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Navy Region Hawai'i wins environmental award

Terri Kojima

Commander Navy Region Hawai'i Environmental Public Affairs

The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) announced on Jan. 6 that Navy Region Hawai'i, which oversees Hawai'i-based Navy installations, was selected winner of the CNO Environmental Quality Non-Industrial Installation Award. The award is one of 10 categories that recognize ships, installations and individuals or teams for their exceptional environmental stewardship.

Navy Region Hawai'i manages a comprehensive environmental program, which balances the Navy's operational mission with the protection and preservation of Hawai'i's unique environment. The command provides direct fleet support to more than 25 ships and submarines, four aircraft squadrons, and oversees and maintains all Navy facilities, buildings and more than 4,500 military family housing units in a region that extends over 23,000 acres of land and water.

"The size and complexity of the region is our largest environmental management challenge," said Clyde Yokota, who leads the region's environmental staff of 28 environmental engineers and specialists.

"We've got a tremendous team working together to find innovative and cost beneficial solutions to provide the region with the best possible environmental services," added Yokota.

The region environmental services include the control and disposal of hazardous materials and industrial wastes, recycling, natural and cultural resources management, paint removal, spill response, environmental abatement and cleanup, and a full range of certified laboratory services.

U.S. Navy photo

A chief petty officer aboard USS Salvor (ARS 52) ensures that all items to be disposed of are properly identified and necessary documentation is provided before transferring them to one of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i's waste disposers. The waste will be transported and stored at one of the region's approved hazardous waste 90-day accumulation sites, and then properly disposed of at a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or state-approved treatment storage or disposal facility.

The ability to develop short-range targets and long-range goals to tackle the broad scope of environmental issues has been a direct result of implementing the Environmental Management System (EMS) at the region, according to Yokota. Through EMS, the region consolidated data on more than 30 permits ranging from ground water use, solid waste permits for recycling, to various air permits for more than 20 generators and a permit for the only Department of Defense hazardous waste treatment storage disposal facility on Oahu.

"By developing a set of processes and practices, EMS enables engineers to identify, evaluate, prioritize and develop solutions to environmental issues," said Yokota.

In addition to establishing the computer-based EMS system, Navy Region Hawai'i's list of achievements, as a result of leveraging technologies and proactively seeking process improvements, include:

- Incorporating all Pearl Harbor homeported ships and submarines into the region's Consolidated Hazardous Material Reutilization and Inventory Management Program [CHRIMP] operations, which is the first throughout the region and saving nearly $6 million as a result.
- Converting to the use of energy-efficient B-20 biodiesel fuel in government transportation vehicles.
- Cleaning up 86 sites that contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and saving $24 million in the process by using a consolidated treatment site on island.
- Initiating a project that provides recycled water for irrigation of the Navy's Barbers Point Golf Course, resulting in saving 1.2 million gallons of potable water per day.
- Establishing credible working partnerships with local government agencies and regulators.
- Conducting an aggressive community involvement program, which includes hosting an annual Earth Day Fair to raise environmental awareness throughout the community.
- Partnering with various community organizations and local government agencies on cleanup projects. Navy volunteers regularly work together with the Hawai'i Nature Center to preserve and restore the 70-acre Pouhala Marsh, one of the largest of the remaining wetlands in Pearl Harbor.

In another partnering initiative, the region, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture successfully relocated 27 unhatched eggs from Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) to Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. This continuing relocation project offers a new and promising solution to the bird aircraft strike hazard concern, while saving the laysan albatross.

The environmental team leader was quick to point out that Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i's guiding environmental policy sets the stage for action. According to the policy, environmental stewardship is everyone's responsibility.

"Protection of the environment is an integral part of accomplishing our mission. It is an ethical matter for each one of us…it is everyone's responsibility to help protect Hawai'i's environment."

Chief Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Michael Mullen congratulated the winners whose programs stood the test of tough requirements.

"I am proud that you are working hard to achieve superior environmental stewardship while executing our primary mission of national defense," said Mullen. "Your work has added to the Navy's ever-growing record of accomplishments, proving yet again that the Navy's environmental programs are among the finest in the world."

Navy Region Hawai'i will now advance to the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Environmental Awards competition. The CNO and SECNAV awards ceremonies will be held May 3 in Washington, D.C.

USS Port Royal COMTUEX certified
page A-6

Training for the ride
page B-1

USS Columbus CO selected for Asian American Engineer Award

JO1 Mary Popejoy

Northwest Navigator Staff Writer

The commanding officer of Pearl Harbor-based USS Columbus (SSN 762), Cmdr. Charles Marquez, has been selected for the Asian American Engineer Award.

The annual award promotes recognition of Asian American engineers and scientists and helps to raise awareness of their contributions to corporate America, academia, the United States mainstream and the global community.

