

## Military takes part in Pro Bowl

U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Cohen A. Young

A joint military color guard prepares to display the colors during the singing of the National Anthem at the start of the 2011 Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu, Hawaii on Jan. 30. This is the 31st time the event was held in Hawaii. Hawaii is home to many U.S. military families and many of those individuals were involved in the setup of the event. Service members volunteered to help with the stage crew, team color guardsmen, overall setup in addition to supporting the military color guard, and a flyover conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard.



U.S. Air Force photo by A1C Lauren Main

Ajmal Jami, a cameraman with New Delhi Television station, records Vishnu Som, senior news anchor with NDTV, as he speaks about the C-17s on the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam flightline on Jan. 25. The NDTV crew flew aboard a C-17 and documented the capabilities of the aircraft on a routine training mission to Kona, Hawaii.

## 15th Wing C-17s get their closeup on Indian television

Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen  
15th Wing Public Affairs

The word "bakaya" might soon be used by new fans of 15th Wing (15th WG) C-17s once they make their debut on an episode of New Delhi Television's (NDTV) show "Bigger, Higher, Faster."

This word, meaning "outstanding" in English, was also used with gratitude to describe the Indian news crew's experience with the 15th WG and its Airmen during their visit to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam from Jan. 25 through 27.

Vishnu Som, associate editor and senior anchor

of NDTV, said the show's purpose is to introduce state-of-the-art military and civilian aircraft to its audience with a tactile approach.

"It's nice to understand technology through the eyes of the user," Som said. "I could have easily done this program based on file footage and stock footage based on information that's out there."

"To hear about the experiences of U.S. aviators on this aircraft is what would give this documentary an edge as it were," he said.

According to Som, the close working relationship between the Indian Air Force and Pacific Air Forces along with the

15th WG's location in the region made shooting the documentary a logical choice.

"We were really happy to come over here," Som said. "To my understanding, it's the Pacific Air Forces which deals with the Indian Air Force to a very large extent in terms of the deployment or the responsibilities assigned to different Air Forces within the U.S. In fact, we've had exercises over here in Hawaii when we've had Indian airmen coming down and doing joint exercises at Hickam as well," he explained.

Jerry Drelling, Boeing C-17 media relations,

See C-17, A-10

## Pro Bowl players tour Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by  
MC2 Ronald Gutridge

Commander Submarine  
Force U.S. Pacific Fleet  
Public Affairs Office

Several Pro Bowl players from the National Football League and Sailors stationed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam enjoyed a guided boat tour of the historic sites of Pearl Harbor on Jan. 29.

Before the tour, Sailors had the chance to meet and talk to the players who participated in the 2011 AFC-NFC Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium on Jan. 30.

"I really enjoy talking with the players and sharing some experiences of our different careers," said Fire Control Technician 2nd Class (SS) Cameron Osborne, assigned to Naval Submarine Support Command. "I think it's great that they can take the time to learn about some of the history of Pearl Harbor and the Navy."



Fire Control Technician 2nd Class (SS) Cameron Osborne, assigned to Naval Submarine Support Command at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, receives an autographed football from Kansas City Chief's running back Jamaal Charles during a tour of Pearl Harbor historic sites on Jan. 29. Charles participated in the 2011 AFC-NFC Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium on Jan. 30.

The tour consisted of a trip around the perimeter waters off Ford Island, viewing several historic sites including Keanapuaa (Hospital Point), USS Utah Memorial, Bowfin Submarine Museum and

Park, Battleship Missouri Memorial and ending at the USS Arizona Memorial. The Sailors who accompanied the players answered questions and participated in photo opportunities.

## USS Reuben James (FFG-57) deploys to western Pacific

Story and photo by  
(SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii  
Public Affairs

Liane Nakahara

Pearl Harbor Naval  
Shipyards Public Affairs

The guided-missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) deployed from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 1 as part of an independent deployment to the

western Pacific.

Reuben James, commanded by Cmdr. David E. Miller, is deploying under the middle Pacific surface combatant (MPSC) deployment concept in which Pearl Harbor-based ships deploy in support of operations, primarily in the western Pacific. The crew of about 225 Sailors will conduct integrated operations in conjunction with coalition partners deployed to the western Pacific.

"Reuben James has

been preparing for this day since returning from our last deployment," Miller said. "Our focus of effort through continuous maintenance supplied by Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyards, training and assessments conducted by Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific, and exercises RIMPAC 2010 and Koa Kai 11-1 have fully prepared us to be 'ready on arrival' to support all missions and operations. Our

See REUBEN, A-9



USS La Jolla departs for western Pacific deployment  
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USS Hopper welcomes community leaders to sea  
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Hickam C-17 drops Navy boat over Pacific  
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Warrior of the Week: Senior Airman Colin Coleman  
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2011 Pro Bowl  
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Lake Erie Warriors come back to beat Tar Heels  
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## PACAF civilian looks back on more than 60 years of bringing fuel to the fight

Story and photo by  
Tech. Sgt. Steve Lewis

HQ PACAF Public Affairs

Stanley Zaucha, facilities manager for petroleum, oils and lubricants at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), has more than 60 years of military and civil service with the U.S. Air Force. In the line of duty, he has traveled to military installations all over the world, providing thousands of gallons of fuel to aircraft and working around the clock to complete the mission.

In February, he will be closing the chapter on his fuels experience which has spanned six different military campaigns including the Korean War and Operation Enduring Freedom. Zaucha, who previously retired at the rank of chief master sergeant, has dedicated himself not only to the Air Force, but also to the fuels profession by shaping its infrastructure to meet the ever-changing demands of today's state-of-the-art weapons systems.

Since 1994, Zaucha has been assigned to the Headquarters Pacific Air Forces POL staff. For the past 17 years, he has been responsible for managing fuels facility and process improvements at bases throughout the command. He has overseen more than 40 military construction projects valued in excess of \$500 million, including the installation of numerous pipelines and hydrant systems that pump fuel to aircraft.

He has received many awards and accolades through the years, but most



Stanley Zaucha, facilities manager at Pacific Air Forces petroleum, oils and lubricants, poses for a photograph in front of a fuel tank at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Jan. 20. He is retiring in February after more than 60 years of military and civil service fuels experience that has spanned six military campaigns including the Korean War and Operation Enduring Freedom.

notably was recognized as the 1997 Air Force Fuels Civilian of the Year and the 2002 PACAF Fuels Civilian of the Year for the projects

he implemented while being assigned at PACAF.

"I always feel a great

See PACAF, A-10



A submariner assigned to the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS La Jolla (SSN 701) says goodbye to his family before La Jolla departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 27 for a regularly scheduled six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

## USS La Jolla departs for western Pacific deployment

Story and photo by  
MC2 Ronald Gutridge

Commander Submarine  
Force U.S. Pacific Fleet  
Public Affairs Office

The Los Angeles-class, fast-attack submarine USS La Jolla (SSN 701) departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 27 for a scheduled six-month deployment to the Middle East and the western Pacific.

Cmdr. Jeff Bernard, La Jolla's commanding officer, commented that the crew is extremely excited and well prepared to get underway.

