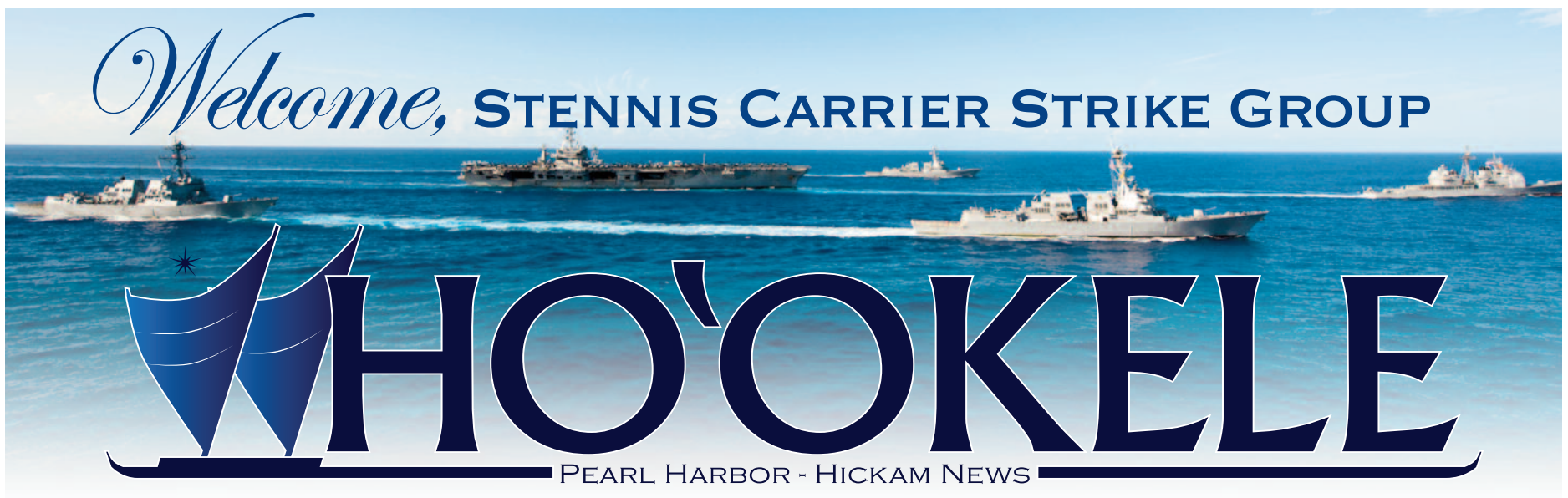


February 17, 2012 www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii www2.hickam.af.mil Volume 3 Issue 6

U.S. and Indian Navies participate in SALVEX 2012

Divers from the U.S. and Indian Navies work together during Salvage Exercise (SALVEX 2012) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The objective of SALVEX 12 is to enhance U.S. And Indian bilateral diving and salvage capability in the littoral environment and to improve maritime security and humanitarian assistance/disaster response capability. The exercise is being conducted Feb. 13 through 17.

Photo illustration | U.S. Navy photos by MC3 Sean Furey

Hawaii welcomes John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) and the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group (JCSSG) arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 17 for a planned port visit as they return home from a seven-month deployment to the U.S. 5th and 7th Fleet areas of operation (AOO).

While deployed in the U.S. 5th Fleet AOO, JCSSG played a pivotal role in the drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq and provided aviation support to coalition ground troops in Afghanistan, as well as conducted counter-piracy and maritime security operations and participated in several cooperative engagements with military partners in the region.

In January, after transitioning from Operation New Dawn to supporting operations in Afghanistan, JCSSG forces thwarted an attempted pirate attack on a Bahamian-flagged cargo vessel and freed a group of Iranian mariners held captive by the suspected pirates.

"This was a well-executed display of the multi-mission capability of the carrier strike group and a testament to the professionalism of our Sailors," said Stennis Command Master Chief Stanley Jewett.

In the U.S. 7th Fleet AOR, the strike group conducted several readiness exercises with partner countries in the region as well as visits to Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines before preparing to head back to the United States.

"Exercising together as partners is key to our cooperative strategy and builds our collective capacity to meet common maritime challenges like ensuring freedom of the sea," said Rear Adm. Craig Faller, the JCSSG commander, referring to the passing exercise (PASSEX) the strike group conducted with the Republic of Singapore Navy in January.

Flight deck personnel aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Pinckney (DDG 91) connect a pallet to an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter from the Eightballers of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 8 during a vertical replenishment.

During port visits, Sailors volunteered more than 2,000 man hours working in community service projects in 10 countries.

The air wing conducted more than 13,000 (13389) sorties during deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation New Dawn (OND). On Dec. 18, an E-2C Hawkeye from the "Golden Hawks," of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 112 embarked aboard Stennis flew the last Navy aviation mission over Iraq.

On their way to conduct their mission, the strike group conducted more than 200 hours training in Hawaiian waters.

"The Hawaii Training Range Complex provided realistic and challenging training opportunities for our air wing," said Capt. Dale Horan, commander of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 9, embarked aboard Stennis. "It allowed us to further hone our strike and close air support skills and procedures, helping us to operate at a high level of effectiveness throughout deployment.

