

Wounded Warrior Pacific Invitational takes off

MC1 David Kolmel

U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs

More than 100 athletes are gathering this week for the first Wounded Warrior Pacific Invitational (WWPI) in Honolulu from Jan. 8-10.

Members of Team Navy, which includes 40 Sailors and Coast Guardsmen, prepared for competition by participating in a training camp at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Jan. 5-7.

The WWPI is the largest joint-service competition to take place outside of the annual Warrior Games and features wounded warrior athletes from the Navy, Marines, Army, Air Force, Coast Guard and Special Operations Command. The goal of the WWPI isn't to identify the most skilled athletes, but rather to showcase the potential of wounded warriors through athletic events.

"The main purpose is to highlight and bring to the forefront the wounded warrior initiative with the Navy and Coast Guard," said Se-

nior Chief Aerographer's Mate Enrique Acosta, who was instrumental in planning the event. "This year we have all forces including SOCOM (Special Operations Command). So in a sense we are highlighting everyone's wounded warrior's initiatives."

Sailors from multiple commands throughout Hawaii are volunteering their time and efforts by helping the wounded warriors get to various events and appointments and cheering them on during competition. These sponsors provide the athletes a sense of support, which has a lasting impact on their emotional well-being.

"When they come and meet other folks and they see the smiles and support from other Sailors, their families and the communities are giving, it's a rewarding experience for them and it really boosts their self-confidence," said U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief Marco Ramirez.

Acosta couldn't agree more.

"It allows the active duty members, the Reserve and the local community to invest their time," Acosta said. "Some of these injuries are life-debilitating; having all of the commands involved encourages them to keep going."

The WWPI provides adaptive athletic reconditioning, which helps build strength and ultimately results in fewer secondary medical conditions. The wounded warrior athletes compete in cycling, seated volleyball, swimming, track and field and wheelchair basketball.

"We keep the wounded warriors engaged and we provide that avenue for them to be rehabilitated, have the conditioning and medical attention that they need," Acosta said.

Not only does this benefit the wounded warriors, but it provides a rewarding experience for those who support the event.

"It's a pleasure for me and it's one of the most rewarding things I can do," Ramirez said. "As someone in the Navy, we carry out



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Daniel Barker

Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Nathan DeWalt and retired Master-at-Arms Seaman Steven Hancock prepare for the 100-meter wheelchair race in advance of the first Wounded Warrior Pacific Invitational at the Iolani School Kozuki Stadium.

our missions, but when we can go and give back to our Sailors for what they have given us; it's an opportunity that I look forward to."

The event is hosted by Commander, Navy Installations Command (N95) headquarters and Navy Region Hawaii, and

is supported by U.S. Pacific Fleet.

N95 is Navy Wounded Warrior - Safe Harbor, the Navy's sole wounded warrior support program. It provides non-medical assistance to seriously wounded, ill and injured Sailors and Coast

Guardsmen.

For more information, visit <http://safeharbor.navy.mil>, call 855-NAVY WWP (855-628-9997) or email navywoundedwarrior@navy.mil.

Editor's note: see related stories and photos on pages A-2 and A-5.

President Obama departs Hawaii from joint base



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alex Martinez



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

(Above left): President Barack Obama waves to service members, civilians, and their families at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam while boarding Air Force One on Jan. 4. The president and daughters Sasha and Malia traveled back to Washington D.C., after a 15-day family vacation for the holidays. (Above right): President Barack Obama shakes hands with well-wishers.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam hosts a variety of visitors in 2013



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Dustin W. Sisco

U.S. Navy Sailors perform line handling as the Royal Australian Navy frigate HMAS Perth (FFH 157) visits Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. HMAS Perth conducted a routine port visit to Pearl Harbor.

Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

In 2013, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam hosted a wide array of visiting ships and dignitaries from around the world.

The Navy's first littoral combat ship USS Freedom (LCS 1) stopped at Pearl Harbor on March 11 after departing its homeport of San Diego to deploy to the Asia-Pacific region.

Ships from foreign navies also visited Pearl Harbor, including ships from Japan, Australia, China, the Republic of Korea, and Bangladesh.