"The crew has worked very hard and we have conducted extensive training during the deployment

preparation phase and will continue to hone the lessons learned from that training as we transit to our operational areas," Bernard said.

"There is a great deal of satisfaction within the crew to be finally finished preparing for this deployment and to begin operations at sea," he continued.

This deployment will be the first for the majority of the crew where, according to Bernard, they will conduct many training exercises and qualifications as well as being available for any tasking which comes their way.

"This deployment will provide an optimal time for a great deal of submarine qualifications, watch

station and other divisional qualifications to be completed," Bernard said. "Our goal is to maximize operational readiness in support of the needs of the operational commander and above all else, bring the submarine and crew back safely from a successful deployment."

La Jolla is named for La Jolla, Calif. and is the first warship named after this township. Commissioned on Oct. 24, 1981, La Jolla is the 14th ship of the Los Angeles-class of nuclear attack submarines, is 360 feet long and displaces 6,900 tons. The submarine can be armed with sophisticated Mark-48 ADCAP anti-submarine torpedoes and Tomahawk-guided cruise missiles.

## BUPERS leaders discuss FR/PTS at Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by  
MC2 Paul Honnick

Navy Public Affairs  
Support Element West Det.  
Hawaii

Leaders from the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) hosted a Fleet Ride/Perform to Serve (FR/PTS) brief at Sharkey Theater at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 25.

The BUPERS representatives discussed the ins and outs of Fleet Ride, Perform to Serve and Career Management System/Interactive Detailing (CMS/ID) and addressed concerns over the record retention numbers and decreasing quotas.

"Our main goal is to educate Sailors and their chains of command on how they can best compete for the limited amount of quotas that are going to be available in the future as we try to meet our end strength demands," said Capt. Hank Roux, the head of the enlisted community management shop for BUPERS 32.

"Our primary tool that we'll be using is to discuss the Perform to Serve program, which will impact all Sailors 14 years or less in the Navy. They will have to compete at a minimum once, if not three times, for a quota in their future and so what I'm trying to do is give them all of the ammunition they need to be best suited to get one of those coveted quotas," Roux explained.

He noted that many concerns came from Sailors in overmanned ratings. "There are some real concerns for whether they will be able to get one of those quotas," he said. "Their concerns are valid and they should be looking at the health of each one of their rates and they should understand where their rate is currently, which is available on our BUPERS webpage," he added.



Master Chief Quartermaster Andy Millar, the senior enlister advisor of enlisted distribution at the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS), discusses the Career Management System/Interactive Detailing (CMS/ID) program at Sharkey Theater on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 28. BUPERS representatives held the brief to discuss the ins and outs of Fleet Ride/Perform to Serve (FR/PTS) and CMS/ID and to address concerns over record retention numbers and decreasing quotas.

According to Roux, rank is a major factor when comparing Sailors in a specific year group requesting to re-enlist. "If you're an E-6 in year group 2005, and another Sailor is an E-3, that E-6 of course is going to compete better and will probably get that quota, so the E-3 should be looking at things like where are some undermanned ratings that I may be able to convert to. You get three choices every time you submit your application to do that so our recommendation is that you look to convert if you can, second option is to look at the selective reserve option, which is available to you up to 90 days prior your EAOS," Roux said.

Roux said the best way Sailors can help them-

selves is to advance in a timely fashion.

"They should be studying for their advancement exam. I cannot emphasize that point more," he said. "If they are studying and they are advancing on time, they should have no problem gaining an in-rate quota within the Perform to Serve program."

He also suggested that Sailors in an overmanned rating who are considering cross rating take a second look at their ASVAB score to ensure they have plenty of options available.

"If you are in a very overmanned rating, review your ASVAB scores ahead of time. If your ASVAB scores are not what they should be, you should be looking at

retaking the ASVAB," Roux said. "You should be looking at exactly where your ASVAB stacks up and if you have to retake them, it will give you more options to convert if you can't get an in-rate quota."

The next step for Sailors who have received a PTS quota and approved to re-enlist is to negotiate orders on CMS/ID.

Master Chief Quartermaster Andy Millar, the senior enlister advisor of enlisted distribution at BUPERS, discussed CMS/ID and outlined some recent changes to the system. "NAVADMIN 249/09 made some significant changes to CMS/ID. The biggest one is that it shortened the window Sailors have from five

months to three months to negotiate orders," he said.

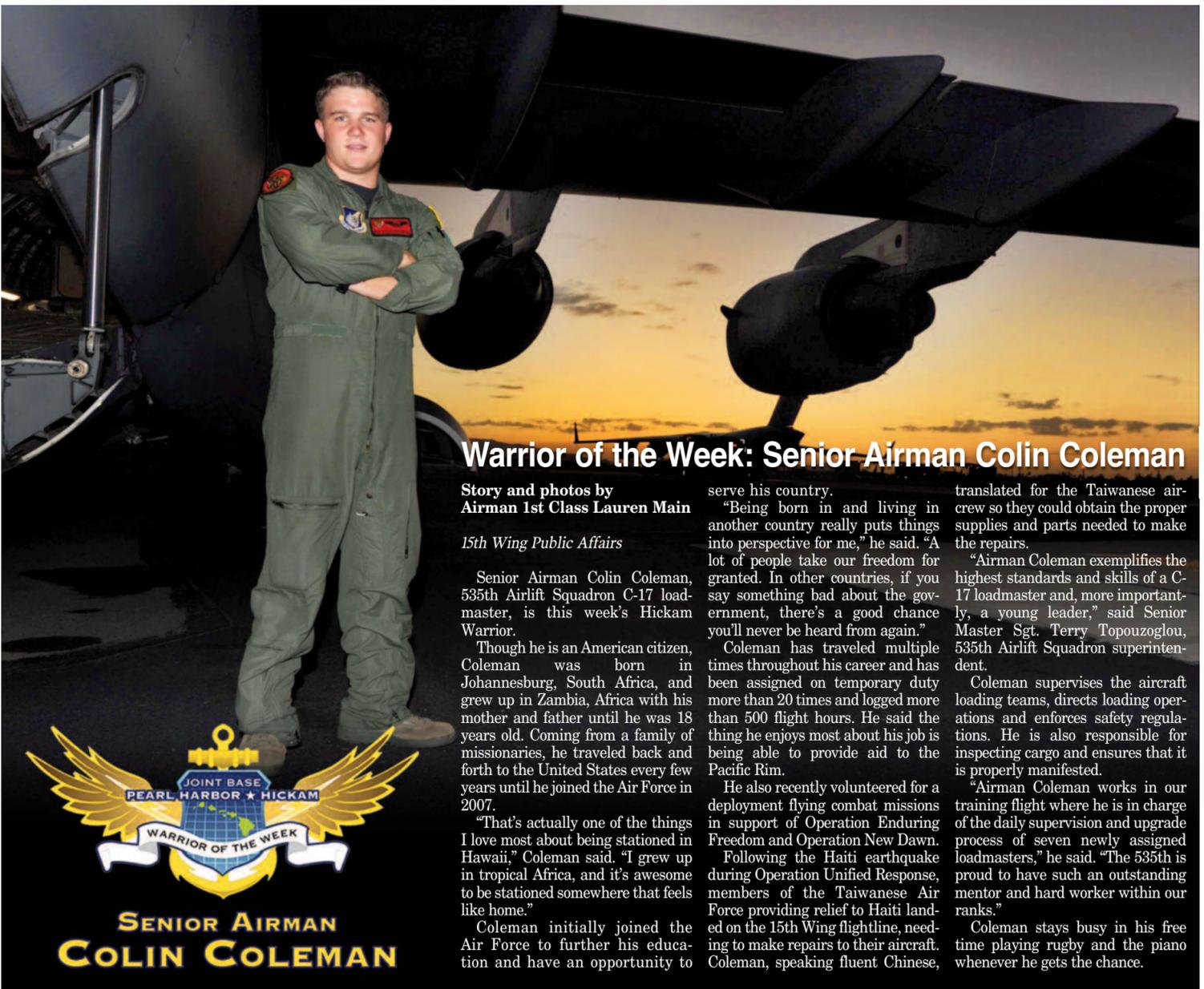
"Part of the reason for that was because Sailors were waiting until the last minute to detail themselves because they're always kind of wondering is the next billet that is going to be available, so we kind of reduced the window for that. It also gave Sailors an opportunity for those that are deploying overseas, if they're going to take that billet, in order to screen for that," Millar continued.

