

## Navy's first littoral combat ship visits Pearl Harbor

MC2 Daniel Barker

Navy Public Affairs  
Support Element West, Det  
Hawaii

The Navy's first littoral combat ship USS Freedom (LCS 1) arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on March 11.

The ultra-modern U.S. Navy ship, bearing a four-color camouflage combination of flat black, haze gray, haze white and ocean gray, arrived at Pearl Harbor after departing its homeport of San Diego to deploy to the Asia-Pacific region.

Following a brief port visit, Freedom will deploy to Southeast Asia and Singapore for approximately eight months. Marking the first of many planned rotational deployments to the western Pacific for the new LCS platform, Freedom will conduct maritime security operations with regional partners and allies.

The ship was specially created to be able to maneuver in areas of water difficult for many larger Navy ships. The littoral zone refers to the part of a sea, lake or river that is close to the shore.

"This vessel, the littoral combat ship, is really designed for operating in the littoral shores of the land, what we commonly refer to as brown water," said Cmdr. Timothy Wilke, commanding officer of USS



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Nardel Cervacio

The littoral combat ship USS Freedom (LCS 1) passes by the Missing Man Formation monument at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled port visit during a deployment to the Asia-Pacific region. Additional photos on page A-5.

Freedom. "It does have a capability to operate in blue water, but it's mainly focused on bridging that gap of what we have in our ship class right now."

After making initial port visits in Hawaii and Guam, Freedom is expected to participate in the International Maritime Defense Exhibition and Conference (IMDEX) in Singapore and in select

phases of the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise series in Southeast Asia.

"Getting this ship out on this deployment is just important, and it is really unique that it is occurring on the heels of a week that ends on the 15th of our anniversary for the [U.S.] 3rd Fleet and the [U.S.] 7th Fleet," said Adm. Cecil

D. Haney, commander U.S. Pacific Fleet.

"This deployment will also capstone looking at the operational concepts—minimal manning, maintenance and the business of rotational presence for this class of ship."

Haney also talked about the ship's crew and their responsibilities with the new ship.

"Freedom's maiden

deployment is another clear signal of the Navy's enduring commitment to maintain security and stability in the vital Asia-Pacific region. Rotationally deploying our new littoral combat ships improves our warfighting capability and directly supports the Navy's rebalance strategy to the Asia-Pacific," concluded Haney.

During the first-ever

LCS deployment, Freedom will demonstrate its operational capabilities and allow the Navy to evaluate crew rotation and maintenance plans. Fast, agile and mission-focused, LCS platforms are designed to employ modular mission packages that can be configured for three separate purposes: surface warfare, mine countermeasures or anti-submarine warfare.

Freedom will be initially manned by its "Gold" crew of 91 Sailors including mission package personnel and an aviation detachment to operate an embarked MH-60 helicopter.

Freedom will remain homeported in San Diego throughout this rotational deployment to Southeast Asia. Midway through Freedom's deployment, a crew-swap will be conducted with the ship's "Blue" crew, commanded by Cmdr. Patrick C. Thien.

The 378-foot Freedom was constructed at Marinette Marine Corporation, Marinette, Wisc. and was the first naval vessel to be built and commissioned on the Great Lakes since World War II.

LCS is a fast, agile, focused-mission platform designed for operation in near-shore environments yet capable of open-ocean operation. It is designed to defeat asymmetric threats such as mines, quiet diesel submarines and fast surface craft.

## Hawaii Senate recognizes Navy Region, installations

Story and photo by  
MC2 Jon Dasbach

Navy Public Affairs  
Support Element West, Det  
Hawaii

The Hawaii Senate recognized the achievements of the U.S. Navy during 2012 in preserving Hawaiian culture and lowering energy costs by utilizing renewable energy.

Senate officials presented signed certificates to Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH); and Capt. Nicholas Mongillo, commanding officer, Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands. Also honored were Victor Flint, Patty Coleman, Jeff Panteleo, Cory Campora and Chief Master-at-Arms James Wooten for commu-



State Sen. Maile Shimabukuro (far left) recognizes the Navy for its community outreach efforts in Hawaii, at the Hawaii State Capitol on March 6.

nity outreach efforts for JBPHH.

Sen. Maile Shimabukuro co-sponsored the certificates with Sen. Will Espero, chair of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs.

"Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam has partnered with other organizations to perform important projects that help preserve our culture," said Shimabukuro. "These projects mean a lot to our community, and we certainly appreciate the Navy pitch-

ing in to help."

