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## Two Hawaii commands receive Navy Community Service Awards

**MC2 Robert Stirrup**

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Photo Caption: (Left) Navy Diver 3rd Class Brett McEntire from Mobile Diving and Salvage Company One assists students from Waimanalo Elementary School as part of their Drug Free Walk initiative. U.S. Navy photo by CWO Jeff Landry (Right) Sailors from Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific and Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility participate in the annually Ford Island cleanup. U.S. Navy photo by MC2 John Wallace Ciccarelli Jr.

In a recent NAVADMIN, the chief of naval operations recognized two Pearl Harbor-based commands for their outstanding community service projects with the announcement of the winners in the Navy Community Service Awards program.

Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) 1 won the award in the personal excellence partnership category for a small sea command, and Afloat Training Group, Middle Pacific (ATG MIDPAC) received an honorable mention

for a small shore command for the many community service activities personnel volunteered for in the period from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

MDSU-1 participated in numerous events, including a cleanup event at the Kaneohe Memorial Cemetery and the annual drug-free walk in Waipahu. Sailors at MDSU-1 also continued an education outreach partnership with Waipahu Elementary School.

"The relationship we have built with Waipahu Elementary and the community has matured over the years, but it definitely requires a lot of good people at MDSU-1 and the school to keep the program alive," said Lt. Cmdr. Jack Ryan, executive officer of MDSU-1. "The reward for us as a command is having the opportunity to be involved with these kids and instill good, healthy life habits."

Engineman 2nd Class Rafael Amorim, assigned to MDSU-1, stated the importance of the command's partnership with Waipahu Elementary School.

"We like to get over there to the school and work with the kids as much as possible," Amorim said. "Sometimes it is difficult to fit the time in around our work schedule, but it is definitely worth it to make the time."

Sailors assigned to ATG MIDPAC participated in numerous cleanup projects throughout the community, and volunteered their time conducting various events with their partnership school, Iroquois Point Elementary School.

"Community service is part of our annual command strategic plan. We know it is important to give back to the community, so we make it a priority," said Capt. Ricks Polk, commanding officer of ATG MIDPAC. "The community that these programs support is our community, where our Sailors live, where their children go to school, and where we can make a huge impact in the lives of others."

The Personal Excellence Partnership program is a collaborative effort among Navy commands, public and/or private sector organizations, and schools and youth groups. Its purpose is to assist America's youth from pre-school through high school to become better educated, healthier and more responsible citizens.

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