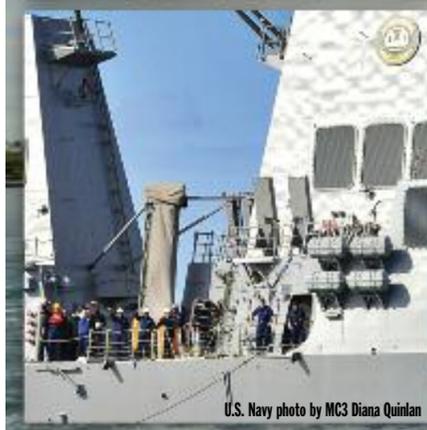


HMCS Protecteur returns after recovery at sea



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro

After Her Majesty’s Canadian Ship (HMCS) Protecteur suffered an engine fire that left the ship dead in the water, the U.S. Navy provided support and assistance, using USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112), USS Chosin (CG 65), fleet ocean tug USNS Sioux (T-ATF-175) and Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 37 (HSM 37). Protecteur was towed into Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam yesterday.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan



U.S. Navy photo by MCI Jay M. Chu

Hickam AFAF reception starts campaign



Master Sgt. Richard Montano, 15th Maintenance Group, shares a personal story of how he and his family were provided assistance from the Air Force Assistance Fund during the 2014 AFAF Kickoff Reception at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on March 3.

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez

15th Wing Public Affairs

The 15th Wing’s 2014 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign officially began with an AFAF kickoff re-

ception held March 3 at Ka Makani Community Center.

Campaign organizers, keyworkers and wing leadership attended the breakfast event.

Col. Johnny Roscoe, 15th Wing commander, spoke to

the audience about the importance of the campaign.

“We take care of our own today, we take care of our own tomorrow, and this is how we do that,” Roscoe said. “Don’t be afraid to

See Reception, A-8

Navy – Marine Corps Relief Society kicks off month-long annual fund drive

Brandon Bosworth
Ho’okele Staff Writer

The Navy – Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Pearl Harbor chapter kicked off its annual fund drive March 3 at Sharkey Theatre, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The drive runs through April 4.

Sailors designated as key personnel by their commands received supplies, training about the NMCRS fund drive, and instructions on running a successful drive.

Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and honorary chair of the NMCRS Pearl Harbor office, addressed the group and urged everyone to learn more about the program.

“NMCRS is shipmates

helping shipmates. It’s Navy families and Marine Corps families helping each other,” Williams said.

The admiral was introduced by Capt. Mark Wheeler, commanding officer, NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor (NAVSUP FLC PH), who is serving as the chairperson of the 2014 NMCRS drive. Lt. Darian Wilder, NAVSUP FLC PH, is the coordinator of this year’s drive and the key point of contact.

Paul Belanger, director of the NMCRS Pearl Harbor office, told the group that the Pearl Harbor office provided more than \$818,000 in financial assistance in over 1,100 cases to Sailors, Marines, retirees and their families in 2013.



NMCRS provides assistance for emergency needs ranging from basic living expenses, such as food and shelter, to emergency travel, medical, dental and/or important services. The annual drive raises the funds necessary to provide these services. The Navy Region NMCRS active duty drive last year raised more than \$516,837.

Among those helped by NMCRS Pearl Harbor include an active duty service member whose son was medevac’d from overseas for medical treatment, a widow whose retired spouse died suddenly, an active duty service member who lost clothing and household

See NMCRS, A-8

COMPACAF discusses AF challenges during visit to 15th Wing

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez

15th Wing Public Affairs

Gen. “Hawk” Carlisle, commander of Pacific Air Forces, spoke to 15th Wing Airmen about present and future challenges the Air Force faces during a Hickam all call held March 4.

Carlisle highlighted the importance of maintaining hard work, dedication and togetherness while dealing with future Air Force-wide challenges.

“We’re facing some challenges right now. You’ve seen it and we’re all a part of it,” Carlisle said. “This is nothing new. We have faced challenges before. This is something that is in the na-

ture of what we do.”

Some challenges Carlisle highlighted included the approaching force management programs and budget cuts across Air Force that will affect personnel, infrastructure, readiness and modernization programs.

“We’re going to figure out how to deal with [these cuts],” Carlisle said. “You have to realize that it’s going to have an impact on every single one of us. Make sure you understand what the possible outcomes are.”

Carlisle related the issues the Air Force is dealing with today with issues of the past, stressing that the Air Force has dealt with these challenges before.

“We know where it’s headed, and we know where we’re going to be. We just



Gen. “Hawk” Carlisle, commander of Pacific Air Forces, speaks with 15th Wing Airmen during a Hickam all call March 4 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

have to deal with [the challenges] as smart as we possibly can,” Carlisle said.

