"Navigator"

HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Erik Molina

Photo illustration

Looking back at RIMPAC 2012 – *Support from dawn to dusk, dusk to dawn*

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor

Although the ships of the 22 nations that participated in RIMPAC 2012 have sailed away from the islands of Hawaii into the sunset, the tangible benefits of the exercise will linger in paradise for a long time to come.

From the shore to the warfighters, those involved in the exercise operated in a cohesive environment, designed to foster and sustain the cooperative relationships that are critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans.

Certainly there was the warfighting part of the exercise as the more than 25,000 Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Soldiers and Coast Guardsmen who participated honed their skills—together—as they conducted such activities as live-fire exercises, surface-to-air engagements, amphibious assaults, explosive ordnance disposal, and diving and salvage operations.

Another vital component of the exercise were the shore elements, such as Naval Supply Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor (NAVSUP FLCPH), Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard (PHNSY), Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii, Pacific Missile Range Facility and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, who provided critical support in such areas as fueling, supplies and repairs.

A lot of coordination and planning are required to keep such a large fleet of ships and personnel afloat and NAVFAC Hawaii provided electricity, water, sewage, refuse disposal and transportation for the foreign ships. More than $405,000 was charged to foreign ships and subs for utilities and transportation.

Over on the logistics side of the house, NAVSUP FLCPH supported RIMPAC with 29.5 million gallons of fuel, onloaded and offloaded 2,212 pallets, processed 41,976 pounds of mail, expedited 496 pieces of critical material, ordered more than $4 million worth of provisions, and supported 110 helo missions, and more—all in a day's work.

"RIMPAC 2012 was an absolute success story," said Capt. Paul Verrastro, commanding officer of NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor. "Planning across the board was extraordinary, and the model set up for logistics worked extremely well," he said.

In addition to supporting the fleet of ships homeported at Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard completed 14 jobs for foreign shops.

"Our role as maintenance providers enabled RIMPAC ships and their crews to more fully take part in various combat and other exercises," said Capt. Brian Osgood, Pearl Harbor Navy Shipyard commander.

"In a larger sense, the shipyard's contribution extended beyond repairs to pieces of equipment. We were also supporting the beginning of new partnerships and the strengthening of existing partnerships among nations, which is in keeping with this RIMPAC's theme of 'Capable, Adaptive Partners,'" Osgood said.

With the help of local medical personnel, 307 non-homeport U.S. patients were assisted with such needs as emergency treatment, lab work and dental care, and another 115 foreign patients were treated.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Pearl Harbor made sure that the personnel involved in RIMPAC were able to enjoy Hawaii and participate in the many leisure activities that the *Aloha* State has to offer.

MWR ensured that there were athletics competitions in seven sporting events that pitted athletes of the many nations against each other—all in fun, of course. From start to finish, MWR was "in the game," taking care of whatever needed to be done—providing officials and scorekeepers, equipment for all of the events, and at the end of the competitions, passing out awards. More than 3,300 RIMPAC participants competed in the sports competitions.

It was up to the staff at MWR to make sure that the RIMPAC visitors had a good time. For example, they planned 84 recreational opportunities utilized by more than 2,000 individuals, processed more than 900 requests for vehicles, hotels and activities, and conducted 42 island tours with MWR buses.

Refreshments were never far away from reach of the visitors with the beverage and food stands located at Hotel Pier and RIMPAC Central. Some personnel could visit the Chief's Club "Oceans," and there were also special events such as a luau and a barbecue.

Revenues that were derived from the various activities translated into beverage sales of $292,000, ITT/Travel Connections that totaled $350,000, and an additional $20,000 from outdoor recreation and outdoor adventure, according to Frank Faria, MWR director.

The Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange reported approximately a 9 percent increase in daily sales throughout RIMPAC with additional sales of more than $236,000 for RIMPAC merchandise.

All of that hard work and commitment from the shore support activities brought numerous kudos from the visitors from the participating nations.

"Our foreign partners were very grateful for the various services we provided throughout RIMPAC. Every supporting activity received numerous expressions of gratitude from all the ships/subs supported. No matter what the request, shore support was always able to find an answer, provide the service, or offer a alternative solution," said

See RIMPAC, A-4

RIMPAC goes viral on social media

Fan activity on Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Facebook pages during the RIMPAC 2012 Exercise jumped sharply during the period from June 29 to Aug. 2.

Based on Facebook Insights data, fan interaction reached a total of 18,820 on CNRH FB with the most interaction of 2,162 on July 16. A total of 34,159 fan interaction was reached on JBPHH FB with the most interaction of 3,189 on July 3. Fan interaction includes the number of likes, comments and impressions on RIMPAC related posts.

