

Pearl Harbor welcomes USS Buffalo

Story and photos by
MC2 Steven Khor

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

It was a clear sunny day at Pearl Harbor, with performers from the Polynesian Cultural Center dancing, the Pacific Fleet band playing tunes, and families and friends with lei in their hands, as the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Buffalo (SSN 715) arrived at her new homeport, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on Jan. 18. Buffalo just completed a homeport shift from Commander, Submarine Squadron 15 in Guam.

Buffalo, nicknamed "Silent Thunder," departed Jan. 11 from Guam. At Pearl Harbor, she will be assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron One.

"My crew and I couldn't be more excited about Buffalo's change of homeport to Pearl Harbor," said Cmdr. Richard Seif, commanding officer of Buffalo. "My Sailors and families have heard so many great things about the islands, and we are looking forward to experiencing Hawaii's world famous spirit of aloha."

With only two families left to move, their arrival in Hawaii in the next few



(Left) The Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Buffalo (SSN 715) arrive at her new homeport Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 18.

(Right) Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Kekoa Ulep of the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Buffalo (SSN 715) hugs his mom Rose Silva, following the arrival of the submarine at her new homeport at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



weeks will complete the move from Guam.

Seif said Buffalo's change of homeport has been a real team effort that began almost a year ago. He said that Buffalo's Sailors had a lot of lessons learned from the USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) and USS Houston (SSN 713) who made the move to Hawaii from Guam previously.

He also expressed his appreciation for the support he and his crew have received from Commander

Submarine Squadron One, Naval Submarine Support Command, the housing office and the personnel support detachment staffs from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam because they made the move easy for the crew.

"It was a little hard to move here at first, but the people are very kind, so it was OK," said Paige Suh, a Buffalo spouse.

For Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Kekoa Ulep, Hawaii is home. The Hawaii native had been

smiling continuously since the crew got underway from Guam, and he entertained the crew with his ukulele. Ulep is very excited to see his family and go back to his church.

"It feels great to be here. I really miss my

ohana or "family," and it's a very overwhelming feeling. I love it," Ulep said.

USS Buffalo is the second ship to be named after Buffalo, N.Y. and is built to seek and destroy enemy submarines and surface ships; project

power ashore with Tomahawk cruise missiles and special operation forces; carry out intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions; support battle group operations; and engage in mine warfare.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Hawaii honors volunteers

Story and photo by
MC2 Nardel Gervacio

Navy Region Hawaii Public
Affairs

HONOLULU, Hawaii – The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Hawaii hosted the 17th Annual Volunteer of the Year luncheon at the Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki Ballroom, on Jan. 22.

As a volunteer organization, the NMCRS relies on the dedication, efforts and commitment of its volunteers. The luncheon was held to honor the staff and volunteers of the NMCRS.

"This event is a great opportunity to recognize our volunteers from Pearl Harbor and Kaneohe offices for their outstanding work that they do as volunteers for this society," said Paul H. Belanger, director of Pearl Harbor NMCRS. He praised the volunteers who attended the luncheon for all of the outstanding work they have done this past year.

The awards luncheon recognizes volunteers who exemplify Hawaii's spirit of aloha and who embody the ideals of the NMCRS.

"Even though we are honoring four volunteers, they all represent the efforts of all our volunteers because it's a team effort. No one can do it alone," said Belanger. "It's these volunteers that work together to provide ... excellent service for our service members."

Belanger introduced Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, who spoke about



Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, presents the 2012 Volunteer of the Year award to Meredith Gaston during an award luncheon held at the Hale Koa Hotel Waikiki Ballroom on Jan. 22.

NMCRS and its volunteers.

"Thanks a lot for all you do. It's amazing when you walk into an organization and see all the smiling faces. It makes you feel the warmth and that you're wanted," said Ponds.

"It's these volunteers that work together to provide ... excellent service for our service members."

- Paul H. Belanger

"This year is special. It's special because you emphasize service and self-sacrifice, and I think the Navy and Marine Corps Society epitomizes that. When you give your time and hours in your day to help someone out, that's priceless," Ponds said.

