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PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Humpbacks visit JBPHH

U.S. Navy Cdr. Brent Jackson, center, the commanding officer of the guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), Li. j.g. Brian Klett, left, and Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 3rd Class Tradarrius Chalmers cut a cake in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in the Gulf of Aden, Jan. 21, 2019. The Chung-Hoon is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central Region, connecting the Mediterranean and the Pacific through the western Indian Ocean and three strategic choke points.

The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Joint Forces Diversity Committee hosted a special event in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Sharkey Theater, Jan. 23. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is an American federal holiday that celebrates the legacy of Dr. King and acknowledges his work to fight segregation and racial inequality.

"He fought for peace and justice for everyone, no matter the color of their skin," said Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Cerica Myhand, who acted as Master of Ceremonies at the event. "Without his dream, I don't think our unity in the military would be where it is now."

At the ceremony, JBPHH Commanding Officer Capt. Jeff Bernard delivered remarks, followed by Hawaii-state Representative Cedric Gates regarding this year's theme, "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not A Day Off!"

Applying the celebration, a special meal was offered at the Silver Dolphin Bistro open to all active-duty personnel, retirees, Department of Defense employees, and escorted family members.

"It is important to celebrate these observances at sea because it is easy to get caught up in the day to day hustle and bustle of work," said U.S. Navy Quartermaster 1st Class Dominic Cummings, head of the Chung-Hoon's Multi-Cultural Diversity Committee. "It is our duty to take a moment and reflect on the many accomplishments that people have made throughout history and further the Navy's equal opportunity mission."

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Hawaii state Representative Cedric Gates delivers remarks during a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration event hosted by the Joint Forces Diversity Committee at Sharkey Theater on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Jan. 23rd. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is an American federal holiday marking the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, which is around King's birthday, January 15. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Justin R. Pacheco)

JBPHH celebrates MLK

Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Justin R. Pacheco, NPASE West, Detachment Hawaii

Chung Hoon celebrates MLK

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Brent Jackson, center, the commanding officer of the guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), Li. j.g. Brian Klett, left, and Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 3rd Class Tradarrius Chalmers cut a cake in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in the Gulf of Aden, Jan. 21, 2019. The Chung-Hoon is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central Region, connecting the Mediterranean and the Pacific through the western Indian Ocean and three strategic choke points.
“A Double Dose of Mañoza”

I’m still grateful and thankful for the people who served in the U.S. and joined the Navy – 18 years of service. “My dream has already come true when I came to Navy Region Hawaii Senior Chief Culinary Specialist

“Cure for cancer.”

“While we both had our degrees, we wanted to continue to support each other’s goals every day,” said Genesis. “We try to talk as much as possible and coordinate our schedules as best we can.”

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A humpback whale mother and calf surprised Navy environmental staff with an extended visit to Pearl Harbor earlier this month. The pair was first sighted in the entrance channel the morning of Jan. 10 and remained in the harbor for nearly four days, moving between West and East Loch entrances and even spending time near Rainbow Bay Marina. Lucky spectators witnessed the active months-old calf breaching, tail slapping and spyhopping (sticking its head above water to have a look around) while staying close to mother for protection.

Humpback whales migrate to the Hawaiian Islands from Alaska during the winter months to mate, give birth, and nurse their calves before returning north in the spring to feed on krill and small fish. While commonly spotted in Hawai‘i’s nearshore waters, this month’s sighting marks the first time in recent history that whales have spent an extended period of time in Pearl Harbor.

Like all marine mammals, humpback whales are protected by federal law. Upon being informed of the whales’ presence Thursday morning, the Navy implemented established protective measures - reducing vessel speeds, restricting use of sonar, maintaining a 100-yard standoff distance – which remained in place until the whales were confirmed to have left the harbor. Environmental staff also collaborated with staff from NOAA Fisheries’ Marine Mammal Stranding Response Program and the University of Hawai‘i to monitor the whales daily for changes in activity that could indicate poor health; fortunately, both mother and calf remained active during their visit and showed no obvious signs of distress. It remains unclear what drew this pair to enter and explore Pearl Harbor, but humpbacks have been known to seek out calm, protected waters while nursing and raising their young.
Three B-2 Spirit bombers and more than 200 Airmen, from Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, deployed to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) in support of U.S. Strategic Command's (USSTRATCOM) Bomber Task Force (BTF) mission, Jan. 10.

Bomber aircraft regularly rotate through the Indo-Pacific region to integrate capabilities with key regional partners and maintain a high state of aircrew proficiency.

“This training is crucial to maintaining our regional interoperability,” said Lt. Col. Joshua Dorr, 393rd Bomb Squadron director of operations. “It affords us the opportunity to work with our allies in joint exercises and validates our always-ready global strike capability.”

Although the Spirit has trained in the region multiple times in the past, utilizing Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, this deployment marks the second time the Spirit has deployed to JBPHH supporting the BTF mission.

