayetano explained that the banner will have streamers on it representing the various Navys' Region Hawaii chief's messes. The flag will be sent to several memorials around Oahu. Ultimately, the banner will be donated to the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C., Cayetano explained.



Chief Construction Electrician Rolando Cayetano, (left), and Senior Chief Operations Specialist James Hastings, set up a banner at the entrance of the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange Fleet Store entrance May 21, commemorating the "Year of the Chief."

"It is a privilege to be part of the Year of the Chief, spotlighting the accomplishments of the past and present chiefs, and also the contributions of their families," Cayetano said.

"Coordinating this for Navy Region Hawaii is a huge honor," Hastings added.

According to one of the display boards, the Year of the Chief commemoration honors all chief petty officers who have served, past and present. The Navy Memorial's museum will feature displays depicting chief life, work, history and accomplishments.

Numerous events throughout the Navy will be held all year to highlight the chief, including a VIP pre-opening reception, a pictorial coffee book designed and produced to feature the 119 years of chief history, including Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy one through 12. The commemoration also includes special coins, leadership seminars, book signings and a virtual tour.

For more information on Year of the Chief events, visit the Navy Memorial's website at www.navymemorial.org and click on the CPO link.