

## Warriors sharpen skills through operational readiness exercise

Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

15th Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from the 15th Wing (15th WG), as well as participants from 154th Wing and 647th Air Base Group (647th ABG), participated in an operational readiness exercise (ORE) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam from Feb. 28 to March 7.

The week-long exercise tested the wing's ability to deploy quickly and operate in a chemical combat environment, as well as respond to other scenarios created by exercise evaluation teams.

"A large part of winning any conflict is to be able to arrive on the scene with well-trained and motivated professional Airmen," said John Tauber, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam exercise and training office chief. "As much as possible within exercise boundaries, we strive to train as we would fight."

During the ORE, the 15th WG's leadership created various scenarios to make training as realistic as possible. The wing was evaluated on its ability to operate and carry out the mission both here and in a deployed environment.

Tauber said the ORE was split into two phases. The first phase focused on deployment, or the overall objective of tasking personnel and equipment to deploy within a specific time frame. During the first phase,



An Airman in mission-oriented protective posture gear works to simulate the decontamination of a chemically contaminated aircrew member at Base Y on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii during the Operational Readiness Exercise March 5. The ORE tested Airmen's ability to survive, respond and operate during various wartime conditions. (See additional photos on page A-5)

the installation's ability to accept and process non-combatants evacuated from a potential danger area with the base serving as an intermediate processing facility was evaluated. The other element of phase one evaluated the 15th WG's ability to receive personnel and equipment while backfilling forces after Air Force personnel have deployed.

Phase two of the ORE focused on employment, or the evaluation of deployed forces and aircraft to a potentially hazardous downrange location. During this phase, the ability of Airmen to fly and fight in a high-stress chemical warfare environment was tested.

"It's been a tremendous opportunity to focus on our primary functions and our ability

to fly, fight and win," said Col. Sam Barrett, 15th Wing commander. "We're trying to make sure Airmen make use of their warrior skill sets and hone their ability to support wartime requirements."

Chief Master Sgt. Craig Recker, 15th Wing command chief, said it's vitally important to train Airmen to survive and operate in a deployed environment.

"It's critical that we be able to generate combat power in any environment," he said. "If our Airmen aren't prepared to perform this duty in austere conditions, then we've failed in our ability to generate combat power. It's critical that we be able to do this in any environment or element."

For Airmen participating in the exercise, familiar tasks became more challenging as

exercise evaluation teams tested their ability to perform their jobs under a variety of unfamiliar conditions.

"Our local exercises were designed to take members out of their 'comfort zone' and stress them just short of their fail point," Recker said. "By throwing curves at people doing their day-to-day jobs, we increase the stress level and force them to multi-task in order to arrive at a successful conclusion of the scenario. It also lets commanders know where the strengths and weaknesses are within a particular area of evaluation."

Though the 15th WG hosted the ORE, the 154th WG, 647th ABG and Sailors from the joint base provided key support and conducted a few scenarios of their own.

"The ORE is an extremely valuable opportunity to develop our skills while furthering our joint base relationship as well as our partnership with the 154th," Barrett said.

Recker said he felt everyone performed well and that the ORE provided learning opportunities for all involved.

"Everybody brought their piece of the puzzle, and it seemed to play out pretty well," he said. "The joint base community has never generated an ORE before, so this was a great learning opportunity for Navy senior leaders to see what our mobility machine looks like when it's in full stand-up mode. Everybody did their part and they did it pretty well."

## USS Lincoln arrives in Pearl Harbor

Sailors aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) man the rails as the ship passes the Battleship Missouri Memorial and the Ford Island Control Tower. Lincoln arrived in Hawaii for a port visit after a six-month deployment. More about USS Lincoln's arrival in next week's issue of Ho'okele.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico



## Military families urged to participate in PACOM study on Hawaii education

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor

Military families stationed in Hawaii list the quality of education for their children as one of their top concerns. Now these families have an opportunity to make a difference in Hawaii's educational system that could be of benefit to military children for years into the future.

A three-year longitudinal study was launched in August 2009 by U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM), who contracted with the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health with assistance from the University of Hawaii. The study has two parts: an on-line survey and focus groups.

Focus groups will be held April 18 to 22 in Hawaii. The focus groups are open to all military parents of school-age children. Parents can also register their children, ages 10 to 18, to participate in youth focus groups. To register

for a focus group, visit [hawaiikidsfocusgroups@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiikidsfocusgroups@gmail.com).

The study will survey military parents and their children, who are between the ages of 10 and 18, in order to identify the perceptions and needs of military children families that are related to their educational experiences in Hawaii.

The study is unique in that it includes all military families with school-age children, regardless of whether the children are enrolled in public, private, charter or home schools. "This is the first survey that includes home schoolers and children in private schools. This is a group that hasn't been surveyed before and it's important to get their information," explained Dr. Jean Silvernail, director of the education division at U.S. PACOM. She noted that almost 30 percent of the children of service members are not in the public school system.

But to date, few families

are taking advantage of the opportunity to influence decisions about their children's education. The goal is to gain at least 3,000 survey participants by this summer. However, only about 600 participants have completed the survey.

"If enough people participate in the survey and focus groups, there will be strong evidence to help inform leadership regarding the education of students of military families," said Dr. Robert Blum, a Johns Hopkins University researcher and director of the study.

"We have learned that Hawaii military parents have strong opinions because they care about their children's education. This is their chance to voice concerns when leadership is listening," he said.

