

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam is top Navy installation!



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Teddy Wade

Air Force Gen. Philip M. Breedlove (left), vice chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force, presents Capt. Richard Kitchens, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), with the Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence, recognizing JBPHH as the Navy's top installation at a ceremony held May 4 at the Pentagon. Shown in background are Capt. John Coronado, commanding officer of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii, and Susan Courtney, Navy Region Hawaii visitor quarters program manager.

MC2 Robert Stirrup Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) was recognized as a winner of the 2011 Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence, according to an announcement made by Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead in Navy administrative message 149/11 on April 29.

During the ceremony at the Pentagon on May 4, Capt. Richard Kitchens, commander of JBPHH, was presented with the award recognizing JBPHH as the Navy's top installation. "It is an absolute honor to be recognized as the number one installation out of 76 Navy installations across the world," said Capt. Lawrence Scruggs, chief staff officer of JBPHH. "The personnel assigned to this command are very proud to receive this award, but we couldn't do it without the support of the tenant commands and other

entities that we share the base with." Scruggs noted that even though the award package was submitted under the former Naval Station Pearl Harbor, JBPHH spent nine months of 2010 in an initial operating capability phase. "At the start of the transition period during the nine months of the initial operating capability phase, we already had 27 of the 57 functional working groups that were already jointly functioning together and then in June of last year, we joined

the rest of the working groups and then became fully operational on Oct. 1," Scruggs said. "The Air Force played a large part in winning this award, so they deserve credit as well." JBPHH Command Master Chief (SS/AW) Gregg Weber said that teamwork throughout the installation was the key in being recognized as the best installation. "It's not just one person who deserves this recognition. It is the entire team that deserves credit for this award," said Weber. "It's one

thing to be on top of your game, but to be on top of your game throughout the entire Navy is a phenomenal accomplishment, and everyone on this base including all the ships, submarines and shore facilities played a critical role in helping us achieve this award." In an April 29 note to the recipients, President Barack Obama congratulated the awardees on their achievement. "Your installations are being honored for exceeding all standards, and I hope you

take pride in the example set by your continued commitment to excellence," he wrote. "As our nation rises to meet the challenges of the 21st century, I thank you for your stalwart dedication and encourage you to continue striving to be the best of the best." The Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence recognizes the outstanding and innovative efforts of the people who operate and maintain U.S. military installations.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Matthew McGovern

Gen. Gary North, Pacific Air Forces commander, (left) and Chief Master Sgt. Brooke McLean, PACAF command chief, watch an honor guard member present a wreath dedicated to Chief Master Sgt. Richard Etchberger on April 29 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Pacific Air Forces honors Chief Etchberger, Medal of Honor recipient, for heroism

Capt. Alysia Harvey HQ PACAF PA

Pacific Air Forces Airmen gathered in the Courtyard of Heroes at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 29 to honor Chief Master Sgt. Richard L. Etchberger, the most recent Medal of Honor recipient.

Gen. Gary North, Pacific Air Forces commander, began his remarks by noting that among all the military decorations our nation can bestow, none is higher than the Medal of Honor.

"Tens of millions of Americans have worn our uniform, but fewer than 3,500 have received the Medal of Honor," he said. "This morning we recognize the most recent Airman to join this exclusive group, Chief Master Sgt. Richard Etchberger, whose plaque will be hung next to Pacific Air Forces' 29 other Medal of Honor recipients on our Wall of Valor, here at Pacific Air Forces' Headquarters." After briefly speaking on the heroic actions Etchberger performed in

Vietnam on March 10, 1968, North said that the chief was the epitome of a non-commissioned officer and one who embodied the Airman's creed. "He was a true wingman, leader and warrior, ensuring he did not leave an Airman behind and that he never faltered or failed," the general said. The commander then highlighted the similarity between Etchberger's situation and what many Airmen face today.

See ETCHBERGER, A-8

USS City of Corpus Christi arrives at new homeport

Story and photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

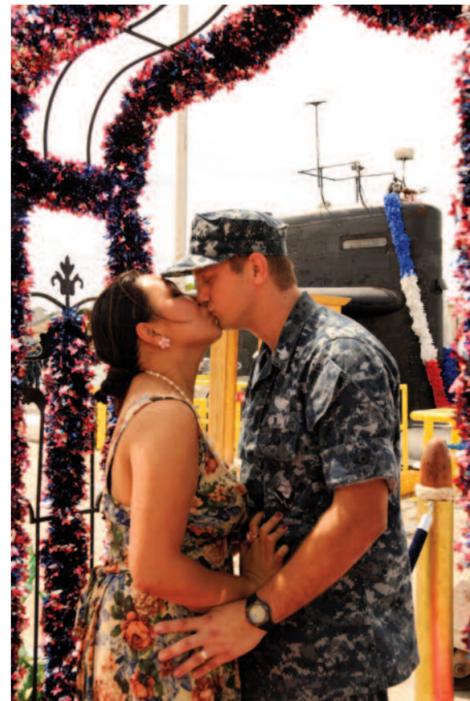
The Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) arrived at her new homeport at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on May 1, after completing a homeport shift from Commander, Submarine Squadron 15 in Guam.

City of Corpus Christi, known by the crew for the ship's motto "for God and country," departed Guam on April 14. Upon her arrival at Pearl Harbor, she will be assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron 7.

While transiting to Hawaii, she completed a theater security cooperation port visit in Brisbane, Australia. In transit, the crew also conducted a time-honored Navy tradition of "crossing the line." This was a unique ceremony where the submarine crossed the equator and the International Date Line at the same time, allowing the crew to qualify as "Golden Shellbacks."

The crew of about 130 personnel is looking forward to enjoying the sights, sounds and culture of Hawaii.

