

## First Wounded Warrior Pacific Trials held in Hawaii

### Navy Wounded Warrior-Safe Harbor Public Affairs

Forty-three seriously wounded, ill and injured Sailors and Coast Guardsmen from across the country attended the inaugural Wounded Warrior Pacific Trials, which kicked off Nov. 12 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Hosted by Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, the trials showcased wounded warrior athletes competing for a place on the 2013 Warrior Games Navy-Coast Guard team. The final team roster will be presented during a ceremony today aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

"These athletes personify dedication, perseverance and courage," said Haney. "They are warriors on the playing field and in life. Every athlete I spoke to brought up the need to compete. Their tenacity and positive attitude are an inspiration to all of us."

Throughout the week, wounded warriors competed head-to-head in archery, cycling, track and field, shooting sitting volleyball, swimming, and wheelchair basketball. Participants included active duty and retired service members with upper-body, lower-body and spinal cord injuries; serious illnesses; traumatic brain injuries; visual impairment; and post-traumatic stress disorder.

"Being a part of the Navy-Coast Guard team last year



Photo illustration | U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Daniel Barker, MC2 David Kolmel and MC2 Jon Darsbachi

was life changing," said retired Navy Lt. Rick Bennett. "When I first joined, it was a matter of life or death. Just before the Warrior Games, I had a thought, one I hadn't had in eight years. I thought: I'm glad to be alive."

Bennett, who served as a Navy chaplain, was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder after serving with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment in Iraq in 2004 and 2005 where he cared for the sick and dying. He said his Navy-Coast Guard teammates helped save his life.

Ultimately, 35 wounded warriors will be selected for the Navy-Coast Guard team at the 2013 Warrior Games, an annual competition among wounded warriors from all branches of military service.

The team is sponsored by Navy Wounded Warrior-Safe Harbor, the Navy's organization for coordinating the non-medical care of seriously wounded, ill, and injured Sailors, Coast Guardsmen, and their families.

All wounded warriors are encouraged to make athletics a key component of their

recovery and rehabilitation plans.

Adaptive athletics is proven to have positive effects on self-esteem, stress levels and medical issues. "I'm hoping to make the team, but just being here with these guys and having the support of the staff is a blessing," said retired Navy Electronics Technician 2nd Class Aaron Matthews.

While on leave visiting family in 2008, Matthews was involved in a car accident, sustaining a spinal cord injury, a broken neck

and a broken arm. He was later diagnosed as a C-6 incomplete quadriplegic.

November marks Warrior Care Month, a time to recognize wounded warriors, as well as their caregivers, for their service, sacrifices and achievements. This year's theme, "Success Through Transition," highlights the many ways wounded warriors and their families thrive after illness and injury.

The 2012 Wounded Warrior Pacific Trials is a Warrior Care Month flagship event.

Currently more than 1,900 service members receive assistance from the Navy Wounded Warrior-Safe Harbor program.

For more information, call 855-NAVY-WWP (628-9997), email [navywoundedwarrior@navy.mil](mailto:navywoundedwarrior@navy.mil) or visit <http://1.usa.gov/UEs6Rk>.

More information about the Wounded Warrior Pacific Trials practice sessions and events are available at <http://bit.ly/UbuA8n>. Athlete biographies and photos are also available for download at this location.

(See additional photos on page A-5)

## F-22 Raptor displays strength in numbers for IOC

F-22 Raptors take off from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, during an initial operational capability (IOC) certification Nov. 8.

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



Vice Adm. Tom Copeman, commander of Naval Surface Forces, and commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet, meets Sailors aboard Hawaii-based guided missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73).

### Vice Adm. Copeman visits Hawaii-based Sailors

**MCSN Diana N. Quinlan**  
Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Detachment Hawaii

the ships that are homeported here.

"The reason I'm in Hawaii is for a COMPAC Fleet commanders' conference, but I came in a couple days early to visit the MIDPAC ships out here, so I visited as many as I could," said Copeman.

