

## PACFLT Adm. Harris kicks off Pro Bowl



See more photos on page B-1

U.S. Navy photo by MCCS Michael Lewis

## USS Lake Erie completes its role in Koa Kai

MC1 David Kolmel

U.S. Pacific Fleet  
Public affairs

The guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG70) completed its part in exercise Koa Kai 14-1 on Jan. 29 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Koa Kai 14-1 is an integrated maritime training exercise to certify independent deployers in multiple warfare areas and provide integrated training in a multi-ship environment. Lake Erie conducted flight operations, visit board search and seizure drills, maneuvers with other ships in the area, and a replenishment at sea with the Royal Canadian navy auxiliary oil replenishment ship HMCS Protecteur.

“It’s a capstone of the basic level of training that makes certain we can operate in complex and operational scenarios,” Capt. John S. Banigan, commanding officer of Lake Erie said.

This exercise gave the crew of Lake Erie a chance to

spend time developing their ability to work as a war-fighting unit.

“The benefit I see on the deckplates is that the crew gets to cross train and work together to become a more cohesive unit,” said Command Master Chief Jack Johnson.

Lake Erie’s executive officer Lt. Cmdr. Raphael Castillejo agreed.

“It gave us an opportunity to give experience to watchstanders and provide last minute adjustment in the ways we fight the ship,” Castillejo said.

This year Koa Kai 14-1 had five guided-missile cruisers from Hawaii and San Diego along with four guided-missile destroyers which provided joint training throughout the fleet.

“Any operation that works with other ships in fleet not only benefits us (Lake Erie), but it benefits the synergy of all the other ships on the waterfront as well,” Castillejo said.

The Lake Erie conducted flight operations with the

2nd Squadron 6th Cavalry Regiment of the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade.

“The big challenge was working with the Kiowa Warriors and we learned a lot about joint flight operations,” Castillejo said. “Now we can write tactical memos for the fleet so they can use Army helos anywhere in the world.”

This was the first Koa Kai that featured a strike group as the composite warfare commander.

“This, unlike other Koa Kais, was a more holistic approach, in [that] a strike group-led the exercise,” Banigan said.

Along with the Army, Koa Kai was supported by Submarine Forces U.S. Pacific Fleet, Helicopter Strike Squadron 37, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2, Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224, Marine Aircraft Group 24, Hawaii Air National Guard, and HMCS Protecteur.

“(Koa Kai) had great support from all services from the air to sea,” Banigan said.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Nardel Gervacio

An Army UH-60 Blackhawk from the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade (25th CAB) conducts deck qualifications aboard guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) off the coast of Hawaii during exercise Koa Kai 14-1. (See more photos on page A-5).

## Personal Readiness Summit planned for Feb. 4-6

Navy Region Hawaii  
Public Affairs

U.S. Pacific Fleet will host a Personal Readiness Summit from Feb. 4-6 at various locations. Sessions on Feb. 4 and 5 will be held at the Ford Island Conference Center on Ford Island and the Military and Family Support Center (MFSC), room 294. The theme of this year’s conference is “Respect.”

The Feb. 4 and 5 sessions will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the Ford Island Conference Center. Command family ombudsmen and family readiness group leaders will address participants beginning at 6 p.m. Feb. 4 at the MFSC. Break-out sessions will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 6 at Ford Island Conference Center.

The event will culminate Feb. 6 with two all hands calls at Sharkey Theater. The first will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m. An



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan

An officer reviews supplementary material provided during the combined U.S. Pacific Fleet and Commander Navy Region Hawaii, Personal Readiness Summit held March 26, 2013 on Ford Island at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (This year’s summit will be held Feb. 4-6. The theme for this year is “Respect.”)

afternoon all hands call will be from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Leadership, command program advisors and

command climate program, physical readiness program, family advocacy, and fleet stressors and programs.

Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, will address attendees on Tuesday morning and evening.

“Even when we’re not forward-deployed, there are stressors in the military. The impact is often hard for our Sailors, but it can be even harder for families who have to cope, adapt and overcome,” Williams said.

“How do we cope? We help each other. It’s a pact, a trust: When Sailors know their families are cared for and supported, they are more able to focus on the mission,” the admiral said.

(See next week’s Ho‘okele for full coverage of the Personal Readiness Summit.)



