

Have a safe Labor Day weekend

“Navigator”
HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

August 31, 2012

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

Volume 3 Issue 34



USS Crommelin conducts final underway

Story and photos by
MC3 Sean Furey

Navy Public Affairs Support
 Element West Detachment
 Hawaii

The guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) conducted her final mission off the coast of Oahu on Aug. 27, returning for a final time to Pearl Harbor.

Crommelin is slated for decommissioning in late October.

"I'm sad but everything has to come to an end," said Cmdr. Michael Johns, commanding officer of Crommelin. "The Crommelin had a great 30 years of operations; it has a great legacy. I'm really proud of everyone here on Crommelin and our family and friends that supported us over the last year and a half."

After the Aug. 27 day-long underway, Crommelin will begin the weeks-long process of decommissioning.

"Today is our last underway,

the final voyage of the USS Crommelin. She spent a lot of hard years at sea," said Chief Hospital Corpsman Hector Ortiz, the ship's independent duty corpsman. "The unique challenges of this ship have been interesting. There have been some fun times, some bad times but it was a rewarding tour overall. She's a great ship. We're going to miss this girl."

Crommelin was commissioned June 18, 1983 and originally homeported in Long Beach, Calif. in August 1983.

"It's kind of a sad experience. I got to meet a lot of good people on board this ship. I learned a lot," said Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Christian Giron. "She will be missed, and the crew members will be missed."

Sailors currently stationed aboard Crommelin will be dispersed throughout the fleet to different platforms where they are needed.

"I met a lot of good people on

the Crommelin. I learned a lot about my job," said Cryptological Technician (Technical) Seaman Philip Wang. "This past year has been fun and interesting, I have learned the most out of my Navy career here."

The final underway came close on the heels of a community outreach visit to Kauai, where the crew helped build homes with Habitat for Humanity and opened the ship to visitors.

"Within a short period of time, you found a way to make an impact and leave a lasting impression on our friends and neighbors," said Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, to the commanding officer and crew of Crommelin.

"The *ohana* spirit that you displayed will go a long way in ensuring that our island neighbors and communities understand that we are here for them and respect the heritage and the

culture that is uniquely Hawaii. Job well done," the admiral said. Upon return to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam from their final underway, Crommelin Sailors manned the rails.

"Our manning the rails was our opportunity for the crew to look back on our history, our name sakes," said Johns. "It was representative of USS Crommelin's motto, 'Job Well Done.' It was our way of thanking our former shipmates that have served the Crommelin."

Over her long career, Crommelin has participated in more than eight deployments, been involved in such exercises as Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) and Koa Kai.

Crommelin has been actively involved in counter narcotics operations and tanker escort missions around the world including operations in Central and South America, the Caribbean, Middle East, Korea and the Persian

Gulf. She was a key player in four major cocaine seizures including more than 12 tons of narcotics in one of the largest drug interdictions in history.

She is also well known for her valuable assistance in several rescues at sea, including assisting fishermen from two fishing vessels in distress and the rescue of 174 Ecuadorian citizens from a leaky vessel at sea.

USS Crommelin is the 28th ship of the Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigates, named for three brothers: Vice Adm. Henry Crommelin, who became a surface warfare officer, and Cmdr. Charles and Lt. Cmdr. Richard Crommelin, both of whom died in combat as naval aviators. All three brothers gained fame in World War II, attaining outstanding combat records and multiple decorations.

(Editor's note: Crommelin's legacy will also be featured in an upcoming issue of Ho'okele.)

Chief selectees live Legacy Academy on Battleship Missouri

MC2 David Kolmel

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Forty-three chief petty officer (CPO) selectees from around the Pacific Fleet graduated from the Missouri CPO Legacy Academy in a ceremony held Aug. 24 aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

The graduation ceremony marked the end of five days aboard Missouri for the lucky group of selectees chosen to participate in this year's legacy academy.

Class 006 boarded Missouri on Aug. 19 and spent an entire week living, working and training aboard the ship along with a group of



U.S. Navy photo by Paula M. Ludwicko

Chief petty officer (CPO) selectees march to the grave site of Chief Boatswain's Mate Harold Estes to pay their respects at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) as part of the USS Missouri CPO Legacy Academy.

chief petty officer mentors who provided leadership and lessons on Navy history and the heritage of the CPO community.

"When they stay aboard (Missouri), we remove all the other outside distractions from the CPO induction process, and we wind up with a core heritage event onboard the ship that culminated with a re-enactment of the surrender of the Japanese aboard Missouri at the end of WWII," said Master Chief Fire Controlman Jason Dunn, this year's legacy academy coordinator.

