

Farewell Admiral McCullough

Karen S. Spangler
Assistant Editor

Today Navy Region Hawai'i says aloha to Rear Adm. Barry McCullough, Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific (MIDPAC).

Adm. McCullough leaves Hawai'i for his new assignment as commander of the USS Enterprise strike group. The announcement was made May 17 by Adm. Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations.

No announcement has been made about McCullough's replacement. Capt. Ronald Cox, chief of staff for Navy Region Hawai'i and commanding officer of Naval Station Pearl Harbor, will act as the region commander. Capt. Philip Greene, who until last week, was the commander of Destroyer Squadron 31, will act as the commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

McCullough began his current assignment at a change of command ceremony March 28,



U.S. Navy photo
Rear Adm. Barry McCullough assumes command of Navy Region Hawai'i and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific March 28, 2003.

2003 at Bravo Pier 22 at Naval Station Pearl Harbor from a vantage point overlooking both the Battleship Missouri and USS Arizona Memorial.

With ships, submarines, Navy personnel and their families, and civilians under his

command, McCullough began his assignment as Navy Region Hawai'i's commander.

His tour of duty in Hawai'i has been brief - only 14 months - but under McCullough's leadership, Navy Region Hawai'i has seen numerous changes,

achieved many milestones, and has been the recipient of several awards citing the exceptional accomplishments of the region.

Within the first few weeks after his arrival at Pearl Harbor, ground was broken on the new bachelor enlisted quarters, located off Center Drive on the site of the old Hale Moku housing. McCullough was the main speaker as the first of newly-renovated Navy homes were dedicated at Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands, Kauai.

Pearl Harbor based ships and submarines - USS Honolulu (SSN 718), USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), USS Reuben James (FFG 57), USS Cheyenne (SSN 773), USS Louisville (SSN 724), USS Columbia (SSN 771), USS Key West (SSN 722), Patrol Squadron 47 and Helicopter Squadron-Light 37 - returned to their homeport in April 2003 after several months supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The last Pearl Harbor-based ship to arrive home from the

war was USS O'Kane (DDG 77) in July 2003.

Expeditionary Strike Group One (ESG 1), under the command of Rear Adm. Robert Conway and McCullough's predecessor as Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i, stopped at Pearl Harbor as it deployed to the Western Pacific in support of the global war on terrorism. USS Port Royal (CG 73) and USS Greeneville (SSN 772) from Pearl Harbor left with ESG 1 in September 2003 and returned in February 2004.

On four separate occasions, USS Lake Erie (CG 70) successfully intercepted an Aries ballistic missile with an experimental SM-3 missile, launched at sea at the PMRF.

USS Columbus (SSN 762) performed two successful test launches of U.S. Navy Tomahawk cruise missiles.

A number of milestones were achieved during McCullough's tenure. The Navy returned access control of the island of Kahoolawe to the state of Hawai'i,

▼ See FAREWELL, A-6



Saying Goodbye

Stennis battle group heads to Western Pacific
See story on page A-4.



Memorial Day

Learn about history, things to do over historic holiday weekend.
See story on page B-1.



U.S. Navy Photo

West Loch survivors talk with the Pacific Fleet's Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Fleet Supply and Ordnance, Rear Adm. Michael S. Roesner, center, and Commander Navy Region Hawai'i Chief of Staff and Commanding Officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Capt. Ronald R. Cox, while being transported to commemoration ceremonies for the 60th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor West Loch weapons explosion.

West Loch remembered

60 years after the explosions, West Loch survivors return to Hawai'i to recall 'second Pearl Harbor' disaster

JO2 Devin Wright
Staff Writer

Sunday, May 21, 1944 was an ideal Hawaiian day- lazy winds and clear blue skies. It was the kind of day that convinced two thirds of the crew of nearly 100 ships moored at the West Loch Ammunitions Depot to take liberty. Without warning, a series of violent explosions at the depot ripped through the silence, the ships and the men.

Sixty years later, nine survivors came back to remember their fallen shipmates during the 60th commemoration ceremony of the West Loch Disaster May 21, at the West Loch Ordnance Facility.

"Those who perished in the waters did so with as much honor as those who have died on the battlefield," said Rear Adm. Michael Roesner, chief of staff for Fleet Supply and Ordnance. "Not many people know about what happened here, but that does not trivialize the sacrifices made."

On that day in 1944 at 3:07 p.m., Seaman 2nd Class Chet Carbaugh was in his rack reading letters from home aboard Landing Ship, Tank 39. At the same time Seaman 1st Class Walt Slater was playing poker

on the mess decks of Landing Ship, Tank 274. At 3:08 a severe explosion erupted on board Landing Ship, Tank 353, jolting both seamen.

"I thought the Japanese had come back," said Carbaugh. "I ran up topside. It was a nightmare. There was smoke everywhere, shrapnel was falling down like rain and the water was on fire from all the oil that had spilled," Carbaugh described. "There was a fire on our foc'sle near the bridge where we had a lot of fuel stored. Some other Sailors and I were making our way to try and put it out when the fuel blew up. It blew the bridge completely off killing our communications officer James Malorey. So we all started to abandon ship off the fantail."

At about the same time, Slater was in a nightmare of his own.

"It was devastating," he said. "The explosion was more than a boom, it was a concussion. We had to have been bombed," Slater thought. "When we made it to the top deck, we couldn't see through all the smoke, but we could hear shrapnel just raining down on us. Then there was a second explosion and the shrapnel from that struck a seaman that was

with us in the chest. He was knocked unconscious," Slater recalled. "This gunners mate and I picked him up to take him to sick bay. We couldn't find a corpsman so we tried to stop the bleeding ourselves, but couldn't. We knew we needed to get this guy to the hospital."

Meanwhile, Carbaugh was in the drink swimming for any port in the storm under an umbrella of searing metal.

"I knew I needed to get to Ford Island, but I was really



U.S. Navy photo

Tugs try to put out the fire aboard several Navy ships in West Loch after ordnance exploded aboard them May 21, 1944.

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▼ See WESTLOCH, A-7

PMRF saved from encroachment

JO1 Daniel J. Calderón
News Editor

The Navy won't have to worry that its operations at the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai will be impeded by development until at least 2029. That was the decision of Hawai'i's Land Board at a meeting held on Kauai Monday.

After hearing testimony from dozens of Kauai residents, the panel voted to approve the Navy's request for an easement and lease that ensures the state-owned land surrounding the base will continue to be used for agriculture. The 5,371-acre easement prohibits any development or activity other than farming in the area, known as the Mana Plain. Additionally, the state granted the Navy a 270-acre lease to serve as a security buffer around the base.

The agreement is "necessary to maintaining our nation's ability to conduct military research in an isolated area, unfettered by development," said Rear Adm. Barry McCullough, Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i.

The decision followed months of negotiations between the Navy and the state. At a public hearing held on Kauai last November, community members overwhelmingly voiced their opposition to the proposal, known as the "Agriculture Preservation Initiative."

"Some mistakenly thought it was a 'land grab,' or that it would hinder their ability to access the beach," said McCullough. "Since that initial meeting, we met with hundreds of people to talk about this proposal, and to adapt it to meet the needs of the people of Kauai."

