

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day

"Navigator"

HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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Cmdr. Tom Shultz (center) meets with command advances and enlisted surface warfare specialist qualifiers.

Sailors on Michael Murphy lead the way into 2013

Story and photo by CT3 (Collection) Ryan Harris

Five Sailors aboard the USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) are setting the tone for the success of the ship's first full year of commissioned service.

The commanding officer, Cmdr. Tom Shultz, recently recognized the Sailors for raising the bar in 2013 for the Navy's newest warship.

Electronics Technician 1st Class Jacob Angelo, Interior

Communications Electrician 2nd Class Corey Harvey and Damage Controlman 3rd Class Sabien Alvarez were each command-advanced at the end of 2012 for their dedication and hard work during Michael Murphy's pre-commissioning and commissioning phases.

Gas Turbine System Technician Electrical 3rd Class Nolan Schaffer and Fire Controlman 2nd Class Alexander Wood were the first on the newly commissioned destroyer to earn the enlisted sur-

face warfare specialist pin, a qualification that signifies a Sailor's mastery of knowledge of the ship.

Shultz said the work of these five Sailors will set the tone in 2013.

"The most important thing for any ship is to have Sailors who are experts in their rates and have a strong sense of ownership," Shultz said. "These Sailors have proven that and are leaders for their shipmates as Michael Murphy moves into the next critical phase in the new year."

Submarine Force announces Battle 'E' award winners

Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet



Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COM-SUBPAC) announced the recipients of the 2012 Battle Efficiency (Battle "E") award in an official message to the submarine force at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Jan. 1.

The Battle "E" is an award of merit presented to the most proficient submarine crew in each squadron and recognizes sustained superior technical performance and continual combat readiness throughout the year. The awards are presented by the commodore of each squadron to the submarine under their command which has demonstrated the highest level of battle readiness during the evaluation year.

"The competition for Battle Efficiency awards was extremely tough. These awards recognize commands which were evaluated during the past year to have attained the highest overall or departmental readiness to carry out their wartime tasks," said Rear Adm. Frank Caldwell, commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, in the message to the force. "Each crew member of an award winner can be justifiably proud of their contribution to improve Pacific Submarine Force readiness. I am extremely proud of your outstanding performance."

The Pacific Force Battle "E" winners and their homeports are:

Submarine Squadron 1 (Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam) -

USS Hawaii (SSN 776).
SUBRON 7 (Pearl Harbor) -
USS Columbus (SSN 762).

Submarine Development Squadron 5 (SUBDEVRON Five) (Bangor, Wash.) - USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23).

SUBRON 11 (San Diego) -
USS Jefferson City (SSN 759).

SUBRON 15 (Guam) - USS Buffalo (SSN 715).

SUBRON 17 (Bangor) - USS Maine (SSBN 741) (Blue and Gold).

SUBRON 19 (Bangor) - USS Ohio (SSGN 726) (Blue).

Submarine Tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39).

Special category was awarded to floating dry dock Arco (ADRM-5) and the torpedo weapons retriever Swamp Fox (TWR 821), both in San Diego.

Winners of each of the Battle "E" competitive categories were also announced. Those categories are the Engineering Red "E," Tactical Operations White "T," Navigation Red and Green "N," Communications Green "C," Damage Control Red "DC," Supply Blue "E," Deck Seamanship White "D," Medical Yellow "M," Deep Submergence White "DS," Strategic Operations White "S," Repair Red "R," Dental Yellow "D" and Weapons Black "W."

For more news from Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, visit www.navy.mil/local/subpac/.

Martin Luther King observance held at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel

Story and photos by Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

Navy Region Hawaii held its annual Martin Luther King Day observance Jan. 17 at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel.

Martin Luther King Day celebrates the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the influential American civil rights leader best known for his campaign to end racial segregation and promote equality in the United States.

Quartermaster 2nd Class Megan Steffy of Navy Region Hawaii served as the master-of-ceremonies. She introduced a variety of film clips about King and his legacy.

The first clip was of King's controversial TV appearance on "The Mike Douglas Show." Filmed at the height of the Vietnam War, King spoke of peace and defended his opposition to the war, which he considered unjust.

The second clip was from April 4, 1968, the day King was assassinated. It showed Walter Cronkite announcing the news of King's death to the nation.

The final clip was of King's funeral. At the funeral, a recording of his final sermon was played. In it, he spoke of his own death and how he wanted to be remembered.

