



Into the wild blue yonder

(Above) U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Orlando Villegas, a staff officer from the Special Operations Command, Pacific, jumps out of a 535th Airlift Squadron C-17 over Hawaii skies Aug. 11. Villegas, 32 other Soldiers and a Marine from Camp Smith, Hawaii performed static and HALO (high altitude-low opening) jumps to maintain proficiency and currency during an orientation flight for Capt. Jeffrey James, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

(Right) Soldiers from the Special Operations Command, Pacific prepare for static jumps out of a 535th Airlift Squadron C-17 from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on Aug. 11. SOCPAC is headquartered at Camp Smith, Hawaii.

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



John C. Stennis hosts Hawaii and California business leaders, educators

MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs

The aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) hosted 48 Hawaii and California business leaders and educators for distinguished visitor (DV) overnight tours aboard the ship Aug. 9-12.

The U.S. Pacific Fleet-sponsored events allowed the DVs to observe a variety of ship operations and a day in the life of Navy Sailors.

The John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group (JCSCSG) and embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 9 were en route to the western Pacific and U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility for a scheduled seven-month deployment.

The guests were flown to and from the ship as it transited near Hawaii.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Walter M. Wayman

Naval Aircrewman 1st Class Andrew Reischauer waits to board an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter between flight cycles aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74).

Many of the DVs expressed their appreciation to the crew

of the Stennis.

"I was completely impressed by the young men and women who serve on board the Stennis," said David Striph, senior vice

president of the Howard Hughes Corporation. "They are nothing short of amazing, and the sacrifice they make for our country is huge."

"These Sailors stand the watch. I am able to sleep soundly at night knowing that our Sailors are standing the watch," said Neil Yamamoto, encampment coordinator and educational programs assistant for the Battleship Missouri Memorial. "I am extremely proud of what they are doing and keeping this country and the entire world safe."

David Sykes, chief executive officer of Syko Properties Investment LLC., spoke about his experience while aboard the ship.

"My visit was the first time on any active Navy vessel, and I must say that I was completely and utterly impressed with the

entire operation," Sykes said. "The training, the precision, the passion, the experience, the positive youth factor, the equipment and command structure were all so great. My highest form of respect of our committed Sailors is forever embedded into my memory."

During deployment, JCSCSG will support combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq while maintaining regional stability and projecting U.S. power and influence.

JCSCSG is comprised of USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), CVW-9 and the ships of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 21; guided-missile destroyers USS Kidd (DDG 100), USS Dewey (DDG 105), USS Wayne E. Meyer (DDG 108) and USS Pinckney (DDG 91); and the guided-missile cruiser USS Mobile Bay (CG 53).

New York City firefighters visit Pearl Harbor

For the Stephen Siller 5K run

Story and photo by
MC2 (SW) Daniel Barker

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element, Hawaii
Detachment

Two firefighters who assisted in recovery efforts at the World Trade Center in New York City during 9/11 visited the USS Arizona Memorial at the World War II Valor of the Pacific National Monument and met with Pearl Harbor survivors Aug. 12.

Battalion Chief John LaBarbera and retired Battalion Chief John

Carroll were in Hawaii to promote a race that will be held at Pearl Harbor on Sept. 11. The 5K race will be in honor of a fellow firefighter and in memory of the 343 firefighters who lost their lives during rescue efforts at the World Trade Center 10 years ago.

Both LaBarbera and Carroll spoke about the similarities they felt with reactions to the attacks on Pearl Harbor in 1941 and following Sept. 11, 2001.

"There are so many similarities between New York and Hawaii," LaBarbera said. "My impressions and my feelings as I approached the Arizona (Memorial) were basically the same as when I approached the World Trade Center site," he said.

For John Carroll, it was the responses to the attacks that were the most memorable.

"In the total chaos and destruction, everybody pulled together," Carroll said. "Lend hands and do whatever they could, the whole country pulled together. That's what I remember."

The Stephen Siller run is named after a firefighter who traveled on foot with nearly 60 pounds of equipment from Brooklyn, through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, to the World Trade Center, only to lose his life when the towers fell.

The run takes place every year in New York City and other cities across

the country. For the first time this year, it will also take place at Pearl Harbor with proceeds raised to benefit firefighters and military in Hawaii.

The Stephen Siller run is scheduled to begin at 7 a.m. Sept. 11.

Race participants must register online. The link to register is: <http://bit.ly/qU9b2L>.

For more information, visit www.tunneltotowersrun.org.