Some of these projects included maintaining the Halealoha Haleamau Burial Platform and replacing invasive pickleweed with native Hawaiian plant species at Ahua Reef.

During the past 10 years, the Navy has also hosted the makahiki event (Hawaiian Thanksgiving), co-sponsored with the O'ahu Council of Hawaiian Civic Clubs.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam further promotes environmental stewardship by utilizing photovoltaic arrays to lower energy costs in support of

U.S. Navy and Department of Defense initiatives.

Not only does the base operate a fuel oil reclamation facility to reduce disposal costs and dependence on foreign oil, but it was also recently recognized as the best in the Navy for energy and water efficiency.

"We cherish the heritage and the history that's unique to Hawaii, and you make it possible by protecting the environment and moving forward this specific initiative regarding energy and water conservation. That's a great thing, so thank you very much for everything that

## Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to implement changes to services

Grace Hew Len

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public  
Affairs

In the face of the continuing resolution and sequestration, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) will begin implementing changes to some services and programs beginning March 18. The changes will affect some operations, facilities and quality-of-life services.

Many high-visibility services will be affected, including Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs and some port operations. Services which will not be impacted are health and safety

repairs, primary child development centers, and most family programs.

"Our focus is on executing the changes in the smartest manner possible with the least impact to customers," said Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"We will continue to keep the safety and well-being of our people foremost in mind. We regret the inconvenience and thank you for your patience," James said.

To view the list of changes, visit the JBPHH website at [www.cnic.navy.mil/pearlharbor-hickam](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/pearlharbor-hickam) or the CNRH website, [www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii). Please continue to visit the sites for updates.

## Airmen carry on



U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn

Service members from the 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the 154th Hawaii Air National Guard Aircraft Maintenance Squadron prepare to perform a four-man carry using a litter on a simulated wounded Airman at hangar 17 during an operational readiness exercise on March 9 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Additional photo on page A-5.



Medal of Honor recipient visits 15th Wing Airmen  
See page A-2



'A full and unwavering commitment to readiness'  
See page A-3



Pearl Harbor survivor honored at Utah Memorial  
See page B-1



Easter Sunrise Service to be held March 31 on Mighty Mo  
See pages A-2



Pacific Angel-Philippines team treats nearly 7,000 patients  
See page A-4



Events planned for Women's History Month at JBPHH  
See page B-9

# Medal of Honor recipient visits 15th Wing Airmen

Staff. Sgt. Terri Barriere

15th Wing Public Affairs

U.S. Medal of Honor recipient Col. (retired) Joe Jackson visited the 15th Wing from Feb. 28 through March 3 to attend the 15th Maintenance Group's (15 MXG) annual Knucklebuster [maintenance career field's maintainers and leaders] award ceremony and visit with Hickam Airmen.

Jackson, who received his Medal of Honor in 1968 for a heroic rescue of a combat control team during the Vietnam conflict, served as the guest speaker for the Knucklebuster event. He brought with him a message of inspiration and encouragement as he spoke to Hickam maintainers about the importance of their mission. Jackson is also highly regarded for his three combat tours over the span of his 33-year career.

Col. Michael Novotny, 15



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn

U.S. Air Force Medal of Honor recipient Col. (retired) Joe Jackson (blue shirt) has lunch with Hickam Airmen on March 1 at Hale Aina Dining Facility, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Jackson provided a first-hand account of how he earned the Medal of Honor. Additional photo on page A-5.

MXG commander, said they knew Jackson would be an awesome choice for guest speaker because of his maintenance background in the early years of his active duty career.

Novotny said Jackson's story is an inspiration to maintenance Airmen who may not see the importance of what they do or understand their true potential. "Stories like this show

them they aren't just bending wrenches, but that they can go on to achieve great things," he said. "When you get speakers like Col. Jackson, I think that really shows Airmen what they can

accomplish. Every one of them has it in them to be great."

One of those great things, according to Jackson, is being well educated. He emphasized the importance

of Airmen pursuing their education, urging them to "never stop getting education."

Jackson's speech also highlighted the impact just one Airman can have, a point Novotny said he continuously stresses to his Airmen.

"Each person is important to the mission," he said. "Each person has a unique role to play in order to achieve mission effectiveness, and it's important for each one of them to do their best, be productive, ensure they are being safe both on and off duty, and continue to develop themselves professionally."