Marquez, a U.S. citizen of Philippine descent, was born in Manila, Philippines in 1965. He joined the Navy in 1987 after graduating from Rutgers College of Engineering with a bachelor of science in applied sciences in engineering. Following commissioning via Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI, he completed initial nuclear power and submarine training.

Capt. Scott Bawden, commodore, Submarine Squadron 17, nominated

▼ See CMDR. MARQUEZ, A-4

Fasten your seatbelts

U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Ryan C. McGinley

A U.S. Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter takes off from the Fleet Industrial and Supply Center (FISC) helicopter pad on Pearl Harbor. FISC and members of the 25th Infantry Division (ID) and the 599th Transportation Group coordinated the offload of 14 helicopters from the Merchant Vessel, Jean Anne, a commercial vessel, where they were reassembled and flown to their home at Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawai'i. The helicopters are replenishing the 25th ID that is deployed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Navy News Briefs

DoD identifies Navy casualty in OIF

The Department of Defense announced Sunday the death of a Sailor who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Anthony Jordan, 35, of Augusta, Ga. died in an automobile accident Jan. 13 in Manama, Bahrain. Jordan was assigned to Destroyer Squadron 50, Bahrain.

Navy community urged to conserve energy

Karen S. Spangler

Assistant Editor

(Part 2 of 2)

Conserving energy and saving money is crucial for the Navy community at Navy Region Hawai'i and it's time for everyone to do their part to help with this effort. Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i, and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, said it's time for employees and housing residents who are part of the Navy community in Hawai'i to take a more proactive role in conserving energy.

An Energy Conservation Board, comprised of region program managers and major tenants, was established in November. The board meets monthly to decide energy policies and goals and to establish specific directives to meet the goals.

According to Kevin Saito, region energy manager, the goal for all federal agencies is to achieve energy savings of two percent per year, using fiscal year 2003 as a baseline, through fiscal year 2015. But with drastic budget cuts for utilities, it's also necessary for Navy Region to save approximately $3 million this year, equating to about 20,000 mega watt hours. Some of that savings can be derived through small energy saving projects, but that still leaves about 13,000 mega watts that needs to be derived through energy conservation.

"Take Charge Hawai'i," a proactive program implemented by the energy team, includes a number of ways that the team plans to monitor energy usage and to achieve the necessary energy conservation goals.

- Building monitors will be assigned to each office building. Each monitor will be responsible for his/her building and will be able to help in the energy-

▼ See ENERGY CONSERVATION, A-4

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Tax questions? Just ask a VITA

FLTCM(AW/SW) Jon R. Thompson

What's a VITA? A VITA is a volunteer income tax assistant. Most commands throughout the Navy call upon volunteers to receive Internal Revenue Service (IRS) training to assist service personnel in filing their taxes. These income tax assistants provide an outstanding free service to Sailors who need tax assistance. If you want to save some money and avoid having to pay a private tax company to do your taxes, you should consider utilizing a VITA.

Before you gather up all your records and schedule an appointment, it's important to note what a VITA can and cannot help you prepare. Here's a quick list of what a VITA can prepare for you:

- 1040EZ
- 1040A with Schedule 1, 2, 3 and EIC
- 1040 with Schedule A, B, EIC and R
- 1040-V
- 1040-ES
- 2441 (Child and Dependent Care Credit)
- 8863 (Education Credits)
- 8812 (additional Child Care Tax Credit)

Here's a quick list of what VITAs cannot prepare for you:

- Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business)
- Complicated and Advanced Schedule D
- Schedule E (Rents and Losses)
- SS-5 (Request for Social Security)
- 2106 (Employee Business Expenses)
- 3903 (Moving)
- 8606 (Non-deductive IRA)
- 8615 (Minor's Investment Income)

I suspect most of you file the most popular IRS forms and a VITA can assist you. The VITAs use tax software used by nationally-recognized paid tax service centers. Each volunteer is trained

FLTCM(AW/SW) Jon R. Thompson

enough to help you fill out your forms and also electronically file your taxes.

For all of us active duty Sailors, according to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, we should be able to access our W-2 forms via My Pay starting Jan. 21. Between now and then, you should gather up all your tax records, including 1099 statements and other receipts that may help you gain deductions. When it comes to taxes, you really can't be too organized.

Most of us electronically file our taxes these days, but there are some things to keep in mind that might save you a headache or two down the road.

First, hard copies of your returns are the most reliable protection. Relying on a tax software program to save each year's return is probably unwise. While the software is a great tool to prepare your return, you shouldn't rely on that program exclusively to save your tax return for the mandatory three years. The best and safest way to protect against computer bugs or crashes is to retain a hard copy of your tax return.

Without going into too much detail about potential deductions and different tax situations, I would recommend you go to the IRS W eb site (www.irs.gov) and review some of the updated information. There is specific guidance for combat deployments, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, and a whole host of other factual information that might help you file correctly.

