



“Navigator” HO'OKELE

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15th Wing pays tribute to National POW/MIA Day

Staff Sgt. Terri Paden
15th Wing Public Affairs

The 15th Wing at joint base wrapped up a week-long tribute to those held as prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action with a remembrance ceremony held Sept. 20 at the Missing Man Memorial at Hickam.

The ceremony commenced following the completion of a remembrance run held at the track. Beginning Sept. 19, hundreds of Team Hickam members paid homage to the sacrifices of the men and women who have served before them by relaying a metal baton between units continuously for 24 hours before running to the Missing Man Memorial to attend the ceremony.

The guest speaker for the ceremony was a former POW, retired Col. Henry Fowler, who spoke to the crowd of more than 300 Airmen about his time as a POW in Hoa Lo Prison, known as Hanoi Hilton.

A lieutenant at the time, Fowler was an F-4 Phantom pilot deployed to Vietnam when his plane was hit, and



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn
Former prisoner of war, retired Col. Henry Fowler, (left), and Col. John Roscoe, 15th Wing commander, (right), place a remembrance wreath at Missing Man Formation, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

he was forced to eject from the aircraft. Severely injured, he landed 24 miles from the capitol city where he was subsequently captured and forced to endure an eight-hour walk to the POW camp, during which he was hung and stoned several times.

Fowler said during his 2,157 days at the prison, he and his fellow POWs were confined to concrete cells

where they were fed two “filthy” meals a day and denied even modest conveniences, including windows, beds, toilets and hot water. They were allowed outside for only 15 minutes a day.

“Our motto was ‘U.S.’,” he said when he talked about what gave him and his fellow POWs the will to keep going and the strength to deny an early release even after it was offered to him.

“That didn’t stand for ‘United States’; that stood for ‘unity over self.’ Our goal was to bring home honor to the U.S., then to bring home those that needed to come home more than we did, and then bring ourselves home,” Fowler explained.

However, a lesson can be learned in even the bleakest of situations, and Fowler said his time as a POW taught him a great one.

“Freedom is like air,” he said. “You don’t miss it ‘till it’s not there.”

He choked up as he attempted to describe the moment it finally sank in for him that he was free. “Coming home on the aircraft, about 30 minutes into the flight, the commander said we’d just crossed out of Vietnam waters—welcome to freedom,” he said.

He said there were no words in the dictionary to describe how he felt at that moment.

Fowler told those gathered that there is a difference between knowing what freedom means and understanding what freedom means.

He quoted a graduation commencement speech he had once heard, saying, “There are some things worth dying for. The freedom you have here [in America] is one of them.”

Col. Johnny Roscoe, 15th Wing commander, encouraged the men and women of Team Hickam to continue to study history and seek out the stories of men like Fowler in order to “learn the lessons of those men and women who rose up against incredible odds, incredible adversity and were victorious.”

After the speeches, Roscoe was presented with the remembrance run baton on behalf of the run participants. The ceremony concluded with a wreath presentation, a reading of the Code of Conduct, a 21-gun salute, and the playing of Taps.

Memo prepares DOD employees for government shutdown

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

Although Defense Department officials believe a government shutdown can be avoided when the new fiscal year begins Oct. 1, they want DOD employees to be prepared for the possibility, Deputy Defense Secretary Ash Carter said in a memo issued Sept. 23 to the workforce.

The fiscal year ends Sept. 30, and Congress has not passed a budget. If Congress does not approve a budget or pass a continuing resolution, the portions of the government funded via appropriated funds will be forced to close.

“The department remains hopeful that a government shutdown will be averted,” Carter wrote in the memo.

“The administration strongly believes that a lapse in funding should not occur and is working with Congress to find a solution,” he said.

Congress still can prevent a lapse in appropriations, but “prudent management requires that we be prepared for all contingencies, including the possibility that a lapse could occur at the end of the month,” the deputy secretary wrote.

The absence of funding would mean a

number of government activities would cease.

“While military personnel would continue in a normal duty status, a large number of our civilian employees would be temporarily furloughed,” Carter said.

“To prepare for this possibility, we are updating our contingency plans for executing an orderly shutdown of activities that would be affected by a lapse in appropriations.”

President Barack Obama and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel understand the hardships such a shutdown could cause civilian employees, the deputy secretary wrote.

“The administration strongly believes that a lapse in funding should not occur and is working with Congress to find a solution,” Pentagon Press Secretary George Little told reporters.

“The secretary has made it clear that budget uncertainty is not helpful for us in executing our budget efficiently, and a shutdown would be the worst type of uncertainty. A shutdown would put severe hardships on an already stressed workforce and is totally unnecessary.”

Carter vowed to provide more information as it becomes available. The Office of Personnel Management’s website has more information.

Recognizing self-destructive behavior can help save lives



Ishmael W. Stagner II, retired Army and a member of the Statewide Prevent Suicide Hawaii Taskforce (SPSHT), speaks to Logistics Specialist Seaman Joshua Williams after a suicide prevention seminar at Sharkey Theater at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Story and photo by
MC3 Diana Quinlan

Navy Public Affairs Support Element
West, Detachment Hawaii

Sailors joined Department of Defense civilians at a suicide prevention session held Sept. 24 at Sharkey Theater at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The session was designed to promote awareness about the significance of suicide across all military services and to teach about the recognition of symptoms and prevention of suicidal behavior.