After Operation New Dawn, USS Port Royal returns to Hawaii

Story and photo by Jazzmin Williams

Contributing Writer

Guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73) returned to a large crowd and rousing cheers Feb. 13, the day before Valentine's Day, after an almost eight-month deployment.

"I feel absolutely great to be back," said Capt. Eric Weilenman, commanding officer of the Port Royal. "It's always good to get back home, and I know the crew's excited."

Sailors, resplendent in their summer whites, manned the rails as the ship pulled into port while families and friends lined the pier. Mothers, fathers, wives and children searched anxiously for their loved ones, and homemade signs glittered in the hot sun.

Port Royal, with a crew of more than 300 personnel, returned from an independent deployment to the western Pacific and U.S. Central Command areas of responsibility. The ship deployed June 24.

Crew members of the guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73) man the rails as the ship pulls into port at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The USS Port Royal returned from an almost eight-month independent deployment to the western Pacific and U.S. Central Command AOR on Feb. 13.

"They've been excited [about coming home] for a long time," said Weilenman, whose parents and wife were in attendance.

"It feels great," said Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Namon Richardson about coming back home to Hawaii. "It's been a long time coming. I've been in contact with my family throughout the deployment, but it's just a sight to see them and it's pretty emotional. We're glad to be back home," he said.

Port Royal was the final ship to assume command of commander, Task Group Iraqi Maritime (CTG-IM), supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation in the western Pacific and U.S. Central Command AOR.

Port Royal was therefore instrumental in the handover of Al Basrah Oil Terminal (ABOT) and Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal (KAAOT) during the final transition for Operation New Dawn.

"It's a great chapter in American history, quite frankly," Weilenman said. "That infrastructure is going to help them in the future, and we're just glad to have been a part of it."

As a band played upbeat music, five new fathers made their way off the ship to see their babies for the first time. Tears of joy streamed down wives' faces while hugs and kisses were given in excess.

The crew managed to grow together, according to Weilenmen. Over the almost eight-month deployment, the Port Royal went from an essentially brand new crew to a group of experienced professionals.

"I can feel the energy just coming back home today, could feel it really for quite a while before we came back," Weilenman said. "Hawaii is a beautiful place to call home, and I'm glad to be back."

Guided-missile cruisers are multi-mission, anti-air warfare, anti-submarine warfare, long-range strike and anti-surface warfare combatants. They are capable of supporting carrier and expeditionary strike groups, amphibious forces, or operating independently.

USS Louisville leaves for western Pacific deployment **See page A-2**

O'Kane spouse named Navy Region Hawaii ombudsman **See page A-2**

'Fiery Trial - Lincoln and Slavery' book review **See page A-3**

USS Narwhal submariner and wife laid to rest **See page A-4**

Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band 'rock' the audience at Freedom Tower **See page B-1**

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii to have heart health booth at NEX Feb. 23 **See page B-3**

USS Louisville leaves for western Pacific deployment

Story and photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

Friends and families of the crew from the USS Louisville (SSN 724) gathered at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to say goodbye as the Los Angeles-class submarine departed for a scheduled western Pacific deployment Feb. 7.

"The submarine is in excellent material condition, thanks to a combined effort of the crew and the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard," said Cmdr. Lee Sisco, Louisville commanding officer. "I am extremely proud of the Louisville crew and their families in their ability to rise to any challenge and in the outstanding job they've done through the inter-deployment training cycle to get themselves and this submarine ready for deployment operations."

Since returning from its last deployment in October 2010, Louisville has undergone maintenance and conducted training in preparation for this deployment.

Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SS) Derek Mitchell, assigned to the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Louisville (SSN 724), says goodbye to his family on the submarine pier before Louisville departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 7 for its six-month deployment.

"My crew is extremely excited to be deploying, not only to conduct operations in support of [U.S.] 7th Fleet priorities, but also to visit foreign ports and experience other cultures," Sisco said. "Our deployment goals are for advanced qualifications for junior personnel and improving individual level of knowledge across the board to help improve our overall team performance in core competencies and mission areas."

Louisville is the fourth United States ship to bear the name in honor of the city of Louisville, Ky. Her mission is to seek out and destroy enemy ships and submarines, and to protect our naval interests. At 360 feet and 6,900 tons, she is well equipped to accomplish this task.

Faster than her predecessors and equipped with highly accurate sensors and weapons systems, Louisville is armed with sophisticated MK48 torpedoes and Tomahawk cruise missiles.

O'Kane spouse named Navy Region Hawaii ombudsman

Story and photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

A U.S. Navy spouse from USS O'Kane (DDG 77) was selected to be the new chairperson of the Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) ombudsman assembly.

Stephanie Schultz has been the ombudsman for O'Kane for nearly two years before she was selected for the new position. Military ombudsmen, like Schultz, provide a link between families and commanding officers. They provide communication support to family members, especially when commands are deployed.

