

Hirono, Gabbard visit joint base



Sen. Mazie Hirono visited Center Drive Child Development Center and JBPHH Fitness Center as part of her visit to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 2. Hirono was accompanied by Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and Theresa Phillips, Fleet and Family Readiness Director. Her visit also included the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and sites on Hickam. **Photo by Mervin Oyafuso** (Right) Cmdr. Andrew Hertel, USS Texas commanding officer, points out various aspects of the Texas project to U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz on March 29. Gabbard and Schatz also received a command brief and visited the pumpwell located between dry docks one and two, shop 31 inside machine shop, photonics lab, emergency control center and fleet maintenance submarine during their visit to Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. **Photo by David Tomiyama**

Traffic and pedestrian safety remains priority at JBPHH

Story and photo by **Brandon Bosworth**

Staff Writer

A recent incident stresses the continued importance of traffic and pedestrian safety at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

On the morning of April 2, a Sailor was struck by a vehicle while in the crosswalk in front of the Fleet Store on Pearl Harbor Boulevard. The victim sustained a broken right arm, broken right leg and lacerations to the right elbow. The driver of the vehicle was taken to security and cited for causing an accident involving bodily injury, inattention to driving, having no driver's license, and subsequently released to his command.

As a result of this accident, a 25 mph speed limit was immediately implemented on Pearl Harbor Boulevard. The base-wide speed limit is 25 mph unless otherwise posted. The speed limit for housing areas remains at 15 mph.

The Navy Region Safety Department offered the following to help remind pedestrians and drivers of their responsibilities.

Tips for drivers

- Drivers need to pay full attention when driving. The use of cell phones or other hand-held electronic devices



In the wake of a recent accident, drivers and pedestrians are reminded to pay attention and heed JBPHH traffic regulations.

while driving is prohibited on base.

- Portable headphones, earphones or other entertainment listening devices should not be worn while operating a vehicle on base.

- Distractions such as eating, adjusting the radio, shaving, applying make-up, or reading while driving can lead to accidents and are discouraged.

Tips for pedestrians

Pedestrians also have responsibilities.

- At crosswalks with no signals, a pedestrian should not suddenly leave a place of safety, such as a curb, and proceed into the path of a vehicle that is so close as to constitute an immediate hazard.

An immediate hazard occurs if pedestrians are not able to make it safely to the other side of the road without the oncoming vehicles slowing down or stopping for them.

- Inattentiveness while in a crosswalk, such as texting, talking on cell phones or just not paying attention to oncoming vehicles, can jeopardize a pedestrian's safety.

- Be sure to make eye contact with the vehicle driver and make sure that vehicles approaching the crosswalk have stopped or clearly show signs of stopping before entering the crosswalk.

- Never assume that a driver sees you and will stop for you.

"Drivers must be aware and pay attention, especially in high traffic areas at dawn and dusk," said Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. "Most accidents happen at these two times."

"Pedestrians should also use extreme caution and cross the street only at crosswalks," he added.

Both drivers and pedestrians are also reminded that failure to abide by JBPHH traffic rules can result in serious consequences, such as appearing before traffic court or revocation of base driving privileges.

(See related story on page B-7.)

Pass and ID office to relocate



As of April 15, the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam pass and ID office will be relocating to the Ward Field/Bloch Arena parking lot for temporary operations while building 3455/pass and ID office undergoes renovations.

The temporary pass and ID office will continue to issue vehicle decals, short term/long term passes, gold/agent cards as well as RAPIDGate credentials.

All personnel requesting restricted area badges (RABs) should report to Hickam/building 1113/Vickers Ave. for RABs issuance during the hours of 9 a.m. to noon Monday to Friday.

All customers are asked to be patient with the employees, as the temporary offices are much smaller and accommodate fewer customers. All customers are asked to plan accordingly as wait times may increase compared with previous pass and ID visits. A follow-up announcement will be made upon completion of the project. For more information, call 471-2131.



Wing run highlights SAAM

Shari Freeman, sexual assault response coordinator at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and her two-year-old son Davis encourage runners during the monthly wing fun run held April 5 at joint base. The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program reinforces the Department of Defense's commitment to eliminate incidents of sexual assault through awareness and prevention training, education, victim advocacy, response, reporting and accountability. The Department of Defense promotes sensitive care and confidential reporting for victims of sexual assault and accountability for those who commit these crimes.

Col. Johnny Roscoe, 15th Wing commander, gives opening remarks at the monthly wing fun run held April 5 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Terri Paden



Looking for a bargain? NMCRS Thrift Shop re-opens **See page A-2**



Operation Homecoming honors Vietnam POWs on 40th anniversary **See page A-4**



All-Navy boxers train for success **See page B-1**



U.S., foreign officers exchange ideas during Pacific Unity **See pages A-4**



Housing offers window safety guidelines, stress year-round awareness **See page A-6**



Hours updated for pools **See page B-9**

USS Charlotte departs for western Pacific deployment

Story and photos by
MC2 Steven Khor

Commander Submarine
Force U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs

Families and friends said their good-byes April 2 at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam as the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Charlotte (SSN 766) departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

While deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations, the submarine will conduct peacetime missions while providing forward presence to the operational commander.

Cmdr. Andrew Miller, Charlotte's commanding officer, said that the submarine and her crew are ready for the deployment.

"We have materially prepared the ship, certified our crew and prepared our families for deployed operations in the 7th Fleet," said Miller.