During the B-2s first deployment to JBPHH in August 2018, the bomber flew multiple local and long-duration sorties, conducted hot pit refuelings and integrated with the Hawaii Air National Guard 199th Fighter Squadron’s F-22 Raptors.

“Deploying to Hawaii enables us to showcase to a large American and international audience that the B-2 is on watch 24 hours a day, seven days a week ready to protect our country and its allies,” Dorr said.

The B-2s low-observable, or “stealth,” characteristics give it the ability to penetrate an enemy’s most sophisticated defenses and put at risk their most valuable targets, its presence in the Hawaiian Islands stands as a testament to enhanced regional security.
Nearly 1,200 Sailors attended the MyNavy Career Development Symposium (CDS), hosted by Navy Personnel Command, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Jan. 16-17.

MyNavy CDS brings senior leadership to the Fleet to explain, discuss and answer questions about new and upcoming Sailor 2025 personnel system modernization initiatives. Pacific Fleet Sailors who attended the CDS learned firsthand how these changes will impact their professional and personal lives.

"Choice, flexibility and transparency — that’s what we’re aiming for with Sailor 2025," said Chief of Naval Personnel, Vice Adm. Robert Burke. "All these transformation processes are designed around you and your families. We are eliminating administrative distractions to allow for a better work/life balance while allowing you to focus on the mission."

Sailors saw demonstrations of the new Performance Evaluation system’s coaching tool and a prototype of the Detailing Marketplace and learned about upcoming changes to enlisted advancements. Sailors were encouraged to speak up and ask questions throughout the event, either by using their cellphones to ask questions anonymously or by participating in a senior leadership panel discussion conducted toward the end of each session.

"I’m glad of the changes they’re making," said Information Systems Technician 1st Class Malcolm Johnson, divisional leading petty officer assigned to Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific. "They’re getting rid of some redundancies and inefficiencies we’ve been dealing with."

CDS has made career management information more accessible by visiting the region and presenting information that can be hard to come by for Sailors new to the Navy and don’t know where to look for it, Johnson added.

"We need to change to keep pace with the new technology and expectations of the new Sailors coming in. These updates and new incentives are very much in line with what we will need in the future," Chief Culinary Specialist Robert Tindal, assistant food service officer assigned to JBPHH, said.

Detailers and community managers were also available to explain detailing specifics to Sailors, provide advice for future planning and even to provide rating designations to Professional Apprenticeship Career Track (PACT) Sailors.

"It’s amazing to be able to talk and get things done on the spot," said Navy Counselor 1st Class Iris Valdesmendez, assigned to Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 37 (HSM-37). "I brought Airman Reyes with me to talk to our enlisted community manager (ECM) to see if we could get him a rate, and we were able to negotiate him into becoming an Aviation Structural Mechanic (AM). Normally we have to discuss it over the phone or send paperwork and wait — but he was able to get a job in just one day!"

Airman Matthew Reyes, the newly rated AM assigned to HSM-37, said that he was happy he was able to get the job he had been working toward so quickly since he was able to see his detailer in person.

For videos, stories and information about MyNavy CDS visit: https://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/career/talentmanagement/Pages/CDS.aspx

Get more information about the Navy from US Navy facebook or twitter.

For more news from Navy Personnel Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/npc/.

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Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM), Adm. Phil Davidson hosted Japan’s Minister of Defense, His Excellency Takeshi Iwaya, at the USINDOPACOM headquarters, Jan. 18.

“It was an honor to have Minister of Defense Iwaya here at USINDOPACOM,” said Davidson. “The U.S. and Japan alliance is the cornerstone for peace and security throughout the region. Japan is a trusted ally and I know that working together we can maintain a Free and Open Indo-Pacific reinforced by the international rule of law for the good of global stability.”

Iwaya came to Hawaii after a trip to Washington D.C. where he met with Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick M. Shanahan.

Earlier in the day he toured the Pacific Missile Range Facility and participated in a wreath laying ceremony with Adm. Davidson on Ford Island, Jan. 19.

The two leaders discussed Japan’s new National Defense Program Guidelines, as well as the future of U.S.-Japan defense cooperation in the region. Together, the U.S. and Japan continue to promote cooperation toward a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, a vision reflected in both countries’ National Strategies.

This is the Minister’s first trip to Hawaii since assuming his position on Oct. 18, and will serve to further deepen the already strong ties between the U.S. and Japan. The visit demonstrates the shared common values and interests between Japan and the U.S., and emphasizes both nation’s commitment to the security of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

USINDOPACOM protects and defends, in concert with other U.S. Government agencies, the territory of the United States, its people, and its interests. With allies and partners, USINDOPACOM is committed to enhancing stability in the Indo-Pacific region by promoting security cooperation, encouraging peaceful development, responding to contingencies, deterring aggression, and, when necessary, fighting to win. This approach is based on partnership, presence, and military readiness.
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