"The crew is very excited to get to Hawaii," said Cmdr. Robert Gaucher,



Electronics Technician 1st Class (SS) Jason Frantz of the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) is greeted with a kiss from his wife as he is the first to disembark upon arrival at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. City of Corpus Christi arrived at her new homeport on May 1, after completing a homeport shift from Commander, Submarine Squadron 15 in Guam.

commanding officer, City of Corpus Christi. "But at the same time, I am sure they will miss the excitement and challenges of operations on the frontline in Guam."

City Of Corpus Christi is the second ship to be

named after the Texas city and is capable of conducting anti-surface and anti-submarine operations along with guided missile strike operations using conventional Tomahawk land attack missiles.



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Airman saves life of Soldier
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Naval Health Clinic's comeback leaves SDVT-1 ill
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Cmdr. Michael Johns assumes command of USS Crommelin



U.S. Navy photo by OS2 Matthew Shute

(Left) Cmdr. Joseph M. Keenan Jr., outgoing commanding officer of USS Crommelin (FFG 37), salutes Cmdr. Michael D. Johns (right), new commander of Crommelin, during a change of command ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 28. Capt. David A. Welch, commander, Destroyer Squadron 31, is in center of photo.

Ensign Tyler Sharp

USS Crommelin Public Affairs

Cmdr. Michael Johns assumed command of USS Crommelin (FFG 37) during a change of command ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam on April 28.

Johns relieved Cmdr. Joseph M. Keenan Jr. who has commanded the ship since December 2009. The change of command was the 16th since Crommelin's commissioning 28 years ago.

Under Keenan's leadership, Crommelin completed several shipyard availabilities, pre-deployment training cycles, and a successful deployment to the western Pacific from August to December 2010. Most notably, Keenan's leadership led to Crommelin's receipt of the 2010 Battle Effectiveness award for Destroyer Squadron 31.

Keenan will depart the ship after a rewarding tour. He attributed the success of the ship to the hard work and indestructible spirit of the Sailors

under his command.

"I want to praise the efforts of every Sailor onboard. Your dedication made all of our success a reality. My expectations of the crew were to maintain a combat-ready ship able to execute real world missions on a moment's notice. They exceeded those expectations while maintaining a sterling standard they can all be proud of," said Keenan.

Crommelin completed a selected restricted availability (SRA) and is receiving many necessary repairs and upgrades to equipment.

96 Air Refueling Squadron CC kicks off Military Appreciation Month with radio interview



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

Lt. Col. Brian Hill, 96th Air Refueling Squadron commander, speaks to Rick Hamada, KHVH-AM 830 radio personality, for Military Appreciation Month on May 2. Hill spoke about his career, why he joined, the Airmen he works with and family. Hill's interview kicked off one of many Air Force interviews that will be conducted this month to highlight military members throughout the month of May. Check the 15th Wing website for a schedule and listing of Hickam Airmen who are slotted to go on-air.

100 percent of CNSG MIDPAC ships receive green "H" award

MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific (CNSG MIDPAC) announced that all 11 of its Hawaii-based Navy surface ships received the 2010 Force Health and Wellness Award, or the green "H."

"The green H Award is a milestone we all can take pride in as it encompasses everything from safety/operational risk management to tobacco cessation, all of which affect the lives of our most precious resource - our people," said Vice Adm. D. C. Curtis, the commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (SURFPAC). "Without the professional oversight of SURFPAC's very own medical department, the awareness and execution of these programs would not have



USS Hopper (left) and USS Port Royal (right) were among the Hawaii-based ships that received the 2010 Force Health and Wellness or green "H" award.

achieved this impressive milestone."

The purpose of this unit award is to recognize the Sailors aboard ship who demonstrate their dedication to helping Sailors make constructive changes in their life by conducting activities such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation training, smoking cessation courses, regular health fairs,

fitness sessions and education on healthy living.

The ships under CNSG MIDPAC include USS Chafee (DDG 90), USS Chosin (CG 65), USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), USS Crommelin (FFG 37), USS Hopper (DDG 70), USS Lake Erie (CG 70), USS O'Kane (DDG 77), USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), USS Port Royal (CG 73), USS Reuben



File photo

James (FFG 57) and USS Russell (DDG 59).

"My personal congratulations to all commands that made submission and special recognition is extended to this year's winners," Curtis said in an official message. "You have again demonstrated unflinching commitment to the health and wellness of our Sailors, our Navy's most valuable asset.

Their welfare is absolutely essential to our readiness and to the success of our mission. Continue to provide tools and awareness to our Sailors so they may be successful," he said.

The qualifying period for this award was from Jan. 1, 2010 to Dec. 31, 2010. Ships that receive the COMNAVSURFOR Force Health and

Wellness award can paint a green "H" on the ship's bridge wing. Hash marks are painted below the "H" to indicate sequential awards. Commands awarded the green "H" five consecutive times are authorized to paint a green star above the green "H."

Port Royal and Hopper received their 12th consecutive green "H" award.

"It has never happened before," said Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman Timothy George, the independent duty corpsman program manager for CNSG MIDPAC. "This is the first time that we have attained a hundred percent of our ships getting green "H." It also tells that more focus is being placed on health and wellness programs on board these ships. It means these ships have realized that a healthier ship is a better ship to go out a fight with," said George.

Alcohol and drug abuse counselor presented military service award

Chris Aguinaldo

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

For her dedication to drug and alcohol abuse prevention - earning the base a \$950,000 federal grant last year - Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jeannie Washington was presented the Government Employees Insurance Company Military Service Award in Washington, D.C. on April 18.

"I felt honored and privileged," said the 15th Medical Group mental health flight chief, the Air Force awardee in the drug and alcohol abuse prevention category. "I'm just the face of this particular award. But there's a lot of hard work from our team here behind that success."

Washington, a Palm Coast, Fla. native, said the recognition helps to highlight awareness about abuse and the numerous resources and people available to aid victims.

