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PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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Volume 2 Issue 46

Rear Adm. Ponds becomes Commander, Navy Region Hawaii

Story and photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, turned over command to Rear Adm. Fernandez "Frank" Ponds on Nov. 18 in a change of command ceremony alongside the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

"It has been said that success in life can be measured in knowing you've made a difference," said Smith, addressing his staff. "You are an incredible group of dedicated military and civilians who make a difference day in and day out. Every day you perform small miracles."

More than 500 guests attended the ceremony including Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie, Hawaii Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz, Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle and Kauai Mayor Bernard Carvalho Jr.

Adm. Patrick Walsh, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Vice Adm. Michael Vitale, commander of Naval Installations Command, were the senior officers in the official party.



Sailors assigned to Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, salute Rear Adm. Fernandez "Frank" Ponds during the change of command ceremony Nov. 18 alongside the Battleship Missouri Memorial. Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith turned over command to Ponds in a ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (See more photos on page A-5)

Abercrombie and Schatz issued a proclamation declaring Nov. 18, 2011 as "Admiral Dixon Smith Day" in Hawaii, "commending Admiral Dixon Smith for his outstanding contributions to the United

States Navy and our local communities."

During the change of command ceremony, renowned singer and actor Jim Nabors sang the National anthem. Hawaiian music legend

Henry Kapono performed Hawaii Pono'i and, as a special tribute at the conclusion of the ceremony, Kapono performed a song he wrote and recorded to honor men and women of the armed services.

Smith concluded a three-year tour during which he increased community engagement and historic preservation. He oversaw the further transfer of 1995 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) property

and infrastructure at the former Naval Air Station Barbers Point and provided regional leadership in the creation of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. He implemented the Navy's pilot Resident Energy Conservation Program, saving \$1.2 million per year in reduced electricity consumption. Smith also led the Middle Pacific Surface Combatant initiative to ensure the 11 surface ships homeported in Hawaii are trained and ready at all times to operate forward.

"Take a moment to reflect, and look how far you've brought us," said Smith, referring to the men and women who worked under his leadership. "I challenge you to continue to move forward, constantly improving, always building on our history. I am confident you will."

His spouse, Christine "Kiki" Smith, was a leader on behalf of family members, volunteering hundreds of hours with the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society, Friends of Fleet and Family Services, Continuum of Resource Education and Boutiki Gift shop.

See Aloha, A-3

Japan, U.S. naval ships complete dynamic Koa Kai training

Story and photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Detachment Hawaii

Hawaii-based Destroyer Squadron 31 completed a week of dynamic training as ships returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Nov. 17-18 from the latest Koa Kai exercise in Hawaiian waters.

It was the first time U.S. Navy ships were joined by a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) surface ship for a Koa Kai exercise. The JMSDF helicopter destroyer JS Kurama (DDH 144) participated in the exercise that began Nov. 10.

"The Koa Kai exercise provided intense and comprehensive training for all of us," said JMSDF Capt. Shinji Maruzawa, commander, Escort Division Two. "It was remarkable how well we worked together, demonstrating good teamwork and



The Military Sealift Command dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS Washington Chambers (T-AKE 11), left, the guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force helicopter destroyer JS Kurama (DDH 144) conduct maneuvers off the coast of Hawaii during the integrated maritime exercise Koa Kai.

sharing skills. We have great support from our U.S. Navy friends and partners here in Hawaii."

Kurama joined guided-missile destroyers USS O'Kane (DDG 77) and USS

Chafee (DDG 90); frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37); and Military Sealift Command dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS Washington Chambers (T-AKE 11). The surface ships

of CDS 31 were joined by assets from Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Helicopter Squadron Light 37, Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two,

and the Royal Canadian Air Force 407 Long Range Patrol Squadron.

"This is the first time we've had a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ship participate in Koa Kai," said Capt. Dave Welch, commander, Destroyer Squadron 31. "They were a fantastic addition to the exercise. This gives us an opportunity to exercise in another area that our deployed ships deal with: operations with coalition and allied partners."

Hawaii-based surface combatants regularly deploy to the Asia Pacific region and often train with international partners while on deployment. Koa Kai demonstrates the Pacific Fleet commitment to forward readiness and prepares middle Pacific ships to meet current and future challenges.

