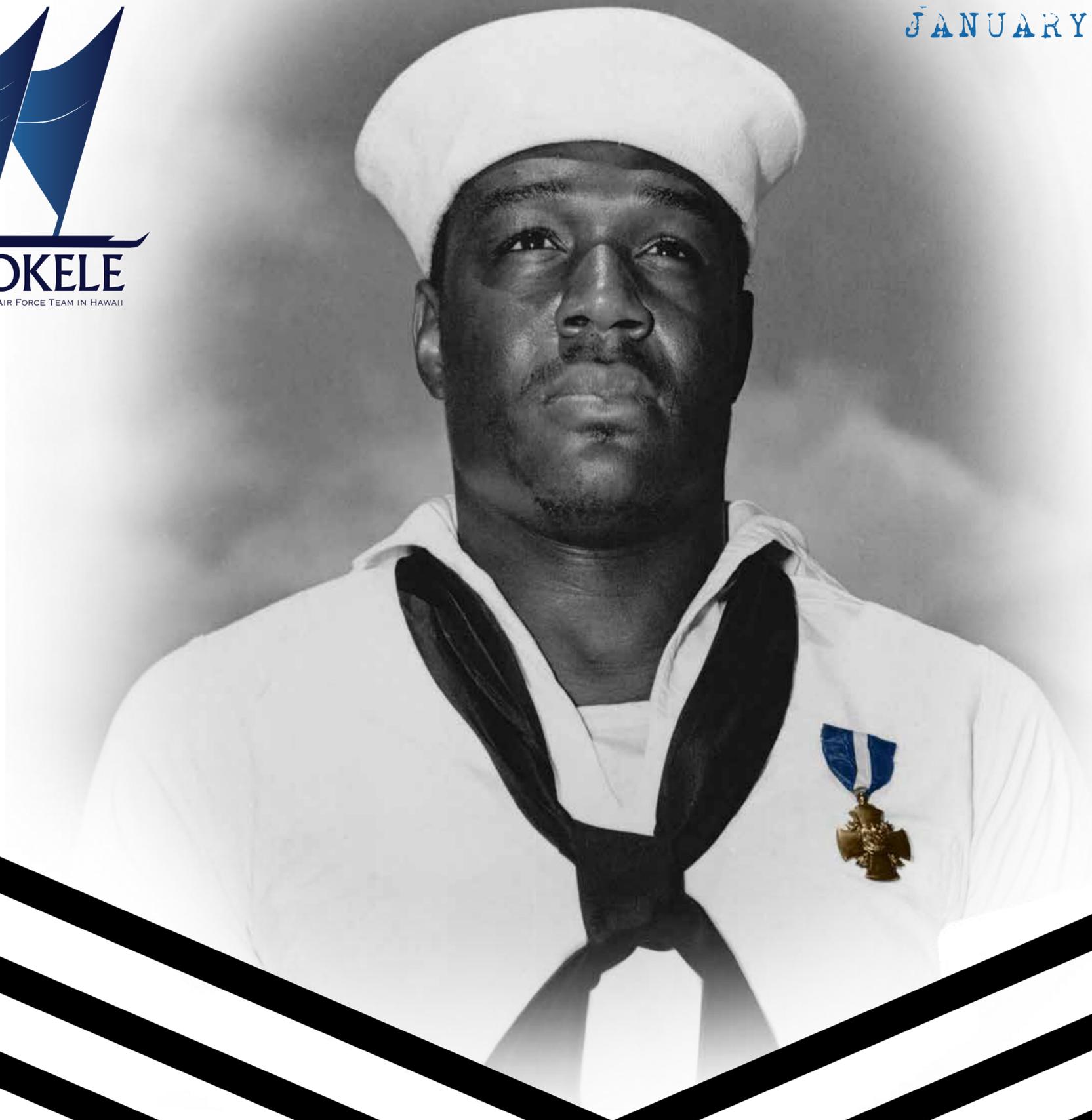


JANUARY 24, 2020



Navy Names Aircraft Carrier
USS DORIS MILLER



Sentry Aloha Prepares for Combat

An F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot assigned to the 18th Aggressor Squadron taxis back to his staging area during Sentry Aloha 20-1 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Jan. 14. Two teams of fourth generation F-16s simulated combat with fifth generation F-22 Raptors to prepare participating units for 21st century combat. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Beaux Hebert)



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A Hui Hou!

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Your Navy Team in Hawaii

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii oversees two installations: Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Oahu and Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, on Kauai. As Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, we provide oversight for the ten surface ships homeported at JBPHH. Navy aircraft squadrons are also co-located at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe, Oahu, and training is sometimes also conducted on other islands, but most Navy assets are located at JBPHH and PMRF. These two installations serve fleet, fighter and family under the direction of Commander, Navy Installations Command.