Looking out at the diverse faces in the audience, Steffy said,



(Above) More than a hundred service members and civilians attended the Jan. 17 Martin Luther King Day observance at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel.

"Without Dr. King, we would not all be sitting here together: whites with blacks, Hispanics with Asians."

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific was the keynote speaker at the observance. In a very personal speech, he spoke of honoring King as a patriarch, a father,

and a husband.

"Most of all, I want to honor him as a man," Ponds said. "He asked himself 'Why should I take joy in

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Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, will serve as grand marshal for the 25th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade Jan. 21.

The parade will begin at 9 a.m. from Ala Moana Park's Magic Island and end at Kapiolani Park, where a Unity Rally featuring entertainment and food will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year's event will mark the 25th anniversary of the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday in Hawaii. Gov. John Waihee proclaimed the first Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Jan. 16, 1989.

(Left) Rear Adm. Frank Ponds was the keynote speaker at the Jan. 17 Navy Region Hawaii Martin Luther King Day observance.



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Jared Apollo Burgamy

The Virginia-class attack submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776) arrives in Busan for a recent routine port visit.



'Mighty Mo' veteran visits former ship
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Visitors from the YMCA of Honolulu visit USS Russell
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Dr. King knew important truth
See page A-3



USS Russell wins holiday lighting competition
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Annual humpback whale census starts in Hawaii Jan. 26
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Military 'scores' at next week's Pro Bowl
See page B-4

'Mighty Mo' veteran visits former ship

Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

Since opening as a museum in the summer of 1999, more than 5 million people have visited the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

This month, the memorial welcomed a visitor for whom the ship isn't just a tourist attraction. It is his former home.

Schuyler "Sky" Fredrikson served on the USS Missouri from 1944 to 1946. A third Class petty officer, Fredrikson was assigned to the engineering department and damage control for most of his time aboard the ship. He visited the memorial this year on Jan. 10. It was his third time aboard the vessel since its decommissioning.

"I toured her back in 1998 when she was in Oregon getting ready to get towed to Hawaii," he said. "And I was here in 2001 for the 60th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor."

Fredrikson was born Feb. 11, 1927 in Brooklyn, N.Y. He was raised on a farm in Holden, Mass. and joined the Navy on Feb. 11, 1944 at the age of 17. He was aboard Missouri for most of his active duty service.

"I was a lookout when I first came aboard," he said. "There were about six lookouts, aft and forward. Then I moved to damage control and diving."

His time on Missouri took Fredrikson to some of the far corners of the globe. He visited places such as Panama, Trinidad, San Francisco, New York City, Italy, Greece and Turkey.

Of course, with World War II raging, much of Fredrikson's time was spent in the South Pacific: Guam, Okinawa, Iwo



(Left) "Sky" Fredrikson was aboard the USS Missouri when a kamikaze suicide bomber hit on April 11, 1945 during the Battle of Okinawa. (Right) USS Missouri veteran Schuyler "Sky" Fredrikson visited the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Jan. 10.

Jima and the coasts of Japan.

"We were heavily involved in the bombardment of Japan, especially Tokyo," he said. "The worst was the fighting in Okinawa. The Navy lost more men then in any other Pacific campaign."

It was during the Battle of Okinawa that a kamikaze suicide bomber hit Missouri. On April 11, 1945, Japanese "Zeke" approached the ship through a hail of anti-aircraft gunfire, striking the battleship on the stern quarter.

"I saw the plane coming and ran like hell to the other side of the ship," said Fredrikson.

No American lives were lost, and Missouri suffered only

minor damage. The deceased kamikaze pilot was given a military burial-at-sea, led by a U.S. Navy chaplain who happened to speak Japanese.

At war's end, on Sept. 2, 1945, Missouri sailed into Tokyo Harbor for the signing of Japan's surrender.

"There were so many people, so many dignitaries from all different countries aboard," he recalled. "I had a good view of everything."

Fredrikson and his friends celebrated the end of the war with some homemade cocktails.

"We got some 180 proof alcohol from the sickbay and mixed it with grapefruit juice," he said.

After the end of the war, Missouri returned to Pearl Harbor and Fredrikson took some time to enjoy some well-deserved R&R at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. He left the Navy in May 1946.