The commander of Naval Surface Forces and commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, visited Sailors on Hawaii-based ships Nov. 14 for the first time since assuming his current position.

Vice Adm. Tom Copeman toured several ships in Pearl Harbor including Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70), Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70), Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) and Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73).

During his visits, Copeman met with Sailors and spoke about his visit to Hawaii and

"I get my best information on the state of morale and the material condition of the ships, how things are going and whether the policies that we implemented at TYCOM (type commands) are working or not by visiting the ships and in particular going into the chiefs' mess and getting their unvarnished opinion on things," Copeman said.

Lt. j.g. Alfred Whitney, navigator on Port Royal, assisted with escorting the vice admiral around the ship to meet with the commanding officer and the crew. The ship's tour included

**See COPEMAN, A-7**



Hickam C-17 crew enables ballistic missile defense test redeployment **See page A-2**



Pearl Harbor NEX prepares for Blue Friday shoppers **See page A-3**



Net Zero House offsets energy usage **See page A-4**



Poe assumes command of USS Santa Fe **See page A-7**



Veterans Day **See page B-1**



Holiday events **See page B-6**

# Hickam C-17 crew enables ballistic missile defense test redeployment

Story and photo by  
Capt. Ben Sakrisson

15th Wing Public Affairs

Late in the evening on Nov. 6, as many in the country were watching the waning moments of the 2012 presidential election, a flight crew from the 535th Airlift Squadron (AS) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam began spinning up for the final legs of a 32,000-mile, 11-day crucible to transfer equipment from a highly publicized Missile Defense Agency test in the South Pacific to locations in Asia and the American mainland.

While the ballistic missile defense test itself represents the cutting edge of American technological capability, the redeployment of its component systems provided a glimpse at another capability unique to the U.S. Air Force—the ability to move assets to any point on the globe within days via the C-17 Globemaster III.

“The C-17 provides a combination of both tactical and strategic airlift,” said mission commander Capt. Mathew Klingenberg, a pilot with the 535th AS. “Tactically similar to a C-130, we are able to land on short, austere runways, and our load capacity is unmatched in this arena. Strategically, we can deliver across the world to the end user much like the C-5,



Ground crews at Bucholz Army Airfield, Kwajalein Atoll, U.S. Marshall Islands, position equipment from a recent ballistic missile defense system test for loading aboard an awaiting C-17 Globemaster III from the 535th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on Nov. 8.

but we require a much smaller crew and runway.”

For much of this journey, the interior of the aircraft looked closer to that of a shipping warehouse than an airplane. Large semi-trailer-sized crates were packed end-to-end for the length of the aircraft with only a small path crisscrossed by heavy tie-down chains traversing along either side. Visually, there was no question that the

C-17 was moving huge amounts of cargo.

“With such a heavy load, it is crucially important to do the weight and balance for the aircraft properly,” said Airman 1st Class Gunther Legg, a loadmaster from the 535th AS. “It allows for a safe takeoff, increases fuel efficiency, helps with maneuverability, and prevents the aircraft from stalling in flight or scraping its tail on the runway.”

Much of the load for the redeployment transited through America’s westernmost state as Hawaii provided a highly strategic step-off point throughout the mission, hours closer to waypoints in the Pacific and Asia than other airfields on the U.S. mainland. Likewise, C-17s based here were ideally suited to the short runway at the pickup point in the Kwajalein Atoll.

“In some ways, when we landed in the Kwajalein Atoll it was similar to landing in Hawaii in that it is an island completely separated from any large landmass by hours of flying time,” said Capt. Nick Carr, a pilot with the 535th AS.

“What makes Kwajalein unique is that if we have weather or maintenance issues there are not any nearby divert locations, so we carry holding fuel for contingencies. Thankfully, the C-17 is typically a very reliable aircraft, so with proper fuel planning and good weather we have no concerns.”