Lt. Cmdr. Kaarin Coe, suicide prevention coordinator for Navy Region Hawaii, organized the event and introduced the topic to the attendees.

“As you are all aware, this month is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month,” said Coe. “The theme for the Navy this year is ‘Thrive in Your Community,’ encouraging everyone to get involved either through their command or local volunteer opportunities.”

The focus of the session was to show that

an ability to ask for help is not a sign of weakness, but rather a sign of courage and to admit that one has a problem and is willing to work on it with assistance and encouragement from others.

“Research has shown that when someone has a strong sense of community and belonging, they are more likely to reach out for help during times of stress,” Coe continued. “Those who are willing to help others are usually more willing to receive help.”

Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, spoke to the audience about the importance of recognizing the issue and the intervention that is needed for suicide prevention.

“One of the reasons why I wanted to come here today is so I can learn, better understand, and so I can better lead,” said Williams.

“We are not going to be able to control the environment, but there are ways we can manage it. And the ways we might be

See Suicide, A-7

USS Chung-Hoon to return to Hawaii soon



The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) will return to its homeport in Hawaii soon after a deployment to the western Pacific. Commanded by Cmdr. Justin Orlich, the ship and its crew of nearly 280 Sailors conducted integrated operations with allies and partners during the ship’s six-month deployment. (Watch next week’s Ho’okele for complete coverage of Chung-Hoon’s return.)

Save Energy Make sure food is cool and covered before it goes into the refrigerator.

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii and 15th Medical Group host influenza campaign, See page A-2

Aloha Festivals Floral Parade See page A-4

Sailors build housing for families in need See page B-1

POW and MIA service members honored at Punchbowl ceremony See page A-2, 3, 4 and B-6

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 6-12 See page A-7

Navy Ball celebrations set for Oct. 12 See page B-7

Former POW speaks at POW/MIA observance

David D. Underwood Jr.
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

Air Force Capt. Guy Gruters, a former Vietnam prisoner of war, spoke to service members and civilians at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during a POW/MIA observance Sept.

19 at Hickam Memorial Theater. Gruters flew more than 400 combat missions, striking enemy convoys over North Vietnam, first with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in the O-1 Bird Dog light observation aircraft and then with the Misty FAST FACS in the F-100 Super Sabre.

He began his presentation talking about his missions over North Vietnam and how they disrupted the enemy supply trucks by air strikes.

He was shot down twice while serving in Vietnam, and it was the second time on Dec. 20, 1967 that he, and fellow pilot, Col. Robert R. Craner, were captured and imprisoned in the Hanoi Hilton.

Gruters spoke of the harsh conditions and treatment he and fellow POWs experienced while in captivity.

One fellow POW was 1st Lt. Lance P. Sijan, who was tortured and eventually died as a result of the harsh treatment.

He also emphasized the importance of teamwork and leadership and how it helped him get through his ordeal. Gruters said that they were confined to concrete cells with no windows, except the one window that the guards could look inside.

He asked the audience to imagine staying inside their bathroom from 9 on a Saturday morning to 3 on a Saturday afternoon, with no air conditioning or no heat.

Flu immunizations begin at JBPHH



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Sean Furey

Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, receives a flu shot from Sr. Airman Christopher Mendoza, assigned to the 624th Aero Medical Staging Squad, at the Makai Recreation Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



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

Air Force Capt. Guy Gruters, a former POW from the Vietnam War, discusses his time as a POW at a presentation Sept. 18.

He also talked about the tremendous team that played a part in defending America's freedom, the U.S. military team comprised of all services and civilian support. That team also included the American people who supported the troops.

He recalled telling a fellow POW about how lucky they were. "We really cared for each other,"

said Gruters.

"The military is really a fellowship of brothers and sisters," said Gruters. "We returned with honor because of our leadership, code of conduct, and because we did what we were told."

The reward was coming home to freedom. He was one of 591 surviving POWs released in 1973 and returned home during

Operation Homecoming. Gruters' decorations include more than 30 combat awards, with two Silver Stars, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star for Valor, the POW Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation and 20 Air Medals.

(Read the complete story at <http://www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii> and click on "Ho'okele.")

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii and 15th Medical Group host influenza campaign

Staff Sgt. Aimee Braxton

15th Medical Operations Squadron

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii (NHCH) and the 15th Medical Group (15 MDG) partnered to host this year's influenza prevention campaign, which was held Sept. 24-26 at the Makai Recreation Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Personnel from the NHCH, 15 MDG, 624th Aeromedical Staging Squadron and the Hawaii Air National Guard offered

their services to ensure the campaign's success. The collective efforts allowed an estimated 8,000 members to process the line in only three minutes per person with minimal effect to the mission. All active duty members are required to receive the flu vaccine by December.

JBPHH Influenza Campaign will get the prevention off to a good start before flu season.

An annual seasonal flu vaccine (either the flu shot or the nasal-spray flu vaccine) is the best way to reduce the chances that you will get seasonal flu and

lessens the chance that you will spread it to others.

The flu vaccine will be made available to all beneficiaries starting Oct. 1 at the NHCH and Oct. 7 at the 15 MDG. The Joint Vaccine Working Group will administer flu vaccines from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Hickam Base Exchange and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 4 and 5 at the Navy Exchange.

In addition, TriCare has partnered with local Walgreens, Long's Drugs and Target stores to provide the flu vaccine at no cost to all eligible beneficiaries, 18 years of age and older.