"I witnessed, first-hand, the importance of family ombudsmen when I was mission commander during humanitarian deployments in Latin America and the Caribbean, and I have seen the value of the ombudsman program throughout my career," said Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

"I am very pleased that Ms. Stephanie Schultz has stepped forward as chairperson of our region Hawaii ombudsman assembly. She has a direct line at all times to both the command master chief and me, and she provides a key and vital link with our service members, their families and other command ombudsmen."

Schultz has been a Navy spouse for 15 years. During this time, she and her husband have gone through seven deployments, lived in three different states, and have been with seven different commands, both at sea and ashore.

"I am very excited that they designated me for this role," Schultz said. "It is my hope that the ombudsman continue to be accessible to the families and service members. We all work to support the families and the commands. I want to provide the opportunity to support each other."

The purpose of the ombudsman program is to ensure the families of active duty personnel have a channel of resources for their needs and quality of life. The ombudsman can offer guidance and assistance before, during or after a deployment. They meet with department heads aboard a naval installation to find out the latest news and pass it on, including news on ship deployments, while helping to ensure operational security.

"I became an ombudsman to give back to the Navy family," Schultz said. "I have been fortunate to have great ombudsman at previous commands that helped me during tough times and showed me how to survive military life. I also became on ombudsman to support my husband and his command."

"I believe in the Navy's commitment to the mission, but also in their commitment to foster strong families. During these times where deployments are longer and more frequent, I became an ombudsman to support and assist those around me," she said. "I want to empower spouses and their families to find the resources they need during tough times, but to also find a place to belong and a way to thrive."

The U.S. Navy established an ombudsman program in 1970, under the direction of Adm. Elmo Zumwalt. Through the Navy Ombudsman Program, communication between the spouses of active duty personnel and the command is kept open, thereby improving the quality of life for everyone involved.

Air Force units from JBPHH will participate in Singapore Airshow 2012

13th Air Force Public Affairs

Air Force units from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam will be among those who will participate at the Singapore Airshow 2012 at the request of the government of Singapore.

The U.S. Air Force will be represented at the airshow at Changi Exhibition Centre from Feb. 14 to 19. A cross-section of U.S. military aircraft and equipment are scheduled to be present through static displays and aerial demonstrations, including B-52 Stratofortress, E-3 Sentry, C-17 Globemaster III and, KC-135 Stratotanker.

The trade and air show is held every two years, and the U.S. has supported it since 1992. In 2010, the trade and air show brought together 897 exhibiting companies from 36 countries and 43,459 trade attendees from 133 countries.

Through participation in air shows and other regional events, the U.S. is able to demonstrate its commitment to the security of the Asia-Pacific region, promote the standardization and interoperability of equipment, and display capabilities critical to the success of current and future military operations.

Air Force's Marcelite Harris leads way as first African American female general

(Editor's note: In celebration of African American History Month, the Air Force website www.af.mil is profiling a different man or woman each day in February, a different person in aviation or Air Force history who helped pave the way for today's Air Force. The following is one of the profiles from the website:)

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. (AFNS) -- Born about the time the Tuskegee Airmen were earning their reputation over the skies of North Africa and Italy, Marcelite Harris went on to break a number of racial and gender barriers during an illustrious Air Force career.

Harris was born Jan. 16, 1943 in Houston and attended Spelman College in Atlanta where she earned a bachelor's degree in speech and drama in 1964. She then attended Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas where she was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1965.

During the early days of her career, Harris held assignments as an administrative officer in California and West Germany, before transitioning into the maintenance field by attending the aircraft maintenance officer's course at Chanute Air Force Base, Ill. and graduating as the first female aircraft maintenance officer.

Her first assignment as a maintenance officer was to support the Vietnam War as a maintenance supervisor with the 49th Tactical Fighter Squadron in Korat Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand. After stints back in California and Washington, D.C., Harris broke another barrier as one of the first women to be an air officer commanding at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

After commanding an avionics maintenance squadron and a field maintenance squadron, both in Kansas, and a director of maintenance in Okinawa, Japan, Harris made another first, this time as the first woman deputy commander for maintenance.

But her biggest accomplishment lay ahead, when in 1991, Harris became the first female African American general when she pinned on her first star as the vice commander of the Oklahoma Center Air Logistics Center.

Harris retired from the Air Force in early 1997, where she had been serving as the director of maintenance, deputy chief of staff for logistics, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force. At that time, she was the highest-ranking female officer in the Air Force and the highest ranking African American female within the Department of Defense.

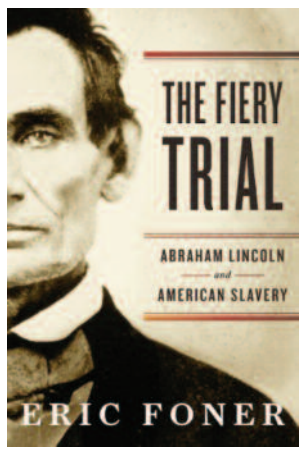
Harris continues to contribute to the Air Force even after her retirement. In 2010, President Barack Obama appointed her a member of the Board of Visitors for the United States Air Force Academy. As a board member, she inquiries into the morale, discipline, curriculum and other matters deemed appropriate. The board submits reports to the secretary of defense and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and Congress via the secretary of the Air Force.