The only challenge I can offer when it comes to taxes is to tell the truth, keep copies and plan early. For all of you who expect a refund, it makes sense to me that you would want to file early. Once you get the refund, put that money in the bank or invest it…the earlier you get it, the more interest you can earn on that money.

I'll leave you with a final advertisement for our Sailors who serve as VITAs. No matter how smart you think you are when it comes to taxes, each year the tax laws change. Since our VITAs offer their service for free and are trained by the IRS, what do you have to lose? I know many people who have tried to do their taxes themselves, only to learn later that a tax service was able to get them a larger refund by ensuring they received all the deductions to which they were entitled. While taxes are inevitable, I would argue that none of us want to pay more than our fair share. Take the time to make sure you get the deductions you are entitled to and then, if you are entitled a refund, invest that money so it works for you. Good luck Shipmates!

Commentary

Chapel Pennant

The time of your life

Lt. James T. Mucha
CHC U.S. Navy Reserve

Naval Health Clinics Hawai'i

Walt invited his friend Art to go for a ride through the countryside of Southern California. They arrived at what looked to Art like a barren wasteland. Walt began telling his friend about the exciting plans he had dreamed up for this uninviting piece of land. The purpose of the visit was to give Art the opportunity to become an investor in his dream. But Art was not impressed and passed on the opportunity. So Art Linkletter turned down the opportunity to buy up the land that now surrounds Disneyland, the dream of his friend Walt Disney.

It's amazing how two people with similar gifts and resources can look at a situation and one will see tremendous opportunity while the other sees nothing. In life, God will place many doors of opportunity before us and He will ask us to walk through them by faith. But walking through some doors of opportunity is a challenge of our faith.

Consider the following three observations: First, opportunities are often disguised as problems. What we perceive to be obstacles are often God's opportunities in disguise. Joseph was put in jail, Daniel was thrown in the lion's den, Jeremiah was tossed into a pit, Jonah was swallowed by a whale, three young men were thrown into a blazing furnace and Paul was shipwrecked three times. Nevertheless, each of these problems led to opportunities.

Second, opportunities are frequently overlooked because of failure. There's only one major difference between an average person and an achiever - is his or her perception of failure. In the face of adversity, rejection and failure, achievers refuse to consider themselves failures. Every successful person is someone who has failed at some point. If we view failure as a steppingstone to success we will achieve so much more.

Third, opportunities are occasionally time-sensitive. Procrastination is opportunity's assassin. When God places an opportunity before us, we should walk by faith without hesitation or excuse. Abraham was old, Jacob was insecure, Joseph was abused, Moses stuttered, Samson was codependent, Rahab was immoral, Jeremiah was depressed, Jonah was reluctant, Naomi was a widow, Peter was hot-tempered, Martha was worried, Zacchaeus was lonely, Thomas had doubts and Timothy was timid. That's quite a variety of misfits, but God used each of them in his service because they walked through the door of opportunity.

God's opportunity might be any number of things - a career, education, a partner in marriage, spiritual growth, character building, helping people, etc. Don't miss an opportunity because of indecision or because it is disguised as a problem or overlooked because of failure. Instead, let us spend the time of our life "making the most of every opportunity" by developing a trusting faith in our heavenly Father, who has promised to guide our steps. "Make the most of every opportunity for doing good…" (Ephesians 5:16).