A guided-missile cruiser and destroyers of Commander, Naval Surface Force Pacific deploy independently or as part of a group for Commander, U.S. Third Fleet and in the Seventh Fleet and Fifth Fleet areas of responsibility. The Navy, including your Navy team in Hawaii, builds partnerships and strengthens interoperability in the Pacific. Each year, Navy ships, submarines and aircraft from Hawaii participate in various training exercises with allies and friends in the Pacific and Indian Oceans to strengthen interoperability. Navy service members and civilians conduct humanitarian assistance and disaster response missions in the South Pacific and in Asia. Working with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Navy in Hawaii provides drug interdiction and fisheries enforcement operations for Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. In even-numbered years Hawaii hosts the biennial summer Rim of the Pacific Exercise, the world's largest military maritime exercise, featuring more than two dozen nations and 25,000 personnel.

The Navy family in Hawaii comprises around 50,000 people, most of whom are active duty service members and their families, and includes nearly 15,000 civilians and contractors as part of our workforce.

JBPHH includes the Pearl Harbor waterfront, Hickam flight line, Wahiawa annex and several other areas in West Oahu and provides a major logistics and other support hub for the military and military families. Supporting the nation's ballistic missile defense initiative, the Pacific Missile Range Facility on the western coast of "The Garden Island," is the world's largest instrumented multidimensional testing and training missile range.

We provide services to the U.S. Pacific Command, one of DOD's six geographic combatant commands, with an area of responsibility covering half the globe. We directly support two component commands whose headquarters are on JBPHH: Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Commander, U.S. Pacific Air Force. Close to our own Region/MIDPAC headquarters command is Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. With 18 forward-deployable combat-ready U.S. Navy submarines, Pearl Harbor is home to the largest submarine presence in the Pacific. The Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, on JBPHH, is the largest ship repair facility between the West Coast and the Far East. Within our region we support more than 100 tenant commands.



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COMMANDER, JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM

CAPT. JEFF BERNARD



COMMANDING OFFICER PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE FACILITY

CAPT. TIMOTHY YOUNG

What is your New Year's resolution for 2020?

Aviation Support Equipment Technician 2nd Class Joseph Lugo
Pacific Missile Range Facility



"Keep my grades above a 3.5 GPA while in school."

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Akeem Bedeau
3rd Marine Regiment



"Continue taking care of my family and furthering my career."

Tech Sgt. Y Jin Ding Plai
647th Logistics Readiness Squadron



"Mental fitness. Taking time to meditate more and focus on self-care"

Capt. Denzel Neal
961st Airborne Air Control Squadron



"Finishing my Master's degree."



NAVSUP FLC PEARL HARBOR ANNOUNCES 2020 STRATEGY

*Story and photo by Shannon Haney
NAVSUP FLC Pearl Harbor Public Affairs*

Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) Fleet Logistics Center (FLC) Pearl Harbor's commanding officer announced the command's 2020 Strategy Jan.6.

Capt. Trent Kalp, commanding officer, NAVSUP FLC Pearl Harbor, reviewed higher headquarters' strategic guidance to ensure proper alignment and solicited viewpoints from the workforce to build the mission, vision, strategic priorities and guiding principle for the command, with readiness being the driving force.

"The world in which we operate is constantly changing and our success depends on how well we adapt to those changes," said Kalp. "I wanted everyone to have a voice as we build upon the strategy in place."

The NAVSUP FLC Pearl Harbor mission is to provide logistics solutions throughout the Indo-Pacific area of operation to generate and sustain readiness.

"My vision for the command is to be Indo-Pacific's trusted and relevant readiness generator," said Kalp.

Kalp's strategy introduces new strategic priorities to guide NAVSUP FLC Pearl Harbor personnel as they work to accomplish the revised mission and vision.

"Each strategic priority requires active engagement of everyone on our logistical team, from the most junior civilians and military service members, to our most senior civilians and officers," said Kalp.

The strategy commits NAVSUP FLC Pearl Harbor to the following strategic priorities:

- Strength through 'ohana
- Generate warfighter readiness
- Agile, relevant and ready

'Service with Aloha' is the command's guiding principle and will continue to encompass the teams' beliefs and values.

Staying Connected in the Clouds



Story and photo by Staff. Sgt. Nicholas Brown
15th Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from the 65th Air and Space Communication Shop and 747th Communications Squadron flew on a 65th Airlift Squadron local flight to see one of the missions they support at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Jan. 8.

Having access to phones and internet is more important than it's ever been. We want to be able to reach people and information we deem important. General and flag officers need this access, even on official travel anywhere around the globe.

The mission of the 65th Airlift Squadron (AS) is to provide global airlift with communication to general and flag officers. There are only eight distinguished visitor (DV) airlift squadrons in the Air Force, and the 65th AS serves DV's throughout the Indo-Pacific area of responsibility.

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Huch, 65th AS communications system operator, recalls his first mission with a general officer.

"It was great to see how we provide no fail communication during the flight, and that helps to strengthen relationships with other countries," said Huch.

Enabling global airlift and communication to senior leaders isn't done by one squadron alone.

The 65th works with different agencies on base, such as the 56th Air and Space Communication Shop (ACOMS) and the 747th Communications Squadron (CS).