Photo illustration

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard graduates 123 apprentices
See page A-2

Synthetic drugs create issues in Air Force for Airmen
See page A-2

USS Louisville completes western Pacific deployment
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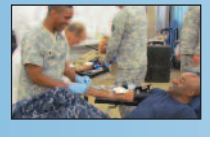

Adm. Ponds kicks off blood drive at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel
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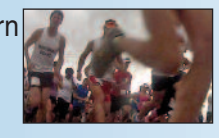

Runners turn out in full force for half-marathon
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How military families can find pet-friendly rentals
See page B-3

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard graduates 123 apprentices

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility Public Affairs

U.S. Navy photo by Marshall Fukuki

Ross Furutani, a painter/blaster graduate, is congratulated by Capt. Brian Osgood, commander of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, during a graduation ceremony Aug. 10 for 123 Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility trainees who completed the command's apprentice program. U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye (right) was the keynote speaker.

U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye was the keynote speaker as Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY & IMF) graduated 123 employees from its apprentice program at a ceremony Aug. 10 at Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Inouye described the economic, political and military importance of the Asia-Pacific region. "The role of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard becomes more vital … in maintaining the security of this nation," he said.

The graduates, representing 24 shops and 20 trades, completed four-year, full-time, paid apprenticeships that combined academic study with on-the-job work experience. They earned associate's degrees from Honolulu Community College as well as certification in their respective trades from the Navy and U.S. Department of Labor. Graduates transitioned to mechanic or journeyworker status in shipyard jobs that pay an average of nearly $30 an hour.

"Welcome to your new role as leaders," said Capt. Brian Osgood, shipyard commander, as he congratulated the graduates. "You represent, and are, the people the Navy needs today. You have the desire to solve complex problems with your hands, and you have the critical thinking skills needed to be the future of our Navy maintainers," Osgood said.

Atamante Edralin Jr., shop 38 marine machinery mechanic, and Anastasia Kritikos, shop 67 electronics mechanic, delivered remarks on behalf of the apprentice class.

Edralin, a former preschool director, recalled that four years ago he and most of his apprentice classmates had little or no knowledge of the trade they were about to enter. He said his apprenticeship taught him one of the truths in life. "Every day is another opportunity to learn something new," he said.

Kritikos shared her dream as a high schooler. "I wanted to help and save lives and make a difference," she said. She explained that when she was in college, she was in a motorcycle accident that nearly killed her, and she almost lost her scholarship and job due to her injuries. The shipyard apprentice program gave Kritikos another opportunity to realize her dream.

"With every day that I come to work, I'm helping to protect and save lives and make a difference, not just for myself and my daughter, not just for those I work with, but also for our Navy and our nation," she said.

Synthetic drugs create issues in Air Force for Airmen

Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

U.S Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Douglas Ellis

Spice and bath salts are prohibited due to their risks to the health, welfare and readiness of Airmen. Airmen are now receiving Article 15s and are court-martialed for Spice nearly twice as often as marijuana.

Stories across America have described incidents of people doing strange and bizarre acts while high on synthetic stimulants.

Spice and bath salts, labeled "not for human consumption," are synthetic drugs and their use is on the rise, including Airmen in the U.S. Air Force. Consumption of these chemicals is creating what many describe as real-life zombies.

Though chemists are staying one step ahead of the law to keep the products legal and readily available in "head shops," the Air Force is in a full sprint to stop the use of these drugs by Airmen. They are now testing for them in random drug urinalysis.

"We are testing and can detect Spice now," said Col. Dann Carlson, 647th Air Base Group commander and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam vice commander. "It's a problem, especially here in Hawaii. It's a very easy product to get hold of."

In an all-call for Airmen E-6 and below, the commander, U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigation special agents, medical Airmen and the Area Defense Council attorneys described in great detail how the synthetic drugs will affect the body and why they are illegal. Hickam law enforcement officials are currently tracking more than 30 cases involving Airmen since the beginning of the year.

"We as an Air Force can't afford that," Carlson said. "I, as a commander, absolutely hate when I have to deal with these kinds of cases. One, you know it's off limits. Two, we made it very clear, and you know we can test for it. So, it's really just a matter of making a poor decision."

Spice attempts to mimic the look and enhances the effects of marijuana, while bath salts are a white crystallized powder made to imitate cocaine. However, their potency ranges from four to 100 times greater than marijuana or cocaine, and use of the drugs can be many more times dangerous than drugs like LSD and methamphetamines. Offi-cials say the chemists, the distributors and the stores selling the products don't know what the active ingredients are.

"Anything with the picture of Tony Montana (from the movie Scarface) on the front doesn't belong in the bathtub," said Special Agent Jeff Patrick, Air Force Office of Special Investigations Det. 601. "You don't know what you are getting when you buy this stuff. (Chemists) clearly know what this is doing to people, but they are not concerned for anyone's safety. By marketing it as not for human consumption, (chemists are) able to avoid violating 21 U.S. Code 813 Control Substance Act and Federal Analog Act."