As she continues to serve the Air Force, she serves her community. She is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. For her work, in 2010 she was nationally recognized by the Black Girls Rock Foundation with the Trailblazer Award.

'Fiery Trial - Lincoln and Slavery'

Book review by Bill Doughty

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs



"The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery" earned Eric Foner the 2011 Pulitzer Prize in history. His book is a remarkable dissection of a complicated man, issue and time in American history 50 years after the War of 1812, in the heat of the War Between the States.

As much as some people, including Lincoln, himself, wished to separate the issue of slavery as a cause of the Civil War, Foner shows us how aligned and combined they were. He shows how unresolved issues from 1812 and unfulfilled promises of 1776 continued to broil as the nation expanded.

Although the book begins with his birth and ends shortly after Lincoln's assassination, much of the text focuses on the pivotal war year of 1862. Several significant events for naval historians occurred that year, starting in February.

Eight days after Lincoln's birthday, on Feb. 20, 1862, his young son Willie died after a long illness. Lincoln contemplated the meaning of life and his place in history, according to Foner, cementing his desire to place slavery "on the road to extinction."

That month, Samuel F. DuPont led a naval expedition to capture Port Royal in the Sea Islands, where he witnessed the inhumanity of slavery. Dupont "accounted himself a conservative until he had seen the institution in all its horrors," but he now considered himself an abolitionist, Foner writes.

Also in February, Lincoln met with Edmund L. Pierce, who traveled to the Sea Islands. Lincoln would later take steps to assist former slaves in Port Royal, South Carolina so they could buy farm land at $1.25 per acre.

Foner writes about a key decision Lincoln made 150 years ago:

"In February 1862, ignoring numerous pleas for clemency, including one from the Republican governor of New York, Lincoln refused to intervene to prevent the execution of Capt. Nathaniel Gordon, an illicit slave trader whose ship carrying 900 slaves had been captured off the coast of West Africa by a U.S. naval vessel. A week after Lincoln's election, a New York jury had convicted Gordon of international slave trading, a crime legally equivalent to piracy and punishable by death. Gordon became the first and only American to be hanged as a slave trade."

The 'Fiery Trial' shows how cooperation with the British had grown in the 50 years from the War of 1812 to the American Civil War. Secretary of State William H. Seward signed a treaty in 1862 allowing the British to board American-flagged vessels and search for slaves.

Foner writes about an incident in May 1862 when a small Union flotilla sailed up the Stono River in South Carolina and witnessed Confederate troops pursuing a "stampede of slaves" who were trying to flee forced relocation.

(This post comes from Bill Doughty's Navy Reads blog, in honor of Presidents' Day and Abraham Lincoln's birthday. In a separate post on Navy Reads, author Eric Foner offers his suggestions for Navy readers.)

Diverse Views

Feb. 20 is President's Day. Which U.S. president do you think had the most lasting effect on American society and why?

Airman 1st Class Jonathan Leak
15th Comptroller Squadron

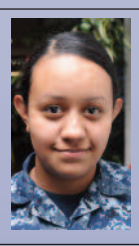
"Obama, because he is the first black president, so that'll be in history forever."

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (SW/AW) Jamie Bierkortte
Navy Region Hawaii

"Abraham Lincoln. He set the precedent for equality across the board. He started it all."

Culinary Specialist 1st Class Lakia Davidson
Navy Region Hawaii

"John F. Kenndy. When he was asked what he did with his life, he said, 'I serve in the world's finest Navy.'"



Information Systems Technician Seaman Carmen Hernandez
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

"Bill Clinton for signing into law the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993."

Correction: The wrong photo appeared with a quote from Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Bryant Powell of JBPHH in the Feb. 10 issue of Hookele's Diverse Views column on page A-3. Hookele regrets the error. Below is the corrected entry and photo.

Last week's question: **Feb. 14 is Valentine's Day. What are your plans for Valentine's Day and why?**

Information Systems Technician 3rd class Bryant Powell
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

