

'Mighty Mo' celebrates 25th anniversary of ship's second commissioning

Story and photo by
MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public
Affairs

The Battleship Missouri Memorial and the USS Missouri (BB-63) Association crew members' organization jointly celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Mighty Mo's second commissioning on May 10 with a ceremony aboard the ship.

The historic Battleship Missouri served extensively during World War II and the Korean War, but after more than 30 years in mothballs the Missouri was modernized and re-commissioned on May 10, 1986 to join President Ronald Reagan's 600-ship fleet.

"Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam is pleased and proud to be the home of USS Missouri," said Capt Richard Kitchens, the commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. "Of the roughly 4.5 million tourists who visit Oahu each year, more than one in 10 of them will make a point to visit this ship, the Mighty Mo. While we are pleased that the Missouri is part of the joint base 'ohana,' we are equally proud that we are



Master Chief Master-at-Arms (SW) Melvin Lewis, assigned to U.S. Pacific Fleet, performs a flag passing ceremony during the 25th anniversary of the second commissioning of USS Missouri (BB 63). The Battleship Missouri Memorial and the USS Missouri Association crew members organization jointly celebrated the anniversary with a ceremony on the fantail of the ship.

part of the history of this truly unique battleship, the very last of her kind," Kitchens said.

The ceremony also featured retired Capt. Kenneth S. Jordan, the former executive officer (XO) of the USS

Missouri (BB-63) during the ship's final years, prior to her second and final decommissioning in 1992.

"As you walk the decks of Mighty Mo, I'm sure you can hear the voices of those who have served before," said

Jordan. "Serving on Missouri was one of the best sea tours I ever had in the Navy. I'm glad and sincerely honored that I had the opportunity. Probably no ship in the Navy best represents what it means to the history of this country's national security and the commitment to global security than Missouri: WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm," Jordan said.

The event acknowledged the 20th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm this year. It was Missouri that fired some of the first shots in Operation Desert Storm in the successful Liberation of Kuwait in early 1991.

During Tuesday's ceremony, veterans of the battleship acknowledged the second generation of the Missouri Sailor, those assigned aboard the ship after the second commissioning and therefore, the last generation of battleship Sailors. The ceremony provided a unique opportunity to recognize a more recent era of veterans who defended freedom in Desert Storm and other operations throughout the 1980s and 1990s. Many of these veterans continue to serve our country today.

Navy christens guided-missile destroyer Michael Murphy, honors Navy SEAL

MC2 Dominique M.
Lasco

BATH, Maine (NNS) -- The Navy christened its newest guided-missile destroyer, Pre-commissioning Unit (PCU) Michael Murphy (DDG 112), during a morning ceremony at General Dynamics Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine on May 7.

The new destroyer honors Medal of Honor recipient Lt. (SEAL) Michael P. Murphy and was christened on what would have been his 35th birthday.

"It is my sincere belief that this ship will build on the momentum gained by our special operations forces in the fight against extremism and sail the seas in a world made more peaceful by sustained American vigilance, power and dignity," said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead. "This ship will carry Michael's legacy and values to Sailors several decades from now and to a new generation of Americans. For that I am proud to wear this uniform."

Maureen Murphy, sponsor of the ship named for her late son, had the honor of breaking a bottle of champagne across the ship's bow, formally christening the ship in accordance with Navy tradition.

"I am so proud and it is truly an honor," said Murphy. "For people to come out and remember Mike and to celebrate this ship, it means a lot and it means that they still remember the sacrifice he made for this country."

On June 28, 2005, Murphy was leading a four-man team tasked with finding a key Taliban leader in the mountainous terrain near Asadabad, Afghanistan, when they came under fire from a much larger enemy force with superior tactical position. Mortally wounded while exposing himself to enemy fire, Murphy knowingly left his position of cover to get a clear signal in order to communicate with his



U.S. Navy photo by MCC Tiffini Jones Vanderwyst

Adm. Eric Olson, commander, U.S. Special Operations Command (left); Dan Murphy, father of Lt. Michael Murphy (SEAL); Lt. Murphy's mother and ship's sponsor Maureen Murphy, and Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead pose for a photo during the christening ceremony for the Arleigh Burke-Class guided-missile destroyer Pre-commissioning Unit (PCS) Michael Murphy (DDG 112).

headquarters. While being shot at repeatedly, Murphy calmly provided his unit's location and requested immediate support for his element. He returned to his cover position to continue the fight until finally succumbing to his wounds.