It wasn't just ships visiting joint base in 2013. Several dignitaries also visited Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel visited JBPHH in both May and August. While here, Hagel addressed service members both at joint base and at Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

"Thank you, on behalf of our president and our country," the secretary said at a May 30 inside aircraft hangar 19 on the Hickam side. "I know sometimes

you feel stuck out here in the Pacific, that no one knows who you are or what you're doing. Let me assure you, we do, and we're grateful."

Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Dr. Jill Biden, visited with service members and their families during a stopover July 27 at JBPHH. The vice president and his wife were on their way back to Washington, D.C. from an overseas trip to Asia and Singapore.

During his visit to joint base, Vice President Biden thanked those who stand the watch at home while their loved ones are deployed.

"Military families make up one percent of the population, and 99 percent of the rest of the population owes you our thanks for the incredible sacrifices you make," he said.

Acting Secretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning visited JBPHH in November. He paid his respects to fallen service members at the USS Arizona Memorial and attended a Royal Australian Air Force F-111C dedication ceremony at the Pacific Aviation Museum,

Ford Island.

Other JBPHH distinguished visitors included Pearl Harbor survivors and other veterans.

One such hero is Schuyler "Sky" Fredrikson, who served on the USS Missouri from 1944 to 1946. A 3rd class petty officer, Fredrikson was serving aboard Missouri during the Battle of Okinawa when a Japanese kamikaze suicide bomber hit the ship. On Jan. 10, he was a special guest at the Battleship Missouri Memorial. It was his third time aboard the vessel since its decommissioning.

Another unsung hero is Lauren Bruner, who was serving aboard the USS Arizona on Dec. 7, 1941. Bruner, now 92 years old, returned to Pearl Harbor along with a film crew working on a project titled "Second to the Last to Leave." The film documents what Bruner remembers about that devastating day and the weeks that followed.

U.S. Medal of Honor recipient, Col. (retired) Joe Jackson, visited the 15th Wing Feb. 28 through March 3 to attend the 15th Maintenance Group's

annual Knucklebuster award ceremony and meet with Hickam Airmen. Jackson, who received his medal of honor in 1968 for a heroic rescue of a combat control team during the Vietnam conflict, served as the guest speaker for the Knucklebuster event.

Some of those visiting JBPHH were heroes of a different kind.

As part of the Air Force's Pilot for a Day program, young people facing catastrophic illnesses are invited to be guests of the 15th Wing and one of its flying squadrons for an entire day. Airmen strive to give each child a special day and a break from whatever challenges they may face.

"I feel lucky, privileged, honored and very fortunate to participate in Pilot For a Day," said Col. Terry Scott, 15th Wing vice commander. "It's great to meet such good people who have overcome such obstacles. They've earned my respect and it doesn't matter how old they are, it's respectable to see someone not giving up, not quitting, taking life by the horns and going out there and living — seizing life."



Air Force Wounded Warriors hone skills while at JBPHH
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Homeport shifts announced for 2014
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Opportunities abound for a happy, healthy, fit and ready New Year!
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Professional golfer visits former ship
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Repeats dominate sports headlines in 2013
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MWR to kick off Pro Bowl with events for NFL fans
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Air Force Wounded Warriors hone skills while at JBPHH

Story and photos by Master Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn

15th Wing Public Affairs

More than 120 wounded warriors arrived this week at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) to prepare for the 2014 Wounded Warrior Pacific Invitational.

The WWPI is one in a series of adaptive athletic events leading up to the 2014 Warrior Games, an annual competition among wounded warriors from all branches of military service.

The Air Force athletes trained on the fundamental techniques of cycling, seated volleyball, swimming, track and field and wheelchair basketball. They also scrimmaged against JBPHH Airmen, the Chiefs Group and Pacific Air Forces senior leadership Jan. 5-7.

After the practice competitions, the 30 Air Force ath-

letes are facing off against the 90 other athletes for the Wounded Warrior Pacific Invitational, which began Jan. 8 and concludes today.

The scrimmage games help the Air Force wounded warriors prepare for the Invitational.

"Competing in wheelchair basketball is very intense," said Staff Sgt. Blake Coney, 647th Logistic Readiness Squadron material management specialist and volunteer competitor.

"There's a lot of multi-tasking involved in the sport. Being able to see the court, pushing the wheelchair and dribbling are all very difficult tasks," Coney said.

Coney is one of several JBPHH Airmen who volunteered to practice with the Air Force wounded warriors.