An SH-60B Seahawk participates in a recovery assistance exercise aboard guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97).

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro



15th Wing leaders recognize hard work, dedication  
See page A-2



NFL gets big ‘thank you’ for hometown connection  
See page A-3



Pro Bowl events bring military close to the action  
See page B-1



USS Santa Fe returns to Pearl Harbor  
See page A-2



Traffic advisories announced for JBPHH  
See page A-6



Battleship Missouri Memorial celebrates anniversaries  
See page B-3



Commentary

# NFL gets big 'thank you' for hometown connection

Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

This past Sunday, military service members stationed in Hawaii from all services were on the field being recognized and honored in the opening ceremony of the NFL Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium. A joint military color guard participated. Adm. Harris, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, conducted the official coin toss.

The ceremony was the culmination of a week of opportunities for service members and their families to meet and interact with some of the best players in the National Football League.

NFL players and coaches practiced at Joint Base Pearl

Harbor-Hickam's Earhart Field last week and graciously met with fans, signed autographs and posed for photos. The NFL and its sponsors offered to upgrade and maintain Earhart Field, creating a lasting legacy of fitness for us.

On Wednesday, Jan. 22, some of the game's premier players also helped middle school students get active at Ward Field through Play 60.

It was a perfect match: Play 60 promoting fitness and wellness at the joint base, one of DOD's key sites for its Healthy Base Initiative to fight obesity, prevent tobacco use, and encourage exercise. As we know, good fitness equates to greater readiness.

Last Saturday, Aloha Stadium opened for Ohana (family) Day. This was a chance for the local community — including our military families — to interact with the all-stars, watch them practice, and see a rehearsal of the halftime show.

Throughout the week, NFL players made it a point to thank military service members and families for

helping keep America safe. And the NFL generously provided free tickets to hundreds of service members to enjoy the game.

During the Pro Bowl NBC broadcast on Sunday, there were scenes from throughout the Hawaiian Islands with several video clips of our joint base, USS Arizona Memorial and Battleship Missouri Memorial. The players and broadcasters expressed how much they appreciated the hospitality shown here in Hawaii.

Now it's our turn to thank those who brought these opportunities to Hawaii for our military warfighters and families. We appreciate the NFL for including us. Throughout the year, many NFL coaches and players also go out of their way to support Wounded Warriors and visit forward-deployed forces.

We are proud of our association and appreciate the opportunity the Pro Bowl brings. When all-stars from our favorite teams take the field, it makes a connection with our hometowns and a link to our favorite football team and creates an energy-filled family atmosphere.

By the way, I'm also proud of the way "our team" conducted themselves at the game and in tailgate parties — lots of camaraderie and spirit, without incidents.

Of course, the hard work of our own all-stars on the region and joint base MWR team, working with the NFL and other organizations and groups, made it all possible. And I thank Mayor Caldwell and Chief Kealoa for the great cooperation shared with the City and County of

Honolulu and the Honolulu Police Department.

If you were one of the many volunteers on the field and behind the scenes, or if you had a hand in sponsoring and supporting the Pro Bowl in Hawaii, thank you!

The Pro Bowl, like our military, is a melting pot of people from all over the country, and that's why there was such a strong hometown connection. By all accounts, including from the players themselves, this year's new format, Team Rice and Team Sanders NFL Pro Bowl, was a huge success. I thought it was a great game with lots of fun, excitement and positive energy on and off the field.

And, there was lots of strong defense — something those of us in uniform can identify with.

## Diverse Views



What did you like about this year's Pro Bowl?



Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) 2nd Class Dreamus Whitaker  
Transient Personnel Unit (TPU)

"The one thing I liked about this year's Pro Bowl was the fact that it was un-conferenced and it had two NFL veterans choosing the teams versus just AFC and NFC. It seems best. It made it more fun to watch."

Airman 1st Class Harmandeep Kaur  
647th Force Support Squadron

"The practice was my favorite part. Meeting all players was a blast."



Elaine Kaneshiro  
Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel

"I liked it because it's ... entertaining with Deion Sanders and Jerry Rice being the captain of the teams and it's ... un-conferenced."

Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Watson  
792nd Intelligence Support Squadron

"The format they played was a fresh change, a lot of good hits."