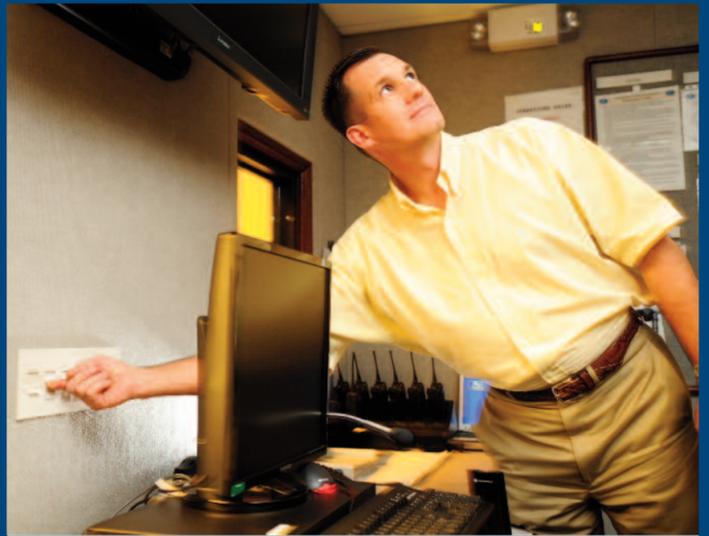
Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command Adm. Eric T. Olson, deputy commander, Naval Special Warfare Command Rear Adm. Garry Bonelli and family members of the Navy SEALs who lost their lives alongside Murphy were also in attendance.

Designated DDG 112, Michael Murphy, the 62nd Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, will be able to conduct a variety of operations, from peacetime presence and crisis management to sea control

and power projection. Michael Murphy will be capable of fighting air, surface and subsurface battles simultaneously and will contain a myriad of offensive and defensive weapons designed to support maritime warfare in keeping with CNO's "A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower."

Cmdr. Thomas E. Shultz, a native of El Cajon, Calif., is the prospective commanding officer of the ship and will lead the crew of 279 officers and enlisted personnel. The 9,200-ton Michael Murphy is being built by General Dynamics Bath Iron Works. The ship is 509 feet in length, has a waterline beam of 59 feet, and a navigational draft of 31 feet. Four gas turbine engines will power the ship to speeds in excess of 30 knots.

Energy conservation



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

Shannon Fisher, the Commander Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) Regional Operations Center regional watchstander, turns off unused lights around the office to conserve energy.

Airmen graduate Air Assault course with Soldiers



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

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Jordan Miller rappels out of a UH-60 Blackhawk in Wahiawa, Hawaii on May 10. He and four other Pacific Air Forces 647th Security Forces Squadron Airmen were chosen to participate with 309 Soldiers in an 11-day Army Air Assault course April 30 to May 11.



National Police Week honors fallen law enforcement officers
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Hickam Airmen soar high as PACAF outstanding aviators
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Springing into fun at Hickam Arts and Crafts Center fair
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USS Oklahoma survivor returns to Pearl Harbor
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Celebration marks ASYMCA support for military families
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National Police Week honors fallen law enforcement officers

Staff Sgt. Carolyn (Viss) Herrick

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

In honor of law enforcement professionals, especially those killed in the line of duty, security department at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) will host National Police Week events beginning May 15.

Flags will be flown at half staff May 15 in accordance with President John F. Kennedy's 1962 designation of that day as National Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

"Even though we're in the military, we are also a security and law enforcement organization," said Lt. Col Michael Gimbrone, the joint base security officer and 647th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) commander. "In that regard, we have a bond with our fellow law enforcement officers. It's very important to take time to honor the men and women of law enforcement."

Every 53 hours, a law

enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty, he said – more than 19,000 total police officers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"This is our opportunity to do our part to recognize our brothers and sisters in arms," Gimbrone said. "In the Department of Defense, military law enforcement personnel have been killed both in combat and war zones as well as in other situations throughout the military community."