A dream to remember

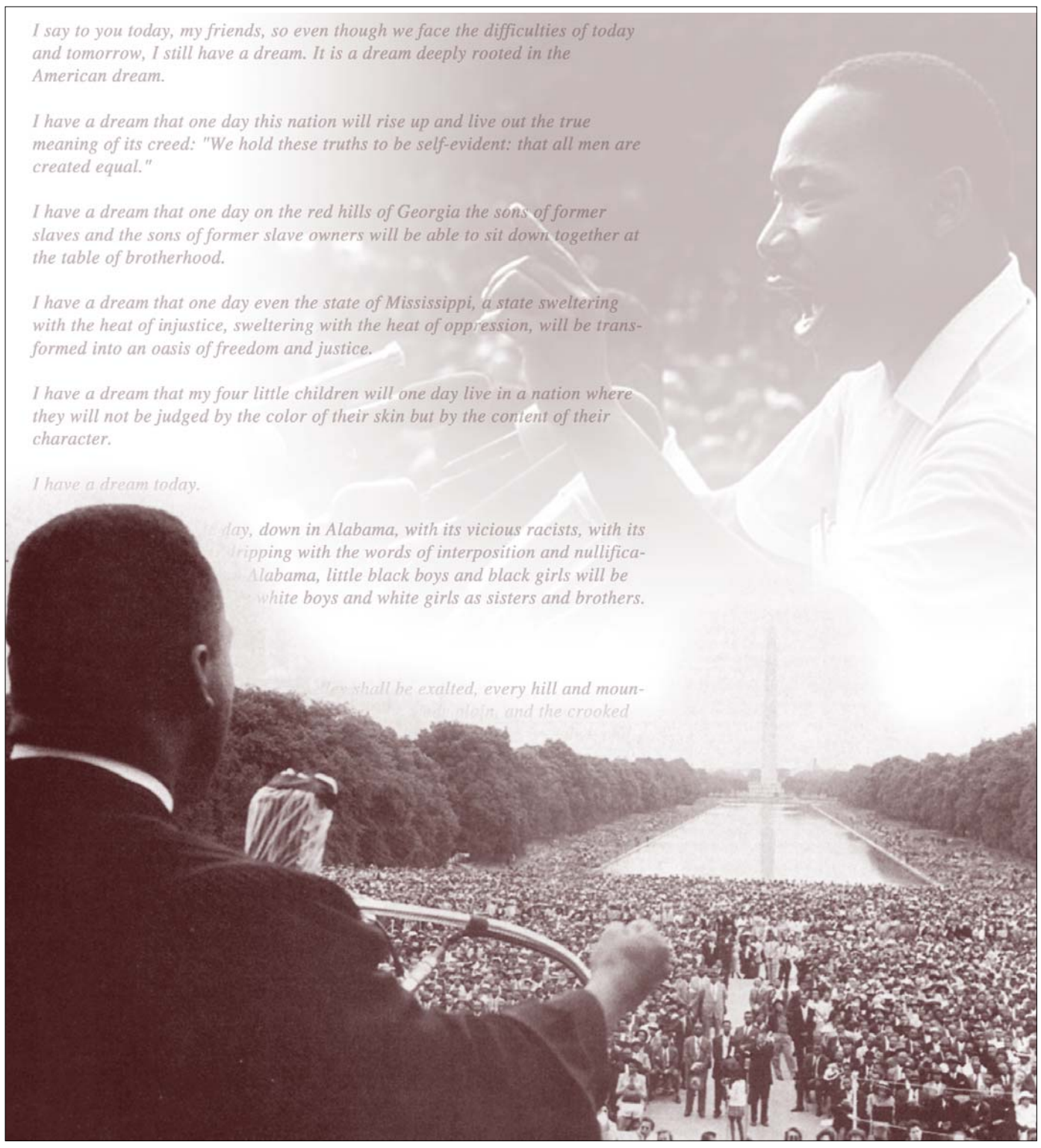

Photo illustration

Each year many Americans pay tribute to the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Starting as a leader for the civil rights movement in the 60's, King's political interests soon widened to included the Vietnam War and American poverty. His plans for a poor people's march to Washington were stopped short on April 4, 1968 when he was shot and killed as he stood on a balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn. James Earl Ray, a career criminal, plead guilty to the murder and was convicted. In 1983, Congress approved a bill for a national holiday to honor King. The bill was quickly signed into law by President Ronald Reagan.

STORY IDEAS?

Contact the HNN editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements:

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Hawaii Navy News

Hawai'i Navy News

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Cmdr. Marquez: Recognized for engineering award

Continued from A-1

Marquez for the award for his ability to do well in all aspects of his job.

"Cmdr. Marquez's influence in our Navy's submarine force has directly benefited the level of training and operational ability for countless nuclear operators. His dedication directly contributes to our nation's security. Time and again he has gone into harms way to benefit the citizens of the United States," said Bawden.

Marquez was selected for this prestigious award because of his current responsibilities as commanding officer of Columbus and his previous assignments that involved both monitoring and evaluation of several aspects of the nuclear propulsion program.

"I feel honored to represent the submarine force and Navy nuclear power community and feel privileged to be among the other elite recipients," said Marquez. "I feel it's important for these type of organizations to recognize the contributions of our military members and hope that this association with our engineering civilian counterparts will draw a closer bond between us and encourage more future interactions. Both communities have a lot to benefit from each other," he said.

Cmdr. Charles Marquez

SPOTLIGHT ON

Naval Submarine Support Command (NSSC)

Name of command:
Naval Submarine Support Command (NSSC)

Commanding officer/director: Cmdr. Michael Pietkiewicz

Number of personnel assigned: approx. 90 Military, approx. 10 Civilian

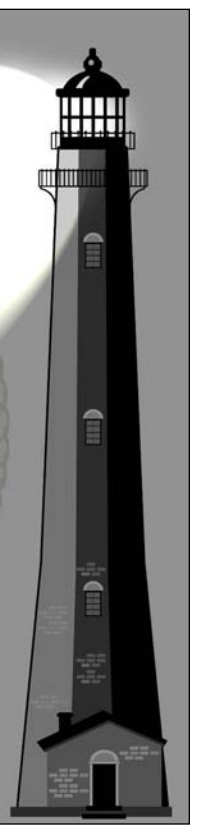
Duties/responsibilities: NSSC Pearl Harbor was established to assist the three local submarine squadron commanders in the conduct of their responsibilities by providing submarine unique administrative, medical, legal, operational, and maintenance/logistic support under a single command and to provide inter-deployment training cycle reduction through a single point of contact for all external organizations interacting with Pearl Harbor-based submarines.