"The wounded warriors that I practiced with are really sports enthused and I

like that, but they also know how to have fun," Coney said. "It's a lot to take in; the biggest challenge was dribbling and controlling the wheelchair. This experience has made me have a lot more respect for these warrior athletes."

Tech. Sgt. Ryan Pinney, a Wounded Warrior from the Arizona Air National Guard, said these sport camps are fun and help to produce good camaraderie.

"It's a great opportunity to compete against new players and more experienced players. But every sport still needs structure, and requires a leader or captain within the team. But in these competitions were not focused on rank or titles. It's not about active duty, National Guard or civilian, it's all about the camaraderie and the most important aspect of the game is to just have fun," Pinney said.



Air Force wounded warrior Maj. Lee Kuxhaus (retired), left, prepares to accept a pass from Tech. Sgt. Ryan Pinney, right, during an adaptive sports program camp at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center on Jan. 6.

Homeport shifts announced for 2014

Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific Public Affairs

The U.S. Navy announced Jan. 7 that USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53) will swap homeports with USS Lake Erie (CG 70) this summer. USS Preble (DDG 88) will also leave San Diego for Hawaii this summer to replace the decommissioned frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57).

Moving the two guided-missile destroyers to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam will provide updated, advanced Aegis capabilities to Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. It will also allow Lake Erie, a Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser, to proceed to San Diego for a scheduled extended docking ship repair availability (EDSRA).

Lake Erie is expected to replace John Paul Jones as a rotational Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) deployer out of San Diego once the EDSRA is complete. John Paul Jones and Preble are Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers that perform key roles in support of a carrier strike group, expeditionary strike group or surface action group.

John Paul Jones is currently the most technologically advanced ship within the BMD program and will be used in that capacity to support the Navy and Missile Defense Agency testing program. Recently, the ship was updated with the latest Aegis BMD capability to engage ballistic missiles with the SM-3 missile.

DDGs are capable of sustained combat operations supporting forward presence, maritime security, sea control and deterrence. These combatants operate in a network centric warfare environment and execute multi-mission tasking to include air, surface, undersea, space and cyber warfare. DDGs coordinate with units of a task group to conduct naval operations and execute the Maritime Strategy under a naval component commander.

USS Reuben James, the last remaining guided-missile frigate homeported in Hawaii, was decommissioned July 18, 2013 after nearly 30 years of distinguished naval service.

Maintaining the most technologically advanced ships supports the United States' commitment to the security, stability and prosperity of the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.



Wheelchair basketball players reach for the ball.

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Commentary

Opportunities abound for a happy, healthy, fit and ready New Year!

Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

As the New Year begins, let's take a moment to think about all the important events we are privileged to have on our doorstep, all happening now and in coming weeks here in Hawaii:

- the Wounded Warrior Pacific Invitational has brought dozens of heroes to Hawaii to compete in seated sports events around Oahu;
- the Sony Pro-Am Golf Tournament is being held with eight military participants, a Pro Clinic at Joint Base, and numerous service members volunteering in their off duty time;
- warfighters will be train-

ing for operational readiness in the Koa Kai exercise, getting ready for RIMPAC 2014.

- military service members will be able to rub shoulders with all-stars of the NFL when the Pro Bowl

comes to town at the end of the month.

We wouldn't have these opportunities if we weren't regarded as a world-class force in Hawaii. As Commander, Navy Region and Navy Surface Group Middle Pacific, it's a special privilege to be involved in these events and training opportunities that tie to fitness and readiness.

To maintain a combat-ready force to defend maritime interests in the heart of the Pacific, we need to be physically and mentally fit and ready — and we must take care of our shipmates as well as our families. As we welcome in the New Year and consider our resolutions let's commit to promoting a healthy culture of fitness and readiness with a focus on good leadership

through honor, courage and commitment.

The Navy joins our Marine Corps, Air Force, Army and Coast Guard teammates in safeguarding and fostering this healthy force and our healthy families. Fitness centers, pools, MWR activities, and nutrition programs are available for physical fitness. Mental health programs and services help address issues like PTSD and suicide prevention.