In addition to his attendance at the Knucklebuster ceremony, Jackson attended a wing promotion ceremony, toured the flightline and Hawaii Air National Guard F-22 facility, and attended an Airlift Tanker Association meeting. Jackson also spent much of his free time engaging with Airmen and taking in the historical sights.

# Easter Sunrise Service to be held March 31 on Mighty Mo

Story and photo by Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

The Navy will host its annual Easter Sunrise Service beginning at 6:30 a.m. March 31 aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

Lt. Rick Tiff, Chaplain Corps, Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel, will lead the service. This is his second time leading the Easter Sunrise Service. His first time was last year, and he admits he was a bit nervous.

"I was in awe by what a sacred place the Missouri is," he said.

Tiff majored in history at the University of South Florida before entering the seminary, so he greatly appreciates the significance of the Battleship Missouri Memorial. "The Missouri is such a special place," he said. "It's impossible to



Lt. Rick Tiff, Chaplain Corps, Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel, will lead the annual Easter Sunrise Service March 31 at the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

escape the history. So many things happened on board this ship."

It isn't unusual for the Easter Sunrise Service on Battleship Missouri Memorial to attract more than 1,000 people.

"You attract people you wouldn't normally attract," said Tiff.

A great deal of hard work goes into making the event possible.

"It's such a unique environment," he said. "We have to consider that we are on the aft portion of a ship. The logistics are challenging. But it's also a wonderful environment for services. We will be facing the ocean and the opening of Pearl Harbor and will be right there when the sun rises."

Tiff joined the Navy in summer 2008. A travel buff who has visited 33 different countries, he appreciates the chance to see the world as a Navy chaplain. He also

welcomes the opportunity to work with and help a variety of people.

"As a Navy chaplain, you do a lot of counseling and have a real impact on people's lives," he said.

He also encourages Sailors and their families to take some time to experience Hawaii.

"Get out there and talk to people," he said. "See Hawaii. Each island is very different. This is the time in life to grow and expand your horizons."

The Battleship Missouri Memorial Easter Sunrise Service is a free event and is open to anyone with base access. The interdenominational service begins at 6:30 a.m. and runs about an hour. Guests are advised to arrive by 6 a.m. Dress will be crisp *aloha* attire.

For more information, call the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel at 473-3971.

Commentary

# 'A full and unwavering commitment to readiness'



## Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

Our Navy has been required to make tough choices in the face of the continuing resolution and effects of sequestration. The Secretary of the Navy announced on March 2 that sequestration had begun and its effects set in motion, causing the Navy to make those tough choices. As we evaluate our priorities and make required adjustments to services and hours of operation, we do so with a full and unwavering commitment to readiness, support to warfighters and families, and our ability to operate forward.

On March 3, Adm. William French, commander, Navy Installations Command, told us in his all-hands email that we can expect impacts to hours of operation, temperatures in buildings, military construction and a variety of services. "But I can assure you," he said, "we will maintain the standards set forth by DoD to ensure our bases remain safe and secure."

Today, our team must confront the effects of those fiscal challenges as we support fleet, fighter and family. There is uncertainty in the weeks and months ahead. If sequestration is not resolved, our invaluable civilian workforce may be facing furloughs. We are forced to make tough decisions on how limited

resources are allocated.

As we begin implementing changes to some services at our installations, I have asked for a "one-stop-shop" approach, where information is available at a single location so it can be easily accessed and easily updated. That will ensure, as much as possible, that information is accurate at all times.

Capt. Mongillo, commanding officer of Pacific Missile Range Facility, will announce his changes in services directly with his workforce on Kauai. Here on

Oahu, Capt James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, has set up a list of changes in services today at the joint base. His list of changes is available through the JBPHH website, [www.cnic.navy.mil/pearlharbor-hickam](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/pearlharbor-hickam), or through the CNRH website, [www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii).

In recent months, I encouraged you to learn more about the aspects of the fiscal issues facing our Navy and our nation. In the base newspaper and online,

we have provided a steady drumbeat of information from the Secretary of Defense; Chief of Naval Operations; Commander, U.S. Pacific Command; Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet; and Commander, Navy Installations Com-mand.

On Feb. 2, I outlined the issues in my commentary "Opportunities Amidst Fiscal Challenges," providing background, context and perspective for our region/MIDPAC team: <http://bit.ly/Vj2esJ>

I urge you to continue to

stay informed as changes unfold.

Locally, the changes to services and hours of operation mean we will have to adjust our routines and schedules. There will likely be longer lines and less convenience for all of us. Your patience and understanding as we take these initiatives is greatly appreciated. Your support to our mission and readiness is second-to-none. Remember that safety must underpin all that we do, today and every day.