Battalion Chiefs John LaBarbera and John Carroll, New York City firefighters who participated in recovery efforts at the World Trade Center on 9/11, prepare to drop flower petals from leis at the USS Arizona Memorial.



Tribute to the fallen
See page A-2



Local companies seek spot on commissary shelves
See page A-3



Hawaii joint base trains for emergency preparedness
See page A-4



Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command escort mission brings perspective
See page A-7



Chris Cagle in concert It's good to be here at Pearl Harbor
See page B-1



Airmen, Sailors and families 'jam' at free breakfast at JBPHH
See page B-2



Tribute to THE FALLEN

Kraig M. Vickers
Kokomo, Hawaii

President Barack Obama and military leaders paid their respects Aug. 9 at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware during the dignified transfer of remains of service members killed in an Aug. 6 helicopter crash in Afghanistan.

(Editor's note: Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Senior Chief Petty Officer (Expeditionary Warfare Specialist/Freefall Parachutist) Kraig M. Vickers, 36, of Kokomo, Hawaii was one of those killed.)

The Department of Defense announced the names of the 30 service members who died Aug. 6 in Wardak province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when their CH-47 Chinook helicopter crashed. They were supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

The following Sailors assigned to an east coast-based Naval Special Warfare unit were killed: Lt. Cmdr. (SEAL) Jonas B. Kelsall, 32, of Shreveport, La., Special Warfare Operator Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Louis J. Langlais, 44, of Santa Barbara, Calif., Special Warfare Operator Senior Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Thomas A. Ratzlaff, 34, of Green Forest, Ark., Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Senior Chief Petty

Officer (expeditionary warfare specialist/freefall parachutist) Kraig M. Vickers 36, of Kokomo, Hawaii, Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Brian R. Bill, 31, of Stamford, Conn., Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) John W. Faas, 31, of Minneapolis, Minn., Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Kevin A. Houston, 35, of West Hyannisport, Mass., Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Matthew D. Mason, 37, of Kansas City, Mo., Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Stephen M. Mills, 35, of Fort Worth, Texas, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Chief Petty Officer (expeditionary warfare specialist/freefall parachutist/diver) Nicholas H. Null, 30, of Washington, W.Va., Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Robert J.

Reeves, 32, of Shreveport, La., Special Warfare Operator Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Heath M. Robinson, 34, of Detroit, Mich., Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class (SEAL) Darrik C. Benson, 28, of Angwin, Calif. Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class (SEAL/parachutist) Christopher G. Campbell, 36, of Jacksonville, N.C., Information Systems Technician Petty Officer 1st Class (expeditionary warfare specialist/freefall parachutist) Jared W. Day, 28, of Taylorsville, Utah, Master-at-Arms Petty Officer 1st Class (expeditionary warfare specialist) John Douangdara, 26, of South Sioux City, Neb., Cryptologist Technician (Collection) Petty Officer 1st Class (expeditionary warfare specialist) Michael J. Strange, 25, of Philadelphia, Pa., Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class (SEAL/enlisted surface warfare specialist) Jon T. Tumilson, 35, of Rockford, Iowa,

Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class (SEAL) Aaron C. Vaughn, 30, of Stuart, Fla., Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class (SEAL) Jason R. Workman, 32, of Blanding, Utah.

The following Sailors assigned to a west coast-based Naval Special Warfare unit were killed:

Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 1st Class (SEAL) Jesse D. Pittman, 27, of Ukiah, Calif., Special Warfare Operator Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Nicholas P. Spehar, 24, of Saint Paul, Minn.

The Airmen killed were: Tech. Sgt. John W. Brown, 33, of Tallahassee, Fla.; Staff Sgt. Andrew W. Harvell, 26, of Long Beach, Calif.; Tech. Sgt. Daniel L. Zerbe, 28, of York, Pa.

All three airmen were assigned to the 24th Special Tactics Squadron, Pope Field, N.C.

The Soldiers killed were: Chief Warrant Officer David R. Carter, 47, of Centennial,

Colo. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion), Aurora, Colo.;

Chief Warrant Officer Bryan J. Nichols, 31, of Hays, Kan. He was assigned to the 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion), New Century, Kan.;

Staff Sgt. Patrick D. Hamburger, 30, of Lincoln, Neb. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion), Grand Island, Neb.;

Sgt. Alexander J. Bennett, 24, of Tacoma, Wash. He was assigned to the 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion), New Century, Kan.; and

Sp. Spencer C. Duncan, 21, of Olathe, Kan. He was assigned to the 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment (General Support Aviation Battalion), New Century, Kan.