Some people have been admitted to psychiatric hospitals and have experienced continued neurological and psychological effects long after they stopped using the products.

"They are sold in different brands, different synthetic compounds, all having different effects," Patrick said.

"As a matter of fact, you can buy two of the same packages (with the same name), have them both tested at the same lab, and they might come back with different chemical makeups. To me, it's like playing Russian roulette. This is some dangerous stuff."

According to Naval Criminal Investigative Services, statistically, the demographics of Spice or bath salt users are 83 percent male and 17 percent female, average age of 21, with 75 percent of all subjects ranging from the age of 18 to 23 in the pay grade of E-3.

"We do a great job as a military in defending ourselves against all kinds of threats," Carlson said. "Our cyber folks, our (communications) folks do an incredible job on a daily basis of defending us against a threat. We do that across the board when it comes to an active defense in our military."

"I see this as an active defense for us in our military because I see this as one of our potentially biggest threats to our force right now with the fact that it's taking out our most important assets, our people. It's taking them out now at an alarming rate," he said.

President Barrack Obama signed the Synthetic Drug Abuse Prevention Act of 2012 on July 9, adding the synthetic cannabinoid, commonly known as "Spice," and 11 other synthetic cathinones, commonly known as "bath salts," to schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. Service members who are caught using, distributing or possessing these substances can be charged for a violation of Article 112a, Uniform Code of Military Justice. The consequences of illegally using a schedule I controlled substance are very severe and can include a dishonorable discharge and confinement for five years for possession or use and a dishonorable discharge and confinement for 15 years for wrongful distribution.

"If you use this stuff, you are going to face legal consequences," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Elkins, Navy Region Hawaii staff judge advocate. "Whether you get caught the first time or later on down the road, you are going to get caught."

In the last year, a more aggressive urinalysis program to test targeting compounds found in Spice and bath salts has been a priority for the Department of Defense branches. Officials anticipate the program to expand and strengthen as they continue to wage war on these illegal substances.

"If you are not caught by urinalysis, though, whoever you are using it with is probably going to tell on you," she said. "They get caught, they're going to talk."

As of July 6, seven businesses have been put off limits by the AFDCB: Hawaii Natural High, The Dungeon/Flesh/Sexopolis/After Hours/The Shelter, Smokies, Hawaiian Holy Smokes, Hawaiian Holy Smokes II, South Shore Glass and Oahu Glass.

"If you see a 'head shop,' don't go into it," Elkins said. "It's not worth it. You might not be sure if it's off limits or not, but if you have a shop with bongs in the window, you're a military member, you know good things are not going to come from what's in there."

USS Olympia leaves for western Pacific deployment

Story and photo by MC1 Ronald Gutridge

Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Friends and families of the crew from USS Olympia (SSN 717) gathered Aug. 8 at the submarine piers at Pearl Harbor-Hickam to say goodbye as the Los Angeles-class submarine departed for a scheduled western Pacific (WESTPAC) deployment.

"We have been preparing for this deployment for over 18 months, so the crew is eager to put the countless hours of training and hard work into action," said Cmdr. Michael Boone, USS Olympia commanding officer. "It will be a demanding six months, but Olympia is ready and willing to take on any challenge that is presented to us."

Since returning from her last western Pacific deployment in 2010, Olympia finished undergoing deperming, the first submarine to complete this treatment at the new drive-in submarine magnetic silencing facility Dec. 15 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam's Beckoning Point. She has also undergone maintenance, and her crew has conducted training in preparation for this deployment.

The Los Angeles-class submarine USS Olympia (SSN 717) departs Aug. 8 from Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled six-month western Pacific deployment.

"Like any deployment workups, we have encountered some unexpected things, but we remained on track and haven't lost focus on our mission," said Boone. "Our deployment goals are to successfully complete the assigned tasking given to us, take care of the crew to ensure morale stays high, have the opportunity to see new places and, most importantly of all, return home safely."

With a crew size of 141, this will be the first time deploying for 39 of Olympia's Sailors, according to Boone. This will be the first deployment for Electronics Technician Seaman Ap-prentice Christopher Cummings from Ada, Okla. who has been in the Navy for one year.

"I am really excited to be deploying. I have been looking forward to this day since I checked onboard Olympia," said Cummings. "My goal is to further my training and become submarine-qualified, and I am also excited about traveling the world and seeing new places."

Measuring 362 feet long, weighing 6,130 tons when submerged, Olympia is one of the Navy's most technologically sophisticated submarines.

Olympia is the United States Navy's 104th nuclear-powered submarine and the 95th of the attack submarine fleet. She is the 29th of the Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered, fast attack submarine to be delivered to the Navy.

Los Angeles-class submarines are ideally suited for covert surveillance, intelligence gathering and special forces missions. This stealth, when combined with the submarine's Tomahawk cruise missiles, mines and torpedoes, provides the operational commander with an unseen force multiplier.