Throughout the week, class 006 participated in tours to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), histori-

cal civil defense battery sites at Diamond Head, the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum, the USS Arizona Memorial and the Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island in addition to behind the scenes tours of the Missouri.

"You have to know where you came from to know where you are going. Chiefs are keepers of history and tradition, and living it here makes it easier to go back and instruct junior Sailors and junior officers what it means to be a Sailor in today's Navy," said Chief (select) Yeoman Glice Planas of Mobile Underwater Diving and Salvage Unit One.

From its humble but ambi-

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USS Columbus completes western Pacific deployment
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TV star visits USS Chung-Hoon to thank military members
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Navy chiefs, selectees complete annual Ford Island Heritage Run
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Holly Petraeus to hold town hall meetings Sept. 6
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Vendors bring taste of Hawaii to ALA food show

Story and photos by
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer

The unique flavors of island foods are probably more distinct and diverse than anywhere else in the United States and for the 15th time in as many years, much of those delectable tastes were found in one location.

The 15th Annual American Logistics (ALA) Hawaii Food Show once again gave local vendors the opportunity to audition their products before Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) buyers for a chance join the lucrative commissary marketplace.

This year, a total of 80 companies from Oahu and the neighbor islands received red-carpet treatment Aug. 22 at the Hawaii Prince Hotel to display and entice their way into serving Hawaii's 166,000 active-duty, reserve, National Guard members, retirees and their family members in the four DeCA commissaries on Oahu and possibly beyond.

The importance of the event was highlighted by a Who's Who list of dignitaries that included Congresswoman Mazie Hirono, City and County of Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle, Pat Nixon, president of ALA, and Keith Hagenbuch, DeCA executive director.

"It's gotten better every year, bigger every year, and there's more excitement surrounding it," said Nixon, who was attending his seventh ALA Hawaii Food Show.

"One of the reasons is that the military business is so important here in Hawaii, close to three-quarters of a billion dollars, when you look at commissaries and exchanges. So it's a great opportunity for a small company to get their products in a very dynamic retail system. Also, if you would happen to have your products make it all the way into the system for Europe and the



Dignitaries at the 15th Annual American Logistics (ALA) Hawaii Food Show untie the garland lei to signify the opening of the event at the Hawaii Prince Hotel.

mainland, that approaches 20 billion dollars," he said.

While the numbers are staggering to think about, the figures aren't lost to the many local vendors who had their eyes set on the big prize.

Back for a second time, local couple Lori and Tony Cardenas traveled from Kauai to feature another product in their long line of "Aunty Liliko'i" sauces, syrups, jellies, dressings and other specialty condiments, such as its Passion Fruit Kiawe BBQ sauce.

Tony, who spent six years in the Navy, said that besides the economic benefits of having their product in the commissary, he and his wife consider it an honor to serve military members and their families.

For Lori, she said that there is no better way for locals to connect with their military neighbors than with food.

"We were picked up by the Navy exchange, so we have our products in two of their stores – the one at Pearl Harbor and at Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands, which is just a few miles from our store," she

said. "It's important to tie the military population together and make them feel a part of us. The best way to do that is with food."

Hagenbuch stated that he is always delighted to see the variety of food products and can't wait to wrap his taste buds around some of the more exotic fare, even pork-rind pancakes.

"Here we have such a diverse group of stores, diverse palates, people looking for tastes, and you have so many unique items that come out of Hawaii," he said. "The four stores here do over 200 million dollars in sales. It's very important to keep our stock assortment fresh with new items. Every year, I see something new and interesting. I look forward to it because you definitely see some innovative product ideas."

Nixon stressed that the commissary system provides a

service to military members that ranks only second behind health care.

Because of the cost of living in Hawaii, Nixon pointed out that the local commissaries offer the highest savings in the world at 52 percent, with a family of four typically cutting their food bill up to \$7,000 per year.

Nixon advocated that the benefits of the commissaries far outweigh the cost of

operating them, but not everyone agrees.

"Something that is of great concern to us is that in this budget-cutting environment, there have been several proposals, over the course of the last year, to scale back, or even eliminate these military-resale benefits," Nixon announced. "There is about 1.5 billion dollars worth of taxpayer money that's used to support commissaries and exchanges. People look at just one side of the ledger and say that, 'Well, if we eliminate this system, we can save 1.5 billion dollars.' What they don't take into account is what the military family saves. By shopping in the commissary, they saved \$2.6 billion a year. And the largest employer of military family members and veterans is the military retail system."

