

Two Hawaii commands receive Navy Community Service Awards

MC2 Robert Stirrup

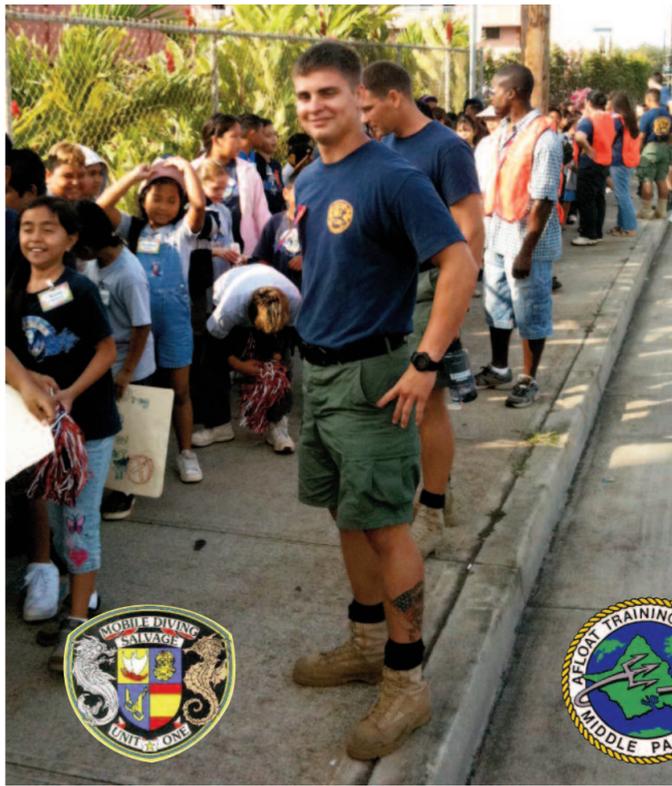
Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

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 MID-PAC) 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



(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.

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.



U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Kreaingai Tyree
An extra corporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) team from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas cares for a critically ill infant on a C-17 Globemaster III enroute to California in July 2010. The ECMO team included (left to right) then Maj. (Dr.) Melissa Tyree, from the 59th Maternal/Child Care Squadron; George Brandon, a pediatric intensive care unit nurse; Capt. Terry Bailey, a nurse from the 59th Medical Inpatient Squadron; and Master Sgt. Thomas Kamin, from the Air Force Reserve Command 349th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

Joint-service, civilian team makes medical history

Nadine Leavitt Siak

Pacific Air Forces Command Public Affairs

In an unprecedented Air Force, Army and civilian medical move, the longest recorded adult extracorporeal oxygenation transport to date was conducted from Hawaii.

ECMO (extracorporeal mobile oxygenation) is a medical treatment that provides both cardiac and respiratory support to patients whose heart and lungs are so severely diseased, or damaged that they can no longer function. ECMO is most com-

monly used in neonatal intensive care units for newborns in pulmonary distress.

Only a handful of the approximately 130 ECMO programs worldwide are set up to handle adult patients, said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Melissa Tyree, a staff neonatologist and neonatal/pediatric ECMO specialist at Tripler Army Medical Center.

In November 2010, a 56-year-old woman from Chicago developed a fever and cough while vacationing on Oahu, Hawaii. She was diagnosed with a viral infection and admitted to Straub Hospital in

Honolulu. Although she was treated with antibiotics and then put on a ventilator, the woman's condition continued to deteriorate to the point where she was in severe respiratory failure and unresponsive to all advanced pulmonary support available. She needed ECMO to survive.

The doctors at Straub tried to find an adult ECMO transport team in the continental United States for her, but none was available.

There is no formal adult ECMO program, or even

See JOINT SERVICE, A-2

DESRON 31 holds change of command ceremony

Story and photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Capt. David Welch relieved Capt. Richard Clemmons as commander of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31 at a change of command ceremony at the DESRON 31 headquarters building on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 21.

Vice Adm. Richard Hunt, commander of U.S. 3rd Fleet, served as the guest speaker and offered remarks to those

in attendance.

"As the commodore of DESRON 31, Capt. Clemmons couldn't have done a better job than he has," Hunt noted. "If there is one thing that I would characterize about him, it is his great work ethic and leadership ability. It is something that can be counted on each and every day, and our Sailors and our Navy are clearly better for it."

Hunt also stated that he looked forward to what the future holds for Welch as the commander of DESRON 31.

"You have my full confi-

dence, and I am looking forward to working with you in the near future," Hunt said. "You did an excellent job as the deputy commander of DESRON 31, and I'm sure you will do great things as the commodore."

During the ceremony, Clemmons thanked those involved during his tenure as commander.

"Ceremonies such as this are the very fabric of the Navy. They symbolize honor, courage and commitment, but more than anything, these ceremonies allow the outgoing com-

See DESRON 31, A-2



Capt. David Welch passes through sideboys during a change of command ceremony at the Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31 headquarters building on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Welch relieved Capt. Richard Clemmons as commander of DESRON 31. DESRON 31 serves as the immediate superior in command of all Pearl Harbor-based destroyers and frigates under an operational alignment to increase force presence and surge capacity in the western Pacific.