According to PACOM, the survey and focus group results will promote informed decisions about education in future years.

See SCHOOL, A-8

## NMCRS kicks off annual fund drive at Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

The Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Pearl Harbor chapter kicked off its annual fund drive at Sharkey Theatre aboard Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on March 7.

Sailors designated as key personnel by their respective commands attended the event to receive supplies and training about the NMCRS fund drive, and learn more about their new roles.

NMCRS offers financial assistance to Sailors and Marines by providing them with budget counseling or by offering grants and interest-free loans.

"Last year we raised more than \$493,000 and this year our goal is to eclipse the \$500,000 mark," said Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. "For our key volunteers, you do this because you are passionate about helping out our Sailors, and I thank you for that. This drive is about taking care of our own."

Paul Belanger, NMCRS Pearl Harbor director of, spoke about the importance and the goal of the fund drive.

"The money raised during this event goes to support our Sailors and Marines, active duty retirees and their families in time of need," Belanger said. "NMCRS is your organization and this is your fund drive."

Belanger also noted that NMCRS provides direct support to the Navy and Marine Corps, unlike many non-profit organizations.

"Out of all the organizations that conduct



Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, offers the opening remarks during the annual Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Pearl Harbor fund drive kickoff at Sharkey Theatre on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

fund drives across the nation, the NMCRS fund drive is the only one where all of the money goes directly back to the service members," Belanger said. "Whatever money you put aside every month is money that is put in trust, so that if someday there is an emergency down the line, you have a fund to draw money from."

NMCRS Pearl Harbor's fund drive will be held until April 8.

The mission of NMCRS is to provide, in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, financial, educational and other assistance to members of the naval services of the United States, eligible family members and survivors when in need, and to receive and manage funds to administer these programs.



Navy Region Hawaii combats synthetic drugs  
See page A-2



One Air Force, One Network: Hickam upgrades ITS  
See page A-2



Boone relieves Coughlin as USS Olympia CO  
See page A-4



PAM preserves Ford Island control tower  
See page A-7



Children's future in aviation takes wing at PAM  
See page B-1



Saluting their sacrifice: Marines use car show to raise money for wounded warriors  
See page B-4

# Navy Region Hawaii combats synthetic drugs

MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Commander Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) Criminal Investigation Division (CID) is currently investigating allegations of possession of illegal synthetic drugs by Sailors of one Hawaii-based ship and two shore-based commands.

According to Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, "The Navy recognizes this as a problem society wide, and now it's hitting home here in Hawaii."

"As these allegations are thoroughly investigated and Sailors are being questioned, it would be inappropriate to discuss specific details of the investigation, but it is evident we need to reiterate the serious consequences of this kind of unacceptable behavior," Smith said.

Lt. Matthew Clark is the CNRH security officer in charge of CID, whose mission is to assist Hawaii-based commands with criminal investigations.

"If a command believes that one or more of their Sailors may be using Spice, they will call us for assistance," Clark said. "We will interview the initial suspect and develop and follow up on all other leads."

So far, CID has handled five synthetic drug-related investigations



A U.S. Airman simulates the effects of smoking Spice on Dec. 10, 2010, at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. Spice and other substances that mimic the effects of marijuana are banned by the Department of Defense. They were legal in the civilian community until Nov. 24, when the Drug Enforcement Administration enacted a nationwide ban on Spice and similar products.

involving at least 38 suspected users in Hawaii in the past year alone.

"It's not difficult to get caught when using Spice," Clark said. "Basically, once someone is suspected of using Spice, they'll be interviewed and, more times than not, that will lead to other suspects in the case, and they'll end up get-

ting caught, too.

"Usually, once the suspect starts talking, the numbers in the case increase dramatically," Clark said.

Smith wants Sailors to think about the known consequences before they choose to possess or use synthetic drugs or other illegal substances.

"When Sailors get caught using

drugs, they don't just throw away their careers, they let down their shipmates, the young Sailors they mentor, their leaders and their families," he said. "Sailors who take illegal drugs, including synthetic drugs, will be caught. Those who are found guilty will face the consequences of their actions."

According to a recent message

from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West, more than 150 Sailors are currently being processed out of the Navy for Spice use, possession or distribution.

"Overall, the Navy has separated 1,374 Sailors in FY09, 1,308 Sailors in FY10 and 302 Sailors during the first quarter of FY11, for drug abuse," West said. "These unexpected losses negatively affect our commands' manning levels, which in turn affects the commands' operational and warfighter readiness. The Navy's policy on drug abuse is simple and clear – zero tolerance, and there are no second chances."

NAVADMIN 108/10 re-emphasizes the Navy's policy that prohibits possession of the substances or designated products that contain synthetic cannabinoid compounds, such as Spice, Genie, Blaze, Dream, Ex-ses, Spark, Fusion, Dark Knight, Yucatan Fire, and K2.

Spice is a mixture of natural herbs and synthetic cannabinoids that, when smoked, produce a marijuana-like 'high' that decreases motor skills, impairs coordination and concentration, and affects short-term memory and senses. The effects of these substances are unpredictable when combined with alcohol, and since the chemical blends are continuously manipulated and the strength of the synthetic chemical used is unknown, there is no way to know what the long-term health risks are.

## One Air Force, One Network: Hickam upgrades ITS

Staff Sgt. Carolyn (Viss) Herrick

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

A \$5.5 million information transportation system (ITS) upgrade is ready to be installed for Air Force network users here after a nearly two-year process of site surveys and trenching.