The 56th ACOMS enables satellite communication for training missions and exercises, which enables operators to obtain high standards of proficiency.

"I come into work knowing what I do has a direct impact, and I can see that impact of maintaining air superiority is shown in the news," said Airman 1st Class Rory Terrill, 56th ACOMS radio frequency transmissions technician.

Recently, the 747th CS helped replace broken broadband network equipment and provided firmware updates for the 65th AS. Without the equipment replaced, the 65th would not be able to provide communication on flights.

"Our mission delivers agile air, space, and cyberspace capabilities in support of INDOPACOM's objectives, uniting allies and

partners to enhance regional stability and security," said Senior Airman Evan Vazquez, 747th CS network technician.

The 65th AS took Airmen from both units on a familiarization flight to show them the impact they have on the mission.

"It was amazing to see how we contribute to their mission," said Vazquez, "I can see why Generals would want to fly this plane."

The 65th AS is the vehicle that senior leaders use in order to strengthen relationships with our allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific, enabling ironclad teamwork with other countries.

"Without the aid of these Airmen, along with their partnering agencies, the 65th Airlift Squadron would be unable to fulfill our high-priority mission," said Lt. Col. Neil Senkowski, commander of the 65th AS "This flight today strengthened the understanding and cooperation between our squadrons and further ensured our success, and ultimately that of our DV users."



*By MCSA Julia Brockman
USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72)
Public Affairs*

The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), along with embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7, arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Jan. 8.

Abraham Lincoln has been underway in support of maritime security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th, 6th, and 7th Fleet areas of operation since April 1, 2019.

“I am proud of all of the hard work and dedication shown by the entire crew throughout the deployment,” said Capt. Walter Slaughter, commanding officer of Abraham Lincoln. “Hawaii is a strategic, historic location that presents a well-deserved opportunity for rest and relaxation, and for the crew to honor the sacrifices of those who have gone before us during the attack on Pearl Harbor.”

Abraham Lincoln’s around-the-world deployment, which includes a homeport shift to San Diego, has spanned several theaters



USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN

visits Pearl Harbor



of missions. The Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group operated in the U.S. 5th Fleet for more than seven months fostering freedom of navigation and commerce in some of the world's most consequential waterways.

The strike group also participated in numerous interoperability and partnership-building exercises with sister services and allied navies in both the U.S. 5th and 6th Fleets, demonstrating the U.S. Navy's capability to rapidly aggregate power across combatant commands to meet emerging

missions and contingencies. As it transited through U.S. 7th Fleet, the strike group also conducted flight operations in the South China Sea in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Before the ship departed Hawaii, Abraham Lincoln family and friends had the rare opportunity to embark on a Tiger Cruise to experience life at sea with their Sailors. Tiger Cruises are a time-honored tradition during which civilians are given the chance to spend time underway learning about their Sailors'

different jobs, the ship, and their shipmates. During their transit to Hawaii, Abraham Lincoln entered the U.S. 3rd Fleet area of operations Jan. 3.

U.S. 3rd Fleet, headquartered in San Diego, leads naval forces in the Indo-Pacific and provides the realistic, relevant training necessary for an effective global Navy. U.S. 3rd Fleet works in close coordination with U.S. 7th Fleet to provide commanders with capable, ready assets across the spectrum of military operations in the Indo-Pacific.

Acting SECNAV visits PMRF

*Story and photo by MC2 Sara Trujillo
PMRF Public Affairs*

Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas B. Modly visited Sailors and civilian employees assigned to Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) Barking Sands Kauai Jan. 16-17.

During his visit, Modly met with command leadership, held an all-hands call and toured the facility to learn more about the training and testing capabilities of the base.

“It [the visit] gives me great insight into the important work everyone does here,” said Modly. “The future of the Navy is being molded here. The future of our force, the future of our Pacific posture, is really being molded here through the types of testing and the things that you do here. It’s wonderful to have the opportunity to be here.”

Following the all-hands call, Secretary Modly joined Sailors and their leadership for a luncheon where the secretary had the opportunity to recognize personnel for their efforts to improve PMRF.

Modly also received an aerial overview tour of PMRF and its surrounding facilities followed by a visit to the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense Test Complex (AAMDTC), Advanced Radar Detection Laboratory (ARDEL), a crypt holding ancient remains of iwi, or bones, of local Hawaiian families found at Nohili dunes and other locations on and around base.

“It’s an honor to have Acting Secretary of the Navy Modly visit our base,” said Capt. Timothy Young, commanding officer of PMRF. “We enjoyed the opportunity to tour the base and share the hard work our Sailors and employees contribute to making PMRF such an outstanding training and testing environment.”

Modly concluded his time at PMRF attending a meeting with Young, Cmdr. Rich Schmaeling, executive officer of PMRF, Bob Kay, technical director of PMRF, to discuss future training and testing opportunities the base will host.