Two awards were pre-

sented this year for the volunteers who went above and beyond, personally making a difference in the lives of many service members.

Meredith Gaston received the award as the 2012 Pearl Harbor NMCRS Volunteer of the Year, devoting 1,500 hours as a NMCRS volunteer and providing excellent service as a caseworker.

Rayna Glucksman, who was honored as the 2012 Kaneohe NMCRS Volunteer of the Year, gave more than 760 hours of service in assisting approximately 150 Marines and Sailors since November 2010.

"The event was nicely done. This is my first time I've been to a volunteer award event for the relief society. It was also nice to get the two offices together. We work separately but we have the same mission," said Glucksman of Stamford, Conn., assigned to

NMCRS Kaneohe. "Receiving the volunteer award was a surprise. I don't think I do any more than the other volunteers because every volunteer does their job well and they go above and

beyond," she said. The Pearl Harbor Kokua Award was also given to two volunteers who presented a positive impact in helping service members in need. This year's award was presented to

Heidi Krukowski of Pearl Harbor NMCRS, who donated more than 1,300 hours to the society, and Cedric Fonville of Kaneohe NMCRS, who

See VOLUNTEERS, A-2

Leading the way



U.S. Navy photograph by MC2 Daniel Barker
Rear Adm. Frank L. Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, along with his wife Carol participate in the 25th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in Waikiki. Ponds was selected to be the grand marshal for this year's event.



Hawaii F-22 Raptors leave JBPHH for 'Red Flag' exercise
See page A-2



Year-round safety—a destination, not a goal
See page A-3



Navy Inspector General visit deferred, online survey still open
See page A-4



Hickam CGOs, UH cadets team up to serve
See page A-4



Pro football's brightest stars dazzle at Earhart Field
See page B-1



Joint base tax center offers free tax services
See page B-7

Hawaii F-22 Raptors leave JBPHH for 'Red Flag' exercise

15th Wing Public Affairs

A team of F-22 Raptors and support personnel from the Hawaii Air National Guard's 199th Fighter Squadron and the active duty Air Force's 19th Fighter Squadron departed Hawaii on Jan. 17 to participate in a Red Flag exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The exercise will run through Feb. 1.

The exercise participation follows the F-22's initial operational capability that occurred in November 2012. Red Flag serves as the Hawaiian Raptors' first over-water deployment.

The F-22 is the Air Force's primary air superiority fighter providing



Video capture courtesy of DVIDS

An F-22 Raptor leave Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to participate in Real Flag.

unmatched capabilities for air supremacy and homeland defense. Positioning F-22s in the Pacific strengthens military-to-military relationships, promotes regional security, improves combined tactical air operations competence, and enhances interoperability of forces, equipment and procedures.

Red Flag is a realistic combat training exercise involving the air forces of the United States and its allies and conducted on the vast bombing and gunnery ranges of the Nevada Test and Training Range. It is one of a series of advanced training programs administered by the United States Air Force Warfare Center.

NMCRS volunteers make a difference

Continued from A-1

assisted in the operations of the NMCRS Thrift Shop at Pearl Harbor before joining the Kaneohe office in June 2012 and taking on the responsibilities as both client services assistance and a level II caseworker.

"We can never give back enough for our volunteers for they have chosen to invest themselves personally and professionally, not just in the society," said Marine Maj. Gen. (ret.) Carl B. Jensen, executive vice president, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS).

"They invested themselves in our Marines and our Sailors and their families. How can we give them too much. We can't thank them enough,

and this event we had this afternoon is just a small way we can pay them back our respects," Jensen said.

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is a private, nonprofit, volunteer, service organization designed to provide financial, educational and other assistance to active duty and retired members of the naval services of the United States, eligible family members and survivors when in need.

Founded in 1904, the society established its first service center at the Washington Navy Yard with a staff of 19 volunteers helping widows and orphans. It is sponsored by the Department of the Navy. Today there are more than 250 service offices ashore and afloat. Volunteers are still the mainstay of the society's workforce.