"Hey, this is out there," Washington said, "and it's safe for people come forward."

According to her award citation, Washington enhanced the awareness of 9,000 community members by directing a partnership



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Christopher P. Baines

Tech Sgt. Jeannie Washington (far bottom right), 15th Medical Group Mental Health Flight chief, took home the GEICO Military Service Award for the Air Force in the drug and alcohol abuse prevention category April 18. Each service, as well as the Guard and reserves, had a winning spot in areas from traffic safety and accident prevention, to drug and alcohol abuse prevention.

among five military installations, 10 Department of Defense helping agencies, and a local school in orchestrating 23 events.

Washington also wrote two news articles and man-

aged 10 prevention booths in support of Red Ribbon Week and Alcohol/Child Abuse Awareness Month at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Her efforts contributed

to the base receiving a \$950,000 federal grant to partner with state and local agencies, resulting in a 60 percent decrease in underage drinking, according to the citation.

Washington, certified as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor through the Air Force ADAPT (Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Treatment) program, said she appreciated the chance

to meet other service members at the ceremony who are doing similar work in substance abuse prevention.

"I got to talk to them [and] learned new ways to do things," she said.

Washington has served in the Air Force for 14 years and plans to retire from the service. She would like to continue helping others by becoming a psychiatrist for the military.

Washington was among winners from each branch of service. She and other recipients were awarded a plaque and a \$2,500 honorarium. The recipients also received round-trip transportation and lodging.

Presenting the GEICO Military Service Awards was Tony Nicely, GEICO chairman, who said, "It is an honor and a real pleasure all these years for GEICO to work with the U.S. military branches of service to pay tribute to so many outstanding men and women. These honorees are certainly persons of great value to their military and civilian communities and we thank them for their service."

(Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen, 15th Wing Public Affairs, also contributed to this article.)



ENSIGN PHILLIP HARPER

Navy Region Hawaii Sailor reaches career milestone

Story and photos by
MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public
Affairs

Ensign Phillip Harper is this week's Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Warrior of the Week.

On April 29, Harper was able to mark off another milestone in his career as he went from the rank of first class petty officer to the rank of ensign.

Harper received his commission through the Navy's

Limited Duty Officer program, where senior enlisted personnel who are considered highly skilled in their job field are selected to become a commissioned officer.

"When I first found out the news, my wife and I were getting ready for work when my former flag secretary had called me. He asked to speak to my wife and before I knew it she was crying on the phone so immediately I assumed the worse," Harper said. "When she hung up she told me 'congratulations you're going to be an ensign.' When those words

came out of her mouth I was overcome with so much emotion that I too began to cry. It was an honor then and it's an honor now."

Harper said he credits those around him for helping him get to where he is at today.

"I credit God for sustaining me throughout my life and my naval career," he said. "I also thank my many shipmates who helped groom me along the way and my wife for always being so supportive and motivating me every step of the way."

After 13 years of service, Harper stated that the Navy has provided him with many opportunities.

"The Navy has afforded me every opportunity to succeed from the time that I enlisted until now," he said. "I could not have asked to join a finer branch of service."

Harper said that in his free time he enjoys everything Hawaii has to offer including hiking, golfing and exploring the island.

Harper stated that volunteering throughout the community

and working with children is one of his passions.

"I love working with children. When I was a kid, my mother would always volunteer at my school and I think by seeing her sacrifice her time to help others, it rubbed off on me," Harper noted. "I think that volunteering is a lot less tasking when what you're volunteering for means something to you."

Harper will detach from Navy Region Hawaii in June and become the administrative officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 195.



JBP HH Emergency management asks: Are you ready yet?

Dan DuBois

JBP HH Emergency
Manager

On the evening of March 10, many of us were riveted to our televisions watching the drama unfold in Japan as tsunami waves picked up cars and ships like so many toys, crushed homes, took many lives, and caused an untold amount of damage.

Then the sirens went off here in Hawaii. Cell phone service failed as many people overloaded circuits with non-emergency calls, and traffic was tied up as people scrambled to purchase supplies and fill their cars up with gas. This gave chaotic testimony to the lack of preparedness of many members of our community.

The JBP HH Emergency Operation Center was inundated with phone calls from people seeking emergency

information. Some of the questions were: "Was the base evacuating? Where do we go? What do we do?"

As part of the lessons learned from this event, JBP HH Emergency Management (EM) is embarking on an education campaign to help the JBP HH community to be better prepared for emergencies. JBP HH EM will be providing information through multiple venues to help the JBP HH population be better prepared. So let's start with the basics. There are three things you need to know: "Be informed," "have a plan" and "make a kit."

Be informed

What are the local hazards, where do you get emergency information, where can you shelter? To help you gather this information, JBP HH EM is hosting a series of open house meetings around the joint

base in May. The meetings are from 6 to 7 p.m. on May 9, 10, 12, 16 and 18 at various locations. (See the info box on page A4.) Navy and Air Force housing residents are encouraged to register for one of the meetings in advance at: <http://www.eventandexercise.com/homepage.php?eventid=92>

During the presentations, information will be presented on: local hazards and mitigation strategies, preparing a family emergency plan and building an emergency kit. The presentations will also address the differences between tsunami evacuation zones and hurricane flood zones, evacuation zones and routes off the joint base, where to get emergency public information specific to the joint base during an emergency, and finally, Safe Haven and shelter procedures.

Preparedness materials from FEMA's "Are You Ready?" campaign and the new JBP HH Quick Series guides on Emergency Preparedness will be given to attendees.

In the meantime, those who need emergency information should call the Joint Base Straight Talk Line at (808) 421-4000 or visit the Joint Base Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/JointBasePearlHarborHickam>.