Accomplishments/awards: Naval Submarine Support Command Pearl Harbor enjoyed its most successful year to date. The 15 homeported and all visiting submarines received an extremely high level of support in every area as did their parent squadrons. The command was awarded the Meritorious Unit Citation as a result of support for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

By individual departments:

- Admin: Processed more than 150 MEDEVAC and emergency leave orders, more than 1,000 permanent change of station (PCS) and travel orders and check-in/outs. Completed 15 technical assists for homeported submarines. Graduated over 1,460 newly reported Sailors in the indoctrination program
- Operations: Maintained status of resources and training reporting for all 15 submarines and three associated squadrons. Managed operations of three torpedo retrievers, overseeing a reimbursable contract more than one million dollars.
- Maintenance: Performed multiple CNO material certifications, quality assurance audits and surveillances.
- Supply: Successfully developed and executed a robust waterfront training and inspection program with 100 percent attendance and support.
- Performance Monitoring Team: Significantly supported the fleet by preventing more than 40 fail-to-sails including deploying units. Collected and analyzed data from over 5,000 maintenance record cards while completing monitor assist visits and thermal imaging surveys.

Sailor of the Year: ET1(SS) Christopher Montminy



Energy conservation: The 'necessary thing to do'

Continued from A-1

saving effort.

- The energy team will conduct "surprise audits" in an effort to monitor behavioral and project opportunities. This data will be provided to commanding officers.
- Through a "hot line," employees will be encouraged to report things that are wasting energy, such as parking lot lights on at all hours, etc. This will increase awareness and opportunities for energy conservation.

Factoring in the "Big 20" users and helping them to find ways to reduce energy consumption is also a major component of the region's energy conservation program. "The region's buildings are powered primarily with electrical power. In sorting the buildings by amount of electrical energy consumed in fiscal year 2005, we found that the top 20 buildings [energy users] consumed about 40 percent of the electrical energy. The top consumers were not limited to any one particular area, but included the Navy Exchange (NEX) Mall, Pacific Command (PACOM), building 700, and buildings from each of the following areas: Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific (NCTAMSPAC), Naval Station (NAVSTA), Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard (PHNSY), Makalapa, Fleet Industrial Support Center (FISC) and Ford Island. Other areas not metered by specific building that would have been in the top 20 were the Camp Smith area and the West Loch administration/industrial area," explained John Grobler, senior energy specialist for Naval Facilities Command Hawai'i.

Central air conditioning, used for office buildings, industry and homes throughout the region, is one of the biggest users of energy. Cutting back on the use of central air conditioning by maintaining thermostats at 78 degrees or higher is mandated by the region and is one of the primary means of energy savings.

Vitale said that energy conservation isn't a temporary, short-term situation and that requirements to save energy aren't going to go away. "Energy conservation is a serious and long-term problem for Hawai'i and the Navy," he noted.

Explaining that air conditioning is one of the biggest energy users, he said that especially now, during the winter months in Hawai'i when seasonal temperatures are lower, is a good time to capitalize on air conditioning savings. This can be achieved by opening windows for ventilation and using portable fans instead of air conditioning. However, a possible alternative if the energy goals aren't met could be to turn off air conditioning completely.

With everyone's help, the region hopes that the required energy savings can be achieved. But if goals aren't met, more drastic measures may need to be taken.

Vitale noted that saving energy and saving money are crucial. "If the region isn't able to achieve the energy savings it needs to achieve, more stringent measures may be implemented," emphasized Vitale. "However, we would prefer not to have to take that step and hope that with the support of everyone in this effort, we will be able to meet our energy conservation goals," he added.

"Not only does the Navy have the best ships, airplanes and equipment, but we have the most dedicated, hard-working and professional Sailors anywhere. Our men and women proudly serve their country day after day, many who are far from home and their loved ones. We're asking each of you to conserve energy – it's the right and necessary thing to do," said Vitale.

Free classified advertising for military in Hawaii Navy News

Active duty and retired military, civil service and family members can advertise the sale of their personal property (including real estate) and services in HNN at no charge. The details are as follows:
Classified items and services must represent an incidental exchange between the aforementioned personnel and not business operations. Requests for three-line free classified advertisements can be submitted via email, if from a ".mil" address (submit to lkaneshi@honolulu.gannett.com), by phone at 521-9111 or by visiting www.honoluluadvertiser.com and clicking on "classified ads." More lines of advertising can be purchased at an additional fee. Requesters should include their military ID number and a call-back phone number.

Hawai'i Navy News

Around the Fleet

U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Daniel J. McLain

A crew chief assigned to the U.S. Navy flight demonstration team, the "Blue Angels," stands at parade rest as his aircraft prepares to taxi at the start of the team's demonstration at the 2005 Naval Air Station Oceana Air Show.