He also said that Sailors can apply for up to five sets of orders each month. "We want Sailors to know they have three opportunities - three months of a negotiation window and we want them to apply for the

maximum number of billets available. They have five [billets] per cycle and we want them to maximize that in order to give themselves the best potential to get the set of orders that they want," Millar said.

Millar stressed that the importance of applying for PTS early. "You can start applying for PTS 15 months out and we definitely want people to be applying for PTS at the 12-month point so they will actually have that PTS quota by the time they come into their detailing window," Millar said.

"Apply for it early, continue to apply for it and if they have to, look at other ratings that they may be qualified for in order to maximize their opportunity," he advised.



## Warrior of the Week: Senior Airman Colin Coleman

Story and photos by  
Airman 1st Class Lauren Main  
15th Wing Public Affairs

Senior Airman Colin Coleman, 535th Airlift Squadron C-17 loadmaster, is this week's Hickam Warrior.

Though he is an American citizen, Coleman was born in Johannesburg, South Africa, and grew up in Zambia, Africa with his mother and father until he was 18 years old. Coming from a family of missionaries, he traveled back and forth to the United States every few years until he joined the Air Force in 2007.

"That's actually one of the things I love most about being stationed in Hawaii," Coleman said. "I grew up in tropical Africa, and it's awesome to be stationed somewhere that feels like home."

Coleman initially joined the Air Force to further his education and have an opportunity to

serve his country.

"Being born in and living in another country really puts things into perspective for me," he said. "A lot of people take our freedom for granted. In other countries, if you say something bad about the government, there's a good chance you'll never be heard from again."

Coleman has traveled multiple times throughout his career and has been assigned on temporary duty more than 20 times and logged more than 500 flight hours. He said the thing he enjoys most about his job is being able to provide aid to the Pacific Rim.

He also recently volunteered for a deployment flying combat missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

Following the Haiti earthquake during Operation Unified Response, members of the Taiwanese Air Force providing relief to Haiti landed on the 15th Wing flightline, needing to make repairs to their aircraft. Coleman, speaking fluent Chinese,

translated for the Taiwanese aircrew so they could obtain the proper supplies and parts needed to make the repairs.

"Airman Coleman exemplifies the highest standards and skills of a C-17 loadmaster and, more importantly, a young leader," said Senior Master Sgt. Terry Topouzoglou, 535th Airlift Squadron superintendent.

Coleman supervises the aircraft loading teams, directs loading operations and enforces safety regulations. He is also responsible for inspecting cargo and ensures that it is properly manifested.

"Airman Coleman works in our training flight where he is in charge of the daily supervision and upgrade process of seven newly assigned loadmasters," he said. "The 535th is proud to have such an outstanding mentor and hard worker within our ranks."

Coleman stays busy in his free time playing rugby and the piano whenever he gets the chance.



## Diverse Views



Who are you rooting for to win the Super Bowl? Why?

**Garry Palm**  
Watercolor Artist,  
AAFES Concessions

"I'm for Green Bay. I'm a Vikings fan and Green Bay was our rival. Since the Vikings aren't in, then I'm for Green Bay."



**SrA Tavis Warren**  
Hickam Honor Guard

"The Steelers, because that's who my dad is for."

**A1C Rosie Soto**  
Dental Assistant, 15th  
Medical Group

"I'm for the Steelers along with SrA Warren."



**Maj. Anthony Kalili**  
DoD Police

"Steelers— they've got a better team. I think the Steelers had a pretty good season. I wouldn't put it past the Packers, but I think the Steelers will take the Super Bowl."

**Patrolman Irreverre**  
DoD Police

"Steelers— I'm a fan of the Steelers. They've been there and done that. I'll go with the black and gold!"

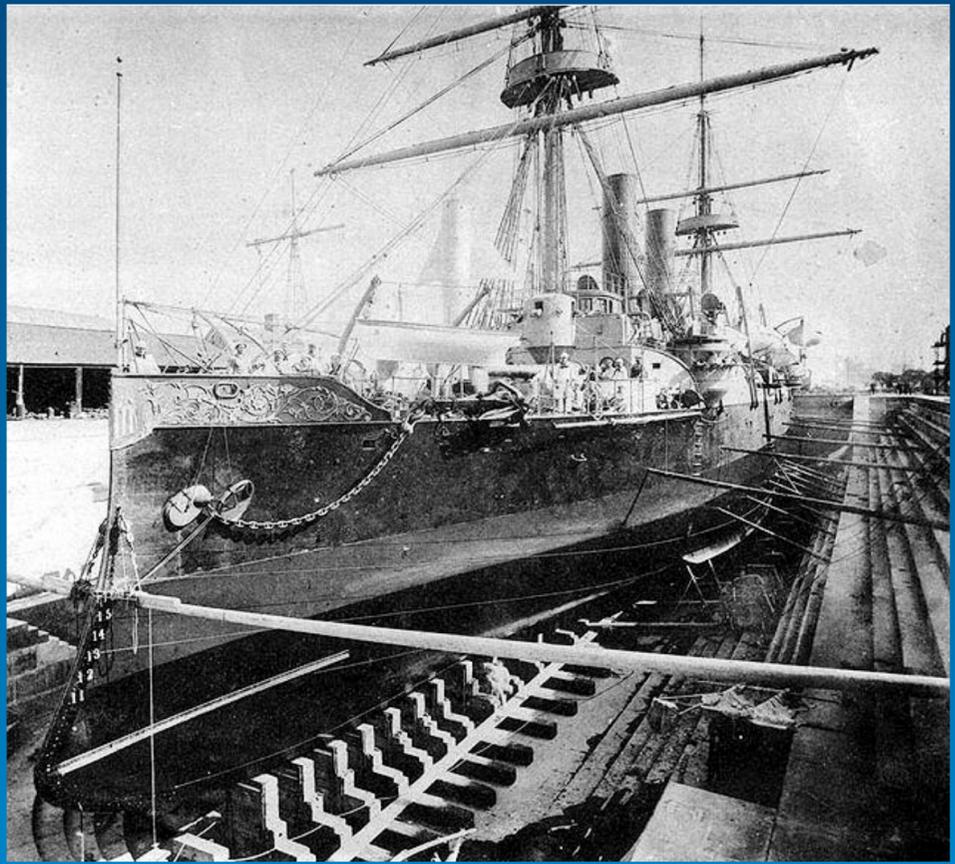


(Provided by David D. Underwood Jr. and MC2 Mark Logico)

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views? Got opinions to share?