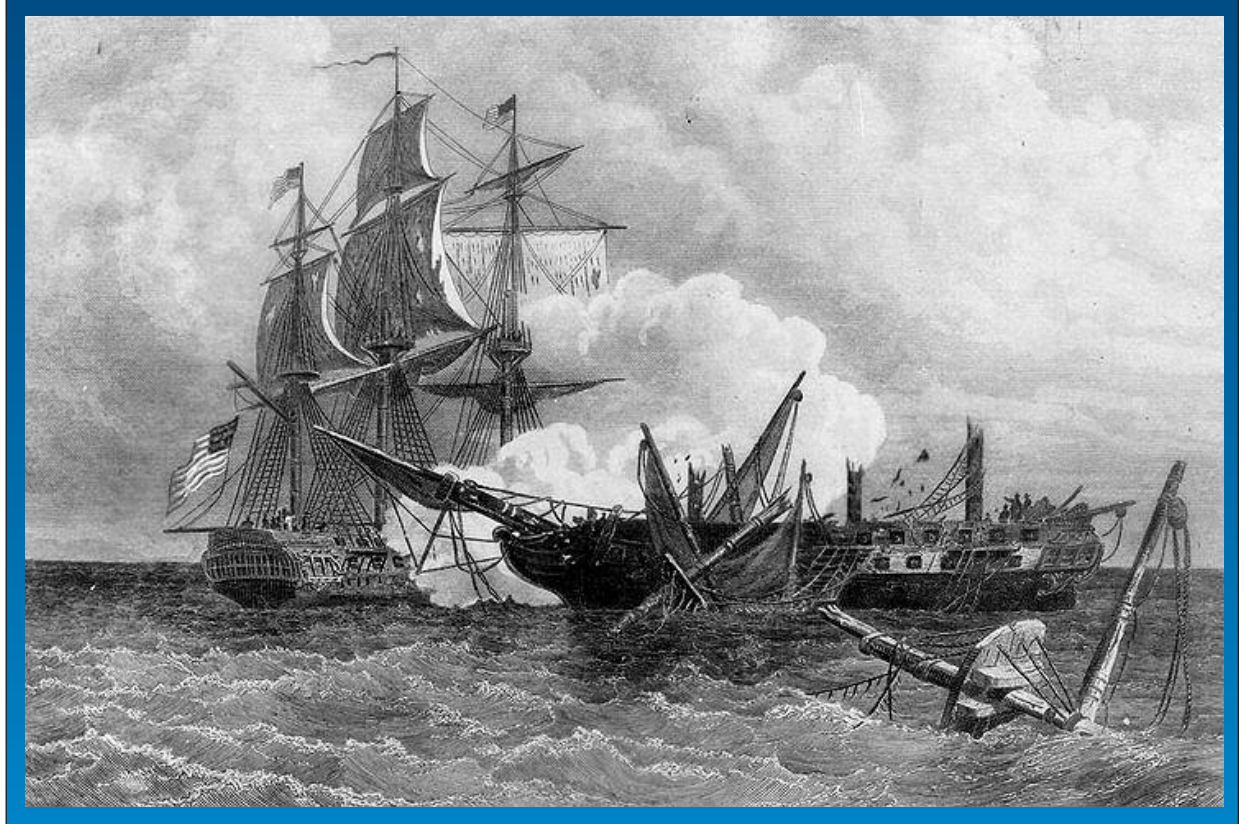
"Dinner at the Hale Koa, then a walk on the beach."

(Provided by David Underwood Jr. and MC2 (SW) Mark Logico)

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

USS Constitution battled HMS Guerriere in War of 1812



U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command photograph Courtesy of the Naval Historical Foundation

The year 2012 commemorates the bicentennial of the War of 1812. This 19th century engraving by J. McRae after a drawing by G. White, depicts the British frigate Guerriere after she had been dismasted in the action with USS Constitution on Aug. 19, 1812.

STORY IDEAS?

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

Phone: (808) 473-2888

Email: editor@hookelenews.com

HO'OKELE Pearl Harbor - Hickam News

HO'OKELE Pearl Harbor - Hickam News

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USS Narwhal submariner and wife laid to rest

Story and photos by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

The ashes of both a Pearl Harbor survivor and his wife were scattered during a memorial service at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island on Feb 10.

A USS Narwhal (SS 167) Sailor, Radioman 1st Class Francis "Frank" Sennello, and his wife, Bea, were both laid to rest in the waters of Pearl Harbor. The ceremony included a short religious service, the scattering of ashes and a three-volley rifle salute provided by the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Navy Detachment Honor Guard. A U.S. Navy bugler from U.S. Pacific Fleet Band sounded Taps, and a Sailor presented an American flag to Patrick.

"The ceremony was incredible," said Mike O'Donnell, Frank's stepson. "It's amazing to watch the precision of the flag unfolding, the refolding and the care that was given to that. Everything was deliberate and intentional."

Teri O'Donnell, Mike's wife, said she was struck by the love and care by the Sailors who they had not met but who put in the effort to honor their loved one. The O'Donnells and their son, Sean O'Donnell, brought Frank and Bea to Pearl Harbor to fulfill their loved ones' final wish.

Frank was born in New York City on June 25, 1921, and he joined the Navy in July 1940 at the age of 19. After attending boot camp and submarine and sonar training, he was assigned aboard his first submarine, Narwhal.

On Dec. 7, 1941, Frank was in the barracks near the submarine piers. He was at a sink and was about to shave when one of his friends said, "Hey Frank, watch those planes. They are going to dive almost between the masts of the battleships."

Thinking it was an American aircraft doing an exercise, his friend continued, "Look, one of them must have crashed, look at all the smoke. Let's go up on the roof so we can get a better look." Moments later Frank and his friend realized Pearl Harbor was under attack. Frank raced to his submarine and grabbed a rifle.

Frank was later known for the photograph of him crouched on the dock, holding a weapon, bayonet fixed, near his boat. The picture was on the cover of Life Magazine. After the attack, Frank joined the rescue efforts, helping pull oil-coated casualties and the bodies of former comrades from the water.

