

Bonding: Sailors aboard USS Chafee connect with the community

JO1 Daniel J. Calderón
Editor

Muhammad Ali once said, "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." Sailors from USS Chafee (DDG 90) are finding ways to make sure their rooms on earth are paid for in perpetuity.

"I am so proud of the men and women on the Chafee team," said Cmdr. John W. Ailes, Chafee's commanding officer. "They took the initiative to get involved with the community and they're out there doing what they can to help."

Chafee first pulled into Pearl Harbor in December, but members of the crew have been busy making contacts in the community. Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SW) Nathan Hernandez, leading petty officer for the food service division aboard Chafee, is the coordinator for the ship's Adopt-a-School program.

"We adopted the school so we could feel connected and be involved with the community," he said. "So far, we're setting the standard for what needs to get done."

Chafee's crew officially "adopted" Kanoelani Elementary School in Waipahu in July. Ailes and CMDCM(SS) Ben Ray, Chafee's command master chief, went to the school to sign the paperwork.

"The program is important," Ailes said. "It's a great partnership between the Navy and the school system. We're just as enthusiastic as we can be to participate in the community"

"I think it's good that kids can see [Sailors] out here," said one parent who has a son in first grade. "They only know that you folks go out and help people. They don't always understand what it is you do. This will help them learn."

Since adopting the school, Chafee Sailors used the summertime to make repairs and improvements around campus. They have built several benches for students and parents to use and placed them in the yard around the school buildings.

They also go out once a week, if they are available, to help with grounds maintenance. Sailors trim the grass and help clean up the campus.

"It's good for the students to have more positive adult role models in their lives," said Sandy Ahu, principal at Kanoelani. "With all the other influences out there, like peer pressure or the media influence, I'm so grateful that these guys can come out and donate their time to our kids."

Students at Kanoelani are excited about the Chafee Sailors coming in to help around their school.

"We are very fortunate this year to have entered into a partnership with the USS Chafee," said the student master of ceremonies at Monday's assembly as she thanked Chafee representatives for their participation in her school's activities.

"I think it's awesome," enthused another sixth grade student as she talked about the partnership. "It's so cool that we're all going to be working together and that they'll be coming in for our assemblies and we'll get the chance to see them and



U.S. Navy photo by JOSN Ryan C. McGinley
Members of the USS Chafee (DDG 90) color guard march in to Monday's assembly at Kanoelani Elementary School.

talk with them."

Ahu said Hernandez and his group of 27 dedicated volunteers have plans to assist wherever they can to help make school a richer experience for the 812 students at Kanoelani Elementary.

"We're working on a schedule for the Sailors and students," she explained. "They're gong to help with tutoring in reading and with math."

For the school's older children, Chafee Sailors are working on a schedule to help them study for an annual math competition coming up in April or May. The volunteers are also coming in and reading to the younger students as well as giving the older ones a goal for the year.

"[Chafee Sailors] challenged the fifth and sixth graders to read 25 books this year," Ahu said. "The incentive is that every student who accomplishes this will be able to visit the Chafee."

"This is important," said Lenn Vyeda, sixth grade-level chairperson for Kanoelani. "It's great to have a partnership like this one where the Navy and the kids get to work together."

Ahu said there are more than 200 students involved in the reading challenge and all of them are excited about the possibility of visiting the guided missile destroyer. Adopting Kanoelani Elementary School is not the extent of Chafee's involvement to the outside community.

Sailors aboard the ship are also involved with a more individual program. Gas Turbine System Technician-Mechanical 2nd Class (SW) Marie Macalino is a participant in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program.

"I used to be a part of the Big Brother/Big Sister program when I was in Chicago," she explained. "I was in contact with the program here and I wanted to bring it on board the ship. So, I brought a coordinator onboard when we arrived here [Naval Station Pearl Harbor] and they showed the crew what the program has to offer to the community."

According to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Honolulu Web site, "Our vision is to inspire children to fulfill their dreams from one generation to the next."

Macalino said the crew was impressed by the presentation and Sailors were ready to get involved. However, the screening process is fairly intensive.

Of the 10 other Sailors who have volunteered to be a part of the program, four have been screened and Macalino is the only Chafee Sailor with a little sister from the program.

"I love children," she enthused. "I know I have a lot to offer to the kids in this program, like friendship, knowledge, experience and hopefully, I will be able to motivate them to believe in themselves."