Most law enforcement agencies are doing their own events throughout the island, according to Master Sgt. Scott Elmlblad, 647th SFS NCO in charge of integrated base defense. A number of Airmen and Sailors from the security department at JBPHH will take part in a memorial march downtown on May 16, hosted by the Honolulu Police Department. In addition, the joint base security department will host a special retreat ceremony on May 20 at 3:30 p.m. at the Missing Man formation at JBPHH.

"This week is geared

toward memorializing fallen officers," Elmlblad said.

"We are proud of our role throughout the security department and of what we do in law enforcement efforts on behalf of the members of this community," Gimbrone said. "We're proud to be in the 'customer service' role of protecting and serving everyone, whether they work on base, live on base, visit the base ... in helping to make sure they have a safe and secure environment in which to live their lives and accomplish the mission," he explained.

"On a day-to-day basis, the members of this security department are out there 24/7 regardless of the weather or the environment in which they serve," he said. "We're honored to be here to serve the community."

The joint base security department is also scheduled to host a National Police Week Open House on May 21. A full schedule of events will include K-9 demonstrations, weapons displays and a keiki ID table.

Some JBPHH areas are now off limits due to crime incidents

Staff Sgt. Carolyn Viss Herrick

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

Effective immediately, some areas on JBPHH are now off limits during hours of darkness, per the joint base commander, due to recent crime incidents.

Although the installation is largely crime-free, incidents involving juveniles and young adults – including vandalism, vehicles being entered, graffiti, theft, and use of alcohol and drugs such as spice and marijuana – have triggered police investigations and an increase in security in the Ohana Nui Circle area.

"We've been working on this issue for several weeks," said Tech. Sgt. Andre McBride, 647th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) NCOIC of investigations. "It's been an ongoing investigation in our section, trying to track down individuals committing the crimes."

According to Lt. Col. Michael Gimbrone, the 647th SFS commander and joint base security officer, from 30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise, the following locations are off limits: Kamila Park and basketball court park located

inside Ohana Nui Circle, the skate park and water park adjacent to the teen center, when not open for business, and Fort Kamehameha housing area. Anyone found in any of these areas during the hours of darkness will be detained by base police for appropriate follow-up action.

"Appropriate action will be taken against any identified violators of base regulations and Hawaii state laws," Gimbrone said in a base-wide notification letter dated May 1. "In addition to criminal prosecution, depending on the nature of the violation the joint base commander may also take appropriate action in the form of barment from the base or eviction of families from housing," he explained.

"We do have persons of interest we are looking at, and we will continue to look into all leads and conduct a thorough investigation of all the incidents that have occurred on JBPHH," McBride said.

Parents and legal guardians are required to maintain control of their family members at all times. Many incidents can be eliminated by sponsors staying involved in the lives of their family members, knowing where they are at all times, what they

are doing, and who they are doing it with, according to security forces.

"We are doing this as a joint base to hopefully curb the problems we've had recently," said Col. Dann Carlson, 647th Air Base Group commander and JBPHH deputy commander. "There's a huge demand and a huge desire to live on Hickam, and we need to help police each other."

Worst case scenario, families who don't comply with the rules and standards laid out by the housing office could be evicted from base housing, Carlson said.

"We have the privilege of living within a gated residence. The fact that this is taking place inside our gates gives us jurisdiction," he added.

Eviction would be a last resort, but it is within the realm of possible consequences, he said.

"By working together, we can make a difference in reducing or even eliminating inappropriate behavior on our base," Gimbrone said.

Anyone who observes a violation of regulations or laws should call the regional dispatch center at 474-2222, 471-1550 or 471-1551. In the event of an emergency, call 9-1-1 or 449-COPS (2677).

May 21 National Police Week Open House (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) at Hickam BXtra

- K-9 demonstration (11 a.m. and 1 p.m.).
- Defensive tactics training demonstration (11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.).
- DARE table during entire event.
- Weapons display during entire event.
- Mobility gear display during entire event.
- Bellows Security Forces table/gear.
- McGruff walking around during entire event.
- OSI/NCIS table.
- Vehicle display (MRAP, up-armored Hummer, LE sedan) – BX parking lot.
- Keiki ID table (One HPD volunteer to assist Officer Atabay).