PMRF is the largest instrumental multi-environment training and test range in the world. From space to the ocean floor, PMRF encompasses 2.1 million square nautical miles of sea, air and space.

Secretary Modly’s visit is part of a multi-nation visit to the U.S. Indo Pacific areas of responsibility focused on reinforcing existing partnerships and visiting Sailors and Marines providing forward presence.



Volunteers sweep PMRF for albatross eggs

By PMRF Public Affairs

Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) Air Operations department, the PMRF environmental program and U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services enlisted volunteers for the annual PMRF Laysan albatross egg sweep Jan. 11.

Once a year, volunteers with base access are invited to come out and participate in the biggest “egg hunt” on base. Nearly 30 employees and family members joined the effort. The purpose of the annual Laysan albatross egg sweep is to conduct a thorough search of the base for active nests and albatrosses on or around the airfield. This allows the PMRF team to gather any eggs that may have been missed in daily sweeps.

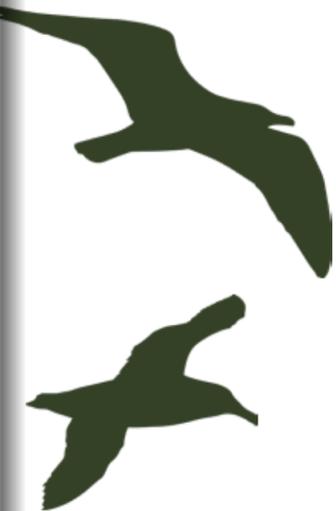
“This annual effort is an important part of PMRF’s management of Laysan albatross as a Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) species,” said Lt. Cmdr. Chris Keech, PMRF air operations officer. “Because every albatross hatched at PMRF is likely to return here to nest for 60 or more years, the effort we make this season can go a long way toward

reducing future BASH risk on the PMRF airfield and protecting both birds and pilots.”

When Laysan albatross eggs are found, whether in original sweeps or from the annual volunteer effort, they are then relocated into nests in more suitable habitat on the North shore of Kauai or on Oahu.

During the sweep, volunteers are combined into teams with one nest-searching expert to take the lead. The nest-searchers spread out at the start of the survey area and walk transects by combing the entire area for albatrosses sitting on a nest or eggs. This egg hunt can involve crawling in and out of thick vegetation while inspecting every brushline looking for nests that are often deeply buried and unseen from the perimeter. The work can be strenuous and sometimes tedious, and usually involves a lot of spider webs.

“This event is a great opportunity for the PMRF ohana to learn about albatrosses and PMRF’s award-winning environmental program. We found no eggs. This a testament to the sharp eyes and diligent efforts of the USDA wildlife services team throughout the breeding season,” said Brooke McFarland, PMRF Natural Resources Manager.



Hawaii Families head out to survey the foliage for Laysan Albatross nests or eggs at Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Sara Trujillo)

Navy names future aircraft carrier during MLK, Jr. Day Ceremony

USS DORIS MILLER

From Secretary of the Navy Public Affairs

Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas B. Modly named a future aircraft carrier USS Doris Miller (CVN 81) during a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day ceremony honoring African Americans of the Greatest Generation in Pearl Harbor Jan. 20.

The backdrop for the day's ceremony paid homage to the beginning and ending of America's role in World War II and the scene where Doris Miller's heroic actions cemented him into books of American history.

"It's an honor to join you today on the birthday celebration of one of our nation's, and the world's, greatest spiritual, intellectual and moral leaders," said Modly. "Seventy-five years ago our nation bound together to secure victory against an existential threat, but also to secure opportunities for broader liberty and justice for the entire world.

But we were not perfect in our own pursuits of these values here at home," Modly continued. "That contradiction is an undeniable part of our history, one that cannot be glossed over or forgotten."

Secretary Modly noted that throughout the history of our nation, the finest of every generation have stepped forward to serve the cause of freedom around the world even if they were denied those same freedoms at home simply because of the color of their skin.

On Dec. 7, 1941, Doris Miller did not let the prejudice of others define him, he said.

"Dorie Miller was the son of a sharecropper," said Modly. "And, he was an American Sailor -- so designated by the uniform that he wore -- the same uniform all Sailors wore, and still wear, regardless of race, ethnic background, or political persuasion."

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, U.S. Representative for the 30th Congressional District of Texas, delivered an emotional and moving speech about the influence Miller's legacy had on her life.

"All of my life I've heard about how great Doris Miller was," said Johnson. "[He] was my childhood hero. It was the spirit of Dorie Miller that made me appreciate being an American more than anything else because, in the days of real segregation, a black man from my home



Family members of World War II hero Doris Miller react after the unveiling of the new Ford-class aircraft carrier USS Doris Miller (CVN 81) at a Martin Luther King Day, Jr. celebration event on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Alexander C. Kubitza)

town had stepped up to help save America. Dorie Miller started the civil rights movement and perhaps even gave Martin Luther King, Jr. the spirit to lead us into the era of which he did."

Johnson said naming CVN 81 in honor of Doris Miller has done so much to recognize and highlight that no matter the color of a person's skin, they can achieve anything.