Have a plan

Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for a disaster. Remember, we are on an island 2,500 plus miles from the mainland where everything comes in by ship. FEMA recommends planning for three days, but because of our island location, it is recommended that you plan for

seven days.

Using materials that you received from one of the open houses or downloaded from www.ready.gov, explain to children the dangers of fire, severe weather, earthquakes and other likely disasters. The site www.ready.gov has activity books for children of all ages and you can use those books to help your children to plan. Plan to share responsibilities and work together.

Find the safest place in your home to shelter-in-place. This would be an interior room with no windows. A storage place under the stairs makes a good hurricane shelter.

Discuss what to do in an evacuation. Where will you go? Where is the closest shelter and what do you bring? Check out at least two available routes to take to get there. Have family

at least two places to meet. Suggestions are right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire, or outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home.

Your plan should also cover what to do when your children are out of your home or at school. Talk to their teachers regarding what is the school policy in an emergency. What happens if the school is locked down? Finding out the answers to these questions in advance will help you keep calm in a stressful situation.

(Watch the May 13 edition for Ho'okele for the third step, make a kit, and emergency phone numbers and websites everyone should know. The May 27 edition of Ho'okele will feature a special hurricane pullout section.)

Diverse Views



May is Military Appreciation Month. What is the best way to show appreciation to our military troops and their families?



Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Maritza Mejia
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Security

"One of the best ways to show your appreciation is to show continued support and during times of need or deployments."

Engineman Seaman Chris Toler
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam



"They do so much for us already."



Paul Hibbeln
Historian
15th Wing History Office

"Make their daily lives easier by helping them out with excellent service - they don't need unnecessary obstacles."

Master Sgt. Jeannie Washington
15th Medical Group
Mental health flight chief



"Acknowledging our challenges and supporting the military in your communities. Taking a little extra time with our families."



Master Sgt. Kelly Randolph
PACAF A3/5/8
Strategic resources manager

"Continue to support the military members."

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

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



Vice admiral serves 35 years with honor

Photo courtesy of the Naval History and Heritage Command
A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Vice Adm. Robert K. U. Kihune, shown in this photo, was the first vice admiral of Hawaiian descent. After serving 35 years, Kihune retired in 1994.

HO'OKELE

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Airman saves life of Soldier



Courtesy photo

Senior Airman Jesse Cornell, 647th Civil Engineer Squadron operations management, saved the life of a Soldier while on post-deployment leave April 15. He is also a self aid and buddy care instructor for his squadron.

Staff Sgt. Carolyn (Viss) Herrick

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

Airmen are trained to save lives, whether on the battlefield or an emergency.

Not many are ever required to actually use that training, but when one 647th Civil Engineer Squadron operations management Airman saw a need April 15, he stepped in and saved the life of a Soldier who was sitting beside him.

"I was at a benefit concert for a Bible study I attend," recalled Senior Airman Jesse Cornell, who had barely met the women next to him but knew she was in her mid-30s and in the Army. "We were sitting there, listening to the guy play and sing, and all of a sudden she started seizing pretty badly."

At first, he didn't know what was going on, he said. He assumed there were medical personnel somewhere around, so he sat back, trying not to get in the way of anyone who might assist. But no medics appeared.

"Someone laid her on her back," he said. "I realized right away that wasn't a good idea. She turned blue and quit moving, so I turned her on her side, hit her back to get her tongue out of her airway, got the saliva out of her throat, and she started breathing again. Once I got her breathing again, she passed out completely in my arms. I rubbed her neck, and tried to keep her breathing," he explained.

Cornell held her and coached her through breathing for about 15 minutes, until the emergency medical technicians (EMTs) finally got there.

"The only thought in my mind was remembering what I was supposed to do," said the 22-year-old from Columbus, Ind., who is also a self aid and buddy care (SABC) instructor for his squadron. His brother, a firefighter and EMT, always passed a lot of first aid on to him, and his parents, who provide foster care, have also had CPR training. This background, together with what he has learned in the military, prepared him to react quickly and instinctively

ally in a life-threatening situation.

"I just was glad God put me there, because no one else really knew what to do," Cornell said. "If I hadn't been there, they would have left her on her back."

At the time of the concert, when he saved his fellow service member's life, he was actually on post-deployment leave, having just returned from Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, where he ran a traditional Army tactical operations center.

It was the first one the Air Force had ever stood up and the Airman, with three years of military experience, was in charge of monitor intelligence, manning, convoy routes and keeping information flowing between the ops center and the commander.

"Being in Afghanistan, you see how fragile life is anyway," Cornell said. "But then, I saw how fragile it is and how quickly it can end even when you're doing the right thing and you're in a good situation."

Now, more than ever, he sees the practicality in knowing SABC and being able to use it at a moment's notice. The fact that his actions saved a fellow service member is cool, but was not a determining factor when he had to decide whether or not to act.

"I have a passion for it anyway," Cornell said. "I would've done the same

thing no matter who it was."

He was glad when he received a follow-up e-mail from the director of the hospitality house saying the Soldier he saved was doing well, but no one he works with regularly was a bit surprised to learn he had been a hero to her.

"It was awesome to hear, but I know that's the type of person he is," said Tech. Sgt. Tiffany Griego, 647th CES operations management inspection chief, who supervised him prior to his deployment. "He's a hard worker, definitely one of the best Airmen I've ever worked with."

Sending him out the door to Afghanistan was hard, but she knew he was ready and he would be ok, she said. He even re-enlisted overseas.

"You give him a task, and he's going to give everything he can for that tasking, and make sure it's complete," said the NCO, who said she never has to worry about Cornell. "We're all trained in SABC, but when a situation presents itself everyone isn't able to react and respond immediately; he was able to do that."

"I believe he is the way he is because of his faith," she said. "I know he's totally reliant upon God daily, and I believe that God assists him in everything. He'll go far in whatever he decides to do. If he sets his mind to do it, he'll do it."



