

Within Range

Vol. 8 No. 3

Pacific Missile Range Facility

April 28, 2011

PMRF celebrates the Centennial of Naval Aviation



PMRF Welcome Aboard
Celebrating the Centennial of Naval Aviation
Saturday
May 14, 2011
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Events Include:
Aircraft Displays
Navy Pacific Fleet Band
Radio Control Airplane Demo
Classic Car & Motorcycle show
Food Fest sponsored by MWR & Rooster Country 99.9 FM
USMC Para-jumpers

PMRF appreciates the sponsors of this event. However, neither the Navy nor any other part of the federal government officially endorses any company, sponsor, or their product or services.

Centennial of Naval Aviation
100 Years of Achievement 1911-2011 100 Years of Progress

PMRF Welcome Aboard is open to the public with free admission. U.S. Navy photo illustration by MC1 Jay C. Pugh.

The Commanding Officer announces the next 'Welcome Aboard PMRF' scheduled for Saturday, May 14. All friends and supporters of PMRF are invited to attend the 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. event honoring the Centennial

of Naval Aviation, featuring numerous military aircraft, aerial targets and boat static displays as well as food and information booths.

On May 8, 1911, Capt. Washington Irving Chambers prepared

contract specifications for the Navy's first aircraft, the Curtis A-1 Triad. This date later designated the birthday of U.S. Naval aviation.

Navy (USN), Marine Corps (USMC), Air Force (USAF), Army (USA) and Coast Guard (USCG) aircraft scheduled to be on display include the C-17 Globemaster (USAF), P-3 Orion (USN), HH-65 Dolphin (USCG), C-26 Metroliner (USN), CH-53 Sea Stallion (USMC), C-130 Hercules (USCG), CH-47 Chinook (USA) and OH-58 Kiowa Warrior (USA). Civilian aircraft include the 1944 SNJ, RV-8, Grumman AA5A Cheetah, Hawker Hunter, Experimental RLU-1, and more.

Additional features of the day's events include classic cars and Harley Davidsons on display, children's attractions including a bouncy house and radio controlled airplanes, U.S. Marine Corps para-jumpers, and musical entertainment from the Navy's Pacific Fleet Band and a live broadcast from Rooster Country 99.9 FM.

Admission is free for this family-oriented event. Visitors are advised to travel to the northern gate at mile marker 32 on Kaula Highway for access to the event at the base air operations hangar. Parking is available on base, although visitors are reminded that all vehicles will be subject to search. No coolers, oversized bags, outside food or beverages, nor pets allowed.

Commanding Officer's Hot Line: Ext. 4435

You can call the Captain with your question/concern too. Dial 335-4435 any time, seven days a week! The purpose of the hotline (record-a-phone) is to provide all PMRF military members, families, civil service and contractor employees the opportunity to communicate directly with the CO. Some suggestions are:

- Safety suggestions/violations/unsafe practices, ideas to improve safety and promote safety awareness.
- Ways to improve morale, working or living conditions.
- Suggestions on how to save taxpayer dollars, cut costs, save energy, reduce labor manhours, etc.
- Security violations and/or recommendations for strengthening physical security and safeguarding classified information.
- Any positive things (events, programs, policies, benefits, etc.) that you feel are particularly good.
- Any negative things you feel should have the CO's attention.
- Suggestions for improving disaster preparedness (tsunamis, hurricanes, fires, etc.)

You need not identify yourself to leave a message, but if you would like a staffed response, please do so. If reporting a problem, please try to recommend a workable solution. Some of the questions or problems reported will be answered in the Within Range.

A good point of contact for issues involving Navy families is the PMRF Ombudsman, Dawn Gregg who can be reached at: Cell 635-5364 or email at pmrfoambudsman@yahoo.com.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jay C. Pugh

“AS1 Juan Tavarez, the epitome of efficiency and multi-tasking: clears invasive species at the National Tropical Botanical Gardens while practicing his moves for Swan Lake.”

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Within Range is published bi-weekly by the Pacific Missile Range Facility Public Affairs Office. Questions, concerns and comments can be directed to the Editor at tom.clements@navy.mil or jay.pugh@navy.mil.

Commanding Officer: Capt. Nicholas Mongillo

Executive Officer: Cmdr. James Wucher

Editor: Tom Clements

Command Master Chief: AFCM(AW/SW) Willie Canaya

Staff: MC1(AW) Jay C. Pugh

Navy Makes Rescue at Kalalau



A search and rescue swimmer is lowered from an SH-60 Seahawk helicopter. File photo from www.navy.mil. U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker.

From PMRF Public Affairs

A group of Navy pilots and air crewmen who were training at PMRF, responded to a call for help and rescued two women on Kauai's Kalalau Beach in Na Pali Coast Park on April 7.