Diverse Views

"What unsafe driving habits of other drivers bother you the most?"

Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Fabiana Anderson
Fleet and Family Readiness Program

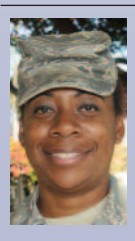
"When people don't use their turn signal."

Tech. Sgt. Jill Bass
15th Medical Operations Squadron

"Cutting people off. If the individual you pull out in front of has to immediately put on the brakes, then you were too close and should wait. The other individual may have children which causes them to immediately be jerked forward. Have patience and think about how you would feel if you were that driver."

Damage Controlman 1st Class Pedro Caliz
USS Crommelin (FFG-37)

"Tailgating because it puts you in danger as well as other drivers."



Staff Sgt. Lateesha Maris
15th Medical Operations Squadron

"One unsafe driving habit of other drivers that bother me the most are people who text while driving. Not only is this against the law in Hawaii and on base, it is also a distraction to the driver. When you are not focused on the road, that can lead to decreased reaction time. We all have to be aware of the potential danger that texting and driving causes. Keeping your eyes on the road and off your phone will make driving home safer for you and the individuals around you."

Electrician Technician 3rd Class Alan Kuramoto
USS Nimitz (CVN-68)

"People who don't pay attention while driving."

Sgt. 1st Class Yahaira Valdez
Defense Courier Service Honolulu

"When people suddenly hit their brakes, especially on the highway, for no apparent reason."

Daena Dempsey
Morale, Welfare and Recreation

"Not using a turn signal, texting while driving, and a lot of people tend to slow down too much when it rains."

Tech. Sgt. Eric Simons
15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

"Speeding in housing. I live in Earhart Village, and I always notice people speeding through housing. I feel like it is our responsibility to ensure the safety of the children in our neighborhoods. The best way to do this is for everyone to slow down before a child gets hit."

(Provided by MC2 Heidi McCormick 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

USS Argonaut crew reads their mail at Pearl Harbor

Official U.S. Navy photograph, national archives

USS Argonaut (SS-166) crewmembers are shown here reading their mail after returning to Pearl Harbor from the Makin Island Raid on Aug. 26, 1942. The Makin Island Raid occurred from Aug. 17 to 18 and it was an attack by the United States on Japanese military forces on Makin Island in the Pacific Ocean. Later, Japanese destroyers sank Argonaut Jan. 10, 1943 off Rabaul, Papua New Guinea, taking her crew down with her.

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Commander, Navy Region Hawaii
Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

Chief of Staff
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Director, Public Affairs
Agnes Tauyan

Deputy Director, Public Affairs
Bill Doughty

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

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USS Louisville completes western Pacific deployment

Story and photo by MC1 Ronald Gutridge

Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Friends and families of the crew from USS Louisville (SSN 724) gathered at the submarine piers to welcome back the Los Angeles-class submarine Aug. 8 as she returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after completing a six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

"I am extremely proud of the crew of the Louisville. They accomplished tasks in support of both theater and national interests with great enthusiasm and skill," said Cmdr. Lee Sisco, Louisville commanding officer. "This was the most rewarding and successful deployment out of the seven WESTPAC deployments I've conducted."

While deployed, Louisville executed a wide range of operations in support of U.S. 7th Fleet. In addition, she conducted several training exercises, contributing to the nation's strategic posture in the western Pacific region. Louisville also strengthened relationships with Japan during an exercise with the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force.

During the deployment, 26 Sailors qualified in submarines and are now entitled to wear the submarine warfare insignia, also referred to as "dolphins," after completing a rigorous qualification process, it included in-depth understanding of submarine construction and operations and also practical assessments of the Sailor's ability to combat a wide range of casualties that could be encountered while onboard the submarine.

A majority of the crew also completed advanced qualifications, including engineering watch supervisor, diving officer of the watch and chief of the watch. These qualifications provide greater watch bill flexibility and help ensure that Louisville's performance will remain strong.