Blue Angels seek enlisted applications

Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron (Blue Angels) Public Affairs

The Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron (Blue Angels) are encouraging qualified Sailors and Marines to apply for the 2007 season. The application deadline is April 1 and selection results will be available on June 1.

According to Chief Aviation Maintenance Administrationman (AW) Robert Sadak, the Blue Angels' applications chief petty officer, there are open billets for E-5 and E-6 storekeepers, aviation maintenance administrationmen, aviation electronics technicians, aviation ordnancemen, aviation structural mechanics, aviation electrician's mates and hospital corpsmen with an 8406 Navy enlisted classifications (NEC). Interested Marine applicants with 6257 and 6217 military occupational specialties (MOS) are needed as well.

"We are looking for motivated, hard-charging Sailors and Marines with outgoing personalities to represent the pride and professionalism found throughout today's Navy," Sadak said. "Our team of Navy and Marine Corps professionals are a direct reflection of personnel currently stationed around the world displaying honor, courage and commitment on a daily basis to uphold our nation's values and ideals."

"We display teamwork for the crowds who come to see the Blue Angels," Sadak said. "The high caliber of Sailors and Marines we are looking for are the same caliber of who we represent."

Command Master Chief (AW/SW) Eric Hodge said applicants have to take pride representing the Navy to the public.

"We are all volunteers," Hodge said. "But we're looking for those special volunteers who proudly serve our country and represent our shipmates who are out in the fleet."

Application details are outlined in NAVADMIN 317/05.

Additional information and applications are available at http://www.blueangels.navy.mil/ or by contacting Sadak until March 4 at DSN 658-2569 or commercial (760) 339-2569. After March 4, 2006, contact him at DSN 922-2583, ext. 130 or commercial (850) 452-2583, ext. 130 or by e-mail at robert.sadak@navy.mil.

CNO announces separate N6 Directorate for Navy staff

Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen announced Jan. 12 that he will soon stand up a separate N6 Directorate as part of the greater realignment effort of his Navy staff in Washington.

"In making this decision, I asked myself if the United States Navy is mature enough to handle an N6 Directorate," said Mullen. "I believe we are. I believe it's vital. I believe you've got to be aligned with the rest of those that are part of the business, whether it's space, information technology, command and control – all these systems that are so important to our future."

The N6 Directorate will be responsible for managing resource allocation and program decisions for the Navy's information systems and networks. Mullen said he felt confident that the new N6 Directorate "will deliver the capabilities we need faster and put them in the hands of Sailors who are trying to confront the challenges in this new era of sea power."

Currently, these functions are combined in the Navy's N6/N7 Directorate, led by Rear Adm. Mark J. Edwards.

The fast pace of change in technology and the ever-increasing importance of networks to modern warfare prompted the decision to break the N6 function out. But Mullen was quick to put the role played by networks in perspective.

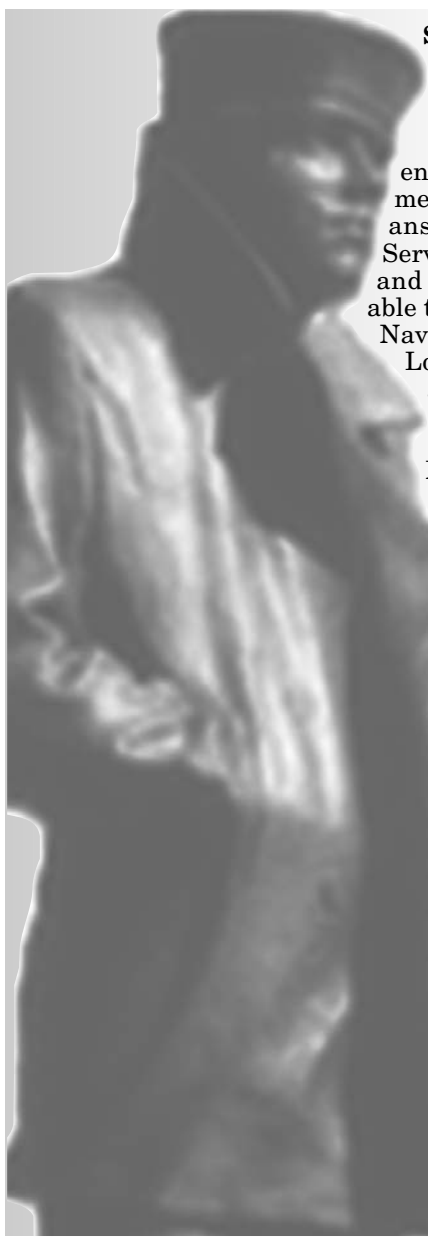
"We can't have networks or platforms be at the center of the universe," he warned. "I want networks and platforms that put Sailors at the center of the universe. To empower the fleet, our networks must empower Sailors."