The general promised the Airmen that he would make sure they receive a one-on-one discussion with their supervisor or commander about their career and ensure everyone gets the help they need, no matter how they are affected in the force management programs.

“We will get through this together, and our legacy going forward is that we take care of our Airmen,” Carlisle said. “We have to take care of every single one of our Airmen whether they stay in or not.”

Carlisle ended the commander’s call by highlighting outstanding performers in the 15th Wing and a question and answer session.



USS La Jolla departs for western Pacific deployment
See page A-2



Hickam C-17s conduct airdrop training at Elmendorf
See page A-3



Motorcycle safety — Staying alive to enjoy the ride
See page A-6



15th Wing Optometry Clinic expands services
See page A-8



Search and rescue simulations
See page B-1



USS Arizona Memorial stamp to be unveiled March 13
See page B-3

The guided-missile destroyer USS O’Kane (DDG 77) is scheduled to depart today from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a deployment to the western Pacific Ocean and Arabian Gulf. While deployed, O’Kane will conduct theatre security cooperation and maritime presence operations with partner nations. See more information in next week’s Ho’okele.

USS La Jolla departs for western Pacific deployment

Story and photo by
MC1 Steven Khor

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

Families and friends of Sailors of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS La Jolla (SSN 701) said farewell as it departed March 4 from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a deployment to the western Pacific region.

Cmdr. Kevin Roach, La Jolla's commanding officer, said the submarine and its crew are excited and ready to set sail.

"I am honored to be leading this formidable ship and this outstanding crew," said Roach. "La Jolla is in outstanding material condition, thanks to the hard work of the crew, the fleet maintenance submarine department, and the shipyard maintenance team."

La Jolla is scheduled to conduct a standard deployment to the western Pacific area of operations in support of the commander of the U.S. 7th Fleet.

"We are a learning organization, so our goals rarely change. They all center on perfecting our craft as submarine warriors," said Roach.



Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Dylan Headbird of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS La Jolla (SSN 701) spends time with wife, Emily, and his son at a luncheon for the crew March 4 before La Jolla departs from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on a western Pacific deployment.

La Jolla deploys with 140 Sailors, many of them on their first deployment.

For Logistics Specialist 3rd Class Ling Lin, a first-time deployment brings a sense of adventure as well as stress of a

new challenge.

"This is for real, all real, and there is nothing to stop it," joked Lin. "But I am looking forward to the liberty ports and getting my qualifications."

Roach said that of all the peo-

ple who have helped them get to this point, the ones who deserve the most humble thanks are the families that support them when they are ashore or at sea.

"Our families provide us that sense of purpose that keeps us

Fire Control Technician 2nd Class Anthony Drizos of the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS La Jolla (SSN 701) gets a "selfie" picture with his wife Jenna.

motivated and sharp during our deployments," added Roach.

USS La Jolla is named for La Jolla, Calif. and is the first warship named after this township. Commissioned Oct. 24, 1981, La Jolla is the 14th ship of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarines. The submarine is 360-foot long, displaces 6,900 tons and can be armed with sophisticated Mark-48 ADCAP anti-submarine torpedoes and Tomahawk guided cruise missiles.

Navy to brief Hawaii lawmakers on Red Hill, water safety

Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs

Two commanding officers and their subject matter experts will brief Sen. Mike Gabbard, chair of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee, and other Hawaii lawmakers today about the Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility and Navy's ongoing commitment to protect drinking water.

The Navy representatives' main point is that the drinking water drawn from the area is safe.

Capt. Mike Williamson, commanding officer of Naval

Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii and regional engineer for Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, will give an update to state senators and house representatives about efforts to locate and repair a petroleum leak discovered earlier this year at the Navy's Red Hill fuel facility and on the steps to improve monitoring technology of tanks, conduct soil sampling and protect groundwater.

"We are wholly committed to protecting the environment and our vital fresh water sources," Williamson said. "I believe we have

taken prudent measures to ensure the water remains safe to drink and we look forward to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure public safety while maintaining this critical national strategic asset."

Capt. Mark Wheeler, commanding officer of Fleet Logistics Command (FLC) Pearl Harbor, will explain how a fuel level discrepancy in Tank 5 at Red Hill was detected, leading to a mitigation response and immediate notification.

"It was our fuel operators at Red Hill who noticed and reported a discrepancy in

the fuel inventory level of JP-8 aviation fuel in Tank 5, which led us to discover the leak," Wheeler said. "As soon as the suspected leak was reported, we began moving fuel out of Tank 5, while at the same time notifying local, state, federal, Navy and Department of Defense agencies."

Wheeler added, "Tank 5 had been off-line for four years for a 'clean, inspect and repair' maintenance cycle. The Navy received Tank 5 back from the repair contractor 'certified' that all repairs were completed and Tank 5 was ready to fill."