"The opportunity to work together gives our crews the chance to see that there is strength in the diversity of capabilities that our allies and partners bring and gives

us a chance to work closely with them in a controlled training environment," Welch said. "It also gives our allies confidence in the rigor that we put in our preparations to go forward in deployed areas."

Sailors aboard the JMSDF and U.S. Navy ships participated in visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) drills; tactical training; anti-submarine warfare and live-fire ammunition exercises; and other drills and training.

"We just returned from major exercise Koa Kai, which translates as 'Sea Warrior' from the Hawaiian language," said Fire Controlman 2nd Class Deborah Rosen, USS O'Kane. "It's a major test of the entire ship's battle readiness. It's challenging. It has to be. It's meant to be. It's designed to be. It's to make sure that we're really going to be ready to go out on deployment and accomplish our mission."

70th commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day events honor 'enduring legacy'

National Park Service

The National Park Service and the U.S. Navy will host a joint memorial ceremony commemorating the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor from 7:45 to 9:30 a.m. Dec. 7 at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument (formerly known as the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center). The National Park Service will also host a series of special events in

commemoration of the 70th anniversary from Dec. 2 through Dec. 8.

The theme of the Dec. 7 ceremony is "The Enduring Legacy: Pearl Harbor 1941 - 2011." The ceremony takes place on the back lawn of the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center which looks directly out to the USS Arizona Memorial situated in Pearl Harbor.

This year's keynote speaker, Mal Middlesworth, who was 18 years old and a member of the Marine Detachment aboard the

heavy cruiser USS San Francisco, tied up in the shipyard at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Other guest speakers include Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior, and Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy. Highlights of the ceremony will include music by the Navy's U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, morning colors, a Hawaiian blessing, a rifle salute by members of the U.S. Marine Corps, wreath presentations, echo Taps, and recognition

of the men and women who survived the attack of Dec. 7, 1941, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The commemoration is free of charge, and the public is invited to attend. Seats for the general public to the commemoration are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. The visitor center will open early at 6:30. Seating for the public will begin at 7:15 a.m.

There will be limited public parking for the ceremony at the visitor center. Additional parking will be available at Richardson Field. The public is encouraged to arrive early to allow time for parking and going through security at the visitor center.

(For information about additional events, see page B-5. More details about the 70th commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day events will be featured in the Dec. 2 edition of Ho'okele.)



Cook'em Danno See page A-2



Chung-Hoon's CPO 365 visits historic sites in Palau See page A-3



Adopt-a-Ship program serves up quality meals at sea See page A-4



Patrol Squadron Nine hosts 'Feed the Sailors' Thanksgiving event See page A-6



Hawaii Sailors help prevent Lualualei Valley flooding See page B-1



Dec. 2 festivities feature Hickam Freedom Tower lighting, Tops in Blue See page B-4

Cook'em Danno

Some of the cast members from local television show Hawaii 5-0 participate in the Hickam Elementary School Teaching Garden on Nov. 14 with the children from the school, located at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Entertainers who helped with the project included Scott Caan, Daniel Dae Kim, Alex O'Laughlin, Masi Oka, Laird Hamilton and Gabrielle Reece. The volunteers installed an American Heart Association Teaching Garden which will result in the production of fruits and vegetables that will be used by the school. ServiceNation: Mission Service hosted the event. The project is in partnership with Bishop Museum, Sierra Club and Hui Ku Maoli Ola.

Photo by Dave Rezendes



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'Giant Voice' siren test set for Dec. 1

The City & County of Honolulu will be conducting the monthly statewide outdoor warning siren test at 11:45 a.m. on Dec. 1. The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam "Giant Voice" works in conjunction with Honolulu's outdoor warning sirens and will sound a steady tone for 45 seconds.