Thank you.

## Ho'okele takes first place in newspaper competition

### Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Ho'okele, the newspaper for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and Navy Region Hawaii, has been named the first place winner in the metro newspaper category for the Russell B. Egnor Media Awards, according to an announcement made March 8 by Rear Adm. John Kirby, Navy Chief of Information.

"The level of quality and professionalism from all the entries was truly impressive and made each decision by our judges a very difficult one. I am extraordinarily proud of the work you produced," Kirby said to the awardees in the competition.

Ho'okele, which began as the joint base newspaper on June 1, 2010 with the merger of the former Naval Station Pearl Harbor and Hickam Air Force Base into JBPHH, serves the Navy and Air Force communities in Hawaii.

"It's been the lead tool in demonstrating the success of joint basing in Hawaii, reminding us all that we are an Air Force/Navy team," said Becky Hommon, environmental counsel for Navy Region Hawaii.

Navy Region Hawaii Command Master Chief Marcos Sibal talked

about the role that Ho'okele plays in the lives of Sailors and their families.

"Our Sailors benefit from Ho'okele because it keeps them current and up-to-date with the latest Navy news affecting them and their families," Sibal said.

"The paper also gives them an insight on what's happening in and around the region and activities or events they may want to experience or be a part of. It is good for Sailors and their families to know current information."

Jim Taylor, retired Navy master chief who now volunteers as the Pearl Harbor survivor liaison at Navy Region Hawaii, said that Ho'okele also gives service members a way to share news about their accomplishments and their community outreach efforts.

"Ho'okele provides articles giving Sailors and Airmen an opportunity to see themselves as our nation's finest and the ability for their shipmates to see what they do for our community and our country," Taylor said.

"Through the local news and sports, our Sailors and Airmen can show what they and their commands do for their Navy and in their community," he said.

"I'm always learning from the

Ho'okele what our various commands and leaders are doing as well as thinking. We can't know what every organization is doing but the Ho'okele gives us a look into their contribution to the bigger effort, whether it be RIMPAC or Pacific Partnership," Hommon said.

Navy Region Hawaii also won an honorable mention for its social media initiative, headed by Anna-Marie General.

In the past year, General established new social media platforms and saw a doubling in social media followers for Navy Region Hawaii and JBPHH.

Karen Spangler, managing editor of Ho'okele, took honorable mention in the commentary category.

Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Dustin Sisco of Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Det. Hawaii won first place in the graphics/multimedia category.

Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sean Furey from the Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Det. Hawaii received an honorable mention for his entry in the sports photo category.

As the top Navy metro format newspaper, Ho'okele will now compete with the first place winners from the other military services for the Thomas Jefferson Award.

## Diverse Views



### "Not counting the 'Star Spangled Banner,' what is your favorite patriotic song and why?"

Culinary Specialist 2nd (SW) Class Nathan Jackson  
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam



"I would say 'My country, 'Tis of Thee' because in elementary school I learned that song before the 'Star Spangled Banner.' I just remember it just giving me a sense of pride. I remember getting tingles on the skin at that age and we had to sing it every morning."



Staff Sgt. Courtney Clifford  
PACAF Band

"My favorite patriotic song, not counting the National Anthem, is 'America the Beautiful' performed by Ray Charles. His rendition embodies patriotism, because he performed with so much soul and gratitude for our country."

Personnel Specialist 1st Class (SW) Darwin Esmino  
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam



"'God Bless the USA,' because it's for the military. It says thank you, and if you listen to the lyrics, it's for America. It's a good song."



Senior Master Sgt. Kimberly Adams  
HQ PACAF

"'My Country, 'Tis of Thee.' I remember singing it as a kid in elementary. It was patriotic."

Yeoman 1st Class Amanda McNeely  
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam



"'God Bless the USA' by Lee Greenwood. Every time I hear the song, it just makes me feel proud and makes me teary eye., I'm not really sure why. But it's one of my favorite patriotic songs."



Cassandra Reid-Selth  
Hickam Elementary School teacher

"'America the Beautiful.' The song speaks of our country's national beauty and about the brotherhood that is found in America."

Master Sgt. Nicholas Kampf  
15th Maintenance Squadron



"'Courtesy of the Red, White, and Blue,' by Toby Keith. It reminds me of why I serve, because someone needs to protect the American way of life."