JPAC investigation teams search for missing service members in Philippines

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command

A specially trained investigation team from the U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command based at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam is conducting an extended investigation operation in the Philippines for about six weeks, searching for evidence of service members who remain unaccounted-for from World War II.

A nine-member investigation team will conduct back-to-back missions at numerous locations throughout the Philippines, searching for information about 20 sites and approximately 90 individuals who are unaccounted-for from World War II.

Investigation teams authenticate leads from eyewitnesses, conduct field research, and gather information throughout various locations to determine whether or not there will be an excavation at a later date.

Falling directly under the U.S. Pacific Command and employing more than 500 joint military and civilian personnel, JPAC continues its search for the fullest possible accounting of the more than 83,000 Americans still missing from past conflicts.

The ultimate goal of the JPAC, and of the agencies involved in returning America's heroes home, is to conduct global search, recovery and laboratory operations in order to support the Department of Defense's personnel accounting efforts.

Hickam Airmen listen to leader

Retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Frederick J. Finch speaks to Noncommissioned Officer's Academy students during his visit to the Binnicker Professional Military Education Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 18. Finch shared personal stories and his past military experiences with the potential future senior NCOs.

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



Commentary

Year-round safety—a destination, not a goal

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

Recently I spoke with top senior enlisted leaders ashore and along the waterfront and told them how much I appreciated everything they do to keep our Sailors safe. Overall, Navy Region and MIDPAC have had an outstanding and longstanding safety record throughout 2012, and we can all be proud of that achievement. Of course it's a team effort, but it requires an individual commitment by everyone, guided by strong leadership. For the most part, each of our Sailors and their families made that

effort and stuck to that commitment, and I am extremely proud of the results.

There have been innovative ideas and initiatives

across the shorefront and waterfront that enabled us to succeed. To name a few: grass roots organizations such as Chiefs On The Waterfront (COW), walking the beats of our communities and patrolling the piers, flight-line and the deck-plates spreading the word of good decisions and positive behavior; Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) out and about educating, promoting and encouraging the best practices and intervention tools for responsible behavior and safety; wardroom and senior leaders making safety and good behavior a matter of mission readiness and warfighting relevance; but

most of all, individual Sailors—especially the junior Sailors, having “Sailor talk” with each other and making commitments to each other to look out for one another. These are the things that truly make a difference. This is the personal involvement that brings about change. I am inspired by both and encouraged by all.

The work we do, whether at work, at home, or out and about, can put us at risk. Those risks must be calculated, the consequences in the choices acceptable.

In the vast majority of cases, our Sailors are making great choices, and I am very proud of the safety record you all,

along with our families and DoD [Department of Defense] civilians, have earned.

I encourage everyone in our housing areas to continue employing the VEST concept – Vigilance, Engagement, Speed, Together. If you see something potentially dangerous in housing, get involved quickly and let your neighbors know. We're stronger and safer when we act together.

Additionally, the Naval Safety Center – <http://safetycenter.navy.mil/> – offers strategies for being safe in any season on the road, at home or at work.

It's a great truth – an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure—

and a moment to pause and deliberate can truly prevent and avoid a lifetime of regret.

Whether you are a military service member, family member or civilian teammate, you are valued and valuable. You are part of our great team here in Hawaii. You maximized your efforts toward safety last year – Memorial Day, Labor Day, Christmas and into the new year. Let's rededicate ourselves to do the same this year. We need you to be safe in 2013; we need you to be ready. It's definitely an achievable goal.

It is an issue of relevance; it is an issue of readiness. We need you in our ranks for us to be both.

King's Roadmap: 'Stride Toward Freedom'

Bill Doughty

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Five years after the start of his career, five years before his “I Have a Dream” speech (and 10 years before his tragic assassination by a gunman in Memphis), a great American gave us a roadmap to freedom and equality.

To read Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1958 “Stride Toward Freedom” is to see the birth of non-violence as a philosophy that would continue to guide the civil rights movement. King showed how conflict can be resolved through a rational and reasonable approach, why non-violence does not equal pacifism, and how peace is preserved through education, cooperation and strength of purpose.