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11/25/11	0600-2100	Day after Thanksgiving
11/26/11	0600-2100	Saturday after Thanksgiving
11/27/11 - 12/11/11	0900-2100	Regular Hours
12/01/11	1800-2100	Men's Night (Main Exchange Only)
12/06/11	1800-2100	Ladies' Night (Main Exchange Only)
12/24/11	0900-2200	Christmas Eve
12/25/11	Closed	Christmas Day
12/26/11	0900-1800	Day after Christmas
12/27/11 - 12/30/11	0900-2100	Tuesday-Friday
12/31/11	0900-1800	New Year's Eve
01/01/12	0900-1800	New Year's Day

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Chung-Hoon's CPO 365 visits historic sites in Palau

SH1 (SW) Betty Williams

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93)

KOROR, Palau – USS Chung-Hoon's (DDG 93) CPO 365 team building and leadership training is in full swing. During a recent port visit to Koror, Palau, Chung-Hoon's First Class Petty Officers' Association (FCPOA) took MCPON West's CPO 365 program by the reins and organized a tour with the Chief Petty Officers' Association (CPOA) to one of the bloodiest Pacific battlefields of World War II: Peleliu.

Adm. Chester Nimitz and Gen. Douglas MacArthur had conflicting points of view on how to defeat Japan. Both strategies called for capturing Peleliu. President Franklin D. Roosevelt met with both commanders at Pearl Harbor and ultimately chose MacArthur's strategy, which required neutralizing Peleliu and building an airfield there to protect his right flank in support of a push to the Philippines.

The assault on Peleliu, codenamed Operation



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Robert Clowney

Stalemate II, and ensuing Battle of Peleliu pitted U.S. forces against the Japanese 14th Infantry Division from Sept. 4 to Nov. 27, 1944. U.S. forces (originally the 1st Marine Division, but later relieved by the Army's 81st Infantry Division) fought to capture an airstrip on the small coral island.

Maj. Gen. William Rupertus, commander of the 1st Marine Division, predicted the island would be secure within four days. However, due to the well-built Japanese

fortifications and fierce resistance, the battle lasted 10 weeks. The battle saw the awarding of the Medal of Honor to eight Marines.

The 1st Marine Regiment, commanded by legendary Marine Col. Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, sustained 1,749 casualties out of approximately 3,000 men but tenaciously fought on until relieved by elements of the 81st Infantry Division.

At battle's end, 1,794 U.S. Marines and Soldiers were killed and 8,010 were wounded or missing,

the most U.S. casualties of any Pacific battle. Japan lost 10,695 killed and 202 captured. A Japanese lieutenant held out in caves with his 26 soldiers and eight sailors until surrendering April 22, 1947, when they were convinced by a Japanese admiral that the war was over. Peleliu showed America the pattern of future Japanese island defenses which would be seen again at Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Information Systems 1st Class (SW) Jennifer Miller came up with the

idea to tour the historic island. "It was nice because we could experience something as a team away from the ship, and everyone had a great time," she said.

To connect with the fighting spirit and heritage of the Navy and Marine Corps team, Chung-Hoon's CPOA and FCPOA conducted a six-hour tour consisting of a six-mile trail, offering the current and future chief petty officers of Chung-Hoon an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who have gone before them.

"It was amazing to see the vast amount of history contained on such a small island. It was a great experience with our chiefs' mess because two separate messes were joined that day, giving us a renewed feeling of one team-one fight," said Master-at-Arms 1st Class (SW) Bryan Taylor, president of Chung-Hoon's FCPOA.

During the tour, they visited Bloody Nose Ridge, heavily fortified bunkers, underground Japanese fighting posi-

tions, Thousand Men Cave, and the site where the defeated Col. Nakagawa committed suicide. Also viewed were artillery, American and Japanese tanks, uniforms, helmets, live and expended ordnance and a Japanese Zero fighter.

The tours concluded with a swim in Palau's famous Jellyfish Lake, where all the Sailors had the opportunity to swim in one of Palau's natural wonders. "Towards the end of CPO 365 tour, you could see the impact throughout the group. Though we all were tired, the day brought our group even closer," said Senior Chief Engineman Dennis Resurreccion.

Chung-Hoon continues to hold weekly training and plans on holding more CPO 365 events during port visits and after returning to Pearl Harbor.

Chung-Hoon is currently deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet.

For more information about "Hawaii's Destroyer," visit www.Chung-Hoon.navy.mil or <http://on.fb.me/sBzyYf>

Aloha to Rear Adm. Smith, welcome to Rear Adm. Ponds

Continued from A-1

"All of you have shared your islands, your homes, and your aloha with Kiki and me for the past three years," Smith said. "This is the lesson we have learned and the experience for which we are so much richer. Today is a wonderfully bitter-sweet day. We leave with heavy hearts, but we go carrying your aloha with us wherever this Navy adventure takes us. The lessons we have learned from you are life lessons – ones to cherish, keep and pass on to others in life's journey."