Miller said of the 130 enlisted and 16 officers



(Above) The Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Charlotte (SSN 766) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 2 for a regularly scheduled six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

aboard, more than one-third of the crew will be going on their first deployment.

The submarine's priority will be to safely and effectively execute the tasking provided by the operational commander. While on deployment, the crew intends to conduct training and qualify new Sailors in attaining their submarine warfare qualification des-

ignation or "dolphins."

Miller said his crew is very excited to deploy and conduct operations for which they have been preparing. After months of rigorous training and maintenance periods, they are ready to apply their knowledge and exercise their skills to effectively operate the submarine while deployed.

"I am very proud of the

crew and the improved performance of the ship over the last several months," said Miller. "Their hard work, along with the sacrifice of Charlotte's families, has resulted in a highly capable team that is ready to conduct forward-deployed operations in support of national security and the-
ater security cooperation objectives."

Culinary Specialist Seaman Junnel Sapida said he is excited about his first deployment.

"I feel good about my first-time deployment. I'm looking forward to going on our mission, hitting some good ports and feeling the whole experience," said Sapida.

Commissioned in September 1994, Charlotte is the fourth ship of the U.S.

(Below) Senior Chief Electricians Mate Derek Gruell of the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Charlotte (SSN 766) holds his daughter Haelynn during a lunch for the crew, families and friends before Charlotte departs April 2 from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



Culinary challenge pits chef against chef

Story and photo by
Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31 held its second "Top Chef" culinary competition April 8.

Competitors from five ships—USS Chafee, USS Hopper, USS O'Kane, USS Michael Murphy and USS Halsey—entered their culinary creations. Chafee, Hopper and O'Kane also participated in the inaugural DESRON "Top Chef" competition in December 2012. Michael Murphy and Halsey were first-time contestants at the April contest.

The rules of the competition were simple. Chefs were given three ingredients they had to use in their dishes. The ingredients this time around were curry powder, peanut butter and pecans. The ship's chefs didn't know what the ingredients would be until they were delivered to their galleys shortly before the start of the event. Ingredients were chosen at random.

From three ingredients, the chefs created a wide range of different dishes. The array of meals included spinach pecan salad, chicken and shrimp curry, peanut butter chicken mole, risotto stuffed peppers, grilled chicken breast with curry and balsamic vinegar fragrant peanut butter pecan noodles, curried spinach, pecan rice pilaf, and fragrant curry rice. Deserts ranged from peanut butter bread puddings with pecans to peanut butter chocolate chip cookies.



Chef Cameron Lewark hands out special spice blends and chats with Culinary Specialist Seaman Tony Wilson, USS O'Kane. O'Kane was the winner of the first DESRON 31 "Top Chef" competition.

The three-judge panel consisted of Capt. Wallace Lovely, commodore, DESRON 31; Senior Chief Culinary Specialist Brandon Parry, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet; and Chef Cameron Lewark, manager, Spago Four Seasons Resort Maui.

The judges tried each of the many dishes and chatted with the contestants.

After much discussion and deliberation, the judges made their decision. The winner was the team from USS Halsey (DDG 97), led by Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Larry Lovell. His meal included Thai curry roasted drumettes, pecan roasted vegetables and a peanut butter pudding.

"I was very excited to win," said Lovell.

He was initially unsure what to do with the ingredi-

ents. "My first thought was, what in the world am I going to make?" he said. "But everything came out real good, with good taste and good texture."

Lovell also participated in the first DESRON "Top Chef" competition.

The winning team received a trophy, a cookbook, and an assortment of spices and other special cooking ingredients.

Lovely came up with the idea for the "Top Chef" competition last year. He noticed that enthusiasm for the event keeps growing.

"Whenever I visit the ships, people ask me when we will be having the next one," he said.

Lewark flew in from Maui just to be a judge at the "Top Chef" competition.

"I'm up to do anything involving the U.S. armed services," he said.

While he has served as a judge at other culinary contests, this is the first one in which he has participated in that was specifically for military chefs. He was pleased with their performance.

"I was very impressed," Lewark said. "They showed a lot of skill, more than I could have imagined. The food was very well executed."

Senior Chief Culinary Specialist Brandon Parry was also highly impressed.

"I recently took a team to participate in the Military Culinary Arts Competition at Fort Lee," he said. "Any of the chefs here today could compete there."

Lovely is already looking forward to future DESRON 31 "Top Chef" competitions.

"They keep getting better," he said. "Round Two was better than round one, and round three will be even better."



Volunteers Louisiana Rodrigues, her daughter Chrissie, and Lorna Keanui sort through donations at the NMCRS Pearl Harbor Thrift Shop.

Looking for a bargain? NMCRS Thrift Shop re-opens

Story and photo by
Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

After closing last December for renovations, the Navy Marine Corps Relief (NMCRS) Pearl Harbor Thrift Shop re-opens today.

The thrift shop is located in building 1492 on the lower level of a barracks building near Utah Hall. The building itself is still undergoing work, but the thrift store is now open for business.

Paul Belanger, director of NMCRS Pearl Harbor, called the location "ideal."

"Being right next to the barracks and near the ships makes it perfect for Sailors who want to come by," he said.

The renovated shop now features separate rooms for men's and women's uniforms, household goods, toys, children's clothing, men's and women's clothing, books, CDs, DVDs and many other

items. Nearly every item in the store is priced at \$1 or less.

All of the thrift store merchandise is donated.