This Air Force-directed project will support the needs of active-duty, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and tenant units with an infrastructure that enables a "one Air Force, one network" capability.

"ITS is a high speed, broadband, robust digital information transport system," according to Master Sgt. Robert Gonzalez, 747th Communications Squadron (CS) NCO in charge of planning and implementation. "It comprises a common, base-wide backbone transport network and links from the backbone network to core end buildings."

"This provides redundancy in both transport and network configuration for survivability," he said.

Phase I, site survey of

core buildings and building the network design, was completed in 2009. Phase II required trenching for more than 11,263 feet on Hickam and installing five new manholes, 19,600 feet of conduit, 128,000 feet of external cable and 35,600 feet of internal cable, Gonzalez said.

Ninety-seven facilities – 270 comm closets altogether – will be upgraded with new NIPRNET (Unclassified but Sensitive Internet Protocol (IP) Router Network) equipment, and 437 new network

switches will be installed, according to Gonzalez.

"This encompasses a large majority of the Air Force side of the installation," said Capt. Marc Lamelin, 747th CS plans and resources flight commander. "Most of the areas being trenched have already been trenched for utility lines, so the two miles of boring and cutting that this network requires will have a minimal environmental impact," Lamelin said.

Now will begin the third phase, which will impact

network users starting in early April, according to Staff Sgt. Brooke Bernard, a 747th CS network integration technician who serves as the liaison between the customer and the contractors for this massive ITS upgrade.

"The transition should be seamless," Lamelin said. "We're not talking about a massive impact in one week. It'll take time. We're not going to come in,

make a huge change, and just hope for the best."

Instead, individual buildings will receive 10 days' notice of the switchover, and core buildings will receive 20-days' notice, either by email or individual phone calls. They should be able to turn off the current network, make the switch, and turn it back on. A few hours interruption will be the most any

user should see.

"The network goes up and down daily, even hourly," Bernard explained.

By cleaning up the current configuration and removing unnecessary configurations, there is a potential for the network to be a little faster but most important, it will be reliable.

"It's kind of like a big cleanup project," she said.



## JIOC Sailor leads by example

Story and photo by  
MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public  
Affairs

Intelligence Specialist 2nd Class Aimee Julian, assigned to Joint Intelligence Operations Center (JIOC) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, grew up in a military lifestyle and decided to enlist in the Navy.

Since her father was a 25-year Air Force veteran and Julian was involved in her high school's junior reserve officers' training corps, she figured that joining

military service made sense. "Having grown up around the military, I felt like it was a good idea to join so my life would have structure and I wouldn't have large amounts of debts from going to college," said Julian, a native of Eagle River, Alaska.

The rate of intelligence specialist (IS) wasn't Julian's first choice, but it worked out for the better, she explained.

"Originally I was dead-set on being a hospital corpsman, but they didn't have any spots available at the time," Julian said. "I had a lot of rates I could pick from that I didn't like, but then I came across IS which seemed interesting, and then I ended up loving it."

Currently stationed at JIOC, Julian manages and tasks intelligence collection for theater and national level assets throughout the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility, ensuring timely intelligence is provided to deployed forces.

"IS2 Julian demonstrates outstanding initiative and leadership rarely seen in a Sailor of her rank," said Master Chief Intelligence Specialist Victor Dalton. "She is eager to learn, and her enthusiasm is never exhausted. She is an asset to this command, the community and the Navy."

During her free time, Julian said she likes cooking and photography, along with enjoying the easy going Hawaiian lifestyle.

She stated that her current career goals include experiencing shipboard life and earning multiple enlisted warfare pins.

"Right now my goals are to go to a ship, preferably an aircraft carrier, to see what the Navy is all about," Julian said. "By going to a ship, I believe that is where I will be able to learn the most about my job and see what being an IS is all about."

## Underground storage tank removal work planned

Naval Facilities  
Engineering  
Command Hawaii

As part of installation restoration efforts, two abandoned underground fuel storage tanks will be removed from the Hickam BX parking lot next to First Hawaiian Bank

from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., March 28 through April 1.

The abandoned tanks were used to hold vehicle gasoline. Traffic through the parking lot will be rerouted and parking stalls may be temporarily unavailable as contractors excavate the tanks.

Noise reduction and dust suppression methods will be used, when possible, and the restricted project area will be fenced and barricaded for the safety of pedestrians and workers. For more information, call Jocelyn Tamashiro at 449-3193.

## Traffic enforcement on joint base stepped up

647th Security Forces  
Squadron Joint Base  
Pearl Harbor-Hickam,  
Hawaii

In an ongoing effort to ensure the safety and security of the base community, joint base security has stepped up its efforts to enforce traffic laws throughout all areas of Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam (JBPHH.) Voluntary compliance is always the goal, but those who do

not comply with traffic laws, such as speed limits, risk being stopped and cited.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) has jurisdiction on the highways leading to and from the base, and HPD patrols will continue to enforce traffic laws, including posted speed limits, in those areas. As a reminder, speed limits throughout JBPHH are generally as follows:

unless otherwise posted.

- 15 mph - Housing areas, school zones, and within 50 feet of all gates.
- 10 mph - All parking lots, alleys and industrial areas.
- 10 mph - When passing troops in formation.
- 5 mph - Within any structure or building.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Jarvis Polite with the crime prevention office at 449-9712.