Drop us a line at [editor@hookelenews.com](mailto:editor@hookelenews.com) or [karen.spangler@navy.mil](mailto:karen.spangler@navy.mil)

## USS Boston one of first 'new Navy' ships



U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph

USS Boston, a 3189-ton Atlanta class protected cruiser, was built at Chester, Pa. and commissioned in May 1887. It served as one of the first ships of the "new Navy." During much of 1892 and 1893, she was stationed in Hawaii. The photo shows the Boston in drydock at the New York Navy Yard, Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1888. Note the fancy scrollwork on her bow bulwark, and reinforcing strip on the side of her ram bow.

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## Sailors, Aliamanu Elementary combine for a good cause



Students attend the Aliamanu Elementary School Nickel Fair. The fair has earned more than \$10,000 in its six-year history. Games are played for 5 to 25 cents and all proceeds support the restoration of the Arizona Memorial Visitor Center. More than 30 Sailors assigned to the USS Chosin (CG-65) and CID Learning Site, Hawaii volunteered to assist at this year's event.

**Story and photo by D.C. Smith**

*Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs*

What can 5 cents buy you these days? Well, if you were one of the students at Aliamanu Elementary School and attended the Sixth Annual Nickel Fair Fundraiser for the restoration of the Arizona Memorial Visitor Center, it could get you some time to play any one of several games. Aliamanu Elementary is located near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

During the event, students from selected classrooms were able to attend and participate in games while donating to a good cause. Sailors assigned to the USS Chosin (CG-65) and the Center for

Information Dominance Learning Site, Hawaii, found this event to be perfect for a moment to get away from the day-to-day work normally experienced and give back to the community.

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Ernest King, assigned to the Chosin, said he loved spending time with the children while he manned Superman, one of the popular games.

Throughout the day-long event, held on the basketball court, you could hear music playing in the background and children from all grades playing and bonding as they competed with one another. Many of the Sailors were able to get into the thrill of the moment as they assisted the younger players who needed a bit of encourage-

ment to get involved with some of the games.

Lt. Mark Hughes, chaplain of the Chosin, mentioned, "Our Sailors are working very hard every day during dry dock period. Volunteering to support the Nickel Fair gave them a wonderful chance to play and have fun with the children."

Hughes continued, "It was good for the children to know Navy supports them and restorative for the Sailors."

This year's event also had Navy leadership deeply involved, with hands-on participation as Master Chief Fire Controlman Brett Hudson took it for the team, volunteering to sit in the dunk tank while children took their best aim.

The Nickel Fair has, through the years, been an

opportunity for military and the local community to see how important it is to work together. When asked what is it like to give back to your community while serving your country, Alex Owens, Religious Program Specialist Seaman of the Chosin said, "Today is a perfect example of why I wanted to be a naval religious program specialist. To see Sailors able to give back to the community, but also to see the community give back to our Sailors."

"Working with the kids today allows us time to have fun and remember why we all joined the Navy," he said. Within a very short period of time, many children and Sailors made new friends and enjoyed themselves at the same time.

The organizing commit-

tee responsible for this year's event included Steve Miyasato, student council advisor; Leilani Reyes, parent community networking coordinator; Ross Takanaoka and Ashley Taguma, physical education teachers; and Student Council members who helped organize and assist with the games.

Reyes stated, "This is our best one yet. We have already raised close to \$10,000 over the past six years."

Commenting on the success of the fair, Katelynn Lloyd, student community council member, said, "All the kids had a great time supporting our event today and think today's nickel fair was a great success in support of the Arizona Memorial Fund."

Denise Ullery, library paraprofessional tutor,

assisted the children to be more involved in the fundraising event.

Ullery volunteered to be "dunked" in the name of fun. She said, "Always a great feeling to help out the Arizona Memorial, along with making the kids happy by trying to dunk me. It is a win-win situation for all involved." As so many people were involved in the event in support of the Arizona Memorial Visitor Center, Steven Miyasato, Aliamanu Student Council advisor, would like to thank everyone who contributed. Their generosity has helped honor servicemen who gave so much," she added. Miyasato also teaches gifted and talented students.

For more information, visit [www.pearlharbormemorial.com](http://www.pearlharbormemorial.com), the Pearl Harbor Memorial Fund.

## World Wetlands Day blooms on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam



Photo by David Sullivan

Volunteers help at Ahua Reef wetland project in 2010. This year's World Wetlands Day project takes place on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. this Saturday at the Ahua Reef on Hickam across from the Hawaii Air National Guard. Volunteers are invited to join the efforts to clear the wetlands of non-native plants and to plant native species.

**Brister Thomas**

*Contributing Writer*

Take time to appreciate the role of wetlands and celebrate World Wetlands Day from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 5 at the Ahua Reef on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) across from the Hawaii Air National Guard.

"This is the first World Wetlands Day cleanup for JBPHH. We put a call out for volunteers from joint base and hope for a good turnout," said Grace Hew Len, Navy Region Hawaii Environmental Public

Affairs officer.

Activities include informational talks, invasive species identification and removal, native Hawaiian plant identification and out-planting, and more.

According to cleanup organizers, the purpose of these activities is to bring awareness to the general public about the importance of wetland habitats and also to help restore and preserve these habitats for the native plants and shore birds, including the endangered Hawaiian stilt.

"The project's goal is to create habitat void of invasive species so the

wetland and coastline can be used by not only native shorebirds, but native plants as well," said Joel Helm, natural resource specialist with Booz Allen Hamilton.

According to the official website at [ramsar.org](http://ramsar.org), every year on Feb. 2, the world celebrates the anniversary of the signing of the Ramsar Convention as World Wetlands Day. This is the 40th anniversary of the signing and since 1997, people from all sectors of society have undertaken actions aimed at raising public awareness of the value of

wetlands and the importance of the convention.

There are currently 160 contracting parties to the convention. As of January 2011, there are more than 1,900 wetland sites designated for inclusion in the convention's list of Wetlands of International Importance or Ramsar sites as they are also known.

According to this year's World Wetlands Day reports page, World Wetlands Day this year celebrates terrestrial and wetland forests and their role in people's lives. The theme, Forests for Water and Wetlands, highlights

the intricate links between forests and wetlands such as mangroves, freshwater swamps and watersheds.