SECNAV, CNO extend condolences to service members, families

Special from the Office of the Secretary of the Navy

WASHINGTON (NNS) - The secretary of the Navy and chief of naval operations extended condolences to families, friends and fellow service members of the American and Afghan forces lost in an

International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) helicopter crash in eastern Afghanistan.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus said:

"I am incredibly saddened by the tragic loss of these brave American and Afghan service members who died demonstrating the exceptional courage

and dedication that defined their lives. My thoughts and prayers are with their families, teammates and loved ones who survive through their ultimate sacrifice.

"While we join in mourning, we must also join in remembering these warriors were exactly where their country needed them

most. Each of these heroes voluntarily risked, and ultimately gave their lives. As a Navy and a nation, we best honor their service and sacrifice by remembering them and supporting their many brothers and sisters in arms who continue the important mission of taking the fight to the enemy in defense of our

nation and its ideals."

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead said:

"The tragic helicopter crash in Afghanistan that claimed the lives of our U.S. Navy Sailors along with other U.S. and Afghan forces in Afghanistan is a grave loss to our Navy and our

nation. These men performed countless acts of extreme bravery, heroic service and selfless sacrifice that will remain unknown to most of their fellow citizens. On behalf of all Navy Sailors, I extend my deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of our lost shipmates and their comrades-in-arms."

DIVORCE? DUI?
Save your career and benefits!
Specializing in DUI & Divorce for Military
Civilians Welcome!

FREE Consultation
On Base Weekly
www.elmsattorney.com

Call 808-348-9383

Local companies seek spot on commissary shelves

Story and photo by Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

While it was hard work, none of the buyers representing the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) raised a fuss about the task of sampling some of Hawaii's latest delectable treats at the 14th Annual American Logistics Association Hawaii Food Show, which was held at the Hawaii Prince Hotel in Waikiki on Aug. 17.

This year, 81 local companies presented their products at the show with hopes of gaining access into the extensive military market within the four DeCA commissaries on Oahu.

Local businesses accounted for \$40 million in sales among the commissaries on Hickam, Pearl Harbor, Schofield Barracks and Marine Corps Base-Hawaii in 2010.

In highlighting the importance of the event, Keith Hagenbuch, who is the senior executive service director of DeCA West Region, said that acceptance into the local commissaries may take a business to the next level and beyond.

"We have all the (Hawaii) store directors here and I have my zone managers from Korea and Japan, and the



Joseph Welch and his brother Joshua, of OnoPops, talk about their products with Congresswoman Mazie Hirono at the 14th Annual American Logistics Association Hawaii Food Show, which was held at the Hawaii Prince Hotel in Waikiki on Aug. 17. OnoPops are frozen island-style treats that include flavors such as pickle green mango and pineapple li hing mui.

gentleman from Korea also handles Guam," Hagenbuch said. "So for the Pacific area, they are also here to look at products that may interest those markets."

In looking over the diversity of the 81 vendors, Hagenbuch said that he was impressed at the variety of products in attendance at the show and complimented the participants on their desire to succeed.

"It's amazing," he stated.

"Whether they have the economic background to make it work or not, they have that dream and I have a lot of respect for that."

Reno Henriques and his partner Jonah Souza, owners of FC Sauces, were among those at the show armed with a dream.

The local entrepreneurs, who already own and operate two local-style restaurants, came to the food show in hopes of persuading DeCA

buyers to place their eight different dipping sauces and salad dressings onto the commissary shelves.

"Family and friends said that this would be a good show to get into," Henriques said. "And of course, if you want to make it big, you got to go to the best places. It would be a dream come true. If we can go worldwide, that's awesome."

While food was definitely the star of the show, this

year's lineup of items included a selection of eco-friendly products, such as a lightweight, re-useable sack to carry groceries and other knickknacks that is being marketed by Fanny Yeung through her company Bags & Wraps etc., Inc.

Even though it wasn't one of the savory snacks being promoted, Celine Ruiz, Hickam Commissary store director, said that the bag is just one of those items that may find a niche.

Previously, Yeung, who has been a seller at the commissary for the past five years, introduced a similar bag that was made completely from recycled plastic bottles.

"I know that energy conservation is on everybody's mind," said Ruiz, who is also an advocate for stocking healthy products at the Hickam Commissary. "I'm looking for, because we're on an island, things like the ecobag to save the environment by avoiding plastic."

Meanwhile, like Ruiz, Eyvinne Umamoto, Pearl Harbor store director, said that he is always on the lookout for something new.