## Town hall meeting planned for March 16

A town hall meeting will take place from 5 to 7 p.m. March 16 at the Hickam Memorial Theater at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The meeting will serve as a question-and-answer session for base residents, focusing on the Hickam side of joint base. Subject matter experts from Hickam Communities, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR), Warfighter and Family Services, civil engineer, security, and safety will be in attendance.

The meeting is designed to provide a path for residents to communicate their concerns to senior leadership. Lt. Col. Rex Vanderwood, deputy joint base commander will attend.

## P-47s lined up neatly on deck



Close-ordered as infantrymen, these Republic P-47s stand on the deck of a small aircraft carrier to be taken to a theater of operation. Affectionately nicknamed "Jug," the P-47 was one of the most famous United States Army Air Forces (AAF) fighter planes of World War II. Although originally conceived as a lightweight interceptor, the P-47 developed as a heavy-weight fighter and made its first flight on May 6, 1941. The first production model was delivered to the AAF in March 1942, and in April 1943 the Thunderbolt flew its first combat mission, a sweep over western Europe. Used as both a high-altitude escort fighter and a low-level fighter-bomber, the P-47 quickly gained a reputation for ruggedness.

Photo courtesy of  
Air Force Historical Research Agency

## Diverse Views



Why do you think it's important for military personnel to do community service and community outreach? What are the benefits?



Staff Sgt. Shawn Corral  
735th Air Mobility Squadron (AMS)

"It's important to show that the military not only defends the country but also helps and develops good relationships with the local communities at home and abroad."

Master Sgt. Esmeralda Flores-Parker  
15th Medical Group



"It's to everyone's benefit to be a part of the community and help each other out. The military helps during crises, and the community gives back with support and care packages."



Ramona Harris  
USO volunteer

"I think it's important that everyone steps up and does their share to show support and appreciation for our military and being a contributor to the community."

(Provided by 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

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# Boone relieves Coughlin as USS Olympia CO

Story and photo by  
MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

Cmdr. Michael Boone relieved Cmdr. Michael Coughlin as commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Olympia (SSN 717) during a change of command ceremony March 4 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial (BB 63).

Retired Vice Adm. Albert Konetzni, guest speaker, praised Coughlin for achievements through his naval career his naval career.

"Mike, you did not get to where you are by luck, you got here by hard work and you deserve it," Konetzni said. "I think that the submarine force is an unbelievable invention, but because of the people we have that serve on submarines the force is always able to reinvent itself. I am very proud of you and your crew," he said.



Cmdr. Michael Coughlin is piped ashore after being relieved as commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Olympia (SSN 717) by Cmdr. Michael Boone in a change of command ceremony held March 4 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial (BB 63).

Coughlin acknowledged that the majority of the submarine's success during his time as commanding officer could be attributed to the crew and their hard work efforts.

"I was blessed with a

great crew that accomplished it all through teamwork, preparedness and discipline," Coughlin said. "They have worked extremely hard and I am counting on them to continue their amazing

efforts in keeping our submarine ready for action."

Following his remarks, Coughlin was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his exceptional performance as commanding officer from April 2008

to March 2011.

In his closing remarks, Coughlin reflected on his time on Olympia and at sea.

"There are so many great things about being a submariner," Coughlin said. "Perhaps the most satisfying for me is to dive the ship. This procedure represents all the teamwork and execution to do what we do, submerge our warship."

Since Olympia's arrival in Pearl Harbor, she has completed numerous western Pacific deployments and other vital operations. Her travels have taken her to ports throughout the western Pacific and she has made seven visits to her namesake city, Olympia, Wash.

As Boone assumed command of Olympia, he addressed the crew about the future.

"I have observed your dedication and professionalism as you face the challenges of operating one of the world's most complex

machines," Boone said. "Our challenge remains to always be ready with our warship when our nation beacons us."

Coughlin graduated from Northwestern University in 1990 with a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering. Commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program, he completed basic submarine training in Groton, Conn. in December 1991.

His sea tours include USS Asheville (SSN 758), USS Portsmouth (SSN 707), USS Louisville (SSBN 724) and USS Columbia (SSN 771). His personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal and various other unit awards.

Coughlin will report for duty as deputy commander for training at Submarine Squadron Three, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

# Service members volunteer at Hawaii Foodbank

Story and photo by  
MC2 Jon Dasbach

Navy Public Affairs Support  
Element West Detachment  
Hawaii

Service members from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and USS Boxer (LHD 4) volunteered for a community relations project at the local Hawaii Foodbank on March 2.

More than 30 volunteers helped sort and inspect perishable and non-perishable food items for the annual food drive campaign, which is the largest food and fund-raising campaign of the year in Hawaii.

"It's important for the Navy that's stationed here to help out because this is their communi-



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jon Dasbach

Service members from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and USS Boxer (LHD 4) sort fruits and vegetables at the Hawaii Foodbank. Service members who volunteered helped prepare food for distribution to those in need.

ty," said Ship's Serviceman 1st Class Telehia Sutherland, assigned to JBPHH. "It's a rewarding experience to know that you're helping others, and you're helping yourself, too."

"They are very much a part of our community here on the islands," said Lori Kaya, the grants and communications manager of Hawaii Foodbank.

"Even though they may be transferring from other states or they may be going out on a military duty, they still reside here, and we consider them part of our 'ohana,' or family in Hawaii."