Flu vaccinations are available for beneficiaries at the following locations:

Makalapa Clinic:

Mon.-Fri.: 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Closed first Thursday of every month 11:45 a.m.-2 p.m.

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Clinic (building 1750):

Mon.-Fri.: 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

15th Medical Group, Hickam:

Mon. and Fri.: 8-11:45 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.
Tues. and Thurs.: 7:30-11:45 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.
Wed.: 7:30-11:45 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.
Closed the third Thurs-day of every month

Active duty personnel should contact their UDMs for unit vaccination times

'Navigate' to Ho'okele website

www.hookele.com or www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii



Commentary

How, why residents can 'live within the buffer' and conserve electricity

Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

Capt. Mike Williamson

Commanding Officer, Naval Facilities Command Hawaii



Rear Adm. Rick Williams of your like-type group, the amount of money you owe could more than double. This is not just another "energy awareness" campaign—managing your energy usage affects your checkbook.

If you are a Forest City resident, you know about the Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP). You know that RECP encourages and incentivizes energy conservation. By now, you should also be aware of how you will be affected by the 123 percent increase in electricity rates starting next week on Oct. 1. That means if you get a bill for exceeding the buffer for the average usage

We have heard from residents—during the Forest City Open House, via social media, or even through casual conversations around



Capt. Mike Williamson

base—and we appreciate your concerns and questions. Actively conserving energy in our homes is a change in culture for many military families. Our goal is to help residents be more aware of how they use electricity—and learn how to save energy and dollars.

For those who are above the buffer and receive a bill for electricity use, I encour-

age learning more about the process and how to save on your energy use.

Getting an energy assessment is a good idea and can be arranged directly by contacting Forest City, who can also show you how to conduct a do-it-yourself energy assessment.

One new initiative we are implementing now is providing electricity usage monitors that can be checked out from the Navy Region Hawaii housing liaison office (474-1804) to conduct your own in-home energy assessment. These devices show what items and appliances use the most electricity in your homes and identify "vampire loads" that drain power while not in use. These helpful tools are also available in stores and online for purchase if you would like to own one.

We will continue to offer information through articles, tips and conversations about conservation.

Everyone is invited to learn more about energy awareness, security and conservation at <http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrh.html> where you can find the latest by clicking on the electricity rates "green button" at the bottom of the page.

After conducting a phone study with approximately 600 residents who owed a balance by being over the buffer for their like-type group, Forest City reports that 85 percent of residents were aware of the impending increase in the electricity rate. Many residents took the opportunity during this call to schedule an energy behavior assessment to assist them in

identifying additional conservation methods.

Forest City said they will continue to offer energy use assessments for residents, reaching out to people to help them "live within the buffer." Forest City also implemented a "Live Within the Buffer" web page specifically to help people learn more and to schedule assessments. Go to <http://livewithin-the-buffer.com/> for the latest information.

Energy awareness is something we should be used to hearing about by now, but not only because of the personal financial impact it now has for some of us. Energy security and energy conservation are tied to readiness and closely tied to the Chief of Naval Operations tenet to "Be Ready."

Diverse Views



This is the first week of Autumn. What's your favorite season?



Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Diana Quinlan
Navy Public Affairs Support Element (NPASE), Pearl Harbor-Hickam

"My favorite season would be autumn just because it's like an entire year in three months. I love the color changes, going from green to shades of yellow, orange and reds and depending on the states you're in – it's very beautiful. Upstate New York is absolutely amazing and it reminds me of home (Riga, Latvia)."

Master Sgt. Donald Gruver
713th Combat Operations Squadron, Det. 1



"It would have to be winter, because I love to snow ski in northern California, Lake Tahoe. The mountain views are the best in the world."



Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Sean Furey
Navy Public Affairs Support Element (NPASE), Pearl Harbor-Hickam

"My favorite season is winter because that's when the waves are good."

Master Sgt. Famicia Trotter
735th Air Mobility Squadron



"Summer is my favorite season because I enjoy backyard barbecues and lounging at the beach."



Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Rose Forest
Navy Public Affairs Support Element (NPASE), Pearl Harbor-Hickam

"My favorite season is spring because I'm from Michigan, and everything gets really cold and really gray all winter long. So spring finally comes after what seems like an eternity, and it's not cold and gray anymore. So it's pretty awesome."

Tech. Sgt. James Blakeman
15th Maintenance Squadron



"It would really have to depend on where I'm at. Here in Hawaii it's all year long. In Europe, it would have to be winter for all the Christmas markets. When I'm back home in Texas, it would have to be the fall. That is when it begins to cool down, and you can feel the crisp clean air coming in with the cool fronts."



Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Tiarra Fulgham
Navy Public Affairs Support Element (NPASE), Pearl Harbor-Hickam

"My favorite season is fall because of the different colors that comes from the leaves and clothing you can wear. It gives you more variety."

(Provided by David D. Underwood 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

Commentary

Remembering and honoring our nation's POWs/MIAs

Col. Johnny Roscoe

15th Wing Commander



Col. Johnny Roscoe

As a history buff, I can't think of a better place in the DOD to be stationed. To be standing right here on the spot where the start of American involvement in WWII took place is truly a humbling thought. To see the bullet holes in the PACAF HQ building, or see the airfield from the crow's nest, or to go out to the Arizona Memorial and see that ship in its shallow grave, brings me to a time when men and women stood up against great odds and were victorious.