Those speaking in favor of the initiative at the hearing included



U.S. Navy photo

The state of Hawai'i has agreed to grant the Navy a lease on 270 acres of land surrounding the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai. The lease will prevent encroachment by developers on the island.

members of Kauai's business community, base employees, union leaders, Navy League members and local farmers. But many in attendance at the eight-hour meeting were unconvinced.

"Why is it all right to steal land from native Hawaiians?" Hawaiian sovereignty activist Panaewa Koani asked Land Board members. "Are you happy you stole our land?"

Nani Rogers, a local resident who led efforts to close the Navy base a decade ago, told the Land Board that "these are lands that the state does not own, nor has the authority to sell, lease, give away or change."

But Kunane Aipoalani, a descendant of native Hawaiians buried in an area near the base, said he is supportive of the Navy's preservation effort because it is more likely to help safeguard ancestral burials than doing nothing.

The Navy became concerned about the possibility for development on the Mana Plain after Kekaha Sugar closed in 2000. AI-

though the state-owned land was leased to other farmers, Navy officials said they feared it was only a matter of time until developers petitioned the Land Board to do otherwise.

"In recent years, military bases around the world have struggled to continue meaningful training operations and research as areas adjacent were developed," said McCullough. "But PMRF still has the good fortune of being surrounded by agricultural land, which is an ideal neighbor for a military installation."

Although the board did agree to the Navy's request, it attached several conditions, including a 25-year time limit and a clause that would protect native Hawaiian burial sites.

The agreement "ensures that farming can continue on the Mana Plain, without pressure to sell out to developers," McCullough said. "And it ensures that PMRF can continue to perform its mission that is so vital to our national security."

Hawai'i Navy News earns 3rd place CHINFO merit award

Hawai'i Navy News staff

The Hawai'i Navy News placed third in the Chief of Naval Information Newspaper-metro format category for 2003.

The competition runs annually and judges view newspapers, cruisebooks, video products and other military media from around the Navy and rate them on overall content and service to readers, among other criteria.

"The Flagship," from Commander Navy Region Mid-Atlantic in Norfolk, Va., took second place honors and "Everett Navy Dispatch," from Naval Station Everett, Wash. won the first place award in the metro format category.

Hawai'i Navy News congratulates all winners in every category in the CHINFO competition and we take pride in being recognized for providing our readers one of the best newspapers in the Navy.

ASF Sailors protecting people, bases

JO2 Jessica B. Davis

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

A few weeks ago, Personnelman 3rd Class Sommer Castor was checking in new service members at Personnel Support Detachment Pearl Harbor. Now she's checking out her 9mm pistol and a Mossberg 500 shotgun.

Castor is one of more than 500 Sailors who graduate each year from Auxiliary Security Force training at Pacific Fleet shore installations.

Once Sailors graduate, they receive a regional security badge, are qualified in marksmanship, are authorized to wear the rifle and pistol marksmanship medals, and qualified in first aid and CPR.

During the three-week course, Sailors are taught basic law enforcement, weapons handling and safety, force protection and anti-terrorism.

"We practiced combat training," Castor said. "We found different pressure points and practiced (on each other) taking people down."

Auxiliary Security Force graduates are required to stand watch at the gate and attend a deadly force refresher training each month.

Master-at-Arms 1st Class (SW) Edward E. Williams, the Navy Region Hawai'i assistant ASF coordinator, said learning to safely shoot and maintain a weapon is one of the most important lessons in the training.

"They're trying to teach us how to handle weapons under pressure," Castor said. "If you're in a situation where you or someone else is in danger, you need to know how to handle your weapon."

"I'm learning about different weapons, how to handle them, and

combat moves," said Castor, a Troy, Mont., native. "I like the training because it's challenging me."

The Sailors do a lot of hands-on training including crowd control, vehicle and building searches, hand-to-hand combat, and the proper use of pepper spray.

"(The pepper spray) hurts and burns like no other," said Damage Controlman 1st Class (SW) James Laban, the Navy Region Southwest ASF coordinator. "The problem with pepper spray is it burns and it keeps burning for about two hours. The only way to get rid of it is to let it dry. If you wet it again, it activates again. But it's not as bad the second time."

Marine Corps cadre instructors teach the ASF classes and bring their infantry-related specialties to the classroom.

Marine Sgt. Steven Christopher uses his field experience to teach his class. The ASF instructor returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom in August 2003 following a tour with the 1st Marine Division when they pushed from Kuwait to Baghdad.

He said he sometimes uses his combat experience to back up classroom teaching.

"We have been dealing with weapons since birth in the Corps," said Marine Staff Sgt. Stacey C. Judge, Marine Cadre ASF instructor for Navy Region Far East, Yokosuka, Japan. "We also pass on our experience with the students to make them more proficient at handling the weapons."

"The instructors demand your full attention, and they get mad if you're not putting your all into something," said Utilitiesman 1st Class (SCW) Shane Ouimette, an ASF graduate. "They



U.S. Navy Photo

Personnelman 2nd Class Sommer Castor and her classmates practice aiming techniques they learned in the classroom, before attempting to qualify for pistol and shotgun marksmanship. The Sailors must complete their weapons qualification in order to be in Auxiliary Security Forces.

push you to achieve better than what you would normally."

Castor officially joined her co-workers in ASF when she graduated April 23.

"I feel that force protection is the most important thing on a Navy base," said Ouimette, a Shrewsbury, Mass., native. "We don't want people to get in our Navy bases that could do something to jeopardize the safety of our people or jeopardize our national security."

Even though all the Sailors are volunteers, Ships Serviceman 1st Class Michael Bish, Pearl Harbor ASF coordinator, said he's required to recruit six percent of non-deployable E-9 and below personnel from each Navy command in Hawai'i for ASF.

These Sailors continue to volunteer to support the Navy's standards in protecting its people and its assets.

"This (training) gives the Sailor a better understanding of what is happening in the world," said Judge, a Brooklyn,

N.Y., native. "They can pass the info to junior Sailors and be aware of everything that takes place around them."

Sailors who volunteer for ASF are doing their part in the Navy not only in the job on their rating badge, but also by protecting those on the naval bases around the Pacific for a safer today and a better tomorrow.

For more information about volunteering for ASF, interested Sailors should see their command master chief or their ASF representative.

Naval Post-graduate School hosts officers at Sam Sneads

Rear Admiral Pat Dunne, Superintendent, Naval Postgraduate School, will host an event today from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Sam Snead's 19th Hole, Pearl Harbor.

The event's purpose is two-fold. First, it is an opportunity for Naval Postgraduate School alumni to re-engage with their school and connect with other NPS graduates.

Second, Dunne will address opportunities for future graduates and junior officers interested in learning about postgraduate study at NPS.

Whether through Distance Learning or in residence at Monterey, Calif., the Naval Postgraduate School has something to offer for every community and encompasses opportunities for both junior and senior officers.

Wardroom participation is strongly encouraged.

Light refreshments and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided; will be cash bar available.

Attendees should RSVP to: afmurphy@nps.edu

Further information on the event may be obtained from Lt. J. Mathieson at: jmmathie@nps.edu or via phone at 831-656-2466.

Navy announces new contract for NCPACE

Darlene Goodwin

Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

The Director of Naval Education and Training, Vice Adm. Alfred G. Harms Jr., announced May 4 the selection of Central Texas College as the contractor that will provide courses and instructors for the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE).