During the war, Frank's submarine, Narwhal, was credited with sinking numerous Imperial Japanese ships and was driven away on many occasions by destroyers dropping depth charges.

After serving in other submarines, including two submarine tenders, Frank was honorably discharged from the Navy in July 1946.

James Taylor, the volunteer Pearl Harbor survivor liaison for Navy Region Hawaii, said that Frank was a highly decorated Sailor, earning the Good Conduct Medal, World War II victory Medal and many unit awards including submarine combat insignia. In 1991, Frank received the Pearl Harbor commemorative medal for his service on Dec. 7 during the attack.

"His heroism and sacrifices will never be forgotten," Taylor said. "He richly deserved the accolades he received."

After his discharge, Frank returned to New York state where he married and had four sons. The family moved to California in 1952 where Frank began his career as a teacher. As a well-known speaker, he taught about the context, causes and world-changing ramifications of Imperial Japan's decision to attack America in 1941.

"When I was a lot younger, he took a lot of care trying to teach me first of all about Pearl Harbor and World War II," said Sean O'Donnell. "He was the one who got me to read. He really cared about how my education is going."

Frank passed away on Jan. 3. He is survived by his sons Stephen, Gene, Patrick and Clifford Sennello; his stepsons Michael and Patrick O'Donnell; and six grandchildren.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

(Above) Sailors participate in the Coronado Valentine's Day 10K Run on the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74). John C. Stennis is operating in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility while on a seven-month deployment.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Kenneth Abbate

(Right) Capt. Ronald Reis, commanding officer of the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), speaks to the crew about preparations for returning home after deployment.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Joshua Keim

(Left) The Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Mobile Bay (CG 53) and the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) transit the Pacific Ocean during a photo exercise.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Kenneth Abbate

(Above) Amanda, Josie and John Paul Greene spot their father and husband, Chief Kevin Greene, on the USS Port Royal as it returns from deployment on Feb. 13.

U.S. Navy photo by Jazzmin Williams

(Left) Los Angeles-class submarine USS Louisville (SSN 724) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled six-month western Pacific deployment Feb.7. Louisville is the fourth United States ship to bear the name in honor of the city of Louisville, Ky.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

Air Force offers 'Energy Horizons' vision

Tech. Sgt. Jess Harvey

Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – The Air Force's Energy Horizons paper was released Feb. 9 and describes how the service plans to increase energy supply, reduce demand, and change the culture to meet mission requirements.

Energy Horizons, which was signed Jan. 25, is the Air Force vision for energy science and technology focusing on core Air Force missions in air, space, cyberspace and infrastructure, according to the preface by Mark T. Maybury, Air Force chief scientist.

The paper outlines where the Air Force is headed with regard to operational energy.

The cover letter, signed by both Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, explains how effective energy management not only plays a key role in supporting national objectives, but is also essential to operational readiness.

"Energy is essential to all Air Force missions," the letter states. "Improving energy efficiency, reducing demand and changing the culture is vital to mission success."

The paper discusses cyber, space, air and infrastructure energies, how they enable Air Force mission success, and include emerging technologies that will further the force's energy efficiency efforts.

The Energy Horizons paper, in its entirety, can be read at http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120209-060.pdf.

Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One celebrates 46th birthday

Story and photo by Lt. Anna Choe

Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One Public Affairs

Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One (MDSU-1) celebrated its 46th birthday on Jan. 31, one day early. Special guests in attendance were some of the executive leadership from MDSU-1's type commander, the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC).

Lt. Cmdr. Robert J. Wheat, MDSU-1 executive officer, opened the ceremony by reading an excerpt written by former diving community manager Navy Diver Master Chief Dave Gove about the origin of MDSU-1:

"This day in diving history - 01 February 1966.

Harbor Clearance Unit (HCU) One established at Subic Bay, Philippines. The establishment of HCU One was authorized by the Secretary of the Navy to fill the need for harbor clearance of any waterway or port in Vietnam. While the idea of a harbor clearance team harkened back to successful clearance operations by various units in WWII, this new operational concept represented an elemental change in Navy salvage.

Chief Logistics Specialist Joel Daza and Hull Maintenance Technician Fireman Daniel Allred, the second oldest and second youngest Sailors at MDSU-1, respectively, cut the cake showing the HCU One and MDSU-1 logos side-by-side during the command's 46th birthday celebration. NECC Commander Rear Adm. Michael Tillotson (second from right) and MDSU-1's executive officer, Lt. Cmdr. Robert J. Wheat (far right), applaud along with the crowd.

"The missions of HCU One in Vietnam would call for committing small and highly mobile teams of well-qualified salvage specialists to a job rather than relying on large salvage ships. The original crew of HCU One consisted of a hand-picked cadre of five officers and 65 enlisted men. The unit's headquarters started out as a barge specifically converted to a salvage tender that was outfitted with all the shop facilities, storage and accommodations necessary to support various salvage operations. The team would later acquire adequate medical, office and armory facilities.

"HCU One grew in men and equipment during its years of existence and amassed a record of success. During its tenure in the Philippines, the unit was awarded two Navy Unit Commendations, a Meritorious Unit Commendation and a Vietnamese Unit Cross of Gallantry. Eventually, HCU One would move its homeport to Hawaii and later be renamed Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One."