Senior Airman Daniel Swenson  
561st Network Operations Squadron, Det. 1

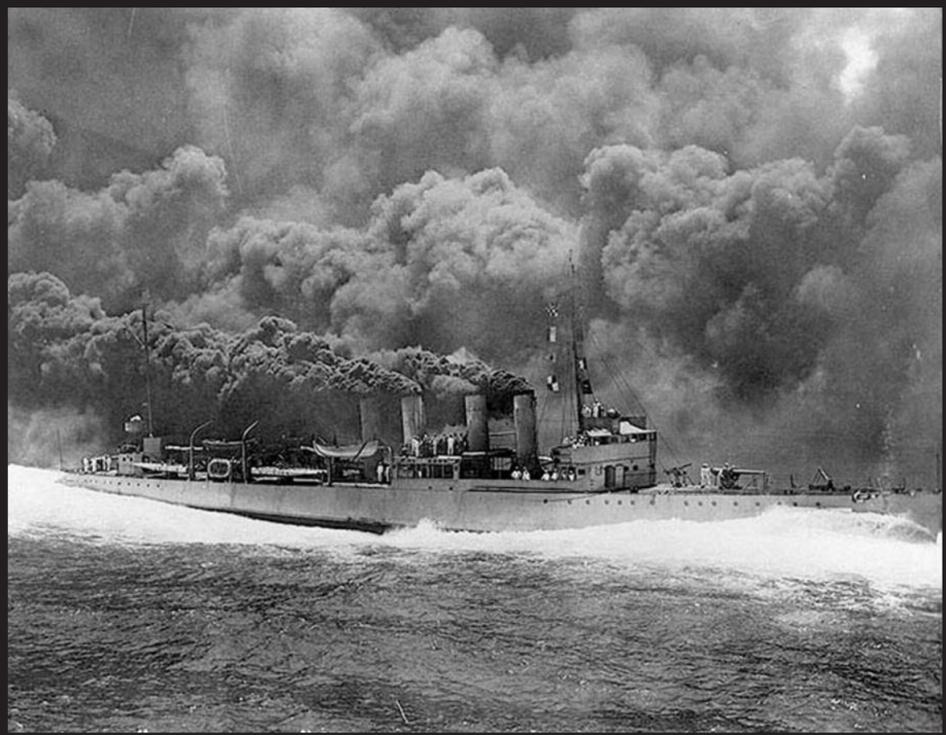
"'Letter From Home' by John Michael Montgomery. It reminded me that when I'm not home, during hard times, I still have family supporting me back home."

(Provided by David Underwood Jr. and MC2 Nardel Gervacio)

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)

## Woolsey practices battle maneuver



U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph

USS Woolsey (Destroyer # 77) participates in laying a smoke screen during Pacific Fleet battle practice in Hawaiian waters in mid-1919.

## HO'OKELE

Commander,  
Navy Region Hawaii  
Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

Chief of Staff  
Capt. Mark Manfredi

Director,  
Public Affairs  
Agnes Tauyan

Deputy Director,  
Public Affairs  
Bill Doughty

Commander,  
Joint Base  
Pearl Harbor-Hickam  
Capt. Jeffrey James

Deputy Commander  
Col. Dann S. Carlson

Director, Public Affairs  
Grace Hew Len

Managing Editor  
Karen Spangler

Assistant Editor  
Don Robbins

Sports Editor  
Randy Dela Cruz

Staff Writer  
Brandon Bosworth

Layout/Design  
Antonio Verceluz  
Richard Onaha Hutter

Ho'okele is a free unofficial paper published every Thursday by The Honolulu Star Advertiser 500 Ala Moana Boulevard Suite 7-500 Honolulu Hawaii 96813, a private firm in no way connected with DoD, the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with Commander, Navy Region Hawaii. All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: [editor@hookelenews.com](mailto:editor@hookelenews.com) World Wide Web address: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Hawaii/> or [www.hookelenews.com](http://www.hookelenews.com).

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication primarily for members of the Navy and Marine Corps military services and their families in Hawaii. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps and do not imply endorsement thereof.

The civilian publisher, The Honolulu Star Advertiser, is responsible for commercial advertising, which may be purchased by calling (808) 521-9111. The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products and services advertised by the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii or The Honolulu Star Advertiser. Everything advertised in this paper shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source. Ho'okele is delivered weekly to Navy & Air Force housing units and Navy installations throughout Oahu. Housing residents may contact the publisher directly at (808) 690-8864 if they wish to discontinue home delivery.