In a message to the fleet, Harms said the new contractor would "continue to provide high quality education to Sailors and Marines pursuing academic goals while serving afloat."

NCPACE was designed to provide afloat personnel the ability to initiate, continue, and/or complete courses associated with technical certificates or degree programs, and is complementary to existing voluntary education programs available ashore.

It offers courses ranging from basic academic skills to graduate-level coursework.

According to Lt. Cmdr. Steven Stopler, director, Navy Voluntary Education, NCPACE is an integral part of the Navy's Voluntary Education Program.

"NCPACE is continuing to expand its critical role in supporting the Navy's Lifelong Learning Continuum," said Stopler. "Under this new contract, the program will provide Sailors and Marines with better opportunities to further their educational goals

by offering more relevant courses delivered through a variety of methods, including paper-based, CD-ROM and teleconferencing. As we continue to refine existing voluntary education programs and develop new opportunities to better aid Sailors and Marines in reaching their education goals, NCPACE will remain at the core of the Navy's Voluntary Education Program," explained Stopler.

Under the NCPACE contract, the Navy funds 100 percent of the costs of tuition for up to two courses per term. The cost of books and associated fees are the responsibility of the student.

NCPACE is open to Navy and Marine Corps personnel permanently assigned to U.S. naval vessels, or deployable staffs or squadrons.

It also offers qualified active-duty members the opportunity to teach while at sea as an NCPACE instructor, after receiving command approval and completing program requirements established by the contractor.

Commands interested in using NCPACE services must contact their local Navy College Office (NCO) at least 120 days prior to a scheduled deployment.

For more information on NCPACE, contact Elise McGuire, NCPACE contracting officer's representative, at (850) 452-1001 ext. 2087, DSN 922-1001 ext. 2087, or contact her by email at: elise.mcguire@navy.mil.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Sailors learn the basics about outrigger canoes



U.S. Navy Photo

In this historic photo, Sailors have fun posing in an outrigger canoe on Waikiki Beach. Donna Kahakui of Kai Makana, will depart Wednesday on a 200-mile Ocean Day Awareness Paddle. She will leave Oahu at 3 a.m. from Haleiwa. Sailors interested in participating can contact Donna at 282-8012, e-mail her at kaimakana2hawaii.rr.com or visit the website www.kaimakana.com.

Ohana Line

I'm fairly new to the Navy and I'm not sure what all my entitlements on my LES mean. What is a Cost of Living Allowance?

As a service member, you are required to move throughout your career. During your career, you are likely to be assigned to a variety of low, moderate and high-cost locations.

Although private sector pay scales tend to reflect local living costs in U.S. locations, military pay tables do not.

To make up for this imbalance, you are eligible to receive a cost-of-living allowance (COLA) if you are stationed in certain "high-cost" locations in the continental United States or overseas.

Since Hawai'i falls under a high cost of living locations, as a servicemember you receive extra pay or COLA to balance the high costs.

You qualify for COLA under any of these conditions:

- You are assigned to a high-cost area in the continental United States or over seas.

- You are assigned to an unaccompanied tour of duty outside the continental United States if the primary dependent of the member resides in a high cost area in the continental United States or overseas.

- It is determined that your primary dependent must reside in a high cost area in the continental United States or overseas due to your duty location or other circumstances.

What is the commissary surcharge?

A five percent surcharge is added at checkout to the grocery bill (the surcharge is calculated on the total before coupons are deducted). That

money goes right back into the stores, paying for new construction, renovations and repairs, equipment, and store-level information technology systems such as the checkouts. This provides modern facilities for service members at a reduced cost to taxpayers.

Surcharge reduces appropriated funding

Surcharge funds are used for building new stores and modifying existing ones.

Commissary customers' surcharge dollars have paid for these projects since 1974. Overall, the surcharge is used to make shopping quick, convenient and pleasant, measures that encourage customers to continue using their commissary privilege - which, in turn, helps to generate more surcharge funds.

Although experimental surcharges had appeared as early as 1879, the first permanent modern surcharge was established in 1952, when Congress decided that commissaries should become more self-sustaining. The services were directed to have their commissaries add a two percent surcharge to the price of goods to cover costs of purchasing and maintaining equipment and supplies.

In 1974, to provide funds for construction and improvements of store facilities, Congress set the surcharge at Army and Air Force stores in the United States at three percent (European stores were one-half percent more). This was increased to four percent in 1976 and five percent in April 1983. The surcharge remains at five percent at all DeCA stores, stateside and overseas.

Living history is really the best kind

Commentary
JO1 Daniel J. Calderon

News Editor



Older folks can be annoying, can't they? I mean, they move so slowly, both on foot and on the street. They seem to constantly be in the way, gumming up the works.

And it's worse when we have to get somewhere in a hurry because there seem to be more of them then. They multiply when we're in a rush and they cause us to be later than we already are.

But why are we in a rush in the first place? What can we do to alleviate the sense of urgency? After all, it's not anyone's fault but our own that we're behind and need to hurry.

Maybe we should slow ourselves down and talk with some of these folks who are

somehow ahead of us. They got there somehow. They obviously started ahead of us and are still there.

Maybe the thing to do is to slow up a bit, ease our hectic pace and gain some wisdom from these folks who have seen more of life than we have.

I had the opportunity to speak with several survivors of the West Loch Disaster during their stay here. I was fortunate enough to be the driver for a lot of them so we spent time in the van going to and from the airport and other locations.

I stopped and listened. Even though they had places to go and things to do, we took time to really communicate.

I'd read stories about the "second Pearl Harbor," but hearing from these men about how they pulled Sailors from the water and how they watched bodies being flung around by the explosions was truly moving.

Seeing their eyes cloud over as they were caught up in the moment and moved along

by their story brought in a whole new dimension to what happened here 60 years ago.

That's the great thing about older people. They were here. They remember the past. They are the past.

It's one thing to get sterile facts and figures from a book in a library. It's much better to hear about the event from someone who was actually there.

There is a vividness in stories actually told that is not present in a reading or even in a video recording. When someone is telling you a story, you have to be engaged to get the full impact.

If you can't sit still long enough to listen to these bastions of living history, then you might as well read it in a book or just wait for the video to come out.

But then, you'll be missing out. If your patience is that thin, then I pity you because you'll be missing out on an organic treasure whose value is truly immeasurable.

For Your Security and Safety

Karen S. Spangler, Assistant Editor karen.spangler@navy.mil

Have a safe and happy Memorial Day

Karen S. Spangler
Assistant Editor

It's the Memorial Day holiday weekend - a long, three-day mini-vacation to relax, enjoy a bit of extra leisure time, and an occasion for people to get together for parties, barbecues and beach activities. But frequently, the Memorial Day holiday results in tragedies.

Memorial Day is historically one of the deadliest holidays for alcohol-related traffic deaths. There's a simple rule: If you drink, don't drive. If you drive, don't drink.

Other Memorial Day holiday activities, such as swimming, boating and other physical activities, when mixed with alcohol, are as dangerous as driving under the influence of alcohol. If you plan to drink, have a plan to do it safely.

Swimming and water activities at Hawaii's beaches can be treacherous. Ocean currents, riptides and powerful waves can overcome even an experienced swimmer. Water enthusiasts should use the "buddy system" when swimming and diving, just in case they run into problems.