Navy Region Hawaii concludes CFC 2010
See page A-2



Tops in Blue perform at Freedom Tower lawn
See page A-4



Gentle giants return to Hawaii
See page B-1



USS Chung-Hoon conducts successful missile launch
See page A-2



Pearl Harbor Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program begins Jan. 31
See page A-9



Enjoying the exercise, part 3: Cyclist rides to raise money
See page B-4

Navy Region Hawaii concludes CFC 2010

Story and photo by
MC2 (AW)
Eric J. Cutright

Navy Public Affairs Support
Element West Det. Hawaii

Navy Region Hawaii celebrated the end of the 2010 Hawaii-Pacific Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Jan. 19.

To date, employees from 104 different federal agencies located on the Hawaiian Islands and Guam have contributed nearly six million dollars to the Hawaii-Pacific CFC fund.

"Today was the final recognition ceremony ending the 2010 Combined Federal Campaign," said Cmdr. Jeanene Torrance, CFC project officer for Navy Region Hawaii. "Basically, the event started back in the beginning of October and we went through the middle of November while collecting donations. It took a little bit of time to audit those donations and today we wanted to celebrate everyone's efforts."

During the ceremony, Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific and executive agent for the 2010 CFC, presented Colby Stanton, vice president of the Federal Executive Board for amount collected thus far by CFC, with a check for the Hawaii-Pacific CFC.



Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and commander, Naval Surface Middle Pacific, presents Col. Michael Davino from U.S. Pacific Command with the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Eagle trophy. The trophy is a symbolic gesture to signify the passing of CFC management duties from one federal agency to the next. This year, U.S. Commander, Pacific Fleet organized the Hawaii-Pacific CFC fundraiser and U.S. Pacific Command will be organizing the 2011 campaign. Smith also presented a check to Colby Stanton (center), a representative from the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

Stanton, vice president of the Federal Executive Board for amount collected thus far by CFC, with a check for the Hawaii-Pacific CFC.

Smith explained the importance of why military as well as other federal employees should

consider donating to the CFC.

"There are a lot of non-profit organizations out there that are doing good things and because they're non-profit they don't have a huge source of revenue or income and whether it's organizations that take care of little children, research debilitating diseases, find homes for stray animals, or the Missouri Memorial which perpetuates the history of the Navy, the donations that we make enable those organizations to carry out their mission which they may not be able to do otherwise," Smith said.

The event was held on the Battleship Missouri Memorial this year to highlight one of the many non-profit organizations to which the CFC contributes.

Smith concluded the ceremony by presenting Army Col. Michael Davino, assigned to U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM), with a CFC eagle trophy and a 20-dollar bill to symbolize the turning over of next year's Hawaii-Pacific CFC management duties to PACOM.

CFC is a fundraiser that was started in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy and promotes philanthropy through donations given by federal employees to help improve the quality of life for all.

USS Chung-Hoon conducts successful missile launch

Ensign William
Tessmann

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG
93) Public Affairs

USS CHUNG-HOON, At Sea - There is a palpable tension in the air in the combat information center (CIC) aboard USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93). The computer-filled, blue-lit room is crowded with people—nearly every watch station is manned and there are observers everywhere. All eyes are on a solitary radar track, flying low and fast over the Hawaiian seas.

After much preparation, it is finally the big day. The room is filled with chatter between the different watch stations. A carefully planned and meticulously rehearsed series of steps is being carried out like clockwork among the many players in the room. Except today it's different.

Finally the word everyone has been anxiously waiting for is passed. "This is the captain. Kill track." Everything is quiet except for one calm response, "Kill track, aye sir." Silence reigns for moments that seem like ages.

Suddenly a deafening roar reverberates through the ship. Two decks above, two standard missiles scream from their launch tubes at unbelievable speed toward their



A standard missile is launched aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Wayne E. Meyer (DDG 108) off the coast of Hawaii. USS Wayne E. Meyer was underway with guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) in support of developmental testing.

target, a remote controlled drone some miles away. They are out of sight within seconds. Back down in CIC, everyone breathes a sigh of relief at the successful launch.

Cmdr. S. Scott Erb, commanding officer of Chung-Hoon, was beaming after the launch. "The Sailors on board Chung-Hoon did a fantastic job preparing for and execut-

ing this exercise," Erb said. "I'm very proud of them for performing so precisely and professionally. The outstanding dedication they've shown to Chung-Hoon is truly commendable."

The day of the launch was a culmination of weeks of preparation for Chung-Hoon. Live fire missile exercises are relatively uncommon in the

surface Navy because of the great deal of preparation and coordination required to carry them out under such controlled and measured conditions. That this is Chung-Hoon's second shoot in less than a year, following their shoot with USS Dewey (DDG 105) in May 2010, is particularly noteworthy.

Before the shot, Chung-

Hoon's crew completed extensive system checks and revisions through an arduous month-long work up. This process involved long hours for the crew, who worked tirelessly to ensure that the exercise would go off without a hitch. Every system involved was checked and double checked to iron out any of the electronic wrinkles that may have popped

up and to ensure a flawless launch.