# Pacific Angel-Philippines team treats nearly 7,000 patients

Story and photo by Senior Master Sgt. J.C. Woodring

Operation Pacific Angel-Philippines Public Affairs

DUMAGUETE, Philippines – The Operation Pacific Angel-Philippines medical mission officially ended here March 9 with 6,885 patients treated at two medical sites nearby, far exceeding the projected 4,500 mark.

Hundreds of patients waited outside a sports and cultural center in Dumaguete seeking treatment on the final day of the mission. Providers in optometry, dental, primary care and physical therapy sections worked throughout the day to see as many as possible.

Throughout the mission, the medical team handed out 2,741 pairs of glasses, filled 13,694 prescriptions and pulled 1,528 teeth.

“We took quick lunch breaks while ensuring that the care con-



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Master Sgt. J.C. Woodring

U.S. Air Force Maj. Aaron Fields and a volunteer nurse treat a patient in the primary clinic during an Operation Pacific Angel-Philippines mission at Tanjay, Philippines, on March 6. The medical teams treated hundreds of patients each day. Fields is a physician from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

tinued,” said Maj. Chad Simpson, an optometrist from Misawa Air Base, Japan.

Most of the optometry patients were treated with simple reading glasses.

“It’s only when they reach their 40s and begin having problems reading their Bibles that they notice they don’t see as well as they used to,” Simpson said. “Reading glasses drastically improve their world.”

Patients seeking dental care are generally looking to get teeth pulled.

“In the states, we try everything possible to save the tooth,” said Capt. Cherie Gabriel, a dentist from Yokota Air Base, Japan. “Here, it is much more expensive to get a filling or root canal than it is to get a prosthetic. They just want to get their teeth pulled.”

The primary care doctors saw hundreds of patients every day.

“I’ve wanted to go on a mission like this for a long time, and I’m grateful for the opportunity,”

said Maj. Steven Indra, a physician from the Wisconsin Air National Guard.

“They are so appreciative for fairly minor treatment—things like vitamins and aspirin.”

Besides treating the patients on the scene, the doctors also gave them referrals for follow-up care with local doctors.

“There is only so much we can do on the site,” Indra said. “Some people need lab work or other testing that we didn’t have the capability to do.”

Operation Pacific Angel is a U.S. Pacific Command (headquartered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii) humanitarian mission that sends primary care, dental, optometry and civil engineer experts to different countries each year to partner with their militaries and other non-governmental organizations. This marks the sixth year of the operation, and Pacific Angel-Philippines is the first trip of the year.

## International naval officers learn about PHNSY

David Tomiyama

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Code 1160 Public Affairs

For Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility civilians, Navy working uniforms are a common sight around the shipyard. But for the next 45 days, there will be more variety in naval uniforms among the workforce.

Eleven international naval officers are attending the International Shipyard Management Course (ISMC) held at the shipyard. The six-week long class began March 4 and runs through April 12. Since its inception 15 years ago, 133 international naval officers have graduated from the Naval Education & Training Security Assistance Field Activity course



ran by the shipyard. Officers from Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Bangladesh and Oman, as well as first time participants Iraq and Brunei, are learning generic sequences about shipyard project management, capabilities, docking vessels, security, quality assurance, safety and how to establish analysis programs.

The last week of the course involves selected subjects requested by the international naval students and generic ship maintenance processes.

“It’s an honor to support national and fleet efforts to strengthen alliances and partnerships with our international allies,” said Robert Sonoda, code 1222 other productive work

supervisor reproduction controller, whose code sponsors the class.

“The shipyard is uniquely suited and highly regarded in teaching this specialized course,” he said.

The international naval forces involved in the program have fleets and facilities that vary in size and capability. For example, some countries have a “synchro” lift dry docking system which is very different than the Navy’s dry docking system.

Syncho dry docks use a docking platform that is underwater. Once a ship is in place over the submerged platform, it is raised, bringing the ship out of the water for maintenance to begin, said Sonoda.

Sonoda explained that the students benefit from the opportunity to see first-hand how a U.S. Navy shipyard operates from hands-on-training to classroom lectures from subject matter experts across the shipyard.

“The students walk away with valuable management skills and the knowledge to compare and improve upon their own processes and in some cases, begin a shipyard program from scratch,” said Sonoda.

“Some of the best takeaways will be from the interaction they’ll have with their fellow classmates. While they learn how we (the shipyard) do business, having other shipyard models to compare and contrast is something all of us, including Pearl Harbor, get smarter on.”