The volunteers spent their time helping prepare food for those in need in the local community.

"We think that it's important

that they, as part of our family here in Hawaii, participate in our food drive and that we help one another," Kaya said.

Not only did the service members have a chance to give back to the community, but they also had the opportunity to come together as a team with other service members from different parts of the world.

"It's a big thing because it's a joint effort between the USS Boxer and JBPHH," said Ship's Serviceman 1st Class Tanya Seui, assigned to JBPHH. "We're coming together as one Navy to help the community."

To find out more information about the Hawaii Foodbank and different ways to contribute to the community, visit [www.HawaiiFoodbank.org](http://www.HawaiiFoodbank.org).

# Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



**U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Spencer Mickler**  
Aviation Boatswain's Mate (handling) Airman Jimmy Pone, (left), and Aviation Boatswain's Mate (handling) 1st Class Toby Shoemaker, use a soft patch to repair a simulated burst pipe during a damage control olympics aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). The competition between teams of Sailors is designed to test their ability to respond to various at-sea mishaps and emergency scenarios. The Abraham Lincoln arrived at Pearl Harbor yesterday.



**U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Paul Honnick**  
Sailors assigned to various commands in Hawaii push a Humvee across Quick Field during the annual Seabee Olympics held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The competitions are held annually one week prior to the Seabee Ball to build camaraderie between Seabees stationed in Hawaii with a series of events that test building skills, strength, speed and coordination.



**U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Cohen A. Young**  
Staff Sgt. Chad Miller, Pacific Air Force F-16 demonstration team crew chief, goes through pre-flight checks with demo pilot, Capt. Jeff Schneider before taking off from Geelong, Victoria, Australia on March 5, while participating in the 2011 Australia International Airshow. (See story on page A-6.)



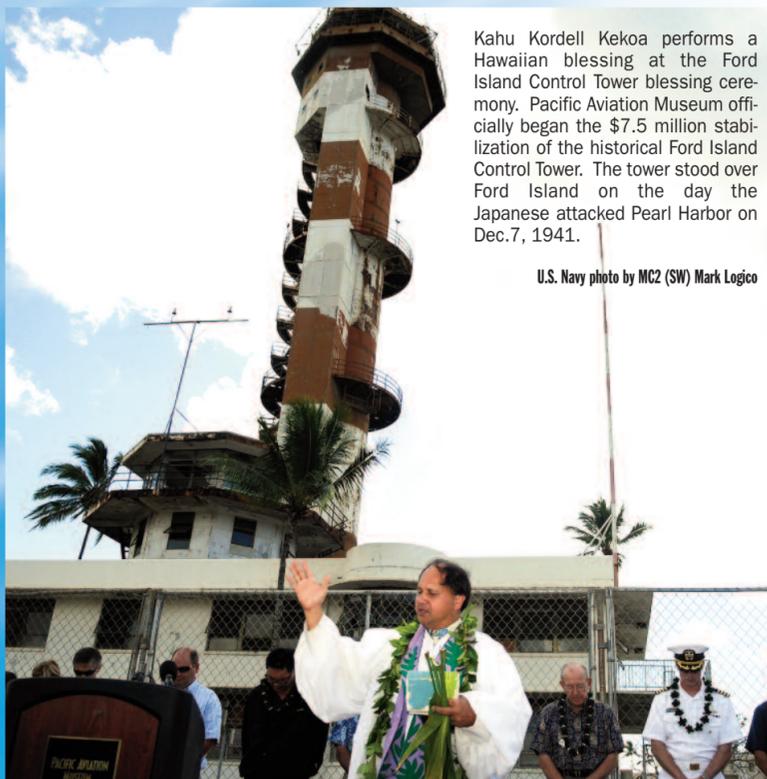
**U.S. Air Force photo by AIC Lauren Main**  
Airmen hunker down and take shelter during alarm red in mission-oriented protective posture gear at base Y at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii during an Operational readiness exercise (ORE) March 5. The ORE tested Airmen's ability to respond to survive and operate during various wartime conditions.



**Photo courtesy of The Leadership Continuum**  
The mission of The Leadership Continuum (TLC) held March 2 at J.R. Rockers is to establish a continuing workshop series for commanding officer/executive officer (CO/XO) and master chief petty officer/senior chief petty officer (MCPO/SCPO) spouses which will enhance and develop leadership skills. Guest speakers from Punahou School discussed ways to break down communication barriers, recognize the value of each member of the team and shared team building exercises.



**U.S. Air Force photo by AIC Lauren Main**  
(Left) An Airman references his Airman's Manual to assist his partner as he became a simulated casualty at base Y at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii during the operational readiness exercise March 5.



Kahu Kordell Kekoa performs a Hawaiian blessing at the Ford Island Control Tower blessing ceremony. Pacific Aviation Museum officially began the \$7.5 million stabilization of the historical Ford Island Control Tower. The tower stood over Ford Island on the day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

**U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico**

## F-16 pride shows as Air Force crew chiefs support demo team

**Master Sgt. Cohen A. Young**

*Defense Media Activity*

GEELONG, Australia – If you ask F-16 crew chiefs, they will tell you they enjoy putting on a good show in the Pacific region and enlightening others on the jet's capabilities.

Crew chiefs are very important to any jet and even moreso on dedicated teams like the Pacific Air Force F-16 Demo Team, which is based at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

"My 14-minute demo is awesome to watch, but we can't make that happen without these crew chiefs doing the work behind it," said Capt. Jeff Schneider, F-16 demo pilot. "Not only are they turning wrenches, but they're making that jet look clean, too."