"We receive an unbelievable amount of donations," said Belanger. "Our donation bin has to be emptied at least once or twice a day."

The NMCRS Pearl Harbor thrift shop served more than 8,200 customers and raised more than \$90,000 from sales in 2012. These funds are used to assist Sailors, Marines, family members and retirees in time of need.

Volunteers operate the NMCRS Pearl Harbor Thrift Shop, and additional volunteers are always needed. Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact Lorna Keanui at 473-028.

The NMCRS Thrift Shop is open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays. It is located at building 1492, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Anyone with base access is welcome to shop there.

Commentary

Breaking cycle of child abuse – for a lifetime



Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

This week I had the pleasure of initiating Child Abuse Prevention Month for the Navy in Hawaii – “Breaking the Cycle Through Ohana Connections.”

With children of our military and civilian families, and with help from some caring and concerned educators, leaders and shipmates, we signed a banner and planted a circle of pinwheels. But this was not just a symbolic gesture; it is our commitment of solidarity to remove child abuse and neglect from our society, our communities and our Navy.

Child abuse/neglect is not an issue for one month – it is

an issue for a lifetime. The solution is our responsibility, and the solution can be achieved through education, action and accountability.

Studies show that child abuse is a learned behavior. As such, it can be unlearned by teaching good parenting practices and life skills. Education is the most important key to breaking the cycle of neglect and abuse.

Another key is support to parents. We must ensure we’re providing that support. This is especially important for our young military families, who deal with deployments, PCS moves and separation from extended family support networks.

I need your help, and we need to help each other: Know the warning signs inside and out. Know where to turn. Don’t be afraid to self refer; that takes courage

but it’s the first step among many.

The good news – and my most important message to you – is this: There are resources available on line, by phone, or within reach who can and will help.

Families should not be afraid to ask for advice from the Military and Family Support Center, command ombudsmen, teachers, chaplains, shipmates, families and friends. You may be surprised at the resources and caring connections in the community who are available to help our *ohana*.

CNIC recommends the website www.childwelfare.gov, which is packed with resources, information and help. Let’s move out and take action to break the cycle. It’s not about a month. It’s about a lifetime.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Dustin W. Sisco

Rear Adm. Fernandez Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, signs a child abuse awareness banner at a pinwheel planting ceremony April 10 at the Center Drive Child Development Center on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Commentary

SECDEF aims to combat sexual assault

Office of Secretary of Defense

Last month, I asked the Department of Defense’s Office of General Counsel to review Article 60 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) after a commander dismissed an Air Force officer’s court-martial conviction for sexual assault, using the authority provided by Article 60.

That review, conducted in conjunction with military justice experts in the military services, the judge advocates general of the military departments, the service secretaries and service chiefs, is now complete. Today I am directing the Office of General Counsel to prepare legislation for Congress to amend Article 60 in two ways:

First, eliminating the discretion for a convening authority to change the findings of a court-martial, except for certain minor offenses that would not ordinarily warrant trial by court-martial. While convening authorities would no longer have the ability to dismiss charges for serious offenses like sexual assault, defendants would continue to have access to a robust system of appeal rights.

Second, requiring the convening authority to explain in writing any

changes made to court-martial sentences, as well as any changes to findings involving minor offenses. The intent is to ensure that convening authorities are required to justify—in an open, transparent and recorded manner—any decision to modify a court martial sentence.

These changes, if enacted by Congress, would help ensure that our military justice system works fairly, ensures due process and is accountable. These changes would increase the confidence of service members and the public that the military justice system will do justice in every case. The changes have the full support of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the service secretaries. I look forward to working with Congress on these proposals and others to improve accountability for these crimes.

Despite the attention and efforts of senior leaders throughout the Department of Defense, it is clear the department still has much more work to do to fully address the problem of sexual assault in the ranks. This crime is damaging this institution. There are thousands of victims in the department, male and female, whose lives and careers have been upended, and that is unacceptable. The current

situation should offend every single service member and civilian who, like me, is proud of their association with the United States military.

I am currently reviewing other options and actions to strengthen the department’s prevention and response efforts and will announce those decisions and actions soon. Consistent with the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, I will soon be naming individuals to sit on independent panels to review and assess the systems used to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate crimes involving sexual assault and judicial proceedings of sexual assault cases. I will closely review their recommendations when complete.

I am committed to implementing measures that bring about tangible change and real results. Addressing the problem of sexual assault will remain a top priority for the department’s leaders for as long as this crime continues to hurt our people and weaken the force.

Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Initiatives can be found at <http://www.defense.gov/news/DoDSexualAssaultPreventionandResponseInitiatives.pdf>.

Diverse Views



“What is your fondest childhood memory and why?”

Capt. John-Michael “Shaggy” Fowler
15th Medical Group



“When I was 6 years old, my mother brought me and my favorite dog Natasha to Bodega Bay to play on the beach. After that we both had an ice cream cone, most of which wound up on the back seat of our car.”



Susan Martinez
8th Intelligence Squadron

“My fondest childhood memory is riding on our homemade Fourth of July float. Our entire neighborhood would get together every year, dress up (I was the Statue of Liberty), and pull the floats (with riding lawn mowers) all around the neighborhood. All the kids had a blast and the parents could provide a history lesson.”

Maureen McFerrin
HQ PACAF



“Hanging with my family in the yard in Kalihi, playing in the stream, picking fruit and running around. It was just so awesome to be together and having fun!”