Experts are looking into how, where and why the tank developed the leak.

Engineers from NAVFAC and FLC will participate in the joint Senate-House informational briefing to provide technical details about the status of Tank 5, operations and storage of bulk fuel, and latest monitoring technology as well as long-term plans.

The Navy is working with the State Department of Health and the City & County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply to maintain an open dialogue to ensure the safety of drinking water.

Wheeler said, "We take

our environmental stewardship seriously – we all rely on fresh, safe drinking water for ourselves and our families. We take great pride in being part of the Hawaii community and we will continue to keep the public informed."

He added, "We will continue to work closely with our city, state and federal partners to assess, monitor and take every prudent action in order to protect public safety."

The informational briefing is scheduled for today at 1 p.m. at the Hawaii State Capitol in Room 329.

Diverse Views



What was your favorite book or story when you were young?



OS3 Marissa Tobin
Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard
"The Great Gatsby.' It's enticing."

Airman 1st Class Daniel Lee
15th Medical Group



"Animal Farm.' I read it during high school and learned so much through it. I loved the fact the author used animals to symbolize history."



ET2 Lance Tanaguchi
USS Chafee (DDG 90)

"I'd probably have to say it was 'Harry Potter' back then."

1st Lt. Andrea Dykes
15th Wing



"The Berenstain Bears' books. We had over 30 different books. They were funny, easy to read, and had a lesson on life written into each one."



Robin Plante
HQ PACAF

"Cherry Ames book series. They featured the experience and adventures of a WWII nurse. Ironically, I went on to serve in the Air Force for 20 years."

ET2 Matt Magel
USS Halsey (DDG 97)



"The Chronicles of Narnia."



AW03 Scott Dyer
VP-47

"The Great Gatsby.' It made me feel involved in it. Kept me interested."

Sr. Airman Samuel Groover
647th Civil Engineer Squadron



"Anything by Dr. Seuss because of his creative words, worlds and creatures. This helped to me to look at the world with new eyes and new perspective."



FC3 Jovie Tanele
Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

"Angels and Demons' by Dan Brown."

Provided by Lt. j.g. Eric Galassi and David 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

Commentary

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society extends helping hand

Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society here in Hawaii, led by Paul Belanger and his staff – nearly all volunteers – are advocates for our Sailors, Marines and families. And they punch above their weight.

The NMCRS team takes our burdens and problems when we're up against the ropes, and they find solutions.

They are the "insurance policy" for Sailors and Marines, retirees and family members who are experiencing financial difficulties. And they are the "assurance policy" for young new families:

through their visiting nurse program, thrift shop, and help for new parents and babies.

With interest-free loans, the trusted stewards of NMCRS help our shipmates avoid the trap of predatory lending in time of need.

Then, with confidential assistance, NMCRS counselors provide our Sailors and Marines with skills and tools to avoid serious financial harm.

Their good work builds predictability for our families and directly contributes to readiness and resilience of our team.

Last year NMCRS helped nearly 80 percent of tenant commands and approved 99 percent of requests for aid.

They are able to provide all of that assistance because 90 percent of eligible tenant commands contributed and did so generously. When you see information about this year's fund drive, your support is appreciated.

Our per capita contributions here in Hawaii are usually higher than those at other duty stations. That's a clear indication

that the spirit of aloha and spirit of giving — taking care of our own — are strong here.

When we give to NMCRS, we are truly helping our Navy and Marine Corps family. No one is immune from life's challenges or tragedies. Most of us have been through rough patches, especially in the early years of our careers.

It's good to know the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has our backs, fighting to help us.

Thank you, NMCRS, especially for the way you inspire us to recognize the universal sense of duty to each other. You help us deal with the disruptions and uncertainties of life.

I encourage all of our shipmates to work with your NMCRS command reps to learn more about this great program.



A C-17 Globemaster III

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

Hickam C-17s conduct airdrop training at Elmendorf

Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez

15th Wing Public Affairs

Hickam C-17 Globemasters III from the 535th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam began a four-day, dual-row airdrop training mission Feb. 26 at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

Hickam's location in Hawaii poses challenges when it comes to C-17s conducting required airdrop training here.

"Here we have to deal with the uniqueness of being so far from the mainland," said Maj. Andrew Beckett,

15th Operations Group standardization and evaluation.

"There's limited open space to conduct the drops. If we were at a mainland base, it would be easier for us to do the training, and we wouldn't have to generate a four-day, off-station training."

Beckett said another challenge to C-17 airdrop training in Hawaii is the strict limitations they have on flying over the islands. Due to noise abatement laws, most of their flying must be over water.

During the semi-annual training, the C-17 crews will conduct numerous airdrop missions as well as low-

flying training over the unique Alaskan terrain.

Beckett said this training is important to their readiness.