Hiking on Hawaii's scenic trails is another popular activity, but again, it's best to hike with a buddy or group of people. Many of the beau-

tiful trails on the islands can be challenging and have steep drop-offs. Hikers have lost their way on the trails, and some have fallen and have been seriously injured. Enjoy the outdoors, but take precautions.

Overexposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays can pose a serious threat to health. While participating in the many leisure activities under the hot, tropical sun, be sure to use a sunscreen and apply it often.

Grilling is a popular Memorial Day activity. But keep in mind that many people are seriously injured as a result of grill fires and explosions. Never use anything other than charcoal lighter on a grill - and never use gasoline or kerosene, etc. to start a fire. Never use a grill indoors - it emits carbon monoxide which is toxic and can quickly kill. Be sure to use a grill at least 10 feet away from your house or building and don't leave the grill unattended.

Enjoy the Memorial Day holiday, but just take a few precautions and use common sense. Have fun, and be safe.

Happy Memorial Day!
If you have a security or safety question or concern, please send us an email or a fax and we'll obtain an answer.

Hawai'i Sailors 'talk story'

Culinary Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Noemi Gonzalez

Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Noemi Gonzalez enjoys her job. Just ask her and she'll admit it.

"My favorite part of this job is knowing that we put out a great product at the highest quality," she said. "At the end of the day, I have the satisfaction of knowing that I've done my job well."

After making rate in the last Navy-wide exam, Gonzalez assumed the title of cook on watch.

She has only been in the Navy four years.

The Bronx, N.Y. native said she likes to spend her off-duty time going to see movies.

She also enjoys spending time at the mall shopping or at the library reading and studying.

"My off time is all about relaxing and getting ready to come back to work," she

said. "If I have a test, I'll go off and study."

Gonzalez is currently enrolled at Chaminade University. She is pursuing her bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

"My long-term goal is to be a [Judge Advocate General]," she said. "I did a year of college before I joined the Navy and I will leave Naval Station with my degree."

Although she does enjoy a high level of job satisfaction, Gonzalez admits it was not all she expected.

"The recruiter sold me on the 'business' side of being an MS [Mess Specialist - the former rating before the Culinary Specialist rating was established]," Gonzalez said. "He told me I'd be working with budgets and stuff. We do that, but at the chief and senior chief level. At my level, I'm yelling out

Vital statistics

Name:
Noemi Gonzalez

Hometown:
Bronx, New York

Duty station:
Naval Station Pearl Harbor

Job:
Cook on watch

Favorite part of the job:
Putting out a high-quality product and, at the end of the day, knowing that she's done a good job.

"Who's next on eggs," she laughed.

In five years, Gonzalez sees herself out of her current uniform and in a set of khakis.

"I'll either be coming back



U.S. Navy Photo by JO1 Daniel Calderon
CS2(SW) Noemi Gonzalez prepares beef and broccoli for lunch at the Silver Dolphin Bistro.

in after completing an officer package like STA-21 or OCS or I'll have it already completed," she began. "Either way, I'll be an officer by this time five years from now."

Hawai'i Navy News

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Naval Station honors Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month



U.S. Navy photo by JO1 Daniel J. Calderon

Angie Batula performs Aparima, a traditional Tahitian hula dance, Wednesday at Sharkey Theater. The performance was part of the Naval Station Pearl Harbor Multicultural Committee celebration of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. The celebration involved a guest speaker, a dance by Batula and a free screening of "The Last Samurai." The committee's purpose is to raise awareness and educate Sailors, civilians and their families about the similarities between members of various cultural groups.

USS John C. Stennis leaves San Diego for deployment

JO2 Gabriel Owens

USS John C. Stennis

Public Affairs

USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) departed its homeport of San Diego Monday for deployment to the Western Pacific.

Stennis is scheduled to spend the next several months performing various drills and flight operations while also visiting various ports in the Pacific.

"All the pieces are coming together," said Capt. Joseph Kuzmick, Stennis' executive officer. "The last couple of days have been hectic in the final preparation. We've finally got ourselves under way for deployment to the eastern and western Pacific."

Kuzmick said the ship is scheduled to deploy to Alaska to participate in Operation Northern Edge, an inter-service exercise, primarily with the Air Force, in the Alaskan Gulf.

After that and a trip to Hawaii for further training, Kuzmick said, "We're taking this mighty warship further west to help fight the war on terror, and anything else our nation calls us to do."

The crew of Stennis has spent the last year preparing for deployment. Countless flight hours and sea trials have been logged to get the ship ready for an extended leave of homeport.

"The air wing has had to come on board many times in the last year to get its day and night carrier landing qualifications," said Kuzmick. "This was through several different phases of shipboard-wide and strike group-wide exercises from COMPTUEX [Composite Training Unit Exercise] to JT-FEX [Joint Task Force Exercise]."

Additionally, the air wing trained as a whole in an exercise in Fallon, Nev. in preparation for the deployment.

Embarked aboard Stennis are various squadrons from Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 14, including Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 113, Sea Control Squadron (VS) 35, and He-



U.S. Navy Photo by PH3 Kleyria R. Benitez

A Sailor assigned to USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) says good-bye before departing for deployment. More than 6,200 Sailors assigned to USS John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group (CSG) deployed to conduct operations in the Eastern and Western Pacific for joint and combined operations in support of the global war on terrorism.

licopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 4. The Stennis strike group will also deploy with the carrier. The strike group includes USS Lake Champlain (CG 57), USS Howard (DDG 83) and USS Salt Lake City (SSN 716).

Many of the ship's company Sailors were both excited and sad to leave for the ship's first extended period out of homeport since 2002.

"This cruise looks to be better than the last (2001-2002 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom)," said Electronics

Technician 2nd Class(SW) Reynaldo Trejo of reactor department. "I'm looking forward to this a lot." Trejo was particularly excited about many of the proposed port visits, including Hawaii and Singapore.

Stennis is scheduled to return to San Diego later this year, prior to a homeport change next year to Bremerton, Wash.

Stennis is the flagship for the strike group commander, Carrier Group 7, and is home to Commander, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 21 and Commander, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 14.

USS Fletcher returns home



U.S. Navy Photo by JOSN Ryan C. McCinley.

After two years and four crews, USS Fletcher (DD 992) and her crew of approximately 340 Sailors returned to Pearl Harbor for a two-day port visit before traveling to San Diego where it will be decommissioned in October. The former Pearl Harbor-based ship is part of the Navy's Sea Swap Initiative, a program that rotates four crews through a single ship at six-month intervals.

Highlights from Fletcher's deployment

- Left Pearl Harbor for the Western Pacific on Aug. 2, 2002.
- Held a memorial service commemorating 9/11 on Sept. 11, 2002.
- First crew turnover with crew of USS Kinkaid (DD 965) in January 2003.
- First change of command ceremony from Cmdr. Thomas Neal to Cmdr. Michael Slotsky on Jan. 18, 2003.
- Second change of command and crew swap with crew of USS Oldendorf (DD 972) on July 3, 2003. Capt. Charles Gaouette relieved Slotsky.
- Third change of command and crew swap in Fremantle, Australia on Dec. 13, 2003. Cmdr. John Nolan relieved Capt. Gaouette.
- USS Fletcher returned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on May 25, 2004 after cycling over 1,200 Sailors over a period of two years.

theatre conducting operations in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. This significant increase in forward presence and on-station time saved the Navy significant fuel and maintenance costs, eliminating costly and time-consuming Pacific Ocean transits. The additional on-station time that resulted from Fletcher's four crew swaps, each at six-month intervals, equated to five regular west coast deployments.