“In my home country of Brunei, we’re in the middle of building our first shipyard,” said Brunei Maj. Surainwati Haji Abdul Samat. “What I learn here in terms of how the U.S. manages shipyards, the maintenance training of the workforce, and the implementation of safety and security will be invaluable in implementing those processes in our future shipyard.”

## Community meeting set for March 18

Military housing residents have one more opportunity to meet with Navy leadership and Forest City representatives at an upcoming community meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. March 18 at NCTAMS in the conference center (the old chapel).

Previous community meetings were held March 11 at Moanalua Community Center and March 13 at Ford Island Community Center.

Residents are encouraged to take this opportunity to ask questions and address concerns. For more information, contact your Forest City community manager’s office.

# Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, reads to students at the Hickam Elementary School library on March 11 during the 2013 Read Across America event.

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

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and his wife, Carol, chat with students at Hickam Elementary School before reading "Oh, the Places you'll Go" by Dr. Seuss during the Read Across America program. The National Education Association's Read Across America is the nation's largest reading event, occurring each year on or near Dr. Seuss's birthday.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Nardel Cervacio



(Below) Staff Sgt. Corey Knight, 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aerospace propulsion, performs maintenance on a C-17 Globemaster III during an operational readiness exercise March 9 on the flightline at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn  
(Above) Senior leaders representing the 154th Hawaii Air National Guard and the 199th Fighter Squadron ask U.S. Air Force Medal of Honor recipient Col. (retired) Joe Jackson about his experiences as a life-long patriot, next to an F-22 Raptor near the flightline at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on March 1.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan  
(Above) Service members and distinguished visitors tour the combat information center (CIC) aboard the littoral combat ship USS Freedom (LCS 1) upon the ship's arrival to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. USS Freedom arrived at Pearl Harbor for a scheduled port visit during a deployment to the Asia Pacific region.

(Right) The Navy's first littoral combat ship USS Freedom (LCS 1) arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled port visit during a deployment to the Asia Pacific region.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker





Andrew Crow visits USS Hopper as part of his "Make-a-Wish."

## Hopper Sailors host Make-a-Wish teen

Story and photo by  
Ensign Matthew  
Conners

USS Hopper (DDG 70)  
Public Affairs

Wearing a command ball cap, an aloha shirt and a smile, Andrew Crow recently visited USS Hopper (DDG 70).

The 15-year-old from

Houston, Texas was diagnosed with leukemia in May 2011 and visited Hawaii courtesy of the Make-a-Wish Foundation. While exploring Waikiki, he met two members of the Hopper wardroom who invited him to tour the guided missile destroyer.

Following a tour of the ship that included an overview of the weapon sys-

tems, bridge, flight deck, armory and the combat information center, Andrew met Cmdr. A.I. Lopez, Hopper commanding officer, and dined in the wardroom.

Despite his illness, Andrew climbed all over the ship with ease and demonstrated a genuine eagerness to learn, rapidly learning the intricacies of shipboard life.

## Kekaha Rifle Range live fire training to be held March 14-29

The Pacific Missile Range Facility's (PMRF) Security Department will conduct live small arms fire training March 14 to 29, between the hours of 1 and 9 p.m., at the Kekaha Rifle Range.

All fishermen, surfers and beach users are cautioned to stay away from this area due to hazardous nature of live fire training. Red warning flags will be flown at the range during the live fire training. As a

reminder, PMRF is a customer of the Kekaha Rifle Range which is a state-owned facility.

Questions concerning the upcoming exercise should be directed to PMRF's dispatch office at 335-4523.

## Warning posted on TSP website

There is a warning posted on the TSP website [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov) concerning third-party mobile applications such as a new iPhone application, "TSP Funds."

The statement on the TSP website reads as follows:

Warning: third-party mobile applications — There are a number of mobile applications that reference the Thrift Savings Plan and may prompt you for your TSP account credentials. These

applications are not sponsored by the TSP. The TSP cannot endorse any information or advice provided by third-party applications. More important, providing your TSP account credentials to third-party applications may jeopardize the security of your account.

For more information on keeping your account safe, see the Security Center on the TSP website or contact the ThriftLine at 1-TSP-YOU-FRST (1-877-968-3778).

 **HO'okele Online**

<http://www.hookelenews.com> or <https://www.cnmc.navy.mil/hawaii>

# Shipyard preps for another record breaking NMCRS fund drive

David Tomiyama

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Code 1160 Public Affairs

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility kicked off the 2013 Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) fund drive by committing to topping their 2012 contribution, a record for the shipyard and the highest amount raised at Navy Region Hawaii.