Macalino brought together 25 Chafee Sailors to participate in the Bowl For Kids Sake fundraising event at the Aiea Bowling Center Aug. 14. Amy Watari, marketing specialist for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Honolulu, said the event was a success and thanked Chafee Sailors for their participation.

"The Chafee brought in five teams of five people each. Marie was the person who spearheaded that," Watari said. "They collected over \$2,000 and we really appreciate all their help."

Chafee Sailors are involved with both aspects of the program - both the community-based program and



U.S. Navy photo by JOSN Ryan C. McGinley
MAC (sel) (SW) Kandi Dietrich hugs a Kanoelani Elementary School student at Monday's assembly at the school. Students thanked the Sailors for being a part of the Adopt-a-School program.

the site-based mentoring. Alan Castillo, site-based program coordinator for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Honolulu, explained the differences were basically in location.

The site-based program, as its name implies, is location centric. Castillo said the sites are usually schools or other community centers. Bigs and Littles, as Castillo refers to the big brothers or big sisters and their younger counterparts, all meet at one of these sites to interact and spend time together.

"We've got over 20 sites throughout Oahu," said Castillo, "so there's bound to be someone close to everyone."

Castillo said the organization tries to coordinate activities to ensure maximum participation and involvement between the Bigs and Littles. One of the more recent programs is at the Central Oahu Regional Park.

"Tennis Buddies is a way of using tennis as a means to build relationships," said Castillo. "Bigs can learn tennis, practice and really grow their relationship with their Little."

The community-based program is a little less structured. Under this program, Bigs and Littles meet in a less formal setting.

They can go fishing, fly kites or just hang out at the mall. The idea is to spend time enjoying each other's company.

"There are safeguards we have in place to ensure the volunteers are an appropriate match for the kids," Castillo said as he explained the screening process for potential Bigs.

"It's really fun, but we make sure our kids are safe," said Watari. "Our volunteers say they love coming out and spending time with the kids."

Both Castillo and Watari said there is no need to be "a big superhero" to volunteer with the program. Currently, Watari said the organization is looking for little sisters and for Big Brothers since there are a surplus of interested Big Sisters and little brothers. Both are also grateful to Chafee Sailors and to Macalino in particular.

"She's such an exceptional person," Castillo said of Macalino. "She's a cheerleader and a coach all in one and we're really fortunate to have her in our program."

"I'm glad to see Sailors taking such an active interest in the well-being of these kids," Ailes said.

Chafee Sailors said they are happy to help the community. Ailes said he and the Sailors plan to continue their involvement with the people of Hawai'i as long as they are homeported here.

Chafee volunteers at a glance

USS Chafee Sailors don't spend all their time at sea. Chafee Sailors have taken the initiative to engage in quality of life initiatives for their shipmates and the community while in port. Among these initiatives are:

- **The Single Sailor program:** GSE3 Brett Gratz is the volunteer coordinator for Chafee's single Sailor program. Part of his duties include setting up trips to various locations around Oahu, including the Barefoot Splash Fun Cruise and beach barbecues for the crew.

- **Chafee Motorcycle Safety program:** MAC (sel) (SW) Kandi Dietrich and other motorcycle aficionados aboard Chafee get together for rides and help organize safety courses for other Sailors interested in riding motorcycles on Oahu. One goal of the club is to promote safe, fun motorcycle riding here. Dietrich hopes to have a regular



Photo courtesy of USS Chafee Motorcycle Safety Club
Members of the motorcycle club relax after a ride to the North Shore.

ride once every six months, or as the ship's schedule allows.

- **Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Honolulu:** Chafee Sailors are a part of the program; however, anyone interested in participating can call 521-3811, ext. 228 for more information. The organization is now celebrating its centennial celebration and is planning activities throughout the year.



Photo by Lacy Lynn

Chafee's command master chief, CMDCM(SS) Ben Ray, enjoys time with students at Kanoelani Elementary School.

Commentary

Spouse to Spouse

Andrea Kane



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Dreaded deployment good-byes

(First of three-part series)

I met my husband on a TAD in Sigonella, Italy. I was stationed in Italy and he was stationed in Puerto Rico. We were apart for more than a year, save two weeks when I went to Puerto Rico and two weeks when he came to Naples. I thought that after that separation, when we weren't even married, that any separation would be cake.

Yet there was nothing in my experience that prepared me for his deployment to Iraq - for a deployment to the middle of a war zone, no less. Navy people don't serve on land.