Commissioned in 1980, Fletcher, the thirtieth ship in its class, is one of only four remaining Spruance-class destroyers. The ship was named for Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher, a Medal of Honor recipient, who set sail from Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i 38 years earlier as task force commander, leading the United States Pacific Fleet during the battles of Coral Sea and Midway. The Fletcher or "Fighting Jack," as the crew refers to it, carried on Admiral Fletcher's spirit as it headed off for a deployment during a period in which the United States was fighting terrorism and preparing up for a war in Iraq.

Team Elliot is now bringing Fletcher home. While Fletcher was originally home ported in Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, the ship will continue on to San Diego, Calif. where it will be decommissioned Oct. 1. As visitors and crew walk through the passageways aboard Fletcher, there are remnants of all four crews. Foul weather gear with Oldendorf written across the back, stickers from the Kinkaid's air detachment, and Elliot tablecloths can be found throughout the ship. Each crew has adopted the Fletcher and utilized the ship to perform wartime operations.

"There were so many highlights," said Nolan. "The hard work to get the ship ready in Australia, the hospitality of the Australian people, working with coalition ships in the North Arabian Gulf, being the operational MIO commander (as a USN Commander) of all the ships in the North Arabian Gulf, making a difference in the NAG and catching some oil smugglers, doing the first ever moor of a Seawolf alongside a destroyer at anchor in Seychelles, the engagement visit to Chennai, India and being the last crew on the Fletcher and making sure she is running right and looking good as she returns from two years at sea, all in all feeling good about making a huge contribution to Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom."

First Sea Swap ship back in Pearl

Lt. j.g. Lesley Smith
USS Fletcher Public Affairs Office

On Aug. 2, 2002 Hawai'i's own USS Fletcher (DD 992) left Pearl Harbor to begin Sea Swap, an experimental program. Two years and three crews later, Fletcher returned to her homeport Tuesday having served successfully as the first of two Sea Swap platforms.

The Sea Swap programs calls for a Spruance-class destroyer, Fletcher, to deploy and remain on station for just over 400 days.

Meanwhile, the crew of USS Kinkaid (DD 965) trained for deployment aboard the Kinkaid, then conducted an accelerated decommissioning of their ship and was re-assigned en-masse to the deployed Fletcher relieving that crew in a foreign port.

This process continued for three follow-on crews with the fourth crew eventually sailing the Fletcher back to San Diego, Calif. for decommissioning.

"The amount of time Fletcher was able to be on station in the Arabian Gulf was the most successful part of the cruise," said Cmdr. John P. Nolan, Fletcher's final commanding officer. "We dedicate so much time and energy training to prepare the crew to be ready for operations in the Arabian Gulf and the extra time we were there made us the experts and made all that extra sweat worthwhile," he said.

The original Sea Swap Fletcher crew, under the command of Cmdr. Thomas Neal, set sail in 2002 stopping in Yokosuka, Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore. While in port in Singapore, numerous repairs were accomplished as part of an availability period. Fletcher then headed to the Arabian Gulf. On Sept. 11, 2002 the crew held a memorial ceremony with 21 gun salute in the Gulf of Oman. The original Fletcher team sailed the ship to the northern Arabian Gulf and spent the next four months conducting maritime interdiction operations in support of UN sanctions on Iraq.

tion operations in support of UN sanctions on Iraq.

The Sea Swap initiative became a reality in January 2003 when the Fletcher crew pulled the ship into Fremantle, Australia and made preparations to turn it over to the former crew of the USS Kinkaid (DD 965), referred to as Team Kinkaid. After decommissioning Kinkaid, they had embarked a flight to Australia ready to turn over and assume command of Fletcher. Cmdr. Michael Slotsky relieved Neal January 18 and Team Kinkaid made preparations to take Fletcher back to the Arabian Gulf for a six-month deployment.

Shortly after reporting on station, Fletcher was tasked with Tomahawk missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During the first and second phase of the war in the spring of 2003, Fletcher fired nearly 20 missiles and remained underway for 89 consecutive days. Fletcher remained on station patrolling the Northern Arabian Gulf as a U.S. security force for the Iraqi oil terminals. After four months of operations in the Fifth Fleet, Fletcher participated in a naval exercise with the Saudi Arabian navy and then headed for Singapore to complete yet another "swap" with the former crew of the USS Oldendorf (DD 972).

The change of command was held July 3, 2003. Capt. Charles Gaouette and Team Oldendorf spent four days in Singapore then left for the Middle East. Fletcher spent its time on station in the Gulf of Aden supporting the global war on terrorism during Operation Enduring Freedom and then transited to the Northern Arabian Gulf to continue with security and maritime interdiction operations in the vicinity of the Iraqi oil terminals. On Nov. 24, 2003 the Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England, visited Fletcher to present the Vice Adm. James Stockdale Award for Inspirational Leadership to Gaouette. Fletcher departed the Fifth Fleet area

of operations in early December 2003 en route to Fremantle, Australia to complete the third and final crew swap.

The former crew of the USS Elliot (DD 967) relieved the Oldendorf team on Dec. 13, 2003 and began an intense maintenance availability with help from the Australians. Cmdr. John Nolan and Team Elliot set sail from Fremantle, Australia on Jan. 2. Having completed numerous repairs, the new crew pushed themselves to rapidly become familiar with Fletcher.

On Jan. 12, Fletcher entered the Fifth Fleet for the fourth time in two years and was assigned duties as guard ship for the Iraqi oil terminals in the Northern Arabian Gulf. Shortly after reporting on station, the former Elliot crew received word that they had been awarded the Battle "E" Award for their efforts on-board both USS Elliot and USS Fletcher. Team Elliot conducted a total of 84 boardings while operating in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, confiscating over 1,500 metric tons of illegal Iraqi oil and conducting security patrols in Iraqi waterways. For the final month of its operations in the Fifth Fleet, Fletcher conducted operations off the Horn of Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

There were some trials for the crews as they swapped out aboard Fletcher. "Figuring out all the different nuances of a 23-year-old ship that was "brand new" to the crew and I," was one of the biggest challenges said Nolan. "We had to go through and making sure that everything worked properly, particularly safety related equipment."

"I think our biggest challenge was preserving USS Elliot's esprit de corps while letting go of the traditional association of crew and hull," said CMDMCM (SW) George Dwyer, Fletcher's command master chief. "The crew handled the challenge by working hard to make our new ship as special to us as the one we just decommissioned. Strong deckplate leadership reinforced a sense of purpose, mission, and importantly, ownership of the hull."

On its way home, Fletcher stopped in Port Victoria, Seychelles where a Seawolf-class submarine moored alongside Fletcher while at anchor, an unprecedented evolution.

Fletcher continued home stopping in Chennai, India and Phuket, Thailand for high visibility

"The crew handled the challenge by working hard to make our new ship as special to us as the one we just decommissioned."

Cmdr. John P. Nolan
Commanding Officer
USS Fletcher (DD 992)

good will visits.

Members of the Fletcher crew recalled some interesting coincidences involved with the Sea Swap.