Radioman 3rd Class Randy Keeton
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

“My fondest memory is probably fishing with my grandpa. I don’t get to see him that often, so it’s nice to think back to when we could spend time together.”

Senior Airman Ronald Overton
352nd Network Warfare Squadron



“At Nellis AFB, Las Vegas, Nev, neighborhood children and I were outside playing near fire ants. We thought we could kill them all. The group of us attempted to stomp out all of them. I started feeling tingling and stinging. “The mountain of ants were climbing as I was stomping and biting me. I ran into the house crying. My dad had to slap them off of me with a fly swatter. After a saving whoopin’, I learned not to step on the ants again. This taught me a lesson and is a funny story.”



Aircrewmen Operator 2nd Class Annika Little
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

“My mother took my brothers and I on a trip to San Francisco when I was about 13. I really remember seeing things like Fisherman’s Wharf.”

Senior Airman Lester Noa Jr.
747 Communications Squadron



“My fondest memory was when I was in fourth grade and our pool had just been built in our backyard. I spent almost every day of that summer with friends and family swimming. Definitely the best summer of my childhood.”



Fire Controlman 3rd Class Deborah Rosen
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

“It would be the first time playing an ice hockey game. I was goalie. Another kid came straight at me and sent a shot down the middle. I stopped it with using one of the most difficult blocks in hockey.”

(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

‘Buffalo’ fighter plane maintained in Ewa



Official U.S. Navy photograph, National Archives collection

A Brewster F2A-3 “Buffalo” fighter, probably from Marine Fighting Squadron 212 (VMF-212), receives maintenance in a camouflaged revetment at Marine Corps Air Station, Ewa, Hawaii on April 25, 1942.

HO'OKELE

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U.S., foreign officers exchange ideas during Pacific Unity

Tech Sgt. LuCelia Ball

PACAF Public Affairs

Pacific Air Forces Airmen hosted civil engineers (CE) and security forces (SF) personnel from several Asia-Pacific nations as they participated in a subject matter expert (SME) exchange as part of Pacific Unity/Defender. The event was held April 1 through 5 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Members of the Republic of Singapore Air Force, Japan Air Self-Defense Forces, Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF), Royal New Zealand Army and Royal Cambodian Air Force participated in the exchange, part of U.S. Pacific Command's Theater Security Cooperation Program, which was co-hosted by senior civil engineering and security forces personnel from PACAF.

"The purpose of the event is to build partnership capacity with foreign nations so we can interact with them more efficiently," said Capt. Khary Davis, PACAF CE planner, who facilitated the SME ex-



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Matthew McGovern

Larry Brown, U.S. Pacific Command non-lethal weapons program liaison officer, demonstrates how a taser works to members of the Royal Thai Air Force and Royal New Zealand Army as they participated in a subject matter eXpert exchange April 13 as part of Pacific Unity/Defender.

change for the CE personnel.

PACAF Installations and Mission Support partnered with PACAF International Affairs Division to develop an event curriculum and select a list of attendees. About five SME exchanges take place every year at PACAF.

"Depending on some of the topics that were discussed in a previous year, we may also schedule a

SME exchange in a different country," said Davis.

During the event, 12 foreign participants began with an overview of PACOM and PACAF and then toured military units and civilian organizations to observe key facilities and programs, training, tactics and techniques used by CE and SF personnel.

"At the moment, I'm working in an operation-level headquarters, and it

helps to understand the area of where PACOM has interests and where PACAF has bases and where they do engagements," said Royal New Zealand Army Maj. Jono Meldrum, who is participating for the first time. "These are things that New Zealand does as well. It was good to get an understanding of how it works here."

The group toured facilities such as the Naval

Facility Command Hawaii's wastewater treatment plant, the 647th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight and the East West Center. The center is an organization that promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia and the Pacific through cooperative study, research and dialogue.

Each person was able to learn about U.S. capabilities for infrastructure, disaster response and security and discuss each other's methods for the same. The event also allowed for a greater understanding of how civil authorities and military members work hand-in-hand in some situations.

"We visited the (93d Civil Support Team) unit, and it was interesting to learn how they are one of the few U.S. units who can respond for the state as well as for the federal government," said Meldrum.

"There are some similarities with how it happens back home. Our local commanders have a certain authority to respond in a

similar manner," he said.

The relationship also made an impression with the members of the RTAF.

"I was amazed at the unity of command and control and the level of cooperation between the military and civilian units," said RTAF Wing Commander Watchara Sakunrat, who works in his unit water and sanitation division. "This is something that our country is trying to strengthen."

On the security side, the personnel learned about non-lethal weapons options, basic military security missions, how U.S. security forces units are set up, and how they execute policy and development from PACAF headquarters.

"The purpose of the event is to foster relationships with our partner nations, get to know their capabilities as well as limitations, and they in turn learn ours so that when we go out on future engagements, such as contingency operations, we know how each other operates," said Frank Deniz, security forces readiness specialist and Pacific Unity/Defender program manager.

Operation Homecoming honors Vietnam POWs on 40th anniversary

Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

Using tap code to communicate with other prisoners at the Hanoi Hilton in Vietnam, Navy Capt. Jerry Coffee sent messages each night for seven years to the other captives in the camp. Those messages frequently included tapping out the letters of their motto, "R-E-T-U-R-N W (with) H-O-N-O-R."