Forested wetlands play a vital role in maintaining freshwater resources and wetlands. Forests store carbon and thus help combat global climate change regardless of where they are located.

Wetlands are full of life and rich in biodiversity – they house fish, birds, insects and plants. Wetlands are areas where water is the main focus of the environment, including the relationship between plant and ani-

mal life. These freshwater, brackish or marine areas are an important breeding area for wildlife and they also help with water filtration.

Wetlands bring tremendous economic and conservation benefits, such as through fisheries production, flood control, stabilizing and building up shorelines, maintaining coastal water quality and providing a place for people's recreational activities.

For more information, call Grace Hew Len, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office, at 473-2926.

# Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

Navy Special Warfare Unit ONE jumpers bail out of the back of a C-17 Globemaster III after the aerial drop of a Maritime Craft Aerial Delivery System drop Jan. 13. Airmen from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, worked with the Naval unit to deploy the boat off the coast of Guam while merging the capabilities of the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy.

U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares



(Below) Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS La Jolla (SSN 701) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 27 for a regularly scheduled six-month deployment to the Middle East and western Pacific.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ronald Gtridge



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mark Logico

(Above) A Sailor assigned to USS Reuben James (FFG 57) says goodbye to a loved one as the ship deploys to the Western Pacific. Commanded by Cmdr. David E. Miller, Reuben James and its crew of about 25 officers and 200 enlisted Sailors are scheduled to conduct integrated operations with coalition partners deployed in the Western Pacific.



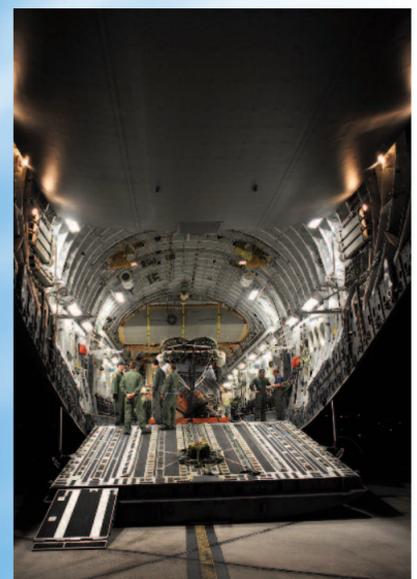
(Below) Ajmal Jami, a cameraman from the New Delhi Television station, documents the 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron as they simulate a casualty exercise aboard a C-17 Jan. 25. The NDTV crew flew aboard the C-17 and documented the capabilities of the aircraft on a routine training mission to Kona, Hawaii.

U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Main



(Below) Air Force Tech. Sgt. Pablo Gonzalez, a 647th Security Forces Squadron Airman, completes the final obstacle in a course at Schofield Barracks during try-outs for the Army Air Assault Course on Feb. 1. Gonzalez and 15 other security forces members from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii are scheduled to attend the two-week air assault course beginning May 5. These try-outs will help the Air Force security forces non-commissioned officer (NCO) in charge of training determine which Airmen he will send to this challenging course. See next week's Ho'okele for the full story.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn Viss



(Above) Aircrew members go over final preparations prior to take off to conduct an airdrop mission with a U.S. Navy Maritime Craft Aerial Delivery System Jan. 13.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

# DDG 70 USS HOPPER Welcomes Community Leaders to Sea

**Ensign Jessica Fitzgerald**

*USS Hopper (DDG 70) Public Affairs Officer*

ONBOARD USS Hopper (DDG 70) – Five leaders from the local community joined Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) at sea on Jan. 28 for a day of education and fun. Their unique experience began with a boat ride from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam out to sea, where the 505-foot warship awaited their arrival.

Leaders to Sea is a program through which local leaders from all sectors – corporate, civic, government, education, non-profit and service – are given the opportunity to embark a U.S. warship at sea.

These visitors spend a day touring the vessel and interacting with its Sailors. Hopper's guests expressed their gratitude for the opportunity and were in awe of

the Sailors' professionalism and expertise.

Prior to arrival aboard their first ship, Sailors can undergo between two and 22 months of strenuous training and preparation. "The average age of our Sailors is in the low 20s. It's incredible the amount of responsibility these young men and women shoulder," said Cmdr. Al Lopez, Hopper's executive officer.

Frederick Murphy, principal of Wheeler Elementary School in Wahiawa and one of the ship's visitors, was also amazed. "How can we support you?" he asked the Sailors.

"Taking care of our Sailor's children while we are away is the greatest way you can support Hopper Sailors," responded one crew member. "We are so thankful for all that you do for them."

(Above right) Gunners Mate 3rd Class Christopher Connell climbs caving ladder during Visit board search and seizure Exercise onboard USS Hopper (DDG 70).

(Right) Ensign Bilal Agha and Operations Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Michael Duenas maintaining forward security as they wait for the team to rally up.

(Below) Frederick Murphy, principal of Wheeler Elementary School, spends a day at sea with Hopper Sailors as a part of the Leaders to Sea Program.



(Above) Cmdr. Kevin Melody welcomes visitors onboard USS Hopper as a part of the Leaders to Sea program. Four key leaders from the community spent the day with Navy Sailors asking questions, observing and building relationships with the crew.

(Right) Ensign Hannah Roberts climbs caving ladder during visit board search and seizure Exercise onboard USS Hopper (DDG 70) in preparation for their upcoming deployment to the Arabian Gulf.



(Left) Operations Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Michael Duenas and Electronics Technician 3rd Class Joe Haviland received training onboard USS Hopper.

## Hopper welcomes home Sailor from individual augmentee duty



U.S. Navy photo

The Sailors of USS Hopper (DDG-70) welcomed home their shipmate, Fire Controlman 2nd Class (SW) Angelica Preciado (center), from an individual augment (IA) tour at Joint Base Balad, Iraq on Jan. 25. Preciado left Hopper in August 2009 to serve as a land based phalanx weapon system maintainer.

### Ensign David Hulse

USS Hopper (DDG 70)  
Public

ONBOARD USS HOPPER (DDG 70) – The Sailors of USS Hopper (DDG 70) welcomed home their shipmate, Fire Controlman 2nd Class (SW) Angelica Preciado, from an individual augment (IA) tour at Joint Base Balad, Iraq on Jan. 25.

Preciado left Hopper in August 2009 to serve as a land based phalanx weapon system maintainer.

She gained experience working on the phalanx weapon system while stationed on the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) as a close-in weapon system (CIWS) technician. After serving on Abraham Lincoln, Preciado reported to USS Hopper in May 2008 where she has worked as an Aegis display technician. After a year aboard, she volunteered for an 18-month individual augmentee to Iraq.

"I volunteered because of the opportunities to work on and maintain an active CIWS platform that was crucial in protecting our people on the ground," Preciado said. Weapons technicians such as Preciado are relied on to maintain the land based phalanx weapon systems (LPWS), which are land-based versions of the Navy's CIWS, making Navy Sailors an invaluable technical resource overseas.

After leaving the ship in August, she flew to Fort Sill, Okla. for a two-month CIWS/LPWS course and a one-month combat skills course where she was taught basic first aid, wounds treatment, close-quarter combat, marksmanship and convoy operations.