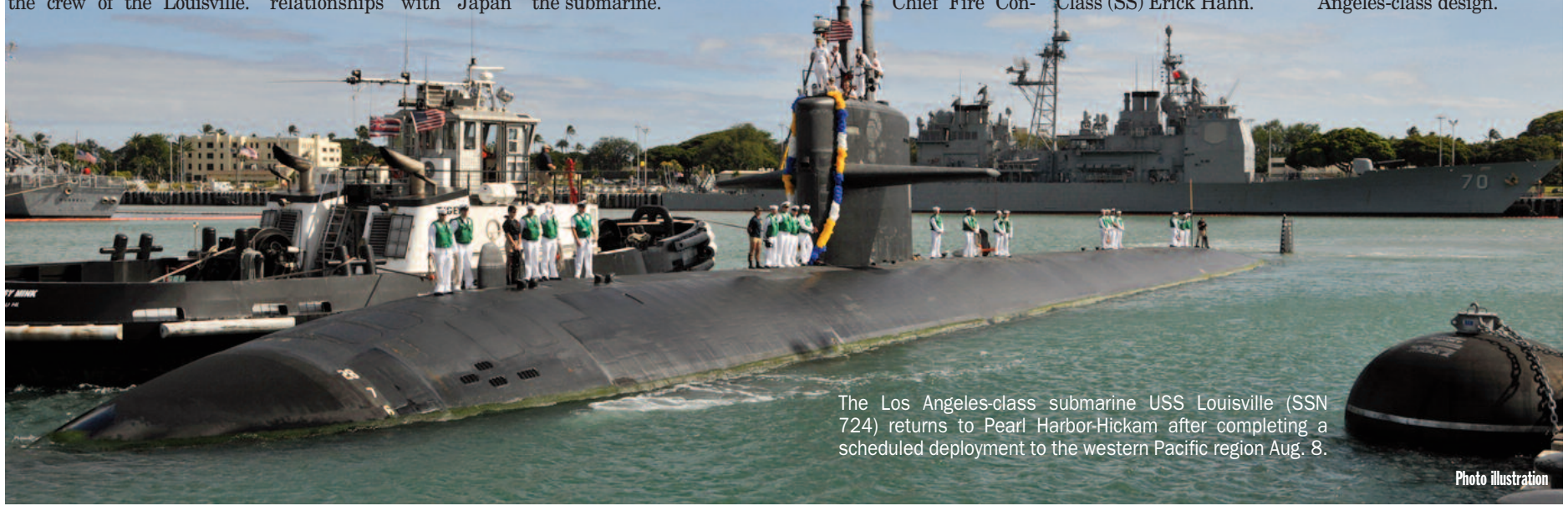
"We left on WESTPAC with a fairly junior crew but, they worked hard to keep the ship clean and stowed and rapidly became qualified for senior watch stations," said Master Chief Fire Control Technician (SS) Joseph Brans-field, Louis-ville chief of the boat.

Despite steaming more than 40,000 nautical miles in support of the nation's defense, the crew enjoyed several memorable port visits which included Sasebo and Yokosuka, Japan, Sepangar, Malaysia and Subic Bay, Philippines.

"Within the last six months, I have been able to experience many different cultures during each port visit which has been both exciting and humbling," said Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SS) Erick Hahn.

During their Malaysia visit, Louisville and the submarine tender USS Emory S. Land (AS 39) hosted a reception for Secretary of Defense Ray Mabus and Malaysian Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Jaafar. This event directly contributed to further cooperation between the two countries' respective navies, according to Sisco.

Louisville is the fourth United States ship to bear the name in honor of the city of Louisville, Ky. She is the 35th nuclear-powered, fast-attack submarine of the Los Angeles-class design.



The Los Angeles-class submarine USS Louisville (SSN 724) returns to Pearl Harbor-Hickam after completing a scheduled deployment to the western Pacific region Aug. 8.

Photo illustration

JBPHH hosts emergency ops incident management course

Grace Hew Len

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

Twenty-six students gained valuable training in incident management during the Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Emergency Operations Center Incident Management Team (EOC-IMT) course held Aug. 6 to 9 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

Since its inception, CNIC has been involved with anti-terrorism and emergency preparedness training in response to lessons learned from previous natural and man-made disasters and the presidential report on the federal response to Hurricane Katrina that read, "An investment in the continued training and exercises of our command and control is a top priority."

The class was composed of fire, security, safety, emergency management and various other specialists from the Air Force and Navy, assigned to the JBPHH emergency operations center. Each student learned how to properly serve as a member of the EOC-IMT so they can coordinate together and respond to a man-made or natural disaster.

"Bringing the course here to JBPHH provides us with greater training opportunities for JBPHH personnel while having them learn in an environment where they will naturally function in an emergency." said Dan DuBois, emergency management officer for JBPHH.

EOC-IMT course lessons covered EOC team member roles and responsibilities, information management, communications and the use of the C4I Suite, the Navy's current common operating picture online application. The course also included several practical application classroom exercises requiring student working groups to apply the knowledge gained during lectures.

For the operations center exercises, students were broken into common EOC functional groupings (operations, logistics and plans) and given a practical scenario of an on-base emergency in which they are forced to realistically lead, brief, coordinate and plan. Each day, classroom instruction was followed by an EOC exercise that became increasingly complex as the course progressed.

Lt. Gabe Caldwell, JBPHH food service officer, attended the course for the first time to get a basic understanding of how the EOC operates. "The training conducted provided good communication techniques, situational awareness, teamwork and planning," he said. Caldwell will be involved with mass care in the EOC.

After the three-and-a-half day course, senior leaders had an opportunity to attend a special emergency management training designed for tenant organizations commanders, deputies, executive officers and senior enlisted personnel. The robust training covered the status of the emergency management program and support requirements for tenant organizations.