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Airman makes sense of dollars, coaches Oreos



**AIRMAN 1ST CLASS
ANDREW RHOADES**

Story and photo by
Chris Aguinaldo

Contributing Writer

Forget the notion that contracting is only about sitting at a desk, shuffling papers and typing out email. Because that's not the case for Airman 1st Class Andrew Rhoades, contract specialist, 647th Contracting Squadron (647 CONS), our Warrior of the Week.

The Brimfield, Ohio native recently hit the road for a site visit at the 15th Medical Group, exercising his interview skills (with an O-6, no less) and documenting a work area by taking photos.

"He is always willing to go the extra mile to ensure that every customer's needs are met, on time and on budget," said Master Sgt. Noel E. Ramirez, acting superintendent, 647 CONS, of Rhoades.

Rhoades is among the many junior Hickam Airmen successfully taking on the demanding, important job of contracting, Ramirez said. Last fiscal year, the squadron – responsible for all commodity and service requirements for the 15th Wing (15 WG), 15th Medical Group (15 MDG), 15th Maintenance Group (15 MXG), 15th Operations Group (15 OG) and tenant units – oversaw \$40.2 million worth of contract expenditures.

"As a contract specialist, my duties and responsibilities include cre-

ating and administrating contracts for commodities and services needed to support the mission," Rhoades explained. "This includes purchasing anything from something as small as a couple thousand dollars worth of books to a couple hundred thousand dollars worth of items needed by tactical air control parties, all the way up to a couple million dollars worth of services for doctors and physicians."

Ramirez and the squadron depend on Airmen like Rhoades to accurately take care of these contracts, especially when every dollar counts and the federal budget is scrutinized. Ramirez is grateful for Rhoades' dedication and willingness to improve himself through education and training.

"He consistently strives to be the best at all he does," Ramirez said. He expects great things from this young Airman, especially as Rhoades gears up for a deployment within the next six months and his skills will be put to the test.

"When deployed, my duties will include purchasing anything from life support items to runways and buildings at a forward-operating base. I will be required to go out among the locals of the area and purchase these items by utilizing competition among local vendors as much as possible," Rhoades said. "One of the more interesting and fun aspects of my duties is that I directly impact and affect the economy not only here in the United States, but also wherever I deploy."

But Rhoades isn't only committed to his job.

"If I ever need to get a hold of him, I know he will be in one of two places, the gym or at work," Ramirez said.

"Personally, I'm big on fitness. That's my outlet," said Rhoades, who enjoys power lifting and football. "I encourage everyone to do the same."

By keeping in shape, you're not only ready physically but also mentally, he shared. "It lets you blow off steam."

In fact, he'd like to see the Air Force improve its physical training requirements, he said.

"Due to the recent necessary cut-backs, the one thing that I would change is the PT. I would increase the minimum standards and make healthy living more of a necessity, further bettering the greatest Air Force the world has ever known," he explained.

He is even helping a dozen young athletes have an appreciation for fitness by coaching the Double Stuffed Oreos pee wee volleyball team.

"I'm very proud of them. They show remarkable sportsmanship," he said of his team, made up of 11-12 year olds.

He remembers seeing one girl having trouble hitting the ball over the net. But through hard work and perseverance, she recently got one over the net during practice.

"She went, 'Coach Rhoades! Coach Rhoades! I hit the ball over the net!'" he said, proudly. "The kids are awesome and full of energy."

Apparently, his supervisors feel the same way for the Warrior of the Week.

"Airman 1st Class Rhoades truly represents the values of the Air Force," Ramirez said. "He is a great asset to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and to the U.S. Air Force."

Fleet master chief thanks Sailors for disaster relief efforts

Fleet Master Chief John Minyard

U.S. Pacific Fleet

Aloha, shipmates, and welcome back to another edition of Fleet's Quarters!

If it seems like a long time since we've had a chance to chat, that's because it has been. I apologize for that, but April was a pretty busy month for us here in the Pacific, and I decided to forego last month's newsletter in order to focus on the important tasks at hand.