After completing the two courses, she flew to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. to start integration into an Army unit. There she spent time preparing for the deployment to Iraq by having mission briefings, which included Arabic language courses.

After a two-week turnover in Iraq with the previous team, Preciado began her responsibilities of maintaining the LPWS. The LPWS was implemented as a defense system for Joint Base Balad. It was part of an early warning radar system that detected and destroyed any threats to the base. During her time there, the base was fired on with mortars more than 150 times.

Preciado said that one of the biggest adjustments was working with non-Navy personnel.

"It took a while to get used to doing things a different way, but by working with the joint forces I was able to meet people that I never would have met," Preciado said.

Keeping in touch with friends and co-workers on Hopper was a priority. Phone calls and e-mails kept her in tune with life aboard Hopper.

"The Hopper crew was always great in providing everything I needed, and it was great being able to stay in touch with friends," Preciado stated.

Preciado was greeted at the gate by Cmdr. Kevin Melody, commanding officer of Hopper, as well as the executive officer, command master chief and many other Hopper Sailors who were eager to welcome her home.

Civilians at the baggage claim also participated in the welcoming as they realized what a contribution she had made over the last 18 months. The Honolulu International Airport staff, as a token of their appreciation to IA Sailors, made a banner that was signed by all returning service members. Preciado added her name to the long list of people returning from overseas.

## Bremerton Navy League recognizes Sailors



Cmdr. Caleb Kerr, USS Bremerton (SSN 698) commanding officer, and Dr. Byron Faber, Navy League United States Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council representative, present Navy League commemorative plaques to Culinary Specialist 3rd Class (SS) Bevon Drummond, Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SS) Ryan Rugg, Sonar Technician Submarine 2nd Class (SS) Elijah Atchley and Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SS) Matthew Eliason for their professionalism and support they dedicate to USS Bremerton and the Navy on a daily basis. The awards ceremony was held at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 26.

### Story and photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet  
Public Affairs Office

The Navy League United States (NLUS) Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council hosted an award ceremony for four Sailors assigned to the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Bremerton (SSN 698) at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 26.

This ceremony is the first since the NLUS Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council adopted their namesake submarine on Jan. 11.

Dr. Byron Faber, Navy League trips and tours representative, presented the awards and thanked the Sailors for the remarkable job they are doing while serving their country.

"We are extremely thrilled to support this submarine and to have the opportunity to show our appreciation," Faber said. "We are tremendously

proud of each and every one of you for your service on our namesake submarine and to the service of our country."

The four Sailors were recognized for their professionalism and support they dedicate to Bremerton and the Navy on a daily basis. Culinary Specialist 3rd Class (SS) Bevon Drummond, "Silent Service Specialist of the Year," Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SS) Ryan Rugg, "Silent Engineering Work Horse," Sonar Technician Submarine 2nd Class (SS) Elijah Atchley, "Tactical Adonis of the Year," and Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SS) Matthew Eliason, "Navy Operations Petty Officer of the Year," each received a Navy League commemorative plaque.

"The Navy League has done a lot of great things for not just us four, but for the whole crew and their families," Eliason said. "Deployments are very challenging and we are all very grateful for everything they do for us while underway. I am proud to be a

part of their namesake submarine."

Bremerton was the second United States Navy ship to be named in honor of Bremerton, Wash., a city which has been long associated with both the Navy and submarine force. Cmdr. Caleb Kerr, USS Bremerton commanding officer, reflected on the awards presentation and how the Navy League supports his crew.

"I am very proud of all my Sailors and appreciate the Navy League to take the time to recognize some of them," Kerr said. "As we prepare for our next deployment, it gives me peace of mind knowing that we all have the support of the Navy League."

The Navy League is an association made up of former military members and civilians interested in supporting the services. The league strives to improve the understanding and appreciation of those who wear the uniforms of our armed forces and to better the conditions under which they live and serve.

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## Hickam C-17 drops Navy boat over Pacific

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

15th Wing Public Affairs

Andersen Air Force Base, Guam – It was 0'dark-thirty and only the blue line of runway lights met the joint Air Force and Navy crew under the wings of a C-17 Globemaster III.

A 535th Airlift Squadron (535th AS) aircrew from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii and the U.S. Navy Special Warfare Unit One from Guam teamed up to drop a boat out the back of a C-17 using the maritime craft aerial delivery system on Jan. 13.

With more than 19,000 pounds locked in and parachute riggings in place, the joint team strapped in ready to go. The weather was ideal, the sea state was low and the jet had no maintenance issues. The training stage was set and execution was the only thing on their minds.

"This training is so important for forging and refining joint capabilities in the Pacific," said Capt. Alan Partridge, 535th AS C-17 pilot. "The (Naval Special Warfare Unit One) is extremely good at what they do, but don't have dedicated aerial delivery. The 535th is a fully capable airland and airdrop C-17 squadron in Hawaii with boat drop-qualified aircrews. The more we train together, the more prepared we will be for (U.S. Pacific Command) and (U.S. Special Operation Command, Pacific) to leverage their assets in response to the challenges of the future," Partridge explained.

The maritime craft aerial delivery system, or MCADS, is an airdrop insertion capability for naval special warfare rigid hull inflatable boats and special operation forces personnel employing U.S. Air Force aircraft. The system provides the special operations community the ability to deploy the specially designed boat beyond the range of detection systems such as radar, infrared or thermal enhancement, acoustical sensors, human intelligence, signal intelligence and active patrols.

"With today's military going joint, it is essential that we merge our technologies and capabilities," said Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Baker, 15th Wing plans and programs superintendent and airdrop loadmaster. "Each branch has their own specialties, but we need each other to make the overall mission a success. This is why the training in Guam was so important. You never know when that call will come to fly down



The Navy Special Warfare Unit One Maritime Craft Aerial Delivery System deploys from the ramp of a C-17 Globemaster III during airdrop operations on Jan. 13 in Guam. Nine Sailors jumped out of the back of a C-17 after the aerial drop. Airmen from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, worked with the naval unit to deploy the boat off the coast of Guam while merging the capabilities of the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy.

and pick up our Navy counterparts to go do a mission," Baker said.

The C-17 arrived on the pre-coordinated drop zone to good conditions for the training exercise. When all signs pointed toward a green-light drop, the pilots lined up the plane along the designed flight path. The loadmasters opened the ramp in the back. The 15-foot drogue chute was released, fluttering in the wind behind the plane. Once it too was released, a 25-foot drogue parachute pulled the boat out of the back of the plane, with nine high-altitude low-opening (HALO), or HALO, jumpers immediately following.

Upon free fall, the MCADS is rigged on a 21-foot buoyant platform that separates from the boat. Four 100-foot parachutes deploy to safely deliver the boat to the water's surface. The platform also has its own recovery parachute. Once the boat hits the water, the parachutes separate automatically using water-activated release mechanisms. The platform also has removable buoyancy if the mission requirements do not have the capability of recovering the platform.