Fredrikson currently lives in

Worcester, Mass. He has fond memories of his time in the Navy and is impressed by what has been done with the battleship he served aboard.

"They have done a great job restoring her," he said of the Battleship Missouri Memorial.



Photo courtesy of Battleship Missouri Memorial

CNRH honors Dr. King

Continued from A-1

celebrating my life when others are suffering in their own lives? He contemplated this and chose to act.... The very essence of King's legacy is his life of service and sacrifice."

Pond's also highlighted what the military can learn from King.

"Members the armed forces must continue to combine the strength of compassion and the courage of compromise," he said.

In honor of King's work, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day was established by President Ronald Reagan in 1983.

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush proclaimed the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday would be observed every year on the third Monday of January. Congress passed the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday and Service Act, Aug. 23, 1994 designating the King Holiday as a day of volunteer service. The first observance was held Jan. 15, 1986, the anniversary of King's birthday.

Commentary

Dr. King knew important truth: strength comes from freedom, passion, understanding

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

(Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, has been invited to serve as grand marshal for Hawaii's 25th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. parade through Honolulu, Jan. 21. He offers this personal reflection and perspective about Dr. King's legacy.)

I grew up in the rural Alabama tri-city area of Selma, Montgomery and Birmingham in the 1960s. I saw the impact of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement first hand. Dr. King's legacy of equality, unity and justice for all is an inspiration to everyone in the world — no matter what creed, color or nationality.



Photo courtesy of Hulton Archive / Getty Images

U.S. civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. (foreground) waves to supporters from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C. (Washington Monument in background) during the "March on Washington" on Aug. 28, 1963.

visit my home state as part of an official Navy outreach program to Birmingham and Tuskegee, where I spoke with students, veterans and community lead-

ers. My message there, as it is here in Hawaii, was that our Navy is indeed a global force for good with a rich legacy of cultural and intellectual diversity and opportunity. Like Dr. King, we believe in building partnerships and cooperation to deter war. I believe that what we share in common with others is more important than our differences.

Dr. King knew an important truth: Strength comes from freedom, passion and understanding. He helped us hear what Abraham Lincoln called, "the better angels of our nature." He challenged us to live up to our founders' highest aspiration: "that all men are created equal." Dr. King shared his dream, and we honor his legacy.

Dr. King was a man of non-violence, committed to peace. We deter war when we build partnerships, maintain readiness and operate forward. Our Navy in Hawaii does that with exercises like *Koa Kai* and RIMPAC

and by our support of humanitarian assistance missions such as Operation Tomodachi and annual Pacific Partnership.

We believe a strong and properly resourced Navy can deter aggression and preserve peace. Make no mistake: Dr. King was a tough, ready and engaged problem solver. So is our Navy.

Today, the United States Navy exemplifies Dr. King's legacy of equality, unity and justice for all. Our military and civilian workforce and supportive family members at Navy Region Hawaii and MIDPAC are a strong, unified and capable team.

We are committed to building partnerships, promoting cooperation and protecting the ideals and freedoms for which Dr. King fought and died. Therefore, I am especially proud to serve as grand marshal of Hawaii's 25th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr holiday parade.

Commentary

Drawing it all together as we enter the new year

Col. Johnny Roscoe

15th Wing commander

As we enter a new year, it is appropriate that we reflect not only on the accomplishments of the year we leave behind, but also on setting a vector for the coming year. Recently, I spent a day with key squadron, group and wing leaders within the 15th Wing to develop priorities and a vision for our wing that is focused on what we do and what the 15th Wing actually brings to the fight. The following is a result of our lively discussion that day.

The first order Gen. Carlisle gave to wing commanders when he took command of Pacific Air Forces was, "You are all warriors and you need to be ready to go to war tonight."



Col. Johnny Roscoe

In support of this task, we developed an appropriate aim for our wing:

15th Wing vision: "PACAF's premier wing...Ready Airmen projecting decisive air power."

I love being part of the tradition and legacy of the Air Force and I'm proud of that, and I hope you are, too. Especially relevant to us here in Hawaii, in light of the 189

people who died on Hickam Field on Dec. 7, 1941, is the issue of readiness. When thinking about what you do on a day-to-day basis, always think of it in terms of readiness. Personally, mission readiness is more important to me than inspection readiness because, at a moment's notice, we need to be prepared to fight and win our nation's wars.