MDSU-1 Sailors took a break in their daily operations and preparations for upcoming inspections to celebrate the historic day. Those in attendance included Rear Adm. Michael Tillotson, commander of Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, Force Master Chief Farris Foresman and Lt. Tyler Smith, the admiral's aide, from the NECC. The day's festivities started with a lunch barbecue sponsored by the MDSU-1 Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) committee led by Electronics Technician 1st Class Matthew Zilvar, the MWR president.

Wheat also thanked the Sailors for their continued good work, and the admiral echoed his sentiments. The second oldest and second youngest Sailors participated in the cake-cutting ceremony. Although traditionally the cake is cut by the oldest and youngest Sailor at the command, they were unavailable. Navy Diver 3rd Class Robert Glennon was at sea working on a salvage job similar to one done in HCU One's early history in Vietnam.

Senior Chief Navy Diver (MDV) Ted Walker was on post-deployment leave after returning from a six-month Central Command (CENTCOM) deployment in Bahrain.

In their places, the second youngest and second oldest MDSU-1 Sailors, Hull Maintenance Technician Fireman Daniel Allred and Chief Logistics Specialist Joel Daza, cut the cake.

Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One's current Command Master Chief Clifford Morin wrote, "To learn our history and our heritage connects us with the Sailors that have gone before us and allows us to build upon their service and sacrifice so we may represent that fighting spirit and honor their contribution with a deeper knowledge of the legacy we represent."

Navy Supply Birthday run/walk to be held Feb. 25

The Navy Supply Birthday family 5K fun run/walk will be held starting at 7:30 a.m. Feb. 25 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The event will start at the end of South Avenue. Cost of registering is $25 for military, Department of Defense dependents and students 18 years old and under. The cost is $30 for all other adults. Sign up online at http://bit.ly/Afsz8t. Online registration closes at 10 p.m. Feb. 24.

For information, call Cmdr. Tim Benesh at 728-9986 or Cmdr. Donald Tyer at 473.8000, ext. 4203.

President's Day commissary hours announced

In observance of the President's Day/Washington's Birthday holiday on Feb. 20, the Pearl Harbor Commissary will have reduced operation hours, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hours for the Hickam Commissary on the holiday will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information, call the Pearl Harbor Commissary at 471-8402, ext. 101 or the Hickam Commissary at 449-1363.

This week in USAF and PACAF history

Charles Nicholls

PACAF historian

On Feb. 13, 1917, Capt. John F. Curry of the Army Air Service arrived in Honolulu to command the first aviation unit established in Hawaii—the 6th Aero Squadron — organized for the aerial coast defense of Oahu. The squadron was first stationed at Fort Kamehameha, and then moved to Ford Island.

On Feb. 16, 1945, Army Air Forces C–47s dropped 2,065 paratroopers on the Japanese-held island of Corregidor in Manila Bay in conjunction with a U.S. amphibious landing on the island. The goal was to secure the harbor of Manila, the most important city in the Philippines.

On Feb. 19,1945, after six months of aerial bombardment and three days of naval bombardment, Iwo Jima was invaded by the Marines' 5th Amphibious Corps. On March 26, organized Japanese resistance ended. Bomber raids from the Marianas had struck the island as part of Operation Scavenger.

On Feb. 17, 1962, formal dedication of new Hawaii Air National Guard facilities at Hickam included participation by the governor, state adjutants of the Army and Air Force National Guards, and the Hickam Base commander. A fly-by of HIANG F-102 jets in the morning ceremony was followed by an open house attended by an estimated 10,000 people.

On Feb. 18, 1972, PACAF assigned its first C-9A aeromedical aircraft to the 20th Operations Squadron at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. The C-9s replaced C-118s.

On Feb. 17,1997, the Air Force Reserve became a major command—the Air Force Reserve Command—reflecting the growing integration of Reserve and regular forces and the increasing role of the reserve in regular USAF operations.

Jacqueline "Jackie" Cochran on Feb. 18, 1938 received the Gen. William Mitchell Memorial Plaque for her achievements in aeronautics, based on her speed records. In 1937, Cochran set a national air speed record from New York to Miami in 4 hours, 12 minutes, 27 seconds, and she achieved a new women's national speed record at 204 miles per hour.

Great Aloha Run promotes fitness, charity on President's Day

More than 26,000 participants, from elite runners to walkers, will take part in the 28th Annual Kaiser Permanente Great Aloha Run (GAR) on President's Day, Feb. 20. The 8.15-mile road race raises money for charitable organizations while also promoting health and fitness.

The event will include divisions such as active duty military, their families, reserves, National Guard, and Department of Defense civilian employees, Sounds of Freedom (active duty military units running in formation) and others. The event starts at Aloha Tower and ends at Aloha Stadium field. Staggered start is 6:53 a.m. for Sounds of Freedom, 6:57 a.m. for competitive wheelchairs and 7 a.m. for the Great Aloha Run.