Coffee demonstrated those "taps" during a speech at a commemorative ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of Operation Homecoming, held April 4 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

On that day in 1973, the last Vietnam conflict prisoner of war was indeed "returned with honor" and landed at what was then Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

"Indeed it was 40 years ago that I stepped off one of those big, beautiful Air Force

C-141 Starlifters on this very spot," Coffee said.

More than 300 service members of the 15th Wing, Pacific Air Forces Headquarters and Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command at joint base gathered to honor the returnees from the historic operation. Era video of the disembarkation showed the younger Coffee walking down a red carpet with hundreds gathered around. He stopped, knelt down on his hands and knees, and kissed the ground. This was the moment when he returned to United States soil, a place he thought he would never see again.

"I was so glad to be home," he said.

Last week's commemoration paid tribute to those veterans who endured, in some cases many years of torture and sacrifice in prisoner of war camps during the Vietnam conflict.

"America's former prisoners of war are among the nation's most venerated



Department of Defense photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Thomas (left) and U.S. Navy (ret.) Capt. Jerry Coffee (right) place their hands over their hearts during the singing of the National Anthem at the commemorative ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of Operation Homecoming held April 4, 2013 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. In 1973, the last Vietnam conflict prisoner of war landed on what was then Hickam Air Force Base.

heroes, having served with dignity and courage through the worst of human circumstances," said Maj. Gen. Kelly K. McKeague, JPAC commander.

"These men persevered.

They persevered through the most unconscionable conditions—starvation, isolation, torture and the ever present threat of death. Yet even during their darkest hours, they virtuously demonstrat-

ed extraordinary personal courage and steadfast devotion to their values, their family and their country," Kelly said.

The United States and the democratic Republic of

Vietnam signed the treaty ending the Vietnam War in Paris on Jan. 27, 1973. As part of the agreement, North Vietnam provided the U.S. with the names of POWs held by their forces.

By the end of that month, North Vietnam provided 617 names, including 55 who died in captivity. Eventually, 591 POWs, including U.S. and allied servicemen and civilians, were released by North Vietnam and returned. Forty years ago, returning POWs landed at Hickam's Military Airlift Command terminal, located on the northeast end of the main ramp. There, they stepped from the planes and onto U.S. soil for the first time.

"Whether I was the first or last, it didn't make any difference," said Army Maj. (ret.) Bob White, who was one of the three to be the last to leave Vietnam. "I was just tickled to death to be out."

Coffee, who spent seven

See POW, A-7

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker
 (Above and left) In preparation for the return of guided-missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57), family members of Sailors on the ship make traditional Hawaiian ribbon leis for each of the crew members and a sign to welcome them home. Reuben James departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Oct. 3, 2012 for an independent deployment to the Western Pacific.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Terri Paden
 (Above) Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell shakes hands with Col. Johnny Roscoe, 15th Wing commander at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, after the Sexual Assault Awareness Month proclamation and certificate ceremony held April 2 in the city council chamber in Honolulu. The purpose of the event was to demonstrate the military and local community's united stand against sexual assault.



Photo by David D. Underwood Jr.
 Airman 1st Class Yazmin Davila, 15th Medical Operations Squadron Pediatrics Clinic, demonstrates how to perform CPR on an infant to Radford High School students visiting the Hickam Clinic on April 4, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. (See Story and additional photo on page A-8.)



(Above and below) Sailors from Construction Dive Detachment Alpha, part of Underwater Construction Team 2 (UCT-2) from Port Hueneme, Calif. remove wood forms during a structural pile restoration at the Hotel piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (See story on page A-6)

U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Sean Furey



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Nardel Gervacio
 (Above) Production crew members film Sailors assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) during simulated Navy SEALs training along with actors Alex O'Loughlin, Alan Ritchson and Terry O'Quinn on the set of the television series CBS's Hawaii Five-0. The episode was filmed in March and is scheduled to air April 15. (Visit www.facebook.com/NavyRegionHawaii for more photos.)



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Nardel Gervacio
 (Above) Capt. Jeff James, commander, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), salutes after presenting a flag to an actor playing the part of a widow during a mock funeral service scene for the television series CBS's Hawaii Five-0. James was recruited for the role for an episode that filmed in March and is scheduled to air April 15.

Seabees perform underwater construction in Pearl Harbor

Story and photos by
MC2 Sean Furey

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West,
Detachment Hawaii

Seabees from Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2, Construction Dive Detachment Alpha out of Port Hueneme, Calif. conducted structural piling restorations on a refueling pier during a scheduled visit to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and also assisted in restoration efforts at the USS Arizona Memorial boat dock.

As part of the U.S. Navy's Naval Construction Group 1, underwater construction teams provide a capability for the construction, inspection, repair and maintenance of ocean facilities in support of naval and Marine Corps operations.

"You have other diving units whose main missions are ships' husbandry, salvage or explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) support," said Equipment Operator 1st Class James McVicar, attached to UCT 2, Dive Detachment Alpha.

"With us, any type of structure that is in or around the water that needs inspection, repair, installation or demolition, we handle that. It's a pretty diverse skill set that we have," he explained.

While in Hawaii, the



Builder 2nd Class Khiaro Promise from Construction Dive Detachment Alpha, part of Underwater Construction Team 2 (UCT-2) from Port Hueneme, Ca. removes a wood form during a structural pile restoration at the Hotel Piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (See additional photos on page A-5.)