"An airdrop is one of the core mission sets of the C-17, and it is required that we stay trained and ready to execute at a moment's notice," Beckett said.

The training mission will also include Hickam's C-17s working with the 525th Fighter Squadron in transporting some of their equipment to Hawaii for an upcoming training mission.

Elmendorf is one of many mainland bases where the training can be and has been conducted.

Photos line newly named Historic Hickam Officer's Club



Photo courtesy of the Bishop Museum

On Dec. 14, 1911 the cruiser USS California (ACR 6) shown in this photo steamed into Pearl Harbor and became the first large warship to enter "the best and most capacious harbor in the Pacific." This is one of a series of 13 new historic photographs that hang at the newly named Historic Hickam Officer's Club at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The photographic series tells the story of the Navy and Air Force growing up together along the banks of Pearl Harbor on Oahu's south shore.

HO'okele

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Ho'okele is a free unofficial paper published every Friday 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, Air Force 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.

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USS Halsey Sailor is honored as Blue Jacket of the Year

Story and photo by
MCSA Rose Forest

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West,
Detachment Hawaii

Throughout the Navy, commands took time during the month of February to celebrate African American History Month and recognize African American Sailors who have shaped our Navy through the years.

Ship's Serviceman 2nd Class Olyen Scott joined thousands of African American Sailors who have been recognized for their hard work and dedication when he was recently chosen for the Blue Jacket of the Year for Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

"I'm honored to receive such a prestigious award, and I find it to be extremely fitting that it was awarded this month," said Scott, assigned to the Pearl Harbor-based, guided-missile destroyer USS



Ship's Serviceman 2nd Class Olyen Scott stands watch aboard the Pearl Harbor-based, guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97). Scott was recently chosen for the Blue Jacket of the Year for Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

Halsey (DDG 97).

"In the last hundred years, blacks have been able to help shape the Navy. It used to be that if you were black, you could be a cook. But now you see African American Sailors as high-

ranking officers, as chiefs, senior chiefs and command master chiefs. It's amazing to see how much we have grown," Scott said.

The U.S. Navy has Sailors from all over the world who are naturalized and wel-

comed by the country they swore to protect.

"You have people from all different backgrounds and walks of life coming to be in the military but you put them all in the same melting pot and you put your skill

and my skill together. We can work as a team to accomplish the mission, and that is the whole goal at the end of the day," added Scott.

Outside of his normal responsibilities as a Sailor, Scott is the vice president of Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD), on the board of the heritage committee and an active member of the ship's community.

"His reputation precedes him," said Chief Logistics Specialist David Brown, supply division chief. "Nothing but good things about the guy, his behavior, his uniform — it's remarkable. He carries himself like a leader. He is prideful in his work, he stands by his Sailors, and he has a lot of drive."

It was this kind of reputation that resulted in Scott being nominated and ultimately chosen for the Blue Jacket of the Year for Com-

mander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

"Seeing these higher ranking individuals that may have come from the same background or the same heritage as you, gives people hope," said Ship's Serviceman 2nd Class Arnold Luke, S3 division LPO.

"It shows these Sailors that they can do anything. Scott has initiative, job accomplishment, pride in work, knowledge of rate, and knowledge of these different programs he is involved in and overall being in tune with the command's mission. And as a junior Sailor, this sets a wonderful example for those below him. No matter how new you are to the Navy or what your rank is, you can make an impact."

The Blue Jacket of the Year award recognizes Sailors who represent the best in the Navy by demonstrating both professional and personal dedication.

FFD prevention division visits Waihe'e Tunnel for proficiency training

Angela Sanders

Fire Inspector, Federal Fire
Department Hawaii

The Federal Fire Department Fire Prevention Division visited the Waihe'e Tunnel on Feb. 18 to gain proficiency training. The Waihe'e Tunnel is an active water facility managed by the Board of Water Supply. The purpose of the visit was to discuss water supply distribution systems as part of the division's proficiency training.

Proficiency training requirements are conducted to maintain current knowledge and skills necessary to perform the duties as a fire inspector. This training refreshes, introduces and promotes new ideas to help in the development of technology aimed at growing the fire



The Federal Fire Department Fire Prevention Division toured the Board of Water Supply Waihe'e Tunnel on Feb. 18 to discuss Oahu's water supply distribution systems as part of the division's proficiency training.

protection and prevention industry.

The fire personnel toured the tunnel and discussed the uniqueness of Oahu's water distribution systems in past and present time. Oahu's age, shape and steep mountains are unique and con-

tribute to the formation and trapping of clouds. These clouds provide the island with abundant rainfall and contribute to the island's water cycle equation.

"The experience was both educational and spiritual. The connection between the

Hawaiian culture and their natural resource was evident during the tour," said Tech Sgt. Matthew Walls battalion chief, Air Force Service.

