"Navigator"

HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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Navy in Hawaii earns four of top CNO environmental awards

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor

Navy installations in Hawaii have been recognized by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) as some of the best in the Navy for environmental and cultural stewardship. Navy commands earned four of 30, or about 13.3 percent, of the CNO Environmental Awards for FY 11, according to an announcement made Feb. 22 by Vice Adm. William R. Burke, deputy chief of naval operations for fleet readiness and logistics.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam achieved the installation award for cultural resources management. The Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor earned the award for environmental quality, individual or team.

Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) at Barking Sands, Kauai garnered two awards, one for natural resources conservation for a small installation and another for natural resources conservation for an individual or team.

"Four awards out of 30 means that the Navy in Hawaii earned 13.3 percent of the CNO's environmental awards in FY 2011. Well done to PMRF, joint base [Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam] and Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor," said Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

"This is a significant achievement by each of our installations and a tenant command of Navy Region Hawaii," the admiral said.

Although balancing systems modernization with historic preservation is a challenge, several successful projects that use photovoltaic arrays, retrofitting high bay lighting and changing street lighting, have been carried out in support of Navy and Department of Defense energy initiatives.

Through its community outreach and partnerships, JBPHH collaborates with Native Hawaiian groups to effectively preserve important cultural resources located on the installation. One of these efforts is the annual *makahiki*, which provides an opportunity for local and military communities to interact and share cultural traditions.

"It's a real source of pride for all of us to know that CNO recognizes our various teams' efforts to protect Hawaii's natural and cultural resources. We're fortunate because we have a lot to work with on Oahu and Kauai," said Becky Hommon, environmental counsel for Navy Region Hawaii.

"As you know, Hawaii is the nation's endangered species capital, and we're surrounded by our nation's history. Each one of us is extremely grateful for the opportunity to be part of the Navy's program to preserve and protect these resources for future generations," Hommon said.

Through its numerous partnerships in cleanup projects with the community and the state, the Navy and Air Force in Hawaii have taken an active role in the beautification and preservation of the environment and natural resources. An incentive-based program of energy conservation and education includes the Resident Energy Conservation Program.

"The cultural resources management (CRM) program at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam is integral to nearly all activities undertaken by the Navy, Air Force and more than 20 other major DoD units and government agencies operating on the installation," said Ellyn Goldkind, historic preservation officer for Navy Region Hawaii/Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii.

PMRF partnered with Ke Kula Niihau O Kekaha (a local Native Hawaiian charter school) and the National Tropical Botanical Gardens to develop and maintain a living educational display of the four habitat types that existed on the Mana Plain prior to western contact. It was dedicated in 2010 and continues today.

Sailors, civilians and contractors participated in beach cleanups in recognition of World Oceans Day in June 2011 and the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup Day on Sept. 17, 2011.

PMRF's laysan albatross "surrogate parenting program," initiated as a partnership between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge (KPNWR) in 2005, has continuously improved to the point that relocated bird and egg transfers need to be placed on private lands due to overcrowding at KPNWR.

"Our ultimate goal is to achieve a long-lasting, proactive educational environment that promotes stewardship of both the land and the Native Hawaiian culture. This not only benefits the natural environment and preserves cultural resources, but also demonstrates PMRF's commitment to the island's future sustainability by integrating PMRF's command into local cultural and natural resources through several cultural and environmental programs," said John Burger, PMRF's range complex sustainment support team environmental coordinator.

The Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor (NAVSUP FLCPH) team installed an energy-efficient lighting system and sponsored several Earth Day events, including an Earth Day Fair and a storm drain stenciling project, a papaya tree planting project, an alternative energy car show and bike path and beach cleanups.

In FY 2011, the command developed its own environmental management system and Capt. John Polowczyk, commanding officer, issued the command's first environmental and natural resources protection policy statement.

Through its CHRIMP (consolidated hazardous material re-utilization and inventory management program), the NAVSUP FLCPH team reduces hazardous waste by cutting it

See CNO AWARD, A-6

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

Indonesian navy tall ship visits Joint Base

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

The Indonesian navy tall ship KRI Dewaruci arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Wednesday for a brief port visit while enroute to the U.S. mainland. Dewaruci began her cruise from Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia on Jan. 14.

KRI Dewaruci was invited by the Chief of Naval Operations to participate in the International Operation Sail (OpSail) 2012 to commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812. Dewaruci will join other tall ships, naval vessels and the Navy's Blue Angels holding demonstrations this spring and summer in New Orleans, Baltimore, Boston and Norfolk, Va.

"This is the bicentennial year of the War of 1812 and an opportunity to reflect on how far our Navy has come since then. Just as they are today, the ships of America's Navy in 1812 were a global force for good, combating piracy, protecting national commerce, and supporting freedom of the seas," said Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. "It is a real honor to welcome the Indonesian ship KRI Dewaruci to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam this week."

While in port, the crew of more than 80 Indonesian navy sailors are scheduled to visit and replenish supplies.

Dewaruci is the only tall mast ship of the Barquentine class owned and operated by the Indonesian navy. She is used as a sail training vessel for naval cadets and is the largest tall ship in the Indonesian fleet. The Dewaruci also serves as a goodwill ambassador for the country of Indonesia to the rest of the world.