"Each year our goal is 100 percent contact with all ship-

yard Sailors," said Shipyard Command Master Chief Petty Officer (SS) Jeff VanBlaracum. "However, we're also aiming to top our 2012 contribution which would set another shipyard record."

According to their website, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is a non-profit, volunteer organization founded in 1904 to provide financial assistance to active duty and retired Navy and Marine Corps personnel and their families. NMCRS provides assistance with basic living expenses, emergency trans-

portation, funerals, medical bills, essential car repairs, pay problems and other emergency needs. Assistance is provided in the form of interest-free loans and/or grants, depending on financial need and type of assistance rendered.

"The NMCRS fund drive is the only contribution where the money raised goes directly back to Sailors and Marines," said Paul Belanger, NMCRS Pearl Harbor Hawaii director. "Essentially, Sailors and Marines are helping themselves."

In 2012, the shipyard raised \$30,040, the highest

amount donated among active duty commands in Navy Region Hawaii and an all-time high for the command. The amount nearly tripled their 2011 contribution of just over \$11,000.

For their 2012 efforts, the shipyard received the team spirit award and was recognized as the "highest contributor" for a large command in Navy Region Hawaii. NMCRS helped 58 shipyard

Sailors in 2012.

For Chief Information Systems Technician Eric Walter, code 210 fleet technical support standard operating procedures technical assistant and 2013 NMCRS shipyard co-chairperson, NMCRS is invaluable for Sailors and Marines who need financial help due to unforeseen circumstances.

"The importance of NMCRS in helping fellow

shipmates can't be stressed enough. The number of Sailors and Marines who they've helped speak for themselves," Walter said.

"I've seen Sailors that had an emergency, needed to get home but couldn't afford it. They reached out to NMCRS who provided financial support. Seeing the smile on their face after purchasing their plane ticket was priceless," Walter said.

## Bring 'em on: Shipyard welcomes 100 apprentices

David Tomiyama

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Code 1160 Public Affairs

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility recently welcomed aboard 100 apprentices to the command during new employee orientation. Over the next four years, the newcomers will work toward a tuition-free associate's degree in applied trades with classroom and hands-on training in the shipyard, all while earning a fulltime paycheck.

The apprentice program is a partnership between the shipyard, Department of Labor and Honolulu Community College (HCC). During their time in the work/study program, apprentices receive a minimum of 7,200 hours of training in three areas: on the job, trade theory and academic study.

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates earn an associate's degree in one of 18 different trades. They also receive certificates signed by the Secretary of Labor and the Department of the Navy certifying them as "journey worker" with qualifications to work at any Navy ship-

yard.

"The apprentice program includes classroom instruction in academics and trade theory as well as on-the-job learning in the various trades," said Bev Higa, code 900 training apprentice program administrator. "This year 70 out of 100 apprentices will be assigned to shop 38 and trained as future marine machinery mechanics."

With uncertainties over the federal budget requiring cost-cutting measures, the selectees were temporarily caught in a Department of Defense hiring freeze which was eventually lifted for the apprentice program.

"This apprentice class is a special one," said Capt. Brian Osgood, shipyard commander.

"In the face of sequestration and budget issues, the shipyard fought hard to ensure this class came aboard as planned. They joined a great organization and are now a part of the shipyard *ohana*.

Apprentice Stacy Miller said she appreciates the opportunity.

"I was very excited to hear the news that we would be joining the shipyard after all. I really appreciate all the work that leadership did to fight for

us," she said.

"I look forward to learning something new. My father was a Marine, so this is my way of giving back to the military without putting on the uniform," Miller added.

The shipyard graduated its first apprentice class in 1924. Since then more than 5,000 apprentices have completed the program. Every year, an average of 3,000 applicants compete for 100 or more positions.

Applicants are subjected to stringent testing and interviews, medical examination and security clearance before stepping foot in the shipyard. This year's candidates were given the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) Wage Grade Performance Potential Assessment (WGPPA) exam. This exam was developed to ensure entry-level job candidates can successfully learn and execute wage-grade job functions.

"We changed the assessment test from previous years," said Higa. "In the past, we relied on HCC's college placement test. Now we use the OPM's WGPPA, and the apprentices are now hired as career conditional employees for the first time. In the past they were on excepted appointments."