"It was a complete success," Partridge said. "From an Air Force perspective, we accomplished all of our planned training and increased our boat drop-qualified pilot and loadmaster force for (Hickam)."

The loadmaster echoed the pilot's opinion, only from a different point of view.

"This drop went extremely well," Baker said. "Anytime you can drop a piece of equipment and personnel from the aircraft safely and without any damage or injury, then in my opinion it was a successful drop."

The flight profile for the delivery of the MCADS takes the aircrew to 3,500 feet for freefall parachutists or 1,250 feet for static line jumpers. No matter what the scenario, the Hickam aircrew will put the C-17 through its paces to be a force multiplier.

"As we hone our skills together now, we are also looking at more robust, scenario-based joint training options in the future," Partridge said. "The goal is to train like we'd fight. The next step in growing this capability is participating in large, multi-agency exercises that reflect real-world operations. We want to iron out kinks and problem-solve in the training environment so that when the time comes to employ forces, we are ready," he explained.

The men and women who operate the C-17 in the Pacific continue to demonstrate the capabilities of the airlifter all across the area of responsibility. From Alaska to the Antarctic, and nearly to the coast of Africa, the C-17 is making a mark on Air Force aviation history. (See additional photos on A-5.)



Photo courtesy of Hickam Communities LLC  
New features are available at Hickam Communities Earhart Recreational Complex.

## Earhart Rec Complex sports new features

Hickam Communities LLC

New sand volleyball courts, multipurpose play courts and picnic areas with barbecue pits are now open at Hickam Communities Earhart Recreational Complex on Joint Base

Pearl-Harbor Hickam.

The new features complement other amenities recently added to the 4.7-acre complex that include a skate board park, pavilions and expanded parking areas.

Still to open is a splash park. With the push of a button, a rainbow, whale,

soaker and other water devices will come to life and drench everyone. The final adjustments are being made to the spray park's operating system; an opening date will be announced on Hickam Communities website and Facebook page.

## School boundary meetings planned for Feb. 10, 16

Regional School Liaison Office

Community meetings will be held this month at two schools near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to discuss a proposed redistricting plan and gather information from the community.

One of the meetings, for the Moanalua/Aiea Complex community, will be held at 6 p.m. on Feb. 10 at Moanalua High School cafeteria. The second meeting, for the Radford Complex, will be held at Radford High School cafeteria at 6 p.m. on Feb. 16.

After the meetings are concluded, a final decision will be made by the complex area superintendent. This information will be communicated to parents through their respective schools.

All Navy Activities (ALNAVACTS) officials emphasized that this issue significantly affects

military families. As key stakeholders, commands are strongly encouraged to attend these community meetings and provide input to the complex area superintendent for use in making a final determination.

A school attendance boundary study was conducted by a team consisting of the complex area superintendent, assistant superintendent for the Office of School Facilities and Support Services, Facilities Development Branch director, School

Renewal specialist, and Support specialist from Information Management.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam area schools affected by the study include Aliamanu, Pearl Harbor Kai, Nimitz, Mokulele, Shafter, Webling, Pearl Harbor and Makalapa elementary schools; Aliamanu and Moanalua middle schools; Aiea Intermediate School; and Aiea, Radford and Moanalua high schools.

For more information, call 474-1999, ext. 6228.

## Team Hickam ceremony planned

Brister Thomas

Contributing Writer

The Team Hickam annual awards ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. Feb. 25 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam at the

Tradewinds Enlisted Club.

Tickets are already available for the annual event. The cost for each ticket is \$32 for club members and \$34 for non-club members. Social hour is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. with the banquet to

start at 7 p.m.

Col. Sam Barrett, 15th Wing commander, invites all Airmen to the ceremony.

Contact the individual command first sergeant for electronic RSVPs and tickets.

## KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

Feb. 10 – Joint Venture Education Forum

Feb. 17 - Solid Curtain Citadel Shield Exercise

Feb. 24 - STEM: Pacific Aviation Museum

March 3 – Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

March 10 – Women in Naval Aviation

(The segments currently air between 6:15 and 6:45 a.m. each Thursday. Previous segments can be viewed at <http://www.bit.ly/KHONNavy>)

Got a story for KHON Hawaii Navy News? Email [editor@hookelenews.com](mailto:editor@hookelenews.com) or call Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs at 473-2875. Stories must have a Navy tie and be of interest to the general public.

# USS Reuben James (FFG-57) deploys to western Pacific

Continued from A-1

Sailors are ready, our families are ready, and Reuben James is ready. Our motto says it all, "back with a vengeance," he said.

Miller also expects to support the wider mission areas of maritime interdiction operations (MIO) and theater security cooperation (TSC).

Command Senior Chief Navy Counselor (SW) Johannes Gonzales, the senior enlisted Sailor aboard Reuben James, said his biggest expectation for the deployment is to be able to work closely with the battle group the ship is about to join.

"It's going to be a new experience for many of the crew members," Gonzales said. "Our personal goal is to get better. We are going to go out there. We are going to do our mission and meanwhile we are going to get better."

Just prior to deployment, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard teamed up with BAE Systems Hawaii Shipyards to successfully



Sailors assigned to USS Reuben James (FFG 57) secure the mooring lines as the ship deploys to the western Pacific. Commanded by Cmdr. David E. Miller, Reuben James and its crew of about 225 Sailors are scheduled to conduct integrated operations with coalition partners deployed in the western Pacific.

complete a continuous maintenance availability (CMAV) on Reuben James on time Jan. 10.

"We have to be ready to deploy at a moment's notice," said Chief Warrant

Officer 4 John Walls, main propulsion assistant on Reuben

James. "Continuous maintenance allows our ships to be mission-ready at all times."

With 20 years of mainte-

nance engineering experience in the Navy, Walls thinks that the change to continuous maintenance keeps the ships in better condition than the previous way. Instead of conducting

maintenance only during major availabilities a year or more apart, work is done in smaller increments more frequently when the ship is in port.

The original completion date for the maintenance period was Dec. 22. Due to new work and delayed delivery of material, the deadline was extended. The CMAV work package on the Reuben James was mainly structural and mechanical work accomplished through a combined effort between prime contractor BAE Systems Hawaii Shipyards, subcontractors, the shipyard and ship's force.

Walls said the shipyard's fleet technical support division and gas turbine engine shop performed repairs on the ship's elevator, fins and gas turbine engines. "We've had great support from both the shipyard and the contractors during this CMAV," he said.

Lester Lee, shipyard project manager for Reuben James, said, "With the holidays and inclement weather, there were some challenges with obtaining nec-

essary materials on time and quickly replacing the non-skid surfaces on all decks, but the team prevailed to accomplish the work on time."

Another challenge the team faced was underwater repairs. Lee said that instead of dry-docking the ship, which would be more expensive, the shipyard's Navy divers and ship's force installed a cofferdam on the underwater hull. The cofferdam created a dry space, which allowed contractors to work below the waterline.

Continuous maintenance allows work to be done more frequently when it is needed and the ship's crew members become familiar with the civilian workers who perform the repairs, Walls noted. "We see the same faces so often, they become like part of the ship's company," he said.