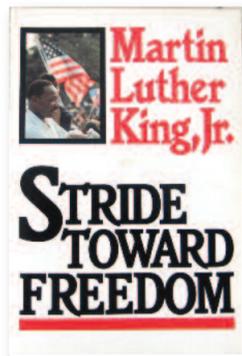
Putting the book in historical context, King's very personal and focused account of his Birmingham, Alabama bus “protest” (he preferred not calling it a boycott) was

written a century after the Civil War. He chronicled the struggles of African Americans to fight segregation and discrimination in what was known as the “Cradle of the Confederacy.”

Rosa Parks, Ralph Abernathy and dozens of other civil rights leaders—black and white—took a stand against white supremacists, corrupt local government officials, and people whose interpretation of the Bible justified their discrimination.

Like Frederick Douglass, who wrote in the mid-1800s about the hypocrisy of pious slave holders, King spoke out against indifference apathy, fear and passivity of religious leaders who accepted the status quo of the segregated south.

“He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetuate it,” King wrote. “Justice and equality, I saw, would never come while segregation remained, because the basic purpose of segregation was to perpetuate



injustice and equality.”

Ralph Abernathy with Coretta Scott King and Dr. King in Montgomery, 1956.

King credited the U.S. military for achievements in integration that had “an immense, incalculable impact.” His social action in Montgomery received support from service members, civilians and families from nearby Maxwell and Gunter Air Force bases, he said. After the media began covering the struggle, he and his movement received donations and support from people as far away as Tokyo and Singapore.

Despite threats, attacks and the bombings of the homes of King, Abernathy and others, Dr. King main-

tained his commitment to non-violence, though he admitted to an ambivalence toward guns at the time. In the pivotal chapter, “The Violence of Desperate Men,” he recounts how he turned away a crowd of people hungry for revenge after his home was bombed 57 years ago, Jan 30, 1956. “If you have weapons, take them home; if you do not have them, please do not seek to get them. We cannot solve this problem through retaliatory violence.”

“Stride” is the true story of the actions King and others took to end segregation of buses in Montgomery, with the strategic steps taken and roadblocks placed in the protesters' way. It's a story about the triumph of the Constitution. And it's a behind-the-scenes look at how King's philosophy was developed.

King said his Christian faith, along with the teaching of world thinkers, helped him develop his philosophy of non-violence and peaceful social action. “Christ furnished the spirit and motivation, while Gandhi furnished the method,” he wrote.

King was influenced by “Mahatma” Mohandas

Gandhi, a Hindu leader for Indian independence in the early half of the 20th century. King said he was also greatly influenced by nature philosopher and abolitionist Henry David Thoreau, author of “Essay on Civil Disobedience.”

In “Stride Toward Freedom” King discussed the views of Aristotle, Nietzsche, Georg Hegel, Reinhold Niebuhr and Karl Marx, while clearly rejecting blind pacifism and communism. In doing so, King warned against “the dangers of false idealism.”

“While I believed in man's potential for good, Niebuhr made me realize his potential for evil as well. Moreover, Niebuhr helped me to recognize the complexity of man's social involvement and the glaring reality of collective evil,” King wrote.

King's thoughtful, balanced and diverse approach to problem-solving involved both education and legislation:

“Through education we seek to change attitudes; through legislation and court orders we seek to regulate behavior. Through education we seek to change internal feelings (prejudice, hate, etc.); through legislation

and court orders we seek to control the external effects of those feelings. Through education we seek to break down the spiritual barriers to integration; through legislation and court orders we seek to break down the physical barriers to integration. One method is not a substitute for the other, but a meaningful and necessary supplement. Anyone who starts out with the conviction that the road to racial justice is only one lane wide will inevitably create a traffic jam and make the journey infinitely longer.”

This review is posted on the eve of the second inauguration of the first African American president of the United States. President Barack Obama plans to renew his oath of office with his hand on a Bible that belonged to Dr. King. In his proclamation for Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2013, President Obama said, “By words and example, Dr. King reminded us that ‘Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle.’”