Sailors of UCT 2 were able to finish their original tasking of structural pile restoration quickly and efficiently enough to leave time to work on additional projects.

"We were sent here to do a pile restoration on Hotel Piers. We've had detachments come out here for the past couple of years to try and stabilize and preserve it for the next couple of decades," said McVicar.

"We then found out through the park service that the USS Arizona Memorial pier was in need of repair and inspection. They didn't have the funding with the current fiscal climate to pay for a unit to come do it, so we decided we would go out and

help. We spent a few afternoons and evenings diving and repairing what we could," he said.

The National Park Service expressed its gratitude to the Sailors for assisting with restoration efforts at the USS Arizona Memorial site.

"The boat dock on the Arizona Memorial needed inspection and repair, but the money we usually used for things of that nature wasn't there at the time," said Scott Pawlowski, park dive officer and chief of cultural and natural resources for the USS Arizona Memorial.

"UCT 2 was able to use their extra time to help out. Every one of the divers put in extra time for the memorial

and saved us a lot of time and money," Pawlowski said.

After working on the memorial's boat dock, the Navy divers were able to participate in a guided underwater tour of the wreckage of the battleship USS Arizona (BB 39). The ship sunk on Dec. 7, 1941, after an armor-piercing bomb hit her during the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor by Japanese Naval Forces.

"It was a humbling experience. I didn't understand the magnitude of the wreck until I got under the water and actual saw it firsthand," said Chief Construction Mechanic Elisia Correa. "I'm just happy I got the chance to go diving over such a

historic monument."

Correa, only the second woman and the first African-American woman to qualify as a Seabee diver, is one of two female divers at UCT 2, Dive Detachment Alpha, the home command of two out of the five female Seabee divers in the Navy. Correa said that starting out in the dive community was tough but her perseverance paid off.

"Everybody was against me when I first decided to do this program. They thought the females couldn't keep up with the men," said Correa.

"I've been in the program for over 15 years, and I tell my younger troops that it's all about strong mind, strong body. I didn't let anyone else

dictate what I could and couldn't do."

According to the detachment's other female diver, Steel Worker 2nd Class Holly Ramirez, becoming a Seabee diver takes hard work and determination.

"Women couldn't be Navy divers until the 1980s, and there's only been five of us in the history of the Navy that graduated dive school. I was the last one to make it back in 2006. It involves a lot of physical training and continuous studying. You just really got to want it," said Ramirez.

Sailors from UCT 2 are currently on deployment in the western Pacific. They have recently departed Hawaii and are currently conducting operations in the Philippines and South Korea.

As qualified Navy divers, the UCTs apply their skills to a variety of construction projects in the ocean environment. Additionally, the teams have specialists in logistics, administration and diving medicine.

UCT 2 maintains the capability to dive scuba and/or surface supplied diving in a wide variety of environmental conditions: zero visibility, contamination, day and night operations, under-ice diving, rivers, harbors, and open ocean in support of underwater construction operations.

Housing offers window safety guidelines, stress year-round awareness

Ann Holland
Navy Aloha Center

Karen S. Spangler
Managing Editor, Ho'okele

The National Safety Council (NSC) designated the second week of April this year to focus on the importance of practicing window safety in the home. It is designed to heighten awareness on how to prevent unintentional window falls and how windows can be properly used for emergency escape purposes.

"Our PPV [public private venture] housing partners, Hickam Communities (HC) and Forest City Residential Management (FCRM), engaged in promoting National Window Safety Week this past week. However, they stress this awareness year-round," said Darryl Nii, program director for public-private venture at Navy Region Hawaii.

"Safety information, especially about window safety, is shared during move-in inspections, maintenance visits and through social media. Residents are encouraged to contact their resident services offices to learn of recommended window safety products, either

provided by the PPV partner or available at local retailers," Nii said.

"Window Safety Week is a good time to do a safety review around your home. We all know it only takes a second for a tragedy to occur, and it is very easy to overlook the potential risks and dangers windows pose, especially to young children," said Steve Quinn, Hickam Communities' director of property management.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 3,350 children, age five and under, are treated in emergency rooms each year for injuries sustained in window falls. Of those, it is estimated that one out of three require hospitalization, and an average of eight children die from their injuries.

"Awareness and education are critical to evaluating daily risks and keeping our *keiki* safe. Direct supervision, keeping furniture away from windows, teaching children not to play near windows, and keeping windows locked when possible all contribute to a safer home environment," Quinn emphasized.

Housing officials agreed

that it is important for residents to be aware of the dangers that windows can pose to young children and to follow window safety guidelines.

"Window Safety Week is a reminder for everyone, whether we live in PPV or in private market/downtown, whether we have children living [with us] or visiting us in our homes. Talk to your children often about window safety, practice emergency escape plans semi-annually, and follow the other window safety tips continuously," Nii said.

"The safety of our residents is paramount, and our partnership with them begins with the home safety video all residents view upon arrival. Window safety stickers at second floor windows are a basic reminder to stay alert when children are near windows. Any family needing additional window stickers can call us anytime at 423-2300,"

Quinn said.

Cards with window safety "dos and don'ts" are available at all Hickam Community offices and community centers.

NSC offers these window safety tips to keep people safe year-round:

- Provide extra supervision to children when they are near windows, balconies or patio doors.

- When opening windows for ventilation, only open ones that children cannot access. (The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests that if opening windows, ensure they open no more than four inches.)

- Insect screens are designed to keep bugs out, not to keep children in. Do not rely on them to prevent falls.