"A greater appreciation of the land was gained as well as a deeper understanding of the commercial water supply system and how it affects the Federal Fire Department's mission to provide protection to our community," he said.

The tour began with a walk inside the 1,500-foot dike tunnel which provides water to windward Oahu, from Kahalu'u to Kailua. The tour included an introduction of the island's water cycle, the importance of the island's forested watershed areas, and the purpose and history of the Waihe'e tunnel.

In ancient times, the Native Hawaiians drew their water supplies from fresh water springs, lakes,

streams and shallow wells. The entire population of hundreds of thousands thrived through wise management of their resources. Strict laws governing water resources were enforced and eventually became the law of the land. The ancient Hawaiians learned the value of its limited resource. Water was their source of life.

In the 1800s after the western explorers arrived, the laws of the water were abolished and uncontrolled drilling led to chaos and drought. Artesian wells were abandoned and neglected and millions of gallons of water were wasted. The overall lack of extensive planning led to the absence of a reliable water system. Fire protection was minimal and the threat of waterborne disease was constant.

After Hawaii was desig-

nated as a U.S. territory, the water system became the responsibility of the superintendent of public works of the territory of Hawaii. In 1987, the state water code was adopted and various layers of protection for the Hawaiian Islands waters were set.

"It was a great opportunity for us to learn about Oahu's water distribution systems and our Hawaiian history. I would like to thank our tour guide, Arthur Aiu, for a great experience and a very informative class," said Al Balderama, battalion chief for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

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

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Daniel Barker

The U.S. Navy fleet ocean tug USNS Sioux (T-ATF 171) tows the Royal Canadian Navy auxiliary oil replenishment ship HMCS Protecteur (AOR 509) to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. HMCS Protecteur experienced an engine fire en route to Canada and returned to Pearl Harbor with the assistance of U.S. Navy ships.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro

Sailors aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) conduct a brief during a towing operation for Canada's naval vessel HMCS Protecteur. The Chosin participated in the recovery operations of the Protecteur in the waters off the coast of Hawaii.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan

Guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) returns to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after providing assistance to the Royal Canadian Navy auxiliary oil replenishment ship HMCS Protecteur (AOR 509). Murphy returned with 19 civilians embarked who were transferred from Protecteur, which experienced an engine fire and was towed to Pearl Harbor.



U.S. Navy photos by MCSA Rose Forest

Hospital Corpsman Seaman Apprentice Conor Ruane, Navy Environmental Preventative Medicine Unit Six, practices testing water for impurities in a mobile water potability lab during a Field Training Exercise March 4 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Navy Medicine personnel deploy with Sailors and Marines worldwide, providing critical mission support aboard ship, in the air, under the sea and on the battlefield.



Hospital Corpsman Seaman Apprentice Conor Ruane practices testing water for impurities in a mobile water potability lab during a Field Training Exercise on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



Lt. Cmdr. Chadwick Yasuda, Navy Environmental Preventative Medicine Unit Six, demonstrates identifying infectious diseases.

Motorcycle safety — Staying alive to enjoy the ride

MCC (SW/AW/EXW)
David Rush

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West,
Det. Hawaii

Although great strides have been made in motorcycle safety gear and training programs in recent years, Sailors and Marines continue to incur injuries and, in extreme cases, lose their lives while riding motorcycles.

According to the Navy Safety Center, motorcycle injuries and deaths have decreased in the last five years.

In 2013, there were 17 Sailor motorcycle fatalities, a dramatic decrease from the 33 fatalities in 2008. Nonetheless, one fatality is too many, according to Cmdr. Leo Murphy, Commander, Pacific Fleet safety officer.

“Even when riders wear the proper safety equipment and complete the mandatory training and refresher courses, motorcycle riding remains an inherently dangerous mode of transportation,” said Murphy.

“Riding motorcycles is a high risk activity. The risks are inherent to riding and cannot be feasibly eliminated. The best preventative measure that a rider can take is to increase their riding skill level. That is best accomplished through training provided by professional instructors. Statistically, there is a direct correlation with the training the Navy provides and a reduction in motorcycle mishaps.”

He emphasized the importance of maintaining a high level of alertness and proficiency in order to avoid becoming a statistic.

“Riding a motorcycle is not like riding a bike. It is better to learn the necessary skills to safely handle a

motorcycle on a designated road course, than learning through ‘trial by fire’ on public streets,” Murphy said. “Preventive training pays, especially for inexperienced riders who are most at risk during the first year of riding. Rider skills training is the best tool we have in preventing motorcycle mishaps.”

In addition to increasing the necessary skills needed to get safely to and from your destination, being in positive control regardless of level of experience and type of motorcycle is vital, according to Murphy.