(Read more about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the post, “Deeply Rooted in the American Dream.”)



Diverse Views

In the upcoming Pro Bowl, who do you want to win: The NFC or the AFC?



Maj. Randel Gordon
HQ PACOM

“AFC, because everybody ‘hates’ Peyton Manning.”



Staff Sgt. Paige Wetherell
647th Security Forces Squadron

“NFC, because everybody ‘loves’ Peyton Manning.”



Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 1st Class (AW/SW) Erwin Martin
Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit (CNATTU) North Island, San Diego, Calif.

“NFC because of the San Francisco 49ers”



Engineman 2nd Class (SW) Olusegun A. Omoyungbo
USS Chafee (DDG-90)

“I want the NFC to win because of my team, the New York Giants; the NFC has a better offense and defense than the AFC.”

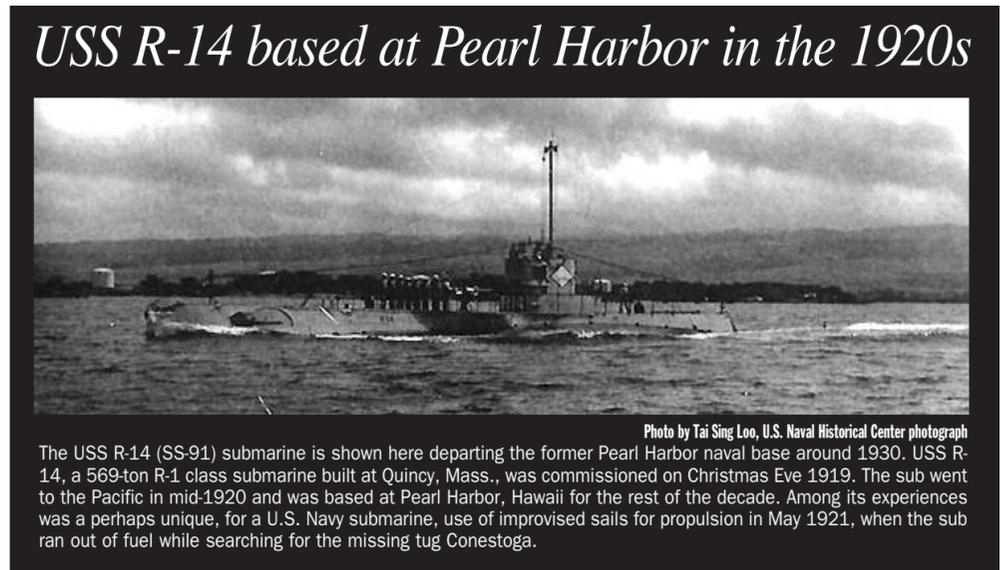


Gas Turbine System (Mechanical) 1st Class (SW) Toua Lor
USS Lake Erie (CG-70)

“I would say NFC, hopefully the 49ers take it this year.”

(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 or karen.spangler@navy.mil



USS R-14 based at Pearl Harbor in the 1920s

The USS R-14 (SS-91) submarine is shown here departing the former Pearl Harbor naval base around 1930. USS R-14, a 569-ton R-1 class submarine built at Quincy, Mass., was commissioned on Christmas Eve 1919. The sub went to the Pacific in mid-1920 and was based at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for the rest of the decade. Among its experiences was a perhaps unique, for a U.S. Navy submarine, use of improvised sails for propulsion in May 1921, when the sub ran out of fuel while searching for the missing tug Conestoga.

Photo by Tai Sing Loo, U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph



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 World Wide Web address: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Hawaii/> or 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.

Hickam CGOs, UH cadets team up to serve

Story and photo by
1st Lt. Ty S. Axson

Members of the Hickam Company Grade Officers Council (CGOC) and cadets from University of Hawaii Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps recently took some time out of their weekend to volunteer at the Judd Hill Ronald McDonald House to support families of ill children.

The officers and cadets worked side by side to clean the main living areas, kitchen and dining room and children's play area. Most of the effort was geared toward cleaning out and organizing the charity's two massive supply sheds.