Lt. j.g. Nicole Lobecker shoots a bearing while making her approach pier side during the Shiphandler of the Year competition at the Navigation, Seamanship, Shiphandling Training Center in San Diego. Lobecker won the competition that involved underway replenishment, man overboard, and mooring to and leaving a pier.

Pearl Harbor Sailor wins 2010 Shiphandler of the Year award

Story and photo by MC1 (SW/AW) Elena Pence

Naval Surface Forces Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- Naval Surface Forces (SURFOR) announced its 2010 Shiphandler of the Year on April 29.

Lt. j.g. Nicole Lobecker, stationed aboard USS Port Royal (CG 73) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, is this year's recipient of the award.

"One of the core competencies of shiphandling is safety, and professionally, that is how surface warfare officers build their reputation," said Vice Adm. D.C. Curtis,

Naval Surface Forces. "This is important, because we get the opportunity to recognize the best in the

fleet. The competition was exceptionally keen this year, but in the end, Lt. j.g. Lobecker excelled across the range of challenging shiphandling evolutions."

The two finalists, Lt. Matt Klock, USS Truxtun (DDG 103) navigation officer, and Lobecker, Port Royal's assistant combat system's officer, competed for the Surface Force Junior Officer Shiphandler of the Year at the Navigation, Seamanship, Shiphandling Training (NSST) Center in San Diego. They completed several evolutions including underway replenishment, man overboard, and mooring to and leaving a pier.

"It was surreal and I didn't believe it at first when I found out I was the Shiphandler of the Year," said Lobecker. "I was stressed and nervous

when I showed up for the final competition. I stayed up late studying the rules of the road the night before, and I even brought briefs with me to study."

Each competitor was graded on "rules of the road" application, proper use of standard commands, coordination of engine and helm orders, development and execution of a plan and their ability to adapt their plan to unforeseen circumstances.

"It was clear that both of these officers understood their individual ship characteristics, the basic forces that effect a ship and superbly demonstrated exceptional knowledge, confidence and mariner skills," said Curtis. "Congratulations to both of these fine officers."

Emergency preparedness open houses

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam emergency management is hosting an education campaign to help the JBPHH community be better prepared for emergencies.

Open house sessions will be held at the following times/locations:

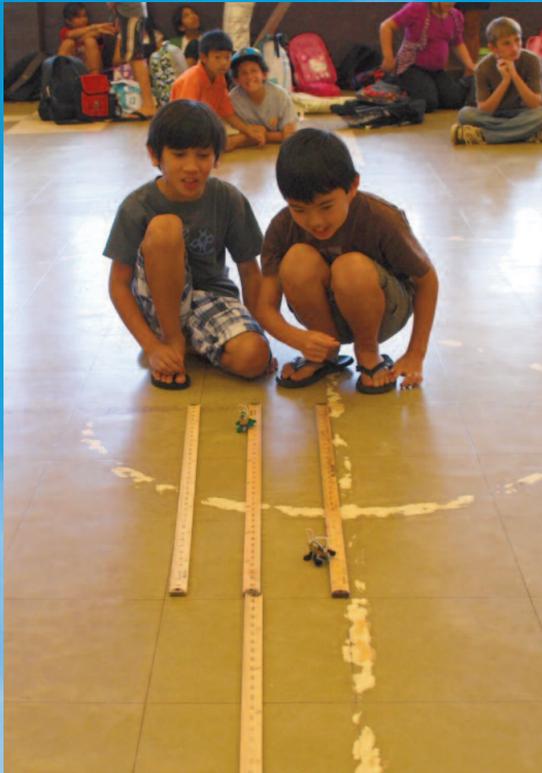
May 12 - 6-7 p.m., Hickam Theater
 May 18 - 6-7 p.m., Ford Island Conference Center
 May 19 - 6-7 p.m., Wahiiawa Annex
 Pearl City Peninsula Community Center

For emergency information, call the Joint Base Straight Talk Line

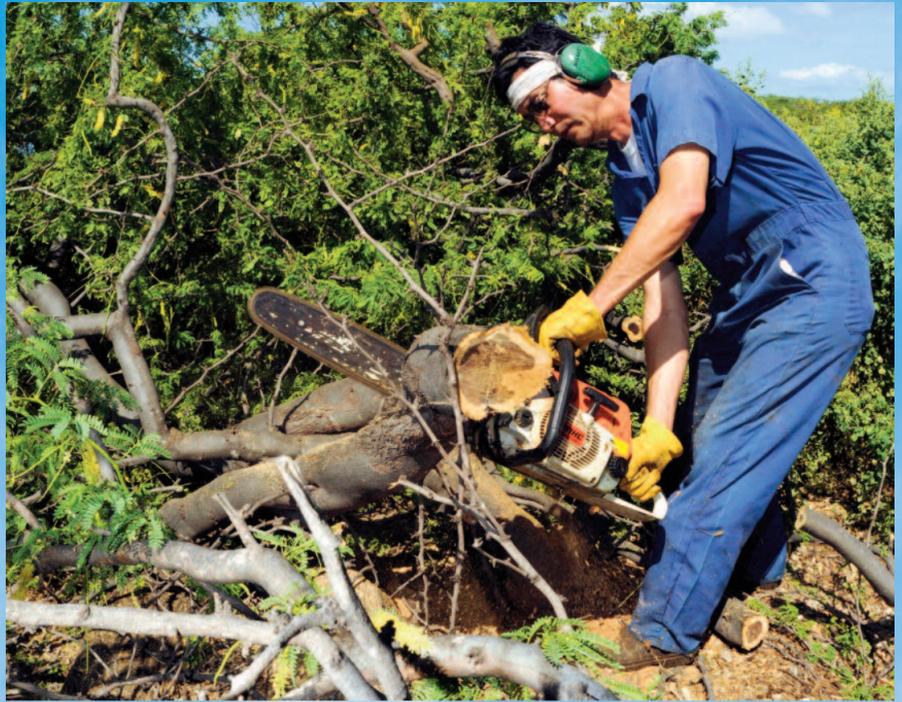
at 421-4000 or the Joint Base Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/JointBasePearlHarborHickam>

Those who plan to attend the open house sessions should register in advance at: <http://www.eventandexercise.com/homepage.php?eventid=92>.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam Highlights



U.S. Navy photo by Tom Clements
Taylor Travaso and Mikey Hashimoto drag race their Bristlebots on Kalaheo School's Kato Gym floor on May 20.