However, the reliability of the aircraft is in part due to the reliability of the crew that mans it. Safety and crew alertness are always a concern, but particularly on this mission due to the large distances and flight times involved. Rotating crew members by sleeping in shifts in the tight crew-bunk in the back of the cockpit served to alleviate crew fatigue and enabled the aircraft to stay aloft for up to 24 hours in a given day.

Through the course of the mission, the crew delivered more than 630,000 pounds of cargo and peaked by flying 22 hours straight on one day of the trip, demonstrating that the C-17 and its crews are a formidable answer to the “tyranny of distance” in the Pacific.

## Correction

An article titled “Navy’s third largest VLF transmitter located at Lualualei” which appeared on page A-6 of the Nov. 9 issue of Ho’okele incorrectly stated that tours of the facility are available. Tours of the facility are not available. We apologize for any inconvenience.

## 154th and 15th Wing Airmen walk the line

Airmen from the 154th and 15th Wings process through a personnel deployment function (PDF) line Nov. 7 during an exercise at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The PDF line tests the ability of Airmen to be medically, legally, administratively, spiritually, and financially ready to deploy, as well as the functionality of the processes in place with which to deploy them.

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



# Diverse Views



## “On Thanksgiving Day, what will you be giving thanks for?”

(Air Force)



**Chief Master Sgt. Richard Wells**  
17th Operational Weather Squadron

“I am thankful for freedom, family and friends.”

**Capt. Aspen Heger**  
15th Medical Operations Squadron



“I recently had the privilege to serve as a medic for the Pacific Angel humanitarian mission in Nepal. Being in a country where the people often have less physical possessions and other luxuries that we have in the U.S. reminds me of how thankful I am to just have basic necessities like clothing, food and shelter.”



**Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Young**  
324th Intelligence Squadron

“I’m thankful for my family and friends.”

(Provided by David Underwood Jr.)

## “What are your Thanksgiving Traditions?”

(Sailors from USS Russell (DDG 59))



**Ship's Servicemen Seaman Oley Scott**  
USS Russell

“After enjoying a great feast we like to gather around and crack jokes, reminiscing on the fun times we had growing up. I've missed the past two years at home, and what I miss most of all is seeing the smiles on everyone's face.”

**Electrician's Mate 3rd Class John Castro**  
USS Russell



“We like to take advantage of the down time and reflect on what we are truly thankful for. This year I hope to enjoy some new traditions as I enjoy Thanksgiving with my girlfriend and her family.”



**Fire Controlman 2nd Class Kenneth Ubante**  
USS Russell

“After the meal we pass a basket full of fruit around. As we choose a piece, we say aloud what we are thankful for. We also hang a piece of fruit above the door for good luck. This Thanksgiving will be the most special one yet, it will be the first Thanksgiving I get to spend with my wife.”

**Lt. j.g Lance Page and Ensign Clayton Young**  
USS Russell



Young: “I like to go shoot skeet after enjoying pumpkin pie and sweet potato biscuits!” Page: “I just enjoy over indulging in ham and cranberry sauce. Left-overs are my tradition!”



**Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Timothy Kumnick**  
USS Russell

“My tradition is socializing with family and friends, sharing stories and reflecting on years past. We watch football, smoke a ham, fry a turkey, and it wouldn't be Thanksgiving without green bean casserole.”

**Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Electrical) Fireman Tiarra Flusk**  
USS Russell



“After enjoying my great-grandma's stuffing, the real kind in the bird, we like to play poker late into the evening. This year even though I am away, I will be home in my heart and have the taste of home by having her recipe.”

(Provided by Ensign Bryan Lay)

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

Drop us a line at [editor@hookelenews.com](mailto:editor@hookelenews.com) or [karen.spangler@navy.mil](mailto:karen.spangler@navy.mil)

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

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

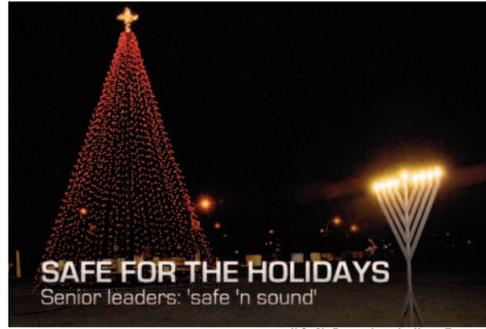
Letters and articles that are submitted to Ho'okele may be published and/or distributed in print and electronic form.