According to the Naval Safety Center, our Navy has seen a nearly 50 percent reduction in motor vehicle and recreation fatalities related to alcohol abuse over the past ten years. In fact, there are numerous Navy safety and quality of life programs contributing to this improve-

ment, and one of the newest additions is CSADD. The Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) is making a difference by offering alternatives, leading by example and innovatively promoting healthy and safe behavior.

Unfortunately, we still see a disproportionate number of motorcycle accidents and fatalities. Navy-wide, there were 244 deaths in two-wheel motor vehicle accidents from fiscal years 2002 through 2013.

Now, as we make New Year resolutions based on fitness and readiness, let's slow down, make good choices, and avoid motor vehicle accidents as well as the negative impact of bad behavior on and off duty, particularly with regard to

alcohol and sexual assault.

Sexual assault is a major crime that tears apart commands wherever it occurs. Ending sexual assaults will increase our readiness and resilience as we become a more fit team.

As SECNAV says, when it comes to sexual assaults, we must honor our shipmates by looking out for one another. We must have the courage to act, intervene and report. And we must have the commitment to support those who have been assaulted.

Let's commit to a safer, healthier, increased fitness and more ready 2014 and enjoy the many opportunities we have here throughout the year.

We can achieve great things when we work together.

Diverse Views



What is your biggest goal for the New Year?

AWV 1 Laquain Jordan
Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel

"I'm retiring this year, so I want to conclude my Navy career on a high note and mentor as many Sailors as I can before I depart."



Master Sgt. Robert Pickel
15th Operations Support Squadron

"With a lot of uncertainty in the years to come, my goal for the New Year is to educate myself on all possible programs so that myself and other Airmen I work with can make the best informed decision on our future."

Staff Sgt. Meagan Lydon
692nd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group

"My goal for the New Year is to study hard enough to make technical sergeant this year. I also want to finish my undergraduate certificate and move onto pursue my master's degree in management."



Gunner's Mate Chris Petrosky
USS Halsey (DDG-9)

"I want to make my next pay grade so I can make more money."

Tech. Sgt. Mel Ramos
48th Aerial Port Squadron

"The biggest goal that I have for the New Year is to improve my health through consistently working out and eating healthfully. I want to feel confident in whatever I do, and being healthy is the best way to do that."



(Provided by Brandon Bosworth and David D. Underwood Jr.)

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

VA assists transitioning service members

Department of Veterans Affairs

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) new VA Benefits I and II Briefings are now available at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) as part of the revamped Transition Assistance Program (TAP). The goal of the redesigned TAP, now known as Transition GPS (Goals, Plans, Success), is to provide transitioning service members with a set of value-added, individually tailored training programs and services to equip them with the set of tools they need to pursue their post-military goals successfully.

Service members participating in the new VA Benefits I and II Briefings will experience interactive activities teaching them how to review, apply

for, and receive the benefits and services they have earned.

The VA's Benefits I Briefing provides detailed information on education, health care, compensation, life insurance, home loans and other VA benefits and services. During VA Benefits II, Service members are provided supplementary information to expand and reinforce what is covered in VA Benefits I, an overview of the disability compensation process, and an introduction to the eBenefits portal (VA's web-based benefits application system). Both briefings are highly interactive and include practical exercises, videos of personal experiences, and a question and answer session.

Briefings are offered weekly at the PSD building on Fridays (Benefits I) from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and (Benefits

II) from 12:30 to 4 p.m. For more information on attending Transition GPS, contact your ACAP manager.

Additionally, briefers conducting VA Benefits I and II Briefings are available for appointments outside the classroom to assist all service members, veterans, and family members who have questions about VA benefits and services they may be eligible to receive. They will serve as an important on-site resource for service members, veterans, and family members needing information on available resources. VA benefits briefers office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday in the PSD building at 4827 Bougainville Drive, Suite 207 Room 219. To schedule an appointment, call (808) 474-0020/0021/0022/0031.

Famed aviator Amelia Earhart meets with Duke Kahanamoku



Photo courtesy of the state of Hawaii Department of Transportation, Airports Division

Duke Kahanamoku shows famed aviator Amelia Earhart how pineapples are prepared for eating, Jan. 2, 1935 at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Earhart visited Hawaii and embarked on a record-breaking solo flight from Honolulu to Oakland, Calif. on Jan. 11, 1935, which took place 79 years ago this week.