U.S. Navy photo by MCS Seaman Sean Furey
Service members, along with civilian volunteers, help to clean up the beach area at Ahua Reef on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 30. The volunteers are helping to restore native vegetation in the area.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ronald Guttridge
Vice Adm. Gerald Beaman, commander of U.S. 3rd Fleet, receives a brief on watchstanding procedures from Capt. CJ Kalb, chief of staff, Commander, Anti-Submarine Warfare Force, U.S. 3rd Fleet (CTF-34), during a tour of the CTF-34 watch floor at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 27. Beaman is touring all CTF-34 spaces to meet his new staff after assuming command of U.S. 3rd Fleet in April.



Photo by K.T. Cannon-Eger
Capt. David Welch, commander, Destroyer Squadron 31, speaks to cadets from Waiakea High School NJROTC in Hilo, Hawaii on April 29. Welch was in Hilo to meet with Waiakea High School cadets and to participate in the Merrie Monarch Festival Royal Parade on April 30.



Photo courtesy of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard
The Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Chief Petty Officer Association hosted a car wash fundraiser April 17 at the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 46 in support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). The chiefs' hard work paid off when they raised more than \$960 for the Sex Abuse Treatment Center at Kapiolani Medical Center and Friends of Warfighter and Family Services Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program.



U.S. Navy photo by Don Robbins
(Above), William Owens, Wheeler Elementary School student, listens intently while wearing a flight helmet from female naval aviators who visited the school April 28. This year marks 100 years of naval aviation, and in celebration of the anniversary, Navy Lt. Thea Lopez, Lt. j.g. Lindsey Sinnett and Lt. j.g. Susan Richardson of VP-9 based at Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay met with about 40 children combined from two classrooms. The aviators provided the students with a firsthand explanation of what life is like working aboard a military aircraft and gave students a chance to wear their military gear.



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Dustin W. Sisco
Vice Adm. David J. "Jack" Dorsett, deputy chief of naval operations for information dominance and director of naval intelligence, speaks to and answers questions from Sailors about information dominance warfare at Sharkey Theater at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 29. Information dominance is the ability to seize and control the information domain "high ground" when, where and however required for decisive competitive advantage across the range of Navy missions.

Female naval aviators visit Wheeler Elementary students



Navy Lt. Thea Lopez, Lt. j.g. Lindsey Sinnett and Lt. j.g. Susan Richardson of Patrol Squadron Nine based at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, meet with children from Wheeler Elementary School on April 28.

Story and photo by Don Robbins

Assistant Editor

This year marks 100 years of naval aviation, and in celebration of the anniversary, three female naval aviators visited with a group of fifth graders at Wheeler Elementary School on April 28 to provide the students with a firsthand explanation of what life is like working aboard a military aircraft.

Navy Lt. Thea Lopez, Lt. j.g. Lindsey Sinnett and Lt. j.g. Susan Richardson of Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9), based at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay met with about 40 children combined from two classrooms, where they described their gray P-3 plane with four engines and four propellers. The three aviators said a big part of their job includes working with the aircraft's computers and communications systems.

Children from the school, located at Wheeler Army Airfield, had an opportunity to try on the aviators' gear such as flight helmets, gloves, radios, tiny water bottles and other flight survival gear.

Some of the fifth graders asked if it's scary to fly in a military aircraft. Lopez explained, "Even when you drive a car, there are so many things that can come at you. That's why we practice our safety procedures with the gear that we have.

We practice our procedures so we can feel a lot safer."

Lopez told the students, "The biggest thing we care about is safety when we fly."

She said the plane looks like a big can inside it. Although there are no stewardesses, there is a bathroom, and a kitchen with a microwave and refrigerator so the crew can eat.

The aviators told the students that they enjoy the variety that their profession offers them. "Every day is different, with a different challenge. I really like that a lot," Sinnett said.

The youngsters loved seeing the aviators' uniforms with their colorful patches attached, and the women took off their patches and passed them around for keiki to examine. "We take our patches very seriously," Lopez said.

Richardson explained that their airplane flies very low over the water, about 200 feet, which is why they practice safety.

Sinnett said that the history of women in the military has changed over the past century. She said that during World War II, women could be nurses, but couldn't fly during combat. However, during that time when the men were at war, women were employed building, flying and testing airplanes. "Women had the skill set to be able to fly," she said.

Women weren't allowed in combat situations until 1993, Richardson said.

Brianna Ellis, a fifth-

grade student at Wheeler, said, "If I was one of these aircraft people, it would be hard to use the bathroom, wearing those suits."

However, Ellis said she was impressed by the female naval aviators' presentation. "They're lucky people. Not a lot of women have chances to do that," Ellis said.

Polina Komogortseva fifth grader, said, "The presentation made me want to get into the Navy. It was really inspirational hearing them talking about it. I tried on the helmet and it was actually comfortable. Maybe I might have a career."

Devyn Ortiz, another fifth grader, said "It was pretty cool seeing all the gear they wear."

Fellow student William Owens declared, "I liked today's event, learning about the Navy and what they do."