"Our volunteers are the backbone of this entire organization," said Elvira Ajanovic, weekend relief manager for the Judd Hill House in Manoa. "Without them I don't think we could be the organization we are."

Capt. Kristopher Figueroa, 735 Air Mobility Squadron, spearheaded the event. "It's extremely humbling to see such an outpouring of support for the community from like-mind-

ed and service-driven military brothers and sisters," Figueroa remarked.

"The work of the volunteers was meaningful to the families of children undergoing critical medical treatment."

"The work of the volunteers was meaningful to the families of children undergoing critical medical treatment."

- Capt. Kristopher Figueroa

Figueroa was equally inspired by the response of the 20 ROTC cadets who showed up to lend a helping hand. "It was like being in an instant family setting. We worked extremely well together; we all wanted to get the job done and to do it well," she said.

The cadets were led by Capt. Edward Mantanona, operations flight commander for UH AFROTC Det 175 and Hickam CGOC member, who said it is important for cadets to



spend time with the lieutenants and captains they one day aspire to be.

"It shows them the spirit of giving and sacrifice which is what being an officer is all about—learning to give of yourself," said Mantanona.

Once the work was complete, the officers gathered the cadets around to offer advice and answer any questions the students had regarding the military and being an officer.

"These guys are volunteering their time to help those who are less fortunate than them," said Mantanona. "They'll be future officers one day, and the fact they are seeing other officers who are in the military here shows them that this is the right thing to do."

Members of the Hickam Company Grade Officers Council from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and cadets from the University of Hawaii Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps organize storage units at the Judd Hill Ronald McDonald House in Manoa.

Commentary

Navy navigates continuing resolution

Rear Adm. John Kirby

Chief of Information

For the last two weeks, like most Americans, our Sailors and Marines anxiously waited to see if the country would go over the fiscal cliff.

Thankfully, the automatic spending cuts required by sequestration were delayed while Congress continues to work toward a deficit reduction plan. While this renewed effort to find a healthy way forward is encouraging, we need to address a different, but more immediate, fiscal potentiality — the absence of an FY13 appropriations bill — forcing the Navy and Marine Corps to operate under a year-long continuing resolution (CR).

It is important to note our focus does not address the potential impact of sequestration, since the recent passage of the America Taxpayer Relief Act delays sequestration for the next two months.

Because sequestration was delayed, our focus must now shift to the impacts of the CR, which creates significant shortfalls in operation and maintenance, Navy (OMN) and Marine Corps (OMMC) accounts and the resultant steps we must take to maintain a minimum level of presence.

Unless a spending bill is passed quickly by the new Congress, we may be forced to operate under the same CR that has been sustaining us since the beginning of this fiscal year. This CR is set to expire at the end of March. Should Congress decide to extend the CR through the end of FY13, the Navy and Marine Corps would not have enough money to meet FY13 requirements in these accounts.

We expect to receive FY13 overseas contingency operations (OCO) funding; however, those funds are earmarked for support of critical warfighting requirements and would not provide any significant relief to our baseline operating accounts. We project a



Rear Adm. John Kirby

shortfall of \$4.6 billion in our O&M accounts which funds Navy and Marine Corps readiness.

Given the great uncertainty we face, we must enact prudent, but stringent belt-tightening measures now that will permit us to operate the Navy and Marine Corps through the rest of this fiscal year if the CR is extended.

This problem is not unique to the DoN. Each of the services are facing cuts to their operating accounts, albeit at different rates and in different areas. We realize the actions we are taking are not ideal, but we must slow the "burn-rate" of our operating dollars now.

Each of these steps are designed to be reversible, at least to some extent, should Congress pass an FY-13 budget.

Accordingly, Navy leadership has advised the Secretary of Defense of - and has been permitted by him to execute immediately - the following actions:

- Curtail administrative contracting support services.
- Reduce travel.
- Delay all decommissionings and disposals or lay-ups.
- Reduce information technology and administrative budgets.
- Curtail remaining facility sustainment restoration and modernization programs.
- Cut facilities sustainment, except for safety of life
- Reduce spending on base operating support.
- Cancel any planned facilities demolition.
- Terminate temporary

employees, except those supporting mission-critical activities supporting the warfighter.