We're always sitting out in the middle of an ocean or underneath the water, not on land. And to make matters more interesting, I am told that short-notice deployments are possibly the Navy of the future. So, how do we as spouses cope when our husband or wife is here one day and gone the next?

After I learned that Joe was leaving, I was beyond upset. I couldn't understand why he would volunteer for this duty. How selfish I thought he was for doing this to us, his family. What if he died? What if they kept him there longer than was originally stated? What was I supposed to do for six months?

This went on for two days with my intermittent screaming fits and overall childish tantrum. Then what he had been saying to me all along finally clicked in -- if he didn't do it, who would?

We are at war and nobody may really want to go knowing that they may not return, but as Sailors, Soldiers and Marines, our spouses have already taken the oath to serve where and when they are needed. The people we have married are the ones who have promised to protect us against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Being married with children doesn't negate their commitment to serve. When I stepped back from my emotions, I understood that. I knew that no amount of crying was going to change his mind; nothing I did would suddenly make him say, "Oh, yeah, I have a wife and child. Let somebody else do it." And honestly,

could you respect a spouse who would?

I miss that man terribly, but when I left a message for him on the first night, I told him that I wouldn't cry, that he was my hero and I was so very proud of him. As spouses, we are the backbone of our service members.

We are the strength that gets them up each morning. It would be a disservice to both our spouse and the country if we made an already distressing situation worse by crying and screaming and threatening. Even though it may be tough for us at home, it's even tougher on them and they need our support, not our misplaced anger.

So now you have a deployment coming up and you have to take them to the airport. The dreaded airport goodbye scene. Don't make a scene; just drop them off as if it's any other day at the office. Don't cry and scream and plead for them not to go. They have enough on their minds; they don't need the extra drama.

After speaking with an Army wife who's going through her third deployment, I took what ended up being the best goodbye advice I've ever had. When we arrived at the airport, I told him I loved him and that I would see him when he got home.

While he was getting his bags out of the trunk, I got out of the car and gave him a big hug and told him he was my hero and to call me when he could. I didn't cry; our daughter was in the backseat and she would take her emotional clues from me, so I smiled. We both told him good-bye and I drove away while he was still at the curb.

My daughter blows a kiss every night for him and we talk about our missing him. We don't cry, we don't yell, we just hug and miss Daddy and count down the days on the calendar. I've taken up yoga again and do what I can to take my mind off the fact that my husband is gone to war.

We're a military family. Deployments happen, and while they may be hard, they don't have to be unbearable.

If you have questions or comments or have a topic you'd like to see in this column, please email ablekane@verizon.net.

The littlest Coast Guard fan

PA2 Erica Taylor

U.S. Coast Guard

Tiny fingers grip the cyclic of the grounded HH-65 Dolphin helicopter. Wide, alert eyes and a contagious smile light up the face of Pierce Bivens as he excitedly pushes buttons and asks questions about the aircraft.

"This is where the pilot sits, right?" Pierce excitedly asks, his small, two-year-old body fidgeting in the enormous pilot's seat. "Where does the rescue swimmer sit?"

Lt. Ryan Engel, an HH-65 Dolphin helicopter pilot at Air Station Barbers Point, smiles and walks around to the sliding door of the helicopter. Ducking inside, Engel laughs as Pierce easily stands up in the pilot's seat and maneuvers through the cockpit and into the back of the Dolphin.

"I want to be a rescue pilot," Pierce said as his father interpreted. "I would fly around with my rescue swimmer. My favorite part was sitting at the controls of the helicopter, with a real pilot from the U.S. Coast Guard. I like Dolphins because they have an enclosed tail-rotor and they also do rescues."

The trip to the Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point on Oahu was a special reward for Pierce. Living on the island of Kauai, Pierce and his grandmother were on hand to assist the Coast Guard in the rescue and release of an injured Hawaiian monk seal earlier this year.

While at the airport, Pierce was able to see firsthand what a Coast Guard pilot does. Already fascinated with the Coast Guard, Pierce wanted to learn more.

"It was a dream come true for Pierce to sit in the cockpit of a real Coast Guard helicopter with a real pilot," said Alex Bivens, Pierce's father.

Although young, Pierce easily demonstrated that he had studied hard to learn in-depth information about the HH-65 Dolphin.

"Pierce's knowledge of the helicopter surpassed the



Photo by Terry Bivens

Lt. Ryan Engel, an HH-65 Dolphin helicopter pilot at Barbers Point, poses with two-year-old Pierce Bivens.

memory of many of the adults I have given tours of the helicopter to," said Engel. "He knew how the controls worked. He pointed out to me the collective, cyclic, pedals, tail rotor, rescue basket, landing gear, raft, and hoist. The only thing he asked was where the starter was. On the HH-65, the starter is a little button hidden on the fuel control lever.