The students' teacher, Frank Kimitch, said he likes having guest speakers such as the female naval aviators, talking to students regularly. "It's important to bring the world to the classroom so students can get ideas about what they want to do in their future career paths."

The aviators urged the students to do their best in every aspect of their lives, from homework to maintaining a healthy physical lifestyle. They all said that avidly playing sports as youngsters helped them grow into confident adults. "Do your very best and that will always come through," Lopez said.

JBPHH, Navy College Hawaii honor Sailors who earned degrees



Machinist's Mate 1st Class Curtis Popp, assigned to the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, offers remarks as the student speaker during the JBPHH and Navy College Hawaii Military Recognition Ceremony at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel on JBPHH. More than 100 Sailors were honored for receiving their associate, bachelor and master college degrees in the past year.

Story and photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and Navy College Hawaii held a military recognition ceremony April 28 at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel at JBPHH to honor Sailors who received their associate, bachelor and master college degrees in the past year.

More than 100 Sailors receiving their degrees from 13 different colleges were recognized during the ceremony.

Capt. Lawrence Scruggs, chief staff officer of JBPHH, served as the guest speaker and made

the opening remarks.

"You have far exceeded expectation of your country and countrymen. The men and women of the armed services are better for what you've done today, and I thank you for it," Scruggs said. "You all have invested thousands of hours into your education, and you wouldn't be here without pride, trust and sacrifice."

Machinist's Mate 1st Class Curtis Popp, assigned to Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and graduated with honors from Hawaii Pacific University, said he was honored to be recognized during the ceremony.

"It is an outstanding honor to be recognized by the Navy. I feel blessed to have finished my bachelor's degree and for

everyone to recognize my efforts," Popp said. "I attribute this degree to my wife. She is the one who took care of the family while I was occupied with my studies, and none of this would have been possible without her."

Gwyn Nosse, education advisor for Navy College Hawaii, made the closing remarks and congratulated the Sailors on receiving their degrees.

"Despite all the obstacles in your way, you managed to achieve your goals and I want to congratulate each and every one of you," Nosse said. "I also like to recognize all of the mentors, family members and supporters of the graduates here today. No one can achieve their goals without the help of others."

Suicide prevention counselor at Hickam



U.S. Navy photo by David D. Underwood Jr.

Dr. Mary Bartlett, LLC, suicide prevention and risk consultant, speaks with installation leadership on the topic of suicide prevention at Hickam Memorial Theater at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 27.

GOT SPORTS

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Pearl City Elementary School hosts appreciation breakfast for volunteer Sailors on April 26



Students at Pearl City Elementary School give Sailors, assigned to Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH), a high-five on April 26 for all the volunteer work the command did for the school. CNRH is one of several Hawaii-based commands participating in a school partnership program, a community outreach initiative that partners a military command unit with a local public school.

Story and photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Pearl City Elementary School students held an appreciation breakfast April 26 for Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) Sailors who regularly volunteered to help with various school beautification projects.

Since December 2010, when Sailors from CNRH renewed a partnership with Pearl City Elementary, volunteers gave time after working hours and during weekends, to help the school with painting, furniture moving and cement paving around the premises.

"It's really critical that our children understand that the military do more than just defend our country," said Dr. Susan Hirokane, Pearl City Elementary principal. "The community and partnership relationships that we build will hopefully have the kids emulate and believe that the military are symbols of integrity for

the students to carry on for the rest of their lives."

"I just really feel honored," said Master-at-Arms 1st Class Evette McDowald. "It's quite humbling because you already know that they need help and they need things around here, and to be able to take the time on our off-time on the weekends to come and help them, they really appreciate it."

During one weekend, McDowald said she and more than 13 Sailors and family members went through about 12 buckets of red paint, painting the sidewalk curb around the school. She said they look forward to painting more hopscotch patterns and numbered lines on school grounds in the future.

Sera Tyrell, 12, a Pearl City Elementary student, said she is grateful for the Sailors and their community service. As part of the school's glee club, she and her schoolmates performed a couple of songs during the appreciation breakfast.

"They did good community service," said Tyrell. "We performed for them.

What's fun about chorus is we sing good songs, now-kind-of-songs, and we make new friends and do what we enjoy, which is singing."

According to Liz Gocong, Navy Region Hawaii school liaison, 36 percent of the 550 students attending Pearl City Elementary are from military families.

The school partnership program (SPP), created in 1980, is a community outreach initiative that partners a military command with a local public school to enhance the educational experience for all students and to give Sailors an opportunity to give back to the community.

Currently, the Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) allots \$5,000 for each military-impacted school to fund projects. The SPP and JVEF have helped more than 100 public schools receive much-needed supplies and manpower.

For more information on SPP and how to involve your command in the program, contact Gocong at 474-1999, ext. 6228.

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard begins major availability on USS Russell

Story and photo by Katie Vanes

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard began a three-month selected restricted availability (SRA) on USS Russell (DDG 59) on April 13.

"USS Russell's public and private sector availability work package contains extensive repair and modernization work. All entities, including alteration installation teams (AITs), have planned well and are fully prepared to execute," said Carlton Kiyabu, shipyard Arleigh Burke-class team leader. "Our team members recognize the important role they have in contributing with returning USS Russell back to the fleet, allowing her to fulfill her future mission requirements."

The vast majority of the work will be performed by a contractor under the government's private public partnership agreement, but shipyard engineers and journeyworkers will also perform significant maintenance.

The contracted work package includes tank stiffening and ammunition room modernization, decking and bulkhead structural repairs and the slewing arm davit (SLAD) overhaul. The SLAD is a mechanical arm responsible for lowering lifeboats on Russell. Shipyard employees will perform conduit work on cabling and sleeves, exhaust work, gas



Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard shipwrights set up staging for an availability on USS Russell (DDG 59). The three-month project is the last major availability before Russell undergoes the first destroyer modernization period in Pearl Harbor in 2013.

turbine engine maintenance and weight testing.