For more information about the War of 1812, visit: http://1.usa.gov/a0xxJo.

For a photo of KRI Dewaruci from a visit to Pearl Harbor in 2007, see http://1.usa.gov/wjfhPh.

(See additional photos on page A-5)

Hawaii honors individual augmentees

MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Dustin W. Sisco

Henry Kapono, musician and local celebrity, performs his song "I'm Coming Home" at the 2012 Boots on the Ground IA Recognition Luncheon. The luncheon was held to honor Sailors and Marines who have recently returned from IA billets overseas.

More than 140 Hawaii-based Sailors and Marines and their families were recognized for their service as individual augmentees (IAs) during the 4th annual "Boots on the Ground" IA recognition luncheon at the Ala Moana Hotel on Feb 24.

Hosted by the Honolulu Council Navy League and presented by Partners in Patriotism, the luncheon acknowledged the commitment of service members who left their assigned commands to fill individual billet requirements for various combatant commanders around the world.

"It's truly an honor for me to be here today to help recognize our returning individual augmentees," said Rear Adm. Russ Penniman, deputy commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, who was the guest speaker. "It is important to note that our Sailors and Marines could not do what they do for our nation without the support of their families, and it is only appropriate that we use occasions such as these to recognize the greatest supporters of our service men and women."

IAs served in diverse capacities and usually in hostile conditions, making significant impacts in places such as Iraq, Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa and the Republic of the Philippines. At the luncheon, IAs received a recognition coin from Penniman and the Navy League for their service.

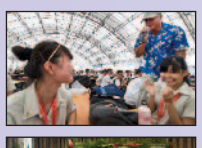
One of the IAs was Information Systems Technician 2nd Class MiChele Dykes, assigned to Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific, who deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for nine months in 2011.

"This is definitely something I enjoyed, being recognized and being around other people who volunteered to go IA and who have done the mission to help out the Army," Dykes said.

Gladys Gacayan, a Navy spouse, said that she and her family supported her husband for a long 14-month IA deployment.

"We took it day-by-day," said Gacayan. "I had to be strong for him. [I thought] I have to keep doing my every day routine because I work also as a nurse. Our three children missed their father, and they were very excited and surprised

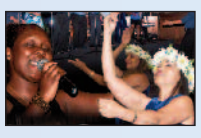
See IA, A-2


Pacific band wows crowd, spreads aloha during Singapore airshow **See page A-2**

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society hosts awards ceremony **See page A-2**

USS Columbus leaves for western Pacific deployment **See page A-4**

New NAMRU-2 headquarters supports forward-deployed missions **See page A-6**


JBPHH celebrates Gospel Festival and Taste of Soul **See page B-1**

MFSC hosts Military Saves fair at NEX to disseminate information **See page B-3**

Pacific band wows crowd, spreads aloha during Singapore airshow

Master Sgt. Ally Day

13th Air Force Public Affairs

CHANGI, Singapore -- The U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific-Hawaii from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam performed for approximately 300 people at the Singapore Air and Trade Show 2012 held here Feb. 14-19.

During the show, where a cross-section of U.S. military aircraft and equipment were on-hand to represent the United States, the band played seven performances.

"The crowd showed their enthusiasm for the band," said Master Sgt. Brian Hornbuckle, band director of operations and trumpet player. "There were lots of school-age children here who got the opportunity to visit, and we were just happy to perform for them."

In addition to their performances at the air show, the band played at several community engagements.

"One of our community engagements included a welfare home for boys in Bedot City," Hornbuckle said. "There are 70 boys who live at the home, and they really enjoyed the show."

How much the boys enjoyed the show came as a surprise to Muhamed Rahim, deputy superintendent of the Muhammadiyah Welfare Home.

Department of Defense photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Richard Vasquez, U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific, Hawaii, sings to a Singaporean girl in the audience during a performance Feb. 17, at the 2012 Singapore Airshow. The band provided entertainment during the week-long Singapore trade and air show performing 13 times.

"I was surprised when one of the boys joined the band on stage to sing a song and knew the words," Rahim said. "It shows how music is universal."

His sentiment was echoed by Master Sgt. Lara Murdzia, a 19-year veteran vocalist with the band.

"When performing in different countries, you hope to connect to your audience with the songs you've chosen to sing," Murdzia said. "Here in Singapore, we've found that the Singaporeans know a lot of American music and join in when we sing."

That commonality is apparent wherever the band goes.

"Singapore is nice. The city is beautiful and the people are friendly," said Tech. Sgt. Tamiko Boone, band vocalist. "We're welcomed everywhere we go. When people want you to return, you know you've done a great job entertaining them."

The Singapore Air and Trade Show 2012 welcomed more than 145,000 visitors from 128 countries that included the largest number of top level delegations with 266 from more than 80 countries.

Through participation in air shows and other regional events, the U.S. is able to demonstrate its commitment to the security of the Asia-Pacific region, promote the standardization and interoperability of equipment, and display capabilities critical to the success of current and future military operations.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society hosts awards ceremony

Story and photo by MC3 Dustin W. Sisco

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West Det Hawaii

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NCRS) honored Sailors and civilians during an awards luncheon at the Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu on Feb. 27.