E-mail letters to: [editor@hookelenews.com](mailto:editor@hookelenews.com).

# Senior leaders issue holiday safety message

Brian Raphael

Air Force Safety Center  
Public Affairs



U.S. Air Force photo by Harry Tonemah

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley, Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, chief of staff of the Air Force and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James A. Roy issued a tri-signature “letter to Airmen” on Nov. 5.

“As part of this year's holiday/winter safety campaign, “Safe-n-Sound,” the Air Force's top three leaders remind Airmen to include sound risk management in all their holiday and winter plans.

“Safe-n-Sound, All Year Round” is the theme of this year's holiday/winter safety

campaign which runs from Nov. 16 through Jan. 2, 2013. Whether you are traveling, celebrating or participating in winter activities, take the time to include sound risk management in all your plans. The time invested up front could save your life.

Across the Air Force, we work very hard throughout the year to reduce mishaps. Regrettably, despite those efforts, we lost six Airmen last year during the holiday season. It is imperative that we step up our efforts. Please pay special attention to your

surroundings, the weather, and especially your celebration game plan during this holiday season.

All Airmen, uniformed and civilian, have a responsibility to ensure a safe holiday for themselves, their fellow Airmen, their wingmen, and their families by being alert to safety risks on and off duty. We urge you to use common sense and keep your focus on risk management as we strive to enjoy a mishap-free season.

Happy holidays to you and your families. Whether you are deployed or serving at home, your dedication and sacrifice are profoundly appreciated. Travel and celebrate wisely, take care of each other, and return to duty Safe-n-Sound.”

# Pearl Harbor NEX prepares for ‘Blue Friday’ shoppers

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor

**Navy Blue Friday weekend hours**

**Friday: 6 a.m.-10 p.m.**  
**Saturday: 6 a.m.-10 p.m.**  
**Sunday: 8 a.m.-10 p.m.**

With the Navy Blue Friday shopping day just one week away, the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) security staff is working hard to ensure that shoppers will enjoy a safe and happy holiday shopping experience.

“Priority on Navy Blue Friday is to provide a secure shopping environment to ensure the safety of our patrons,” explained Kevin MacKenzie, district loss prevention and safety manager for Pearl Harbor NEX stores.

According to MacKenzie, planning for the big Blue Friday event begins in August of each year. The loss prevention team uses various measures to ensure that everything runs smoothly for customers on

the big shopping day. The team spends part of Thanksgiving Day deploying crowd control barriers to guide patrons in an orderly fashion into the store. Then they return in the wee hours of the Blue Friday shopping day to make final preparations.

Additional precautions are implemented with the help of the Navy chief community, base police, Federal Fire Department and escalator/elevator technicians. A fully staffed loss prevention department is also on the job 24/7, utilizing a state-of-the-art surveillance system.

Then the doors to the exchange open and Blue Friday shopping begins. IDs are pre-checked to ensure authorized patronage on the morning of Blue Friday and are checked again at the point of sale.

“We continue to receive rave reviews from our patrons regarding how safe they feel shopping at NEX compared to other retailers on Navy Blue Friday,” MacKenzie said.

“Customer's confidence in shopping with us generated historical sales revenue, resulting in NEX's contribution of \$4.63 million in dividends to their local MWR,” MacKenzie said.

NEX officials and Navy leadership remind customers that shopping at the NEX/BX is a privilege for authorized shoppers. Sponsorship of guests is permitted as follows:

- Authorized patrons are

allowed two guests. (Guests must have picture ID.)

- Patrons must be 18 or older to sponsor guests.
- Only authorized patrons are allowed to present payment at point of sale for goods.