Due to the large structural work package and certification training of Russell's crew, schedulers extended the availability one month. The major challenge will be scheduling and coordination, according to Gene Nishikawa, shipyard project manager.

"The key points we stress with any availability are

communication, coordination and cooperation," said Nishikawa. "For example, we need to finish the structural work and the SLAD on the exact scheduled date, so it does not affect the flight deck schedule and the rest of the availability."

The shipyard will execute two smaller continuous maintenance availabilities (CMAVs) before Russell's destroyer modernization period in two years.

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Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard wins historic preservation award

Katie Vanes

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY & IMF) won a Historic Hawaii Foundation (HHF) Preservation Honor Award on April 19 for the \$18 million docking project of Battleship Missouri from October 2009 to January 2010.

Capt. Brian Osgood, shipyard commander, was presented with the prestigious award at the 36th annual HHF Preservation Honor Awards at Queens Conference Center in Honolulu.

"Battleship Missouri is recognized through its listing on the National and State Registers of Historic Places as a site of national and local significance," wrote Kiersten Falkner, HHF executive director, in a congratulatory letter.

"The 'Mighty Mo' played a major role as a naval warship during World War II when its teak decks were the site of the Japanese surrender that ended the war in the Pacific. We congratulate you on your outstanding preservation efforts," Falkner said.

PHNSY & IMF, BAE

Systems Hawaii Shipyards, Battleship Missouri Memorial Association and McNeil Wilson Communications all contributed to the significant three-month long preservation effort and were honored at the event with more than 200 in the audience.

"As a historic partner in Hawaii, we are honored to receive this award for the docking of Battleship Missouri," said Osgood. "Mighty Mo' is a national treasure as well as an important piece of military history in Hawaii, and we are grateful that such a celebrated vessel was preserved in Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard."

PHNSY & IMF was responsible for the Battleship Missouri from the moment it left the pier Oct. 14, 2009 at Ford Island on its two-mile journey through the channel until it was safely back in its berth after Missouri's undocking on Jan. 7, 2010. PHNSY & IMF performed all docking operations and environmental oversight for the Battleship Missouri project, while BAE Systems Hawaii Shipyards executed the preservation work, including extensive sandblasting and painting.

The 12-hour docking and 10-hour undocking process of such a large, inactive

ship was extremely challenging. It took PHNSY naval architects, engineers and other workers months of planning to ensure successful positioning of Missouri precisely on each of the four-ton 309 docking blocks. The original plans for the dry-docking were produced during World War II and had to be updated to fit modern technology at PHNSY.

The Preservation Honor Awards are Hawaii's highest recognition of preservation projects that perpetuate, rehabilitate, restore or interpret the state's architectural archaeological and cultural heritage.

Patrol Squadron Nine will hold change of command

Patrol Squadron Nine

Patrol Squadron Nine will host a change of command ceremony May 12 in hangar 104 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

During this time-honored Navy tradition, Cmdr. David G. Whitehead will turn over the reins as commanding officer to Cmdr. Richard W. Prest, who has served the past year as the squadron's executive officer.

Cmdr. Craig T. Mattingly will report as Patrol Squadron Nine's new executive officer.

The guest speaker will be Capt. David Cutter, Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two.

Patrol Squadron Nine recently returned from a split-site deployment to U.S. 5th and U.S. 7th Fleets in late November 2010 and was awarded the 2010 Arnold Jay Isbell trophy for anti-submarine warfare excellence.

Ford Island Bridge closed morning of May 9

The Ford Island Bridge at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam will close from 8:30 to 9:40 a.m. on May 9 for periodic operation and maintenance. All drivers and pedestrians should plan accordingly.

Pacific Air Forces honors Chief Etchberger, Medal of Honor recipient, at Hickam

Continued from A-1

"Since 9-11, countless Airmen have stepped up to carry out dangerous and vitally important missions," he said. "Whether it's disarming [improvised explosive devices] along the roads of Iraq and Afghanistan, driving supply trucks through dangerous territory, acting as part of provincial reconstruction teams, and all the other things Airmen do on the ground and in the air, Airmen today are making contributions that were once unimaginable. As the first combat support Airman to receive the Medal of Honor, Chief Etchberger's story will continue to inspire our entire service for many years to come," North continued.

Chief Master Sgt. Brooke McLean, PACAF command chief, said he is encouraged by the hero's commitment to the core value of service before self.

"Chief Etchberger volunteered for a mission that he knew could put him in harm's way, but that didn't deter him," said McLean. "When he and his fellow Airmen were attacked,

although he had little to no combat training and was armed only with his M-16 and a survival radio to call in airstrikes, Chief Etchberger courageously protected his fellow Airmen and exposed himself to enemy fire multiple times. He remained focused on the mission, he didn't complain ... he served his country, his fellow man and he made the ultimate sacrifice for which we honor him today," McLean explained.

After a rendition of "Lest We Forget" performed by Tech. Sgt. Richard Vasquez and Airman 1st Class Aaron Kusterer, both from the Headquarters PACAF Band, the ceremony concluded with North and McLean laying a wreath at the base of the courtyard's eternal flame monument in memory of Etchberger.

"We are extremely proud of Chief Etchberger's actions in combat," said North. "And we are extremely happy that our nation, after 42 years, has given Chief Etchberger the recognition he deserved and that today he can take his rightful place among Pacific Air Forces' greatest heroes."

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

- May 12 – Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Installation Excellence Award
- May 19 – HURREX
- May 26 – Deterring designer drug abuse
- June – TBD – Dengue prevention

(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 or call Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs at 473-2875. Stories must have a Navy tie and be of interest to the general public.

STORY IDEAS?

Contact the Ho'okele editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements

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