"While I was aboard the USS Kinkaid, I went in with a bunch of guys to buy a television for our shop," said Quartermaster 1st Class (SW) Rod Von Achen, leading quarter master. "Later I transferred to the USS Elliot. Now I am aboard Fletcher and lo and behold that TV was brought here by the Kinkaid crew. So here I am three ships later somehow watching that TV again."

USS Fletcher has become a familiar name to the masters of cargo ships that frequent Iraqi ports, the personnel living aboard Al Basarah and Khour Al Amaya oil terminals, the Fifth Fleet Naval Command, and the British, Australian, and US Patrol Crafts operating in the Northern Arabian Gulf.

During its 23-months underway, Fletcher spent more than 17 months in

Tucson departs on deployment

Crew 'looking forward to heading out'

By JO3 Corwin Colbert
COMSUBPAC Public Affairs

USS Tucson (SSN 770) departed for a Western Pacific deployment from its homeport of Pearl Harbor May 19.

According to Cmdr. James Pitts, commanding officer USS Tucson, during the last several months the crew prepared for deployment by updating equipment and getting certified.

"We completed all the maintenance actions needed," said Pitts. "We spent the last two weeks getting certified so we can go out forward deployed. We are looking forward to heading out and conducting extended operations."

"Our submarine has one of the most advanced fire control systems the Navy has in its inventory," Pitts continued.



U.S. Navy Photo by PH2 Alan D. Monyelle

The fast attack submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) transits past the mouth of Apra Harbor, Guam. Its stealth design, endurance, and mobility allow Tucson the ability to operate in oceans worldwide.

"It is very user friendly, making the operator's job a lot easier. It can handle more stress than the previous system. We have consumer off-the-shelf technology (COTS) based equipment with incredible processing power,

more than some small cities. It is five years ahead of the other system and maintenance is significantly easier. We will be the second submarine to deploy with this system aboard. We are looking forward to testing it out,"

he said.

According to Pitts, his crew is ready and contributes its high morale to family support.

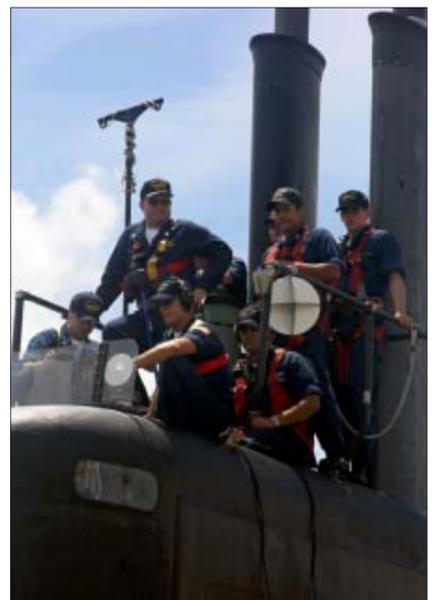
"The crew is very excited about going on this Western Pacific deployment," said Pitts. "They are also looking forward to some foreign ports. However, having the support of families is critical. Knowing you have the support back home makes the job easier," he concluded.

Christened on March 19, 1994, USS Tucson is the 59th Los Angeles-class attack submarine and the twentieth of the Improved-Los Angeles-class attack submarine to be built.

Armed with 12 vertical launch missile tubes for Tomahawk cruise missiles, Tucson has great offensive capabilities and strategic value.

Retractable bow planes give the submarine increased maneuverability and under-ice surfacing potential.

Able to operate in all ocean areas of the world, Tucson's stealth, endurance, mobility and responsiveness make her a formidable force in multiple mission roles.



U.S. Navy Photo by JO3 Corwin Colbert

Members of the USS Tucson prepare to get underway May 19 for the submarine's current Western Pacific deployment.

Farewell: Sailors 'really going to miss' admiral

Continued from A-1

marking the culmination of a decade-long effort to clear unexploded ordnance, scrap metal and other debris from the island.

McCullough and other military, community and business leaders gathered at Battleship Missouri to sign an agreement with Fluor Hawai'i to revitalize Ford Island under the Ford Island Master Development Agreement. The collective value to the Navy will be approximately \$84 million.

A proposal by the Navy to preserve land adjacent to PMRF at Barking Sands, Kauai, known as the PMRF Agricultural Initiative, was approved by the state of Hawai'i earlier this week. The Navy requested the set aside to protect the land from future development and to ensure that the land continues to be used in ways that are compatible with base operations.

In the latest step toward privatization of Navy family housing in Hawai'i, the Navy selected the development team of Hawai'i Military Communities as a 50-year partner for the first phase of the public-private venture. The business agreement was signed and the public-private venture officially began on May 1.

At special observances and commemorations, McCullough welcomed Pearl Harbor survivors. The 62nd commemoration of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on the Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor was observed in 2003 on the USS Arizona Memorial. Several survivors of the West Loch tragedy, which occurred May 21, 1944, traveled to Hawai'i for a ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of the event.

Early in 2004 marked the centennial anniversary of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. At the 228th Navy Birthday Ball, Hawai'i Governor Linda Lingle was the guest speaker and praised the Navy's environmental stewardship in the Hawaiian Islands and the support she received from the Navy.

Navy Region Hawai'i, with McCullough at the helm, was the recipient of several awards and distinctions. Six galleys in Navy Region Hawai'i received the Ney Award, the Commander Naval Installations five-star accreditation. The Navy Times named Naval Station Pearl Harbor as "Best Base for Quality of Life" for 2003. The Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Award for Cultural Resource Management Installations, recognizing the Region's management of more than 1,400 historic structures and 140 native Hawaiian archaeological sites, was awarded to Navy Region at a ceremony held in Washington, D.C.

In 2003, Navy Region also earned its second consecutive Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt Award for excellence in bachelor housing management.

Naval Medical Clinic Pearl Harbor was the winner of the Chief of Naval Operation's Shore Safety Award in the small non-industrial CONUS category for fiscal year 2003. It went on to capture the Secretary of the Navy Award for Achievement in Safety Ashore - Fiscal Year 2003 (small non-industrial CONUS), also earning the distinction as the first Bureau of Medicine and Surgery activity to win the award twice. And for the third consecutive year, Naval Medical Clinic Pearl Harbor received the Gold Star Award for command excellence in health promotion from the Navy Environmental Health Center.

Commander, Pacific Fleet named Naval Station Pearl Harbor as its 2003 Installation Excellence Award winner with a nomination to compete for the Commander-in-Chief's Award for Installation Excellence.

He signed a proclamation announcing October 2003 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month for Navy Region Hawai'i.

Under McCullough's leadership, Sailors and DoD civilians at Navy Region Hawai'i donated their time and efforts in communi-



U.S. Navy photo

Rear Adm. Barry McCullough, U.S. representative Ed Case and Adm. Walter F. Doran discuss the Kaho'olawe cleanup during a ceremony held on the grounds of the Iolani Palace on Nov. 11, 2003

ty service projects in local schools and throughout the island. Many helped with Earth Day 2003 and 2004, removing debris from Hawai'i's shorelines and the waters of Pearl Harbor.

The Navy's newest and most sophisticated warship, USS Chafee (DDG 90), was the 40th Arleigh Burke-class destroyer to be commissioned. Chafee arrived at her new homeport at Pearl Harbor and Navy Region.