NEX shoppers are also reminded that the store is a part of the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam command, and good order and discipline is expected of everyone. Customers should follow the appropriate code of conduct and dress code when shopping at the NEX.

Make sure your shopping experience is a happy one by following security and safety guidelines:

- Look out for pedestrian traffic at all times in the parking lot.
- Lock your vehicles while holiday shopping.
- Report any suspicious activity to NEX loss prevention at 421-3475.

# Navy honors Native American heritage



U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command photograph

Navy Trademan 2nd Class Leslie Homeskye of the Chippewa tribe works on a piece of equipment in the mid-to-late 1970s. The month of November is American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 4.5 million American Indians and Alaska natives comprise 1.5 percent of the nation's population. Today, more than 14,000 active duty and reserve Sailors and 1,200 civilians of native American and Alaska native heritage serve as part of the Navy's total force.

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# Net Zero House offsets energy usage

Story and photos by  
Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

As part of an ongoing effort by Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to promote conservation and energy efficiency, Catlin Park now has what is known as a Net Zero home.

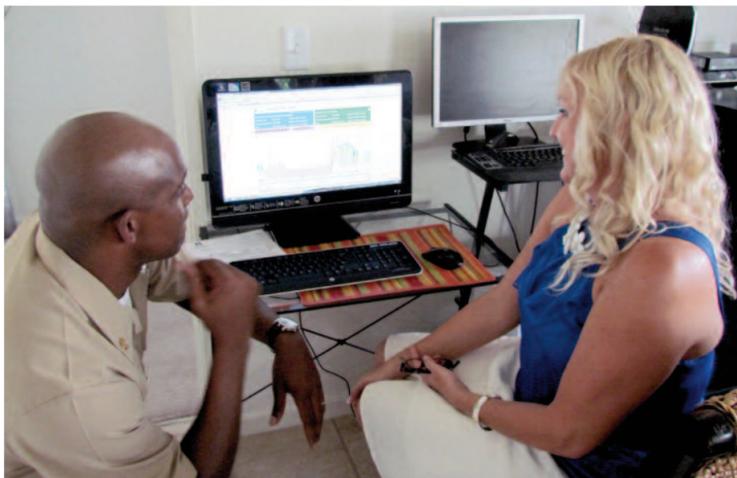
The Net Zero Home concept is based on offsetting how much energy a house uses in the course of one year with energy from a renewable source such as solar panels. If a house uses less energy than the solar panels generates over the course of the year, then it is considered a Net Zero home.

Turning an existing home into a Net Zero home was a team effort between Forest City Military Communities and the Department of Energy (DOE). DOE-funded energy consultants helped to estimate the amount of energy the home would use over the span of 12 months.

"DOE consultants suggested energy efficiency modifications to help make the house a Net Zero home with the smallest possible photovoltaic system," said Will Boudra, vice-president of development, Forest City Military Communities.

"After factoring in the added energy efficiencies, the consultants figured out how many photovoltaic panels were needed to generate the same amount of power the house was estimated to use for its size," he said.

The home was outfitted with a 7.2-kilowatt rooftop photovoltaic system to harvest energy from the sun. In addition, to make the house as efficient as possible, the insulation in the



Chief Rasheem Wynn and his wife, Monica, monitor their Net Zero home's energy generation and usage via computer.



Solar panels and a high-efficiency air conditioning system help make this Catlin Park house a Net Zero home.

attic was doubled and a higher-efficiency central air conditioning system was installed.

The Net Zero modifications to the home were completed in November 2010. Over the next 12 months, both the amounts of electricity used and the

amounts of electricity generated were tracked. The results were good.

"True to the consultant's calculations, the home used slightly less energy than the rooftop photovoltaic system produced," said Boudra.

The energy generated

by a home with solar panels doesn't just benefit those who live there. The energy feeds into the electrical grid, and since it is generated and not purchased, it helps to lower the overall cost of electricity in the community. By lowering energy costs,

there are more funds available to provide more community services to the residents of the neighborhoods.