• Implement a civilian hiring freeze.

With a year-long CR, the potential for furloughs exists, but all decisions in that regard will be made at the DOD level. We will follow whatever guidance we receive.

None of these decisions are easy to make, but make them we must if we are to continue to meet - this year alone - the demand for naval forces. Of course, should Congress pass an appropriations bill, we will adjust our spending accordingly. We will make reductions in a prudent way that is reversible and protects funding for our forces operating forward.

The ripple effects of these actions will be neither small nor short. The fiscal uncertainty created by not having an appro-

priations bill — and the measures we are forced to take as a result — not only place significant stress on an already strained force, it undermines the stability of a very fragile industrial base as well.

As Secretary Mabus told Congress back in March of 2011, when faced with a similar prospect, "The disruption to our fleet and to our shore maintenance and modernization schedules may take years to recover from and will come at a much greater cost."

We therefore urgently appeal to the new Congress to move quickly to pass an appropriations bill that fully funds the FY13 National Defense Authorization Act signed by the president last month.

The Navy's readiness to defend this nation, now and in the future, depends upon it.

Navy Inspector General visit deferred, online survey still open

Navy Region Hawaii
Inspector General

The Naval Inspector General (NAVINGEN) wants input.

Due to fiscal year 2013 budget adjustments, the NAVINGEN area visit to Hawaii originally scheduled for March 7 to 22 has been indefinitely deferred.

The online climate survey remains open until Feb. 8.

As the length of the deferral is unknown, NAVINGEN requests that all Navy personnel in

Hawaii, including active duty military, civilians (excluding contractors), and active duty spouses complete the online survey to assist in evaluating command climate and quality of work life.

Personnel can take a few minutes to complete the online survey at: <http://www.ig.navy.mil/Hawaii-AreaVisit.htm>.

For more information, contact John Cosson, the Navy Region Hawaii inspector general at john.cosson@navy.mil, or call 471-1958.

To report...

Fraud, Waste or Abuse

Contact Commander, Navy Region Hawaii's Inspector General

- ✓ We are here to help
- ✓ You can remain anonymous
- ✓ Remember to use your chain of command first

HOTLINE: 808-473-1782

EMAIL: prlh-cnrhig@navy.mil

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

U.S. Navy Sailors carry state flags during the 25th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in Waikiki. Rear Adm. Frank L. Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, was selected to be the grand marshal for this year's event.

U.S. Navy photograph by MC2 Daniel Barker



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Sean Furey

First Class Petty Officers take the Navy-wide chief petty officer advancement exam at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



U.S. Navy photograph by MC2 Daniel Barker

Chief Musician Nathan Bissell participates in the 25th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in Waikiki.

Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Brandon Healy, assigned to the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), evaluates a Waimea Canyon Middle School student's science fair project. PMRF Sailors joined more than 20 volunteers as judges for the Waimea Canyon Middle School Science Fair.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mathew J. Diendorf



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mathew J. Diendorf

Cmdr. Tom Mays, assigned to the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), judges the science fair project of seventh graders Cody Argaho and Jayda Oyamoto. PMRF Sailors joined more than 20 volunteers as judges for the Waimea Canyon Middle School Science Fair.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Nardel Gervacio Gervacio

Carl B. Jensen, executive vice president, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) presents Rayna Glucksman (while holding her baby), assigned to NMCRS Kaneohe, with the 2012 Volunteer of the Year award during the 17th Annual NMCRS award luncheon held at the Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki Ballroom on Jan 22.



Kahu Kordell Kekoa conducts a Hawaiian blessing at the recent grand opening of the industrial shop store at JBPHH. Looking on (left to right) are Tom Noble, president and CEO of Noble Supply & Logistics; and Capt. Paul Verrastro, commanding officer of NAVSUP FLCPH. After the blessing, Capt. Michael Williamson, commanding officer of NAVFAC HI, joined Noble and Verrastro as they untied the maile lei to officially open the new store.