In order to keep the commissaries and exchanges as a continued benefit for military families, Nixon has helped form an



Members of Hawaii Latino Distributors dish out a healthy helping of food at the 15th Annual American Logistics (ALA) Hawaii Food Show. The local company has been selling its line of gourmet Hispanic and Latino foods, such as Ramona's enchiladas, in the commissary for the past seven years.

Chief Selects Academy

Continued from A-1

tings beginning in 2007, the legacy academy has expanded from 22 selectees in class 001 to an anticipated 95 graduates this year, thanks to the addition of a second Legacy Academy class. On Aug. 26-31, class 007 consisting of 52 selectees will create their own legacy aboard USS Missouri.

"It was too great of an opportunity to limit it to just one class. Normally our maximum capacity is 60 Sailors, but by opening it up to two classes we can really hold up to 120," said Dunn.

While aboard, the selectees participated in battle drills which included scenarios on casualty care, weapons and ammo han-

dling as well as the World War II re-enactment ceremony. All of these activities helped emphasize the importance of coming together as a team to accomplish missions or tasks.

"(The team building exercises) really showed us that you can come together as a good and effective team very quickly. We were getting together that first night and our groups were performing well," said Chief Boatswain's Mate (select) Todd Welsh from Military Sealift Command Far East in Singapore.

Participants also conduct service projects aboard to assist with the preservation of the ship helping to ensure that "Mighty Mo" is around for future generations to experience the history and her-

itage of the Navy and the Pacific Fleet.

The guest speaker, U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief John Minyard, explained how the course provides the CPO selectees with a better sense of knowledge about Navy heritage and builds the camaraderie that will help them lead their Sailors and continue the Navy's mission throughout their career.

"Remember the lessons you have learned this week and the trust that has been placed in you," said Minyard in his address to the selectees. "Remember the chiefs who came before you, who walked the decks of Missouri, Arizona and Bowfin, and paved the way for all Sailors through their successes and their failures."



U.S. Navy photo by Paula M. Ludwicko

Chief Gunner's Mate Zachary Kotschwar pays his respect at the grave site of Chief Boatswain's Mate Harold Estes during a visit to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) as part of the USS Missouri CPO Legacy Academy.

Commentary

Think 'safety first' in last days of summer

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

Region and MIDPAC Team, Last May, at the beginning of the "101 Days of Summer," I asked you to think "safety first" during the critical period between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

And you did! Thanks to your efforts we achieved a safe and incident-free Memorial Day weekend. With only a few exceptions, this has been a safety-conscious summer here in Hawaii overall, despite the high operational tempo during the biggest RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific Exercise).

Let's keep up the effort through this Labor Day weekend – and beyond.

These are the last days of summer, but they must be the first days for reinvigorating safety in all we do.

The fleet's annual summer safety campaign, "Live to Play, Play to Live," reinforces prevention which is the key to enjoying a safe and healthy life.

We must begin with alcohol and drug abuse prevention. Many tragedies begin with impairment – of mental and physical abilities, judgment and reflexes.

The vast majority of service members "get it" when it comes to responsible use of alcohol. DUIs and other alcohol-related incidents are going down across the fleet; however, overconsumption remains a concern. Be alert for ways you can make a positive difference by offering a ride or taking the keys from someone who shouldn't be driving.

A moment in time can affect a lifetime.

Think and plan before taking a trip, going boating, visiting the beach, or heading out on a motorcycle. Each year we lose shipmates to motorcycle accidents. We need to prevent those tragic losses.

As I mentioned in my safety message



U.S. Navy photo

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

last spring, if you plan to travel outside of the local area, use the Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) to enhance your chances for success on the road. To date, more than 300,000 TRiPS assessments have been completed and no naval personnel have died while traveling on a TRiPS-assessed journey. TRiPS can be found at Navy Knowledge Online, www.nko.navy.mil. For additional resources I encourage you to visit the Naval Safety Center website at <http://safetycenter.navy.mil>.

Please think of your families, shipmates and careers as you make your plans this Labor Day weekend. We need you to be safe, healthy and strong. We need our greatest resource, our most powerful asset: You! Each and every service member is important to the nation, to his or her unit, and to the families who love them.

Thank you, again, for your leadership and personal commitment to making this summer as safe as it has been. Please keep up the good work and "play-it-safe" this and every weekend.

Commentary

MCPON sends 2012 Labor Day message

Special Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/SW) Rick D. West

WASHINGTON (NNS) – Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following Labor Day message to the fleet Aug. 27.