“First, those who choose to ride must understand the risks they are assuming. Once that fact is acknowledged, a rider can then develop effective risk management practices. Risk management is an essential part of safe riding and lessons learned from motorcycle mishaps highlight this fact. Riders must recognize their skill level and develop a ride plan that limits themselves to within their safe operating limits,” Murphy said.

All Sailors know how to implement operational risk management, or ORM, to their jobs at sea and shore. The same applies to risk management when riding a motorcycle.

“This limit might be daytime group rides only or not riding on highways, or some other self-imposed limitation on when, where, and how a rider will ride,” said Murphy.

“Understanding your limitations and determining the risks you are willing to accept will define safe riding and should be done before you get on a motorcycle. The use of sound risk management practices, rider vigilance, and training reduces the probability of motorcycle mishaps.”

Although military per-

sonnel receive training, obey the rules of the road, and wear PPE, that doesn't necessarily mean that others on the road will have the same level of alertness. According to Murphy, when we're behind the wheel of motor vehicles, everyone needs to pay attention to what's around them.

“In Hawaii we call that ‘*aloha spirit*.’ It means for other four wheel vehicles to be careful and look out for motorcycles to help keep the roads safer for them. It's sharing the road, slowing down, and not falling into lazy habits like not using turn signals. Recognize that mirrors in a car still allow for blind spots and to ensure a space is clear, best practice is to turn your head and look into the blind spot.”

Unfortunately, that doesn't always happen and it leads to life-ending consequences.

“Tragically, two fatal motorcycle mishaps occurred when the drivers failed to see and turned into the rider. Changing the driving habits of motorists and motorcyclists alike will help decrease the number of motorcycle accidents. Motorcyclists are reminded to make sure that they are visible to motorists and that they strictly follow the rules of the road,” said Murphy.

As for Sailors and Marines who intend on riding “two up,” training isn't just recommended, it's mandatory.

“Motorcycle riders must complete the two mandatory courses within 60 days after declaring intent to ride and then complete refresher training every three years,” said Murphy. “In fact, COMPACFLT policy directs service members who have not completed the required training to cease riding until all training is completed. Failure to do so



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Class Johans Chavarro

A Sailor rides a motorcycle Feb. 10 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam while following Navy safety procedures and protocols.

is a violation of a general order. The training is designed to make you safer; why not want that and take advantage of it?”

CMDCM (SW/AW) Paul Kingsbury, command master chief of the Naval Safety Center, echoed Murphy's sentiments.

“As a non-rider, I would offer that each mishap has an impact on the Sailor, their command and their peers. When a Sailor is involved in a serious crash resulting in injury or fatality, their parents, siblings, spouse, children and other relatives are affected,” said Kingsbury.

“A deceased Sailor will never have to deal with the personal repercussions of their death. A Sailor who sustains life-altering injuries may put additional burdens of health care and financial loss onto those same family members.”

“Additionally, the Sailor's

command loses an asset, a piece of the team, a watchstander, a subject matter expert, an influential leader. In some cases, this gap cannot be filled by the command and can result in the department or command unable to be fully mission capable,” Kingsbury said.

“The loss of a Sailor also means other Sailors have to fill that void. Someone has to pick up the duties and responsibilities; someone has to stand the extra watch. The death or loss of a Sailor also has a psychological and emotional impact on the Sailors at the command,” Kingsbury added.

In order to help minimize the possibility of injury, Kingsbury emphasized the need for both beginning and experienced riders to take the risks seriously.

“Riding a motorcycle has unique risks. Although PPE does provide some amount

of protection, the high speeds, instability and exposure to the open environment the motorcycle riders are exposed to makes the impacts of any crash much more severe.”

Bottom line according to Kingsbury, there's nothing better than consistently applying proper techniques and lessons learned to enjoy the road safely.

“Training and experience are the best methods of preventing mishaps,” Kingsbury said. “Command leadership should ensure that a proactive and healthy motorcycle safety program is in place and that Sailors who ride are taking advantage of the training provided on our installations world-wide. I would also encourage newer riders to ride with more experienced Sailors until they have gained the experience they need to reduce the hazards of riding.”

15th Wing Optometry Clinic expands services

Story and photo by
Master Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn

15th Wing Public Affairs

The 15th Wing Optometry Clinic at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam is now offering free eye exams for family members and retirees.

To utilize this service, patients are asked to call the 15th Wing clinic's central appointment line and be connected to the optometry clinic to set up an appointment.

"I think it's great that the eye clinic is offering exams to dependents and retirees. At first we had to actually go out on the economy to receive this service, but having the service here makes things a lot more convenient," said Maj. Callistus Elbourne, commander of Pacific Air Forces Air Postal Squadron.

"We see ages 7-64 now," said Maj. Alane Durand, 15th Aerospace Medicine Squadron optometry element chief. "The eye exam is very similar to an active-duty eye exam, but varies depending on the age of the patient."