And while the history between these two places is what most people think about and are most familiar with, they really aren't as familiar with the rich history that has continued over the years and the continued

significance this location played time and time again.

In 1953, POWs from the Korean War returned to Hickam during Operation Freedom Airlift. During the '60s, after astronauts from both Mercury and Apollo missions returned from their harrowing journey in space, they transited

this very field. In 1973, POWs, from the Vietnam War, including Col. Fowler, first touched American soil at Hickam Field during Operation Homecoming. And after the fall of Saigon, crews from this installation flew in "Operation Baby Lift and New Life," evacuating Vietnamese orphans from harm's way.

And even today, crews carry team members from Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, or JPAC, as they continually search for the more than 83,000 individuals still listed as MIAs.

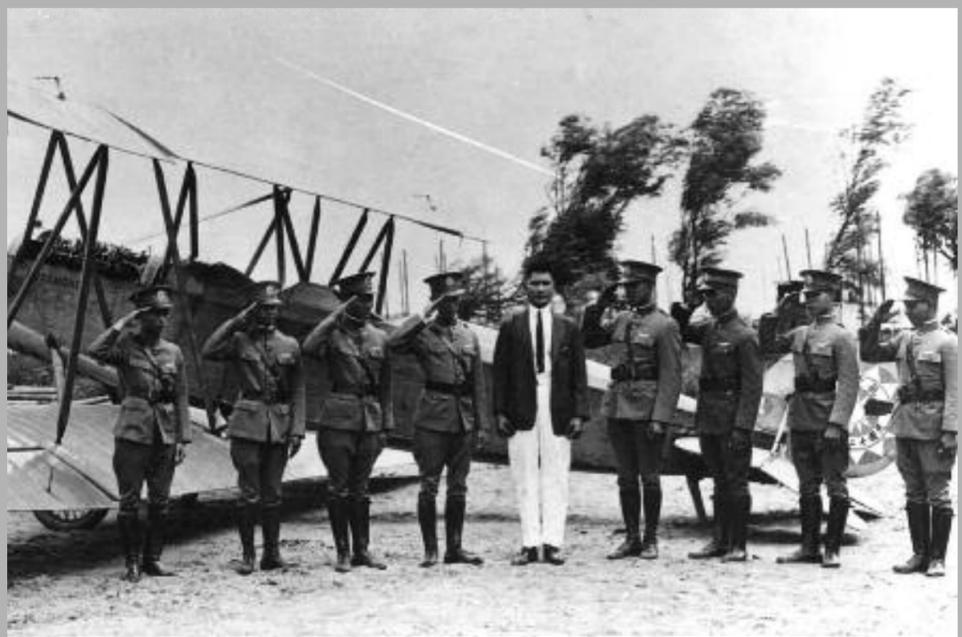
The reason our history is so important is because it links us not only to our past, but also to our future. I challenge every one of us here today to seek out those stories and look to great men like Col. Fowler and Capt. Coffee. We must listen to them and search out all the text and history we

can find, so we can hear their stories and the stories of all the others who came before us.

We must learn their lessons and learn from their examples and know that we can overcome any challenge, hardship or adversity we face. I am confident that, just as with the symbolic passing of the baton I received here today, we are worthy to run the next leg on the lessons you have taught us as we can continue to "cherish, love, and defend" our nation no matter what may lay ahead.

(Editor's note: This is an excerpt from remarks made by Col. Roscoe at the National POW/MIA Recognition Day observance, held Sept. 20 at the Missing Man Formation on the Hickam side of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.)

Honolulu-born pilot soloed at flight school



Sun Yet Young was the first Hawaii resident to earn a pilot's license. Here he stands in 1923 with Chinese flyers and an airplane manufactured in China. The Honolulu-born pilot soloed at the Curtiss Flying School in Buffalo, N.Y. on Oct. 2, 1916. Next week will mark 97 years since the solo took place.

Photo courtesy of the state of Hawaii Department of Transportation

HO'okele

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POW and MIA service members honored at Punchbowl ceremony

Story and photos by
MCSN Johans Chavarro

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West,
Detachment Hawaii

Service members and civilians gathered at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) on Sept. 20 in observance of National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day.

The ceremony was held at the crater, which stands as a memorial to honor members of the armed services and

the men and women who gave their lives. National POW/MIA Recognition Day commemorates the sacrifices of Americans who have been prisoners of war and to remember those who are still missing in action.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Kelly K. McKeague, commander of Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, spoke of the significance and symbolism of Punchbowl Cemetery and the importance of paying tribute to each of our nation's service members who were held prisoner or

are still missing.

"We at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command fully understand that freedoms Americans enjoy today are never free. Our prisoners of war and missing in action are particularly representative of the enormous and supreme sacrifices made to secure and sustain those freedoms. Their family's lives have been indelibly altered by the absence or the loss of their loved ones," McKeague said.

"National POW/MIA



Service members gathered at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific to commemorate National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day.



Service members participate in a wreath-laying during a National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl.)

Recognition Day provides a poignant means by which to honor the heroes who returned home from agonizing captivity. This day is also a sobering reminder that tens of thousands of fallen heroes still remain missing, and the noble mission to bring them home must continue to be fulfilled," he said.

The keynote speaker for the event, retired pilot and Air Force Capt. Guy Gruters, shared his experiences as a Vietnam prisoner of war. On Dec. 20, 1967 his plane was shot down and he was captured. It wasn't until 1973 that he was released as part of Operation Homecoming.