Congressman Bill Flores, U.S. Representative for Texas's 17th Congressional District, which includes Doris Miller's hometown of Waco, said it was an honor to pay tribute to one of America's heroes from the greatest generation.

"[Miller] was a man who exemplified the hearts of our Sailors and the spirit of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. who we also recognize today," said Flores. "Dr. King once said 'the time is always right to do something right' and that is what Petty Officer Miller did. His story of bravery is a testament to his courage and commitment to serve both his fellow Sailors and his country."

For the members of Miller's family present at the ceremony, it was a moment to reflect on the legacy

their family lives to honor with every generation.

"When Uncle Doris decided that he was going to step up to the machine gun and shoot, it was a 'why not me?' moment," said Henrietta Blednose Miller, a niece of Miller. "As we go through life, we're all going to be confronted with 'why not me?' moments whether they are small or big, but with each one, you will be affecting someone if you take an action at that moment. At the time [Uncle Doris] did what he did, he did not realize how proud he was going to make this family."

This will be the second ship named in honor of Miller, and the first aircraft carrier ever named for an African American. This will also be the first aircraft carrier to be named in honor of a Sailor for actions while serving in the enlisted ranks.

The future USS Doris Miller and other Ford-class carriers will be the premier forward asset for crisis response and humanitarian relief, and early decisive striking power in major combat operations. The aircraft carrier and the carrier strike group will provide forward presence, rapid response, endurance on station, and multi-mission capability throughout its 50-year service life.

1**4****2****3**

1. Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas B. Modly delivers remarks at the unveiling of the new Ford-class aircraft carrier USS Doris Miller (CVN 81) at a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration event on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. This will be the second ship named in honor of Miller, and the first aircraft carrier ever named for an African American and an enlisted Sailor. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Justin R. Pacheco)

2. Brenda Haven, niece of World War II hero Doris "Dorie" Miller, hugs Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas B. Modly after the unveiling of the new Ford-class aircraft carrier USS Doris Miller (CVN 81) at a Martin Luther King Day celebration event on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. This will be the second ship named in honor of Miller, and the first aircraft carrier ever named for an African American and an enlisted Sailor. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Alexander C. Kubitza)

3. Emrys Bledsoe, bottom, great-great-grandnephew of World War II hero Doris "Dorie" Miller, attempts to cut a cake next to Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas B. Modly, third from left, Mrs. Robyn Modly, left, Rep. Eddie Bernice-Johnson, right, and other Miller relatives at a Martin Luther King Day celebration event on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The ceremony ended after the unveiling of the new Ford-class aircraft carrier USS Doris Miller (CVN 81). This will be the second ship named in honor of Miller, and the first aircraft carrier ever named for an African American and an enlisted Sailor. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Alexander C. Kubitza)

4. The Honorable Eddie Bernice-Johnson, United States representative from the 30th district of Texas, left, speaks at the unveiling of the new Ford-class aircraft carrier USS Doris Miller (CVN 81) at a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration event on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam as Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas B. Modly look on. This will be the second ship named in honor of Miller, and the first aircraft carrier ever named for an African American and an enlisted Sailor. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Justin R. Pacheco)

USS DORIS MILLER (CVN 81)

Honoring a U.S. Navy Hero



Doris Miller's Service

- Doris Miller was born on Oct. 12, 1919, in Waco, Texas.
- On Sept. 16, 1939, Doris Miller enlisted in the Navy.
- Following basic training, Miller was assigned to USS Pyro (AE 1) and transferred to USS West Virginia (BB 48) in 1940.
- During the attack on Pearl Harbor, Miller bravely performed beyond the call of duty aboard West Virginia.
- For distinguished heroism during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Miller was awarded the Navy Cross in May 1942.
- In the spring of 1943, Miller was assigned to USS Liscome Bay (CVE 56).
- Miller served aboard Liscome Bay during Operation Galvanic, which sought control of Makin and Tarawa Atolls.

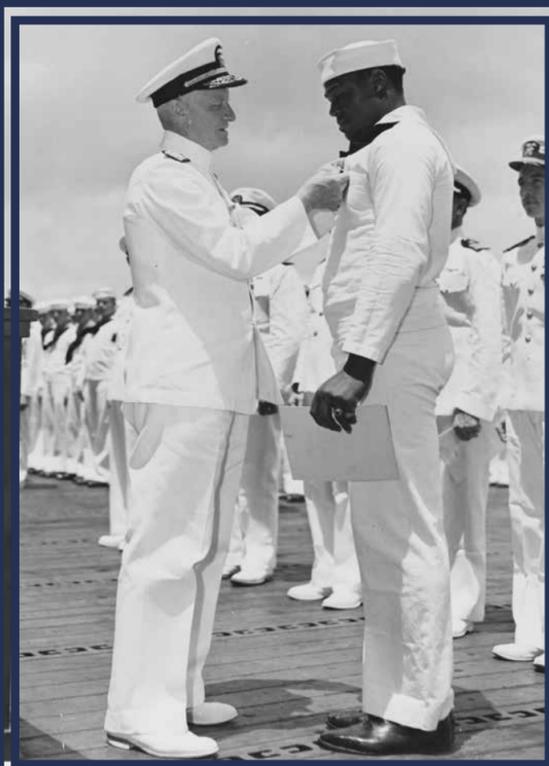
CVN 81 Quick Facts:

Name: USS Doris Miller (CVN 81) Class: Gerald R. Ford
Length: 1,092 feet Speed: 30+ knots
Crew: 4,359 Aircraft: 75+

Mission: USS Doris Miller (CVN 81) will be the premier forward asset for crisis response and early decisive striking power in major combat operation. Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carriers and carrier strike groups will provide the core capabilities of forward presence, deterrence, sea control, power projection, maritime security and humanitarian assistance.



(Pictured: USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), the Navy's first Ford-class carrier)



Distinguished Devotion to Duty

Petty Officer Miller's selfless actions on USS West Virginia (BB 48) and throughout his naval career exemplify the Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment.

HONOR - Disregarding his own personal safety during the attack on the fleet in Pearl Harbor, Miller, despite enemy strafing and bombing, assisted in moving his captain, who had been mortally wounded, to a place of greater safety.

COURAGE - During the attack on Pearl Harbor, Miller continued to help his shipmates to safety and engaged enemy aircraft from a .50-caliber anti-aircraft machine gun until he was ordered to abandon ship.

COMMITMENT - Miller continued to serve and fight, giving his life for his country. He was stationed on USS Liscome Bay (CVE 56) when it was struck by a torpedo from a Japanese submarine in the Gilbert Islands. The resulting damage rapidly sank the ship. Among the missing, Miller was officially presumed dead on November 25, 1944.

16-year-mark cap removed from GI-Bill transferability policy

By Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

Service members who are serving beyond 16 years and meet service-commitment eligibility criteria now retain the option to transfer GI Bill benefits to dependents as outlined in NAVADMIN 006/20 announced Jan. 10.

This change is based on recently revised rules signed into effect in the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that removes the 16 years of service cap for transferability across all services.

Service members with over 16 years must still be able to commit to four more years of service on active duty or in the selected reserve to be able to transfer the benefits.

Members who will still be ineligible for the Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB):

- Enlisted members within four years of the high year tenure gate for their current pay grade.
- Officers within four years of the statutory limit for their current rank.
- Members in a limited duty status or undergoing medical or physical evaluation board processing and found not fit for duty.

All Sailors applying or reapplying for TEB who have not previously completed the online self-service Statement of Understanding must first complete it at the MyNavy Education website at <https://myeducation.netc.navy.mil/webta/home.html#nbb>.

Once members complete the statement of understanding, they will receive a link to go to MilConnect to submit their benefits transfer request.

For more information on Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits transfer procedures, read NAVADMIN 236/18, paragraphs 3-5.



PACAF App Goes Live

*By Staff Sgt. Mikaley Kline
Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs*

The Pacific Air Forces app is now available on Air Force Connect, the Air Force-wide mobile app.

The app is equipped with features exclusively designed to enable, engage and empower Airmen across the globe. The mobile app provides Airmen, their families and visitors a one-stop shop for locating base information.

“Having the phone app is a huge win for both our military and family members,” said Chief Master Sgt. Anthony Johnson, PACAF command chief. “It will provide a listing of resources we have available and will also highlight activities in and around our communities. Having this kind of access at our fingertips will hopefully drive more awareness of things that we offer and ultimately help our Airmen and their families be more resilient.”

Airmen can access local content by adding their unit as a “Favorite” within the app. Once added, users can swipe left and right from the home screen to access their saved local content.

