"Navigator"
HO'OKELE
PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

March 16, 2012 www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii www2.hickam.af.mil Volume 3 Issue 10

Pentagon leaders praise Willard, welcome Locklear to PACOM

Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.

American Forces Press Service

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii--Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, praised the outgoing chief of U.S. Pacific Command for his leadership and welcomed his successor March 9.

Navy Adm. Robert F. Willard, who retires after nearly four decades of naval service, passed the leadership of PACOM to Navy Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III at Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii.

"Adm. Willard brings to a close a remarkable, nearly four-decade career as a naval aviator," Panetta said. "It has taken him to every corner of the globe and to almost every level of command from fighter squadron to commander of the mighty [U.S.] 7th Fleet and now the Pacific Command."

Panetta characterized Willard as "a proven and very effective leader" who also spent time at the Pentagon serving on the joint staff.

"He's a brilliant and accomplished military officer," Panetta said of Willard. "He always offers very deep strategic insights into the most pressing security challenges. And his very plain spoken manner has made him an outstanding leader here in the Asia-Pacific."

Panetta noted the critical need to maintain a presence in the Asia-Pacific theater.

"This is an extremely important theater," he said. "And this is a pivotal moment in history when America's future, in many ways, depends on the peace and prosperity of this very vital region."

Dempsey added his perspective of PACOM's important role.

"This is no ordinary change of command," he said. "With the strategic sweep from the west coast of Bob's home state of California to the west coast of India, U.S. Pacific Command's responsibility encompasses almost half of the earth's surface and half of the world's population."

"It's also deeply intertwined with our nation's destiny in this 21st century, a fact that we made clear in our recently released emerging defense strategy," the chairman added.

Dempsey praised Willard's leadership since the admiral took command of PACOM in 2009.

"For almost three years, Bob and his 330,000 teammates nobly represented our nation's prestige with 36 of the most vibrant nations in the world," he said. "He epitomizes credible leadership."

"He is rock solid, unflappable and, as I mentioned earlier, humble, all balanced with a touch of California cool that you'd expect from a great fighter pilot," Dempsey added.

"The good news is we're placing this command in the hands of another extraordinary couple, Sam and Pam Locklear," Dempsey continued. "Sam, your record for the Navy speaks for itself. And your leadership in Europe, most recently, expertly working with our NATO partners, advanced our efforts to help the people of Libya turn a new and more promising page in their history."

Panetta pointed to a crucial time in the Pacific and the need for a strong leader.

"I can't think of a more critical time when the nation needs the very best, the very best in military experience, military leadership and military advice to be able to confront the challenges and the threats that we face in the world today," he said.

Dempsey said a "new and promising chapter" awaits the new PACOM commander as focus shifts to the Pacific region.

"This may sound daunting, but I know the men and women of PACOM are ready for whatever challenges they may face," he said.

"I can't think of a better couple to lead them than the Locklears," Dempsey added. "You two have my complete trust, confidence and support."

(See additional photo on page A-5)

U.S. Navy Photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

Keiki (children) perform during a change of command and retirement ceremony March 9 at Camp H.M. Smith. Observing the performance (left to right) are Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, U. S. Navy Adm. Robert Willard, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey and Adm. Samuel Locklear III. The ceremony honored Adm. Willard and featured Adm. Locklear as the incoming Commander, U.S. Pacific Command.

Joint Chiefs Chairman holds town hall with Airmen, Sailors at JBPHH

Story and photo by MC3 Dustin W. Sisco

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West Det Hawaii

Gen. Martin Dempsey, the 18th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, held a town hall meeting at the Hickam Officer's Club at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on March 9.

The event was held as a way for Sailors and Airmen to personally ask Dempsey questions concerning current events.

After being introduced by Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of JBPHH, Dempsey began his opening remarks.

"When we're back there being asked all these questions about, 'Can you do this, can you do that,' what we know at the other end of these decisions that four stars like me, Gen. North, the Chief of Naval Operations and Chief of Staff of the Air Force make, is that it'll get done," Dempsey said. "And it'll get done because of you. So you just need to know how much confidence we have in you."

The floor was opened up for questions once the chairman finished his introductory speech, it was followed by a press conference in which Dempsey discussed current events.

Among the topics discussed was the situation in Syria and how the military plans to get involved. "The question is not 'can we do it' … it's should we," Dempsey said. "The United States military is the most capable military force on the face of the planet. In my personal opinion, we are always better when we operate with a coalition."

After the meeting, Dempsey expressed how he felt about talking with the Sailors and Airmen at JBPHH.

"I'm proud to say that they asked some spectacularly hard questions about tough issues our military is addressing, such as the future defense budget, instability in Syria, military retirement and health care, and the growing role of cyber," Dempsey said. "We had a great conversation, and I appreciate their thoughtfulness and candor of their questions."

The 18th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey, speaks to Sailors and Airmen at a town hall meeting at the Hickam Officer's Club at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The meeting was held as a way for service members to personally ask Dempsey questions concerning current events.

SECDEF visits Arizona Memorial

Adm. Cecil Haney, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta prepare for a moment of silence during a wreath-laying ceremony at the USS Arizona Memorial on March 9. They later discussed the cultural and historic importance of Pearl Harbor. Panetta was in Hawaii to participate in U.S Pacific Command's change of command ceremony.

U.S. Navy photos by MC2 David Kolmel

Women's leadership panel to be held March 20 at theater

A women's leadership panel in honor of Women's History Month will take place from 11 to 12:30 p.m. March 20 at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Memorial Theater.

Panel guests include Rear Adm. Katherine Gregory, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific; Lt. Cmdr. Kyle Vernon, Personnel Support Detachment Pearl Harbor; Command Master Chief Patricia Roebuck, Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; Chief Master Sgt. Lisa Jayne, 15th Medical Group, 15th Wing; and Lorrie Kresge, US Air Force Academy Graduate, class of 1980.

The event is open to all military and civilian personnel. Panel members will reflect on the past and provide insight for the future. The theme is "Women's Education, Women's Empowerment."

This is a brown bag lunch event and all attendees are invited to bring something to eat. Food and drink are allowed in the theater.

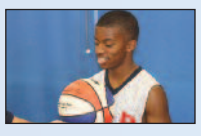
For more information, call LSC (AW/SW) Ebony Pinnock at 473-8000, ext. 5510 or email ebony.pinnock@navy.mil or call 1st Lt. Kathleen Eisenbrey at 448-6141.

CNSG MIDPAC ships receive back-to-back Green 'H' awards
See page A-2

Joint base celebrates Women's History Month
See page A-2

Cope Tiger trilateral exercise in full swing
See page A-4

Verrastro assumes helm of NAVSUP FLCPH
See page A-7


Fourteen-year-old baller wins 3-point shootout
See page B-1

New A-3D Skywarrior makes final landing at PAM
See page B-4

CNSG MIDPAC ships receive back-to-back Green 'H' awards

Story and photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific (CNSG MIDPAC) and Navy Region Hawaii, announced that all 11 of CNSG MIDPAC's Hawaii-based Navy surface ships received the 2011 Force Health and Wellness Award, or the Green "H."

According to Ponds, this is the second year in a row that all the ships that are part of MIDPAC and Destroyer Squadron 31 received the award.

"You represent one of only two fleet concentration areas to have 100 percent of all units assigned achieve the award in back-to-back years," Ponds said. "A special mention goes out to USS Port Royal and USS Hopper for earning their 13th consecutive awards. What a splendid example for all to aspire."

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW) William Triplett and Hospital Corpsman Elliot Long check on the leg of a shipmate aboard USS Port Royal (CG 73). Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific announced that all 11 of its ships, including Port Royal, received the 2011 Force Health Wellness Award, or the "Green H."

The purpose of the Green "H" unit award is to recognize shipboard Sailors who demonstrate their dedication to helping shipmates make constructive changes in their life by conducting activities like cardiopulmonary resuscitation training, smoking cessation courses, regular health fairs, fitness sessions and education on healthy living.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW) William Triplett, who is assigned to the guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73), said that medical played a small part in attaining the Green "H" award. He said that training, the fitness program, and the drug and alcohol program played a huge role in making it happen.

"It's really nice when the programs that we work on come together and culminate into these awards," Triplett said. "It's nice to see all the hard work we put in actually pay off."

The ships under CNSG MIDPAC include USS Chafee (DDG 90), USS Chosin (DDG 65), USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), USS Crommelin (FFG 37), USS Hopper (DDG 70), USS Lake Erie (CG 70), USS O'kane (DDG 77), USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), USS Port Royal (CG 73), USS Reuben James (FFG 57) and USS Russell (DDG 59).

The qualifying period for this award was from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2011. Ships that receive the COMNAVSURFOR Force Health and Wellness award can paint a Green "H" on the ship's bridge wing. Hash marks are painted below the "H" to indicate sequential awards.

Commands that are awarded the Green "H" five consecutive times are authorized to paint a green star above the Green "H."

Joint base celebrates Women's History with inspiring speaker

Story and photo by MC2 Tiarra Fulgham

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West Detachment Hawaii

U.S. military service members and Department of Defense civilians attended the annual celebration of Women's History Month at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on March 9.

This year marks the 25th annual observance at Pearl Harbor. The theme for this year is "Women's Education, Women's Empowerment."

Capt. Larry Scruggs, chief staff officer for JBPHH, started the event by saying, "Take a few moments, minutes every day this month, and think about a woman that has made a difference in your life ... what the women have done to empower us and our nation."

Beth Terry, president of Beth Terry Seminars Inc. from Phoenix, was the guest speaker. Her program topic was "Thinking about Thinking," based on her latest book, with a checklist for critical thinking and decision making. Terry spoke about how to encourage people to think better about themselves and their surroundings in order to start thinking differently so their lives will improve.

Terry said she wanted women to walk away from her speech and be able to "be empowered, to think for themselves, to stand on their own two feet, and celebrate who they are and how they are and where they are."

"I thought she was very inspiring and empowering. She had a lot to say about us revaluating how we think, and it gave me a lot to think about," said Jennifer Kehe, who attended the event.

Guest speaker Beth Terry demonstrates with U.S. Navy Sailors how energy is transfered between humans. Terry was this year's Women's History Month speaker March 9 at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The event was not only focused on celebrating women, but also focused on the men who support empowerment of women.

Terry was president of Pacific Rims Seminars of Hawaii for 17 years and was later president of the National Speakers Association (NSA) in Arizona in 2005-2006. She received the highest designation in the NSA, the certified speaker professional. Of the approximently 700 awardees, fewer than 250 are women.

This year marks the 34th observance of women's history in the United States. It began as "Women's History Week" in 1978 and later changed to cover an entire month in 1987. National Women's History Month provides an opportunity to educate the general public about the significant roles of women in American history and contemporary society.

Commentary

Women's History Month 2012: Navy milestones

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

"Women's Education – Women's Empowerment" is the 2012 theme for Women's History Month, celebrated throughout March. It is an opportunity to reflect on the milestones women have achieved in the Navy.

Beginning in the American Revolution and continuing through the War of 1812 and Civil War, women have played critical roles in support of Navy missions. In 1908, the Navy Nurse Corps was officially established. Women's roles in the Navy were expanded throughout the 20th century in World Wars I and II and in the Korean and Vietnam wars, and in 1994 women began serving aboard combatant ships and piloting combat aircraft.

Today, women are serving in current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, and as recent as November of 2011, the Navy started to train and integrate women for service aboard U.S. Navy submarines. These are firsts—but definitely not lasts—as we continue to seek out opportunities for women to serve our country within our ranks. Today, nearly 65,000 active duty and reserve women serve in our Navy.

Among the more than one dozen Navy ships named in honor of women, three are gray-hull destroyers. USS Higbee (DD-806), a Gearing-class destroyer, was named for Lenah S. Higbee, who served as superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps 100 years ago, from 1911 to 1922.

One of our own MIDPAC guided-missile destroyers homeported here at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, USS Hopper (DDG 70), is named for Rear Adm. Grace Hopper, computer technology pioneer for the nation. Another Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, USS Roosevelt (DDG 80), is named for both President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, a woman who championed quality of life issues of military service members, families and veterans.

A number of island-wide events are being held to commemorate women's contributions to our Navy. On Tuesday, March 20, Rear Adm. Kate Gregory, commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific, will lead a Women's History Month Leadership Panel at the joint base's Hickam Memorial Theater. This is a great opportunity to discuss the issues and challenges and share our strategies for the future.

Taking a moment to pause and reflect on the milestones women have achieved and their unique contributions is a fitting tribute as we continue our journey.

Mahalo and aloha.

USS Cheyenne commander visits ROTC students

MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

The commanding officer and select crew members of the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) visited several colleges Feb. 29 to March 9, speaking to Recruit Officer Training Corps (ROTC) students about the opportunities available to them in the U.S. Navy's submarine force.

Over the course of several days, Cmdr. Gary Rogeness, commanding officer of Cheyenne, Senior Chief Electronics Technician (SS) Michael Hinkle, chief of the boat, and Lt.j.g. John Russell visited Prairie View A&M, located at Prairie View, Texas, Rice University in Houston, University of Colorado, at Boulder, Colo. and Iowa State University at Ames, Iowa.

During the visits, Rogeness spoke about life as a submariner, career progression and the current status of the submarine force.

"It was a great opportunity to interact with a large group of midshipmen" Rogeness said. "We brought the fleet to these future leaders and gave them a glimpse of what the submarine force has to offer them in terms of personal development and job satisfaction when accomplishing a difficult assignment."

U.S. Navy photo

Cmdr. Gary Rogeness, commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) (right), presents a laser engraved wooden plate commemorating Cheyenne's 2011 western Pacific deployment to Rufino Lopez, a student at Rice University's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), following an informal question and answer session March 1 on the submarine force.

Hinkle spoke about life as a junior officer aboard a fast attack submarine and their contribution to the overall mission. Russell shared his views on the qualities necessary to be a successful and productive division officer in the submarine force and how junior officers should take advantage of the experience the senior enlisted can bring to their development.

At the conclusion of each visit, Rogeness recognized several outstanding students by presenting tokens of appreciation which included USS Cheyenne 15th anniversary coins, plaques and commemorative plates.

Rogeness, Russell and Hinkle finished their trip by visiting Cheyenne, Wyo., the submarine's namesake city. While there, they addressed the state senate, met with several state officials and provided a short synopsis of Cheyenne's last deployment.

"The city of Cheyenne has always been extremely supportive and had a fantastic relationship with the ship's crew," Rogeness said. "It was wonderful to visit our namesake city to update them on how their Sailors are doing and see how proud they are to have USS Cheyenne represent their city."

U.S. Naval Academy Women's Glee Club to perform tonight

AME1 (AW) Calori Mullins

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

A concert by the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) Women's Glee Club themed "A Salute to America's Heroes," is scheduled 7:30 p.m. tonight at the Cathedral of St. Andrew, located at 229 Queen Emma Square.

The performance is free. The doors will open 30 minutes prior to the presentation.

Pearl Harbor survivor Sterling Cale, accompanied by his daughter and granddaughter, were among those in attendance for the U.S. Naval Academy Women's Glee Club's previous performance aboard the USS Arizona Memorial on March 13.

The presentation was part of a remembrance tour coordinated by Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during the glee club's visit to Hawaii over their 10-day spring break tour. A performance was also held March 15 at First United Methodist Church.

For more information on USNA Women's Glee Club, visit www.usna.edu/music.

(See next week's Ho'okele for complete coverage of the USNA Women's Glee Club's performance aboard the USS Arizona Memorial.)

Diverse Views

What are you doing to help support energy conservation in your home and office?

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (SW) Ashley Michelle Kelly
USS Port Royal (CG 73)

"We just got new bicycles so we don't have to use our cars as much. During the daytime we open up the windows as opposed to turning on the air conditioner. We turn on the fans and let the breeze pass through."

Master Sgt. Gary James
647th Force Support Squadron

"Ensure lights and A/C are turned off when not in office or home, as well as unplug appliances not regularly used."

Cryptologic Technician (Technical) Seaman Holly Natale
USS Port Royal (CG 73)

"We turn off the water supply to any of our hoses when we are not using them in the deep sink in the galley."

Senior Master Sgt. Matt Nugent
25th Air Support Operations Squadron

"Disconnected appliances, excess items like TVs, games, to reduce cost at home. We saved $160 in a month. Ensure lights not being used are turned off, incorporated end-of-day checklist to ensure this is done at work."

Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Electrical) Fireman Aubree Lee
USS Port Royal (CG 73)

"I turn off the lights when I leave the room. If I see the lights are on I turn it off."

(Provided by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico and David 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

Chase of the Constitution took place during War of 1812

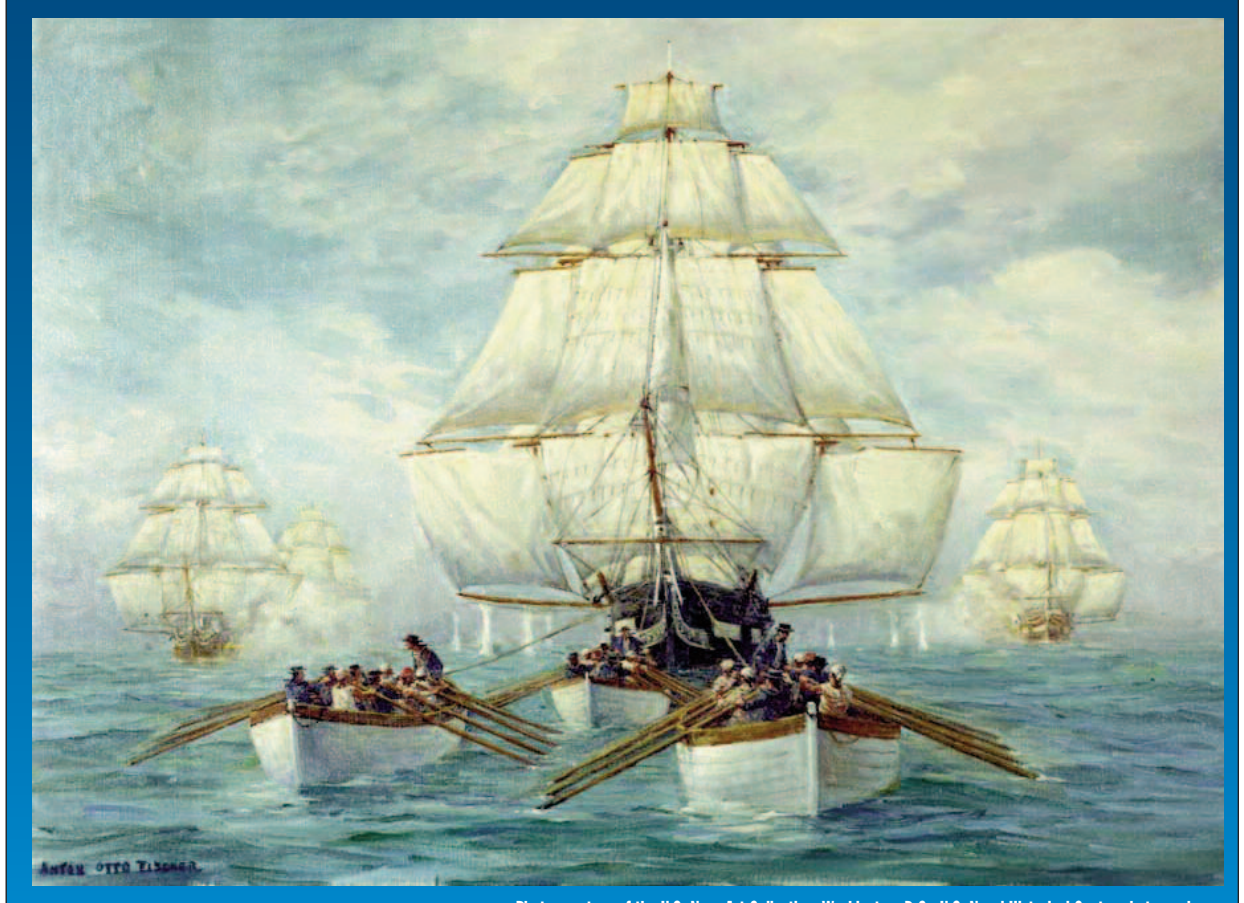


Photo courtesy of the U.S. Navy Art Collection, Washington, D.C., U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph

This painting by Anton Otto Fischer depicts the boats of USS Constitution, towing her in a calm, while she was being pursued by a squadron of British warships on July 18, 1812. This year is the bicentennial of the War of 1812.

HO'OKELE
Pearl Harbor - Hickam News

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii
Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

Chief of Staff
Capt. Melvin Lee

Director, Public Affairs
Agnes Tauyan

Deputy Director, Public Affairs
Bill Doughty

Leading Petty Officer
MC2 Mark Logico

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 Verceluz

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.

Cope Tiger trilateral exercise in full swing

Capt. David Herndon

Cope Tiger Public Affairs

KORAT ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE, Thailand -- Readiness and continued development of multilateral interoperability remains a key priority for allies and partners participating in Cope Tiger 12, a field-training and large-force air employment exercise that began here March 12.

During the two-week exercise, more than 1,600 combined service members and civilians from the U.S., Thailand and Republic of Singapore aim to enhance cooperative relationships and improve procedures in airpower.

"This is the 18th time our nations have participated in a single, multinational exercise together," said Col. Marc Caudill, Cope Tiger U.S. exercise director and wing commander. "Our cooperation will not only ensure regional security and stability, but also provide our aircrews and personnel an opportunity to gain valuable insights and build long-lasting-relationships that will benefit all nations in this region."

The colonel explained that the exercise will enable the U.S., Thailand and Singapore to better respond to a full spectrum of crises, from humanitarian and disaster response, to potential regional security threats.

"We're all learning how to better operate in a combined and joint environment through robust air operations," the colonel said. "The U.S. has maintained close relationships with both Thailand and Singapore for many years, and Cope Tiger demonstrates resolve and commitment to regional peace and stability by our nations."

U.S. Air Force photo by Capt David Herndon

Maintenance Airmen from the Florida Air National Guard's 125th Fighter Wing conduct a hot wash a recent launch of F-15 Eagles at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand on March 12. The Airmen are with more than 1,600 personnel participating in Cope Tiger 2012, a large-force air employment trilateral exercise between the Royal Thai Air Force, Republic of Singapore Air Force and U.S. Air Force.

The exercise includes a total of 92 aircraft and 34 air defense units. U.S. aircraft include the C-130 Hercules, A-10 Thunderbolt II, C-17 Globemaster III and F-15 Eagle with units from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii; Joint Base Elemendorf-Richardson Alaska; Osan Air Base, Korea; Yokota Air Base, Japan; and the Florida Air National Guard.

"What we have here are total force Airmen enabling our three nations' interest in fostering relationships that are beneficial to regional peace and stability," Caudill said. "We are elated that this year we can rely on the combat skill and precision of the Florida Air National Guard's 159th Fighter Squadron to help further our combined capabilities."

Five major types of training will be conducted during the exercise: dissimilar basic fighting maneuver training, dissimilar air combat tactics training, close air support training, tactical airdrop training, and large force employment training. Forces will also exercise electronic warfare, tactical airlift, search and rescue procedures, mission planning, and in-flight interoperability.

Exercise Cope Tiger aims to reinforce the U.S. commitment to the Asia-Pacific region, and demonstrates U.S. capabilities to project combined and joint forces strategically in a multi-lateral environment. The exercise concludes March 23.

Washington Women's Leadership Symposium focuses on women's role

Senior Airman Christina Brownlow

Air Force Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Air Force leaders emphasized the importance of women's role in the military at the 2012 Joint Women's Leadership Symposium on March 6.

The Air Force keynote speakers were Lt. Gen. Janet C. Wolfenbarger, office of the assistant secretary of the Air Force for acquisition military deputy, and Maj. Gen. Margaret H. Woodward, 17th Air Force commander.

Wolfenbarger and Woodward shared their thoughts on women who serve in the military to a crowd of approximately 150 Airmen and civilians during the service-specific breakout sessions. Both generals enjoy status as pioneers among women in the Air Force. While Wolfenbarger was recently nominated to become the Air Force's first female four-star general, Woodward became the first woman to lead an air campaign in 2011 during Operation Odyssey Dawn.

U.S. Air Force graphic by Corey Parrish

"The women that are in our Air Force today are hungry for the opportunity to get together and have a chance to talk to others who have come before them and talk peer to peer," Wolfenbarger said.

Before last year's symposium, she thought this would single out women because of their gender and not for working hard and accomplishing the mission. Wolfenbarger realized the annual event actually serves as an encouragement to women to help retain women in the military.

Woodward also provided encouragement, drawing upon her experience in leadership roles to praise the women serving in today's Air Force.

"You are part of the most admired institution in America and are recognized throughout the world as Airmen of extraordinary integrity, service and professional excellence," she said. "I've seen you in every corner of the planet defending America's vital national interests."

Women have to balance their responsibilities in the service with those of life and family, Woodward said.

Difficult decisions such as being geographically separated due to mission requirements were among the challenges Woodward and her husband, who is a retired brigadier general, faced.

"We love the Air Force, we love serving in it and we love each other, so we had to make choices that a lot of people thought were stupid choices," Woodward said.

Every Airman will be called on to make sacrifices at some point, Woodward explained, elaborating on a key message she delivered to the symposium. Ultimately, success and successful leadership are based on trust. This means courage and integrity.

"Always be true to yourselves," Woodward said. "Be yourself and be confident in who you are."

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

U. S. Navy Adm. Robert Willard salutes during a change of command and retirement ceremony at Camp H.M. Smith featuring guest speakers, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey. Willard was relieved by Adm. Samuel Locklear III, the incoming commander of U.S. Pacific Command.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

(Right) SEALs and divers from SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team (SDVT) 1 swim back to the guided-missile submarine USS Michigan (SSGN 727) during an exercise for certification on SEAL delivery vehicle operations in the southern Pacific Ocean. The exercises educate operators and divers on the techniques and procedures related to the delivery vehicle and its operations.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Kristopher Kirsop

Gen. Jung Seung-Jo, chairman of the Republic of Korea Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Cmdr. Justin A. Kubu, commanding officer of the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90), discuss exercise Foal Eagle 2012 aboard Chafee. Foal Eagle is a bilateral series of annual, defense-driven training events intended to increase readiness, protect the region, and maintain stability on the Korean peninsula. Chafee is homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Melissa Pelosi

The U.S. Pacific Fleet marching band participates in the 18th annual Honolulu Festival Parade. The parade is the culmination of a three-day cultural event that makes up the Honolulu Festival, which helps to promote understanding, economic cooperation and ethnic harmony among the people of Hawaii and the Pacific Rim region.

U.S. Navy photo by MU2 Selina Gentkowski

U.S. Navy photo by Denise Emsley

Customers participating in the 2nd Electronic Recycling Event in February 2011 deliver a large cache of old computer equipment, taking advantage of not having to truck the items out to Kalaeloa themselves. The equipment is properly documented and with all drives clear of media and hard drive cleaned or removed as required.

NAVFAC Hawaii will host third Electronic Device Recycling Event at JBPHH

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii Public Affairs

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii will host the third Electronic Device Recycling Event at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) from 8 a.m. to noon March 29.

All Department of Defense commands and tenants at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam are invited to drop off government-owned items such as answering machines, camcorders, CD/DVD players, cell phones, computers (laptop or desktop), copiers (desktop), modems, monitors, printers (desktop), radios (AM/FM), remotes, scanners, stereos, tape players, telephones, TVs typewriters, VCRs, microwave ovens and word processors.

No personal property, NMCI computers or hazardous waste will be accepted.

All eligible items must be accompanied with the completed DD Form 1348.1A, which must include the correct DoDaac or Unit Identification Code (UIC) for the organization turning in the item(s) before being accepted. To access this form, visit https://www.dispositionservices.dla.mil/turn-in/usable/dd1348-1a.pdf.

Command personnel interested in turning in any of the above government material at this recycling event should check with their internal property managers to make certain all internal paperwork managing command assets is completed.

The event will be held between buildings 1722 and 1370 near Ward Field. Turn off North Avenue onto Battleship Drive (a road between Ward Field and Club Pearl). Drive straight toward the back area of Bloch Arena. Signs will be posted along the way to guide you to the event.

For more information on procedures for turning in equipment to Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services (DLADS), go to http://bit.ly/yEQwu2. For specific information about this event or questions on the documents required, call DLA DS Valentine O'Callaghan (471-8870) valentine.ocallaghan@dla.mil / Jeanne Besas (474-0319) jeanne.besas@dla.mil / Dan Daniels (474-0319) dan.daniels@dla.mil or NAVFAC Hawaii Environmental Fran Pena (474-2446) francisco.pena@navy.mil / Charlene Higuchi (474-9207) charlene.higuchi@navy.mil.

Department of Defense releases road map to transform energy use in military operations

U.S. Department of Defense

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense Public Affairs

The Department of Defense recently released the operational energy strategy implementation plan. The plan establishes seven specific targets and associated near-term activities keyed to the goals of the operational energy strategy, which was released in June 2011. Together, the strategy and implementation plan found at http://energy.defense.gov will serve as a road map to transform the way the Department of Defense uses energy in military operations.

"Smart use of energy can be a strategic advantage for the U.S. military against our adversaries. As we continue to invest in the best military force to defend America today and tomorrow, I want the department to harness the best energy innovations at all levels, from the individual warfighter to the largest installation, to enhance our operational effectiveness and deliver more bang for the buck," said Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta.

To oversee the execution of these efforts, Panetta has directed Sharon E. Burke, the assistant secretary of defense for operational energy plans and programs, to co-lead a defense operational energy board with a designee of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The chairman has designated the director for logistics, Lt. Gen. Brooks Bash.

"By building energy considerations into the department's processes, including the way we buy equipment and value energy when employing the force, we can improve our warfighting ability while lowering risks and costs for military missions," Burke said.

The department has already made significant combat energy improvements. In Afghanistan, U.S. forces have fielded improved generators, microgrids, energy-efficient shelters, air conditioners, and tactical solar to reduce fuel use on the battlefield and cut the number of fuel convoys vulnerable to attack.

At sea, the Navy has deployed shipboard hybrid-electric drives, stern flaps and hull and propeller coatings to improve efficiency. By optimizing flight patterns, routing and cargo loading, the Air Force will avoid $500 million in fuel costs in the next five years.

JBPHH to hold installation-wide cleanup today

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) will host an installation wide cleanup from 8 to 11 a.m. today. The theme is "storm damage cleanup."

All tenants are expected to participate. Commands can do their part by conducting general cleanup and maintenance of their respective areas. Commands should concentrate on high-visibility areas such as building entrances, waterfront/shoreline debris removal, window washing, parking areas, roadway borders, sidewalks and areas around the facilities that offer high return in improving the appearance of the installation.

Inside facilities, inspect all hazmat lockers, clean out all storerooms, coffee messes and common areas.

Commands are expected to clean assigned parking lots and barracks where their personnel reside.

Commands can submit beautification projects in the vicinity of their respective facilities that are beyond their capability.

The JBPHH First Lieutenant will accept requests for the use of landscaping equipment, personal protective equipment, debris removal equipment, and painting or cleaning supplies.

JBPHH requests commands to consider adopting high visibility areas such as installation entry control points, roadways and waterfront/shorelines.

These areas will be maintained by the adopting command for future basewide cleanups.

Commands that are unable to adopt areas can support by providing personnel to man First Lieutenant team projects. Team projects also will concentrate on areas such as sign cleaning, storm drain labeling and fence maintenance.

For more information, call CWO3 Carlos Choto at 255-7131 or email carlos.choto@navy.mil.

Capt. Paul Verrastro, incoming commanding officer of Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor, walks through the sideboys during the change of command event March 12 at Kilo 8 Pier at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Verrastro assumes helm of NAVSUP FLCPH

Story and photo by
Jim Murray

Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor

In a change of command ceremony held March 12 at Kilo 8 Pier at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Capt. Paul Verrastro relieved Capt. John Polowczyk as the commanding officer of Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor.

Rear Adm. Mark Heinrich, commander of Naval Supply Systems Command and chief of Supply Corps, presided over the ceremony.

Polowczyk, a Naval Academy graduate who took the helm of NAVSUP FLCPH on July 1, 2010, is bound for Norfolk, Va. where he will be the comptroller of U.S. Fleet Forces. During his 20 months at the helm, the command encountered some of its most pressing challenges in decades, including one that markedly changed its organizational structure – joint basing.

"Joint basing entailed far more than simply having the NAVFAC folks change the signs on our buildings," said Polowczyk in his farewell remarks. "Stripped down, it was all about meeting our mission in a more cost-effective and efficient manner. It was not an easy tasking, and it was due only to the tireless work of many people – military and civilian, Air Force and Navy – that the road blocks that had once appeared insurmountable were dismantled. I'm proud to say that on Oct. 1, 2010, everyone's hard work came to fruition when we achieved full operational capability."

Originally from Saugerties, N.Y., Verrastro was assigned previously as the director of aviation operations at NAVSUP Weapons System Support in Philadelphia. He earned his bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Albany and his master's degree from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Verrastro's sea tours include the battleship USS New Jersey (BB 62), supply officer on the destroyer USS Chandler (DDG 996) and supply officer on the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74). During his Stennis tour, the ship won all five supply service awards as well as the Supply Blue "E" for logistics excellence.

15th Wing Annual Team Award

In the Spotlight

Personnel from the 15th Medical Group at Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) were winners of the 2011 Air Force Medical Service Annual Awards.

The 15th Medical Support Squadron, Resource Management Flight (MDSS/SGSR) at JBPHH won the outstanding resource management team award.

The 15th Medical Group was the winner of the USAF Biomedical Scientist (BSC) Category I Team of the Year. The team included Lt. Col. Rene Chadwell, Maj. Paul Becker, Maj. Tirsit Brooks, Maj. Jaime Okamura, Maj. Vina "Liz" Howarth, Maj. Allison Rogers, Maj. Ed Walters, Maj. Aaron Weaver, Capt. Raymond Bouchard, Capt. Alfred "Alfie" Felipe, Capt. Aspen Heger, Capt. Julie Kena, Capt. Jeff Mann , Capt. Lloyd Scharfenstine and 1st Lt.. Kathleen "Kat" Eisenbrey.

2011 Annual Wing Level Awards

The following individuals earned 2011 Annual Wing level awards for the 15th Wing:

Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) – Senior Master Sgt. Michelle Rootes

Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) – Tech. Sgt. Melvin Morena

Team - Mental Health Flight

2011 Annual Group Level Awards

The following individuals earned 2011 Annual Group level awards for the 15th Medical Group:

Field Grade Officer (FGO) – Maj. Jaime Okamura

Company Grade Officer (CGO) – Capt. Aspen Heger

Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) – Senior Master Sgt. Michelle Rootes

Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) – Tech. Sgt. Melvin Morena

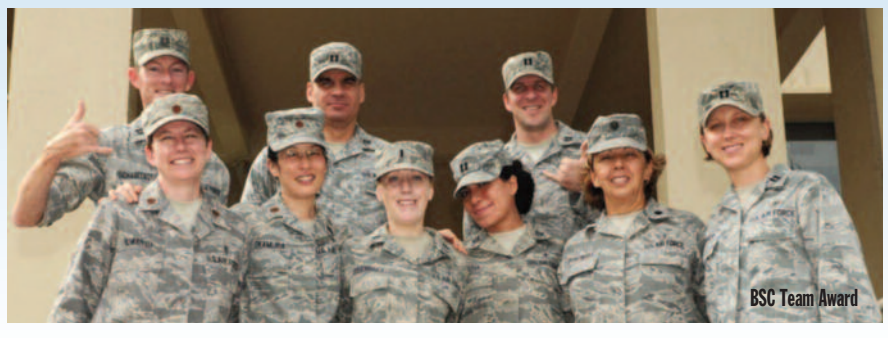
Airman – Airman 1st Class Erin Woolley

Volunteer - 1st Lt. Kathleen "Kat" Eisenbrey

Civilian – Danille Sincoff

Civilian Category II – Victoria Lia

Team - Mental Health Flight



BSC Team Award

This week in USAF & PACAF History

Charles Nicholls

PACAF historian

On March 12, 2011, in response to a devastating earthquake and tsunami in Japan on the previous day, the PACAF and other U.S. forces began humanitarian and disaster relief operations later named Operation TOMODACHI ("friendship").

The 9.0 quake near Sendai was the fourth largest ever recorded and generated a 30-foot tsunami that devastated coastal areas. The tragic loss of life and extensive destruction included partial meltdowns and explosions at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. On March 12, MC-130s and HH-60s deployed from Kadena Air Base, Okinawa to Yokota Air Base. Yokota was already providing food and shelter for 500 passengers from two commercial airline flights that diverted there after Tokyo's Narita Airport was shut down. Also, C-17s from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii flew support missions.

On March 13, the 374th Airlift Wing at Yokota began supporting aerial reconnaissance and radiation measurement at Fukushima and other locations in Japan. U.S. forces began providing pumping trucks, firefighting vehicles and suits for Japanese use at Fukushima. A C-130 also flew into Yamagata with an R-11 fuel truck. On March 16, an MC-130H was the first fixed-wing aircraft to land at Sendai Airport since the quake. Members of the 320th Special Tactics Squadron (STS) helped to clear the runway and make it ready for other fixed-wing aircraft in the disaster relief operation.

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Ray Decker from the 320th STS at Kadena Air Base, Japan prepares his rucksack prior to boarding an MC-130P Combat Shadow aircraft at Yokota Air Base, Japan.