McCullough regularly voiced his support for Navy Region Hawai'i quality of life issues and his tenure was marked by a number of accomplishments in this area. At a ceremony held on historic Ford Island, 140 new homes were dedicated. Also on the historic island, the Navy Lodge held its grand opening and the Safety and Health Training Center at Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific on Ford Island opened its doors.

New office spaces for Commander, Anti-submarine Warfare Force Pacific Fleet and Commander, Task Force Twelve were officially opened for business in building 661. The facility is home to three Pacific Fleet submarine squadrons. With the opening of Oklahoma Hall, Pearl Harbor's newest bachelor enlisted quarters, 208 Sailors had a new place to call home. Naval Station Pearl Harbor provides 100 percent housing for its single Sailors.

The Welcoming Center and the Wellness Center at Naval Medical Clinic Pearl Harbor, Makalapa combined efforts to create a "one stop shop" for health and wellness. The two centers opened together for business in the newly-refurbished Makalapa Medical Annex. The Navy Ohana Survey, unique to Navy Region Hawai'i, completed its latest survey in the fall of 2003 and announced the results in April 2004.

McCullough, as Navy Region Hawai'i's commander, hosted numerous visits from navies of other countries, high-ranking Navy officials, local government officials, celebrities and, most notably, the commander-in-chief, President George Bush and first lady, Laura Bush Oct. 23, 2003.

It was a whirlwind trip for President and Mrs. Bush as they met with Pearl Harbor survivors at the USS Arizona Memorial and

read to children at Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School. Hawai'i Governor Linda Lingle visited Pearl Harbor and Kahoolawe in the company of the Region admiral on various occasions.

McCullough also welcomed other dignitaries and high-ranking officials, including Hawai'i Senator Daniel Inouye, Hawai'i Congressman Neil Abercrombie, Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England, Acting Secretary of the Navy Hansford T. Johnson, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Terry D. Scott, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark, and Rear Adm. Christopher Weaver, Commander, Naval Installations.

A stop at Pearl Harbor by 300 Russian Federation Sailors aboard the Russian Federation Navy destroyer Marshal Shaposhnikov (DDG 543) and light oiler RFN Pechanga (AOL) marked the first visit by the Russian navy in more than 10 years. Ships from the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force also visited Pearl Harbor as well as the Chilean tall ship B.E. Esmeralda.

McCullough also had the opportunity to put a little fun into the business of running the Region. Pro Bowl teams converged on the island in February 2004 and many of the players and their families enjoyed tours of Pearl Harbor, visited Sailors aboard ships and signed autographs.

Pearl Harbor was a popular place for celebrities such as Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne from the "Osbourne Show" and Rob Lowe from "West Wing," and many others.

As Navy Region's commander, McCullough was the Navy's host for visiting civic groups, schools, Make-A-Wish children, and Pearl Harbor survivors and war veterans.

For Navy Region's admiral, the past 14 months have been filled with numerous accomplishments, speeches, meetings and recognition for the Navy and Navy Region Hawai'i.

"I'm really going to miss Admiral McCullough," said Machinist's Mate 2nd Class (SS) John Burks of Naval Station Pearl Harbor's disaster preparedness office. "He did a lot of things to improve Hawai'i for all of us Sailors, the Navy, the base and the local community. He's going to make a great strike group commander."



U.S. Navy Photo by PH2 Tracy R. Hull

President George W. Bush is escorted by Adm. Thomas B. Fargo, Commander, US Pacific Command to the USS Missouri aboard the Commander Navy Region Hawaii barge.

West Loch: Disaster 'never forgotten' for returning survivors

Continued from A-1

just trying to swim away from the falling shrapnel," said Carbaugh. "I don't know if I was scared or not. Hell I didn't even know if I was really awake. I remember getting really tired because I was wearing my boots. Luckily a patrol boat picked me up. If not... I don't know if I would have made it."

Slater was still in harm's way.

"We made our way to the outboard LST and lowered the unconscious Seaman in the water, but with all the burning metal coming down there was no where to hide," Slater said. "You just had to pray you didn't get hit. We made our way to a nearby shore and in to this sugar cane field. The gunner's mate and I waded down an ambulance that took the young seaman to get attention," he said. "To this day, I don't know if he survived or not."

One hundred and sixty-three Sailors and Marines lost their lives and 396 others were in-

jured. The cause of the explosions is not known.

Carbaugh, Slater and seven other West Loch survivors returned to the depot for the 60th commemoration ceremony.

Today at West Loch, the foc'sle of Landing Ship, Tank 480, which ran aground that day, serves as a vivid reminder of the disaster.

"When I saw 480's foc'sle, that's when I knew I was back," said Carbaugh. "It brought tears to my eyes. It's healing. I had to come back for my shipmates, and myself."

During the floral presentation of the ceremony, each survivor was given a rose to throw in the water at West Loch.

For Slater, although the scenery at the depot has changed the reflection of the rose in the calm waters was as sharp as the images of what happened that day.

"I was thinking as I watched that rose in the water how I could still see the faces of my shipmates," Slater said. "I've never forgotten and I'll never forget."



U.S. Navy photo
Roy Sanella, a survivor of the May 21, 1944 disaster at the West Loch Ammunitions Depot, pilots the admiral's barge while Rear Adm. Michael S. Roesner, Pacific Fleet's Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Fleet Supply and Ordnance, watches. Sanella participated in the May 21 commemoration ceremony of the West Loch disaster with eight other survivors.



U.S. Navy photo
Tugboats attempt to extinguish burning ships and cool down unexploded ordnance May 21, 1944. On that day, more than 500 Sailors and Marines were injured by exploding ordnance aboard LSTs.



U.S. Navy photo
Ships at the West Loch Ammunitions Depot burn after ordnance aboard exploded May 21, 1944. There were 163 Sailors and Marines who died during the explosions, rains of shrapnel and fires that day.

Next generation aircraft carrier contract awarded



U.S. Navy Photo

Artist's concept of CVN 21, one of a new class of aircraft carriers. A new nuclear propulsion plant will power the next class of aircraft carriers. The new plant will require fewer operators, thereby lowering life-cycle costs, and will provide increased electrical power that will be available for the demands of developing technology. Smart sensors will assist in further reducing Navy watch standing requirements and in automating damage control functions such as detecting fire and flooding situations. Flight deck redesign and a transition to an advanced aircraft recovery system will reduce crew workload, enhance safety and reduce the costs of operating and maintaining a carrier throughout its planned 50-year life cycle.

Special release from the U.S.

Department of Defense

The Navy and Northrop Grumman Newport News (NGNN) have successfully negotiated the construction preparation (CP) contract for CVN 21, the next generation aircraft carrier.

CVN 21 will be the centerpiece of tomorrow's carrier strike groups and a contributor to the future expeditionary strike force as envisioned in "Sea Power 21."

Advance procurement and advance construction of components and associated design efforts in support of the anticipated Fiscal 2007 ship procurement for CVN 21 are provided for under the contract.

The CVN 21 CP contract is a three-year, cost type contract for advanced procurement of material, design and engineering, and advance construction of CVN 21.

The total value of the contract is \$1.4 billion, which includes a fee earnable to \$161.9 million. This contract includes cost, schedule and performance incentives designed to ensure CVN 21 requirements are met at an affordable price.