At approximately 10:15 a.m. a local tour helicopter reported

seeing an "S.O.S." written in the sand at Kalalau Beach. Naval aviators and other Sailors from several commands were conducting advanced training operations at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) off the west coast of Kauai when they were notified of the "S.O.S." and were sent to investi-

gate.

When naval aviators confirmed the "S.O.S." and saw a mirror flash, an SH-60B "Seahawk" helicopter was sent with two pilots and two air crewmen, including a search and rescue (SAR) swimmer who helped rescue the victims.

One of the victims was reported as being very ill and having a serious injury. After rescue from the beach, the victim and her companion were transported to PMRF for emergency treatment and transport to Kauai Veterans Memorial Hospital.

Sailors from Helicopter Maritime Strike (HSM) Weapons School Pacific, of NAS North Island, Calif., and Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light Fifty-One (HSL-51), from Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan, responded with the assistance of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light Thirty-Seven (HSL-37), of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Oahu.

Enlisted Retention Board eliminates overmanning

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

The recently announced enlisted retention board (ERB) will help the Navy achieve mandated end strength, the chief of naval personnel (CNP) said in an April 25 interview.

The ERB will eliminate overmanning in 31 ratings and will benefit high-performing Sailors in the long run by improving advancement opportunities. The Navy has witnessed improved

retention over the past decade which can be attributed to factors such as work-life balance initiatives and improved recruiting. Additionally, the slow economic recovery has influenced many Sailors to re-enlist.

"We are attracting and retaining the highest quality force we've ever had and these Sailors are increasingly looking at the Navy as a great long-term career choice," stated chief of naval personnel, Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson. "With this sustained high retention, sys-

tems designed to help maintain the balance in our Force, particularly Perform-to-Serve, have become over-burdened. As a result, re-enlistment and advancement opportunities for our high-performing Sailors are being negatively impacted Fleet-wide."

The ERB will review Sailors in 31 of the most overmanned ratings and will look at perfor-

ERB, Contd. on Page 5



Celebrating our Military in Hawaii
especially the PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE FACILITY,
the NATIONAL GUARD stationed in HANAPEPE,
and our KAUAI VETERANS

Thursday, May 12, 5 to 7pm
at the Waimea Plantation Cottages
Plantation Lawn



featuring
The Makaha Sons



Island Pupus • Spirits • Entertainment

Online Registration at
www.KauaiChamber.org

More Info at
245-7363

Aloha! Welcome to:

(From the left) Welcome to EN1 Zachary Davenport who arrives from the USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) homeported at Bremerton, Wash., and will serve in SEPTAR. Welcome to Linda Lewis who arrives from San Antonio, Tex., and will serve as Staff Secretary. Farewell to Michael Castillo, who after 40 years on board PMRF retires on Kauai.

**A hui hou!** Farewell to:**ERB, Contd. from Page 5**

mance to fill a specific number of retention quotas within competitive groups broken down by rating, pay grade and years of service. The board will value Sailors with proven performance in challenging billets, while Sailors with negative performance indicators such as convictions for drunk driving, declining performance evaluations, lost security clearances and non-judicial punishments will be less competitive for retention quotas.

By focusing on performance in addition to quotas, Navy reinforces its strategy to retain the best and brightest.

"In designing this board, we were determined to separate only those Sailors in ratings needed to rebalance the force and stay within our congressionally mandated manpower limits," Ferguson said.

Although the number directly affected by the ERB represents a small percentage of Sailors, the impacts will be felt across the force.

While Navy-wide advancement opportunities to E-5 declined modestly over the past

several advancement cycles and E-6 opportunities remained relatively stable over the same period, opportunities to both E-5 and E-6 in the 31 ratings being considered have dropped steadily. Reducing overmanning in these ratings will result in career stability and will likely result in increased advancements in these ratings.

Not only will the ERB help stabilize advancement opportunity in the 31 ratings, currently undermanned ratings will benefit from the expanded conversion opportunity Navy leaders approved in advance of the board. Several factors that are normally mandatory for rating conversion, including maximum years of service, maximum paygrade, and minimum activity tour requirements, are being waived. This will allow the greatest opportunity for Sailors who would otherwise be board-eligible to ensure their continued service, while increasing manning in ratings that the Navy has been challenged to fill.

"Our Sailors are dedicated to serving their country, and this is why we are providing additional opportunities for them to convert into undermanned ratings ahead of the board," Ferguson said.

"Sailors will see the benefits of increased manpower support in some critical areas."