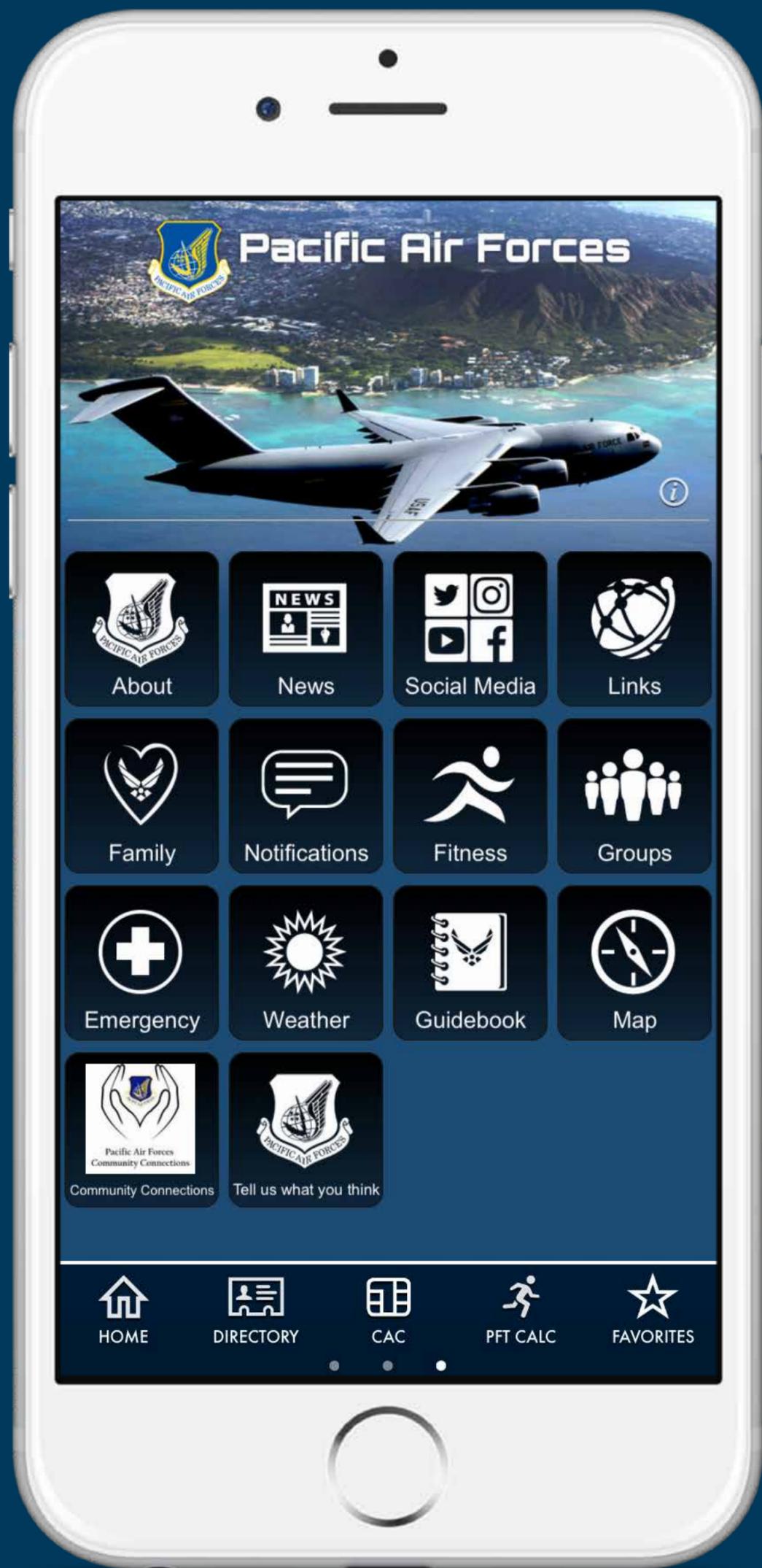
The PACAF app through Air Force Connect, gives Airmen and their families an additional avenue to access pertinent information on the go.

Popular features include the community connections, directory, a physical fitness test calculator, as well as links to the PACAF website and social media platforms. All features can be customized at the local base level to meet specific needs.

One feature is based off the PACAF community connections desktop app, the first ever major command wide app that centralizes over 150 helping agencies.

Johnson added as the app goes live, we hope the information is useful to our entire team. PACAF Public Affairs asks for feedback to improve the user’s experience and to ensure the app continues to provide the most relevant information. Users can submit comments via the “Contact Us” feature in the app.

AF Connect is available for free on Android and iOS from the Google Play store and Apple App store.





DOD EXTENDS COMMISSARY, EXCHANGE, MWR PRIVILEGES TO DISABLED VETERANS

By Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Effective Jan. 1, disabled and other eligible veterans have the privilege to access military commissaries, exchanges and Morale, Welfare and Recreation retail facilities.

The Department of Defense, Veteran Affairs and the Department of Homeland Security implemented the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018 for those who are eligible for this benefit.

Eligible veterans include Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, all veterans with service-connected disabilities, and individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible veterans under the Department of Veteran Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

Veterans who qualify for this benefit will need to enroll their Veterans Health Identification card (VHIC) at the Nimitz Visitor Control Center/ Pass & ID office at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam located adjacent to the Nimitz Gate on the Pearl Harbor side of the base to access the installation and facilities.

For more information regarding eligibility and application process, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic.



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



1 Katsunobu Kato, Japanese Minister of Health, Labor, and Welfare, and U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Darius Banaji, deputy director for Operations, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, begin a tour of the agency Jan. 10 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The Japanese delegation visited the agency in an effort to learn procedures and technologies used for recovery and identification operations of missing service members, in addition to strengthening collaboration and cooperation between the two countries. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Angelica Vasquez)