Guided-missile frigates are multi-mission surface combatants, capable of anti-submarine warfare (ASW) and anti-surface warfare (ASUW) missions.

## PHNSY Sailors help with Ka BOOM playground

U.S. Navy photo by Katie Vanes

(Right) Fire Control Technician 3rd Class Keith Meyers, an engraving shop worker at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, and Sgt. Laura Miller, patient movement coordinator, paint a hopscotch game on the new playground site at the Leeward YMCA in Waipahu on Jan. 27. "Build Captain" Meyers and more than 50 shipyarders contributed to the construction of the new playground, an effort sponsored by KaBOOM, a non-profit dedicated to building children's playgrounds with the help of surrounding communities.



U.S. Navy photo by Katie Vanes

(Left) Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard mechanics rake the mulch at the new playground site at the Leeward YMCA in Waipahu on Jan. 27. More than 50 shipyarders contributed to the construction of the new playground, an effort sponsored by KaBOOM, a non-profit dedicated to building children's playgrounds with the help of surrounding communities.



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## PACAF civilian looks back on more than 60 years of bringing fuel to the fight

Continued from A-2

sense of pride each time I visit a base and see the shiny stainless steel pipes of new hydrant systems bringing fuel to the aircraft," Zaucha said.

With his retirement date coming up in February, the 79-year old Pennsylvania native will be retiring from civil service and leaving behind his fuels experience that started in Washington, D.C. when he first joined the service.

It was 1950 when 19-year-old Stanley Zaucha enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. Having worked at gas service stations as a teen, Zaucha said he felt the fuels specialty was something he was best suited for when asked to select a primary duty.

"I had a little bit of fuels experience in my earlier years that influenced me. So when I was at my first assignment at Moses Lake Air Force Base, Wash., they

asked me what job I wanted to do in supply. I said I would take fuels and have been in that career field ever since then," Zaucha said.

His unit, the 81st Fighter Interceptor Wing, was sent to Europe soon after to take on logistics and other fuels-related duties. While serving in Ipswich, England, he helped to set up base operations and receive vehicles and equipment entering the base by rail. He was also responsible for the installation of underground storage tanks, each capable of holding more than 50,000 gallons of fuel that serviced the new F-86 Sabre.

Following his tour in Europe, the then Sgt. Zaucha was sent to Taiwan in 1964 where he was assigned to the Military Assistance Advisory Group, or MAAG, and provided the Republic of China with fuels training. Zaucha was also involved in helping them develop new fuels programs

and processes. He said he was the only Air Force non-commissioned officer working on the MAAG in Taiwan.

"My programs went so well that the Chinese Air Force asked the U.S. Air Force to extend my time in Taiwan. Not complaining, I ended up doing a five-year tour and was the only MAAG advisor to complete all of their programs," Zaucha said.

Following his time in Taiwan, Zaucha then served a tour in Vietnam. After narrowly escaping serious injuries from a bomb blast there, he was sent to Japan and assigned as a fuels superintendent for the 5th Air Force. It was during this assignment that he was promoted to chief master sergeant.

"Even though there was a promotion freeze going on then, it still felt so good to be honored with the new rank of chief," Zaucha said.

To this day, Zaucha still remains humbled that the Air Force thought highly enough of him to be promoted to chief master sergeant.

"I always felt like everyone worked just as hard as me and I was honored that so many people thought I was that qualified in doing my job," Zaucha said. "We all did whatever we had to do to get the job done."

After completing 31 years of active duty service in the Air Force (12 of those years as a chief), Zaucha retired in 1981. However, this would not be the end of his service to the U.S. Air Force. The same month he retired from active duty, Zaucha was sworn into civil service. His first position was as a quality assurance specialist, inspecting fuel refinery facilities and quality control practices all over the world.

In 1994, Zaucha accepted his current position as the

PACAF fuels facilities manager at JBPHH. While overseeing fuels infrastructure upgrades at bases throughout PACAF, he was inducted into the elite "Order of the Single Point Receptacle" in 2003. The award is given by the National Petroleum Management Association to individuals whose "dedication and innovative leadership have brought about major improvements in aviation fuel safety and efficiency around the world."

As Zaucha now completes his last few months as a civil servant with PACAF, he looks back on all of the places his career has taken him and the experiences he had.

"I don't remember ever saying no to anything that was asked of me in the line of duty and that served me well all these years," he said. "It's important that our young Airmen can learn from experiences like mine and continue to improve our Air Force

and fuels community."

Master Sgt. Joel Brown, a HQ PACAF fuels, warplans and requirements manager, has been working with Zaucha since 2008. Brown has been soaking up Zaucha's 60 years of fuels knowledge over the past three years.

"Coming in early and staying late, his 'never say no' attitude and his dedication to duty are the sorts of things I take away from the chief, and it is these traits I hope to pass along to my Airmen," Brown said.

Although Zaucha will be retiring in February, his co-workers said they still plan to keep his e-mail address and cell phone handy. As for Zaucha, he said he plans to continue traveling and see new places with his wife, Ann. The only difference now, he can finally travel on his own timeline.

*(Editors note: The PACAF fuels staff contributed to this story.)*

## 15th Wing C-17s get their closeup on Indian television

Continued from A-1

said the C-17 has many noteworthy capabilities. The aircraft has unparalleled short landing and takeoff capability, the ability to fly strategic intercontinental missions, tactically land on austere runways, and carry anything from humanitarian supplies to personnel anywhere around the world.

"The ability to conduct an airdrop by dropping

that ramp down to drop materials, whether it's humanitarian, disaster relief or paratroopers, makes for a tremendous capability," he added. "There's no other airlifter like the C-17."

Maj. Victor Aguilar, aircraft commander for one of the training missions, said the Indian crew seemed impressed by the aero-medical and low-level flying demonstrations during the mission. The aero-medical

capabilities of the airplane were put on display as 11 aero-medical evacuation personnel on board demonstrated how to load patients and what equipment is available for AE missions.

"They were able to see how easy it was to set up the equipment on the C-17," Aguilar said. It only took them about 30 to 40 minutes to set it all up, so they were pretty impressed with that.

"We were also able to

simulate a tactical descent going into Kona and demonstrated the low-level capability of the aircraft by flying at 500 feet over (Hawaii)," Aguilar said.

On the Indian crew's other flight, they were able to witness in-air refueling, multi-ship airdrop, night-vision goggle assault landings, "touch-and-gos," and short landings with runway backing.

Som said he was very

pleased in the skill and hospitality shown by members of the 15th WG - an outcome he predicted before making the long flight from India.

"Everything was outstanding in one word, absolutely outstanding," he said. "If I weren't confident it would be, I wouldn't be here halfway around the world."

"The wing offered a very thorough presentation and examination on the capabilities of the C-

17," Drelling said. "Sometimes when you do these things, you'll take a crew up on a media flight and they'll do a quick in and out and that's it. This is pretty impressive. I have not seen one this thorough, so hopefully it was worth the 70-plus hours the crew flew to get here."

The NDTV episode will air in approximately two weeks and can be seen on the New Delhi Television website.



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