The Smiths are scheduled to return to San Diego where Smith will assume command as commander, Navy Region Southwest.

"Over the past few weeks, I came to admire with great respect, the

significance of the personal and professional relationships that you worked so carefully to cultivate," said Ponds as he assumed command. "Without bias, you made every effort to ensure an environment of partnership and inclusiveness existed at all levels of government, industry and throughout the community. Thank you for setting the shining example. And I can assure you, that I will continue the rich tradition of teamwork in the spirit of *ohana*."

Ponds, a native of Alabama, commanded Amphibious Squadron Eight from November 2007 to May 2009 as Kearsarge Expeditionary Strike Group commander in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, Counter Piracy Operations and

Operation Sea Angel II (Bangladesh Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief). He also served as mission commander for Operation Continuing Promise (2008) and Haiti Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operation 2008.

Among his shore assignments, Ponds served as senior naval advisor in the Bureau of Political Military Affairs, Department of State during 2005 Pakistan Earthquake Relief Operations, 2006 Lebanon Non-combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO), and Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief. He was a senior fellow on the 2010 Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group.

Ponds is married to Carol Ponds of San Diego, Calif.

Diverse Views



What's one place you have been in the Navy that you will always remember, and why?

Aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77)



GM1 Rodel Valadez

"I'll never forget Durban, South Africa. We were the first U.S. Navy ship in 28 years to pull in, when I was on the Port Royal."

GM3 Nicole Flores



"Bahrain because schwarmas are the best, they're my favorite. They're delicious!"



GM2 Joshua Neddo

"Bahrain, because that's where my first daughter was born."

Ensign Michelle Romero



"Hawaii, I came here from Annapolis. I'm excited to go to more places but Hawaii is great."



SA Kevin Rickard

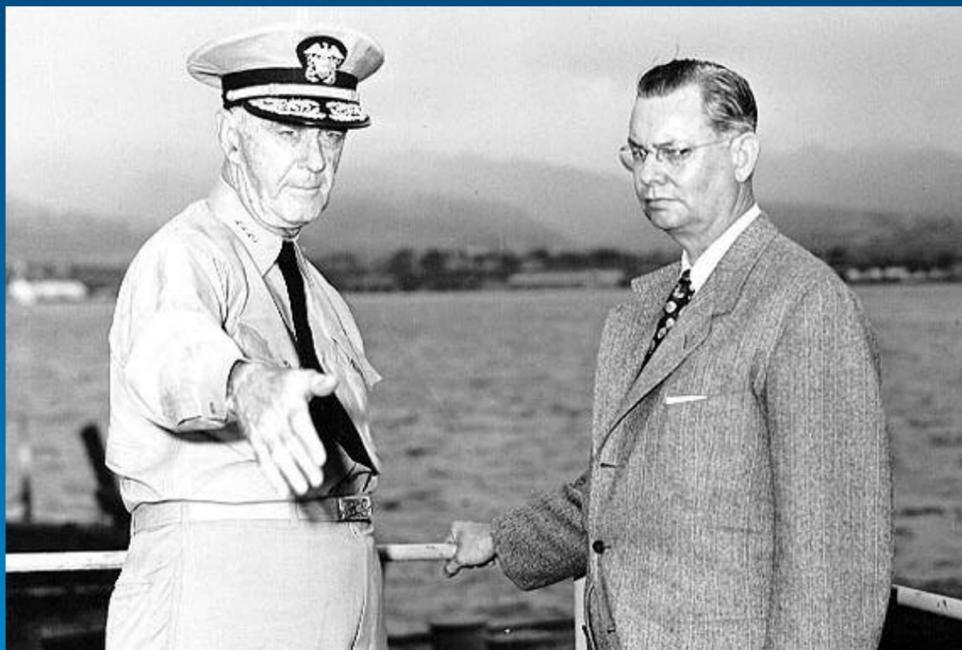
"I'm new to the Navy and haven't traveled a lot, but I will always remember Hawaii."