Mullen also made it clear that being able to better determine requirements and control costs factored heavily into his decision.

Speaking to the contractors in the audience, he promised to "deliver the clarity and stability you need to help produce systems and hold down costs – clear requirements, disciplined requirements and requirements that don't change every three or four months."

Mullen made the announcement at the annual Armed Force Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) West 2006 conference in San Diego, co-sponsored by the AFCEA and the U.S. Naval Institute. The annual conference is one of the largest west coast events for communications, electronics, intelligence, information systems, imaging, military weapon systems, aviation and shipbuilding professionals to hear keynote speakers, participate in panel discussions and preview world-leading technology.

Navy Log offered free to sea service members, veterans



Special from the U.S. Navy Memorial

Now through the end of July 2006, all members and veterans of the Sea Services - active duty and reservists - are able to enroll in the U.S. Navy Memorial's Navy Log without charge and without any obligation.

The U.S. Navy Memorial, located on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., is a national memorial that honors those who served and are serving, in America's Sea Services - Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine, but the heart of the U.S. Navy Memorial is the Navy Log.

"The Navy Log is the heart and soul of the Navy Memorial because it represents people, not hardware," said Retired Master Chief Navy Counselor (SW) David Michael, the director of the Navy Log. "They're the backbone of the Navy. The Navy is people, not ships and aircraft," he added.

The Navy Log is the permanent public registry where Sea Service members and veterans can record their service information - name, duty stations, awards, photos and memories. Family members and friends can record service information for veterans who are deceased or those who are unable to record their own information.

The Navy Log may be viewed at the U.S. Navy Memorial or via the Internet at www.lonesailor.org. The goal of the memorial is to record the service history of all eligible uniformed individuals and veterans.

"The real reason to enroll in the Navy Log is to show Navy pride and to record your service for history," said Michael.

To enroll your information or to enroll family members, simply enter the appropriate information at www.lonesailor.org. If you have any questions, contact the Navy Log Department of the U.S. Navy Memorial at 1-800-NAVY LOG (1-800-628-9564).

CNO announces newest DDG named after Navy hero Adm. James B. Stockdale

U.S. Navy photo by GT3 Andrew Korenkov

CNO, Adm. Mike Mullen, presents a photo of the newly-announced, Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, USS Stockdale (DDG 106), to the widow of the late Vice Adm. James B. Stockdale.

JOSN Joseph Caballero

Fleet Public Affairs Center, Pacific

GS3 Andrew Korenkov

Navy Compass

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Adm. Michael G. Mullen, announced the construction of USS Stockdale (DDG 106) at the Western Conference and Exposition (West 2006) at the San Diego Conference Center on Jan. 12 in the presence of Sybil Stockdale, widow of Navy and Vietnam War hero, Vice Adm. James B. Stockdale.

"You and James are examples to all of us," said Mullen to Stockdale. "Vice Adm. Stockdale has given courage and inspiration to generations of the men and women of the Navy."

Mullen said that it was the first ship he has named as CNO and that it was only fitting to name it after James Stockdale.

"I can't even put it into words what this means to me," said Dr. James B. Stockdale, Jr., son of the vice admiral. "I feel very proud. It's the ultimate tribute to my mom and my dad."

Stockdale is considered by many to be one of the greatest heroes in U.S. history. He was the highest-ranking POW in the Vietnam War. Stockdale endured nearly eight years of captivity. A few years after his release in 1973, Stockdale was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery and steadfastness. Stockdale returned to active duty and steadily rose to the rank of vice admiral.

Stockdale also held four Silver Stars and was the vice presidential candidate for the 1992 elections on the Independent ticket with Ross Perot, who graduated from the Naval Academy a few years after Stockdale.

USS Stockdale will be an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer. As a warship, it will help safeguard larger ships within a carrier battle group, surface action group, amphibious group or a replenishment group. USS Stockdale will be a variant of class by housing a helicopter hangar facility on board.

West 2006 was one of the largest West Coast events for communications, electronics, intelligence, information systems, imaging, military weapon systems, aviation and shipbuilding. The three-day event was sponsored by the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association and the U.S. Naval Institute. It hosted several panels in which expert speakers discussed challenges and changes facing the armed forces.

"It takes people out of the Pentagon and into forums to facilitate discussions," said Tobey Jackson, a West 2006 spokeswoman. "It's a way for us to bring together government, military and industry people."

The West 2006 conference hosted more than 10,000 visitors and featured more than 400 exhibitors displaying new and innovative products designed for military use.

Update on construction projects at Pearl Harbor

Lt. Cmdr. Joe Simpkins

Naval Station Pearl Harbor Public Works Officer

Light out? Do you ever walk into your workspace and notice there is a light out and it never seems to get repaired? There could be a couple reasons for that. First, the Regional Energy Conservation Team could have chosen that particular light to be de-lamped in order to conserve energy. This initiative has been in place for the last two years and it is very effective. If this is the case, the overall light level in the space has been measured and determined to be within the recommended light levels for that particular function.