The good thing about the food show, said Umamoto, is that no matter how many shows he has attended, there never seems to be a shortage of fresh and origi-

nal products.

"There are so much items. Every year, there is always something different," he pointed out. "We're always looking to change things up. People in the military, they come and go. They travel all this way from around the world, so folks that come here and get stationed in Hawaii, they're looking for some flavor of the islands."

One admitted big fan of both Hickam and Pearl Harbor commissaries is Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Command Master Chief (SSAW) Gregg Weber, who attended the food show as a guest of Umamoto.

Weber said the flavors at the show were outstanding and called the selection of foods, "one great product after another."

He acknowledged that the food show is a great way to satisfy the military's craving for new local products and praised both commissaries for their support.

"We have such a diversified military force and it's outstanding that the commissaries, both Pearl and Hickam, are able to accommodate everyone's needs," Weber said. "It's imperative (for morale) that the commissaries are able to provide those needs of our service men and women and their families."

Pearl Harbor Air Missile Defense Syndicate visits PMRF

Ensign Kelly Waller

USS Lake Erie (CG 70)
Public Affairs

Twenty-six Pearl Harbor warfighters recently traveled to the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) on Kauai to learn about the Navy's ballistic missile defense (BMD) test process.

The Pearl Harbor Air Missile Defense (AMD) Syndicate coordinated the trip in order to enable tacticians from eight commands on the waterfront to appreciate the unique support services that PMRF provides during the many live fire test events frequently executed by Hawaii-based warships.

During their time at Barking Sands, participants

viewed a live anti-air warfare exercise in which a military warship fired several SM-2 missiles against high speed targets simulating anti-ship missiles. Later, the group visited PMRF's AN/TPY-2 radar site used for the Army's theater high altitude air defense (THAAD) system.

Visitors also saw the Kauai Test Facility (KTF), which serves as the launch site for ballistic missile targets fired downrange for test events. The trip accomplished its goal of educating Pearl Harbor tacticians on the capabilities that PMRF provides.

The air missile defense syndicate is a component of Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific's war-

fare syndicate initiative, which assigns individual ships a warfare specialty that they leverage to conduct waterfront training.

USS Lake Erie (CG 70) has led the AMD syndicate since its inception in 2009. "Spearheading the air missile defense syndicate meshes nicely with our mission as the Navy's ballistic missile defense test platform," said Lt. Cameron Will, USS Lake Erie's fire control officer.

Will has run the AMD syndicate for the past two years and coordinated the site visit to Kauai. "During my four years aboard Lake Erie, we have fired three SM-3 missiles and two SMT missiles on the PMRF range while intercepting a rogue satellite and several ballistic

missile targets, but I never had an appreciation for the support that PMRF provides. Visiting PMRF allowed us to witness the complexity and precision involved in executing the test events that enable us to improve our weapons systems," Will explained.

PMRF plays a vital role in Aegis ballistic missile defense development by serving as a testing ground and providing data analysis. The vast PMRF range covers an area of ocean equivalent to roughly one-third of the continental United States. To support test events in such an expansive zone, the telemetry and instrumentation featured by PMRF is considered the best in the world.

Diverse Views



What is your favorite summer blockbuster movie this year and why?



A1C Aaron Gibson
692nd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group

"Transformers: Dark of the Moon" because I like the Transformers."

Master Sgt. Al Wells
13th Air Force



"The Rite" because the priest was healing people even though he was a troubled soul."



Staff Sgt. Lucelia Ball
PACAF/PA

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2" because it ended the whole Series, wrapped it all up."

Natasha Adams
Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange



"The best one I've seen this summer is 'The Help.' This is, in my opinion, one of the best movies ever made. It is heartfelt and moving, and the message is very good. I would recommend this movie to everybody."



Jacob Hinderleider

"Cars 2." We decided that we should watch it because the first one was good."

Anastasia McLemore
Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange



"Rise of the Planet of the Apes." It was very interesting how they told the back story."



Air Traffic Controller 1 Benson N'Gai
Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility, Hawaii (FACSFAC, San Diego, Detachment, JBP HH)

"Transformer Dark of the Moon," one of the best 3D films to date. Optimus Prime and the Autobots saved the earth from Deception destruction. The action and story were really good. Who doesn't like robots, death machines and tons of explosions?"

(Provided by DC Smith 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

August Guadalcanal campaign remembered



Photo courtesy of Naval History and Heritage Command
U.S. Marine Corps amphibian tractors move toward the beach on Guadalcanal Island. This view was probably taken during the Aug. 7-9, 1942 initial landings on Guadalcanal. The ship in the background is USS President Hayes (AP-39).