Featured guest speaker Dr. Gerard Fryer, geophysicist from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, presented lessons learned from the Japan tsunami and implications for Hawaii.

Rocco Forte, former emergency management officer from Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., presented lessons learned from the 2007 I-35 bridge collapse.

U.S. Navy photos by David Underwood Jr.

Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, addresses the audience at the senior leaders, emergency management training held Aug. 9 at Hickam Memorial Theatre.

(Below) Ken Crouch (center), Naval Health Clinic Hawaii emergency management officer, consults with other team members during a classroom scenario at the emergency operations center incident management team course Aug. 6-9.

RIMPAC achievements

Continued from A-1

Lt. Cmdr. Shannon Chong, foreign ship liaison officer for Navy Region Hawaii.

"From comments heard continuously throughout the exercise, all visitors no doubt enjoyed the extended time they were able to spend in Hawaii. Many were impressed with how much JBPHH has to offer from fitness facilities (gyms/fields), beaches, food establishments, etc.," Chong added.

With the conclusion of the exercise, it was time to put RIMPAC 2012 into the history books.

"Our Navy concluded a very successful Rim of the Pacific Exercise—the biggest and most comprehensive RIMPAC ever. The Sailors, civilians and family members of region [Navy Region Hawaii] and MIDPAC [Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific] can and should be very proud of their contributions and hard work that made for a successful RIMPAC 2012," said Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

"Our ships, guests and visiting dignitaries received the best possible welcome and assistance from our installations. Thank you, Pearl Harbor-Hickam and PMRF—military service members and civilians alike—for your red carpet treatment to our visitors and excellent training support that helped make the exercise so successful," Ponds said.

Not only was RIMPAC 2012 a huge success story for the U.S. Navy, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and those who participated in the exercise, but it had a significant impact on the local economy and the state of Hawaii.

"RIMPAC 2012 is in the history books, but our optempo and change of pace here in Hawaii will continue. As CNO Adm. Greenert says, Hawaii is the gateway to all of Asia and beyond. The work you do is strategically important to our Navy and our nation. The Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific team is making a global difference in protecting maritime freedom and preserving peace," Ponds said.

During a morning news spot Aug. 2 on KHON-TV, Vice Adm. Gerald R. Beaman, commander of U.S. 3rd Fleet, thanked the state of Hawaii and its citizens. "*Aloha* and *mahalo* to the great citizens and state of Hawaii. The first phase of RIMPAC was what we call the harbor phase, close to 12 days of training, socializing and networking. The theme of RIMPAC was "Capable, Adaptive Partners" which included the citizens, state and waters of Hawaii. This was something we stressed from day one of preparation," Beaman explained

"We value our relationship with Hawaii and the ability to use the waters nearby. I can't thank the people of Hawaii enough," he said.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

Yeoman 2nd Class Chris Beaver of the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Olympia's (SSN 717) administration department says goodbye to his family on the submarine pier before the submarine departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for its six-month deployment Aug. 8 to the western Pacific region.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Ronald Gutridge

Isaac "Sonny" Kalua III, a painter apprentice, sings the national anthem and state song at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility apprentice graduation ceremony Aug. 10.

U.S. Navy photo by Marshall Fukuki

Lt. Gen. Paul J. Selva, Pacific Air Forces vice commander, accepts a check Aug. 13 from Combined Federal Campaign overseas representative Renee Acosta, Headquarters PACAF, Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. The check for $95,683.42 was to help family support and youth programs throughout PACAF.

U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn

(Left) David Pieper, base support vehicles and equipment product line team manager at Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii, explains the standard features of the Vantage electric cargo van slow-moving vehicle (SMV) to Capt. John Coronado, commanding officer of NAVFAC Hawaii, at the command's main transportation compound. The truck is one of 36 SMVs that NAVFAC Hawaii purchased to replace the aging vehicles currently in service.

U.S. Navy photo by Thomas Obungen

(Below) The guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73) departs Pearl Harbor-Hickam to participate in a trilateral exercise with ships from the U.S. Coast Guard, Japan Maritime Self Defense Force and the Republic of Korea navy. The exercise is intended to increase interoperability, operational proficiency and readiness.

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

Adm. Ponds kicks off blood drive at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel

Story and photo by
Brandon Bosworth

Contributing Writer

A blood drive was held Aug. 7 at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel. One of the first to show up to donate was Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

"I wanted to come and show that it doesn't hurt to donate," Ponds said. "Giving blood is what *ohana* [family] is all about."

The Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel was part of a series of ongoing blood drives organized by the Tripler Army Medical Center Blood Donor Center. In any given month, there are several blood drives held at Oahu's various military installations.