Military support of the event includes Sounds of Freedom teams coordinated by Morale, Welfare and Recreation, coordination for an aid station located across from Halawa Gate, and the Pacific Fleet Band which will lead the Sounds of Freedom Division from the staging area to the start line on Nimitz Highway near the Aloha Tower.

Other official events over the weekend include:

- GAR Sports, Health and Fitness Expo from 4 to 9 p.m. Feb. 17-19 at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center, where race packets will also be picked up.
- Silverstreaks Sunrise Walk for participants ages 55 and older at 7:30 a.m. Feb. 18 around Ala Moana Beach Park.
- "Hawaii 5210, Let's Go Keiki Run" at 8 a.m. Feb. 18 at Neal S. Blaisdell Center.

Since 1985, the run has raised $9.1 million, which has been awarded to more than 150 non-profit organizations in Hawaii, including MWR facilities.

For more information, visit the website www.greataloharun.com or call 528-7388.

Borcher's Gate closed during Great Aloha Run on Feb. 20

In support of the 28th annual Great Aloha Run, Borcher's Gate will be closed during the race and Luapele Gate will be open from 4 a.m. to noon on President's Day, Feb. 20.

Additionally, Center Drive and Radford Drive will not be accessible via Kamehameha Highway, including Makalapa Gate, which will not be accessible until 9:45 a.m.

The 8.15-mile race will start at sunrise from the Aloha Tower Marketplace and wind down Nimitz and Kamehameha Highways and end at Aloha Stadium. Several water aid stations will be available along the route, including a water aid station on Kamehameha Highway near Borcher's Gate.

More than 26,000 participants are expected and a portion of the proceeds will benefit Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

For more information about the event, visit the website www.greataloharun.com

HO'OKELE Online
Pearl Harbor - Hickam News
http://www.hookelenews.com/ or visit
https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Hawaii/index.htm

My Favorite Photo...

U.S. Navy photo by IT2 Cicely Wiggins

IT2 Cicely Wiggins took this picture recently while visiting the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, also known as "Punchbowl." It was early afternoon on a bright and sunny day. This is a shot of a waist-high cement block with an inscription honoring the brave men and women who have served and sacrificed. In the background of the photo is a symbolic prow of a Navy carrier on which stands a 30-foot statue of a woman holding a laurel branch.

Armed Services Blood Program to hold upcoming drives

Tripler Army Medical Center Blood Donor Center has scheduled upcoming blood drives.

As part of the Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP), the official United States military blood program, a donation serves as a vital link to military service members and their families worldwide. The drives include:

- Feb. 22 at University of Hawaii ROTC Air Force.
- Feb. 27 at Naval Submarine Support Command (NSSC).
- Feb. 28 and March 27 at Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange Hawaii (NEX).
- March 5 and 6 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii Kaneohe Bay.
- March 12 at Schofield Barracks.
- March 13 Tripler Army Medical Center Department "blood battle."
- March 14 at the Federal Detention Center.

For more information, call 433-6699 or 433-6148 or email michelle.lele@amedd.army.mil

'Romp in the swamp' set for Feb. 25

Marine Corps Community Services

Marine Corps Community Services will host the "dirtiest race in town" at Marine Corps Base, Hawaii (MCBH), Kaneohe Bay at 7 a.m. Feb. 25, starting at Boondocker Field.

The 5-mile "Swamp Romp" will consist of various obstacles including mud pits, water holes, a beach run, low crawls and climbing walls.

Registration is open at http://www.mccshawaii.com/cgfit.shtml until 4:30 p.m. today. Fees are $135 for a six-person team and increase to $150 after the Feb. 17 early deadline. Late registration will be accepted by walk in or by mail at the Kaneohe Bay Semper Fit Center. All entries must be received by Feb. 22.

The six-person team event, with roughly 450 teams, is open to the general public.

In addition, a Swamp Romp Health, Fitness and Wellness Expo will be held from 3-7 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Kahuna's Ballroom on MCBH. All military members, family members and civilians are welcome to both events. Packet and timing chip pickup for the race will be available at the expo. Packets will not be available for pickup on race day.

The health, fitness and wellness expo will feature an array of booths offering products, services and workshops geared toward healthy living.

For more information, call the Semper Fit Varsity Sports coordinator at 254-7590.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

Feb. 23: Rear Adm. Ponds: N00 First 100 Days
March 1: Women's History Month
March 8: TAMC Trauma Center
March 15: Marine Corps Base Hawaii – Ospreys and H-1s
March 22: Historic preservation/adaptive reuse
March 29: Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard – Career Fair

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

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

South Avenue roadwork to impact parking stalls

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii

Starting today, parking stalls between the east and west wings of building 1 and the waterfront operations tower, building S-1058, will be secured to support the restoration project of the waterfront operations tower. There will be 15 disabled-parking spaces available behind building One and a one-lane road will serve as access to disabled parking from the east wing of building One.

Personnel are required to obey caution and warning signs. Any vehicles obstructing the construction site will be towed at the owner's expense.

Personal protective equipment is required within the construction barriers. The area should be entered for official purposes only.

The project is scheduled to be completed Oct. 26.

For more information, call NAVFAC Hawaii at 448-2729.