"Taking my talents and being able to maintain these aircraft so that the demo pilot can do his job gives me a sense of pride," said Staff Sgt. Chad Miller.

The team has traveled far and wide between Alaska and India.

"Being on the F-16 demo team gives me the opportunity to travel all around the Pacific," said Miller, a native of Shreve, Ohio. "It allows me to see other Air Forces and help show our capabilities."

Miller has been in the Air Force for nine years, and most of that has been with the F-16.

"I started out at Edwards AFB, Calif., working on F-16s at the test site," Miller said. "Then I worked on the 35 program three years, then got orders, which

brought me back to the F-16; I love the F-16."

Miller has been a dedicated crew chief with the demo team for a little more than a year now and said he has enjoyed every minute of it.

"This recent trip has taken me to India, Guam and Australia, and it has been a great opportunity that I might not have had if I wasn't part of this team," Miller explained.

Teamwork is essential in a job like this where the team can be on

the road for long periods of time; therefore, trust is a big part of their job.

"When I take that jet up in the air, I don't second guess anything the crew chiefs have done because I know they will get me up there safely and get me landed safely," Schneider said.

For more information about the Pacific Air Force F-16 Demo Team, visit the website at [http://web.mac.com/srtsilver4/Pacaf\\_Demo\\_Team/Welcome.html](http://web.mac.com/srtsilver4/Pacaf_Demo_Team/Welcome.html).

(See photo on page A-5)

## Naval Postgraduate School takes grad education to Hawaiian Islands

**Amanda D. Stein**

*Naval Postgraduate School*

The defense budget has taken center stage in recent months, bringing efficient spending and responsible management to the forefront of concerns for the new fiscal year. With the proposed \$150 billion in budget cuts and savings over the next five years, it is imperative that the Department of Defense (DoD) prepare civilian and military leaders to make responsible choices in the future.

But long before this became a primary focus for defense leaders, the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) began offering a defense-based master of business administration program in 2003 to prepare young officers for just that need. This niche MBA, as with all NPS programs, also aligns with the CNO's commitment to ensuring that all naval officers are offered the chance at a quality graduate education.

"In the fiscal environment we face today, efficient resource management is absolutely critical," explained Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

"Educating our officers and civilian managers about efficient resource management ensures they possess the knowledge and skills required to be innovative and effi-



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Lt. Erik Molina, executive assistant to the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii/ Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, reviews his notes on his computer for his Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA) course.

cient, enabling them to make quality resource management decisions and complete the mission," he said.

For many, however, the opportunity to take two years away from their duty stations to study on campus in Monterey, Calif. presents a unique challenge. For those individuals, the executive master of business administration (EMBA) program has been tailored to fit their demanding duty schedules.

The program offers a defense-based, distributed learning (DL) graduate education to eligible officers from Hawaii to Washington D.C. and everywhere in between.

"In our current financial crisis, having a business degree is a central driver for being able to identify waste and inefficiencies within the many DoD domains," explained Cmdr. Adonis Mason, one of the EMBA students stationed on the island of Oahu in Hawaii, and the deputy N5 for the plans, programs and requirements department at the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station (NCTAMS) Pacific.

"EMBA is designed to provide us with the skills to tackle the uncertain resource challenges explicitly associated with the Department of

Navy. It arms you with the necessary decision-making tools to help identify cost savings, as well as to maximize reduced resources through optimization and streamlining measures," Mason said.

"Achieving an EMBA is critical to upward career movement, this program is designed to be completed while you are working another job," explained Lt. Erik Molina, executive assistant to the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii/Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. He, Mason, and one DoD civilian make up the Hawaii EMBA cohort, meeting once a week with NPS professors via video teleconferencing (VTC) to go over lessons and questions.

"Due to the entire class being comprised of naval officers and DoD civilians, classroom discussions are very relevant to day-to-day life in the Military," Molina said. "Consequently, application of the concepts, such as group dynamics, moral responsibility and finance, comes very naturally. Having access to the perspectives of both junior and senior officers and civilians on tough issues is very advantageous and influences my day to day conduct," he said.

Since these students are working during the day, the workload can be intimidating. The program is designed to be flexible enough for students to complete their studies around their work schedules, with a comprehensive curriculum that

gets students as close a possible to the in-residence MBA experience.

But the fast-paced program requires diligence and proper planning from students, noted Mason.

"It's challenging to maintain a balance, but I knew when I applied for the program that it wasn't going to be an easy ride," Mason said.

A father of five, the program allows him to work on his studies in the evening when his children are asleep. But however they manage to make time for schoolwork, they all have the same end goal in mind – applying their educations to their daily duties and helping the DoD to operate as efficiently as possible.

"I serve as the CO's primary technical expert for strategic planning, monitoring, coordinating, analyzing and reporting on all strategic command, control, communications and computers (C4) regional issues and efforts underway in the Pacific naval communications area which impact NCTAMS PAC or its regional sites," Mason explained.

"I have already started applying some of the concepts from my coursework to a number of my job functions," he added. "As I continue with the program, I will persistently be on the lookout for practical strategies that I can implement to improve the management of our information technology (IT) investments as well as the efficiency and performance of our command IT systems, operational procedures and our business processes."