After this long system grooming process, the firing team went through many hours of rehearsing the firing sequence step by step. The rehearsals honed the edge these Sailors had gained during Chung-Hoon's recent deployment to the western Pacific and South China Sea.

By the day of the shoot, the firing sequence ran flawlessly, and the team was prepared to handle any potential problem that could have arisen during the exercise. It went off without a hitch.

"It was an incredible experience," said Fire Controlman 2nd Class Kenneth Koonce, who pushed the final button to launch the two missiles.

"The team worked really well together. It was a completely different experience than a training scenario. Pressing the button and then hearing and feeling the missiles launch ... it was awesome."

Chung Hoon is underway off the coast of Hawaii in support of developmental testing with USS Wayne E. Meyer (DDG 108).

For news regarding USS Chung Hoon, visit the ship's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/USS-Chung-Hoon-DDG-93/122211737802543> or visit <http://www.chung-hoon.navy.mil>.

Joint-service, civilian team makes medical history

Continued from A-1

one physician specializing in adult ECMO anywhere in Hawaii.

But there was a sliver of hope for the patient. In 2007, Kapiolani Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente and Tripler Army Medical Center officials pooled resources to create the Hanuola Neonatal and Pediatric ECMO Consortium. The consortium has a network of 15 joint-service and civilian doctors.

Straub staff members contacted Tyree, who acts as the medical director of Hanuola, for assistance. Although she and her consortium associates were only experienced with administering ECMO treatment to youngsters, it became clear that their expertise was the only thing that could save the woman who was, Tyree recalled, "quickly approaching zero percent survival."

"(We knew) the concept exists, the technology exists, and we were not going to let anything stop us, including red tape," Tyree said.

Tyree was joined on the case by Lt. Col. (Dr.) Erik Osborn,

an Army pulmonologist and adult critical care specialist at Tripler Army Medical Center. They both received permission from Brig. Gen. Keith W. Gallagher, the commanding general of the Pacific Regional Medical Command and Tripler, to provide medical care to the woman at Straub and they began to work on saving her life.

The patient was placed on ECMO the afternoon of Nov. 13. Over the course of the next several days, it became apparent that her lung disease wasn't going to be quickly resolved. She required transportation to an established adult ECMO center for extended ECMO care and a possible lung transplant. After an adult ECMO center located in Iowa agreed to accept the patient, Straub administrators coordinated extensively with the woman's insurance company while the transport team arranged for air travel to Iowa. "This is where the magic came in," Tyree said.

In less than 24 hours, the medical team was organized, a civilian plane secured and multi-institutional equipment

and supplies all coordinated. In addition, a special ECMO stretcher chock-full of tubes, wires and medical devices was constructed from scratch.

The core medical transport team included Tyree Osborn, Kris Costales, a civilian perfusionist (a specialized health professional who operates the heart-lung machine); and Melody Kilcommons, a civilian registered nurse. Also on the Gulfstream III jet were two adult critical care transport nurses (supplied from the civilian medical jet company), a civilian safety officer, two pilots and the patient.

Col. Sean Murphy, the Pacific Air Forces Command surgeon, said the composition of the medical team was "very unique."

"It was a joint effort combined with a civilian team," he said. "Hawaii is truly an island, and with the challenges of resourcing medically complicated and expensive efforts such as ECMO, it makes sense to partner where we can as this patient could just as easily have been a military beneficiary as a civilian."

The patient was transported more than 4,051 miles - a total

transport time of approximately 12 hours - from her Hawaii hospital bed to her Iowa hospital bed on Nov. 19. The transport was a complete success and the patient underwent additional ECMO treatment in Iowa.

The patient eventually died of complications, but she had been given an additional month to say goodbye to her loved ones. In addition, she was able to partake in a private family ceremony that included water from the Ganges River in India. As Hindus, she and her family consider such water sacred and essential for a good death/funeral.

Tyree, who previously worked in the neonatal/pediatric ECMO program at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, said even when a patient dies despite the best efforts of a military medical team, "what gives families the greatest sense of peace is that the government cares - it's as if the president himself has reached out to them."

In this case, she said, the woman's family felt, "the whole island rose to (their) mother's need."

Welch takes reins of DESRON 31

Continued from A-1

mander to say "thank you" and "a job well done," Clemmons said. "I want to thank the more than 2,000 Sailors aboard the eight ships that comprise DESRON 31. You are truly making a difference in this world and your sacrifices have not gone unnoticed."

After the reading of orders and assuming command from Clemmons, Welch took the opportunity to address the audience.

"To the officers, chiefs and Sailors of DESRON 31, I have watched you in action and I am humbled to stand before you," Welch said. "We are based in a strategic location and we must remain prepared to go forward at a moment's notice. This forward thinking and forward mentality will permeate everything that we do."