Another reason could be that no one knows who to call about the light being out. Every building on Naval Station Peral Harbor should have an assigned building manager/monitor. This person has all of the points of contact to get facilities repaired. If you do not know the name of your building monitor, go and find out. If your building does not have an assigned monitor, call Naval Facilities (NAVFAC) Hawai'i at 474-3389 and report it.

Normally in the public works world, there is never enough money to do all of the projects needed. However, there are adequate funds to keep our buildings safe and habitable. This means that if your lights don't work, or your toilet doesn't flush, we will promptly make the necessary repairs. Do not sit in the dark another day. Find your building manager/ monitor and report all of your facility problems. We can't fix it if we don't know it's broke.

Project of the week

Ford Island infrastructure upgrade projects: If you have been on Ford Island in the past year or so, you know there is a lot of ongoing construction activity. This is all part of the Ford Island Master Development. The development project that is likely to interrupt your commute the most during upcoming months is the road replacement. Almost every road on Ford Island will either be replaced or repaired. These road projects, when completed, will provide wider, smoother and safer roads throughout the island. Be sure to allow extra time for any detours, closed roads and slower traffic as we continue to improve the quality of life and working conditions on Ford Island.

Other Ford Island projects underway or recently completed include: new water, sewer and electrical networks, the renovation of the old Ford Island Theater into a state-of-the-art conference center, along with other facilities construction and upgrades.

Other projects of interest

Parking lot "C" repair: Parking lot "C," on the corner of Lake Erie Street and Central Avenue, will be closed until March 3 for construction. This project greatly improves the parking area and will provide much needed parking for our shipyard folks. Alternate parking for lot "C" will be in the surrounding authorized parking areas. Parking lot "C" annex (off South Avenue near buildings 1674/1675 and 393) will not be closed for construction and will remain open for parking.

Road repairs

Kamehameha Loop housing: The Ford Island Kamehameha housing access road will be repaired. During this time, the road will be reduced to one lane from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Ford Island Bridge closure: The monthly 10-minute closure of the Ford Island Bridge will be from 8:30-8:40 a.m. on Jan. 25. This closure is required to ensure bridge hydraulics are operating properly.

(Editor's Note: The update on construction projects on Naval Station Pearl Harbor will be an ongoing feature of Hawai'i Navy News.)

U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Zack Baddorf

The guided missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73), the amphibious transport dock USS Ogden (LPD 5) and the dock landing ship USS Germantown (LSD 42) conduct formation maneuvers in the Pacific Ocean. Port Royal, Ogden and Germantown, assigned to Expeditionary Strike Group Three (ESG 3), participated in the Composite Unit Training Exercise (COMTUEX).

Port Royal steams through COMTUEX

Ensign Rachael Pitchford

USS Port Royal Public Affairs

After two days of searching for a small fishing craft suspected of smuggling illegal cargo, intelligence revealed a possible location of the elusive vessel. With all engines ahead full, helicopters hovering overhead and the visit board search and seizure team at the ready, USS Port Royal (CG 73) screamed toward a blip on the radar screen. Racing against time and against a potentially hostile ship that would aid the fishing vessel to escape, Port Royal once again proved successful in her endeavors to complete the mission at hand.

During the month of December, Port Royal prepared for her upcoming deployment by participating in Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMTUEX), a training evolution that integrates all units of a battle group into one functioning strike group. The war games of COMTUEX allowed Port Royal to practice transiting through a mine swept channel, track submarines, engage in air defense, provide fire support for amphibious assaults and board vessels in support of maritime interdiction operations. Every crew member played a vital role in accomplishing the various missions set before the ship.

Although these exercises were simulations, Port Royal continuously performed above standards throughout COMTUEX in order to ensure the ship's readiness for deployment. However, the exercises focused on the ability of the group to work together. Lt. Brian Wheeler, Port Royal's air defense officer, said, "COMTUEX provided the first real test of [expeditionary strike group (ESG)] assets to work together and come together as a war fighting force."

By maintaining good communications, Port Royal coordinated her efforts with the other ships and aircrafts that compose ESG3 and contributed to the group's successful completion of COMTUEX.

The two-week training period culminated in a final battle problem in which Port Royal focused on locating, boarding and seizing the fishing vessel suspected of transporting illegal cargo. Ensign Corry Lougee recalled the scene as "an exciting experience that could possibly occur during deployment." The final battle problem also consisted of supporting an amphibious landing assault in which Port Royal protected U.S. Marines landing on the beach.

Port Royal returned to Pearl Harbor in time to celebrate the holiday season, but will soon depart again for further deployment preparations with the ESG.

STORY IDEAS? Email: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com Hawai'i Navy News