The luncheon was held to honor the staff and volunteers of the NMCRS, as well as to reward guests for outstanding volunteer work.

After lunch and dessert were served, Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, gave a few remarks about NMCRS and its volunteers.

Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, gives a few remarks to the guests at an annual Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) award luncheon at the Hale Koa hotel in Honolulu. The luncheon was held to honor volunteers of the NMCRS.

"I have long admired the work of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, and I have a profound respect for the society's volunteers and the outstanding services they provide our Sailors, Marines and their families," James said. "On behalf of all of the Sailors and Marines throughout Hawaii, I extend my sincere appreciation for your continued work and dedication."

"You do make a significant difference in their lives and are one of the Navy and Marine Corps' greatest assets," James added.

Once James was finished with his remarks, Paul Belanger, director of NMCRS Pearl Harbor, awarded Jennifer Cox, chair of volunteers, with the volunteer of the year award.

The second recipient, Gea Carter, received the Kokua Award, which recognizes a volunteer who has performed outstanding service at NMCRS Pearl Harbor and who exemplifies the true spirit of *aloha* through his or her work as an NMCRS volunteer.

"You can certainly be proud of your accomplishments and of the fact that you have personally made a difference in the lives of many service members and their families," Belanger said. "Please accept this award as a token of our appreciation and mahalo for your contributions."

JPAC strengthens cooperation with UH campuses

Story and photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Detachment Hawaii

Representatives from the University of Hawaii at West Oahu and Leeward Community College visited the Joint POW/MIA Command (JPAC) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and signed a memorandum of understanding Feb. 27.

The Memorandum of Understanding for Academic Exchange and Cooperation assists in the consultation and exchange of information between the three institutions.

(Left to right) Joseph Mobley, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs at University of Hawaii; Army Maj. Gen. Stephen Tom, Commander, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC); and Michael Pecsok, vice chancellor for academic affairs, Leeward Community College, sign a Memorandum of Understanding for Academic Exchange and Cooperation at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"Today is an historic day," said Army Maj. Gen. Stephen Tom, commander of JPAC. "It is a win-win situation for JPAC and the academic institutions we have with us. We will have good cooperation and a good exchange about a very important subject matter."

Some of the staff at the JPAC Central Identification Lab will be involved with lectures at both the University of Hawaii and Leeward Community College, while faculty from those institutions will assist in the progress of academic development and the sharing of expertise at JPAC.

"I remember reading about the accomplishments of the laboratory and now it's great to actually be able to see it," said Joseph Mobley, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs at University of Hawaii. "It is more impressive than I had imagined."

"We value this relationship," Mobley added. "It's nice to see it grow, nice to see it flourish, and we look forward to many years of affiliation."

Students and faculty of UH and LCC involved in the applied forensic anthropology program may be allowed to attend forensic science academy courses and proficiency training at JPAC in Hawaii.

The signed memorandum is effective for a trial period of five years and is designed to not involve any increase in the operating costs of the three institutions.

"We're very happy to have this agreement," said Michael Pecsok, vice chancellor for academic affairs, Leeward Community College. "That's really the heart of the academic enterprise, sharing, and that's what we do here."

Secretary Mabus to address fleet worldwide March 5

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus will address the Navy and Marine Corps team from Norfolk, Va. on board USS Bataan (LHD 5) pier side at Naval Station Norfolk on March 5. This worldwide all hands call will be televised and web-streamed live to announce to the fleet a new program designed to maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness to build resiliency and to hone the most combat effective force in the history of the Department of Navy.

Personnel across the globe can watch the secretary's remarks live on American Forces Network, the Pentagon Channel (www.pentagonchannel.mil), Direct-to-Sailor (DTS) or streaming on the Navy's and Marine Corps' Facebook pages, www.navy.mil and the Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System (DVIDS) (www.dvidshub.net) at 3:00 p.m. EST.

Following his remarks, the Secretary; Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command Lt. Gen. Dennis J. Hejlik, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick D. West. and Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps Michael P. Barrett will answer questions from the audience, as well as questions from those watching throughout the fleet. Sailors and Marines can submit their questions live through the Navy's and Marine Corps' Facebook pages, or in advance by emailing them to USNtownhall@gmail.com. Electronically submitted questions will need the name, rank and command of the person submitting them.

You can find Navy's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/USNavy and the Marine Corps' at www.facebook.com/marinecorps.

IAs honored

Continued from A-1

when he finally came home."

Penniman also recognized Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Mark Cannon, who was killed in action during combat operations in Korengal Valley in Afghanistan. During an enemy engagement, Cannon ran to the aid of a fallen Marine. He was subsequently hit and killed by enemy fire.

"It was at the request of the Marines who served with HM3 Cannon in Afghanistan that he be recognized here this afternoon, and it is certainly fitting and proper that we do so," said Penniman.

Cannon received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with a Combat "V" for Valor for his actions.

Since 2002, more than 100,000 active and Reserve Sailors have served on IA deployments. Today, there are about 6,500 Sailors deployed in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

More than 1,400 IA Sailors have been awarded the Bronze Star, and nearly 20,000 have been awarded meritorious service awards of various types. There are 62 Sailors who were awarded the Purple Heart.