15th Wing mission statement:

"The mission of the 15th Wing is to develop and sustain combat-ready Airmen, in partnership with the total force, to provide global mobility, global reach, precision engagement and agile combat support, anytime, anywhere."

Our Wing mission sets us up very well for our wing priorities, all of which are essential in order to carry out Gen. Carlisle's order:

- Five wing priorities:
- Execute the mission.
- Ensure readiness.
- Develop our Airmen.
- Grow resilient Airmen and families.
- Strengthen partnerships

If we develop our Airmen and grow resilient Airmen and families, I am certain all of the other things will fall into place.

As you carry forth into this new year, I ask that you rededicate yourself to our mission and perform your duties in accordance with three guiding principles: respect, accountability and common sense.

Respect means developing a working environment where every Airman is comfortable working in common space together with the person next to them. Accountability—we must call each other out and give proper feedback, good and bad.

Finally, common sense, making sure that what we do to get the mission done is both safe and legal.

I am proud of you, and I am proud to call yourself a member of the 15th as well. I leave you with the following words to live by:

15th Wing motto: "Powerful Airmen, always ready."

Air Force releases new 'vision' document with way forward

Master Sgt. Jess Harvey

Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – The Air Force released a new Vision document this week outlining the force's vision and way forward.

"Focused on 'Airmen, Mission, and Innovation,' I believe this short document captures what today's Air Force is all about and where I think we ought to focus on for tomorrow," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III in an email to all Airmen.

"We are the greatest air force in the world because of our Airmen-active, Reserve, Guard and civilian. To remain the greatest, we must make our team even stronger," the Vision states.

The Vision discusses the Air Force's enduring contributions of air and space superiority; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; rapid global mobility;

global strike; and command and control and the need to strengthen them.

"We already combine our air, space and cyber forces to maximize these enduring contributions, but the way we execute these five calling cards must continually evolve as we strive to increase our asymmetric advantage," the Vision says. "Our Airmen's ability to rethink the battle while incorporating new technologies will improve the varied ways our Air Force accomplishes its missions."

"Every Airman should constantly look for smarter ways to do business. The person closest to the problem is often the one with the best solution. Leaders should empower Airmen to think creatively, find new solutions, and make decisions," according to the Vision.

The Vision concludes with a call to action for all Airmen to tell their story, being proud of who they are, what they do, and how well they accomplish the mission.

Diverse Views



"What does this line from Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech mean to you?: 'I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.'"



Senior Master Sgt. Shannon Wall
PACAF AI

"I have a dream that our nation can continue to enjoy the freedoms and privileges we have become accustomed to. Privileges like freedom of speech and freedom of religion are ideals often taken for granted."

Operations Specialist Adrienne Allen
Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific



"It's nice to think that someday people will be judged for who they are, what they do, and what they believe in and not just for how they look."



Master Sgt. Chandra Mark
HQ PACAF

"It means that my African American son doesn't see an African American president. He sees a great man who became president of the greatest nation on earth, and as he grows into the man God is preparing him to be, he will know greatness knows no color. Greatness comes from within."

Gas Turbine System Mechanic Fireman
Clinton Gonzalez
Commander, Navy Region Hawaii



"I'm a white guy with a Hispanic last name. No one looks at me or treats me differently. I can hang out with anybody."



Airman 1st Class Kristopher Cannon
15th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

"What this means to me is a calling for racial equality and an end to discrimination, for all humans to be treated equally, and not judged by the color of their skin. This was a fight for equal rights and justice."

(Provided by David Underwood Jr. and Brandon Bosworth)

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

Looking back at Hickam's early history



Photo courtesy of Hawaii.gov/hawaiiaviation

This photo shows construction at the former Hickam Field on Jan. 6, 1937. By the end of 1935, the site was cleared. During 1936, the first phase had been surveyed and cut, railroad tracks and sidings constructed, and freshwater connections installed. The gate house is in the bottom of the photo.

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Visitors from the YMCA of Honolulu visit USS Russell

Ensign Joseph Quinn

USS Russell (DDG 59)
Public Affairs

Sixty-one children and five adult escorts from the Kaimuki-Waiālae YMCA recently visited USS Russell (DDG 59) to learn what life is like aboard a warship.

The children, ranging in ages from 8 to 14, spent the morning of Dec. 19 touring Russell, a ballistic missile defense destroyer home-ported at Pearl Harbor.