"I'm just a visitor here, and I'm overwhelmed by the number of graves that are out there," said Gruters. "To think that under each marker are the remains of a man or woman who died for me so I can live and be free is very, very, important for me."

Gruters said that about

500 other prisoners of war made it back from North Vietnam, but more than 2,500 others did not.

"I often wonder, why me, why us? How did we make it and not the others who died in the enemy camps," said Gruters.

"Perhaps it was so I can live and be here today and stand up and tell everyone present we should be very thankful for all those who suffered the trial of being a POW in the Vietnam War and in all other wars," he said.

A wreath laying was conducted by several military and civilian organizations. A rendition of Taps was performed by the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band at the end of the ceremony.

One of the Sailors in attendance, Yeoman 2nd Class Sammell Humphries, assigned to Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), commented on the speech by Gruters.

"His story is just amazing," said Humphries. "All

the stuff that he went through, the sacrifices that he made, all while maintaining the code of conduct. It's just amazing to hear what he did over 40 years ago."

JPAC and assisting agencies work to conduct global search, recovery and laboratory operations in support of the Department of Defense's accounting efforts.

Since World War II, there have been more than 83,343 unaccounted for service members, according to the Defense Prisoner of War and Missing Personnel Office.

Service members are still being identified decades after the conflicts they participated in have ended. One of the most recent service members to be accounted for is 2nd Lt. Vernal J. Bird, U.S. Army Air Forces, who went missing in March 1944. His remains were eventually identified Aug. 28 of this year.

Aloha Festivals Floral Parade set

Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, will be the senior representative for the military services in Hawaii for the 2013 Aloha Festivals Floral Parade which will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday in Waikiki. Other military units participating will include the 25th ID marching unit, PACFLT marching band, PACAF

marching unit and the MARFORPAC marching band. The parade forms at Ala Moana Park and moves down Ala Moana Boulevard to Kalakaua Avenue, ending at Kapiolani Park. The theme of the 2013 Aloha Festivals is "Moana Nui kea: Celebrating Traditional Hawaiian Ocean Voyaging," in honor of the Polynesian Voyaging Society's 40th anniversary.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, looks at a shell casing fired by Ray Emory (left), a Pearl Harbor survivor, from the Brooklyn-class light cruiser USS Honolulu (CL 48) during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack. The Pearl Harbor survivor luncheon, held Sept. 12 at the Silver Dolphin Bistro at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, honored the surviving and fallen service members from the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan



Navy Region Hawaii Chief of Staff Capt. Mark Manfredi shakes hands with Pearl Harbor survivor Everett Hyland, during a luncheon held Sept. 12 for Pearl Harbor survivors at the Silver Dolphin Bistro at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan



A joint service color guard parades the colors Sept. 20 during a National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl.)

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Johans Chavarro

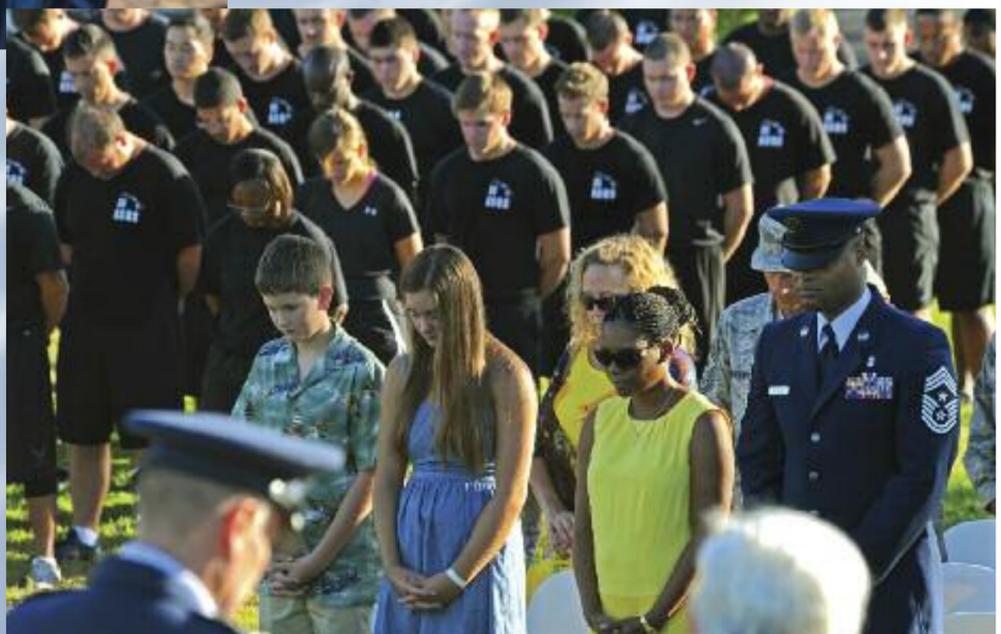


A C-17 Globemaster III flies past the prisoners of war/missing in action flag pole during a POW/MIA remembrance ceremony at Missing Man Formation, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on Sept. 20. The C-17 Globemaster III is the newest, most flexible cargo aircraft to enter the airlift force.