HO'OKELE

Commander,
Navy Region Hawaii
Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith

Chief of Staff
Capt. Melvin Lee

Director,
Public Affairs
Agnes Tauyan

Deputy Director,
Public Affairs
Bill Doughty

Leading Petty Officer
MC2 Mark Logico

Staff Writer
MC2 Robert Stirrup

Commander,
Joint Base
Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Capt. Jeffrey James

Deputy Commander
Col. Dann S. Carlson

Director, Public Affairs
Grace Hew Len

Managing Editor
Karen Spangler

Assistant Editor
Don Robbins

Sports Editor
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer
Jazzmin Williams

Layout/Design
Antonio Veceluz

Layout/Design
Michael Villafuerte

Ho'okele is a free unofficial paper published every Thursday by The Honolulu Star Advertiser 500 Ala Moana Boulevard Suite 7-500 Honolulu Hawaii 96813, a private firm in no way connected with DoD, the U. S. Navy or Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with Commander, Navy Region Hawaii. All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: editor@hookelenews.com World Wide Web address: https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Hawaii/ or www.hookelenews.com.

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication primarily for members of the Navy and Marine Corps military services and their families in Hawaii. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U. S. Government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps and do not imply endorsement thereof.

The civilian publisher, The Honolulu Star Advertiser, is responsible for commercial advertising, which may be purchased by calling (808) 521-9111. The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products and services advertised by the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii or The Honolulu Star Advertiser.

Everything advertised in this paper shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

A confirmed violation of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source. Ho'okele is delivered weekly to Navy & Air Force housing units and Navy installations throughout Oahu. Housing residents may contact the publisher directly at (808) 690-8864 if they wish to discontinue home delivery.

Shipyard apprentices graduate at Pearl Harbor

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

Alma Montero, a metals inspector at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard was one of 111 men and women who graduated from the shipyard's apprenticeship program in a ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Aug. 12.

"Pearl Harbor (Naval Shipyard) not only provided me with job security and great benefits, they provided me with life lessons and the motivation to have elevated goals," she said.

Chosen by her classmates to speak on their behalf, Montero said, "The words to sum up everything I want to say to Pearl Harbor is 'thank you.'"

Montero and the other graduates will transition into journeyworker positions in 18 waterfront trades at the shipyard. They will earn an



U.S. Navy photo by Marshall Fukuki

Anna Tanaka, a rigger with Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard (PHNSY), is congratulated by Capt. Brian Osgood, shipyard commander, during a ceremony for 111 men and women graduating from the PHNSY apprentice program.

average of \$29.79 an hour in stable jobs, maintaining Navy surface ships and submarines.

Capt. Brian Osgood, commander of the shipyard, told the graduates, "You will

shoulder the burden for Pacific Fleet material readiness for many years to come."

"We are a nation at war, and we serve a fleet that is deployed across the globe

conducting many different missions. When the nation sleeps, the Navy has the watch — and so do you," Osgood said.

U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, keynote speaker, said the new journeyworkers were trained for more than just a job and a paycheck. "You have been trained to ensure and uphold the security of our nation," Inouye said.

He recalled that not very long ago the shipyard was targeted for closure but in the past few years "has turned the corner, consistently returning ships 'fit to fight' on time and on budget."

U.S. Rep. Mazie Hirono recounted her conversations with several graduates about their training experience. "All of you graduates exemplify teamwork, leadership, personal commitment to our country and moving forward in your lives," she said.

U.S. Rep. Colleen

Hanabusa told the graduates, "The Pacific region is the theater of the future. 'You will have a front row seat and the ability to participate and make (an) impact,'" she said.

After the officials spoke, two members from the class of 2011 addressed the audience. Bryan Alexander, sheet metal mechanic, generated repeated laughter when he related humorous stories of his adjustment from working in restaurants to laboring in an industrial environment.

Montero said she had no idea what to expect when she started at the shipyard four years ago. Now, when she meets her apprentice classmates on the job," she said. "I see confidence where there once was uncertainty and knowledge where they were once unaware."

The 111 graduates are the elite of 3,521 hopefuls who

submitted applications in early 2006 for apprenticeships at the shipyard. A total of 119 trainees were hired in January 2007 and began four-year "earn while you learn" apprenticeships that combined full-time paid employment with a minimum of 7,200 hours of on-the-job training and classroom instruction. As part of their apprenticeships, trainees earned a tuition-free applied trades degree from Honolulu Community College and U.S. Department of Labor journeyworker certification.