In May 2008, DESRON 31 assumed duties as immediate superior in command of all Pearl Harbor-based destroyers and frigates under an operational alignment to increase force presence and surge capacity in the western Pacific under Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. DESRON 31 was also assigned as a Task Group Commander for bilateral naval exercises in Southeast Asia. DESRON 31 moved to Pearl Harbor from San Diego in 1991 and adopted the motto "ke koa o ke kai" (warriors from the sea).



CNRH Sailor stands for integrity

Story and photo by
MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public
Affairs

After recently being selected as Commander, Navy Region Hawaii's (CNRH) Sailor of the Year, Master-at-Arms 1st Class (MA1) Evette McDowald looks forward to the many opportunities ahead in her career.

The Memphis, Tenn. native described herself as a person who likes to take on challenges and said that is the reason she joined the Navy in the first place.

"I had just graduated from college and I needed something fresh and new to do, but at the same time I wanted a challenge," McDowald said. "I chose master-at-arms knowing at first that I would be a gate guard or doing security operations, but later on, I found out that you can also be a dog handler, investigator along with many other jobs within the master-at-arms community. Once I found that out, I wanted

to do this job for sure," she said.

Now, with more than nine years in the Navy, McDowald serves as the drug and alcohol program advisor (DAPA) for CNRH. She also serves as vice president of the CNRH Petty Officers Association and is a member of CNRH's coalition of Sailors against making destructive decisions (CSADD).

During her free time, McDowald said she likes to spend time with her family and enjoy the Hawaii weather.

"Spending time with my family is my first priority. I also like to read and I enjoy running," McDowald stated. "I really enjoy the tropical weather here in Hawaii because I hate to be cold, and who could really complain about being in Hawaii."

Command Master Chief Marcos Sibal, command master chief of CNRH, stated that McDowald is a poster-perfect example of what a Sailor should be.

"MA1 McDowald is an outstanding Sailor on and off duty,

and she serves as an excellent role model for all our junior Sailors to emulate," Sibal said. "She embodies the ideals of service with honor and dedication, and her job ensures that we as Sailors conduct ourselves with the utmost integrity."

McDowald noted that the most important topics to her are community involvement through CNRH's partnership with Pearl City Elementary School and the Navy's mentorship program.

"My future plans include establishing a tutor program for English and math classes for the students at Pearl City Elementary, because one day they will be our leaders and I want them to be as successful as possible," McDowald said. "I'm also really involved in the mentorship program that the Navy has because I want the people who I am mentoring now to take my place. That is how my mentors taught me, and that is what I want to pass on to the Sailors I mentor."



**MASTER-AT-ARMS
1ST CLASS
EVETTE MCDOWALD**

Diverse Views



How do you feel about the Pro Bowl game being scheduled before the Super Bowl?

Maj. Michael Powell
Executive Officer, PACAF A6E



"Horrible idea, because some of the players I would like to see aren't playing. They are saved for the Super Bowl."



Tony Skinner
CMSgt
Materiel Management

"It's better to have the Pro Bowl before the Super Bowl because the Super Bowl is the ultimate game and closes the NFL season."

Anibal Garcia
MM3
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam



"I think the Pro Bowl should be after the Super Bowl, because now we won't get to see players like Troy Polamalu or Ben Roethlisberger."



Mario Maciel
MA2
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

"The Pro Bowl should be after the Super Bowl because it allows all the players who got selected the opportunity to play in the game."

What do you think is the best thing about having the Pro Bowl return to Hawaii this year?

William Randall
Entry Control Officer
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam



"It helps Hawaii's economy and brings publicity for Hawaii to the mainland."

(Provided by MC2 Robert Stirrup and David D. Underwood Jr.)

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views?
Got opinions to share?
Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

Remembering fallen pioneers of Challenger



The Challenger disaster occurred on Jan. 28 1986. Astronauts who were on the flight are shown in the above photo. Lt. Col. Ellison Onizuka (second row, far left) was from Hawaii.

HO'OKELE

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tops in blue

perform at Freedom Tower lawn

Brister Thomas

Contributing Writer

Entertainers from Tops in Blue performed songs from Lady Gaga, Michael Jackson and Beyonce during their two-hour performance on Jan. 26 at Freedom Tower lawn on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Approximately 35 Airmen presented music in various categories, ranging from comedy, drama, vocals and musical instruments, for Airmen, Sailors, civilians and their families at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam who gathered on the lawn with their blankets and chairs. The band portion of Tops in Blue consists of 10 service members who have been selected from hundreds of Air Force applicants.

Since 1953, when Maj. Al Reilly (now a retired colonel) decided that the Air Force had enough fitness and sports competitions and they needed a talent contest, active-duty Air Force entertainers tour the world to entertain the forces.

The members of Tops in Blue must complete a highly-accelerated educational process to prepare them to succeed as world-class entertainers during their nine-month tour.

Some of the performers' responsibilities include setting up the stage, lighting, audio and special effects equipment. They must learn to work as a self-contained operational unit that can manage their own lodging, transportation, dining and wardrobe.

They are known for their one-destination, one-show approach. They complete one performance per site including set-up and strike-down at every location in one evening.

In the past decade, Tops in Blue was among the first entertainment groups to travel into Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan,

Qatar and Kyrgyzstan to raise the morale of the troops.