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

15th Wing personnel, 25th Air Support Operations Squadron, and guests bow their heads in respect and listen to the invocation during a POW/MIA remembrance ceremony at Missing Man Formation, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

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



Hickam Elementary School 'Strives HI'

Dave Tom

Navy Region Hawaii School Liaison Officer

Located at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam with historic Pearl Harbor as its "back yard," Hickam Elementary School was one of 14 public schools in Hawaii recognized for its outstanding performance in education. The school is comprised of more than 99 percent military dependent students. It achieved a "Strive HI" performance system score of 384 out of a possible 400 points, the second highest out of 295 public schools statewide.

"Strive HI" is the state's redesigned school accountability and performance system, measuring key success indicators and providing rewards to demonstrating the highest progress in raising student achievement, graduation rates, and closing the achievement gap for school year 2012-13.

At the "Strive HI" recognition ceremony held Sept. 10, Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie, State Board of Education Chairman Don Horner, and Hawaii Department of Education School Superintendent Kathryn

Matayoshi presented a check for \$75,000 to Hickam Elementary as an award-winning school. "These exemplary educators, staff, students and their families share a belief and commitment to always 'Strive HI,'" said Abercrombie. "I applaud their resilience and dedication to provide the very best opportunities to all children."

Rich Shimabukuro, acting school principal, has been an administrator at this top tier school for four years. "While we always knew how well we were functioning as a total school community, it is truly gratifying to see the recognition now bestowed upon our outstanding families, professional and dedicated faculty and staff, and amazing students. If any school can, Hickam Elementary will," Shimabukuro said.

Jessica Jones, student council president, shared her thoughts about the school.

"This is my second year at Hickam Elementary after previously attending school in Tennessee. I have learned a lot at this school. The gifted and talented program is awesome, and I love the after school activities offered,"

Jones said.

Sierra Williams, student council vice president, has also been at Hickam Elementary for two years and said she was elated to learn of this high level recognition.

"This is a very good school, and I am very proud of everything it does – especially the recent 9-11 commemoration parade. The students are nice, and the teachers do a great job teaching us what we need to learn," Williams said.

Tamsen Velazquez, the mother of two students attending Hickam Elementary, weighed in.

"We arrived in Hawaii in 2012, and my children previously attended a DoDDS school. I was concerned about the quality of the schools before coming here. However, it's great to know that our kids go to one of the finest schools in the state," she said.

"This award will help the school improve on its solid programs and support new endeavors and is something every military parent will appreciate," Velazquez added.

John Erickson, current acting complex area superintendent and the school's principal until a month ago, noted that the award validates the high quality education the school is providing.



Photo courtesy of Hickam Elementary School

Rich Shimabukuro, acting principal at Hickam Elementary School, gives "high fives" to Jessica Jones (right foreground), student body president, and Sierra Williams (right back), student body vice president, in observation of the school's outstanding accomplishments and achieving a "Strive HI" performance.

"I have always believed that our school was a top-tier school in the state, and for our school to recently be honored and recognized under the new 'Strive HI' system helps to confirm and validate that belief," he said.

"To receive the top tier designation and be recognized as one of only a handful of schools to receive this high 'recognition' status is certainly something for all of us at

Hickam to be proud of. The award is truly a testament to the hard work that is put in each day on the Hickam campus by our outstanding students and a staff/faculty that is second to none.

"Our goal and mission from this day forward is to always maintain this high ranking and designation. By continuing to strive for excellence each day, we will make this happen," Erickson said.

Ceremony recognizes three new destroyers

MC2 Tim D. Godbee

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West

A naming ceremony was held Sept. 20 at Naval Base San Diego for the Arleigh-Burke class, guided-missile destroyers USS John Finn (DDG 113), USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114) and USS Rafael Peralta (DDG 115).

Friends and families attended the ceremony, and Lt. Gen. John A Toolan Jr., Marine Expeditionary Force commanding general, gave the keynote address.

Toolan noted that the three men for which the ships are named were like

anchors within their units and set a high standard for heroism within the services.

"These three men are examples of the service, sacrifice, dedication and the heroism it took to be that anchor from World War II to Vietnam to Iraq," said Toolan.

"We're here today to name these destroyers in their honor. These destroyers will be able to conduct a variety of operations, from peace time presence and crisis management, to sea control and power projection," Toolan said.

Lt. John Finn was the first Medal of Honor recipient of World War II. He

was honored for defending his ship from Japanese aircraft for over two hours during the attack on Pearl Harbor despite being shot twice and having numerous shrapnel wounds. He died at the age of 100 in 2010.

Georgeann McRaven, sponsor of the USS Ralph Johnson, said she is looking forward to working with and supporting the ship and its crew as it transforms from raw metal to a war-fighting vessel.

"I will become part of the ship. I'll be kind of like a den mother to the crew," said McRaven. "It will be wonderful when the ship has a crew and will be able

to go out to sea for the first time. I look forward to it."

Pfc. Ralph Johnson was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in March 1968 after jumping on a hand grenade that was thrown into his fighting hole. He took the action to save the life of a fellow Marine and to prevent the enemy from penetrating his patrol perimeter.

Sgt. Rafael Peralta was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross after taking critical gunshot wounds and later grabbing a live grenade and covering it with his body to save his fellow Marines during a firefight in Fallujah, Iraq, in November 2004.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 James E. Foehl

The late John Finn, Medal of Honor recipient for his heroic actions at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

USS Lake Erie commemorates 200th anniversary of Battle of Lake Erie

Ensign Natalie Schimelpfenig

USS Lake Erie (CG 70) commemorated the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812 at a recent ceremony.