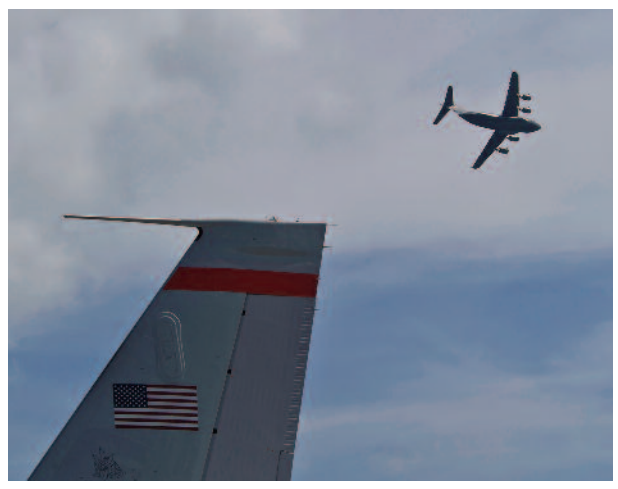
(See additional photo on page A-5)

Singapore Air and Trade Show wraps up

JBPHH Airmen participate

Master Sgt. Ally Day

13th Air Force Public Affairs



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

A U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III from the Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) Demonstration Team performs an aerial display during the 2012 Singapore Airshow on Feb. 15.

CHANGI, Singapore -- Approximately 69 Sailors, Airmen and Department of Defense personnel from across the Pacific represented U.S. military forces at the largest air show in Asia and one of the top three aerospace and defense exhibitions in the world Feb. 14-19 here.

Held every two years, the Singapore Airshow 2012 drew thousands to the Changi Exhibition Centre.

"We are honored to have been invited by the government of Singapore to participate in the air show," said Col. Marc Caudill, U.S. forces mission commander for the air show from Pacific Air Forces at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), Hawaii. "As the mission commander, I've had nothing but smooth coordination with Experia and U.S. forces on the ground to make this air show a success."

According to Experia, the show organizers, more than 149,000 people attended the trade and air show.

With so many people attending, security has played a vital part for the safety of everyone concerned, said Caudill. "Experia has done a great job working with us while maintaining their tight security measures."

Visitors expressed their thanks and appreciation to service members, Caudill said.

Aircraft on display included a P-3 Orion from Patrol Squadron 16, a KC 135 Stratotanker and an E-3 Sentry from 18th Wing at Kadena Air Base, Japan.

In addition to the static display, there were flyovers by the B-52 Stratofortress deployed from Minot Air Force Base, N.D. to Andersen AGB, Guam. The demonstration team from JBPHH flew the C-17 daily during the air show, but was also able to join other aircraft in the static corral.

"I have always enjoyed sharing the many aspects of the C-17 and talking about its capabilities," said Maj. Mike Pasquino, 535th Airlift Squadron C-17 pilot. "More than anything, being here has given me the opportunity to engage with members of our partner nations."

Through participation in air shows like this, the U.S. is able to demonstrate its commitment to security in the Asia Pacific region, Caudill said.

An added dimension to the air show was the presence of the Band of the Pacific - Hawaii from JBPHH.

"It is important to highlight the band," Caudill said. "Their involvement this week added a new dimension to our PACAF engagement strategy, both at the air show and numerous venues around Singapore. It was truly an extraordinary cohesion of aircraft, Sailors and Airmen projecting an endearing message of peace, security and goodwill across Asia-Pacific."

Through participation in air shows and other regional events, the U.S. is able to demonstrate its commitment to the security of the Asia-Pacific region, promote the standardization and interoperability of equipment, and display capabilities critical to the success of current and future military operations.

Commentary

'Sea Change' – Navy Region Hawaii Commander's 'First 100 Days'

Rear Adm. Frank L. Ponds

Rear Adm. Frank L. Ponds

Team,

This past Sunday marked 100 days since I became commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. These past few months have been a sea change for all of us, a time to see both great challenges and great opportunities.

Looking westward from the United States mainland, one cannot help but see the strategic importance of Hawaii. Today, the world, nation and region shifts more attention to the western Pacific, Asia and beyond. The Navy itself is undergoing a sea change, aligning assets and focus to Hawaii.

This past 100-day period has been exciting and eventful.

We conducted the 70th Pearl Harbor Day in December, hosted a visit by CNO Adm. Greenert last month, and welcomed a visit by the USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) and the Carrier Strike Group last week. Last month we saw the opening of the new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's marine science facility on Ford Island. We continue to see evidence of the importance of our mission here in Hawaii, both at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Oahu and at Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai.

We are a vital strategic base-two installations focused on warfighting, forward operations and readiness–committed to modernization but only while respecting the customs and heritage of Hawaii and our own naval heritage.

In the next 100 days, you will see how we are planning to honor the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Coral Sea and Battle of Midway – key turning points, major "sea changes" for the United States in World War II. Throughout the year, you'll see references to the War of 1812, speaking of a great and lasting change, which historians see as the birth of our Navy as a global force for good.