This year's entertainers from the Air Force's performing arts group are scheduled to perform at Super Bowl XLV.

They concluded their Jan. 26 night performance to cheers from the crowd while sharing their rendition of Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA."



Photo illustration

Pearl Harbor-Hickam Highlights



(Below) Capt. David Welch (right) relieves Capt. Richard Clemmons as commander of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31 during a change of command ceremony at the DESRON 31 headquarters building on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 21. DESRON 31 serves as the immediate superior in command of all Pearl Harbor-based destroyers and frigates under an operational alignment to increase force presence and surge capacity in the western Pacific.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

(Above) Capt. Richard Clemmons orders his pennant lowered aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) during a change of command ceremony at Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31 headquarters at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 26. Welch relieved Clemmons as commander of DESRON-31.



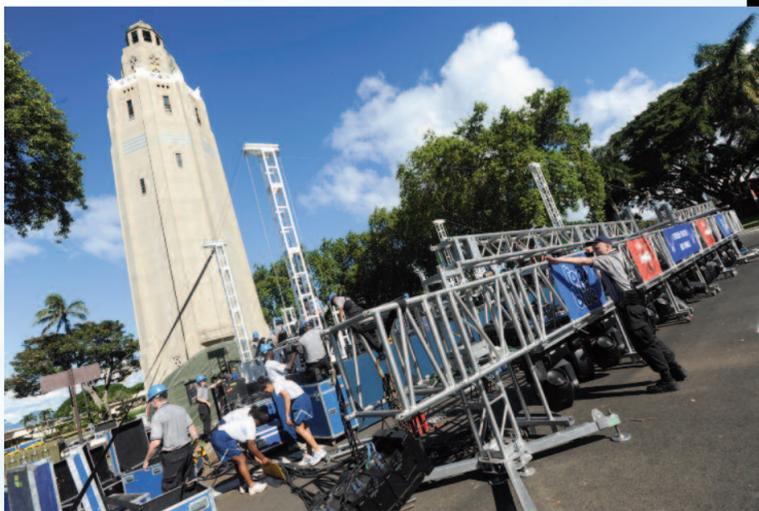
U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Paul D. Homnick

(Above) Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 2nd Class J. Wilson paints the inside of a work shed alongside his wife, Cryptologic Technician (Networks) 2nd Class Cathryne Wilson, during a restoration project for the Polynesian Voyaging Society. Sailors from Destroyer Squadron 31, USS Chafee (DDG 90) and Navy Information Operations Command Hawaii spent the day restoring a Polynesian canoe, support vessels and work areas for the society while learning about ancient Hawaiian culture in the process.



U.S. Air Force photo by AIC Lauren Main

(Above) Entertainers from Tops in Blue get ready for their performance at Freedom Tower on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Jan. 26. Major Al Reilly created the Air Force Worldwide Talent Contest in 1953 to recognize talented Airmen in various categories ranging from comedy, drama, vocals and musical instruments. During the first year, Tops in Blue performed 230 shows in 235 days. The same breakneck pace continues today.



U.S. Air Force photo by AIC Lauren Main

(Above) Airmen from Tops in Blue assemble the stage in preparation for their Jan. 26 performance at Freedom Tower on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Before each performance, the Airmen of Tops in Blue unload and set up more than 80,000 pounds of equipment and use more than two miles of electrical cable.



U.S. Air Force photo by AIC Lauren Main

(Above) Members of Tops in Blue receive traditional Hawaiian leis after being greeted by Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and 15th Wing leaders upon their arrival at JBPHH on Jan. 24.



(Left) Monique Kadmiri, deputy chief engineer of surface ships at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, discusses propulsion system maintenance with the crew of USS Freedom (LCS 1) on the bridge of the littoral combat ship during the Rim of the Pacific maritime exercise in 2010. Kadmiri was notified Jan. 19 by the American Society of Naval Engineers (ASNE) that she is the recipient of its Rosenblatt Young Engineer Award for 2010.

U.S. Navy photo by Katie Vanes

Hawaii Sailors share and preserve Polynesian culture

Story and photos by
MC2 Paul Honnick

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West Det.
Hawaii

Hawaii Sailors volunteered at the Polynesian Voyaging Society in Honolulu on Jan. 22 to restore a canoe in preparation for a voyage around the world.

Twelve Sailors assigned to Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31, USS Chafee (DDG 90) and Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Hawaii spent the day sanding and painting pieces of a traditional Polynesian canoe named "Hokule'a," along with their support craft and work areas at the dry dock.

"It was an opportunity for the Navy family to get to know the local community and a bit of Hawaiian culture in a way that they wouldn't necessarily have, and it was also an opportunity for the society to get to know the Navy as more than just a bumper sticker and get a more personal feeling of appreciation for us," said Lt. Alapaki Gomes, the assistant air operations officer for DESRON 31 and one of the coordinators of the event.

The society is planning to sail the canoe around the world, using techniques their Polynesian ancestors used hundreds of years ago, without the use of any electronic or navigation equipment.