Speaking about the contract, John Young, assistant secretary of the Navy for research, development and acquisition, said, "The contract agreement reached by the Navy and the Northrop Grumman Newport News (NGNN) team is an important step in the course charted for development of the next generation aircraft carrier."

This contract provides for the continued design and development of the next generation aircraft carrier, as well as incentives for NGNN and the Navy team to work together to develop and manage the design of the CVN 21," Young continued. "The contract structure has a portfolio of incentives that focuses on obtaining the most innovative ship design that will meet the program's performance goals, while emphasizing timely delivery and control of all costs – material, labor, facilities, overhead and construction," he said.

"This CP contract is a win-win for both the Navy and NGNN, and is a significant accomplishment for the CVN 21 program," Young concluded. "The contract establishes key metrics for NGNN and the Navy, and provides the tools necessary for the Navy to work with NGNN to manage the design of CVN 21."

Career Management Symposium set for next week

The Career Management Symposium will be held on Naval Station Pearl Harbor and on bases around Oahu from June 2 through June 9.

The symposium will offer Sailors the opportunity to learn more about how they might better manage their careers in the Navy.

Detailers will be here June 2 through June 7. They will be doing ship visits the June 2 through 4 and will be at Building 679 June 7.

Events will be held on Naval Station Pearl Harbor, at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific, at Naval Security Activity Group Kunia and at other locations as indicated on the schedule.

The schedule of events for the symposium is as follows:

June 2

8 a.m. NPC Career Management and Manpower Brief (CO/XO/CMC/CCC/ DH) 1.5 hr
Loc: Sharkey

10 a.m. SWO Community Brief 1.5 hr
Loc: Banyans

10:30 a.m. Chief Petty Officer Leadership Brief (CPO) 1.5 hr
Loc: Sharkey

11:30 a.m. Sub LDO Detailer Brief (CO/XO/COB/CCC) 1.5 Hr
Loc: Silver Dolphin VIP RM (lunch optional)

11:30 a.m. SWO CO/XO Mentoring Session 1 hr
Loc: Banyans Kula RM

11:30 a.m. Career Information Brief – Junior Officer (O-3 and below) 1.5 Hr
Loc: Banyans

1 p.m. Career Information Seminar (Junior Enl E-5 and below) 2 hr
Loc: Sharkey

6 p.m. SWO Spouse Social hosted by MWR 1.5 hr
Loc: Capt. Allen's residence

June 3

8:30 a.m. Career Information Seminar (Junior Enlisted E-5 and below) 2 hr
Loc: Sharkey

8:30 a.m. Submarine Community Brief – Officer 1.5 Hr
Loc: Lockwood Dining Hall

10 a.m. Career Information Brief – Junior Officer (O-3 and below) 1.5 Hr
Loc: Lockwood Dining Hall

10:30 a.m. LDO Community Status Brief 1 hr
Loc: Sharkey

12:30 p.m. Career Information Seminar (Senior Enlisted E-6 and above) 1.5 hr

Loc: Sharkey

2:30 p.m. Enlisted Promotion/ Advancement Brief (E-5 and above) 1.5 hr
Loc: Sharkey

6 p.m. Enlisted Career Information for Spouses/Ombudsmen Brief hosted by MWR 1.5 hr
Loc: Lockwood Dining Hall

6 p.m. Submarine Officer's Spouse Brief hosted by MWR 1.5 Hr
Loc: Dive Tower

June 4

8:30 a.m. LDO Application Brief 1 hr
Loc: Shipyard Auditorium

10:30 a.m. Officer Promotion/ Advancement Brief (O-3/O-4) 1.5 hr
Loc: Shipyard Auditorium

1 p.m. Enlisted Promotion/ Advancement Brief (E-5 and above) 1.5 hr
Loc: Shipyard Auditorium

June 8

8:30 a.m. NPC Career Management and Manpower Brief (CO, XO, CMC, LCPOs, CCC and DH) 1.5 hr

Loc: N3 Conference Room

10 a.m. Enlisted Promotion/ Advancement Brief (E-5 and above) 1.5 hr
Loc: NCTAMS PAC Theater

1 p.m. Career Information Seminar (All Hands) 2 hr
Loc: NCTAMS PAC Theater

June 9

8:30 a.m. NPC Career Management and Manpower Brief (CO, XO, CMC, CCC and DH) 1.5 hr
Loc: CR 1 Kunia

10 a.m. Career Information Seminar (Enlisted non LPO and below) 2 hr
Loc: CR 1 Kunia

1 p.m. Enlisted Promotion/ Advancement Brief (E-5 and above) 1.5 hr
Loc: CR 1 Kunia

For more information, contact ETCM(SS) Jeffrey Peters, SUBPAC Counselor, Commander Submarine Force Pacific at 473-2483, e-mail at Jeffrey.peters@navy.mil

Or, contact NCC(SW) Valerie Setliff, Region Counselor, Commander Navy Region Hawaii at 473-4507, Cell 330-8856, or via e-mail at valerie.setliff@navy.mil

A third point of contact is NC1(SW) Alice James, MIDPAC Counselor. Her number is 473-3654 and her e-mail is alice.james@navy.mil.

Hawai'i Navy News Sports

The ones that didn't get away ...



Photo courtesy of MWR
 (Left to right) Blake Rebman, Bereck Downing, Amiee Huepenbecker and Erick Sapp display a few of the fish they caught during a day of sportfishing aboard the MWR charter fishing boat -- the Coreene C. The boat sails out of Rainbow Bay Marina in Pearl Harbor and is available to all eligible MWR patrons. To book a sportfishing excursion, contact Rainbow Bay Marina at 473-0279. The four who went out this day came home with five mahi mahi, two ahu, one ahi and one shibi.

Batter up!



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Devin Wright
 Ray Bennett of Team Chiefs winds up to knock one into the cheap seats during the USS Chafee Chiefs vs. first Classes softball game Wednesday at Ward Field. The game is an opportunity for the chiefs to mentor their younger competitors in team building.

USS Chafee first class petty officers trounce the chiefs

**JO2 Devin Wright
 Kamie Allmon**
 Staff Writers

"Chiefs 12 to 10" was the prediction of Ray Bennett of Team Chiefs at the USS Chafee Chiefs vs. 1st classes softball game at Ward Field Wednesday.

The game or "grudge match" was an opportunity for the two ranks to enjoy a sunny afternoon in Hawai'i.

"We've been working hard over the last year since we left Maine," said Bennett. "This type of event gets us off the ship to come out and have a little morale between the two of us. These guys and gals out here are our future Navy chiefs, so we need to come to-

gether and blow off some steam."

"First classes 40 to 2" was the confident forecast of Charlie Bennie of Team First Classes. "This is a great opportunity for us to put the goats back in the locker. It's the younger guys against the older guys...do the math."

The event and friendly banter also served a broader purpose.

"By demonstrating unity between the first classes and the chiefs' mess, we can affect the entire Chafee command," said Alejandro Herrera, pitcher for the first classes.

During the nine-inning game the First Classes held a commanding lead. In bottom of the ninth, Team Chiefs closed in on a nine point lead but in the end the first classes corralled the goats back in the locker 16-14.

Bennett suspected foul play.

"I think some of our Chiefs want to be first classes," he said. "In the end they just played a better game. We'll get 'em next