This is the bicentennial year of the War of 1812 and an opportunity to reflect on how far our Navy has come since then. It is a real honor to welcome the Indonesian ship KRI Dewaruci to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam this week. Crewed by Indonesian navy sailors, KRI Dewaruci was invited by then-CNO Adm. Roughead to participate in the International Operation Sail (OpSail) 2012 to commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812.

Our Navy continues to work together with other nations' navies to keep the oceans free for commerce and trade, building partnerships and cooperation in order to prevent war, and we are ready to operate forward, fight when necessary and win when challenged.

Here in the gateway to Asia-Pacific, we think globally and act locally. Ours is an important mission. One of our biggest goals for region and MIDPAC is to strengthen our local partnerships in the community and also with other area commands of all services. We're conducting strategic planning in a "one team" concept, building trust, harmony and cooperation.

I am pleased to have good working relationships with Senators Inouye and Akaka, Representatives Hanabusa and Hirono, Gov. Abercrombie, Mayor Carlisle and community representatives. In my first 100 days, I've had the privilege of meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. The hospitality has been tremendous.

These first 100 days have also reinforced my first impression of you, my staff – that you are a first-class professional group of people who really know your jobs and understand our important mission. Since last November, Mrs. Ponds and I have had the opportunity to meet many of you. We appreciate the warm welcome you've given us and look forward to getting to know you better.

Thank you for a great first 100 days. Let's work together to face other sea changes that lie ahead and meet those challenges together as one team.

Diverse Views

In light of March as Women's History Month, what do you think has been the most significant accomplishment (s) for women in the past decade?

Yeoman Seaman
Mohamed Coxsattaur

"Women can vote, and join the military. There are no barriers anymore. They cut the racial barriers a bit and now the sexist barriers are coming down. We'll probably have a female president soon."

Col. Ellen Moore
PACOM J1

"The most significant accomplishment is the Air Force now lets women into 99 percent of their career fields—women are a true force multiplier."

Engineer 2nd Class (SW)
Maurio Smith

"Women being able to vote. It affects elections and helps get people into office that probably wouldn't before. Also more women getting into [government] office, and there are a lot more females in the military."

Senior Master Sgt. Felica Young
PACAF A4

"Women have been assigned to jobs other than administrative positions which they started their career in years ago. Also, women are being looked upon as competitors in a male-dominated Air Force. Equality is on the rise with more females in leadership roles."

Fire Controlman 2nd Class
Joshua Kampsen
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

"Getting in the work place more. Women are accepting a lot of the same jobs men do and are being active in politics. Specifically in the Navy there are a couple of women I know that PT with the guys and aspire to do the best they can and are even better than the guys. There's a lot of respect for them."

Staff Sgt. Damion Scott
647th Logistics Readiness Squadron

"I would say women being treated equally as men. There isn't that much stay-at-home-moms anymore. Women are now CEOs and so forth."

(Provided by David Underwood Jr. and Jazzmin Williams)

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

Amelia Earhart prepares to fly from Oahu

Photo courtesy of Hawaii Aviation state archive of historic photos and facts

Famed aviator Amelia Earhart dons her flight suit at Wheeler Field before departing Jan. 11, 1935 for her record-breaking flight from Oahu to California. On that trip, she became the first person to fly solo across the Pacific from Honolulu to Oakland, Calif.

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USS Columbus leaves for western Pacific deployment

MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

U.S. Navy photo by MCC Josh Thompson

Los Angeles-class submarine USS Columbus (SSN 762) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled six-month western Pacific deployment Feb.22.

Friends and families of the crew of USS Columbus (SSN 762) gathered at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to say goodbye as the Los Angeles-class submarine departed for a western Pacific deployment Feb. 22.

"The submarine is in outstanding material condition, thanks to the recent installation of the most modern combat system and the hard work of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard," said Cmdr. David Youtt, Columbus commanding officer. "Columbus is in better condition than when it was delivered to the fleet in 1994."

Since undergoing an extended shipyard period in 2009 and returning from her last deployment in June 2010, Columbus has undergone several maintenance upgrades and conducted training in preparation for this deployment.

"We are scheduled to conduct a western Pacific deployment; however, Columbus is capable and ready to execute missions anywhere in the world," Youtt said. "We will be deploying with more than 130 Sailors and officers, and they are excited and enthusiastic to execute the tasking that they were trained for and the ship was designed to do."

With Sailors transferring to and from Columbus since returning from their last deployment, a large portion of the crew has never deployed, according to Youtt. Electronics Technician 3rd Class Kyle Lightell, who reported on board Columbus on September 2011, is really looking forward to getting underway since this will be his first deployment.

"I have done quite a bit of training and preparation for this deployment, and on that note, I cannot wait to further my knowledge by actually being able to get the hands-on experience doing my job at sea," Lightell said. "Also, I am excited about visiting different places during our port visits and experiencing their cultures and way of life."

USS Columbus is the 51st Los Angeles-class submarine and the 12th improved version of this class, which includes a vertical launch system for Tomahawk cruise missiles and an improved hull design for under-ice operations. She completed a post shipyard availability in June 1994 in Groton, Conn. after initial construction and shakedown operations. In September 1994, the ship conducted an inter-fleet transfer to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and joined the U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Force.