I don't mean to imply that our discussions here in Fleet's Quarters aren't important, quite the opposite, but sometimes events happen that demand our

immediate and full attention. In this case, I'm referring to the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) efforts we undertook in support of our friends and allies in Japan following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

I have been proud to call myself a Sailor for many years now, but perhaps never more so than during the months of March and April when I witnessed the monumental effort you put forth to help the Japanese people in their time of need.

Many of you were directly involved in the recovery and assistance operations, and I'm sure the rest of you know at least some of the details of what these Shipmates accomplished, but let me

summarize it for you.

During Operation Tomodachi, U.S. forces delivered HADR aid from March 13 through April 7 to survivors of the tsunami and earthquake in support of Japan Self Defense Force efforts. A total of 22 ships, 140 aircraft and nearly 20,000 personnel participated in Operation Tomodachi.

U.S. 7th Fleet forces delivered more than 260 tons of relief supplies and flew more than 160 aerial reconnaissance and search sorties. This was one of the largest humanitarian assistance efforts ever undertaken by the U.S. and you all performed superbly.

Although this was a tragic and terrible event, it gave us

an opportunity to review and improve our processes for contingency situations and will help us be better prepared for future events. It also provided a powerful reminder as to why sustained combat readiness is critical to mission accomplishment, regardless of what that mission is.

In this case, the location and readiness of our forward-deployed forces allowed them to respond quickly and effectively when the call for assistance was received.

It is this "warrior mentality" that has enabled us to become the professional service that we are today - an ethos that demands the strongest level of commitment, the strictest level of

discipline and the highest ideals. Our Navy motto declares us to be a global force for good and you certainly proved that in this case. Job well done, shipmates.

Speaking of commitment and high ideals, I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to congratulate the outstanding petty officers who were here last month to compete in the FY- 2010 Pacific Fleet Sailor of the Year competition. We interviewed nine outstanding candidates this year and I must tell you the caliber and motivation of these Sailors is truly inspirational.

Our Navy has a bright future ahead with shipmates like this and I want to thank

all of you for contributing to their success.

What do I mean by that? I mean these candidates didn't get here all on their own; they had the benefit of some excellent mentorship from our senior enlisted community, the support of their family and friends, and the opportunity to lead the finest Sailors in the fleet.

Please join me in congratulating our Sea Sailor of the Year, HM1 Andrew Jenkins, and our Shore Sailor of the Year, OS1 Kristi Pashkevich. Outstanding job, best wishes to both of you!

Thanks for your time shipmates and thanks for all you do.

Very respectfully,
Fleet Minyard

Diverse Views



Do you have any superstitions about Friday the 13th? What are they?



Air Force Lt. Col. Chris Dun
Commanding officer, Medical Support Squadron (MDSS), 15th Medical Group

"Wow! I'm not very superstitious. If I had any superstitions, they would stem from the movie Friday the 13th, hoping nothing like that would ever happen."

Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SS) Brian Domer
Leading CS, USS Chicago (SSN 721)



"Superstitions? Bad weather, Fridays and traffic. I lived in Washington, D.C and every Friday with bad weather was like a Friday the 13th."



Chief Master Sgt. Valerie Flowers
Superintendent, AFRC/Det 10

"Friday the 13th is just another day that God created for us to enjoy and give praise."

Capt. Larin Wong
109th AOG, Hawaii ANG



"Friday the 13 is just another day unless it's a pay day. Do we get paid this Friday?"



AIC Shawntay Martin
747th CS

"No superstitions, it's only in your head."

(Provided by MCI Katherine Brooks 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

Mechanics keep aircraft in tip-top shape



Photo courtesy of the Air Force Historical Research Agency
Weapons mechanics perform maintenance on .50 caliber "wing pod" machine gun packages, while other flight line personnel work on various work orders related to the repair of this A-26 aircraft shown in the photo.

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Hickam Airmen soar high as Pacific Air Forces outstanding aviators

Story and photo by
Chris Aguinaldo

Contributing Writer

Two enlisted Airmen from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam were recently recognized as outstanding Pacific Air Forces aviators. Staff Sgt. Robert Wyman and Senior Airman Anthony Tritt of the 535th Airlift Squadron (AS) both won PACAF's Outstanding Career Enlisted Aviator of the Year award, in the NCO and Airman categories, respectively.