This year's graduates signify a milestone in the shipyard's apprentice program. With the class of 2011, more than 1,000 participants have graduated since the program was restarted in 1999.

For more information on the shipyard, visit www.navsea.navy.mil/shipyards/pearl.

Hawaii joint base trains for emergency preparedness

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn Herrick

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

Twenty-eight members of the emergency operations center (EOC) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) participated in incident management team (IMT) training, including earthquake and flood drill scenarios, Aug. 9 - 12.

This training, the first since the installation joint-based, will ensure the IMT members know exactly what to do in case of emergency. It was held in compliance with the Homeland Presidential Security Declaration 5, which dictates that all federal agencies and entities that receive funding be compliant with certain procedures.

"The course has been a

mixture of didactic lectures giving them the basics and then problem-solving, working through the issues," said Dan Dubois, the emergency manager for JBPHH. "We're rotating people around into different jobs, and now they're seeing what it's like on the other side of the fence, what it's like to have to run the operations section and all the emergency support functions that come underneath operations," he explained.

EOC is a collateral duty for most of the people manning the EOC, said Tim McKenzie, Commander, Naval Installations Command training and readiness directorate deputy shore operations training group chief, who is here from Norfolk, Va. His mobile training team provides readiness training to naval installations or joint bases worldwide.

"There are people from dif-



Boatswain's Mate Travis Hall, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) port operations dock master, gives a situation briefing in the emergency operations center (EOC) at JBPHH on Aug. 11.

ferent units that get together and man the EOC," McKenzie said. These include people from medical, the chaplain's office, logistics sub-

ject matter experts, base operations, port operations and various entities on the base that need to be in the emergency operations center dur-

ing an emergency so that they can coordinate together and respond to either a man-made disaster or a natural disaster.

"We're taking people out of their comfort zones and putting them in different positions," Dubois said. "By doing that, if we have to stand up the EOC and we have the full complement of staff, anyone can step into anyone else's role."

The purpose is to take personnel who don't have the background of working in an EOC and, at the end of three and a half days, give them the ability to operate in the EOC and have a strong functional view across the board of the different roles and responsibilities in the EOC, according to Dubois.

The last actual event that triggered standing up the emergency operations center was the March tsunami in Japan, said Dubois, but they

run exercises every quarter and stand up the EOC during presidential visits and national holidays, "just in case something bad happens."

"The benefit of this training is that when the real thing happens, they'll have seen and practiced a simulated situation," McKenzie said. "They need to get experience practicing what they'd do in the event of an actual event or disaster. We trained them in the policies and procedures, both DOD civilian and national incident management system, for how to operate effectively as an EOC," he said.

"(Now) we'll have a cadre of people who are trained to do EOC operations," Dubois said. "If, God forbid, there's a hurricane, tsunami, earthquake, etc., operations go on for days and days, and you have to be able to sustain that."

Pearl Harbor-Hickam Highlights

Battalion Chiefs John LaBarbera (left) and John Carroll, New York City firefighters who participated in recovery efforts at the World Trade Center on 9/11, view names of Sailors and Marines entombed at the USS Arizona Memorial during a visit to the site. LaBarbera and Carroll were in Pearl Harbor to promote the "Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Run," a three-mile race scheduled for Sept. 11 in honor of a fellow firefighter killed in the 9/11 attacks.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker



(Left) New York City Fire Department Battalion Chief John LaBarbera and Federal Fire Department Fire Chief Glenn DeLaura (left) meet after their visit to the USS Arizona Memorial on Aug. 12. LaBarbera visited Oahu to promote the annual Stephen Siller Foundation 5K charity run which will be held Sept. 11 on Ford Island.

U.S. Navy photo by Angela Sanders

Kapiolani Kaohelaulei and Kahu Kalama open the Bellows Air Force Station (AFS) site visit with comments and a prayer Aug. 11. The tour was given to local leaders of the community, including Senator Pohai Ryan, to give a better understanding of the military training mission at Bellows AFS.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Gustavo Gonzalez



(Above) Navy Region Hawaii, Command Master Chief Marc Sibal gets a cup of coffee at the "Smucker's Mission: Breakfast" event at Ward Field on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on Aug. 15.

U.S. Navy photo by Don Robbins

(Right) Machinist Mate's 1st Class Gregory Taranto (SS) discusses options for college with Eileen Nims, the military base counselor for Thomas Edison State College. The Navy College office, along with Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, hosted a college fair for service members at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Sean Furey



Navy Region Hawaii holds CPO Selectee Spouse Symposium

Story and photo by
MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public
Affairs

Navy Region Hawaii held a symposium for the spouses of chief petty officer (CPO) selectees assigned to commands throughout Hawaii at Lockwood Hall on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on Aug. 10.