According to Michelle Lele, blood donor recruiter/coordinator for the Tripler Army Medical Center-Blood Donor Center, about 500 units of blood are collected each month. One pint of blood can potentially save up to three lives. And while much of the blood collected is used here in Hawaii, some of it is shipped to medical units in Afghanistan.

Lele emphasized that commands can take steps to help encourage donations. "Commands can encourage greater turnouts by supporting routine blood drives every 56 days and by scheduling block time for staff to donate," she said. "They can also offer incentives such as no PT for anyone that is wanting to donate."

Spc. Christopher Goodman assists Rear Adm. Frank Ponds as he donates blood during a blood drive Aug. 7 at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel.

The need for donors remains high because the number of eligible service members who can donate is shrinking due to deployments.

Commands can also help in other ways. "We are currently searching for local commands to host mobile blood drives," Lele said. "To host a mobile blood drive your command would only have to give us a point of contact to handle marketing, space to use at your facility, and, of course, assist us with getting people in to donate. Our staff will set up, clean up and handle refreshments for the donors."

To schedule a blood drive, call Lele at 433-6699.

A good source of information about giving blood can be found at the Armed Sources Blood Program website at www.militaryblood.dod.mil. For those interested in donating, call 433-6148 more information.

Blood drive schedule

Tripler Army Medical Center Blood Donor Center has updated its schedule of upcoming blood drives as part of the Armed Services Blood Donor Program (ASBP). Dates and locations are updated regularly online as new drives are scheduled. Donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment online, call to make an appointment, and check the website for the latest information.

Currently scheduled drives include:

Aug. 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Schofield Barracks Tropics, Schofield Barracks.

Aug. 21, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., JIOC, building 352 (front entrance), Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Aug. 24, 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Pearl Harbor Naval Station Pearl Harbor Shipyard, building two.

Aug. 28, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Navy Exchange, Tripler Army Medical Center.

For more information, call 433-6699 or 433-6148 or email michelle.lele@amedd.army.mil.

NAVFAC Hawaii adds 36 electric vehicles to JBPHH inventory

Story and photo by
Thomas Obungen

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam's (JBPHH) installation transportation manager, officially added 36 electric slow-moving vehicles (SMVs) to its inventory July 30.

"These SMVs offer a safer and smarter alternative to the smaller, outdated neighborhood electric vehicles that have been in use for the past 10 years," said Capt. John Coronado, NAVFAC Hawaii commanding officer. "A range of 40 miles and maximum speed of 25 mph make them perfect for commuting in and around JBPHH, transporting people, tools and supplies to keep our fleet ready."

The models, manufactured by Vantage Vehicle International, Inc., include two- and four-passenger trucks and cargo vans and have virtually the same capability as full-size automobiles. They also have hard doors, windshield wipers, air conditioning/heat, radio and instrument gauges, which other SMVs do not. Vantage SMVs use conventional 110-volt charging cables; however, each one is also equipped with a roof-mounted solar panel to reduce time and resources at the charging station while extending battery life and usage.

Distribution of the new vehicles will first be to commands that already have SMVs and power stations in place. NAVFAC Hawaii plans to purchase more vehicles in the future to keep up with the president's fossil fuel reduction mandate.

In addition, new charging stations, supplemented by photovoltaic systems on their roofs, are on track for installation at NAVFAC Hawaii's main transportation compound off USS Russell Avenue within the next year.

Capt. John Coronado, commanding officer of Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii, takes a two-passenger Vantage truck for a spin around the command's main transportation compound. It is one of 36 slow-moving vehicles equipped with photovoltaic panels. NAVFAC Hawaii purchased them to replace the aging electrical vehicles in its inventory.

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard completes USS Santa Fe availability

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility Public Affairs

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY & IMF) completed a six-month maintenance period Aug. 5 on USS Santa Fe (SSN 763). The project was on schedule and within budget.

About 63,500 man-days of work were accomplished during the drydocking selected restricted availability (DSRA) of the Pearl Harbor-homeported submarine.

"The entire Santa Fe project team, including all the workers, really put forth a great effort to complete this availability on time," said Scott Sandin, project superintendent.

"I would like to thank all of the Santa Fe team for working so hard to get this victory for the shipyard. There were times we asked for more than 100 percent of our people, but they came through in order to meet the mission," he said.

Sandin acknowledged the excellent teamwork and support by the ship's force. "Completing Santa Fe on time required a fantastic collaboration between the shipyard and the ship," he said. "Santa Fe's officers and crew, in particular, commanding officer Cmdr. David Adams and DSRA coordinator Lt. Andres "A.J." Aviles, were focused and driven to complete their workload and to support the shipyard executing our heavy workload," he said.

Santa Fe is the Navy's 52nd Los Angeles-class, fast attack, nuclear-powered submarine and was commissioned Jan. 8, 1994 at Naval Submarine Base, Groton, Conn.