- Be sure to practice your family's emergency escape plan at least twice a year, and keep all exits clear of hazards like cords or toys.

- If there are children around, make sure to keep all reachable windows

closed and locked.

- Make sure nothing is blocking or preventing a window from being opened in the case of an emergency.

- Install building code-compliant devices such as window guards (with quick-release mechanisms

in case of fire).

For more information, visit www.fnavyhawaii.com, <http://ow.ly/jWQwN>, www.nsc.org, and www.safekids.org. To download a free NSC "keeping the promise of safety" window safety activity book, go to <http://ow.ly/jWQwN>.

Family members of USS Reuben James Sailors honor Hawaiian traditions

Story and photos by
MC2 Daniel Barker

Navy Public Affairs Support
Element West, Det. Hawaii

In preparation for the final return of guided-missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57), family members of Sailors aboard made traditional Hawaiian lei for the ship and also for each of the crewmembers.

Reuben James departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Oct. 3, 2012 on an independent deployment to the western Pacific. The current deployment will be the last one for Reuben James, which is scheduled to decommission later this summer.

In preparation for the ship's return, members of the family readiness group (FRG) for Reuben James are keeping with a Hawaiian tradition by making a 65-foot blue and gold-colored lei to decorate the ship as Reuben James enters the waters of Pearl Harbor.

"It's will be especially amazing seeing the ship coming in during homecoming, seeing the lei hanging there. It's just awesome



In preparation for the return of guided-missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57), family members of Sailors aboard make a large Hawaiian lei for the ship in the Navy colors of blue and gold. Reuben James departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Oct. 3, 2012 for an independent deployment to the western Pacific. It will be the last deployment from Hawaii for Reuben James, which is scheduled to decommission during the summer of 2013.

because I will know I was part of it, the lei making, so I totally enjoy making it," said Jaclyn Ortiz, president of the Reuben James FRG.

Traditionally the canoes of Hawaiian chiefs were decorated

with large feather lei. Following the increase of tourism to the islands, the lei came to represent ancient Hawaii and became a symbol of the islands to visitors worldwide.

More than 16 family members

worked on making the giant lei for the ship, and even more also worked on hand-making more than 200 ribbon simulated-feather lei, one for each of the Sailors aboard Reuben James.

"Just coming together as one group, the camaraderie behind it is awesome," said Toni Leugers, Reuben James FRG treasurer. "The support and making new friends is what matters the most. We have been supporting one another throughout this deployment."

The colors of the ribbon lei are the Navy's colors of blue and gold. Blue represents the oceans and seas while gold traditionally represents integrity and valor. The numbers also have significance as the blue lei are in five sections and the gold lei are in seven sections, reflecting the hull number of Reuben James, 57.

Instead of using flower petals for the lei, the use of ribbons will allow the Sailors the opportunity to use the leis as keepsakes and memories of their final deployment on Reuben James and the return to Hawaii.

Making the lei also provided a reason for spouses of the Sailors to come together and work together.

er.

"It's a group effort. It's wonderful that we have such a large group that participates, puts all the functions together. We wouldn't have a good homecoming without all the family support, so that's the most important thing," said FRG member Holly Sulzer.

Guided-missile frigates are multi-mission surface combatants, capable of under-sea warfare (USW) and surface warfare (SW) missions. Reuben James is assigned to Commander, Destroyer Squadron 31 under Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

Reuben James is an Oliver Hazard Perry class frigate named after a hero in the Barbary Wars against piracy, who saved the life of Lt. Stephen Decatur. Boatswain's Mate Reuben James went on to fight in the War of 1812, which commemorates its bicentennial this year. FFG 57 is the third ship to hold the name Reuben James. The first The Oliver Hazard Perry class of frigates is named after the American Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, the hero of the naval Battle of Lake Erie in the War of 1812.

Vietnam POWs remember years of captivity, coming home

Continued from A-4

years and nine days in the Hanoi Hilton, was the pilot of a RA5-C Vigilante reconnaissance aircraft. On Feb. 3, 1966, he was on an intelligence gathering mission against a heavily defended portion of North Vietnam when his aircraft was hit by enemy fire near the coast. He was held prisoner until Feb. 12, 1973.

Navy Capt. Jim Hickerson, who also attended the commemoration, spent one week shy of five years and three months in captivity. The then lieutenant commander was about 10 miles south of Hai Phong when his aircraft was hit by a surface-to-air missile and he was forced to eject. He was captured on Dec. 22, 1967 and remained a prisoner of

war until March 14, 1973.

Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Thomas spent 11 months in captivity. Thomas was captured May 19, 1972 when, during a combat mission over South Vietnam, his aircraft was shot down a few miles from Quang Tri City, South Vietnam. Thomas was released March 28, 1973.

The last American to be repatriated during Operation Homecoming was Army Maj. Bob White, who was captured Nov. 15, 1969 when his aircraft was hit while on a visual reconnaissance mission. He ejected over South Vietnam after the aircraft caught fire.

During his time in captivity he spent approximately 19 months in a cage that was 4-foot-by 6-1/2-foot and only 4-

feet high. He estimated that he spent 23.5 hours a day in those cages. He was not reported on the Paris POW lists and was later revealed as being held in a remote South Vietnamese village.