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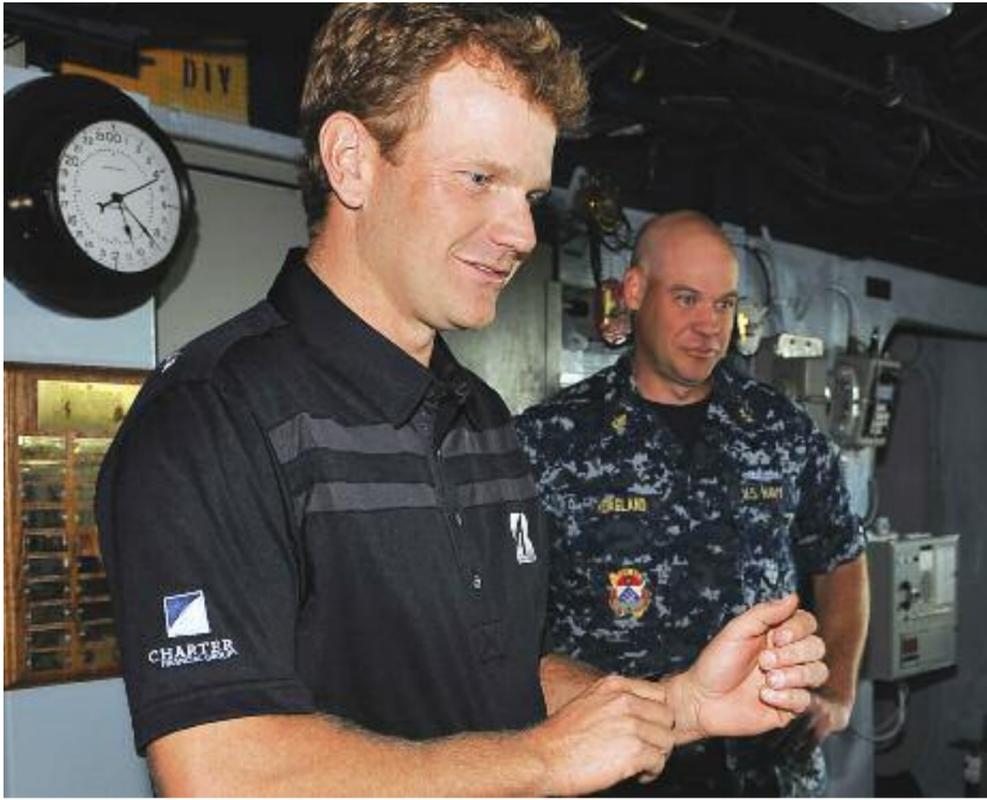
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Billy Hurley III, Professional Golfers' Association of America (PGA) member, relives his days on the bridge of the USS Chung-Hoon (DDG-93) during a tour Jan. 8 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Professional golfer visits former ship

Story and photo by
MC1 Cynthia Clark

Second-year Professional Golfers' Association of America (PGA) member and former U.S. naval officer Billy Hurley III visited his former ship, USS Chung-Hoon (DDG-93), Jan. 8 at its homeport of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Hurley, who served aboard the guided-missile destroyer from June 2007 to June 2009, is playing in the Sony Open in Hawaii on his second year as a member of the PGA tour. During his time on Chung-Hoon, he served as first lieutenant, after graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2004.

"It's awesome to come back and the ship looks great," Hurley said. "The crew's doing great stuff, everyone's doing well, morale seems high and it's really cool to come back."

Along with some friends from the

PGA tour, Hurley visited the bridge, combat information center, the mess decks and flight deck, giving him a chance to relive old memories and share a little bit of the Navy life with his fellow tour members. It was also a way for Hurley to re-visit the environment that gave him the discipline required for a PGA career.

"The Naval Academy and the Navy taught me a lot of mental toughness and time management," he said. "Those are the two skills that I use a lot as a professional golfer, there's lots of demands on our time, media stuff like this, fun stuff like this, but at the same time you still have to get work done and golf — that's our job, so the Navy taught me a lot about how to manage it all."

While it was a way for Hurley to reminisce about his Navy days, it was also a sense of pride for the ship's crew to welcome a successful shipmate

back on board.