After completing builder's trials and follow-on outfitting, Santa Fe transited to the Pacific Ocean in March 1995 to be based at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Santa Fe is the second ship to be named in honor of the capital city of New Mexico. An improved Los Angeles-class (or 688I) submarine, she features the BSY-1 combat system, retractable bow planes and 12 vertical launch tubes for cruise missile strikes.

The shipyard is a field activity of the Naval Sea Systems Command and a one-stop regional maintenance center for the Navy's surface ships and submarines. It is the largest industrial employer in the state of Hawaii with a combined civilian and military workforce of about 4,850. The Navy's largest ship repair facility between the west coast and the Far East, the shipyard is strategically located in the mid-Pacific about a week of steam time closer to potential major regional contingencies in East Asia than sites on the west coast.

Vice Adm. Beaman recognizes FACSFAC Pearl Harbor Sailors for job well done

Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility Pearl Harbor

Vice Adm. Gerald R. Beaman, commander of U.S. 3rd Fleet, recently visited Sailors at Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility (FACSFAC) Pearl Harbor to thank them for a job well done.

He gave them thanks in recognition of their dedication in providing a safe joint operating area during RIMPAC 2012.

Beaman specifically recognized Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class David W. Thomas for his personal devotion to excellence. The admiral noted that on more than one occasion during the largest naval exercise in the world, Thomas single-handedly provided crucial and timely guidance to his chain-of-command which was relayed to the RIMPAC leadership for immediate implementation of air safety procedures.

Also worthy of mention, Beaman said, was that Thomas turned down his option to take terminal leave to provide experience and leadership supporting the exercise and despite his days of remaining active duty in single digits, his personal actions were instrumental to the overall success of RIMPAC 2012.

FACSFAC Pearl Harbor is a detachment of FACSFAC San Diego. Manned with 54 enlisted, two officers and five civilians, the detachment is responsible for the operations and airspace management of more than 244,000 square miles of sea and airspace surrounding the Hawaiian Islands.

U.S. Navy photo

Vice Adm. Gerald R. Beaman, commander of U.S. 3rd Fleet, recently visited Sailors at Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility (FACSFAC) Pearl Harbor to thank them for a job well done. He gave them thanks in recognition of their dedication in providing a safe joint operating area during RIMPAC 2012.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

Aug. 23: Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard/Apprentice Program
Aug. 30: STEM
Sept. 6: Back to school/Job Fairs JEMS
Sept. 13: National Preparedness Month
Sept. 20: War of 1812/USS Lake Erie
Sept. 27: Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Air Show "Navy Leap Frogs"
Oct. 4: Makahiki festival
Oct. 11: Navy birthday

(The segments currently air between 6:20 and 6:30 a.m. each Thursday. Previous segments can be viewed at http://bit.ly/KHONNavy)

Got a story for KHON Hawaii Navy News?
Email editor@hookelenews.com or call Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs at 473-2877. Stories must have a Navy tie and be of interest to the general public.

STORY IDEAS?
Contact the Ho'okele editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements
Phone: (808) 473-2888
Email: editor@hookelenews.com
HO'OKELE

NAVFAC Hawaii awards contract for new ground control tower at Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Denise Emsley

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii awarded a contract Aug. 8 to build a new ground control tower at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) to RORE-ITSI, JV LLC (small business) from San Diego, Calif.

"The replacement of this facility has been in the works for some time and is badly needed to support Air Force and Hawaii Air National Guard flight operations at JBPHH," said Lt. Col. Randy Whitecotton, deputy JBPHH public works officer (mil) at NAVFAC Hawaii and commander of 647th Civil Engineer Squadron.

"It was built in 1952 and does not provide clear line-of-sight for current aircraft movement. In addition, its open-type construction and exterior metal stairs from the ground to the tower cab has allowed exposure to the elements over the years, causing corrosion of steel reinforcement within concrete columns. And the outside stairs makes entering and exiting the structure difficult during inclement weather," Whitecotton said.

The award is a firm fixed-price task order for $7.4 million under an indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity, multiple award construction contract. Three proposals were received. The project is scheduled for completion in March 2014.

The project provides for a new 1,194 square feet ground control tower. This 122-foot high tower will consist of a control tower cab, office, break area/room, electrical/communications equipment room, elevator and restroom.

It will include all site utilities, electrical service and communication distribution from/to nearest available water, sewer, electrical and communication services as well as mechanical systems including air conditioning, fire protection/suppression, and ventilation systems.

Exterior elements include paving and site improvements such as building lighting, paving for exterior equipment pads, circulation, landscaping, and perimeter chain link security fencing. A security monitoring camera and a remote entry system controlled from the tower cab will be installed at the entry gate.

"We look forward to the new ground control tower that will be properly configured for today's airfield use with increased safety measures to meet all mission requirements, operational considerations required for ground control tower personnel to direct aircraft and flightline vehicle traffic," Whitecotton said.