"Staff Sgt. Wyman and Senior Airman Tritt are two of our most gifted loadmasters and true assets to the 535th Airlift Squadron," said Senior Master Sgt. Charles Baker, 535th AS superintendent. "They are both experts at their crafts in the C-17A aircraft and are fantastic at their additional squadron duties."

Wyman, of Grand Ledge, Mich., said after the Sept. 11 attacks, he was compelled to "serve my country."

He enlisted in 2002. The NCOIC of training enjoys how the Air Force "lets me travel the world" and make a difference. He has participated in air drops in Afghanistan, replenishing food and ammunition to troops downrange.

"Last Thanksgiving, I got to drop turkeys and fryers to service members at a [forward operating base]," he remembered proudly. "I got to give them a taste of home." "It's a great honor to be selected for this award and I appreciate the people who helped get me here," Wyman said.

Among those he thanks are his fiancée, along with Senior Master Sgt. Terry Topouzoglou, Master Sgt. Tim Ledford and Lt. Col. Andrew Leshikar for their support.



Staff Sgt. Robert Wyman and Senior Airman Anthony Tritt of the 535th Airlift Squadron both won Pacific Air Forces' Outstanding Career Enlisted Aviator of the Year award, in the NCO and Airman categories, respectively.

Tritt, unit deployment manager, also expressed gratitude for the outstanding leadership at the 535th AS, with a special thanks to his supervisor Sgt. Derek Adams for setting a positive example.

Tritt, from Fort Walton Beach, Fla., appreciates how the squadron stresses "mentorship and emphasis of family."

He is following in his family's footsteps. Tritt enlisted in 2008, continuing the legacy of his father, a retired Air Force chief, and grandfather, who was in the Army Air Corps.

"The best part of the job is helping other people. We aid people around the world," Tritt said.

He has also been part of significant operations.

"We took the first [MIA2] Abrams tanks to Afghanistan this year," he said.

Tritt is also working on a master's degree in information technology management, taking advantage of the educational opportunities offered by the Air Force.

"We are truly happy to have these two superb Airmen in our squadron and are proud of their achievement winning the 'Red

Erwin' Award at the PACAF level and wish them the best at the Air Force level," Baker said.

The two 535th AS Airmen will go on to compete for the Air Force level Henry E. Erwin Outstanding Enlisted Aircrew Member of the Year Award.

In 1997, the Air Force created the award. It is presented annually to an Airman, noncommissioned officer and senior noncommissioned officer in the active-duty or reserve forces. It goes to members of the flight engineering, loadmaster, air surveillance and related career fields and was named in honor of Master Sgt. Erwin, Medal of Honor recipient, who saved the lives of his comrades during an attack on Koriyama, Japan on April 12, 1945. He was the radio operator of a B-29 Superfortress.

NAVFAC Hawaii receives four prestigious historic preservation awards from HHF

Thomas Obungen

Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Historic Hawaii Foundation (HHF) presented Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii with four prestigious 2011 Preservation Honor Awards at an April 19 ceremony.

"These awards recognize the exceptional efforts executed by the NAVFAC Hawaii Historic Preservation Team during 2010 and marks the first time the command has been honored by the Historic Hawaii Foundation," said Capt. John Coronado, commanding officer NAVFAC Hawaii. "We are very excited and proud to receive this incredible acknowledgement from an organization that encourages the preservation, restoration and interpretation of Hawaii's heritage through architecture and archaeology."

NAVFAC Hawaii was recognized in two award categories: (1) Preservation commendation – honors an individual, organization or government entity that engages, advocates, and supports historic preservation, and (2) Preservation award – highlights specific projects that have preserved or restored a historic building, object, site or district.

In the preservation commendation category, the command was honored for creating its historic preservation team, EV5, comprised of historical architects, and their preservation stewardship



Photo by Carol Ogata

efforts while planning improvements to various structures at Pearl Harbor during 2010 which will meet Navy mission requirements.

Over the past year, this team has become the single Navy reference point for historic preservation for Navy Region Hawaii which includes Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, an active military base and National Historic Landmark on Oahu with approximately 1,500 historic resources, as well as Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai.