# Annual Seabee Olympics builds camaraderie

Story and photo by  
MC2 Paul Honnick

Navy Public Affairs Support  
Element West Det. Hawaii

Seabees stationed across Oahu competed in the annual Seabee Olympics held at Quick Field at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Feb. 25.

The olympics are held annually one week prior to the Seabee Ball to build camaraderie between the different Seabee commands with a series of events that test building skills, strength, speed and coordination.

"This is the annual Seabee Olympics where the various Seabee commands all get together and just really celebrate being a Seabee," said Lt. Jason Gabbard, the assistant public works officer for Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii.



Sailors assigned to Construction Battalion Mobile Unit (CBMU) 303 compete in tug-of-war during the annual Seabee Olympics held on Quick Field at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The competitions are held annually one week prior to the Seabee ball to build camaraderie between Seabees stationed in Hawaii with a series of events that test building skills, strength, speed and coordination.

The participants were divided into four teams: Self-help, Construction Battalion Mobile Unit (CBMU) Kunia and the

wardroom.

Events included the tire flip, dizzy bat run, nail drive, Humvee push, relay race, volley

ball, tug-of-war and chili cook off. The teams also competed in a building project in which each team was given a limited amount of materials to design and build something that was functional, durable and creative.

"This is stuff that we do on a normal basis, so it's good to know that they all know how to do it," said Utilitiesman 1st Class Sean Gosslin, the leading petty officer of NAVFAC Hawaii Self-Help.

The wardroom received the highest score in this category for building a poker table, which was laid out neatly with sodas, pretzels and cookies for use as poker chips. "This year we had two sheets of plywood, a few two-by-fours, some hammers and nails. Apart from that it was completely up to us," Gabbard said. "I think [a poker table] is useful. It's fun, it's unique and there's food and beverage."

At the end of the competition, the Seabees lined up their chiefs for a special fundraiser event involving whipped cream pies.

"Every year we like to auction off our khakis just to make some money for the Seabee ball," Gosslin said. "Whoever wins that pie gets to throw it in his face."

Both the pie throwers and the chiefs savored each moment.

"They love it, too. They don't mind," Gosslin said. "It's for the troops, so they can say once a year they can do something to their chief."

CBMU took first place overall, with the wardroom closing in second, self-help in third and Kunia in fourth.

The only prize for the CBMU is bragging rights for the year, while Kunia will enjoy the honor of planning, coordinating and judging next year's olympics.

## PAM preserves Ford Island control tower

MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public  
Affairs

Pacific Aviation Museum officially began the \$7.5 million stabilization project of the historic Ford Island control tower with a Hawaiian blessing Feb. 25.

"It's time to begin this long-awaited and badly needed tower stabilization project," said Kenneth DeHoff, Pacific Aviation Museum executive director. The tower stood over Ford Island on the day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Former Congressman and now Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie was instrumental in helping to secure \$3.8 million through the Department of Defense appropriations for the stabilization and restoration of the historic landmark.

Rear Adm. Dixon Smith commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, delivered remarks and spoke of a shared commitment to preserve history.

"Work to secure a sub-lease of the control tower with the Pacific Aviation Museum has been going on for a lot longer than I've been here," Smith said. "Yes, there have been some bumps and potholes along the way, but we all had the same vision - to see the proper restoration and preservation of the control tower."

"Without a doubt, the Navy has a responsibility to our history and preserving our history. We have to meet that. This is a win-win for all of us to be able to preserve the history of this great tower," Smith said.

"We look forward to assisting Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor in the stabiliza-

tion of the historic building and control tower that defines the skyline in Pearl Harbor," said Lance Wilhelm, senior vice president of Kiewit Building Group Inc., the contractor for the stabilization project.

The tower is the second project Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor and Kiewit Building Group have done together. Kiewit Building Group was the general contractor for the current site of the museum when it opened Dec. 6, 2006.

The Ford Island tower complex was constructed in 1941. It consists of a third story aerological center and observation deck on top of the two-story operations building and the air traffic control center on top of a 158-foot steel water tank tower. It played a major role in the naval activity at Pearl Harbor, especially during World War II.

The tower is registered as

a category I structure in the Pearl Harbor Naval Base Historic Preservation Plan of 1978.

Over the past 30 years, the steel components throughout the structure, which include the tower skin, stairs, landings, ladders, beams, fascia and flanges, are experiencing severe corrosion. Many of the components require repair and refinishing, and in some areas complete removal and replacement.

According to the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor website, its mission is to "develop and maintain an internationally recognized aviation museum on historic Ford Island that educates young and old alike, honors aviators and their support personnel who defended freedom in The Pacific Region, and to preserve Pacific aviation history."

(See photo on page A-5)

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

March 17 – Individual augmentee recognition

March 24 – Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard career fair

March 31 – Child Abuse Prevention Month

April 7 – Substance abuse prevention

April 14 – MSC – USNS Shasta (T-AE 33)

(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.

# School survey important

Continued from A-1

"Military families need to understand how important it is for us to have this input," said Silvernail.

"If I were a military parent, I wouldn't want educators making decisions without me. This is an opportunity for them to have their say," she said.

Silvernail also stressed the long-term benefit for military families to participate in the survey.

"It is the life of the military to be moving. Many times they put into motion things they will never see, but someone down the line may be recipients of their efforts," she said.