Providing the eye exams on base will allow patients to receive their prescriptions free of charge though family members will still need to purchase their glasses or contact lenses from an off-base establishment.

In addition to family members and retirees, the clinic will still continue to see all active-duty patients.

Durand said though there is no requirement for service members to get eye exams. However, the American Optometric Association recommends that everyone has an exam at least every three years.

"Eyesight diminishes a little bit over the years," she said. "Once you reach your 40s, you begin to lose your ability to focus up close and may need reading glasses—whether your eyes are perfect or not. As you get older, the optics of the eye, the cornea and lenses, are not as clear. So people don't see as well, but typically we see that at age 60 and above."

Durand said in order to maintain good eyesight between optometry visits, people should wear sunglasses that provide 100 percent ultraviolet protection when outdoors and avoid cigarette smoke.

"Additionally, if you play any sports make sure you wear proper protection, sports goggles for squash, racquet ball and even basketball. Our number one eye injury is corneal abrasions, due to a finger to the eye while playing basketball," said Durand.

The eye clinic also reminds deploying service members to utilize the G-Eyes program. G-Eyes is a unique system, which allows Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines in deployed locations to reorder prescription glasses, gas mask inserts, military combat eye protection prescription and lens directly from the Internet.

To register for the G-Eyes program, visit <https://g-eyes.amedd.army.mil/>.



Maj. Alane Durand (right), 15th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Optometry Element chief, tests the vision of Maj. Callistus Elbourne, Pacific Air Forces Air Postal Squadron commander, during a routine eye exam at the optometry clinic at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 24.

Reception

Continued from, A-1
give because I really believe it's going to pay you back in the long run. Let's show our people that we really care."

During the kickoff, Chief Master Sgt. Sarah Sparks, acting 15th Wing command chief, and other base leadership joined Roscoe in filling out the first AFAF donation forms.

Unit AFAF keyworkers will be in charge of providing information for their unit personnel and distributing and collecting the donation forms.

Airman 1st Class Sean Green, 15th Comptroller Squadron and AFAF keyworker, said his goal is to get 100 percent of

his unit to donate.

"Even if everyone gives \$1 or \$2 a week, it's still something," Green said. "[The AFAF] is all about camaraderie, helping each other and being there for each other. The Air Force isn't only a job, it's a family."

This year's theme for the campaign is "Commitment to Caring" and the wing's collective goal is \$115,620.

Donors are encouraged to learn more about the charities the AFAF supports and can find their website links at <https://www.afassistancfund.org>.

For more information on Hickam's AFAF campaign, call Master Sgt. Valorie Whitehill at 448-6068 or email valorie.whitehill@us.af.mil.

NMCRS

Continued from, A-1
items in a fire, and a retiree who was in Hawaii for cancer treatment. NMCRS Pearl Harbor provided aid in the form of food, lodging, clothing and transportation.

This year's theme, "Be Their Safety Net," reminds us that the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society was established to help Sailors and Marines take care of their own. Belanger explained

that contributions are used exclusively to help Sailors and Marines in time of need in providing a safety net which can be drawn upon when unforeseen emergencies arise.

Fund drive information is available on the Pearl Harbor Fund Drive website at www.nmcrs.org/adfd/pearl-harbor.

Weekly updates as well as drive information, resources and contact numbers are available on the website.

Women's History Month Fair to be held March 25

In recognition of Women's History Month, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam will host a Women's History Fair from 2 to 3:30 p.m. March 25 at the Makai Recreation Center, 100 McChord St., on the Hickam side of the joint base.

Individuals or organizations can volunteer to sponsor a booth that will highlight a famous woman or group of women.

For more information or to create a booth, call Guss Lee Alexander Jr. at (808) 449-1701 or email Guss.Alexander@navy.mil.

(See next week's Ho'okele for a themed Women's History Month issue.)



Story Ideas?

Contact Ho'okele editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements.
473-2890 / editor@hookelenews.com

Hawaii-based first class petty officers attend symposium

MC1 Daniel Barker

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West,
Detachment Hawaii

More than 200 first class petty officers attended the inaugural First Class Petty Officer (FCPO) Symposium held Feb. 19 at Hickam Memorial Theater at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The symposium was aimed to provide information and guidance to potential future Navy chiefs from experienced senior enlisted leaders. Members of the chief petty officer action group spoke to petty officers about rewards and challenges of leadership, offering personal experiences and lessons learned throughout their career.

Different subjects and themes were discussed during the half-day symposium, including leadership and professional development, personal development, uniform matters and

available programs.

The event featured guest speakers from Navy senior leadership in the Hawaii region. Master Chief Culinary Specialist Rory Bacon spoke to the petty officers about their potential future in the Navy, the diversity of today's Navy, and how it impacts today's Sailors.