During the symposium, spouses were provided with training and information for their new responsibilities and roles they will be assuming.

"I want to say congratulations to you because you all play a big role in helping your spouse make it to this point in their career, and they wouldn't be here without you," said Commander, Submarine Force U.S.



Jill Caldwell, wife of Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Force Master Chief Cash Caldwell, goes over policies and procedures with chief petty officer (CPO) selectees' spouses from commands throughout Hawaii during a symposium at Lockwood Hall on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The symposium provided information and guidance to spouses of CPO selectees to facilitate their smooth transition into the CPO community.

Pacific Fleet Force Master Chief Cash Caldwell. "I personally want to welcome all of you to the chiefs' family."

Navy Region Hawaii Command Master Chief Marc Sibal explained the objectives of the symposium.

"This symposium is a way of bringing the spouses of newly selected chief petty officers into our community," Sibal said. "The training provided will help the spouses assimilate into the CPO community and to learn some of the unique responsibilities and roles of CPO spouses," he added.

Sibal also spoke about the important role that the spouses will have on readiness.

"This symposium will help provide the spouses with the tools that they may need in cases where the command or unit is deployed," said Sibal.

"Being a CPO spouse is very demanding as they can be involved in mentoring and providing guidance to the spouses of junior Sailors who work directly for the chief. Sailors on deployment remain ready as long as the families remain ready at home," he said.

Mechele Minyard, wife of U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief John Minyard, noted the importance of welcoming the spouses to the CPO community.

"This is an important step for all the spouses, and we just want to welcome them and let them know what to expect now that their husband or wife has been selected as a chief petty officer," Minyard said. "This symposium will educate them on the role they will be assuming and help them transition into the CPO community."

Are you prepared for an emergency?

According to the National Weather Service, Tropical Storm Fernanda is forecast to move toward Hawaii on a west-northwest track through Friday before making a more westward turn. Storm intensity has likely peaked and a weakening trend is anticipated to begin over the next 12 hours. Fernanda is forecasted to weaken to a tropical depression by Sunday and a remnant low by Monday. Current projections keep the remnants of Fernanda closest to the islands Monday and Tuesday.

Is your survival kit ready with: Flashlights, portable radios (battery or hand-powered), extra batteries, extra cash, prescription drugs (10 days' to two weeks' supply), first aid kit, candles, matches, ice/coolers for medications that require refrigeration, fuel for camping stoves/lanterns, pet foods/supplies, non-perishable foods (five-day supply), bottled water for drinking, other water for flushing toilet, washing, etc.

For more information, check out the hurricane preparedness pullout in the May 27 edition of Ho'okele at www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii. You can get updates at www.facebook.com/NavyRegionHawaii and www.facebook.com/JointBasePearlHarbor-Hickam, and on the text crawl for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam TV 2.

Additional information is available at <http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/navy.html>.

Hickam Personal Property Office to relocate

Richard K. Rohr

Director, Joint Personal
Property Shipping Office
NAVSUP Fleet Logistics
Center Pearl Harbor

On Oct. 1, the Air Force Personal Property Processing Office, in building 1113 at 990 Scott Circle, will be closed and relocated to the Navy Aloha Center, 4825 Bougainville Drive, Moanalua.

The Air Force office will become part of the Joint Personal Property Shipping Office-Hawaii/Personal Property Division (JPPSO-HI/PPD). The timing of this

relocation is to ensure the peak summer moving season is over, thus limiting the impact to customers.

The relocation is the result of the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 2005, which called for 26 Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps installations to merge their common functions. When two bases merge their functions, there is a marked reduction in duplication of efforts, leading to greater efficiencies and cost savings.

In October 2010, Pearl Harbor Naval Station and Hickam Air Force Base merged their common functions and became a joint

base. One of the functions the two bases had in common involved the movement of personal property, such as household goods and POVs. Initially, the Air Force and Navy Personal Property Offices remained in their respective locations. Since then, they standardized their processes to ensure Air Force and Navy customers receive the same services at either location.

Further analysis revealed additional savings can be realized by physically combining the two offices. This should result in savings on materials, supplies, equipment and training.