U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Aries D. Early

Joseph Field, a Nimitz Elementary school student, helps Tech. Sgt. Stanley Johnson share a book with the class. Airmen of 13th Air Force visited Adm. Chester W. Nimitz Elementary School here and read books to kindergarten children on Feb. 16 as part of African American Heritage Month.

Jungle Warriors help children 'hit the books'

Tech. Sgt. Aries D. Early

13th Air Force Public Affairs

Airmen of 13th Air Force visited Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Elementary School at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and read books to kindergarten children on Feb. 16 as part of African American Heritage Month on Feb. 16.

This event was an opportunity for military members to interact with children and share the joy of reading as well as the diversity and richness of African American history.

"I'm really happy that members of the 13th came out today and showed the kids that they care," said Technical Sgt. Dwana Bell, 13th Air Force, non-commissioned officer in charge of client systems. "Just by showing up, we might encourage a child to read a little more about the great accomplishments of all Americans."

Bell purchased several books, which shedonated to the school, and organized the volunteers who would read to the students.

Staff Sgt. Keenan Pullin, 13th Air Force, client systems technician, who read "John Henry: An American Legend" by Ezra Jack Keats, said he would have loved an opportunity like this one as a child.

"Growing up, not a lot of time was spent on the subject," Pullin said. "We would quickly read over something about Frederick Douglas or Dr. George Washington Carver, but to have it read to us ... and even better by someone in the military ... would've been great."

After the readings were over, the children were encouraged to keep reading whenever they could.

"Kids have a tendency to get wrapped up in television and video games, but there is so much you get from reading a book, and they don't have batteries that you have to replace," said Technical Sgt Stanley Johnson, 13th Air Force, unit training manager.

"It's always a pleasure having the military stop by our classrooms," said Meliffa Ishikawa, a Nimitz kindergarten teacher. "The children really enjoy their visits."

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

Indonesian sailors aboard the Indonesian Navy tall ship KRI Dewaruci perform a traditional dance following the ship's arrival at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 29. Dewaruci will participate in the International Operation Sail 2012 as part of the commemoration of the War of 1812.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

(Right) Rear Adm. Fernandez Ponds, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Hawaii Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, tours the Indonesian tall ship KRI Dewaruci. Dewaruci will participate in the International Operation Sail 2012 as part of the commemoration of the War of 1812.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Sean Furey

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

(Right) Indonesian sailors aboard the Indonesian Navy tall ship KRI Dewaruci observe the Hawaiian shoreline as the ship arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 29 during a scheduled port visit.

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

Henry Kapono, Hawaiian musician dedicates a special song he wrote, , "I'm Coming Home," to service men and women attending the 4th annual "Boots on the Ground" individual augmentee recognition luncheon Feb. 24 at the Ala Moana Hotel.

(Below) Rear Adm. Russell Penniman, Deputy Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, presents a coin to Sailors and Marines who were individual augmentees (IAs) in 2011 at the 4th annual Boots on the Ground IA recognition luncheon at the Ala Moana Hotel Feb. 24. More than 140 Sailors and Marines with their families were recognized during the luncheon hosted by the Honolulu Council of the Navy League.

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

The small boat crew aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) launches a rigid-hull inflatable boat while responding to a man overboard alert that turned out to be a false alarm. The ship, which visited Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, crossed over the international dateline earlier in the day and is en route to relieve USS Essex (LHD 2) in Sasebo, Japan.

U.S. Navy photo by MCCS Joe Kane

New NAMRU-2 headquarters supports forward-deployed missions

Don Robbins

Assistant Editor

U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit No. 2 Pacific (NAMRU-2) held a ribbon cutting and blessing ceremony as it moved into its new location at the site of the former Liberty in Paradise Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 29. Aaron Mahi performed a Hawaiian blessing and Chaplain Cmdr. Jon Brzek provided remarks at the ceremony.

The newly renovated building 584 will house the headquarters element of NAMRU-2 Pacific, which conducts forward-deployed infectious disease surveillance and research in Southeast Asia and Oceana, primarily through a large laboratory detachment located in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, as well as a detachment in Singapore.

"The building puts us all in one location in close proximity to each other," said Capt. Gail Hathaway, commanding officer of NAMRU-2. "As a headquarters staff, we work very closely to support our laboratory facilities in Southeast Asia."

"We support Adm. Willard's (commander, U.S. Pacific Command) theater security preparation initiatives in Southeast Asia and provide force health protection information in the way of research data on infectious diseases. Our primary mission, and our function, is to study diseases that would be mission-abortive for U.S. troops. Primary diseases that we study are malaria, dengue, influenza, diarrhea diseases," she said.

Photo courtesy of NAMRU-2 Pacific

Capt. Gail Hathaway, commanding officer of U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit No. 2 Pacific (NAMRU-2), and Capt. George Schoeler, executive officer of NAMRU-2, untie the lei during the ceremony for the new NAMRU-2 headquarters on Feb. 29.

The building will house the 15 people assigned to the headquarters element, including administrative, research, enlisted and civilian personnel. The Navy research and development command headquarters was relocated from Jakarta, Indonesia in June 2010 and has been co-located with Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit 6 (NEPMU-6). NAMRU-2 Pacific has since outgrown the workspaces provided by NEPMU-6.

"The staff is extremely happy that we have our own space," said Capt. George Schoeler, executive officer of NAMRU-2 Pacific.

"This building gives us a little bit more stability," said Lt. Dustin Harrison, a microbiologist in the research department of NAMRU-2 Pacific.

"We have quite extensive coverage throughout the PACOM AOR (Pacific Command area of responsibility)," Harrison added.

NAMRU-2 supports American interests in the Pacific Theater and advances U.S. diplomacy in the region by studying infectious diseases of critical public health importance to the United States and other regional partners.

NAMRU-2 provides the United States with a continued forward presence that combines virology, microbiology, epidemiology, immunology, parasitology and entomology into a comprehensive capability to study tropical diseases where they occur. In this environment, new preventive measures and treatments can be tested and evaluated to provide better health measures for U.S. government personnel working in the region.

NAMRU-2 received a Meritorious Unit Commendation from the Secretary of the Navy for "...unparalleled success in providing direct technical and medical support to the operating forces of the United States Navy."

Army War College class learns a lesson on Lake Erie

Story and photo by Ensign Kelly Ruane

USS Lake Erie (CG 70) Public Affairs

The Advanced Operational Art Studies Fellowship (AOASF) visited USS Lake Erie (CG 70) on Feb. 22 for a ship tour as part of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College course.

The group consisted of senior officers from the Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Air Force, British army, Indian army, Canadian army and FBI.

According to Dan Fullerton, acting director for AOASF, the purpose of their visit was to "give some perspective on joint operations and how the Navy thinks, operates and lives."

Members of the fellowship often go on to be assigned at combatant commands worldwide where emphasis on joint military operations and understanding of national and international policies is essential.

"We really focus on national and strategic levels of war," Fullerton said.

The Advanced Operationa Art Studies Fellowship class visits USS Lake Erie (CG 70). Here, they take a moment for a glimpse of Pearl Harbor and the Arizona Memorial and the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

The class was greeted by Capt. John Banigan, executive officer, and escorted to key areas of the ship with special attention placed on war fighting capabilities, battle group operations and ballistic missile defense.

Energy conservation program to begin at Hickam Communities

Hickam Communities LLC

Beginning in May, selected homes in Hickam Communities will begin receiving a monthly energy conservation statement. The statements are not bills, and no monies will be due. Their purpose is to familiarize families with their utility consumption and help prepare them for the Department of Defense's (DoD) Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP), which the Air Force will launch at Hickam Communities in 2013.

RECP is mandated by Congress to pursue conservation in all privatized military communities.

All residents are encouraged to attend a town hall meeting at 6 p.m. March 8 at Ka Makani Community Center to learn more about the Department of Defense's Resident Energy Conservation Program.

It will be hosted by Col. Dann Carlson, deputy commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Hickam Communities is responsible for implementing and managing the program on behalf of the Air Force, and Hickam Communities has contracted the utility management company Minol to help manage it. Minol was selected for its reliability and customer service to military families. It currently services more than 44,000 military housing units. Minol will monitor home energy use and prepare monthly conservation statements.

Conservation statements will show electric and water use and compare a family's energy use to other families in similar homes. All new and renovated homes at Hickam have been outfitted with individual electric and water meters as part of construction to enable utility meter reads.

In preparation of tracking utility use, Hickam Communities and Minol will site check all meters to ensure they are properly connected and operating correctly. The Air Force and Hickam Communities will work to assure families that information on their conservation statements is accurate.

The first community to receive energy conservation statements will be Onizuka Village, along with select units in Officer Field. Statements will be mailed in early May. Earhart Village is next, receiving its first statement in June, followed by Hale Na Koa in July, and Officer Field in August.

Hickam Communities looks forward to supporting the Air Force and its families to help meet DoD energy conservation goals. Residents with questions about the program can contact their resident services team at 423-2300.

CNO Awards ceremony to be June 25

Continued from A-1

off at the source.

"We have had great initiatives so far, and we continue to encourage everyone in the command to get involved. Instilling an environmental focus within the workplace encourages environmental best practices at home," noted Lt. Cmdr. Angela Watson, fuel director.

In another of the command's efforts, operation of a fuel oil reclamation facility has reduced disposal costs of off-specification fuel, reducing dependence on foreign oil. The annual CNO Environmental Awards program is designed to recognize Navy ships, installations and individuals or teams for exceptional environmental stewardship. "We are committed to a sustained effort of environmental stewardship at all levels here in Hawaii. By protecting our natural resources, we ensure that not only the heritage, but also the history that is uniquely Hawaii, is preserved for generations to come," Ponds said.

All CNO winners will advance to the Secretary of the Navy level of competition. A ceremony honoring the winners will be held June 5 at the United States Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

March 8: TAMC Trauma Center
March 15: Marine Corps Base Hawaii – Ospreys and H-1s
March 22: Historic preservation/adaptive reuse
March 29: Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard – Career Fair

(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.

Air Force network to migrate to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

747th Communications Squadron

Air Force Network (AFNet) migrations are part of an ongoing service-wide effort to transform cyber operations and establish a central Air Force network under the direction of a single commander. In today's environment, each major command owns and operates individual network and e-mail service and has help desks located at every installation.