"I guarantee you 25 years ago when I first came into the Navy, this room wouldn't look this way, a diverse group of people, a diverse background, ethnicity, race and obviously sex. You all are the future leadership of the Navy," said Bacon.

"You all simply care; that's why you are here. Most of you showed up because you are the trendsetters. You want to be in our Chief's Mess, and you are going to get there. Stay on the ground, don't give up, keep pushing."

Command Master Chief Mark Rudes, the senior enlisted leader of U.S. Pacific

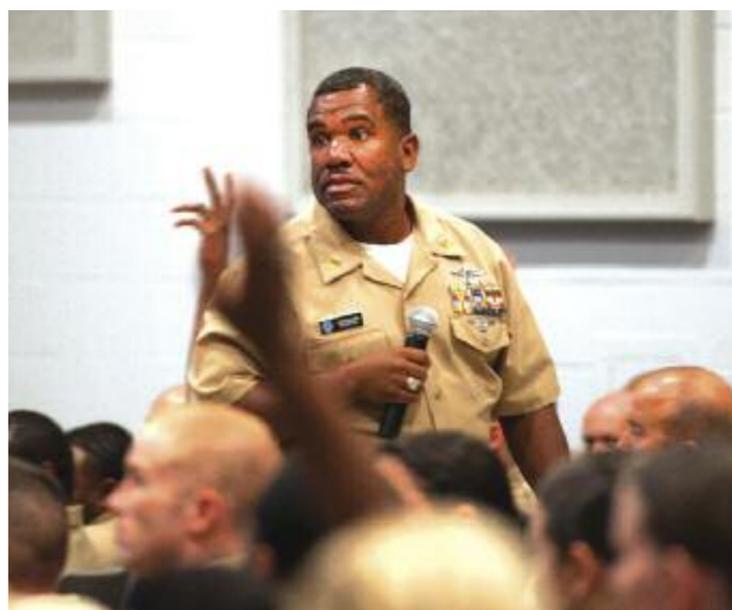
Command, spoke about the importance of sharing advice and guidance with junior Sailors.

"As chiefs in training you are one of the most important groups of people that we have in our Navy today," said Rudes.

"Out on the deck plates, out on the flight lines, walking around and interacting with Sailors, you are the ones who look the junior Sailors in the eyes and provide them with the information they need."

Machinist's Mate First Class John Stitt represented his command at the symposium.

"Not everyone from my command was able to attend today, so I hope to be able to pass along the words of wisdom that were discussed here," said Stitt. "I definitely think it was a worthwhile event. We need to get all the assistance we can to be better Sailors, mentors and leaders."



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan

Master Chief Culinary Specialist Rory Bacon speaks to first class petty officers stationed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during a first class petty officer symposium held at Hickam Memorial Theater.

New policy reinforces importance of safeguarding sensitive information

Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Public Affairs

Taking appropriate measures to safeguard personally identifiable information is as much every Airman's responsibility as is protecting operation security.

The Air Force defines PII as personal information which, if lost, compromised or disclosed without authorization, could result in substantial harm, embarrassment, inconvenience or unfairness to an individual. Examples of PII include social secu-

rity numbers, financial account numbers, driver's license numbers, medical information, full date of birth, or recall rosters.

There are many reasons to protect PII.

"First of all it's the law; it's protected by the Privacy and Civil Liberties Act," said Robert Lauderdale, 15th Wing force protection officer. "But more than that, we have to protect ourselves. With the rising number of cases of identity theft, we have to protect our Air Force information, network and personnel from criminal acts."

A recent policy letter states that any service member found in violation of OPSEC or PII policies will be accompanied by their squadron and group commander to discuss the circumstances of the incident with the 15th Wing commander.

Members improperly transmitting PII or OPSEC information via email will also have their accounts disabled until further remedial training has been received and their commander has authorized its reinstatement.

Lauderdale said encryption is key to avoiding security violations

when sending data via email.

Another way to transmit sensitive data is the Army's safe access file exchange, which uses a secure web site.

Though telephones are not expressly prohibited methods of sending sensitive information, Lauderdale urges members to be mindful of their surroundings.

"Heightened awareness should always be used when dealing with OPSEC and PII, especially when in a foreign country," he said.

Master Sgt. Mark Bollig, 15th Wing OPSEC program manager,

said members should familiarize themselves with what PII and OPSEC are and be knowledgeable about their unit's critical information.

Bollig also emphasized the importance of physical security.

"PII needs to be safeguarded at all times, whether that's with a cover sheet or putting it away in an appropriate place when you're not using it," he said.

For more information on OPSEC or PII, contact your unit OPSEC coordinator or the 15th Wing information assurance office at 449-0829.