Lt. Jada Johnson, Russell's operations officer, led the tour event. Before conducting the tour with the children, she briefed them on standard shipboard safety practices and Russell's safety catchphrase, "See something, say something," which was quickly adopted by the young visitors.

Following a snack of cookies and hot chocolate on the mess decks, the children received Russell ball caps and became hon-



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

Young people from the YMCA of Honolulu get a tour aboard the USS Russell during a visit to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Dec. 19.

orary crew members. They were then divided into four groups, and escorted by a crew member to various stations throughout the ship. This included the bridge, combat information center, the engineer's central controlling station and topside areas.

The children were excited to see all of the stations and events that go into making a warship operational, but were most impressed by Russell's armament. Murmurs and shouts of "wow" and "cool" were heard as the children walked around Russell's five-inch-gun and armed watchstanders. The group reassembled on the flight deck for a final group photo before departing Russell, ball caps in hand.

The tour provided an opportunity for some of Oahu's children to learn about shipboard life and the Navy at large, and provided Russell crewmembers an opportunity to interact with and serve the Honolulu community.

Reuben James loads up good relations

Lt. j.g. Leif Alleman

USS Reuben James
(FFG-57) Public Affairs

During a recent port visit to Laem Chabang, Thailand, members of the Royal Thai navy visited the USS Reuben James (FFG-57) for a tour of the ship and demonstration of a torpedo load by members of HSL-37 Easyriders Detachment Four.

Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Christopher Wozniak started the day off with a brief on the process of loading a torpedo on an SH-60B anti-submarine helicopter.

Following the brief, the load team, led by Aviation Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Jesse Morgan, performed step-by-step the detailed process of loading, arming, de-arming and unloading a recoverable exercise Mk-46 torpedo (REXTORP) onto the onboard helicopter.

Cmdr. Daniel Valascho, commanding officer of Reuben James, received Rear Adm. Paitoon of the Royal Thai navy and 20 members of the Royal Thai navy from Helicopter Squadron 2 and Frigate Squadron 2 to view the demonstration.

After the torpedo load,

the members of Frigate Squadron 2 toured the ship while several members of the Easyriders visited the hanger of Helicopter Squadron 2. Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Branden Sanderson supervised the load team from Helicopter Squadron 2 as they loaded, armed, de-armed and unloaded a torpedo onto their S-70 helicopter.

Lt. Cmdr. Phil Castañeda, Detachment Four officer-in-charge, helped demonstrate to the pilots inputting the proper settings into the armament panel of the

cockpit.

Wozniak said, "This event was a great success. It was fun to interact with the Royal Thai navy and learn more about how they do business compared to our Navy. This was an excellent opportunity that everybody enjoyed."

Lt. j.g. Rath Kanchanachote of the Royal Thai navy said, "These events are always a pleasure. Each year, more of our officers attend for the experience of working with U.S. Sailors and being aboard U.S. ships."

Program to increase productivity

Pacific Air Forces

Have you heard the phrase, "It takes money to make money?" Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) has and, in response, takes a very active, forward leaning position with its Productivity Enhancing Capital Investment (PECI) Program.

With today's shrinking budget and personnel drawdowns, working smarter and eliminating inefficiencies are more important than ever. The Air Force created a program to help increase productivity, called the Peci Program. The Peci Program provides funding for productivity improvement projects. Peci identifies investment opportunities that can provide measurable savings and produce a return on investment in two to four years.

The bottom line is that members of the Air Force are able to get involved and search all levels for Peci opportunities to see if they can improve on Air Force productivity and efficiency. The helps units become more productive. Stop by your local Manpower and Organization Office for assistance.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam Highlights

