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Secretary of Defense recognizes Pearl Harbor Shipyard as no ka oi

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs



The Secretary of Defense recognized Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard as the 'best of the best' in depot-level maintenance across all military services Aug. 2.

The shipyard received the prestigious Robert T. Mason Award for its outstanding emergent repairs and 'support of the warfighter.'

The award is presented annually to one program from a Department of Defense (DoD) depot-level maintenance activity that exemplifies exceptional depot-level maintenance support to DoD operating units.

"We are both proud and humbled by this award," said Rear Adm. (Sel) Capt. Greg Thomas, shipyard commander. "Winning this Secretary of Defense award shows once again that the men and women of our shipyard today walk proudly in the footsteps of those shipyarders who helped turn the tide of and win – World War II. Every shipyard worker is proud that we continue to live up to our legacy of greatness," he said.

Thomas also credited the support of the people of Hawaii that has been an important factor in Pearl Harbor's success.

"Our civilian workers and Sailors live in the local communities," he said. "They come to work knowing they receive the support and aloha of their elected officials, educators, business and their neighbors. This sense of ohana makes a tremendous difference in worker morale and effectiveness," Thomas said.

The shipyard was recognized among 12 nominations throughout the military for its emergent repair program. Emergent repairs are emergency repairs to vessels as opposed to scheduled and planned modernization and repairs. The shipyard was also recognized for critical mechanical or structural fixes conducted in Hawaii for naval forces of strategic significance, such as the rapid repairs in support of the USS Boxer Expeditionary Strike Group and USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) Carrier Strike Group.

The shipyard was also acknowledged for its successful planning to support the homeporting of two Virginia-class submarines – USS Texas (SSN 775) and USS Hawaii (SSN 776), facilities modernization planning and improvements, workforce shaping and development, process improvements, support of its National Guard and reservists and community outreach.

Liane Nakahara, shipyard spokeswoman, explained that the DoD-wide Robert T. Mason Award is comparable to “winning the maintenance world cup.”

In fiscal year 2005, the Secretary of Defense depot-level award was named the Robert T. Mason Award for Depot Maintenance Excellence in recognition of Robert T. Mason, a former assistant deputy under secretary of defense for maintenance policy, programs and resources. This year's award will be presented Nov. 17 at the Secretary of Defense Maintenance Awards Ceremony and Banquet at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, Fla.