Sailors chosen for conversion into the undermanned ratings listed in NAVADMIN 129/11 will be exempt from the board and will be given an opportunity to continue serving in areas of need for the Navy. The procedures for requesting conversion will be released by the beginning of May and applications will need to be received by June 15 to be considered.

A more balanced force - the goal of the ERB - will benefit the entire Fleet, Ferguson said.

"Improved advancement opportunities, expanded PTS re-enlistment quotas, and increased manpower support in needed ratings over the long term - these are the positive results," he said.

For more information on the ERB, as well as overmanned and undermanned ratings, read NAVADMIN 129/11, visit Navy Personnel Command at www.public/bupers-npc/boards/enlistedcontinuation/Pages/default.aspx or Navy Bupers online at <http://www.bol.navy.mil>.

PMRF Sailors flex their 'green thumbs'



(from left to right) EM2 Ruel Valera, AW2 Pedro Mizcles and AS1 Juan Tavarez remove invasive species.



(from left to right) MA2 Ben Cheng, ET2 Shiloh Stieber and ASAN Miguel Barrera remove plant debris.



(left) HT2 Rob Leedham and EN2 Juan Rodriguez remove weeds from a flower bed.



(right) AS3 Ryan Snay and AZ2 Devon Brandenburg remove spiders and their webs.

14 Sailors from PMRF flexed their "green thumbs" at the National Tropical Botanical Gardens' (NTBG), Allerton Gardens area, by removing invasive species from native Hawaiian plant exhibits, weeding, and pest removal on April 21. The beautification effort was in observance of Earth Day as well as a gesture of appreciation of the NTBG support of the PMRF Mana Gardens biome project. U.S. Navy photos by MC1 Jay C. Pugh.



ET2 Shiloh Stieber trims a banana tree.



PMRF Sailors take a break from the heat.

Safety Corner



Keep your BBQ from going boom

By April Phillips, Naval Safety Center Public Affairs

Summer is prime season for backyard barbecues. Warm weather, good friends, and grilled meat combine to form a perfect afternoon for many Sailors, Marines and their families. Unfortunately, every year casual afternoons are ruined by fires resulting from improper use of barbecue grills.

The National Fire Protection Association reports that from 2003 – 2006, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 7,900 home fires involving grills, hibachis, or barbecues per year. These fires cause an estimated \$80 million in direct property damage. They also kill 10 people and seriously injure 120 every year.

A third class petty officer found this out the hard way when he was preparing to cook on a propane grill. He tried to use the button that provides a spark to light the grill, but it didn't work. He kept trying for about 30 seconds, which allowed 30 seconds worth of gas to flow. When he pulled out his cigarette lighter, he ignited the gas and ended up with burns to his hand and four days of light duty. The Naval Safety Center sees reports of similar mishaps each summer.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission says there are routine checks that can easily be performed on gas grills and significantly reduce the risk of a fire. Check the tubes that lead into the burner for blockage; check hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes, or leaks. Use the grill at least 10 feet away from your house or any building. Don't use it in

a garage, breezeway, carport, or under any surface that could catch fire.

While charcoal grills cause less fires annually than gas grills, the biggest safety concern is lighter fluid – or the various substitutes Sailors and Marines often use to try and light the grill. Only use lighter fluid that is meant for charcoal, never gasoline, kerosene or other volatile fluids, and, never add lighter fluid to coals that are already warm.

No matter what type of grill is used, the most important thing is to keep an eye on it. Never leave it unattended and watch out for children. Ultimately, common sense is the secret ingredient that will keep cook-outs from leaving a bad taste in your mouth.



“Teamwork”

Here are suggested dialogue balloons for Larry, Moe and Curly in the red hardhats.

Larry: “The roach coach is getting ready to leave. I’m going to run over and get a cup of coffee. You guys want some?”

Moe: “I’m bored. Let’s all jump up together and see how scared Bill gets.”

Curly: “Hey, Moe, my shoulder blade itches, would you mind scratching it for me?”

Wish you were here - Photos from the Fleet



U.S. Navy Photo by MC2 Michael Russell

(Above) 195 ESPIRITU SANTO, Vanuatu (April 20, 2011) Builder Constructionman Gregory Kaminski, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, competes in a push-up competition with a first grade student from Ban Ban primary school during a Pacific Partnership 2011 engineering project. **(Below left)** ARABIAN GULF (April 24, 2011) Country music entertainer Toby Keith performs an Easter USO concert aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55). **(Below right)** KINGSTON, Jamaica (April 21, 2011) U.S. Fleet Forces Band member Musician 3rd Class Fred Vaughan talks with a Jamaican Defense Force Band member during the Jamaican closing ceremony as part of Continuing Promise 2011.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Robert Guerra



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Eric C. Tretter