"We share a common bond to the sea," said Capt. Dave Welch, commodore of DESRON 31. "Hokule'a sails the open ocean; it's a small canoe with 12 crew members and they go thousands of miles without any modern navigation systems and that's an amazing achievement. So this is an opportunity for our Sailors to work with the community."

"This is an opportunity for them to learn an important part of Hawaii and Polynesian history and really an important part of the history of mankind in navigating the seas," Welch explained.

Gomes, a native of Hawaii, shared his knowledge of how traditional Polynesian navigation differs from the high tech instrumentation the Navy uses to patrol the oceans around the globe.

"Polynesian navigation is done without instruments, without use of a sextant, without knowledge of the concept of latitude and longitude necessarily. It's learning the position of places on the earth in relation to star position, sun and moon position, looking at clouds, feeling the ocean swells, feeling the wind, looking for seabirds and the like. It's a very time intensive process and as you might guess, it takes years of training," Gomes said.

Gomes said that ancient Polynesian cultures once sailed from island to island in the Pacific using these techniques, but the art was nearly lost.



Sailors sand down pieces of a Polynesian canoe for the Polynesian Voyaging Society, who plans to sail the canoe around the world, using ancient techniques without any electronics or navigation equipment. Sailors from Destroyer Squadron 31, USS Chafee (DDG 90) and Navy Information Operations Command Hawaii spent the day restoring the canoe, support vessels and work areas while learning about ancient Hawaiian culture in the process.



(Left) Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Navy Surface Group Middle Pacific, sands down a piece of a Polynesian canoe for the Polynesian Voyaging Society.



(Right) Engineman Fireman Ross McCray, assigned to USS Chafee (DDG 90), sands a support beam for a Polynesian canoe while Capt. Dave Welch, commodore of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31, works on the mast in the background during a restoration project for the Polynesian Voyaging Society.

"For centuries, the art of navigation was lost; the tradition of navigation was lost here in Hawaii," he said. "There was a period when Polynesians were transiting to and from Tahiti and Hawaii on a fairly regular basis, but that hasn't been done for several hundred years and Polynesian Voyaging Society began the revitalization, really the rediscovering of navigation by traditional means in the mid-seventies."

Welch described the work he was tasked with by the society staff.

"I was doing some of what they called light sanding. It felt a little more like heavy sanding for me, but we're taking varnish off of the mast and the other fittings for Hokule'a and some of their other voyaging canoes," Welch said.

Other Sailors were tasked with different jobs. Cryptologic Technician (Networks) 2nd Class Cathryne Wilson, assigned

to Chafee, spent the day painting the inside of a work shed alongside her husband, Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 2nd Class J. Wilson, assigned to Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Hawaii.

"We don't get a chance to volunteer together too much because we have conflicting schedules and so this time it just happened to line up and it was something that we were both interested in, so we figured why not," Cathryne Wilson offered.

In addition to getting to spend time with her husband, Wilson also said she valued the opportunity to experience a piece of local culture.

"I have a passion for archeology, so to see a living

re-enactment of how they used to do it is fascinating and it's really important to keep doing that kind of stuff because then you have an understanding of where your roots came from," she said.

Another volunteer, Engineman Fireman Ross McCray, said he was encouraged to attend by his mentor from USS Chafee, Intelligence Specialist 1st Class Elisha Louis.

"I'm here with my mentor and she said it would be good for me to come out here and volunteer," McCray said. "She's actually helping me out by getting me out there as far as volunteering and doing good things working within the command and outside of the command."

"I asked him if he would like to have this special opportunity," Louis said. "Only a select few get to come out and have the opportunity and I jumped right on it."

Also joining in on the experience was Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

"I love it. I've played in boats since I was a little boy, and to be able to learn more about the Hawaiian culture and their seafaring culture is very important," Smith said.

Despite spending a Saturday working rather than being on the beach, J. Wilson said it was all worthwhile.

"I'm really enjoying it

because we're not in the hot sun. We're getting to give back to the community and we're having fun doing it," he said.

The Polynesian Voyaging Society is planning to sail Hokule'a around the world in 2013. In the meantime, they will continue to work on their vessels and train their crew for the voyage.

Gomes said he hopes that volunteers from the Navy will support their efforts in the future.

"This will be the first of several volunteer opportunities we're looking to establish on a more regular basis," he said. "That cultural piece is an important part of the identity and the spirit of aloha that is shared here, so being able to partake in that is important."

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MCB Hawaii holds change of command ceremony

Marine Corps Base Hawaii Public Affairs

Col. Robert Rice, base commander of Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), Kaneohe, relinquished command in a ceremony held Jan. 21 at MCBH. He will retire after more than 29 years of service to the Marine Corps.

Rice assumed command of MCBH in August 2008. Since then, he has become widely known for his many resource conservation programs and energy production and reduction initiatives. He has been a close friend to the neighboring communities, and worked closely with Hawaii state government and City & County of Honolulu, as well as the Waimanalo community to make Bellows Beach a cleaner, safer place for everyone to enjoy.