The residents of the Net Zero home, Chief Rasheem Wynn, Navy Information Operations Command Hawaii, and his spouse, Monica, couldn't be happier with their energy efficient home.

"When we moved to Catlin Park, we were told we would be in a Net Zero home," said Monica. "I didn't even know what that meant."

Housing representatives explained the Net Zero concept to the Wynns and how the energy efficient appliances and solar panel system worked. More importantly, the family was shown how to monitor both the amount of energy they were generating versus the amount of energy they were using via a program installed on their personal computer.

"The monitoring system is very user friendly. It's just point and click," said Monica. "All it took was a five-minute briefing to understand how it works."

Chief Wynn appreciates being able to monitor his home's energy usage.

"It's good to know how much electricity you use," said Chief Wynn. "It makes you more conscious of your energy consumption."

The Wynns are so impressed by their solar-powered home, they plan to install a photovoltaic system when it comes time for them to buy their own house.

"Solar is not a luxury; it is a necessity," said Chief Wynn. "You may have to pay more at first to have it installed, but you will save money in the long run."

Also impressed by the Net Zero home is Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

"I personally visited the Net Zero home here at Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and I was most impressed—not just with the house, which has some spectacular energy conservation features, but also with the Wynn family, who are enthusiastic, supportive and committed to the ideals of energy security through energy conservation in their home and in their neighborhood," said Ponds.

"The Net Zero home is part of Hawaii's Energy Smart Initiative and is in perfect alignment with Department of Defense and Department of the Navy energy conservation actions. These actions and other initiatives will reduce dependence on foreign oil and other fossil fuels. As we move away from dependence on foreign oil, we preserve our independence and protect our sovereignty," Ponds said.

"When we do it right, as we're doing with the Net Zero home, it's a win-win for all concerned. We will continue to look for innovative ways to achieve energy independence here in Hawaii," he said.

Efforts to maximize energy conservation and efficiency in military communities will continue with big plans ahead for next year.

"We have contracts in place starting in 2013 to install rooftop photovoltaic systems throughout the Navy neighborhoods," said Boudra. "It's very likely we'll be having a lot more Net Zero homes."

# Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



Wounded Warriors participate in track and field practice as part of the first Wounded Warrior Pacific trials at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Earhart Field.  
U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jon Dasbach



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jon Dasbach  
Wounded Warriors participant Yeoman 1st Class Javier Rodriguez throws the shot during track and field practice as part of the first ever Wounded Warrior Pacific trials.



Retired Navy Lt. John Edmonston swims during Wounded Warrior Pacific Trials practice.  
U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Sean Furey



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen  
Various items are loaded onto a C-17 Globemaster III by Airmen from the 154th and 15th Wings as part of a "live load" exercise Nov. 9 during at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. As part of a phase I deployment exercise, the live load simulated one step in a deployment process designed to rapidly deploy Airmen in response to worldwide contingency operations.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen  
Airmen from the Hawaii Air National Guard receive a "bus brief" before processing through a personnel deployment function line Nov. 7 during an exercise at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The PDF line tests the ability of Airmen to be medically, legally, administratively, spiritually, and financially ready to deploy, as well as the functionality of the processes in place with which to deploy them.

(Right) The grand opening of BIC City Taco was held Nov. 11. More than 100 people enjoyed a free sampling of the menu from the newest eatery at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Passenger Terminal. The restaurant offers an authentic chipotle/Mexican style menu and is now open for business from 6 a.m. to midnight seven days a week.



U.S. Air Force photo

# HSL-37 Easyriders mark 37th anniversary: A heritage of excellence

Lt. Barrett Sleeper  
Lt. j.g. David Indiveri

Helicopter Anti-Submarine  
Squadron Light 37 Public Affairs

The 'Easyriders' of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37 (HSL-37) recently celebrated the squadron's 37th anniversary at hangar 103 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe.

Capt. David W. Bouvé, deputy commodore of Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet, presented HSL-37 with the 2011 Battle "E" Award.