Doug Kozik  
Navy Region Hawaii N5

"I like how they're trying to do a new format this year. Maybe it will generate interest and excitement and people attending it. Maybe it will keep it here in Hawaii."

Maj. John Mallory  
65th Airlift Squadron

"I liked the new format, and the physicality was a welcome change from years past."



Staff Sgt. Jason Price  
PACAF Protocol

"The intensity of the game! Hopefully this year's Pro Bowl resurrected the appreciation and passion for football."

Provided by MC1 Nardel Gervacio 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

## Traffic court location to change Feb. 5

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Security Department

In order to improve customer service and reduce wait times, effective Feb. 5, the traffic court location at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) will change from police headquarters to the Navy College building, JBPHH, building 679, first floor, in the USS Utah room. Building 679 is located at 1260 Pierce St.

"Due to the heavy volume of traffic violations, traffic court will be relocated to the Navy College building in order to better serve our military, civilian and contractors with their citations," said JBPHH traffic clerk Sandra Harris.

Traffic court will continue to be held

from 1 to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays with a check-in time of 12:45 p.m.

"Traffic laws are designed to protect you and other drivers on the road. If we do not follow them, we are not only putting ourselves at risk but also innocent bystanders and drivers," said Lt. Robert Liberato, a traffic judge for JBPHH.

The base security department stated that commands are encouraged to remind personnel that JBPHH continues to be committed to improving safety of the base population and that the following traffic offenses will result in suspension of base driving privileges.

Offenses:

- Failure of operator or occupant to use restraint devices in a motor vehicle.
- Failure to properly restrain chil-

dren in a child restraint system in a motor vehicle.

- Excessive speeding (eight mph or greater above the posted speed limit).
- Failure to wear required personal protective equipment (PPE) while operating or riding a motorcycle.
- Permitting an unlicensed person to operate a motor vehicle.
- Utilizing a cell phone or other portable electronic device while operating a motor vehicle.
- Reckless driving.

Sanctions imposed are as follows:

- First offense — 30 day suspension of base driving privileges.
- Second offense — one year suspension of base driving privileges.
- Third offense — permanent suspension of base driving privileges.

## 'Navigate' to Ho'okele website

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

## USS Higbee honored noted Navy nurse



Official U.S. Navy photograph

USS Higbee (DD-806) is shown here underway in the Pacific Ocean on May 2, 1970. Higbee was commissioned Jan. 27, 1945 (69 years ago this week) and it was the first U.S. warship named for a female member of the U.S. Navy. Chief Nurse Lenah S. Higbee served as superintendent of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps in World War I.

## HO'okele

Commander,  
Navy Region Hawaii  
Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Chief of Staff  
Capt. Mark Manfredi

Director,  
Public Affairs  
Agnes Tauyan

Deputy Director,  
Public Affairs  
Bill Doughty

Commander,  
Joint Base  
Pearl Harbor-Hickam  
Capt. Jeffrey James

Deputy Commander  
Col. David Kirkendall

Director, Public Affairs  
Grace Hew Len

Managing Editor  
Karen Spangler

Assistant Editor  
Don Robbins

Sports Editor  
Randy Dela Cruz

Staff Writer  
Brandon Bosworth

Layout/Design  
Antonio Verceluz  
Richard Onaha Hutter

Ho'okele is a free unofficial paper published every 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.

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication primarily for members of the Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps military services and their families in Hawaii. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U. S. Government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps and do not imply endorsement thereof.

The civilian publisher, The Honolulu Star Advertiser, is responsible for commercial advertising, which may be purchased by calling (808) 521-9111.

The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products and services advertised by the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii or The Honolulu Star Advertiser.

Everything advertised in this paper shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source.

Ho'okele is delivered weekly to Navy & Air Force housing units and Navy and Air Force installations throughout Oahu. Housing residents may contact the publisher directly at (808) 690-8864 if they wish to discontinue home delivery.

# Nation to celebrate African American History Month in February

**Lt. Cmdr. Shaletha Moran**

*Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs*

As announced by NAVADMIN 016/14 released Jan. 27, the Navy joins the nation in celebrating the history and culture of African American Sailors during African American History Month throughout the month of February.

Established in 1926 as Negro History Week, President Gerald R. Ford expanded the celebration in 1976 to include the entire month of February. This year, Navy commands are encouraged to celebrate and reflect on the theme "Civil Rights in America."