"It means a lot, to have anybody who's an alumni of the ship to bring them back, they're always part of the community, we always try to share that with anybody, be it officer or enlisted, whatever job they may have, everybody's always welcome back," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Tom Ogden, USS Chung-Hoon executive officer. "We have a great ship and we like to show it off, so it's great to have him here and he's always welcome back any time he's back for the tournament. It means a lot."

Ogden reinforced Hurley's message about how the lessons learned in the U.S. Navy transcend to any walk of life.

"We want our crew to be successful wherever they go," Ogden said. "So if we can teach them something here that leads to some success, be it on the ship or in the future, I think we've done our job as leaders — no matter where it is."

Beetle pest discovery mobilizes base, state

Tom Clements

Navy Region Hawaii
Environmental
Public Affairs

With the discovery of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles (CRB) on Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam (JBPHH) property on Dec. 23, military and civilians at the joint base are joining with State of Hawaii and U.S. Department of Agriculture to combat the spread of the invasive threat. The CRB is a high profile invasive species and is a pest of coconut palms and other palm species.

"We take this situation very seriously, and have mobilized efforts to work with state and federal teammates to expeditiously determine the extent of infestation and work together towards eradication," said Dr. Cory Campora, natural resources management specialist with Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii. "We will make every effort to safeguard plants and animals from invasive species" he added.

HDOA is the lead agency in this effort. Navy Region Hawaii and JBPHH will remain in close coordination with State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture and USDA, while also working together with US Fish and Wildlife Service, and University of Hawaii.

A total of nine adult CRB have been captured in traps near Hickam golf course and beach since Dec. 23. The State Department of Agriculture, USDA and base personnel are developing a trapping grid layout and deploying additional traps over the next few

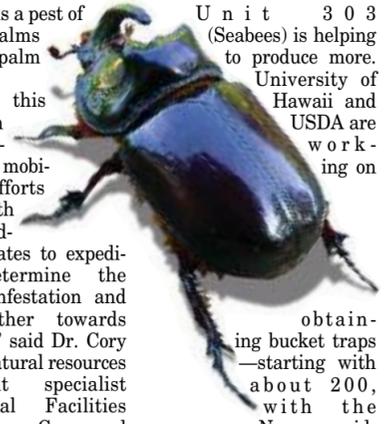
weeks.

The grid will include 55-gallon drum traps in the core area where beetles have been caught and smaller bucket traps in a wider grid. Data show that adult CRB disperse only a few hundred meters by flight, so the goal is to get a grid of one trap per acre at a distance of 1 kilometer out from where beetles have already been trapped. HDOA is currently building 55-gallon drum traps and Navy Construction Battalion Maintenance

Unit 303 (Seabees) is helping to produce more. University of Hawaii and USDA are working on

obtaining bucket traps —starting with about 200, with the Navy providing labor required to assemble.

It is unknown at this time how the CRB arrived at JBPHH, and it is very difficult to determine the method of arrival. It is possible the CRB could have come on either military or civilian flights from many possible locations. Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam has the nearest green space to the shared runway and airfields of Honolulu International Airport and Hickam, so it is likely that invasive species would appear there first. In early November inspectors at Honolulu airport picked up a CRB in luggage from a flight arriving from Japan.



Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



(Above): Naval Aircrewman (Mechanical) Airman Brett Parks performs a discus throw during a track and field practice session Jan. 6 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for the Wounded Warrior Pacific Invitation in Honolulu.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jerine Lee

(Left): Naval Aircrewman (Mechanical) Airman Brett Parks recovers after a 50m breaststroke swim at Scott Pool Jan. 6 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during a practice session for the scheduled Wounded Warrior Pacific Invitation in Honolulu, Jan. 8-10.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Kenneth R. Hendrix

(Below): Air Force wounded warriors compete against the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Chief's Group in seated volleyball.

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



(Left): Gen. Herbert J. "Hawk" Carlisle, commander, Pacific Air Forces, prepares a plate for a young patron at the Hale Aina dining facility, located on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Carlisle, along with Chief Master Sgt. Steve K. McDonald, PACAF command chief, spent part of their Christmas away from their families so they could serve dinner to Airmen and their families.

U.S. Air Force photo by SrA Christopher Stoltz

(Below): Chief Master Sgt. Steve K. McDonald, command chief, Pacific Air Forces, serves up some dessert to a patron at the Hale Aina dining facility, located on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Air Force photo by SrA Christopher Stoltz