"Watching Pierce's face light up as I revealed this little secret was priceless," he continued. "Now that he was all set to fly, there was only one problem, everything was still out of reach."

Being able to participate in this tour and be a positive influence on a young child is something Engel enjoyed. Being able to help Pierce fulfill a dream hit close to home with him.

"This tour reminded me of why I started down the road to Coast Guard aviation years ago," said Engel. "I was fascinated with helicopters when I was a little boy. It was the one profession that I have always wanted to do. Meeting Pierce showed me how I can now have an impact on a future Coast Guard pilot and brought out my own boyish excitement about flying the HH-65."

By exposing children to a variety of things and nurturing their fantasies, positive life changes can take place.

"The Coast Guard figures prominently in the blockbuster preschool film, 'There Goes a Helicopter,'" said Alex. "Over Christmas we took him to see the IMAX film, 'Straight Up! Helicopters in Action.' The film depicts the Coast Guard doing an actual rescue with both a Dolphin and a Jayhawk helicopter. That's when Pierce fully understood that the Coast Guard uses helicopters to save people in trouble at sea. He has worked hard at learning about the Coast Guard and how rescues are really done, and I wanted to reward him for that."

Having a nurturing family that reinforces positive role models has been an integral part of Pierce's life. His nana is a retired psychologist while both of his parents are child psychologists. With their professional backgrounds, they understand the importance of Pierce developing real-life heroes.

"The truth is, the people he looks up to are already so motivating for him," said Alex. "He's not even three yet, but he learned to swim two months ago because he loves rescue swimmers."

"And now he's so proud of himself that he can swim and wear a mask like a real rescue swimmer," he said. "It's priceless. I will take pilot Ryan over Spiderman any day of the week."

Naval Station security joins in for Cop on Top program

JO1 Daniel J. Calderón

Editor

People out and about between Sept. 2 and Sept. 4 may want to watch the outside of their local Safeway food stores. Law enforcement officers from around the island will take to the roofs those days to raise money for the Hawai'i Special Olympics during the annual Cop On Top fundraising event.

Master-at-Arms 1st Class

Stacy Carfley and Lt. Kirk Calma from Naval Station Pearl Harbor security will be atop the Safeway at 1360 Pali Hwy. from 6 a.m. Thursday to 10 p.m. Saturday. Other members of the security department will be on hand to collect donations throughout the three-day event. Across Oahu, law enforcement officers will be at various Safeway stores to raise money. The goal is for each location to raise at least \$10,000.

"We're out there promoting a good cause," Carfley said. "I love to volunteer. Raising money for the Special Olympics is great because it allows us to recognize the accomplishments of the athletes."

There will be prizes for individuals who come out to support the event. For every \$10, donors will receive a pizza coupon and for every \$20 donated, individuals will receive a T-shirt. In addition, a portion of the proceeds from

every dozen raised glazed donuts or 12-pack of soft drink products sold at Safeway stores from Sept. 1 to Sept. 7 will go toward Special Olympics Hawai'i.

"Last year, we raised about \$75,000," said Melissa Blake, director of special events and corporate relations for Special Olympics Hawai'i. "We've doubled the number of sites so hopefully, that will double the amount of money we raise."

At the sites, local radio sta-

tions will be broadcasting while cops are atop the stores. Carfley said Special Olympics is an important part of any community and is proud to be involved with them here. She said the athletes and volunteers all receive benefits from participating.

"Special Olympics gives [athletes] the opportunity to demonstrate their courage and it allows us to be a part of their joy as they take part in these events," said the Clearfield, Pa. native.



U.S. Army photo
Army Spc. Joshua Strickland waves to his daughter Shelby.

'Freedom Calls' helps deployed troops connect with family

Samantha L. Quigley

American Forces Press Service

A non-profit organization is building a communications network dedicated to keeping deployed troops in touch with family back home, all at no cost to the troops or their families.

Freedom Calls Foundation (FCF) has helped military parents in Iraq attend graduations and meet new children. It has even allowed a couple get married, despite the fact that he was in Colorado and she was in Iraq. It also allowed troops in Iraq to cheer the Philadelphia Flyers Hockey team live during game six of the 2004 NHL playoffs - all via videoconferencing.

Founded by John B. