



WELCOME RIMPAC

HO'OKELE

"Navigator"

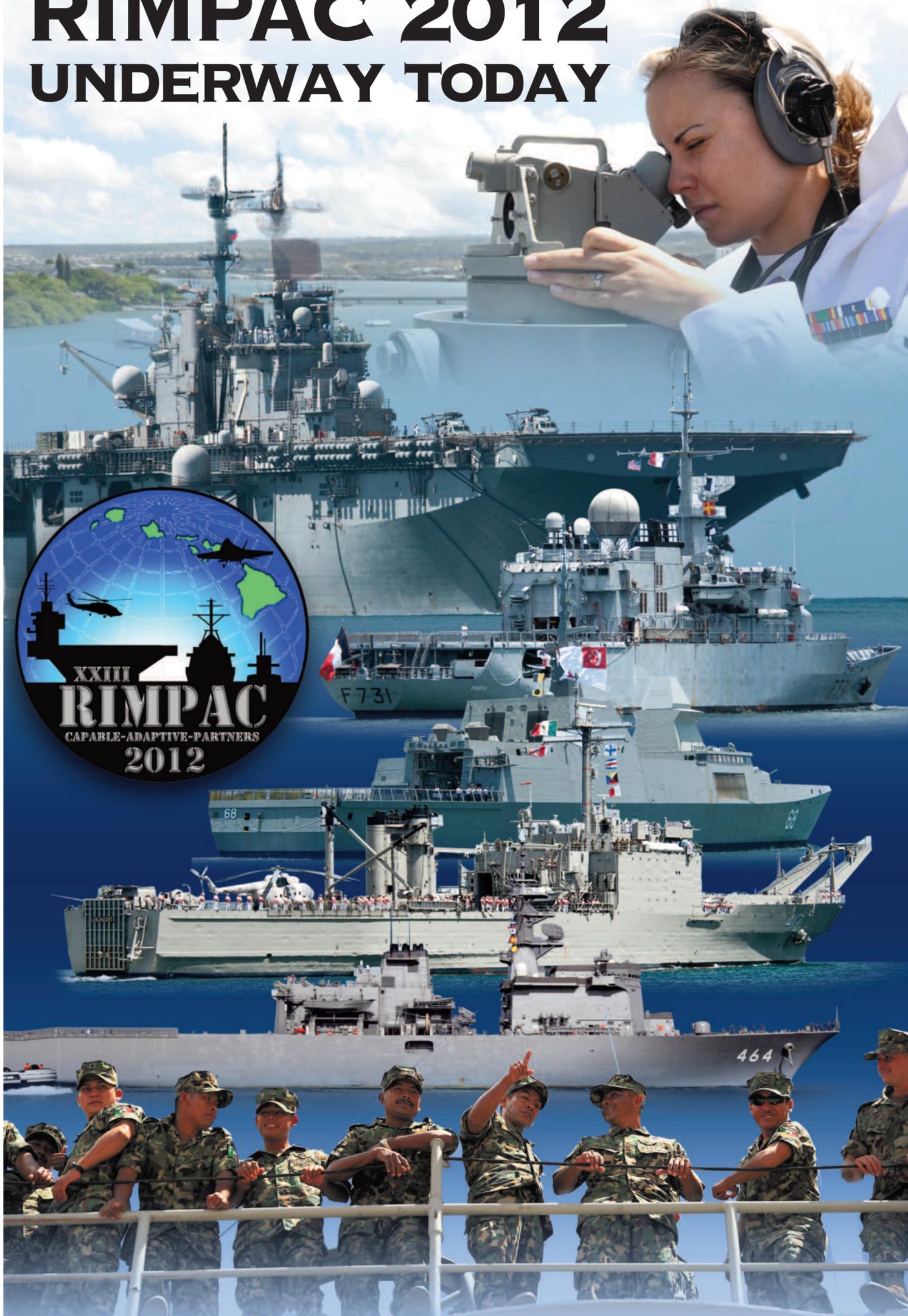
PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

June 29, 2012

www.cnmc.navy.mil/hawaii www2.hickam.af.mil

Volume 3 Issue 25

RIMPAC 2012 UNDERWAY TODAY



All participants are not represented because ships were still arriving for RIMPAC 2012 as Ho'okele was going to press. More coverage of RIMPAC 2012 will be featured in Ho'okele over the next few weeks.

Photo illustration | Royal Canadian Photo by MCpl Marc-Andre Gaudreault, U.S. Navy photos by MC3 Sean Furey and MC1 Sandra M. Palumbo



Midshipmen receive training and words of wisdom
See page A-2



Welcome RIMPAC
See page A-4, A-6



Pearl Harbor Survivor laid to rest at USS Utah Memorial
See page B-1



Passing the playbook at 15th Wing
See page A-3



Navy, Coast Guard join forces to prepare for hurricane season
See page A-7



Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam MWR to hold Fourth of July spectacular
See page B-2

Midshipmen receive training and words of wisdom

Story and photo by Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing writer

Far removed from the ivy-covered halls of college and university campuses, Hawaii might be the most tropical center of learning for the continued education of 26 Midshipmen who arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to participate in this year's Pacific Training Midshipmen Summer Cruise.

The summer training session provides a significant portion of a Midshipmen's instruction during their four-year curriculum – offering real-world application of their classroom lessons.

About half of the Midshipmen were participating in their first summer session, while others were back for their second and even third cruise.

While some of this year's future officers were serving in the Middle East aboard USS O'Kane (DDG 77), approximately 19 of the 26 Midshipmen who were assigned to Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific (COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC) converged June 19 at Merry Point to meet and hear words from Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

Touching on subjects of service, commitment and patriotism, Ponds delivered a speech that praised and encouraged the men and women in attendance.

"They are very excited," said Ponds, who added that he was extremely impressed with the group of Midshipmen. "They came out here at the waterfront, and they found shipmates that received them very well. They looked to leaders that are already commissioned



Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, stands with a group of Midshipmen who are assigned to Naval Surface Group Mid-Pacific (COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC) for this year's Pacific Training Midshipmen Summer Cruise.

officers as examples, and they also looked to the enlisted community on how to lead."

In his speech, Ponds called the Midshipmen patriotic and pointed out that their commitment to serve our country represents a positive response to a higher calling.

"Serving the country is not about paycheck, it's about patriotism," Ponds explained. "It is a higher calling. It's something that's greater than yourself. It's about the nation, the community, families, it's about everything you can think about that's not about you."

Alice Wu, a senior at University of Missouri at Columbia, was on her second cruise. She said she found the talk by Ponds to be very inspiring and could relate to a lot of what he advocated.

"He talked a lot about caring for your people and learning," Wu said. "That's something that I find really important."

Capt. Dave Sheridan, chief of staff of COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC, said he fondly recalls his two summers' Midshipmen cruises more than 26 years ago and added that the sessions provide valuable training in preparing future naval officers, while also giving them direction in the selection of their careers.

"One was in Norfolk, Va. on a submarine, and the other was on a little amphib out of Little Creek, Va.," said Sheridan of his two cruises. "It's really finding out what being in the fleet is all about. You hear about it from instructors and read about it in books, but this puts the sights, the

sounds, the smells to what it's like to really be on a ship and learn what the life of a Sailor is like. You have a better appreciation for what you're getting yourself into and what the life is like for the people you're eventually going to be leading as a division officer. So it's a good experience."

Both Sheridan and Ponds agreed that this year's group of Midshipmen appeared sharp, eager and ready to serve.

Ponds said that while they seemed to be off to a good start, he told them to keep up their enthusiasm and continue to strive to be the best.

"You got to be hungry or you're not going to advance," he said. "For us, it's about being hungry, so you can climb to the top. You want to excel. That's what you want to do."



Photo courtesy of NAVAIR

BMD system completes successful intercept test

Missile Defense Agency

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and Navy Sailors on the USS Lake Erie (CG 70) successfully conducted a flight test of the Aegis ballistic missile defense (BMD) system, resulting in the intercept of a separating ballistic missile target over the Pacific Ocean by the Navy's newest missile defense interceptor missile, the Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block 1B.

At 11:15 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time, June 26 (5:15 am EDT June 27), the target missile was launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility, located on Kauai, Hawaii. The target flew on a northwesterly trajectory toward a broad ocean area of the Pacific Ocean.

Following target launch, the Lake Erie detected and tracked the missile with its onboard AN/SPY-1 radar. The ship, equipped with the second-generation Aegis BMD 4.0.1 weapon system, developed a fire control solution and launched the SM-3 Block 1B missile.

Lake Erie continued to track the target and sent trajectory information to the SM-3 Block 1B missile in-flight. The SM-3 maneuvered to a point in space, as

designated by the fire control solution, and released its kinetic warhead. The kinetic warhead acquired the target, diverted into its path, and, using only the force of a direct impact, engaged and destroyed the threat in a hit-to-kill intercept.

The test event was the second consecutive successful intercept test of the SM-3 Block 1B missile and the second-generation Aegis BMD 4.0.1 weapon system.

The first successful SM-3 Block 1B intercept occurred May 9. Initial indications are that all components performed as designed, resulting in a very accurate intercept.

This was the 23rd successful intercept in 28 flight test firings for the Aegis BMD program. Across all ballistic missile defense system programs, it is the 54th successful hit-to-kill intercept in 68 flight tests since 2001.

Aegis BMD is the sea-based midcourse component of the MDA's ballistic missile defense system and is designed to intercept and destroy short-to-intermediate-range ballistic missile threats. The MDA and the U.S. Navy cooperatively manage the Aegis BMD program.

Col. Barrett completes fini-flight in C-17 Globemaster



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Lauren Main
Col. Sam Barrett, 15th Wing commander, gets hosed by his family June 26 after completing his fini-flight in a C-17 Globemaster III at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The flight was Barrett's last as the 15th Wing commander.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Lauren Main
Col. Sam Barrett (right), 15th Wing commander, speaks to U.S. Air Force cadets following his fini-flight on a C-17 Globemaster III.

U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Lauren Main
(Below) Col. Sam Barrett, 15th Wing commander, taxis a C-17 Globemaster III on the Hickam flightline June 26 as it is doused by firetrucks at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.





Increased aircraft activity expected during RIMPAC

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

Residents in the immediate vicinity of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam may experience a temporary increase in aircraft noise due to the beginning of the Navy's biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, the world's largest international maritime exercise.

U.S. Navy and Air Force aircraft, as well as aircraft from some of the other 21 participating nations, have been arriving at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam this week. The exercise is scheduled to begin June 29 and conclude Aug. 3.

Residents may also see an increase in military flights arriving and departing Honolulu International Airport during the beginning phases of the exercise.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam recognizes the importance of being good neighbors with the local communities and makes every effort to abate noise when possible.

All noise abatement complaints can be directed to the RIMPAC Command Information Bureau at (808) 472-0239. For more information about RIMPAC, visit the exercise website at <http://www.cpf.navy.mil/rimpac>.



Photo illustration | U.S. Air Force photos by SSgt. Mike Meares, Senior Airman Lauren Main and David D. Underwood Jr.

Commentary

Passing the playbook at 15th Wing

Col. Sam Barrett

Commander, 15th Wing

Saying farewell to this beautiful island and remarkable wing is hard to do and has been looming in the back of my mind for quite some time. Saying farewell to each of you is difficult beyond words; however, the time has come. As tough as it will be for Kelly and I, and our children, Sydney, Phoebe and Sam, to move on from the home and family we've made over the last three years, I can rest easy.

Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant used to say, "Set goals - high goals for you and your organization. When your organization has a goal to shoot for, you create teamwork, people working for a common good."

The 15th Wing professionals are living proof of this every day. As the for-

mer vice commander, I knew what an unbelievable team I had from day one. I could never have known, however, the adventure and opportunities we'd encounter during my time as commander over the next two years.

Honoring the 70th anniversary of Dec. 7 was such a privilege to share with all of you. To look out in the crowd and see the survivors that fought to protect this very soil interact with the youngest members of our great Air Force was a very emotional and humbling experience.

Whether the goal was a consolidated unit inspection or supporting the Asian Pacific Economic Conference, through teamwork you achieved great things time and again.

We joined our *ohana* from the Hawaii Air National Guard and advanced the ball with total force integra-

tion [TFI]. We have always played on the same team, but the ability to conduct the mission hand-in-hand on a daily basis provides invaluable experience for the deployed environment.

A powerful example of TFI in action was seen during Operation Tomodachi when the 15th Wing rapidly responded to disaster in Japan. Together we pioneered new techniques and procedures for operating in a radiological environment and provided support in creating a mass evacuation plan for American citizens if it became necessary.

Aircrews cycled to and from Japan for several months, flying relief missions to some of the most devastated areas while simultaneously maintaining our ongoing commitments back at home. Your tireless efforts were a shining beacon of hope in the midst of desperation.

The 2010 merger of Pearl Harbor and Hickam AFB, and the creation of the joint base was a huge challenge, but we have without a doubt established foundations for future success. We came together with our Navy partners and formed a more complete team and the benefits, to both branches, are felt each and every day. Thank you for sticking together and never letting the mission falter while we learned new processes.

There's no question that the 15th Wing has been scoring touchdowns for a long time, and I am so honored to have had the distinguished privilege of serving Team Hickam for the past three years. You, the players of the 15th Wing, have given me the honor of passing the playbook with a sense of pride and allowed me the comfort of knowing a bright future is in store for the wing.

Diverse Views



Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) beginning this week will feature the first demonstration of a U.S. Navy "Great Green Fleet," during which the use of biofuels will be tested and evaluated. In today's era of high automobile gas prices and limited supply of fossil fuel, what are some ways you are conserving fuel?



Dennis Siler
Navy Region Hawaii

"In February of this year, I purchased a 2012 Camry Hybrid for my wife. Also, my home has a whole house PV system and I like the \$16.50 monthly electric bills. My home has a solar water system for hot water."

Lt. Matthew T. Abazia
Navy Region Hawaii



"I limit driving to only weekdays going to and from work. Also, I use energy-saving light bulbs in my home and limit the use of my air conditioners."



Boatswain's Mate Jhamera Boyd
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

"I am conserving fuel by carpooling with my husband into work, staying home, and turning off my car when waiting on anything or going somewhere."

Lt. Col. Enrique Oti
HQ PACOM



"It is very hard to conserve fuel on a daily basis, but with the high prices here in Hawaii, we decided on buying more fuel-efficient cars instead of the truck I really wanted."



Senior Master Sgt. Kelly Papineau
15th Comptroller Squadron

"We currently use an electric lawn mower and weed whacker. I'm sure in the near future we'll buy an electric car."

Steven Diamond
HQ PACAF Command Historian



"My wife and I try to combine shopping trips to drive less, and we're planning on installing a PV solar system on our house."



Darci Miyasaki
Navy Region Hawaii

"I try to carpool whenever possible and stay on base after work to by going to the gym to avoid the grid locked traffic. I have also moved closer to base and plan to look into riding a bicycle to work."

(Provided by ABF3 Kimberly McElroy, AMEAN Tina James 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

Keystone B-4A aircraft take off in Hawaii



U.S. Air Force photo

Three Keystone B-4A aircraft of the 72nd or 23rd Bomb Squadron take off at Luke Field, Hawaii in 1933. The former Pearl Harbor Naval Station is in the background.

HO'okele

Commander,
Navy Region Hawaii
Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

Chief of Staff
Capt. Robert Espinosa

Director,
Public Affairs
Agnes Tauyan

Deputy Director,
Public Affairs
Bill Doughty

Leading Petty Officer
**MC1(EXW)
Donald W. Randall**

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
Brandon Bosworth

Layout/Design
**Antonio Verceluz
Patrick Murray**

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.



Royal Canadian Photo by MCpl Marc-Andre Gaudreault

Welcome RIMPAC

COMMENTARY

WINDOW ON JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM

Welcome to our RIMPAC friends

Karen S. Spangler
Managing Editor

Our friends from 21 Pacific area nations – Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga and United Kingdom – are currently here in the Hawaiian Islands to participate in Rim of the Pacific exercises 2012 with the United States Navy.

This is the 23rd year since 1971 that the RIMPAC participants have converged on Hawaii for “war games on a global scale.”

Although the duration of time that the RIMPAC participants will spend here in the islands is brief – only about a month – the joint exercise will help them to hone their warfighting skills, test their capabilities, and practice a variety of scenarios, including executing amphibious operations, counterpiracy, mine clearance operations, and disposal and diving and salvage operations.

Through it all, approximately 25,000 military per-

sonnel will have the opportunity to improve communication and teamwork, develop even better cooperation with other RIMPAC allies, and establish solid military relationships and friendships with other nations from the Rim of the Pacific.

The show of international presence integrates 42 ships and the might of the aircraft carrier, USS Nimitz, along with six submarines and more than 200 aircraft.

But although RIMPAC is all about improving multinational cooperation and inter-operability between allies on the high seas and in a combat scenario, it also affords numerous opportunities to build friendships and camaraderie among nations. It offers the chance for some stiff, but friendly competition in sports and athletic events.

It provides the chance for RIMPAC participants to learn about each other's countries and cultures. And, since it all takes place here in paradise, it gives those of us who live here the opportunity to extend to our visitors the spirit of aloha and ohana for which Hawaii is well-known.

Hopefully, while they are

here for RIMPAC, our visitors from many nations will have the chance to try a snorkeling or scuba diving adventure or just relax on a sunny beach overlooking the azure waters of the Pacific Ocean. Maybe they will enjoy a climb to a perch on Diamond Head – high above Waikiki. Perhaps they will take advantage of the varied music venues at the island's popular nightspots.

And, certainly, they will have many chances to appease their taste buds with a variety of foods from many cultures – our very untypical “local” cuisine.

But mostly, we hope that they will return to their native countries with pleasant memories of time spent in a paradise in the middle of the blue Pacific – imbued with the welcoming spirit and hospitality from this land of aloha.

As we foster a spirit of cooperation and communication between our allied nations, we also extend our sincerest welcome.

Aloha to our RIMPAC friends!

We welcome photos, stories and comments from readers. If you have comments, please send them to: Karen.spangler@navy.mil.

Take care of Hawaii's environment during RIMPAC

Rebecca Hommon

Navy Region Hawaii
Environmental Counsel

Many Hawaii residents believe in the concept of “aloha aina” – love of the land, which is marked by stewardship and reverence for the environment, attributing spiritual power to the earth and its features as well as wildlife.

• While on rest and relaxation or during an operation, watch out for the highly endangered Hawaiian monk seal resting on beaches as well as turtles near coral or in the near shore.

Both are endangered species and have the right of way. Don't get near them even though others might do so. Take pictures with high-powered lenses.

• While snorkeling or diving, do not step on or hit coral with fins. Please watch where you put your feet. Coral is alive, and hitting it breaks and kills it.

• Exposing your bare skin to coral can result in painful cuts and possible infection.

• Hiking near or in fresh water streams has two invisible risks beyond the usual trip and fall: flash floods and catching a disease called leptospirosis due to wild animals (pigs mostly) that live in the uplands.

Their feces contains bacteria that drains into the streams. The disease can cause severe nausea, chills, high fever which manifests seven to 14 days after exposure and in worst cases can be fatal.

Hikes that lead off usual trails can lead to a very nar-

row, steep path where turning around is impossible.

Deaths have recently occurred when hikers lost their way or tried to take short cuts only to fall to their deaths. Don't make a rescuer risk his or her life to come get you based on your bad choice.

• Kayaking to, or landing on several of the islands offshore of Oahu is illegal as they are bird sanctuaries and monk seal resting places. People are on shore watching with binoculars and will report the trespass. Authorities could be waiting upon your return to shore.

• Rip tides kill several every year as people swim far off shore and get caught, then try to fight their way back. Swim parallel to the shore until the tide shifts which could be a very long time.

• Jellyfish can be seen in the water and cause burns as they tangle around feet or arms. Signs are usually posted when they are present. They usually arrive on the tides seven to 11 days after full moon.

• Portuguese man-of-war are present year-round, usually on windward (east-facing) beaches such as Bellows. Both stings can be extremely painful.

Reef fish are not good eating as they may contain a toxin (ciguatera) and are usually too small to be of much value.

While no fishing license is needed to fish from shore in Hawaii, there are size minimums and catch limits for many kinds of fish. The best choice is to leave the fish in the sea and enjoy them while snorkeling rather than injuring and wasting them.

RIMPAC ship tours

RIMPAC ship tours will be available to those with base access and sponsored guests. Please check the RIMPAC 2012 website at <http://www.cpf.navy.mil/rimpac/2012/> for the most current information.

Sports of all sorts and special events planned during this year's RIMPAC 2012 exercise

Don Robbins

Assistant Editor

In addition to the numerous sporting and special events planned for this year's RIMPAC 2012 exercise, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) will be sponsoring the RIMPAC Cup.

The cup is a perpetual trophy presented to the ship or command which earns the most total points during RIMPAC 2012. The first in-port sporting events scheduled June 30 through July 9 will count toward the RIMPAC cup.

During the second in-port period scheduled Aug. 2 to 6,

points will not count toward the cup, but awards will be given. Competition points are awarded for teams or individuals winning selected tournaments or competitions.

The sports competition program allows maximum participation by all RIMPAC 2012 participants and accounts for the dates that forces arrive in Hawaii.

Visit RIMPAC Central located across from Bravo Piers 23 and 24 and at Hotel Pier for MWR RIMPAC information including **t r a n s -**

portation for scheduled off-base excursions, food and beverage vendors, tickets and more.

RIMPAC Central (Bravo Piers and Hotel Piers) will be open 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. June 27 to July 9 and Aug. 1 to 6.

JBPHH MWR will host a variety of athletic and special events during RIMPAC, including tournaments in basketball, soccer, indoor and sand volleyball, softball, singles and doubles tennis and bowling. A RIMPAC 5K run will take place July 5 at 9 a.m. A second 5K run will be held at 9 a.m. Aug. 3. Deadline for entry for the second run is July 11.

The race course will start and finish at RIMPAC Central on Bravo Piers. Water and beverages will be provided and trophies will be awarded.

Other scheduled RIMPAC events include a bench press contest, indoor triathlon, versa climb challenge, swim meet, international military boogie board and surf meet, belly flop contest, kayak race competition, RIMPAC king and queen of the beach and golf tournament.

During RIMPAC there are special rates for bowling. Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., open bowling will be \$2 per game. Cosmic bowling on Friday nights from 5 to 11 p.m. will be \$2 per game.

A RIMPAC strong-arm contest is scheduled for 9 a.m. Aug. 4 at the JBPHH Fitness Center. The deadline for entry is July 11. The contest will consist of the most pull-ups contest and longest chin-up hang.

The RIMPAC sailing regatta is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 3 at Rainbow Bay marina. Deadline for entry is July 11.

A RIMPAC golf tournament will be held at 12:30 p.m. Aug. 6 at Navy and Marine Golf Course. Deadline for entry is July 11.

Subject to availability, RIMPAC T-shirts will be provided to tournament participants.

For entry fees and up-to-date information on how to sign up, visit the website www.greatlifehawaii.com. Complete RIMPAC schedules, standing, events and activities are available on the website.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

A target missile launches from the Pacific Missile Range Facility at 11:15 p.m. June 26. Following this target launch, USS Lake Erie (CG 70) detected and tracked the missile with its onboard AN/SPY-1 radar, developed a fire control solution, and launched the SM-3 Block IB missile to intercept and destroy the target.

U.S. Navy photo by
MC2 Mathew J. Diendorf



U.S. Navy photo by BMC (SW/AW) Maricel Julian

Sailors from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam pitched in June 21 to help with the basewide cleanup effort. More than 500 personnel helped with the cleanup, which netted about 6,000 pounds of trash and 250 trash bags. Arizona Det had the largest cleanup contribution. They collected 41 bags of trash, three large tires and 50 pounds of trash metal. Dock Masters collected 37 total pallets (picked up, recycled) along with two bags of weeds and four bags of leaf litter. Personnel from Honors and Ceremonies with tower personnel collected eight pallets, four bags of weeds and 10 bags of mixed plastic and wood and leaf litter.



Photo by Wendy Zippwald

Col. Dan Baldessari, 15th Operations Group commander, presents the 19th Fighter Squadron (FS) guidon to Lt. Col. Robert Jackson, incoming 19th FS commander, upon Jackson's assumption of command June 15 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The 19th FS returned to Hickam on Sept. 10, 2010, marking the first time the squadron has been based out of Hawaii since spending 1923 through 1944 in the Hawaiian territories, including assignments at Wheeler Army Airfield, Bellows Field and Barbers Point.



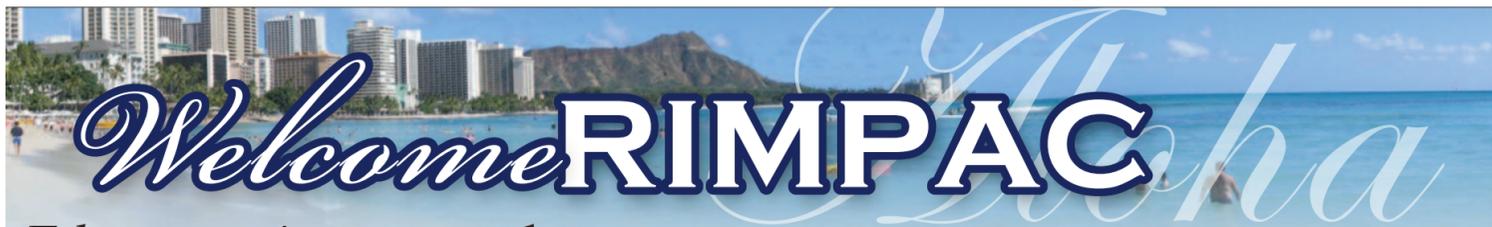
(Above) While entering port, Sailors aboard amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2) man the rails and render honors as they pass the USS Arizona Memorial and USS Missouri Memorial.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Sandra M. Palumbo

Aviation boatswain's mates (handling) move two FA-18C Hornets of Marine Strike Fighter Squadron (VMFA) 323 into position on elevator two of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68). Nimitz is currently underway conducting carrier qualifications in preparation for Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2012, the world's largest international maritime exercise.

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





E komo mai means welcome

Karen S. Spangler
Managing Editor

Here is a handy reference to some of the most frequently used Hawaiian words, especially those that you may come across during your time here in Hawaii:

Aloha – Aloha means hello, aloha means good-bye, aloha means love. You'll hear it a lot.

Mahalo – Don't be confused when you see this word on litter cans and trash bins throughout the islands. It isn't the Hawaiian word for trash – it means "thank you" and in this usage, mahalo for placing your litter in the trash cans and helping to keep paradise beautiful.

Ono – This is a special word used to describe food that is yummy or delicious. Saying that something is ono is paying a huge compliment.

Shaka – Shaka, meaning "hang loose" or chill, or be laid back, is a greeting used in Hawaii which is sometimes associated with the surfer community. To give the shaka, extend the thumb and smallest finger while holding the three middle fingers curled. Raise the hand in greeting while extending the back; it can be rotated back and forth for extra emphasis. People in Hawaii use the shaka to convey the "aloha spirit", a gesture of friendship and understanding between the various ethnic cultures that reside within Hawaii.

Pau hana – This is something that everyone looks forward to – the end of the work day. *Pau hana* is especially good on aloha Friday.

Ohana – Family and a sense of family are very important in Hawaii and ohana means extended family. Our RIMPAC participants are part of our Hawaii ohana.

Kane – This is the Hawaiian word for man or male and you will see it frequently on the door of the men's restroom.

Wahine – This is the Hawaiian word for woman or

female and you will see this Hawaiian word on the door of the ladies' restroom.

Keiki – Children in Hawaii are frequently called *keiki*, the Hawaiian word for children.

Mauka and makai – To give you some sense of where you are or where you are trying to go, directions are frequently given using *mauka* (toward the mountain) or *makai* (toward the sea).

Luuu – You will see many luuus here in Hawaii. A *luuu* is a traditional Hawaiian feast or party which usually also includes entertainment. The cuisine at a luuu will typically feature such Hawaiian foods as kalua pig, poi, lomi salmon and haupia (coconut). Hawaiian music and *hula* dancers, and perhaps an opportunity to learn a few hula moves, are part of the festivities.

Pupu – This also refers to food, but more of a finger food, appetizer, or hors d'oeuvres. Many of Hawaii's pupus are also ono.

Malama pono – This means take good care with or take good care of yourself and we hope that you do.

A hui ho – This is a common expression used in Hawaii and it means until we meet again. When you depart Hawaii after RIMPAC, you will probably be wished a fond *a hui ho*.

Crash course in Hawaiian pronunciations: As you travel throughout the state of Hawaii, you will notice many street names, places and venues using Hawaiian words. There are only 13 letters in the Hawaiian alphabet, five vowels (a, e, i, o and u) and eight consonants (h, k, l, m, n, p, w, '). The final Hawaiian consonant, the `okina (`), indicates a glottal stop which means your breath stops briefly as between the two parts of the English term "oh-oh." For the most part, all vowels are pronounced.

Got it? Then try twisting your tongue around the pronunciation of Hawaii's state fish, the *Humuhumunukunukaapua`a*. It is also called the Hawaiian trigger fish.

To our RIMPAC visitors, e komo mai, which means come in or welcome, to Hawaii.

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

Damage Controlman Jonathan Feinberg fights a simulated class alpha fire during a general quarters drill on board the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68).



RIMPAC 2012 facts

RIMPAC is designed to enhance the tactical capabilities of participating units in major aspects of maritime operations at sea. RIMPAC 2012 is the 23rd in a series of Pacific naval exercises, which began in 1971 as an annual exercise and became a biannual exercise in 1974. It is the world's largest multinational exercise.

The theme of RIMPAC 2012 is "Capable, Adaptive, Partners." The participating nations and forces will exercise a wide range of capabilities and demonstrate the inherent flexibility of maritime forces. These capabilities range from disaster relief and maritime security operations to sea control and complex warfighting.

The relevant, realistic training syllabus includes amphibious operations; gunnery, missile, anti-submarine and air defense exercises as well as counter-piracy, mine clearance operations, explosive ordnance disposal and

diving and salvage operations.

Twenty-two nations, 42 ships, six submarines, more than 200 aircraft and approximately 25,000 personnel will participate.

This year's exercise includes units or personnel from Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The first RIMPAC exercise in 1971 involved the U.S., U.K., Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The U.S., Canada and Australia have participated in every RIMPAC.

Though Russia participated as an observer nation in the past, this will be their first RIMPAC in which they will be an active participant.

MCPON: Summertime, think safety first

MCC (SW/AW)
Sonya Ansarov

Office of the Master Chief
Petty Officer of the Navy

WASHINGTON (NNS) – Summertime means fun in the sun, vacations and a myriad of outdoor activities, and the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) wants Sailors and families to think safety first.

"Benjamin Franklin said, 'An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,' and in the case of summertime, it's worth a pound of safety," said MCPON (SS/SW) Rick D. West. "Each year the Navy loses service members to senseless and avoidable mishaps, and the summer season brings the potential for increased risk."

According to the Naval Safety Center, summer deaths spiked in 2008, then decreased in 2009 and 2010, but unfortunately increased again last year. In 2011, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, 16 Sailors and 15 Marines lost their lives—one in an ATV wreck, three drowned, three during recreational activities, 11 in

vehicles and 13 on motorcycles.

"Losing even one Sailor or Marine is too many, especially when most of the incidents can be avoided with the proper planning and training," said West.

Training is the priority when it comes to motorcycle safety. According to Naval Safety Center, motorcycle fatalities increased from six in 2010 to 13 in 2011, which is more than a 100 percent increase. Motorcycle training and safety starts with the command having a designated motorcycle safety representative (MSR).

"Closing the training gap on motorcycle safety needs to be top priority for our leaders," said West. "Personal motor vehicle accidents are the second highest cause of fatalities in our Navy, and motorcycles are the primary causal factor with sports bikes remaining at the top of the list. MSRs play an important role in mitigating this risk by mentoring and educating our Sailors and, more importantly, ensuring they are registered and complete all required motorcycle training."

The Naval Safety Center's summer campaign, "Live to Play, Play to Live," also focuses on alcohol awareness, water and boat

safety, sexual assault, suicide awareness, and summer sports activities.

"Fourth of July is just around the corner, so start planning safety now," said West. "Whether you are on the highways, waterways or in the backyard, safety must come first. And if you drink, don't drive, and have a plan to get home."

When traveling long distances, remember to use TRiPS, the on-line, automated risk-assessment tool that helps users recognize and avoid the hazards they face on the highway: fatigue, not buckling up, and driving too far. TRiPS is located at <https://www.nko.navy.mil>.

"You and your families are important to the Navy," said West. "Use the tools the Navy provides, and remember to think safety first."

Safety is one of the key areas of the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative which consolidates a set of objectives and policies, new and existing, to maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness, build resiliency and hone the most combat-effective force in the history of the Navy and Marine Corps.

To learn more about the Naval Safety Center's summer campaign, visit www.safetycenter.navy.mil.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jon Dasbach

The Anzac class frigate HMAS Perth (FFH 157) of the Royal Australian Navy prepares to pass the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Momsen (DDG 92) as it pulls into Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to support Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2012 exercise June 28.

Navy, Coast Guard join forces to prepare for hurricane season

14th Coast Guard District Public Affairs

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Representatives from Navy Region Hawaii, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), Coast Guard Sector Honolulu and Hawaii State Civil Defense signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) June 25 at JBPHH. The MOU ensures the safety of commercial vessels in time of need, especially in a disaster.

"[This MOU] puts in place a formalized process for the safe-havening and protection of critical maritime assets, of the state, local and private industry here in Pearl Harbor. It allows us to agree in advance (on) the how, the who and the what will be done -- before it needs to be done," explained Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

"This signing is much more than just an agreement. It is for all intents



(From left to right): Capt. Joanna Nunan, commander of Coast Guard Sector Honolulu; Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH); Rear Adm. Frank L. Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; and Maj. Gen. Darryll D.M. Wong, director of Hawaii State Civil Defense perform a ceremonial signing of a memorandum of understanding June 25 at JBPHH.

and purposes a commitment, a commitment that we will be here for each other in time of need," Ponds said.

The MOU specifically permits pre-identified com-

mercial vessels essential for reconstituting Honolulu Harbor to seek safe anchorage in Pearl Harbor during pre-hurricane situations.

Eighty percent of all goods and 100 percent of

fuel are brought to Oahu at Honolulu Harbor and distributed throughout Hawaii and other Pacific Islands. The closure of this port due to man made or natural disaster would have dire conse-

quences for the entire state of Hawaii and other neighboring regions.

"In the event that a hurricane renders the port facilities in Honolulu Harbor inoperable, specialized com-

mercial vessels would need to be mobilized to begin the reconstitution efforts to restore Honolulu Harbor," said Capt. Joanna Nunan, commander of Coast Guard Sector Honolulu.

The memorandum was signed by Rear Adm. Frank L. Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; Maj. Gen. Darryll D.M. Wong, director of Hawaii State Civil Defense; Capt. Joanna Nunan, commander of Coast Guard Sector Honolulu; and Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"This memorandum of understanding is not just about relationships, but it is also about family. It is about the spirit of *ohana* that rests and abides here between the Navy, the Coast Guard and the community as a whole," Ponds said.

For more information, contact the 14th Coast Guard District Public Affairs Office at (808) 535-3230 or Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs at (808) 473-2875.

NMCRS hosts 2012 fundraiser award ceremony

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam hosted the 2012 Fundraiser Award ceremony June 21 at the Training Support Detachment auditorium on Ford Island.

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, presented a check in the amount of \$549,061 to Paul Belanger, director of NMCRS Pearl Harbor.

"Mahalo to area commands for your outstanding work in setting a new record with this year's fund drive," Belanger said as he accepted the check. "Donations to NMCRS are an investment in our Sailors, Marines, retirees and their families."

Belanger compared donating to the society to contributing to an insurance plan or a trust fund where Sailors and Marines invest in helping Sailors and Marines take care of their own. "The annual NMCRS fund drive assures the society's ability to help our service members, retirees and their families in times of crisis and need," he said.

Ponds offered a "Bravo Zulu" to the NMCRS and participating commands on the success of this year's fundraiser.

"Congratulations on a successful fund drive for Navy Marine Corps Relief Society. This year's totals surpassed the 2011 effort by more than \$20,000, thanks to the generosity of Sailors



U.S. Navy photo by MCI Donald W. Randall

Capt. Paul Verrastro, commanding officer of Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor (NAVSUP FLC) congratulates Sailors and civilians from Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific who contributed to the successful 2012 NMCRS fund drive.

and civilians in our region and MIDPAC commands and the teamwork of dedicated and committed volunteers," Ponds noted.

Ponds and Capt. Paul Verrastro, commanding officer of Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor and coordinator for this year's NMCRS fundraiser, recognized area coordinators and key personnel for their efforts and

presented awards to commands in various categories.

Awards were given to surface, submarine, small shore and large shore for second highest per capita, highest per capita, second most improved over previous year, most improved over previous year, highest contribution, and team spirit.

"Our people are our

greatest resource and our most powerful asset. That includes our families. NMCRS directly benefits our Sailors, Marines and family members," the admiral said.

"In time of need, when the nation calls, our Navy and Marine Corps team responds. And in their time of need, NMCRS responds," Ponds said. "Thank you all."

Commands Honored

Second Highest Per Capita Awards:

Surface: USS Reuben James (FFG 57)
Submarine: USS Greeneville (SSN 772)
Small Shore: SWOS Nav Engineering LS Pearl Harbor
Large Shore: NAVSUP FLC Pearl Harbor

Highest Per Capita Awards:

Surface: Destroyer Squadron 31
Submarine: USS Bremerton (SSN 698)
Small Shore: SPAWAR/SYSACT Pacific
Large Shore: NAVFAC Engineering Command

Second Most Improved Over Previous Year Awards:

Surface: USS Chosin (CG 65)
Submarine: USS Columbus (SSN 762)
Small Shore: DLA Maritime Pearl Harbor
Large Shore: PMRF Barking Sands

Most Improved Over Previous Year Awards:

Surface: USS Hopper (DDG 70)
Submarine: USS Louisville (SSN 724)
Small Shore: Executive Transport Det Pac
Large Shore: CBMU-303

Highest Contributions Awards:

Surface: USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60)
Submarine: USS Greeneville (SSN 772)
Small Shore: Navy Exchange Pearl Harbor
Large Shore: PHNSY and IMF

Team Spirit Awards:

Surface: USS Russell (DDG 59)
Submarine: USS Greeneville (SSN 772)
Small Shore: Navy Exchange Pearl Harbor
Large Shore: PHNSY and IMF

U.S., Vietnamese militaries collaborate on clinic restoration

Story and photo by
Senior Airman Lauren Main

Pacific Angel - Vietnam 12 Public Affairs

NGHE AN PROVINCE, VIETNAM – Airmen and Soldiers from around the Pacific have been making leaps and bounds of progress restoring the Xuan Lam Medical Clinic in Nghe An Province, Vietnam, since the start of Operation Pacific Angel 12 June 10.

The restoration is one part of PACANGEL-Vietnam 12, an eight-day engagement designed to strengthen partnerships between Pacific host nation countries and the United States.

Since the beginning of the project, U.S. engineers have been working tirelessly alongside members of the Vietnamese mili-

tary and local contractors. Also, residents of the district contribute by lending a helping hand.

Yet with sweltering heat and humidity, the team keeps pace.

“We’re on schedule, but there’s a lot of finishing touches to be made,” said Master Sgt. Brad Robison, PACANGEL-Vietnam 12 engineering planner assigned to the 647th Civil Engineering Squadron, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), Hawaii. “We want to make sure we leave them [residents of Nam Dam district] with the best possible end-result.”

To date, the team installed a new roof, laid tile for all five examining rooms, and completed a portion of the exterior cosmetic painting. Now the team is working on leveling the grounds of the clinic to create a slope



A U.S. Airman (right) participates in Pacific Angel 12-3, Nghe An Province, Vietnam, while restoring the Xuan Lam Medical Clinic alongside, Vietnam People's Armed Forces members, June 10.

that slants away from the facility to ensure rainwater and waste runs away from the structure.

Despite the staunch deadlines and heat, the team spent the

afternoon working side-by-side with the Vietnamese military, contractors and local residents to lay the concrete in front of the clinic.

“It’s a community effort,” said

Robison. “It’s not just Vietnamese military and contractors [we’re] supporting, it’s the people that are going to use this clinic. It’s really cool. You can see [the community] takes pride in the effort and they’re glad to help.”

Officially in its fifth year, Pacific Angel is a joint humanitarian assistance engagement led by the 13th Air Force headquartered at JBPHH. The engagement supports U.S. Pacific Command’s capacity-building efforts by partnering with other governments, non-governmental agencies and militaries in the Asia-Pacific region to provide medical, dental, optometry and engineering assistance to their citizens.

Previous PACANGEL engagements were conducted in Quang Tri Province, Vietnam in September 2009 and Can Tho, Vietnam in May 2010.

Patrol Squadron Four participates in Partnership in Education

Lt. Jenna Rose

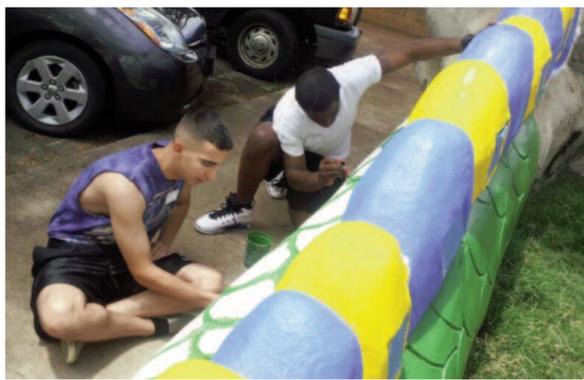
Patrol Squadron Four Public Affairs Officer

The Skinny Dragons of Patrol Squadron Four (VP-4) recently finished their school year involvement in the Partnership in Education Program with Aikahi Elementary School in Kailua.

The Partnership in Education program is a community outreach initiative that partners Navy commands with local public schools. Since the beginning of the school year, the Skinny Dragons have volunteered more than 300 hours, supporting a variety of initiatives including tutoring children in the “A Plus Program,” volunteering at school fairs, painting the playground dragon, and landscaping the facilities.

The school hosted two large events, the fun fair and May Day celebration. The school invited the squadron Sailors and their families to the fun fair, and the Skinny Dragons helped set up and provide personnel to man the booths.

The school’s May Day celebration was a culturally rich event with a full royal court representing



U.S. Navy photo MCI Nathan Laird

Sailors from Patrol Squadron Four paint the dragon statue at Aikahi Elementary School in Kailua during the command’s participation in the Partnership in Education Program with the school.

all seven Hawaiian Islands. Each grade had a special Hawaiian-themed performance and its own king and queen. To help with the event, the Skinny Dragons set up the stage, built and decorated the Hawaiian backdrops, and set up the tents.

When asked about the Partnership in Education Program, Intelligence Specialist 1st Class Lexine Ta’len said, “I am

very pleased with the squadron’s participation. It is a good representation of the squadron across the board, and it is great to have the involvement in the community because we are such close neighbors.”

Speaking of the value of working with children, she continued, “It promotes a healthy relationship and, as a parent, you care for a child’s well-being. For those per-

sonnel who are not parents, their involvement demonstrates their maturity, and it shows what good role models they are.”

In addition to participating in these events, the squadron helped to improve the school grounds. They improved the playground, installed a new bench, and painted the school’s dragon statue. “Painting the dragon is important to the Skinny Dragons of VP-4 because, in a sense, it serves as a symbol of support of the school by our squadron,” said Airman Recruit McCoy Cardoza.

“It was fun to paint the dragon. It is also great to improve our local community while showing our support and how we give back,” said Airman Seth Sifuentes.

The Skinny Dragons also participated in career day as former skipper, Cmdr. Kevin Long, talked to the children about his job in the squadron and in the Navy. During all of these events, the Skinny Dragons were also active in supporting the “A+ program” after school by tutoring students and assisting teachers.

“Whether it’s the Partnership in Education Program or involvement in a local church, for example, it’s

important for all Sailors to participate in some type of community service,” said Ta’len. “Making that valuable contribution to the community not only helps a Sailor grow as an individual, but it also reflects greatly on their character. This helps to cultivate a positive relationship within the community,” Ta’len said.

To demonstrate their gratitude, personnel at the school hosted a volunteer appreciation lunch. “The lunch was amazing. They had a wonderful spread of food, and we were thoroughly impressed. It was greatly appreciated,” said Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Cametria Tobias.

Patrol Squadron Four is located at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. The squadron flies the P-3C Orion and is better known as the Skinny Dragons. The P-3C is land-based and is the Navy’s premier long-range maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft, operating from locations throughout the world. The P-3C Orion missions range from submarine tracking to search and rescue, as well as overland missions, working alongside Navy, Army and Marine ground units.

Thousands of Vietnamese receive health education during Operation Pacific Angel 12

Story and photo by
Senior Airman
Lauren Main

*Pacific Angel-Vietnam 12
Public Affairs*

NGHE AN PROVINCE, VIETNAM – A team of approximately 30 U.S. military service members, 21 non-governmental organization volunteers, and more than 25 Vietnamese civilian and military doctors conducted health education clinics at two schools here for local residents, June 10 through 18. It was part of Operation Pacific Angel-Vietnam 12, a joint and combined humanitarian relief effort.

The clinics focused on dental, optometry, women's health, general medicine and public health education intended to improve the health of residents and provide education about obtaining a healthier lifestyle through better sanitation and basic public health practices.

"There's been a lot of education going on," said Col. Brendan Noone, family practice doctor, 13th Air Force, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), Hawaii. "Hopefully, the education will help with preventative health measures. And if nothing else, I hope they walk away knowing we do care, and we're here to help."

The health clinics and medical care were provided at The Nam Thahn Secondary school, a small compound with six medium-sized rooms, with each room containing a clinic ranging from public health to pharmacy. After the patients made their way through the school's courtyard, they registered with the health service outreach where they were given a public health brief before departing to the clinical specialty they required.

Public health was chosen



A young boy sits on his mother's lap during an exam June 11 at the Xuan Lam Primary School in Nghe An Province, Vietnam, June 11, 2012, during Pacific Angel-Vietnam 2012.



U.S. service members speak to the Vietnamese contractors through their interpreter at the Xuam Lam Medical Clinic during PACANGEL-Vietnam in Nghe An Province, Vietnam.

as the first stop for patients after registration to assist medical personnel in reinforcing the importance of following sanitation practices that are known to stop the spread of disease and

infection. Patients were allowed to see only one specialty at a time, and if they needed further medical attention they were required to start the process over again. This was done in

an effort to provide as many Vietnamese as possible with required medical care and health education.

In total, the PACANGEL-Vietnam 12 health professionals cared for more than

5,400 Vietnamese, extracting 340 teeth, filling 8,813 prescriptions, and issuing glasses to more than 1,200 patients, many of whom have never had glasses before.

"U.S. [service members] partnered extremely well with our NGOs, Project H.O.P.E. and the East meets West Foundation," said Maj. Marlon Muthuveeran, lead health service outreach planner, 13th AF, JBPHH. "Both NGOs increased our capability and capacity for treatment."

The dental health clinic saw the most children out of all of the clinics. "Vietnamese children are very stoic; they're very well behaved," said Col. Joseph Novak, an oral surgeon from the 59th Medical Wing at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. "We very rarely have any that cry. They're just really grateful, and I'm truly fortunate to be here to take care of them."

While there was a language barrier that prevented full communication, one common phrase was repeated throughout the engagement. "Thank you."

"I feel like American and Vietnamese relationships have definitely improved," said Tech. Sgt. Sherri Griffin, pharmacy technician from the 354th Fighter Wing at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska. "Every time I walk out of the pharmacy, everyone wants to thank me and shake my hand. They're extremely grateful."

Pacific Angel-Vietnam 12 served as the foundation and unofficial prescreening for the larger scale health service outreach, Operation Pacific Partnership, led by the U.S. Navy, which is scheduled to visit Nghe An Province next month.

"In addition to at least 10 patients that were referred to Pacific Partnership for a higher level of care, patients were also referred to the Nghe An Province Health Department," said Muthuveeran. "It's been a great experience, and I'm very proud of the team work displayed by all members of the team including translators and patient handlers."