"Shipmates and Navy families, For 130 years, our great nation has celebrated Labor Day, the "workingmen's holiday" as it was referred to in the 1800s. Labor Day is, in fact, a celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers, those workers whose drive, determination and relentless strength made our nation into what it is today and those who continue on their path.

Labor Day weekend is also seen as the last "hooyah" before the end of summer ... a long weekend filled with various outdoor activities or one final road trip with the kids before school starts. Whatever your Labor Day plans happen to involve, be sure your holiday weekend includes risk management and preventive measures so it ends on a safe and positive note.

In 2011, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, 16 Sailors lost their lives: one in an ATV wreck, two drowned, one during recreational activities, five in four-wheeled motor vehicles and seven on motorcycles.

This year we have lost 15 Sailors in similar mishaps. Let's not see the number rise this Labor Day weekend. You and your families are important to the Navy,

and the loss of just one trained and ready Sailor or family member is unacceptable and, in most cases, preventable with proper planning.

As you enjoy time off with family and friends this holiday weekend, keep in mind our shipmates who are deployed and in harm's way. Their labor of keeping the watch for the safety and security of our nation is one we all share. It's because of you that Americans can enjoy the freedoms and liberties we all hold so dearly. Thank you, shipmates, for your continued service and dedication to our great Navy and nation.

Stay focused, stay alert, stay safe, and let's bring this summer to a close with zero fatalities or injuries. Enjoy your Labor Day weekend and hooyah!

Commentary

SECNAV remembers legacy of naval aviator, pioneer, Astronaut Neil Armstrong

Secretary of the Navy Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) – "On behalf of the men and women of the Navy Department, I extend my deepest and most heartfelt sympathies to the family of Neil Armstrong.

"Mr. Armstrong rightly belongs to the ages as the man who first walked on the

moon, a pioneer of space exploration and science, a giant. But to those of us in his Navy family, he will also remain a shipmate—a naval aviator who flew nearly 80 combat missions during the Korean War, a leader.

"He never wanted to be a living memorial and yet to generations the world over, his epic courage and

quiet humility stands as the best of all examples. It is not merely his "small step" we admire; it is his very large and humble heart.

"The world has lost a legend. We have lost a friend, unique in our lifetime and never to be out of our minds."

Ray Mabus
Secretary of the Navy

Diverse Views



"What are you doing to keep you and your family safe over the Labor Day holiday?"

Airman 1st Class Kevin Maloy
56th Air and Space Communications Squadron



"I consider everyone in my unit family since we are all overseas. I keep them safe by having an open ear for anyone who may be having a hard time for whatever reason, Be it work, financial or marital issues."



Fire Controlman Chief select
Mario Brioli
USS Chafee

"We make sure we have a plan. I do drink alcohol, so my wife usually acts as designated driver. On the ship we ensure our Sailors know who they can call to get a ride if they need it."

Tech. Sgt. Ryder Hayes
747th Communications Squadron



"This Labor Day weekend I will be spending quality time with family. I believe that is one of the best ways to make sure they are safe, to actually be with them and be there for them physically and mentally. Also, I believe in prayer, so I will pray for safety and let the Lord do his work."



Chief Machinist's Mate Doug
Merryman
Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

"We conduct a liberty brief with Sailors and review responsible use of alcohol and recreational safety."

(Provided by Brandon Bosworth and David Underwood Jr.)

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Got opinions to share?

Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

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WAVES shown en route to Hawaii



Official U.S. Navy photograph, National Archives.

Storekeeper 2nd Class Francella Leigh, Yeoman 2nd Class Patricia McRae and Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class Suzanne Hosmer (left to right) remove knapsacks in their stateroom after arriving on board a transport. They and other WAVES were en route to their new duty stations at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in 1945.

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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.cnrc.navy.mil/Hawaii/> or www.hookelenews.com.

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USS Columbus completes western Pacific deployment

Story and photo by
MC1 Ronald Guttridge

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

Friends and families of the crew from USS Columbus (SSN 762) gathered at the submarine piers Aug. 23 to welcome back the Los Angeles-class submarine as she returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after completing a six-month deployment to the western Pacific (WEST-PAC) region.

"Columbus' 2012 deployment was very successful. We executed fleet and national tasking as well as numerous exercises and theater cooperation with our regional allies," said Cmdr. David Youtt, USS Columbus commanding officer.

"Our crew gained extensive experience operating in vastly different environments and engaging with different cultures. We are a better ship and crew as a result and are better pre-

pared to face future operations," Youtt said.

While deployed, Columbus 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.

"The crew performed superbly through deployment," said Youtt. "Each Sailor faced every day with enthusiasm and professionalism that was second to none."