"The more families we have taking the survey will equate to a more realistic outcome and analysis of the data that will be gathered at the end of the study. The information that families provide to this survey will have a lasting impact on our families now and in the future," added Navy Region Hawaii Command Master Chief Marcos Sibal.

"The survey is important because it helps leadership, both in the military and civilian sectors, determine how the Hawaii educational system provides services to our military families and also considers families' expectations and experiences with this education system," explained Sibal.

Military service members and their spouses who are parents of school-age children are strongly encouraged to take the survey. Parents can also give permission for their children, ages 10 to 18, to take the youth survey. Children who take the survey are eligible for a quarterly drawing for prizes, including iTunes cards and MP3 players. The next drawing will be held in April. A flat screen HD television will be awarded as a grand prize at the end of the survey.

All participants in the survey are anonymous and a code is used for them to input their data. The initial phase of the survey is the most labor-intensive to complete, requiring about 30 minutes.

The three elements of the survey include an arrival survey, an annual survey and a PCS survey. As part of the arrival survey, parents are asked about preparations for coming to Hawaii, previous school experiences and their perceptions at the quality of education offered in Hawaii.

Parents who are on-island or are newcomers to the state will be asked to participate in an annual survey. The objective is to gauge their perceptions of how educational opportunities in Hawaii changed during their tour of duty here.

Participants will also be involved in a follow-on survey about three to six months after they PCS from Hawaii. The goal is to determine if their children were academically prepared and able to easily transition into their new schools at the next duty station.

"These surveys will be taken annually for a total of three consecutive years. They are hoping that, over time, this will show changes as the educational system undergoes changes," Sibal explained.

"The data collected from this study will also be used to initiate any changes that need to be made with regards to policy and procedures," he noted.

Military leaders in all branches of service have joined PACOM, asking active duty service members to make participation in the study a "high priority."

"Given the importance our children's education has on the military mission, I am asking you to consider participating," said Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander, U.S. Pacific Command.

Adm. Patrick M. Walsh, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, also emphasized the importance of military parents participating in the study. "This study is high priority and I appreciate your participation. The information you provide can make a difference for you, your children and future students of military families in Hawaii."

"I encourage our Air Force families, including children 10 years of age and older, to participate. The responses will provide information that will aid in supporting quality education in Hawaii," added Gen. Gary L. North, commander of Headquarters Pacific Air Forces.

The survey and focus groups discuss all topics that affect children's performance in school, including the quality of education, educational equipment, social relationships, safety, transition to Hawaii, and services available to military children and parents. The survey also asks about another important issue that can influence the school day - parental deployments.

"This is an important part of our continuing efforts to provide military children the quality education they deserve. Oftentimes, we hear how schools on Oahu are mostly not up to par, but the reality is we need to provide our experiences in quantifiable data that can then be presented and analyzed to effect changes," Sibal said.

For more information or to participate in the survey, visit <http://bit.ly/hESpwx>. If survey takers experience technical computer problems, they can obtain help from the Hopkins technology team at [padmin@jhsph.edu](mailto:padmin@jhsph.edu).

For general questions about the study, contact Blum at [www.hawaiikids.org](http://www.hawaiikids.org).

# Reuben James CO meets with Royal Brunei Armed Forces

Ensign Ben Dalton

USS Reuben James Public Affairs

MUARA, Brunei (NNS) – The commanding officer of the guided-missile destroyer USS Reuben James (FFG 57) met with two senior members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) March 4. Reuben James is homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Cmdr. David E. Miller and Alex Barrasso, Brunei's charge d' affaires, discussed the common goals the U.S. and Brunei have for region-

al maritime security with Maj. Gen. Aminuddin Ihsan, commander of the RBAF, and Col. Abdul Halim, commander of the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN), during Reuben James' port visit.

"Meeting with Maj. Gen. Aminuddin and Col. Halim was an honor and a privilege," Miller said. "My crew and I are grateful for the hospitality and friendship which have been shown to us, and we are looking forward to continuing to work with the RBAF to achieve our common goal of maritime security throughout the region."

They also talked about the military partnership that exists between the two countries. Exercises between the two countries, such as Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT), allow the U.S. Armed Forces and RBAF to participate in joint training operations in the Southeast Asia region of the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

Reuben James departed its homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on Feb. 1 for a western Pacific deployment, focusing on building positive international relations with partners in Southeast Asia.



## Diamond Tips

### Enlisted Performance Report

(Diamond Tips are provided by Air Force first sergeants to address concerns in the Air Force community and provide guidance to Airmen.)

**SMSgt. David E. Stubblefield**  
First Sergeant, 647 Civil Engineer Squadron

It seems that most Airmen don't like the Enlisted Performance Report because it is inflated and doesn't provide proper evaluation of an Airman's overall performance.

CMSAF James Roy didn't agree when this was brought to his attention with a request to fix the problem. He said the system works fine. We, as leaders, need to fix what we're doing.

How do we do that? By evaluating based on standards and expecta-

tions, providing timely feedback throughout the rating period, and using the form as it is intended.

Section III evaluates an Airman's actions and behaviors against Air Force standards and the supervisor's expectations.

Section IV evaluates the Airman's overall performance, i.e., the big picture of the Airman's performance based on the ratings in Section III, against the overall performance of other Airmen, same grade and same AFSC.

When used with integrity, instead of giving a rating because you're afraid to hurt an Airman's career or feelings, it really works. Not everyone is "above average" or "truly among the best." Don't be afraid to make the tough call. That's what is expected of great leaders.