By consolidating these networks and centralizing services, the AF can significantly increase security, standardize operations and training, and reduce cost without sacrificing the quality and timeliness of information needed by war-fighters.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) will soon become the sixth Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) base to migrate its computer users into the central Air Force network.

Over a six-week period, beginning March 12, network technicians will migrate workstations, network users and email into the AFNet. The goal of this project is to collapse all individual Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard networks into the AFNet. To the majority of computer users, changes will be transparent and should not cause any interruption to network access or normal day-to-day operations. However, for the Air Force, this represents a major change to how computer networks are managed.

Over the years, the current approach led to standardization and security problems, high operation and maintenance costs, and a lack of enterprise situational awareness. In short, there was no single organization or commander responsible for the network.

The AFNet migration project addresses these issues and places Air Force cyber operations under the operational control of a single commander. This approach promises to yield significant improvements in the Air Force's ability to detect and mitigate daily virus activity and malicious intrusion attempts.

So how will this affect you? During the migration window, user impact will be minimal and in most cases transparent. The most visible change will be the designation of a new e-mail address that military, civil service, and contractors will keep for the duration of their Air Force career, regardless of the base or organization assigned.

The migration replaces the old first.last@hickam.af.mil e-mail address with a standard first.last@us.af.mil e-mail address, allowing central management of these accounts. As more bases join the AFNet, Air Force employees will be able to log in to their accounts from any AFNet base without requesting and creating an additional account.

This will allow easy access to the network during deployments, and throughout TDY and PCS moves. Sites such as the Air Force Portal, Air Force Personnel Center, Defense Finance Accounting Service, will also remain easily accessible regardless of your duty location.

Through the use of a common access card (CAC) and static e-mail account, Air Force members who are TDY, deployed, or in PCS status can communicate and manage personal information through any AF CAC enabled computer.

A team of Air Force Network Integration Center, 690th Network Support Group, and 747th Communications Squadron (CS) technicians are busy preparing equipment and resources to facilitate the migration of more than 9,000 users. To ensure a smooth transition to the AFNet, look for future 747th Communications Squadron generated eAdvisories for additional migration related information.

To report...
Fraud, Waste or Abuse
Contact Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Inspector General
• We are here to help
• You can remain anonymous
• Remember to use your chain of command first
Hotline: 808-473-1782
Email: PRLH-CNRHIG@navy.mil

Hickam Communities launches resident survey with 'Gimme 5' campaign

Hickam Communities LLC

A "5" is what Hickam Communities wants to see on its annual resident satisfaction survey that launches tomorrow and runs through April 27. Staff will be out in force delivering surveys to families March 3 and encouraging them to provide feedback about their experience as part of the Hickam Communities *ohana*.

"Our annual survey is one of the most important ways for us to measure how we're doing and helps us identify areas that might need improvement," said Stephen Quinn, director of property management at Hickam Communities.

"Feedback from past surveys has helped us enhance and improve services and offer programs that our families really want and can benefit from." The "Gimme 5!" campaign will encourage residents to complete the survey and share their comments and suggestions throughout the survey period.

The survey, conducted by the real estate consulting firm CEL & Associates, Inc., will be delivered to residents tomorrow and takes about five minutes to complete. Upon completing the survey, residents are asked to seal it in the self-addressed, pre-paid return envelope and leave it at their front door.

Hickam Communities staff will collect the surveys a little later in the day and leave behind five ice cream coupons to thank families for sharing their comments. Surveys can also be dropped in the mail anytime before April 27. The surveys are confidential and anonymous. Barcodes on the survey only identify the community.

A comment card will also be included with the survey. Residents who complete it and return it with their survey will be entered into a random drawing for a chance to win one of five $250 cash prizes. One drawing will be held in each community. Surveys with comment cards postmarked no later than March 31 will be eligible for the drawing.

"It's important our families complete and return the survey. Their comments and suggestions help our team plan and budget for valuable resident programs and services," Quinn said.

The deadline to submit the annual resident survey is April 27. Residents who have questions about the survey process should contact their Hickam Communities resident services team at 423-2300.

Pacific Angel takes wing in RP

13th Air Force Public Affairs

Approximately 58 U.S. military service members, along with local non-governmental organizations and host nation military forces, will kick off the 2012 Pacific Angel (PACANGEL) season in Legaspi, Bicol Province, Philippines, from March 5-10.

Operation PACANGEL 2012 includes humanitarian medical, dental and optometry care and engineering programs as well as various subject-matter expert exchanges and training opportunities.

Officially in its fifth year, Operation PACANGEL is a joint and combined humanitarian assistance operation led by 13th Air Force, headquartered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The operation supports U.S. Pacific Command's capacity-building efforts by partnering with other governments, non-governmental agencies and multilateral militaries in the respective region to provide medical, dental, optometric and engineering assistance to their citizens. This training can be used during future humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts.

Three additional PACANGEL missions are scheduled this year. They include Laos from April 23 through 28, Vietnam from June 11-16, and Nepal from Sept.10-15.

Since 2007, U.S. military service members, together with host nation military personnel throughout the region, have improved the lives of tens of thousands of people through Operation PACANGEL missions.

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