(Provided by MC2 Daniel A. Barker)

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

Remembering the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor



Official U.S. Navy photograph
Secretary of the Navy Robert B. Anderson is shown with Adm. Felix B. Stump on board the sunken USS Arizona (BB-39) at Pearl Harbor on Nov. 23, 1953.

HO'okele

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All letters must be accompanied by the writer's name, E-mail address and daytime telephone number. Letters are subject to editing to meet space constraints.

Letters and articles that are submitted to Ho'okele may be published and/or distributed in print and electronic form.

E-mail letters to: editor@hookelenews.com.

Pacific Fleet commander receives 'Eagle on the World' award

MC2 Amanda Dunford

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

The commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet was presented with the Eagle on the World Award by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New York, Inc. (JCCI) at its 27th Annual Dinner Gala at the Hilton's Grand Ballroom in New York on Nov. 15.

The award presented to Adm. Patrick M. Walsh symbolizes worldwide peace, freedom and prosperity and is given to individuals who have demonstrated exemplary leadership in strengthening U.S.-Japan relations and international affairs. Walsh received the award for his role as commander of the U.S. Joint Support Force (JSF) during Operation Tomodachi, a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief effort con-



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Sean Furey

Adm. Patrick M. Walsh, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, speaks with Rear Adm. Umio Otsuka, commander of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Training Squadron, during a visit to the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force training squadron ship JS Kashima (TV 3508).

ducted in response to the March 11 earthquake, tsunami and subsequent radiological crisis in north-eastern Honshu, Japan.

"I am honored, I am grate-

ful, and I am humbled for the privilege to stand here tonight and represent the men and women of our Armed Forces who participated in an important opera-

tion under extraordinary conditions at a remarkable time in history," said Walsh.

Operating in support of the Japan Self-Defense Force relief and recovery effort, the JSF directed U.S. military forces involved in Operation Tomodachi, which means friend or friendship, consisting of more than 20 U.S. Navy ships, 140 aircraft and nearly 20,000 personnel. The JSF also coordinated the delivery of more than 260 tons of supplies to hundreds of thousands of displaced people who were affected by what has been described as a cascading set of casualties.

"In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, we were incredibly impressed by Adm. Walsh's leadership of the U.S. Pacific Fleet through Operation Tomodachi," said Tsutomu Karino, JCCI's executive director. "And we're com-

pelled to present him at this year's annual dinner with JCCI's highest honor, the Eagle on the World Award, in recognition of this outstanding assistance and contribution to Japan."

During his acceptance speech, Walsh highlighted the importance of the strong relationship that exists between the U.S. Navy and the Japan Self-Defense Force and how this relationship not only impacted the success of the operation, but how it was strengthened and is poised to face future challenges together.

"[Operation] Tomodachi taught us that nations have interests, people have friends, and this disaster demonstrated for all to see that we will take risks for friends. For as long as there are real challenges ahead and real work to be done, as long as there is suffering, as long as people are in need,

and as long as there are forces that challenge peace and prosperity, our work together must continue," said Walsh. "As long as we make commitments to each other and resolve to stand for each other, our friendship will endure, and the spirit embodied in that friendship will never wither and die."

Walsh is the first active duty member of the U.S. military to receive the Eagle on the World award since its inception in 1985. Previous award winners include former Vice President Walter Mondale; former Secretaries of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, George Schultz, and Cyrus R. Vance; former Secretary of Defense William J. Perry; legendary golfer and philanthropist Arnold Palmer, and other prominent political and sports figures as well as media and entertainment industry leaders.

Adopt-a-ship program serves up quality meals at sea

MCSN Sean Furey

Navy Public Affairs
Element West Det. Hawaii

PACIFIC OCEAN – For the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90), the Koa Kai 12-1 training exercise provided the opportunity for the ship's culinary specialists (CS) to receive hands-on training from civilian Chef Darryl Espinoza, through the non-profit adopt-a-ship program.

The adopt-a-ship program embeds civilian chefs on U.S. Navy vessels to provide advance techniques to shipboard CSs. This program provides a unique and inspirational learning opportunity to work alongside a chef to enhance the dining experience aboard



Sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) participate in a mass casualty exercise during Koa Kai.