During the deployment, 28 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 that included in-depth understanding of submarine construction and operations and also practical assessments of the Sailors' ability to combat a wide range of casualties that could be encountered while aboard the submarine.

A majority of the crew



The Los Angeles-class submarine USS Columbus (SSN 762) returns to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after completing a scheduled deployment to the western Pacific Aug. 23.

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 Columbus' performance will remain strong.

"This deployment offered

significant experience and training for the young Sailors that will be the leaders of our Navy," said Youtt. "More than half the crew deployed for the first time and are now experienced future deployers."

Despite steaming more than 40,000 nautical miles in support of the nation's defense, the crew enjoyed

several memorable port visits which included Guam, South Korea and Japan. Columbus also conducted a time-honored ceremony of "crossing the line" where 100 Sailors earned the title of "shellback" for crossing the equator for the first time.

"I really learned a lot about submarines and my

job on this deployment, but the best part is when I became submarine-qualified and got my dolphins," said Electronics Technician Seaman (SS) Jonathan Di-quattro from Columbus, Ga. "The experience I gained and the places we visited makes my first deployment something I will never forget."

Military service members recognized for educational achievements

MC2 Tiarra Fulgham

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West,
Detachment Hawaii

More than 40 military service members from all branches of military service participated in a military recognition ceremony Aug. 24 at Sharkey Theater at Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The ceremony honored those active duty and retired service members who have completed a United States Military Apprenticeship Program certificate or have earned, or will be earning, their associates, bachelors or masters degrees between July 2011 and September 2012.

"Navy College was not able to do it alone. It took all the different counselors and staff and facility," said Gerald Gibbons, director of Navy College Office. "It's truly a collective effort to get the Sailor, Airman, Soldier, Marine and Coast Guardman to get across that stage and achieve their dream."

In fiscal year 2011, TA (tuition assistance) funded approximately \$3.8 million spread out between 2,200 Sailors in Navy Region Hawaii alone.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Zainob Andu received a certificate for her bachelors degree at the ceremony. "It's not easy but it's not hard. It just takes focus, determination, you have to want it. It is very stressful. It's a lot to try and do at one time, but I had a goal."

Capt Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, was one of the guest speakers for the event and personally pre-

sented each recognized service member with a certificate.

"Taking on these challenges and obtaining a degree while on active duty isn't easy, but these outstanding individuals know the importance of obtaining a good education. They know that in today's world and in their military careers, it isn't just something that is good to have, it is critical," James said.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, presents certificates to more than 40 service members from all branches in a military recognition ceremony at historic Sharkey Theater.

Learn from the Leaders event will be held Sept. 11 at JBPHH

Juan M. Garcia III, assistant secretary of the Navy (manpower and reserve affairs), will be the guest speaker at a "Learn from the Leaders" event from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Sept. 11 at the Hickam Memorial Theater, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

In this capacity, Garcia acts on matters pertaining

to manpower and personnel policy within the Department of the Navy, including issues affecting active duty and reserve Sailors, Marines and Department of the Navy civilians.

The "Learn from the Leaders" events are speaker events sponsored by Navy Region Hawaii's Workforce Development

Office/N16, which was established in 2004 to develop and manage a total force training and development program.

The event is open to military and civilian personnel and tenant commands.

For more information, contact Georgette Hughson at 471-1716 or email georgette.hughson@navy.mil.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

- 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. 13: Oct. 18: Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

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

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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.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



(Above) Sailors stationed aboard the Pearl Harbor-based guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) prepare to hang a lei from the ship during the final underway of USS Crommelin before decommissioning.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Sean Furey

Chief (Select) Cryptologic Technician (Networks) James Davis commands the helm of the ship under the guidance of Senior Chief Navy Diver John Hopkins during battle scenarios aboard "Mighty Mo" as part of the USS Missouri CPO Legacy Academy. During the week the 43 selectees live and train aboard Missouri with chief petty officers who provide leadership and lessons on the history and heritage of the Navy and CPO community.

U.S. Navy photo by MCC Paula M. Ludwick



(Left) Chief Electronics Technician (SS) Robert Denbigh is greeted with a kiss as he is the first to disembark when the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Columbus (SSN 762) returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after completing a scheduled deployment to the western Pacific Aug. 23.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Ronald Gutridge



(Right) Merchants display their products at the 15th Annual American Logistics (ALA) Hawaii Food Show, which was held Aug. 22 at the Hawaii Prince Hotel. A total of 80 companies from Oahu and the outer islands presented their products in hopes of gaining entry into the lucrative commissary marketplace.