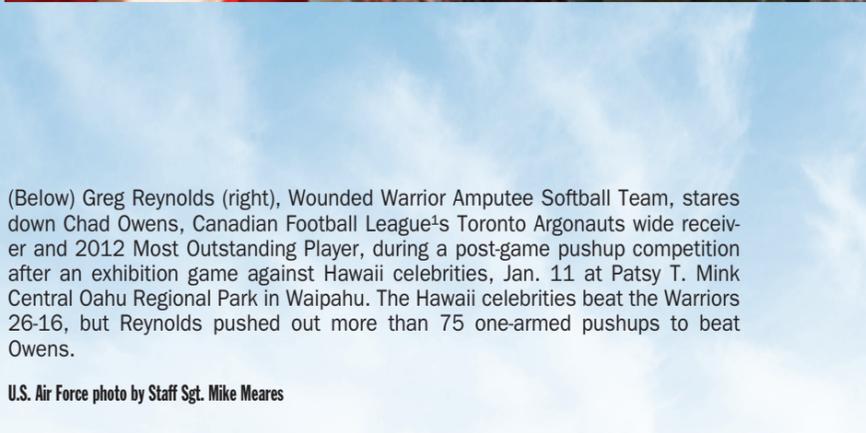


Kyle Earl, a member of the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team, is greeted by Col. Johnny Roscoe, 15th Wing commander, upon arriving at the 15th Wing headquarters building Jan. 10 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Earl underwent a right hand amputation while serving in the U.S. Marine Corps during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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

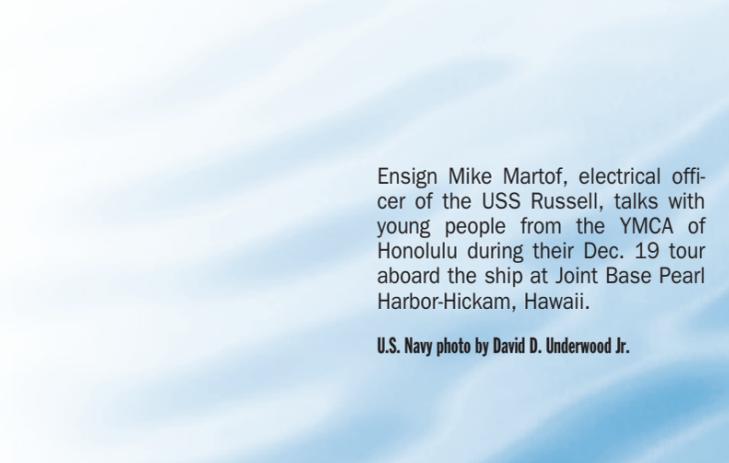
Members of the Navy Commanders Softball Team, consisting of senior leaders, stand during the national anthem before their game against the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team (WWAST). The WWAST mission is to raise awareness, through exhibition and celebrity softball games and to highlight their ability to rise above any challenge.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Sean Furey



(Below) Greg Reynolds (right), Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team, stares down Chad Owens, Canadian Football League's Toronto Argonauts wide receiver and 2012 Most Outstanding Player, during a post-game pushup competition after an exhibition game against Hawaii celebrities, Jan. 11 at Patsy T. Mink Central Oahu Regional Park in Waipahu. The Hawaii celebrities beat the Warriors 26-16, but Reynolds pushed out more than 75 one-armed pushups to beat Owens.

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



Ensign Mike Martof, electrical officer of the USS Russell, talks with young people from the YMCA of Honolulu during their Dec. 19 tour aboard the ship at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

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



U.S. Navy photo by CTT3 (SW) Justin Parsons)

MTV's Jason Acuna, aka "Weeman," visited the USS Chafee for a "meet and greet" to thank the military community for their service Jan. 11.

(Right) Jason "Wee Man" Acuna, actor and avid skateboarder, gives Sebastian Rodriguez, 3, a signature skateboard during an autograph session as part of a "Wee Man salutes the Service" tour during a Jan. 11, visit to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Acuna visited military installations in Hawaii, signed autographs, gave away some of his signature skateboards and skated at the Hickam Skate Hangar with children.

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





U.S. Air Force photo by Jim Varhegyi

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III discuss key issues.

State of the AF is 'strong'

Master Sgt. Jess D. Harvey

Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – The Air Force’s top leaders said this week that the service has accomplished much while dealing with many challenges in the last year.

Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III briefed members of the media here on the state of the service and its focus on the areas of force structure, readiness and modernization.

“America’s Airmen are focused on their missions, and they demonstrate every day what it means to be members of the world’s finest Air Force,” Donley said. “These total force Airmen - active duty, Guard, Reserve, and civilian - are the reason I can say without reservation that the state of our Air Force remains strong.”

The secretary dedicated a significant amount of time explaining how the nation’s fiscal challenges have affected, and will continue to affect, the force.

“Our nation’s ongoing budget gymnastics exert costly consequences upon the Air Force and our sister services and create an atmosphere of unease among many of our uniformed and civilian Airmen,” Donley said. “Given that we are now into the second quarter of (fiscal 2013), we can no longer live under the uncertainty of sequestration and continuing resolution without taking action.”