Navy ships at sea. These chefs willingly donate their time and expertise.

Cmdr. Anthony

Littmann, Chafee's executive officer, said, "There is nothing better for crew morale than a quality meal

with cheerful service. I think Chef Darryl has had a wonderful impact in the lives of Chafee's culinary

specialists and the crew."

Espinoza came to Chafee from Phoenix, Ariz. where he runs several private culinary ventures. This is the 12th adopt-a-ship program to which he has donated his time. A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Espinoza has more than 35 years of experience in the food industry. He has travelled all over the world, from the military mess halls in Europe to multiple five-star restaurants and resorts.

While aboard, Espinoza introduced Chafee's CSs to "Chef CARE." Chef CARE stands for consistency, attitude, responsibility, and enthusiasm, which he claims are the hallmark of superior food service. The goal is to inspire CSs

and to get them excited about food service.

"Adopt-a-ship is about bringing chefs from the outside world onto Navy vessels around the U.S. Navy fleet," Espinoza said. "It's trying to get the culinary specialist to bring a little bit of the civilian world to the galley and, at the same time, teaching them proper cooking and sanitation techniques."

Chefs from the adopt-a-ship program like Espinoza not only lend their expertise in the kitchen but also mentor and expose Sailors to potential opportunities after the Navy. Espinoza believes that further implementation of the adopt-a-ship program can only help better serve the Sailors aboard the Chafee and the fleet in general.

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Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico
Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, delivers a speech during the change of command ceremony alongside the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Nov. 18. Smith turned over command to Rear Adm. Fernandez "Frank" Ponds in a ceremony on historic Ford Island.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico
(Above photo) (From left) Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; Commander, Naval Installations Command Vice Adm. Michael Vitale; and Rear Adm. Fernandez "Frank" Ponds render a salute for the national anthem as they participate in a change of command alongside the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Nov. 18.



Rear Adm. Fernandez "Frank" Ponds, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; Mrs. Carol Ponds; Christine "Kiki" Smith; and Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith, outgoing commander, cut the cake at the reception following the change of command ceremony Nov 18.

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

(Right) Nine Sailors assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) pull alongside the guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) in a rigid-hull inflatable boat (RHIB) during training as part of the integrated maritime exercise Koa Kai. Together with frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) and underway replenishment ship USNS Washington Chambers (T-AKE 11), Chafee and O'Kane participated in Koa Kai with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) helicopter destroyer JS Kurama (DDH 144).

U.S. Navy photograph by MC2 Daniel Barker



(Left) An MK 46 Mod 5A exercise torpedo is launched from the guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) during the integrated maritime exercise Koa Kai.

U.S. Navy photograph by MC2 Daniel Barker



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW/AW/SCW) Ronald Guttridge
Capt. Stanley Robertson, commander, Submarine Squadron One, (left) presents Cmdr. Richard Young, commanding officer, USS Charlotte (SSN 766) and Master Chief Electronics Technician (SS) Scott Rossiter, chief of the boat, the Meritorious Unit Commendation on Nov. 1 for meritorious service from Dec. 5, 2010 to May 25, 2011. The crew of the Los Angeles-class submarine skillfully conducted operations of great importance to national security by safely operating in a demanding and challenging undersea environment while accomplishing critical, fleet, theater and national objectives during this time.



U.S. Navy photo by MCC John Lill

The multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) arrives off the coast of Oahu for a scheduled port visit in Hawaii. Makin Island is the first Navy ship to deploy using a hybrid-electric propulsion system.

Patrol Squadron Nine hosts 'Feed the Sailors' Thanksgiving event

Story and photo by
Lt. j. g. Jacob Clark

Patrol Squadron Nine

The Golden Eagle wardroom and chiefs' mess of Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9) at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe hosted a "Feed the Sailors" Thanksgiving-themed event Nov. 18.

Chaplain Lt. Cmdr. George Younger of Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two gave the blessing, and junior Sailors of VP-9 were treated to a full traditional Thanksgiving meal with turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and desserts. The wardroom and chiefs' mess organized the feast to



Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9) Golden Eagles enjoy a Thanksgiving-themed feast organized by the wardroom and chiefs' mess Nov. 18. The wardroom and chiefs' mess wanted to thank their Sailors for all the hard work they put in throughout the year.

thank their Sailors for all the hard work they have put in over the past year.