White was released in the delta, and evacuated by helicopter to Saigon where he was received by a C-9 aircraft. Finally, White arrived at Hickam in the early morning hours of April 4, 40 years ago. Although his journey was long, members of the Hickam and Oahu community turned out in hundreds to welcome him home.

"It was pretty special then," White said. "I have some really fond memories of that day."

In 1973, U.S. Air Force C-141 Starlifter aircraft flew 36 sorties in support of Operation

Homecoming, with the final sortie arriving in Hawaii on April 4, 1973. The prisoners of war in attendance had collectively given more than 16 years of their lives in captivity.

"Every night we would sign off by tapping," Coffee said during the commemoration event as he continued to demonstrate on the podium, making the microphones amplify each rap on the wood.

"We had calluses on our knuckles because it was our primary means of communication. Every night you would tap to your neighbor in the next cell, or he would tap to you. We would always exchange (tap, tap, tap...) God Bless or G-B. (tap, tap, tap...), G-N, for good night, (tap, tap, tap...) , G-B-A, God bless America."

Live fire training planned

Pacific Missile Range Facility
Public Affairs

PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE FACILITY – The Pacific Missile Range Facility's (PMRF) security department will conduct live small arms fire training April 9 through April 30 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.

Radford students gain real-life experience from Hickam Clinic visit

Story and photo by
David D. Underwood Jr.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-
Hickam

Students from Radford High School visited the Hickam Clinic at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 4 to gain real-life experience in the medical career field.

The students, who are interested in a possible career as a medical professional, received hands-on training in the skills needed to effectively care for a patient.

"The joint base is proud of its partnership with the local public schools," said Darren Dean, 647th Air Base Group, education program specialist and school liaison.

"The 15th Medical Group



Airman 1st Class Jackie Wolf, 15th Medical Group, watches Radford High School student Kavanagh Bushnell (right) make a splint for the arm of Rachel Donnini, also a student at Radford, during their visit to the Hickam Clinicon April 4. (See additional photo on page A-5.)

hosts students every year at the Hickam Clinic. Events like these are a wonderful way to showcase the many different careers available and allow clinic personnel to mentor the future workforce," Dean said.

This year's event was headed by Senior Master Sgt. April Gaines, 15th Medical Operations Squadron superintendent.

The Radford students visited various sections of the clinic including family health, the dental lab, radiology, the specimen lab, pediatrics and the human performance and rehabilitation center (HPARC). While in pediatrics, they were surprised by an on-the-spot infant emergency scenario and had to perform CPR on an infant CPR training manikin.

"It's really interesting,"

said Joco Villareal, a Radford 12th grader. "I'm actually learning a lot of things I didn't know before."

Marianna Fata, also a 12th grader at Radford, said she really enjoyed all the hands-on activities.

Tiffany Peterson, health services pathway instructor at Radford, said this was a wonderful opportunity for the students to witness firsthand the operations of a medical facility.

"They have the opportunity to interact with members of the military and ask questions to evaluate if the military route is one for them," she said. "The students really enjoyed and appreciated all the hands-on activities that this field trip provided and came back to school really excited and with a new perspective on their career path."

Federal Fire Department provides training/defibrillator for Hickam Elementary School

Fire Inspector
Angela Sanders

Federal Fire Department Hawaii

Personnel from Federal Fire Department (FFD) Hawaii visited Hickam Elementary School on April 2 to provide two automated external defibrillators (AED).

The AEDs, which will be available in the event of any cardiac incidents that might occur, were requested after a 10-year-old child at the school was recently diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), a disease that affects the muscle of the heart.

FFD Regional Fire Chief Fletcher Dahman, Deputy Chief Gayland Enriques, Regional EMS Chief Dennis Yurong, EMS Battalion Chief Douglas Asano and Fire Inspector Shannon Gipaya presented the AEDs to the school and offered a demonstration on their use.

The Parent/Teachers Association at the school reached out to the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Institute of America and the Hawaii Heart Foundation, requesting

support for an AED to be installed in the school. The machine could provide immediate emergency care in the event that anyone went into sudden cardiac arrest.

"As a parent of a child with heart disease, I am extremely grateful to have two AEDs installed at Hickam Elementary," said Christine Cook, parent of the child with HCM.

According to the American Heart Association, sudden cardiac arrest can strike people of all ages and fitness levels, usually without warning. Many more lives can be saved if people are trained to act promptly, call 911, begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and provide defibrillation within minutes.

"To save an individual who experiences a cardiac arrest in the community, it takes a team of heroes to save this life. With the Federal Fire Department supplying the school with life-saving devices, Hawaii Heart Foundation teaching the staff and children how to respond, and partnering with the local professionals, the chain of survival will be strong and each link will be as strong as the next.

Together we will turn the survival rates upside down," said Pamela Foster, founder of the Hawaii Heart Association which partnered with FFD to establish Hickam Elementary as a Hawaii Heart Safe School.

Federal Fire Department will maintain and provide support of the AEDs as well as provide CPR and AED training to the students and staff at the school.

"I know these AEDs will be a valuable asset to Hickam Elementary. Although I hope the AEDs never have to be put to use, I know my son, the Hickam Elementary community, staff, parents and students, all have a much better chance at survival if a heart attack should occur," Cook said.

For more information about the Federal Fire Department, contact Fire Inspector Angela Sanders at (808) 471-3303, ext. 617 or angela.sanders1@navy.mil.

Federal Fire Department Regional EMS Chief Dennis Yurong demonstrates an AED to staff members at Hickam Elementary School.