U.S. Navy photo by Randy Dela Cruz





AF senior leaders stress safety over Labor Day weekend

Air Force News Service

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy issued the following message to all Air Force personnel:

As our nation pays tribute to American workers during Labor Day weekend, we thank all Airmen for your dedicated ser-

vice and hard work every day of the year. While many of you enjoy a well-earned break to celebrate the last holiday of the summer season, we urge you to plan your activities with care and to make smart decisions that will keep you, your family and your friends safe.

Safety is a concern for all of us. Sadly, more than 40 Airmen have died in off-duty mishaps this year, including 27 Airmen killed in motor vehicle accidents. Many of

these tragic losses may have been preventable, the result of reckless behavior such as excessive speed, irresponsible alcohol use, failure to use proper safety gear, or inattention. Equally alarming, our Air Force family has lost 70 Airmen to suicide this year.

Our goal is to eliminate all preventable mishaps, and you can help by setting a standard of zero tolerance for reckless behavior and through awareness of subtle

behavioral changes that could indicate heightened levels of stress in yourself or others. Because one lost life is too many, we urge all Airmen to look out for one another, and remember that safety requires deliberate forethought.

Your family, friends and fellow Airmen depend on you. Please take time to consider safety as you enjoy Labor Day weekend and, as always, thank you for all you do for our Air Force and our nation.

Most critical hours of the Critical Days of Summer

Chief Master Sgt. Ward Hanning

Air Education and Training Command

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- Please read the experience I received from a fellow AETC member regarding the Labor Day driving statistic. The intent here is to provide information and hopefully open everyone's aperture a bit. The sender's personal information was removed after he gave permission to send-on to all of you.

"My thoughts on the most critical hours of the Critical Days of Summer

Four years ago my son and his three best friends were killed at 10:10 p.m. on Labor Day. They were not impaired; they had ensured the vehicle was road-worthy. They planned their trip so the driver was well rested. They did everything possible to have a safe day.

The only thing they did not consider, nor had I, is that there are many in our culture that party to the point of impairment.

Needless deaths occurred when three people in another car crossed the median on a divided highway and crashed into my son's car.

The toxicology report indicated that the driver

had been doing drugs starting Friday. Additionally, the type of drugs that he used enabled him to continue partying without sleep through Monday night. After dark on Labor Day, while driving, the driver simply passed out from the drugs/exhaustion.

The last hours of the last days of summer are even more critical than the rest. Maybe not driving after dark on Labor Day could help. My intent is not to make people fearful of getting out and having a good time, but I do believe extreme caution is warranted.

I pray that no one's last party of the summer is truly their last."

How to not mess up a perfectly good Labor Day holiday

Naval Safety Center

• Labor Day: A great time to celebrate labor by getting a day off work.

• Most Sailors and Marines succeed.

• Some, however, end up making corpsmen, nurses and doctors busy.

Severity of Labor Day weekend mishaps (2007-2011):

• 11 fatalities (Class A - \$2 million or more in material property damage, fatality or permanent total disability)

• 4 Class B mishaps (Class B - \$500K-1,999,999 material property damage, permanent partial disability, more than three persons hospitalized for inpatient care, beyond observation)

• 88 Class C mishaps (Class C - \$50K or more but less than \$500k material property damage; work-related injury/illness causing time away from work)

• 145 Class D mishaps (Other (Class D and all other injury/illness - medical treatment beyond first aid; limited, light or restricted duty or no lost work time)

How personnel were killed:

• Motorcycle wrecks (5)

• Car/truck wrecks (one driver, one passenger)

• ATV

• Alcohol/accidental drug overdose (2)

• Fall from hotel room

The cost:

• 5,108 days of light/limited duty

• 1,242 lost days of work

• 444 days in hospitals

• Only about 20 percent of all injuries are reported

What were injured people doing?

(Class B and C mishaps)

• Riding a motorcycle: 25

• Driving or riding in a car: 17 (seven were passengers)

• Bicycling, riding ATVs: 4 each

• Playing football, hiking: 3 each

Other Labor Day activities where people hurt themselves:

• Ice skating

• Burning trash

• Tubing

• Moving furniture

• Roller skating

• Wrestling (horseplay)

• Personal watercraft

• Grilling

• Riding a horse

• Chemical burn

• Fall from roof

• Skimboarding

Sailor at Arizona Detachment is Operation Makeover honoree

Brandon Bosworth

Contributing Writer

Logistics Specialist Seaman Andrea Gonzales received a big surprise when she came back from leave and returned to her command at the USS Arizona Memorial Detachment at Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. She is the latest person to be honored for Operation Makeover.