The "Feed the Sailors" event was spearheaded by the command services department of VP-9. "This is an awesome opportunity for us to be able to give back to the Sailors of our command. We can sometimes take for granted what a great bunch of men and women we have working for us. This is one small way we can say thanks," said Lt. Cmdr. Drew Corey, command services department head.

More than 300 Sailors were able to attend and enjoy the meal. "I really appreciated both the Thanksgiving meal and having a little time off to

reflect on everything I have to be thankful for. It was a well-planned event that brought the command together," said Naval Air Crewman 2nd Class Richard Lewis.

This is the first year VP-9 has hosted a Thanksgiving event for their Sailors. "Planning, preparing and serving this meal was one way for the chiefs and officers of VP-9 to express our thanks to the Sailors, who work very hard every day in getting the mission done. They're true professionals and we appreciate their service. By the way, this was a lot of fun," said Cmdr. Richard Prest, commanding officer of VP-9.

Contracting personnel support a variety of missions

DC Smith

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

The 647th Contracting and Naval Supply Fleet Logistics Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) purchase equipment and supplies to support the missions of JBPHH and other government agencies.

According to Erika Eberhart, 647th Contracting Squadron chief, the squadron serves a wide array of customers both in the Air Force and Department of Defense-wide to provide mission support.

Eberhart said the 647th Contracting Squadron provided support not only to local commands, squadron and units, but assisted mainland military organizations. Eberhart said the

squadron did absorb some other requirements from other major commands. "For example, we obligated funding from Headquarters Air Force Office of Special Investigation. Huge kudos were received from their headquarters office in the Air Force District of Washington for the contracting officer and contract specialist outstanding support of their requirements at the 11th hour," Eberhart said.

The 647th Contracting Squadron processed more than \$50 million in purchase requests from 350 actions during one quarter of support to the installation, according to Capt. Laura Applewhite, commander.

Applewhite said many staff members were involved during the year-end closeout purchases, including military and

civilian. Seven personnel were embedded in Naval Facilities Engineering Command while 647th Contracting Squadron used the remaining personnel to accomplish all fiscal year-end requirements for the customers' retained post forward operating capabilities, Applewhite said.

Historically, the 647th Contracting Squadron would provide support for fiscal year-end purchases for Morale, Welfare and Recreation, but due to joint basing, the requirements have been reassigned to Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor (NAVSUP FLC PH), Eberhart said.

Currently, the 647th Contracting Squadron receives requests from customers to purchase installation support requirements, but they

are limited due to staffing, Eberhart added.

"I truly believe that the outstanding achievements made by NAVSUP FLC PH this fiscal year end can be attributed to the partnership that has been developed between the customers and the contracting office," said Keely Bell, contracting officer for NAVSUP FLC PH.

"This recent fiscal year was very successful due to the personal relationship we developed with our customer, Commander Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH)," said Elaine Carmody, contracting officer.

Preparing and executing contracts for supply or equipment purchases to support the Navy's mission is an important job, explained Cmdr. John Clark, director of regional contracting at NAVSUP FLC PH. "A significant

percentage of our customers' budgets are often spent during the last half of the fiscal year. Focusing on proactive partnerships, we see our customers as an extension of our organization," he said.

Clark's motivation to serve his customers does not stop there. "Our mission is not complete until we have helped complete our customers' missions by procuring their requested supplies and services," he added.

"These relationships are essential to establishing and achieving contract objectives because both contracting and supply personnel are responsible for ensuring that the contracting process is successful," Bell said.

"It's all about the teamwork, understanding and supporting each other's mission, unity of purpose

and, most importantly, open communication among contracting and supply personnel in sharing the vision and achieving the goals of each acquisition."

Eberhart said Applewhite supported 647th Contracting Squadron during the challenging fourth quarter end-of-year purchases. The commander ensured everyone had solid support from 647th Air Base Group, Wing and PACAF/A7K leadership.

In an effort to assist customers' future purchases made through the contracting office, a fiscal year 2012 customer education program will be launched. The planned launch will take place at the beginning of the second quarter. The program is geared toward meeting needs during fiscal year-end purchases, Eberhart explained.