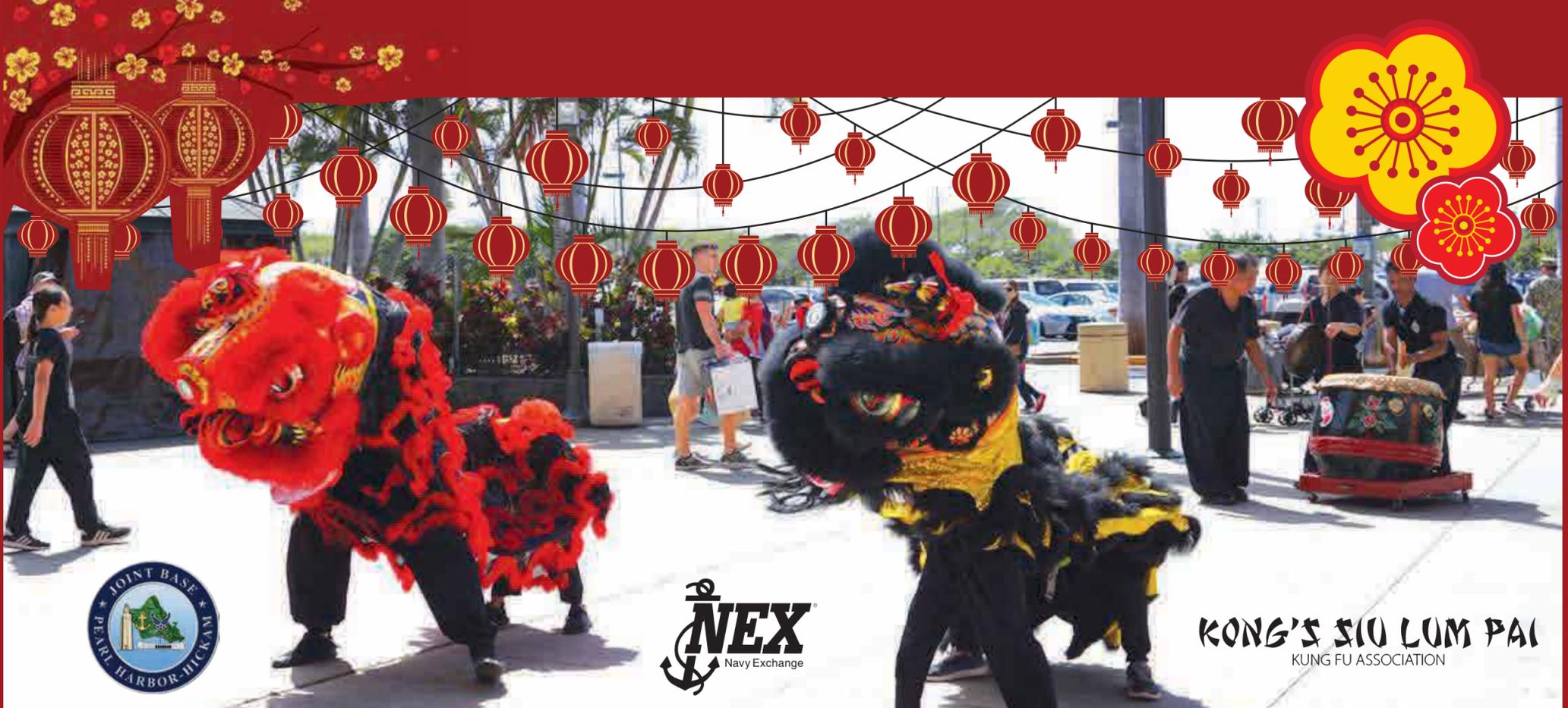
2 An E-3 Sentry based out of Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, basks in Hawaiian sun rays Jan. 8, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Aircrew from the 970th Airborne Air Control Squadron, temporarily relocated to Hawaii to participate in fighter exercise, Sentry Aloha 20-1. The Hawaii Air National Guard exercise is held to provide dissimilar-aircraft-combat-training with fourth and fifth generation Aircraft. (U.S. Air Force courtesy photo)

3 Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas B. Modly stands in front of a wreath at the base of the Lady Columbia statue in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl Crater. The visit concluded his campaign in his first official trip to the U.S. Indo-Pacific areas of responsibility. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Alexander C. Kubitzka)

4 Family members of World War II hero Doris "Dorie" Miller stand at the end of the USS Arizona Memorial while on a boat tour of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas B. Modly named a future Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carrier in honor of Miller during a ceremony in Pearl Harbor on Martin Luther King Day Jan. 20. This will be the second ship named in honor of Miller, and the first aircraft carrier ever named for an African American and an enlisted Sailor. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Alexander C. Kubitzka)

5 USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) passes the USS Arizona Memorial as it arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam as part of an around-the-world deployment that includes a homeport shift to San Diego. Abraham Lincoln has been underway in support of maritime security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th, 6th, and 7th Fleet areas of operation since April 1, 2019. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Cole C. Pielop)

6 A Force Reconnaissance Marine with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's Maritime Raid Force climbs a caving ladder during Visit, Board, Search and Seizure training on Ford Island, Naval Station Pearl Harbor Jan. 8. During VBSS training, the Marines hone their ship boarding and seizure capabilities to better perform maritime interdiction operations. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Isaac Cantrell)



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WESLEY MUN
President of the
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