He awarded the 2011 Naval Helicopter Association "Aircrewman of the Year" for region one to Petty Officer 1st Class Cody L. Berg.

"With a full plate of deploying detachments, workups and exercises, it is difficult to carve out time for reflection," said Cmdr. Scott Thoroman, commanding officer of HSL-37.

"However, this year's 37th anniversary was a key milestone in the history of the 'Easyriders' of HSL-37 and worthy of taking some time to reflect on our command and helicopter community heritage and those who have come before us," he said.

Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light 37 (HSL-37) was established July 3, 1975 at Naval



Photo courtesy of HSL-37

Capt. David W. Bouvé, deputy commodore of Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Cmdr. Gregory S. Thoroman, HSL-37's commanding officer, speak to the crew of HSL-37 during the command's 37th anniversary event.

Air Station, Barbers Point, Hawaii and remains the Navy's oldest operational light airborne multi-purpose system (LAMPS) squadron.

HSL-37 was the only U.S. Navy helicopter squadron to transition from the SH-2F Seasprite (LAMPS MK I) to the SH-60B Seahawk (LAMPS MK III) on Feb.

6, 1992. Continuing the tradition, the 'Easyriders' are preparing for the transition from the SH-60B to the MH-60R in late 2013.

Most recently, HSL-37 celebrat-

ed and supported the return of Detachment's One and Two from deployments on the USS Chafee (DDG 90) and USS Sampson (DDG 102), respectively. During their deployment, Detachment One supported Joint Special Operations Task Force - Philippines (JSOTF-P), International Naval Exercise Cobra Gold and Operation Persistent Presence in addition to comrel support in countries varying from Apia, Western Samoa, to Pyontaek, South Korea.

Detachment Two returned on Aug. 22. Operational support included Carrier Strike Group and Expeditionary Strike Group support, counter piracy operations off the Horn of Africa, Cooperation Afloat, Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercises in Singapore, and operations in the East and South China Seas.

While HSL-37 was happy to celebrate their achievements of the past 37 years in the LAMPS community, the work does not stop. Detachment Three is returning soon from their deployment with USS Vandegrift (FFG 48) and Detachment Four recently got underway aboard USS Reuben James (FFG 57).

HSL-37's mission continues to prepare combat ready detachments for deployment on U.S. Pacific Fleet air-capable ships.

## VETERANS IN BLUE

Chief Master Sgt. (ret.) Louis Roffman enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1936, ultimately serving in the military for more than 31 years. Roffman was a Pearl Harbor survivor and later fought in the Battle of Midway.

He was a flight engineer on B-17 bombers with the 31st Bomb Squadron. He was later stationed in Darwin, Australia where he was wounded during a bombing mission. With the pilot killed and co-pilot severely wounded, Roffman was forced to land the plane.

As a result of his heroic actions, he received a Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross. After World War II, Roffman was stationed in Japan during the Korean War, then later served with

military air attachés in embassies in Africa, Egypt, Holland and Denmark.

After retiring from the military, Roffman participated for many years in the Martin Luther King High School Remembers Programs for Veterans where he was able to share his military experiences with high school students. He also faithfully attends reunions every year to reconnect with fellow veterans and their families.

*(Editor's note: Roffman is one of the veterans featured in volume III of the Veterans in Blue profiles to see more profiles, visit <http://www.af.mil/specials/veterans/index.html>.)*

U.S. Air Force photo by Technical Sgt. Michael Holzworth





U.S. Navy photo by MCC Josh Thompson

Capt. David A. Adams is piped ashore after being relieved by Cmdr. Timothy J. Poe as commanding officer of USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) during a change of command ceremony Nov. 9 at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

## Poe assumes command of USS Santa Fe

MC2 Steven Khor

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

Cmdr. Timothy J. Poe relieved Capt. David A. Adams as commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) during a time-honored change of command ceremony Nov. 9 at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The guest speaker, retired Vice Adm. Albert H. Konetzni Jr., praised Adams for his exceptional performance while in command of Santa Fe.