Prudent planning is required to mitigate budget risks and minimize impacts to readiness, the secretary said, adding that guidance will be provided to the force in a few days to begin planning for the uncertain budget environment ahead.

As part of the planning, Air Force leaders are dedicated to avoiding a hollow force, one that looks good on paper but has more units and equipment than it can support, lacks the resources to adequately train and maintain them, and keep up with advancing technologies.

“We believe the best path forward is to become smaller in order to protect a high quality and ready force that

will improve in capability,” Donley said.

In doing this, Welsh emphasized the importance of sustaining the enduring contributions the Air Force provides that will continue to guide the service as it moves forward, no matter what happens with the fiscal realities of the future.

“As we move toward that smaller, more capable and ready force, we have to be careful to protect our whole mission,” Welsh said. “If we don’t, the entire joint force is affected, and it’s impacted in a significant way.”

According to the secretary, the service has already suffered great impacts to its readiness levels.

“More than two decades of war and other operations have had an impact on our readiness, straining our Airmen and their families, reducing opportunities for training, and taking a toll on equipment,” Donley said.

In order for the Air Force to improve on current readiness levels, Welsh said, modernization remains a top priority, recalling a childhood memory of his grandfather’s then new, ‘sweet’ car to help characterize the issue.

“If we were at Minot (Air Force Base) today, I could

take you out on the flight line and show you a whole bunch of ‘sweet’ B-52s,” Welsh said. “And in 2028, when we deliver the last KC-46 tanker, we’ll still have about 200 ‘sweet’ KC-135s on the ramp. And they’ll be about the same age then - 60 - as my grandfather’s car would be today.”

The difference is, he said, his grandfather’s car has an antique license plate on it today, while America’s Airmen will be flying these aircraft in 2028, in contingencies and combat zones around the world.

This is why, modernization isn’t an option, Welsh said. “It doesn’t matter if we get smaller. We have got to figure out how to make modernization happen.”

During the briefing, the general also took time to highlight the recent release of the Air Force Vision Statement, which embraces innovation as almost a genetic trait of every Airman.

“I believe that’s true. In order for us to be successful, I think it has to be true,” Welsh said. “We intend to remain the world’s greatest Air Force, powered by Airmen and fueled by innovation.”

Community information service Nixle to be utilized at JBPHH

Dan DuBois

Emergency Manager, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

This month, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Emergency Management will begin to use Nixle as an additional tool to send out emergency public information to the JBPHH installation and housing populations.

Nixle will augment the other existing mass warning and notification system parts like Giant Voice (the towers), indoor voice, straight talk line and computer desktop notification system.

So what is Nixle? Nixle is a community information service dedicated to helping communities disseminate critical information via text message and email. Local organizations that use Nixle include the Honolulu Department of Emergency Management, Honolulu Police Department and Honolulu Fire Department. Typical broadcasts of information via Nixle include: weather warnings, seismic warn-

ings (*tsunami*), road closures, major events/mishaps, traffic delays or other items of interest to the public.

One of the benefits of Nixle is that it is not tied to a government computer system, so anyone can register or unregister at will. Current recall and notification systems are tied to Air Force or NMCI computers.

Nixle allows you to register any and all family members that have a SMS capable phone. Additionally, messages sent out on Nixle by JBPHH Emergency Management will also appear on the JBPHH Facebook page.

The move to use Nixle came about after the last *tsunami* event which took place Oct. 23, 2012.

JBPHH Emergency Management couldn’t get information out to the base population fast enough. Nixle will help emergency management get accurate and up-to-date information out as fast as possible.

To register for JBPHH

Nixle messages, go to www.nixle.com and follow the onscreen prompts. Once you have done that, you will receive a text message asking if you want to receive Nixle service. Simply type in yes and send.

Then go to your Nixle home page, and click on settings and type in zip code 96818. You then click on the “other” tab under the main block and save JBPHH into your directory. You can also select City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management and Honolulu Police Department to get alerts from those agencies.

JBPHH Emergency Management has developed a “how to register” guide with step-by-step instructions and pictures to help you. The guide will be sent out to Hickam Communities and Forest City residents by email and is also available from the JBPHH Office of Emergency Management by sending an email to: jbphh.oem@us.af.mil for a copy.