African American Sailors have a legacy of honorable service in naval history through every major armed conflict since the Revolutionary War. During the Civil War, African American Sailors fought on every kind of Union warship, accounting for 10 to 24 percent of each ship's crew, and included eight Medal of Honor recipients.

During World War II, the Golden Thirteen were an example of African Americans breaking new ground in the Navy and in American society. In February 1944, 12 prior-enlisted African American servicemen were commissioned as ensigns and a 13th was made a warrant officer.

They were the first group of African American servicemen to complete

officer training in the Navy and led the way for future African Americans. These 13 officers not only made a contribution to the Navy during World War II, but to society as well. By the end of the war, 64 African Americans had become officers in the Navy.

Wesley A. Brown became the first African American graduate of the United States Naval Academy in 1949, joining the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps and retiring at the rank of lieutenant commander. He passed away May 22, 2012 after a distinguished career both in the Navy and in the civilian workforce.

Edna Young was the first African American woman to enlist in the regular Navy and later the first black woman to achieve the rank of chief petty officer. Young joined the Navy after the passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act on July 7, 1948.

In December 1996, Adm. J. Paul Reason became the first African American naval officer to wear four stars and assumed command of the Atlantic Fleet, comprising nearly 200 warships, 1,400 aircraft and 122,000 service men and women based at 18 major shore facilities.

Vice Adm. Michelle Howard is recognized for many first accomplishments, including the recognition as the first female United States Naval Academy graduate to be promoted to the rank of admiral, the first African American female

to command a combatant ship, and the first African American female promoted to two-star and three-star admiral. She has also been confirmed by the Senate to serve as vice chief of naval operations, the service's No. 2 uniformed officer. She will be the first African American and first woman to hold the job and the first female four-star admiral.

African Americans continue to serve with distinction, now comprising more than 17 percent of the active duty Navy total force end-strength. Sailors and their commands are encouraged to use this month to celebrate and recognize the exceptional and distinctive contributions and the unique histories and cultures that African American shipmates bring to the Navy.

More information can be found at the Naval History and Heritage Command at <http://ow.ly/t7Ho7>. A full-color brochure on the history of African Americans in the United States Navy is also available for download through the Naval History and Heritage Command link.

A complete educational presentation, including a downloadable educational poster, can be requested from the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) by email at [deomipa@us.af.mil](mailto:deomipa@us.af.mil).

More information on Navy diversity events can be found on the Navy Office of Diversity and Inclusion calendar at <http://ow.ly/t7HwQ>.

## USS Oklahoma Memorial cleanup



(Top): Chief Information Systems Technician Jared Miller of Defense Information Systems Agency, Pacific Field Office, joins Chief Fire Controlman Jeremy Yeske (center) of Center for Surface Combat Systems Detachment Pearl Harbor and Chief Fire Controlman Josh Scheib (bottom), assigned to Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific (ATG MIDPAC) in volunteering to take care of the USS Oklahoma Memorial on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The memorial honors more than 400 Marines and Sailors who lost their lives on board battleship USS Oklahoma (BB 37) at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Tiarra Fulgham

# Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

Naval Aircrewman Tactical 2nd Class Joshua Curry performs a pre-flight inspection on an SH-60B Seahawk on board the flight deck of guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97).



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro

Fire Controlman 3rd Class Emily McCulley handles line aboard guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97) as Halsey departs from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to conduct training near Hawaii during exercise Koa Kai 14-1. Koa Kai is a semiannual exercise that improves cooperation, readiness and the capability of forces to respond quickly to various crises, ranging from armed conflict to humanitarian assistance.

Sailors participate in a simulated crash and salvage operation aboard guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97).



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Daniel Barker

Canadian underway replenishment ship HMCS Protecteur (AOR 509) transits the waters of Pearl Harbor during exercise Koa Kai 14-1.



(Left): Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and his wife, Suzy, wave to the crowd during the 2014 Night in Chinatown Street Festival parade. The multi-block street festival in the heart of Chinatown featured live entertainment, cuisine and crafts. The Chinatown Merchants Association hosted the parade, which is held annually to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

(Below): Members of the U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet Band march in downtown Chinatown during the 2014 Night in Chinatown Street Festival.

U.S. Navy photos by MC1 Nardel Gervacio