"I had no idea I had even been nominated until I came back from leave," she said. "I just found out about it last week."

This is Gonzales's second big honor this year. In April, she was awarded Blue Jacket of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2012. The Blue Jacket award recognizes outstanding Sailors. A Blue Jacket of the Year is named annually.

Gonzales was nominated for Operation Makeover by her lead chief petty officer, Boatswain's Mate Chief Maricel Julian. Julian

thought Gonzales was a natural choice for this honor.

"I nominated her because of her work ethic and because of all she's done for us over the last few months," said Julian.

"She is an outstanding Sailor who gets the job done. We depend on her a lot, especially for someone so junior," he said.

Operation Makeover was launched by Paul Brown of Hawaii's Paul Brown Salons in appreciation of the sacrifices made daily by military members and their families. Winners receive a personalized hair and body makeover as well as dinner for two at Roy's and a two-night hotel stay at the Waikiki Marriott.

Gonzales isn't sure when she is going to take the time to enjoy her prizes. "I just got my hair cut so I might wait a few months to do the makeover," she said. According to Gonzales, the two-night hotel stay can wait until a special occasion. As for the dinner for two, she said, "I might do that one soon."



Photo courtesy of Arizona Memorial

Logistics Specialist Seaman Andrea Gonzales receives a lei from Carol Wear, outreach director at Armed Services YMCA during an Aug. 28 ceremony celebrating Gonzales as the latest Operation Makeover honoree.

TV star visits USS Chung-Hoon to thank military members

Story and photo by Brandon Bosworth

Contributing Writer

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) hosted Richard Harrison of the popular reality TV series "Pawn Stars" Aug. 24. Harrison was in Hawaii on vacation and wanted to pay a visit to Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"I wanted to thank service members," he said.

Richard "The Old Man" Harrison is considered the expert appraiser on the History Channel's "Pawn Stars." He also served 21 years in the U.S. Navy.

"I primarily served on ASRs [submarine rescue ships] and fleet tugs," he said.

Harrison opened his Gold

& Silver Pawn Shop in 1988. His recent television success is the result of long hours and hard work.

"We film 45 weeks a year," he said. "No one thought the show would grow like it did. It's shown in 140 countries."

Harrison began his tour of the Chung-Hoon with a visit to the office of the ship's commanding officer, Cmdr. Justin Orlich. They discussed their mutual fondness for diving, and Harrison talked about his time as a Navy diver.

"It was a good gig," he said.

As Harrison left to see the rest of the ship, Orlich told him, "It's great to have people like you come aboard ... It shows that there are many opportunities for Sailors once they leave the Navy."

Harrison was then led

around the Chung-Hoon by Lt. j.g. Travis Harlow. The tour included visits to the ship's bridge, combat information center, break room and galley.

Along the way, Harrison took time to talk to Sailors and pose for photos. The tour ended topside where Harlow showed Harrison the Chung-Hoon's 5-inch gun.

As he left Chung-Hoon, Harrison commented about how important it was to take time and honor Pearl Harbor's Sailors while he was in Hawaii.

"I love the Navy," he said. "I had a great time when I served."

Lt. j.g. Travis Harlow shows Richard Harrison the USS Chung-Hoon's bridge.



PMRF Fire Department earns reaccredited agency status

MC2 Mathew J. Diendorf

*Pacific Missile Range Facility
Public Affairs*

PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE FACILITY, Barking Sands, Kauai - The fire department at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) recently received reaccreditation status by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI), following their initial accreditation in 2007. The department is one of only three in the state of Hawaii and 150 worldwide to achieve this elite status.

"This accreditation really brings up the morale of the department," said Janis Kimata, PMRF assistant fire chief who has been a PMRF firefighter for 11 years.

The Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) is committed to assisting and improving fire and emergency service agencies around the world in achieving orga-

nizational and professional excellence.

The CFAI program uses a self-assessment evaluation that enables fire and emergency service agencies to examine past, current and future service levels and performance and compare them to industry best practices. This process leads to improved service delivery by helping fire departments determine community risk and safety needs, evaluate performance of the department, and establish a method for achieving continuous organizational improvement.

The accreditation process demands substantial amount of time to achieve and from 700 to 1,000 hours to complete.

"The process breaks down into 10 general categories," said Manuel Neves, PMRF fire chief. "Included in those 10 categories there are 253 performance indicators, 82 of the indicators are core competencies, which means that they need to be

completed. We go through this process of looking at ourselves as a fire department in how decisions are made, how long it takes to respond to a fire and what each individual in the department does during a call. Everything we say we are doing has to be documented," Neves said.