The event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony as the crew gathered around Capt. John S. Banigan, commanding officer, and Command Master Chief, Jack D. Johnson. Johnson, a native from the Lake Erie area, spoke about the importance of learning from our history and taking pride in our past and present successes.

"It was really interesting to hear the history behind our ship's name," said



The Battle of Lake Erie by Julian O. Davidson

Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Steven Karger.

"The Navy was very different back then, but that same fighting spirit lives on today," Karger said.

On Sept. 10, 1813, the United States battled for control over the vital region of Lake Erie, which became one of the most glorified naval battles during the War of 1812. USS Lake Erie celebrated its namesake with a ceremony presented by six USS Lake Erie chief selectees who shared their knowledge of the War of

1812 and the Battle of Lake Erie.

This battle, also known as the Battle of Put-in-Bay, was a resounding triumph for the recently formed United States Navy. The victory secured control of the bay, forcing the British to abandon Fort Malden and retreat up the Thames River. The naval captains aboard the nine American vessels fought valiantly, and their heroic actions contributed to the historic events that shaped our nation.

USS Chosin arrives in Australia

Lt. j.g. Megan E. Miller

USS Chosin (CG 65) Public Affairs

Forward-deployed, Ticonderoga-class cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) arrived in Newcastle, Australia for a port visit Sept. 25.

"It is an honor to be afforded the opportunity to represent the United States Navy in a contingent of over 20 international warships that will join the Royal Australian Navy in one of their most significant commemorative events in 100 years," said Capt. Patrick Kelly, commanding officer of Chosin.

"I am especially excited for Chosin's Sailors, as this will be, for many, a once in lifetime experience."

While in Newcastle, Sailors will be preparing for the international fleet review to be held Oct. 3-11 in Sydney, Australia. The event will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the entry of the Royal Australian Navy's fleet into Sydney.

As part of the event, Chosin will be participating in a number of multilateral fleet-training exercises to be conducted along the coast of Australia. Additional festivities will include a combined navies parade, public ship tours and a pyrotechnic display and lightshow.

"I think this will be the highlight of deployment thus far, and I'm looking forward to the chance to learn about foreign navies," said Fire Controlman 1st Class Kermit Wink. "I'm excited that we will get to interact with people from other cultures and act as ambassadors of our country."

Chosin is currently operating in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility conducting exercises, port visits and operations to enhance maritime partnerships and promote peace and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.



Sailors from Patrol Squadron Four at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe help *keiki* at Aikahi Elementary School prepare garden beds for use in the garden-based part of the school's curriculum.

VP-4 Sailors help *keiki* at Aikahi Elementary

Lt. Colleen Conley

Patrol Squadron Four

Sailors from VP-4 partnered on Sept. 7 with Aikahi Elementary School and the Kokua Foundation to prepare the garden beds surrounding Aikahi for use in the school's garden-based curriculum.

Each grade has adopted a specific theme for their garden. Projects range from the fifth graders' scientific garden, to the kindergardeners' butterfly garden. Other project

themes include a Hawaiian history garden, a vermiculture and bokashi composting garden, and a "little seeds, big plants" garden.

"This volunteer-run program incorporates science, health and nutrition education while teaching the children the importance of respecting the *aina*" said Robyn Nagli, the parent facilitator of Aikahi Parent Community Networking Center.

The Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF),

founded in 1998 by the late Sen. Daniel K. Inouye with the partnership of former U.S. Pacific Commander commander, Adm. Dennis Blair, and former Hawaii superintendent of education, Paul LeMahieu, provides support for military dependent students in Hawaii's public school system.

JVEF is responsible for fostering the partnership between VP-4 and Aikahi Elementary in their joint efforts in the pursuit of high quality education.

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 6-12

Federal Fire Department Hawaii

Fire Prevention Week is from Oct. 6-12. The Federal Fire Department will be at the following locations during Fire Prevention Week to promote this year's "prevent kitchen fires" campaign.

- Oct. 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange.
- Oct. 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Schofield Barracks Base Exchange.
- Oct. 9, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Kaneohe Marine Corps Base Moku Mall.
- Oct. 10, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Hickam Base Exchange.
- Oct. 10, 4-7 p.m., National Night Out at Aliamanu Military Reservation Community Center, building 1788.

The Federal Fire Department will also host fire station tours at various military bases on Oahu. The station tours will be held daily from 9 to 11 a.m. Oct. 7-11 at the following locations:

- Fire Station 4, Ford Island.
- Fire Station 8, Marine Corps Base Hawaii Kaneohe.
- Fire Station 10, Helemano Military Reservation.
- Fire Station 14, Wheeler Army Airfield.
- Fire Station 15, Schofield Barracks.

For more information about the Federal Fire Department, contact Fire Inspector Angela Sanders at 471-3303, ext. 617 or angela.sanders1@navy.mil. To learn more about "prevent kitchen fires," visit NFPA website at www.FPW.org.

Suicide prevention

Continued from A-1

able to manage it is by recognizing the problem ... And just because this is a suicide prevention month does not mean we stop working on it and looking for symptoms. It means we should continue facing this challenge year round," he said.

The main speaker at the event was Ishmael W. Stagner II, member of the Statewide Prevent Suicide Hawaii Taskforce (SPSHT), a state, public and private partnership which aims to reduce the incidents of suicide attempts in Hawaii.

Stagner has more than 50 years of experience in various levels of education,

holding multiple degrees and most recently was certified as a substance abuse prevention specialist in Hawaii.