"The Navy's actions to create a single point of contact for preservation at Pearl Harbor composed of a team of historic-minded architects was large enough to be noticed by all historic partners," said Cmdr. Eileen D'Andrea, former NAVFAC Hawaii historic preservation officer.

Three preservation awards were presented to NAVFAC Hawaii for innovative and conceptual restoration projects that took place on Hickam Air Force Base (AFB) before it was combined with

Naval Station Pearl Harbor into Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in October 2010.

The awarded projects include the rehabilitation of the Crow's Nest built in 1938 which served as a control tower cab for Hickam Field, the Hickam Community Center, a non-commissioned officers' mess built in 1941, and Hickam select historic homes built between 1937-1941.

Coronado accepted all four awards on behalf of the command. "It's a great honor for the Historic Hawaii Foundation to have acknowledged the great strides in preservation the Navy has taken in establishing the EV5 team, and for recognizing our successful stewardship efforts," said Ellyn Goldkind, current NAVFAC Hawaii historic preservation officer. "We are fortunate to receive support from all of our historic preservation partners, since the guidance they provide helps us balance the Navy mission while being good stewards of our historic and cultural resources now and into the future."

Emergency preparedness open houses

Emergency preparedness open house sessions will be held at the following times/locations:

May 18 - 6-7 p.m., Wahiawa Annex

May 19 - 6-7 p.m., Pearl City Peninsula Community Center

May 25-30 – Operation Prepare displays at Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange

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 David D. Underwood Jr.
 Technical Sgt. Shanandoah Derrico, 15th Medical Operations Squadron lab technician, shows Aleigha Criego, a 10th grade student from Radford High School, how to administer an IV during the students' visit to the medical facility at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on 29 April 29.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Katherine Brooks
 Donald Thomas, a USS Oklahoma (BB-37) and Pearl Harbor survivor, visited the Arizona Memorial on April 30. He pointed out areas on the Arizona during his first visit to Hawaii since the Dec. 7, 1941 attack. (See story and photo on A-6.)



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mark Logico
 Retired Vice Adm. Robert K. U. Kihune, the chairman of USS Missouri Memorial Association Inc. (right), speaks to the former crew members of USS Missouri (BB 63) at the 25th anniversary of the second commissioning of the battleship. The Battleship Missouri Memorial and the USS Missouri Association crew members organization jointly celebrated the anniversary with a ceremony on the fantail of the ship.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Dominique M. Lasco
 Guests await the christening ceremony for the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer Pre-commissioning Unit (PCU) Michael Murphy (DDG 112) at General Dynamics Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine. Michael Murphy was christened by Maureen Murphy, mother of the ship's namesake, Navy (SEAL) Lt. Michael Murphy. Murphy was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during Operation Red Wings in Afghanistan in June 2005. He was the first Sailor awarded the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War. (See story and photo on A-1)



U.S. Navy photo by MCS Seaman Sean Furey
 George Beden, World War II Navy veteran stands aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial. Beden is visiting Pearl Harbor with students from the College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Mo.

U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Lauren Main
 (Below) Staff Sgt. Philip Valenta, loadmaster with the 535th Airlift Squadron, sits in the dropped ramp of a C-17 while flying over the north shore of Oahu on May 6. The flight contained more than 40 Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets who were able to witness the scenic aerial views of Hawaii as well as an in-flight refueling over the Pacific.



USS Oklahoma survivor returns to Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by
MC1 Katherine Brooks

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West

Boatswain's Mate Donald Thomas, a USS Oklahoma (BB-37) and Pearl Harbor survivor, returned to Pearl Harbor for the first time since the historic event in 1941, visiting the USS Missouri (BB-63) and the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor on April 30.

Donald's visit developed over a period of years and was encouraged by friends, family and most of all his mother, who had visited Pearl Harbor when she was in her 90s to see where her son witnessed the historical event first-hand.

"She [mother] told me her visit was very moving. And since so many people thought it was a good idea for me to visit, then I thought I would," said Donald.