To sign up, go to <http://www.nixle.com/> and click here →

Nixle will augment other existing mass warning and notification system efforts

Image courtesy of Emergency Manager, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

The crew of USS Russell (DDG 59) won the 2012 Holiday Festival of Lights competition.

U.S. Navy photo by IT2 Jedidiah Dyer



USS Russell wins holiday lighting competition

Ensign Joseph Quinn

*USS Russell (DDG 59)
Public Affairs*

Competition was fierce among the ships and submarines in Pearl Harbor during the annual Pearl Harbor Holiday Festival of Lights.

All ships on the waterfront were invited to participate, decorating their ships with elaborate lights

and displays in celebration of the festive holidays. From Dec. 14-25, both the general public and military families were invited to tour the harbor to see the ships and submarines in all their glory.

The crew of USS Russell (DDG 59) was elated when they were announced as the 2012 winner of the Holiday Festival of Lights competition.

It was particularly

poignant that Russell won as December was her final month stationed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

After 18 years at the base, Russell is heading to San Diego to hull swap with USS Halsey (DDG 97). The majority of Russell crew will bring Halsey back to JBPHH in mid-February.

The crew won a MID-PAC-sponsored command picnic for their efforts, but

many were not surprised by the win.

"We put a lot of hard work into decorating the ship and she looked great," said Ensign Michael Martof who led the decorating efforts. The Christmas spirit was definitely in the details of the crew's win.

Judged in three categories (hospitality, lighting scheme and overall), the crew decorated Russell in red and white lighting with

large displays on the fore, midships and flight deck. They also put on quite a show. Two bells were rung over the IMC (ship's public address system) and "Santa, departing" was piped as Santa and her elves embarked Russell's small boat to deliver Christmas cheer to the judges' barge. Various members of the crew and extended family stood on the midships quarterdeck.

They were dressed in festive attire and played ukuleles to sing Christmas carols.

Overall, hard work, festive spirit, and creativity made Russell the winner of the 2012 Pearl Harbor Festival of Lights, but the crew is already looking ahead. "We're definitely looking forward to next year's competition with Halsey," said Cmdr. Linda Seymour, executive officer and acting Santa Claus.

Officials announce TRICARE Prime service area changes

Amaani Lyle

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) – Active-duty service members and their families will be unaffected when long-delayed reductions to areas where the TRICARE Prime option is offered take place Oct. 1, TRICARE officials said Jan. 9.

But as TRICARE seeks to synchronize service area shifts once staggered by contract delays, some military retirees and their dependents will be moved to TRICARE Standard coverage, S. Dian Lawhon, beneficiary educa-

tion and support division director, said during a conference call with reporters. Those affected reside more than 40 miles from a military treatment facility or base closure site, she said.

The new contracts limit Prime networks to regions within a 40-mile radius of military treatment facilities and in areas affected by the 2005 base closure and realignment process, she explained. But provisions will allow Prime beneficiaries who see providers outside the 40-mile service area to remain in Prime if they reside within 100 miles of an available primary care manager and sign an

access waiver, she added.

"If TRICARE retirees and young adults live less than 100 miles away from a remaining Prime service area, they can re-enroll in Prime by waiving their drive standards and there will be room made for them," Lawhon said, adding that the networks are required to connect providers to those who elect to waive their drive standards.

Contractors such as United HealthCare Military & Veterans, Health Net Federal Services and Humana Military will continue to assist beneficiaries in obtaining providers in their regions, she added.

"Health care is best if it's local," Lawhon said. "We've established the drive standards (to enable) people to access their primary and specialty care within a reasonable period of time."

Austin Camacho, TRICARE's benefit information and outreach branch chief, said the out-of-pocket, fee-for-service cost of TRICARE Standard would cost a bit more, depending on the frequency of health care use and visits. No cost applies for preventive care such as mammograms, vaccines, cancer screening, prostate examinations and routine check-ups, he added.

Officials estimate the changes

will lower overall TRICARE costs by \$45 million to \$56 million a year, depending on the number of beneficiaries who choose to remain in Prime, Camacho said.

Lawhon and Camacho said beneficiaries should speak to their health care providers and families to assess the best course of action.

"We're hoping people will take a careful look at their health care needs," Lawhon said. "We have seen that people using the Standard benefit are very pleased with it, and their customer satisfaction is the highest of all."