He dedicates his time working with youth in correctional facilities, re-establishing their roots with the culture, and helping heal strained relationships with *ohana* as well as being a strong advocate in defending military veterans and reaching out to anyone in need of help.

Stagner's son, who served in

the U.S. Air Force and who suffered a post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) following multiple deployments to warzones, committed suicide in 2008.

"[Suicide] numbers, especially in the military, are epidemic," said Stagner.

"We have more military dying of suicide than in combat. My son was in combat, but he died when he returned home. Since my son died in 2008, I've made it my mission and my passion to go and

check on [military members]."

Stagner stated that Navy Sailors are especially vulnerable, compared to other services, due to long deployments on ships. He spoke of the importance of shipmates watching out for each other and being mindful of potential problems.

"Basically we have time bombs here. We want to be able to defuse them, or at least talk to them about what we can do to help, because this is going to be criti-

cal," he said.

When we are dealing with human lives, there is no such thing as irrelevant human life. It does not matter if you are a seaman or a four-star admiral, the fact of the matter is that the problem is serious," Stagner said.

He emphasized many times during the session that it only takes one person to say something nice, to extend a helping hand, to assist in solving a problem, or to simply show that they care.

USS Lake Erie and PMRF participate in successful Aegis BMT test

Missile Defense Agency

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA), U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Navy Sailors aboard the USS Lake Erie (CG 70), homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, successfully conducted a flight test Sept. 18 of the Aegis ballistic missile defense (BMD) system, resulting in the intercept of a complex separating short-range ballistic missile target over the Pacific Ocean by the Aegis BMD 4.0 weapon system and a Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block IB guided missile.

At approximately 2:30 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time (8:30 p.m. EDT), a complex separating short-range ballistic missile target was launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) at Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawaii.

The target flew northwest toward a broad ocean area of the Pacific Ocean. Following target launch, Lake Erie detected and tracked the missile with its onboard AN/SPY-1 radar. The ship, equipped with the second-generation Aegis BMD weapon system, developed a fire control resolution and launched two SM-3 Block IB guided missiles to engage the target.

The first SM-3 that was launched successfully intercepted the target warhead. This was the first salvo mission of two SM-3 Block IB guided missiles launched against a single separating target.

Program officials will

assess and evaluate system performance based upon telemetry and other data obtained during the test.

This test exercised the latest version of the second-generation Aegis BMD weapon system, capable of engaging longer range and more sophisticated ballistic missiles. This was an operationally realistic test, in which the target's launch time and bearing are not known in advance, and the target complex was the most difficult target engaged to date.

The event, designated Flight Test-Standard Missile-21 (FTM-21), was the fourth consecutive successful intercept test of the SM-3 Block IB guided missile with the Aegis BMD 4.0 weapon system.

FTM-21 is the 27th successful intercept in 33 flight test attempts for the Aegis BMD program since flight testing began in 2002. Across all ballistic missile defense system programs, this is the 63rd successful hit-to-kill intercept in 79 flight test attempts since 2001.

Aegis BMD is the naval component of the MDA's ballistic missile defense system. The Aegis BMD engagement capability defeats short-to intermediate-range, unitary and separating, midcourse-phase ballistic missile threats with the SM-3, as well as short-range ballistic missiles in the terminal phase with the Standard Missile-2 (SM-2) Block IV missile.

The MDA and the U.S. Navy cooperatively manage the Aegis BMD program.



A Sailor's perspective – Flight Test Mission-21 'Stellar Ninja'

Ensign Natalie Schimelpfenig

USS Lake Erie (CG 70)
Public Affairs

USS Lake Erie (CG 70) successfully completed Flight Test Mission-21 (FTM-21) on Sept. 18 with two space salvo, near-simultaneously fired Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block IB guided missiles against a highly sophisticated, multi-stage ballistic missile traveling deep in space.

FTM-21 has been credited for the highest level of technical achievement to date, one which affirms our nation's increased battle space and reach of our fleet. Working in conjunction with Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet Operational Test and Evaluation Forces, Lake Erie tested the organic engagement performance of their Aegis ballistic missile defense (BMD) 4.0 weapon system.

This event was conducted as an operational test with Lake Erie Sailors trained to the scenario who maintained and operated the Aegis BMD combat system and SM-3 Block IB missile. As an operationally realistic test, the target's launch time and bearing were not known and the engagement was a success.

"It was amazing to be involved in such a complex mission, and I'm proud to be a part of the team that made it a success," said Cryptologic Technician Technical 1st Class Harry Davis.

Nick Bucci, director of BMD development programs at Lockheed Martin Mission Systems & Training, noted, "This latest test is the first time we have seen Lake Erie Sailors use the Aegis BMD weapon system to schedule, analyze, launch and control multiple missiles in flight through intercept at the same time. This new Aegis BMD configuration provides the Navy with the ability to respond to ever increasing and evolving ballistic missile threats around the world with persistent and reliable capabilities."

FTM-21 is the 27th successful intercept in 33 test missions for the Aegis BMD program since testing began in 2002. It marks the fourth consecutive successful intercept test of the SM-3 Block IB guided missile with Aegis BMD 4.0 Weapon System. FTM-21 holds the record for the furthest in space—and most accurate—SM-3 shot to date.

Lake Erie, with a crew of 351 Sailors, is commanded by Capt. John S. Banigan.