HO'okele Online

<http://www.hookelenews.com> or <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii>

Escort mission of downed Air Force pilot brings perspective

Maj. Todd Ladd

Chief, Sustainment Services
Branch HQ PACAF/AISS

(Editor's note: This account of doing an escort mission for a downed pilot from the Vietnam War was provided to Ho'okele by Maj. Todd Ladd who wanted to share his experience and its meaning.)

On March 26, 1970, Maj. Richard Elzinga was flying in an O-1 Birdog aircraft, on one of his first missions in the Vietnam War, when the plane lost contact and presumably went down in Laos. Until just recently, Elzinga had been classified as missing in action.

In early July 2011, I had the solemn honor to escort the identified remains of Elzinga home to his family for burial at Arlington National Cemetery. This mission provided me with an amazing amount of perspective, and I wanted to take the opportunity to pass along some of my observations and reflections.

Prior to departing Hawaii for Arlington National Ceremony, I met with the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) to begin my duty as escort for Elzinga. They gave me a brief history of Elzinga's case, and talked to me about how the identification was resolved. They also outlined the dedicated and painstaking process of how they continue to investigate the thousands of Airmen, Soldiers, Marines and Sailors still unaccounted for from past conflicts.

As I learned from them, the men and women of JPAC go out every year on countless investigative missions across the world in the effort to identify those service members still unaccounted for. Their mission doesn't stop once they find remains, as they then work with the branches of service, the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, as well as families of the missing in an attempt to gain iron-clad identification.

During my travels from Honolulu to Washington, D.C., I was thanked by countless citizens for my service. While most did not know that I was escorting a fallen Airman home, I accepted their "thank yous" and appreciation on behalf of Elzinga.

Once I arrived in our nation's capital, I met with one of the Air Force Mortuary Affairs representatives from the past conflicts branch at



U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Pamela Stauffer

Maj. Gen. Duane A. Jones, director of resource integration, office of the deputy chief of staff for logistics, installations and mission support, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., presents the U.S. flag to Joan Bergsteinsson and Alan Brink, cousins of missing in action service member Maj. Richard G. Elzinga on July 8 at Arlington National Cemetery.

Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations (AFMAO) at Dover AFB, Del. Similar to JPAC, the AFMAO Past Conflicts Branch tirelessly works with families of our unaccounted Airmen.

In a situation such as the one with Elzinga, they coordinate all of the funeral and burial plans with Arlington and the family, arrange for the family's travel, and ultimately provide the closure that these families so deserve.

Elzinga's mother and father passed away in the 1990s, never having received the closure that their son gave the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our country. However, he did have two cousins who were close to him. They attended a ceremony at Arlington in 1978, in which a headstone was placed in the MIA section of the cemetery. At that time, Elzinga's mother still held out hope that her son was alive, and she continued to advocate for research and investigation.

That legacy lived on with these two cousins. When they were contacted in 2010 by JPAC and told that some remains of their cousin might have been found, they combed through their family tree to find possible relatives on the mother's side of the family who could provide DNA samples to confirm the identification of their cousin, Elzinga. They found two relatives in Michigan who they had never met before, and the DNA samples proved conclusive.

The small contingent of Elzinga's remaining family traveled to Arlington and witnessed a full military funeral with caisson (horse-drawn carriage), Air Force band, 21-

gun salute and presentation of a flag and shadow box. The sense of closure they felt was magnified by the memories they held of Elzinga's mother and father. Their spirits were lifted, and they passed along to me their appreciation to the Department of Defense, JPAC, the Air Force and the past conflict branch at AFMAO. My role in this paled in comparison to those organizations. They are unsung heroes who live by the ideal that our unaccounted for service members will "never be forgotten."

It is sometimes easy to become bogged down by the day-to-day tasks we face in both our work lives and our personal lives. Too often, we get stuck in a narrow focus, and we lose the insight and perspective of how the small

pieces fit into the big picture. In my career, I have attended countless military functions and ceremonies in which we take time to honor prisoners of war and missing in action. Every one of these has been powerful, but it was still something of an abstract concept for me. I understood that our military goes to heroic lengths to leave no Airmen, Marine, Soldier or Sailor behind, but it didn't truly sink in for me prior to this duty.

Having now been part of the return of an American hero who had been in MIA status, met with the family that now had closure, and saw the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, I have a whole new perspective of exactly what our military does to bring home our fallen heroes.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

Aug. 25 – JEMS Job Fair

Sept. 1 – Naval Air Museum Barbers Point

Sept. 8 – Navy League – American patriots

Sept. 15 – Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

Sept. 22 – Kaneohe Bay airshow

(The segments currently air between 6:20 and 6:30 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.