The accreditation process results in the development of planning documents, standard operating procedures, short-term and long-term strategic plans. Accreditation has the potential to dramatically improve a department, its services and its vision for the future.

CFAI commissioners ask challenging and direct questions to agency representatives before a vote is taken. "I was really nervous going before the commission," Kimata said.

"You don't know what they are going to ask you, but we answered the questions to their approval. I'm glad we received the accreditation.

It's going to be on our trucks and people are starting to notice. We have it on our uniforms. When we go out in the public, people are surprised and say, 'Wow, such a small department is accredited. It makes us very proud.'

The CFAI convened in Denver on Aug. 1. Including PMRF's fire department, 28 fire and rescue agencies were represented. After 12 hours of deliberations, 13 agencies received their accreditation status, three of which were Department of Defense fire agencies. Another 13 received reaccredited agency status.



U.S. Navy photo by MCI Jay C. Pugh
Manu Kai firefighters conduct live fire training at the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Kekaha, Hawaii. The live fire training enhances the firefighter's ability to combat a fire in a real-world situation.

Parents urged to return federal survey cards by next day

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor

It's that time of year again. On Sept. 5, school children in Hawaii public schools will take home federal census survey cards. Parents are asked to fill out the cards and return them to the schools the next day.

The data collected from these forms determines the funding received by the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE). Non-response could result in the loss of millions of dollars in federal funds that benefit both our military and local communities.

With approximately 15,000 military dependent students in the Hawaii public school system, Hawaii has the highest number of military dependent children per capita of any state in the nation. This makes the completion and return of federal survey cards even more important in helping to support the local communities.

"Completing the Federal Impact Aid card for each federally connect student is essential in ensuring Hawaii schools receive the millions of dollars in federal reimbursement payment," said Darren Dean, school liaison officer for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Since 1950, the federal government has paid a share of the cost of educating each child whose parent or legal guardian either

lives on or works on federal property. These funds are authorized under Public Law 103-382.

"Each service has drafted a letter encouraging parent to complete these very important survey cards. It is very important that we get the most accurate count possible of federally connected students enrolled in Hawaii public schools," Dean said.

Why fill out the card?

- Federal Impact Aid is a partial reimbursement to the school district for educating federally-connected students who attend public schools.

- Families of federally-connected students pay less in taxes into the school district than local residents. These are taxes that help fund education.

- Federal Impact Aid funds pay for teacher salaries, school programs, materials, equipment and supplies.

- Every card not returned means funds lost to Hawaii classrooms statewide.

- Hawaii has the highest number of military dependent children per capital in the nation (the greatest impact on local schools).

The cards take only a couple minutes to complete and all information is kept confidential.

If you have any questions or need more information, contact Dean at 449-1577 or darren.dean@us.af.mil.

Immunization clinics prepare children for school year round

1st Lt. Kathleen Eisenbrey

15th Medical Group

For parents, back-to-school season is preceded by a flurry activity including, but not limited to, purchasing children's school supplies and back-to-school clothing for the new school year.

For medical providers at the Hickam, Makalapa and Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard clinics, the month of August, recognized as National Immunizations Awareness Month (NIAM), has been filled with immunizations and physicals for school-aged children.

Throughout the year, as new families move into the state, there are immunizations that may be required in order for children to enter Hawaii schools for the first time.

According to the Hawaii State Department of Health, children entering kindergarten through high school are required to have vaccinations for DTaP (diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis), polio, MMR (measles-mumps-rubella), hepatitis B and varicella (chickenpox). Two doses of the varicella vaccine are required if the first dose was administered after a child's 13th birthday.

For parents who desire to update their

child's annual flu vaccination, the Stop Flu at School program offered through local schools is an excellent opportunity. Through this program, children enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade at participating schools are offered free flu vaccine(s) during a standard school day.

A complete list of schools participating in the Stop Flu at School program can be accessed at http://flu.hawaii.gov/SFAS_schedule.html.

According to the "Stop Flu at School's Summary Report" by the Disease Outbreak Control Division at the Hawaii Department of Health, a total of 66,230 school children, ages 5 to 13, participated in the program at 331 public and private schools during the 2010-11 school year.

Consent forms and additional information about the Stop Flu at School program are now being distributed through participating schools. Parents are requested to complete the appropriate consent form (nasal spray or shot), sign, date and return the consent form to their child's teacher by Sept. 7.

Department of Defense beneficiaries who wish to obtain annual flu vaccinations may attend influenza clinics at the Pearl Harbor NEX from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 4 and 5 and at the Hickam BXtra from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 27.