"Dave, congratulations on your success in leading your superb team to extraordinary results," said Konetzni.

Adams was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his exceptional performance as commanding officer from January 2010 to November 2012.

Adams said he is proud of having the opportunity to command Santa Fe and working with some fantastic Sailors.

"The crew members are the ones who did it. They are the ones who made the ship run every day. They are the ones who take care of their shipmates and made Santa Fe a great ship. I am proud to have been part of this team for the last 33 months. To the crew of Santa Fe, I have loved it. I loved sailing with you. I will miss that, but most important, I will miss you," Adams said.

Adams was presented with the commissioning pennant. The commissioning pennant, while not a personal flag of the ship's commanding officer, is sometimes regarded as a symbol of that status. It is customarily presented to the commanding officer on the occasion of his relief.

As Poe assumed command of Santa Fe, he thanked Adams for turning over a great ship and an even greater crew.

"The Santa Fe crew embodies the honor, courage and commitment that has made our submarine force, our Navy and our country great. I assure you, our future is bright," said Poe.

Adams' personal awards include the Bronze Star, Meritorious



U.S. Navy photo by MCC Josh Thompson

Cmdr. Timothy J. Poe relieved Capt. David A. Adams as commanding officer of Santa Fe Nov. 9

Service Medal (three awards), Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), Navy

Achievement Medal (two awards), Army Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, as well as numerous

unit awards. Adams will report for duty to Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan.

## Copeman tours ships

Continued from A-1

the ship's store, combat systems main control station, central control station, general workshop and a brief meeting with the chief petty officers' mess.

"We were glad to have Vice Adm. Copeman aboard and we really appreciated his visit," said Whitney.

The importance of the fleet in Hawaii and to the Pacific theater was emphasized during the Copeman's visit.

"It's very important that these ships stationed here in Hawaii are eight days closer to the [U.S.] 7th Fleet area of responsibility than the ships homeported in San Diego," said Copeman.

"They've always been an integral part of the defense of our nation and even more so with the ships reemphasizing the Pacific region in our strategies. The Hawaii-based ships have always played a key role, and they will continue to do that. I think they will just become even more important as we shift more assets and more focus into the Pacific Theater over the coming years," the admiral said.

According to Copeman, getting to visit Sailors on the deckplates is extremely important. "The most rewarding aspect is what I was just doing today. It's going down to ships and talking to Sailors and hearing about what's working and what's not and feeling like I can effect some change. The most challenging thing is juggling all of the various requirements that require resources with the limited resources we have to make sure that we are using our resources, both money and people and time, in the most efficient manner. It's just a very complex challenging problem, and it's key to making life better for folks on these ships and making them ready to fight a war if they have to," Copeman explained.

The priorities Copeman developed to support warfighting first are three in number: training, development and career management of Sailors; training crews to fight and win; and providing warships ready for combat.

"Our ships have to be fully manned, and they have to have highly skilled Sailors," Copeman said.

To achieve this, Copeman said, requires looking at personnel readiness based upon a "wartime requirement" and not by what is funded.

"In order to man our ships correctly, it is vitally important that we report our manning readiness based upon the true requirement," he said.

The training Sailors require is a crucial part of Copeman's priorities. "If we really want our crews to fight and win, we need to lay that foundation right there in the school house," he said. "The schools—our basic, integrated and advanced training—must be focused on preparations for high-end combat operations. I think of it as improving the 'public school system' ('A' and 'C' schools) by increasing the hands-on training for our Sailors and taking a hard look if we are delivering the information in the best manner," Copeman said.

Copeman said he wants to reverse the trend of many Sailors spending large amounts of time at school only to require in-depth supervision once reporting aboard ship to do basic maintenance or watchstanding.

"Here we're getting to the balance between maintenance and modernizations of our ships and providing our Sailors with the necessary equipment, repair parts, tools, technical documentation, education, and training to fix and maintain their equipment," Copeman said.