NAVSUP opens new shop store at joint base

'Huge joint base success story'

Story and photo by Jim Murray

Naval Supply Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor

A new Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii (NAVFAC HI) industrial shop store that opened in December has drawn rave reviews from customers and vendors. Located in hangar 11 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, the shop store provides customers with a broad range of supplies and services.

"It's been a long journey, but it was well worth the wait," said Capt. Paul Verrastro, commanding officer of NAVSUP Naval Supply (NAVSUP) Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor (FLCPH). "When we first walked in and looked around, we all said, "Wow, this is tremendous! It takes joint basing to a new level."

NAVSUP FLCPH oversees the store, which is operated by Noble Supply & Logistics, a leading provider of integrated supply, procurement and logistics solutions to government and businesses worldwide. NAVSUP previously operated a store in the old PWC compound, but the limited operation was far smaller and carried only 2,500 line items.

"A few years ago, our personnel had a vision to develop a new store, one that was larger, centrally located, and would markedly expand the line item inventory,"

said Verrastro.

"The new store carries 25,000 line items of common building supplies, has a catalog of 50,000 line items, offers online shopping with pick-up service, and has partnered with numerous local vendors. The cost savings are significant, and it has already become a huge Joint Base success story."

The new facility, which is located in a roomy hangar alongside the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) flight line, can currently be used only by personnel from NAVFAC HI and NAVSUP.

Capt. Michael Williamson, the commanding officer of NAVFAC HI, said he was gratified to assist with the opening of the new facility.

"We're working every day to keep Sailors, Airmen and Marines ready to fight," said Williamson. "This store gives us the capability to execute excellently."

In addition to the broader range of line items and services, the store allows customers to place orders electronically. Orders are packed and ready for pickup on the following day.

Customers with questions about particular items have been surprised to learn that the store has an on-site technical representative who is well-versed in the trades industry and can recommend the tools and materials necessary to accomplish large or tricky jobs.

Tom Noble, president and CEO of Noble Supply & Logistics, was also on hand for the Dec. 13 ceremony. "Our goal is to make this the best industrial supply store in the entire military," said Noble. "I think we're well on our way."

Air Force honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

SrA Jaclyn Malbrough
SSgt Kendria Camp

15th Aeromedical Dental Squadron

"Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day on, Not A Day Off!" The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Special Observance Celebration was a ceremony to remember. The African-American Heritage Association at Hickam hosted the event at the Hickam Enlisted Club on Jan. 18.

Col. James Golden, vice commander of the 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing, gave the opening remarks. He told the audience to remember at least one thing from his remarks, be willing, ready, and able to speak the truth to power.

Cmdr. Chaplain Brian Haley of 14th Coast Guard District offered the invocation. Airman 1st Class Steven Hernandez spoke about King's devotion to service. Army Lt. Col. Mary DaSilva sang one of Dr. King's favorite inspirational hymns, "If I Can Help Somebody."

Chaplain Air Force Capt. Anthony Wiggins, guest speaker, spoke about "Living the Dream." He reminded everyone of how King's dream led to the unity that we have today.

While some dreams may seem small, he encouraged the audience to push past self-inflicted limitations and dream big. Wiggins



U.S. Air Force photo by A1C Shannon Ross

Chaplain Air Force Capt. Anthony Wiggins speaks at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. special observance event that was held Jan. 18 at the Hickam Enlisted Club.

said that as King's dream affected the world, so can a mother's, co-worker's, friend's and yours. He noted that our big dreams will shape the future.

Wiggins closed with this thought, "It's never too late to live the dream."

Other honored guests in attendance included Tanya Strauss, 647th Air Base Group deputy; Philip Baham, crew chief and original Tuskegee

Airman; Dr. Dorothy Goldsborough, wife of Romaine Goldsborough, a maintainer and original Tuskegee Airman; and Alphonso Braggs, president of NAACP HI and founder of the Hickam African American Heritage Association.

"This was one of the best MLK observances I have ever been to," said Lt. Col. Mark Henry, 647th Air Base Group deputy CC.