During his tenure, the base enhanced numerous training areas and acquired a multitude of simulators and training devices to better serve operational forces as they prepare for combat deployments around the globe.

Prior to commanding MCBH, Rice was the deputy of operations with U.S. Southern Command in Miami, Fla.

Col. Jeffery Woods assumed command of MCBH Hawaii. Woods comes to MCBH. He was formally assigned to Marine Forces Pacific, Camp Smith, Hawaii, where he is the operations officer.

Rice's full biography is at <http://www.mcbh.usmc.mil/Command/cmdcg.htm#bio>.



U.S. Marine photo by Chris Aguinaldo

Col. Robert D. Rice, outgoing base commander of Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), Kaneohe, shakes hands with Capt. Richard Kitchens, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, following the MCB Hawaii change of command ceremony on Jan. 21. Rice retired after 29 years of service. Col. Jeffery R. Woods received the battalion colors during the ceremony marking his assumption of command of MCB Hawaii.

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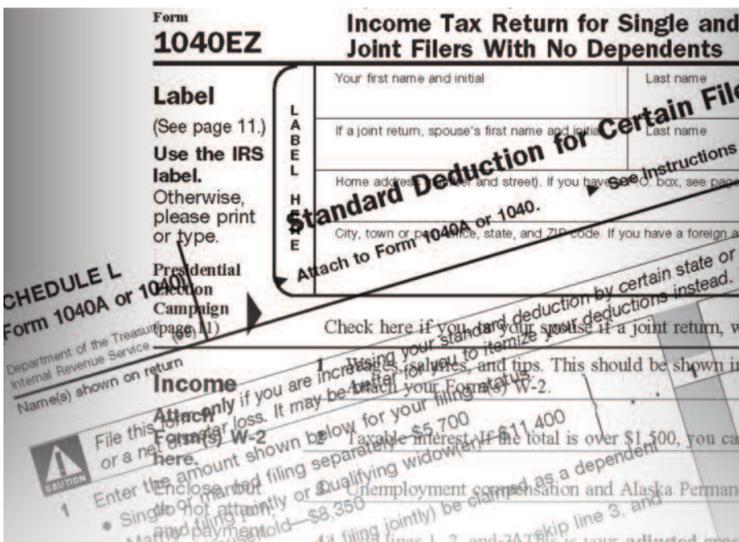
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Pearl Harbor Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program begins Jan. 31

Chief Legalman Harrold Henck

Naval Legal Service Office, Pacific Detachment Pearl Harbor

Enter your adjusted gross income; subtract line 12 from line 4; enter the smallest of line 9, 20, 23, 24, or 25 ... and ... aarrgg!

If this is how frustrated you feel when doing your taxes, the Navy's volunteer income tax assistance program may be able to help.

Tax season brings many questions regarding the intricacies of applicable rules and regulations. Gathering W-2s, 1099s, receipts, then tabulating deductions, credits and exemptions can be an overwhelming task for the average Sailor. However, beginning Jan. 31, the Navy's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) office will open its doors for service.

"VITA offers sailors and their families free advice and assistance in preparing their income tax returns," according to Lt. Chris Cox, VITA tax officer at the Pearl Harbor Naval Legal Service Office (NSLO). "The program reduces processing time and error rates, as well as protects Sailors from rapid refund schemes that are really high-interest, short-term loans."

Tax help will be open to all military members and their dependents at the VITA tax office located in the Navy College Building (building. 679), room 11. The office will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. No appointment is needed.

The Navy's VITA program began as a small pilot program in 1995 in selected locations and has expanded worldwide to include both ship and shore commands.

The program is operated in conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which provides initial training for the numerous volunteers who staff the Navy's tax centers each year.

An accurate return is the most important aspect of providing quality service; it

establishes credibility and integrity in the program and in the volunteer who prepared the return. Thus, good service results from good training.

"In recruiting volunteers, it is important to anticipate their potential concerns and find ways to address them ahead of time. For people who are not experts in accounting or tax law, we emphasize there is quality instruction from certified IRS trainers," Cox explained.

VITA volunteers are taught at basic, intermediate and advanced levels on how to correctly identify filing status, to prepare returns with wages, interest, dividends, Social Security, and retirement income, as well as self-employed income for schedule C-EZ. Volunteers are also taught how to handle issues peculiar to the military such as PCS moves and combat zone exemptions.

"Each tax season, we spend much of the month of January assembling and training a quality team of tax preparers to work," Cox added. "Tax assistance begins in February."

Because taxes are confusing for many Sailors and their families, some fail to receive credits to which they are entitled, often because they are not aware of their options. Others become overwhelmed and end up paying to have their taxes done, often using money they cannot afford to spend. Tax time thus presents an opportunity to increase family income by accessing public benefits like the earned income tax credit (EITC) as well as promote financial education.

Legalman 3rd Class (SW/AW) Allison Einhorn, the assistant tax officer for Pearl Harbor, said, "Many people go to private vendors, answer questions, sign forms – and pay a fee. They know they are getting a refund, but they really do not know why or if they are actually getting all they deserve."