Supporting Donald during his visit to Hawaii was his son and daughter-in-law, Don and Denise Thomas, of Shelby Township, Mich. Often standing in the background, Don watched as his father toured the Missouri and recalled his experiences from the Oklahoma, and shared in the moments from his father's past.

"He never talked about it [the Pearl Harbor attack] when I was young. He would talk about being in the Navy, but he has been talking about it lately, now that the boys [Donald's grandsons] are in the mili-



Donald Thomas, USS Oklahoma (BB-37) and Pearl Harbor survivor, talks with Oklahoma model maker Nolan Laramore about his experiences aboard the ship during a visit to the USS Missouri (BB-37) on April 30.

tary," said Don.

"I am extremely proud. He is quite a reserved individual. He is pretty modest. This is a special thing for him," he said.

While aboard the Missouri, the senior Thomas was questioned about his recollection of the ship, daily Navy life and the attack on Pearl Harbor. When touring the shadow box exhibits aboard the Missouri, Donald was asked about an old photograph he had and began to talk about the few souvenirs he has collected from his enlistment in the Navy and from Pearl Harbor.

Many of Donald's personal

effects aboard the Oklahoma were destroyed or disposed of when the Oklahoma was dismantled and repurposed for the war effort. But he said he was most upset about losing his personal items he left at home after he joined the Navy.

"I lost a lot of stuff. I was reported missing for a while and my mother threw out some of my stuff. I guess she was upset," said Donald.

Although he had reported to the authorities he was alive and well, his family didn't know that their son was safe until a neighbor from his hometown, who was stationed in Hawaii,

told Donald's family that he had seen their son.

As much as Donald's visit was to remember the past, it was also a learning experience for the staff of the Missouri and especially one young man, Nolan Laramore.

Laramore, a teenager whose mom is the assistant military liaison aboard the Missouri, had, with the help of his little brother, completed a model of the Oklahoma.

"I like making models and the kit was donated and they didn't know how to put it together, so my mom asked me to do it," said Laramore.

Donald complimented the Laramore brothers on their hard work and shared a few moments pointing out areas of interest on the ship.

After departing the Missouri, Donald and his family visited the USS Oklahoma Memorial dedicated to 429 fallen Sailors. He remembered the names of two shipmates who were on board the Oklahoma with him on the morning of Dec. 7, Richard Thompson and Billy Turner. Thomas scanned the isles of memorial markers looking for their names.

"Here it is, I went to train-

ing with this guy," he said, pointing to Thompson's name etched into the stone. "I saw a few things I can't forget and saw a few things that happen in war," said Donald.

The visit continued at the Arizona Memorial where Thomas watched a historical video about the events in 1941, then boarded the ferry to the memorial. Visitors to the memorial greeted the Pearl Harbor survivor with handshakes and words of thanks for his service.

"It has been a lifelong dream to visit Hawaii and the memorial, and I wouldn't have imagined to be here with a survivor. It is absolutely amazing, a sense of pride that rises up again. I haven't felt like this since 9-11," said Pastor Gregory Rigger after meeting Donald.

At moments, it seemed like Donald was overwhelmed by the greeting and still not understanding what the fuss was all about.

"Nothing I did is worth mentioning. The guys I was with, they were the real heroes. I just know what it takes," said Donald.

He looks back fondly of his time in the Navy. "It was a great thing for me. I love the sea. That is something for a farm boy from Kansas."

At the end of the day, Thomas was ready to continue on his trip, cruising the Hawaiian Islands with his family. Reflecting on the frailty of life, he offered these words, "Things can change in a moment."

After hours short-term visitor pass procedures announced

Effective May 16, the Nimitz Pass and ID office located adjacent to the Nimitz Main Gate will no longer issue short term one- to three-day visitor passes after customer service hours.

The customer service hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. If you require a visitor's pass after office hours, stop by the O'Malley Visitor Control Center (VCC) located in building 192 adjacent to the O'Malley

Gate of Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam.

The VCC is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and can provide a short-term pass based on your needs.

If you require a long-term pass, you will still be required to go to the Pass and ID office during normal customer service hours.

For more information, call the VCC at 448-2231 or the Nimitz Pass and ID office at 474-9140.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

May 19 – HURREX

May 26 – Detering designer drug abuse

(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.