The EITC, which provides refundable credits to

low-income workers, was added to the U.S. tax code in 1975. Despite its longevity, many who could qualify do not receive it. EITC filers must use Form 1040 or 1040A, even if they have no need to itemize deductions. The 1040-EZ, the most user-friendly form, does not allow for itemization or EITC credit.

The Navy's involvement with VITA, however, works to ensure that otherwise eligible Sailors and their families do not miss out on the EITC – and the chance to increase and save their refund.

Navy tax centers allow members to file their returns electronically and, by selecting direct deposit, receive their money in as little as one week.

"Paper returns can take eight or more weeks to process ... even longer if submitted overseas," Einhorn noted. "We strongly encourage e-filing and direct deposit, which can promote savings by removing the temptation to spend a paper check received in the mail."

Past tax seasons have demonstrated that sufficient manpower is the key to success. Local command support is crucial, from sending Sailors on temporary active duty (TAD) orders or allowing personnel to work part-time at the installation's tax office.

During 2010, Navy VITA volunteers filed more than 65,000 federal and state tax returns, saving Sailors and their families more than \$7 million in commercial tax preparation fees, and providing more than \$97 million in federal income tax returns.

Einhorn said, "Working with VITA is a great way of providing legal assistance to service members, retirees and their families. It's a win-win because volunteers learn new skills and gain deep satisfaction from serving, while clients receive invaluable assistance that benefits them financially."

For more information about the program, call 473-4112, or visit the VITA tax office.

This week in AIR FORCE HISTORY

- Events that occurred this week in United States Air Force (USAF) and Pacific Air Force (PACAF) history included a disaster that deeply affected Hawaii.

On Jan. 28, 1986, the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff, killing all seven astronauts, including Hawaii-born astronaut Lt. Col Ellison Onizuka. More than 1,500 members of the 15th Air Base Wing were lined up for a scheduled open-ranks inspection at Hickam's base operations when the wing commander stepped onto the podium and informed them of the disaster.

One of Hickam's missions was to act as an alternate or emergency base for contingency landings of the space shuttle. This tragedy delayed America's manned space program for more than two years.

- Clarence H. Mackay established the Mackay Trophy on Jan. 27, 1912. Aviators could compete for the trophy annually under rules made each year, or the War Department could award the trophy for the most meritorious flight of the year.



- On Jan. 24, 1944, after an extensive Allied air campaign in Italy, the allied assault forces landed at Anzio and Nettuno with minimal resistance. The 12th Air Force provided air cover for the landings and played a major role in defending the beachhead. To enhance cooperation between the ground and air commanders, 5th Army and 12th Air Force personnel met nightly to review the day's operations, and plan the next day's attacks.

- On Jan. 24, 1953, two USAF pilots of the 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing, Capt. Dolphin D. Overton III and Capt. Harold E. Fischer Jr., achieved ace status. In doing so, Overton set a record for becoming a jet ace in the shortest time (four days). Initially, he did not receive credit for two additional kills because they occurred in Chinese airspace - a violation of the rules of engagement at the time.

- On Jan. 30, 1953, the Boeing B-47 Stratojet first flew. Designed in the late 1940s as a high-altitude, medium-range bomber, the innovative, all-jet B-47 had swept wings and aerial refueling capability.



Fielded before the age of SAMs, ICBMs, SLBMs or air-launched nuclear missiles, the B-47 was believed to be capable of evading the fighter interceptors of its day. It carried only one or two high-yield nuclear weapons, but it was produced in numbers sufficient to strike the targets in SAC's war plans. By 1956, there were over 1,300 B-47 bombers and over 200 RB-47 reconnaissance aircraft assigned to SAC. Many of the B-47's features were also used in the design of the B-52.

- On Jan. 27, 1967, a flash fire during ground testing of the Apollo 1 command module at Cape Kennedy, Fla. killed three astronauts: Air Force Lt. Col. Virgil I. Grissom, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Roger B. Chaffee and Edward H. White. They had been rehearsing for a Feb. 21 flight.

- On Jan. 29 1991, the Battle of Khafji took place. In the first major ground engagement of the Gulf War, Iraqi forces crossed the Kuwaiti border into Saudi Arabia. The USAF suffered its greatest loss of the war, when the Iraqis shot down Spirit 03, an AC-130H Spectre gunship, killing all 14 crew members on board. Tactical air strikes by coalition air forces, however, routed the invaders in three days. For more info see the AF Magazine article, The Epic Little Battle of Khafji.

- From Jan. 31 to Feb. 3, 2001, in response to a 7.7 earthquake that devastated western India, two C-5s and four C-17s flew 115 short tons of humanitarian cargo to Ahmedabad, India. Each C-5 Galaxy flew nonstop from Travis AFB, Calif., to Andersen AFB, Guam. Hawaii ANG KC-135s refueled each C-5 enroute. At Andersen, workers transferred the C-5 cargo onto four 62nd Airlift Wing C-17s from McChord AFB, because Ahmedabad's airfield was too small for the C-5s. KC-135Rs from the 18th Wing, Kadena AB, refueled the C-17s on their 13-hour flight between Guam and India.

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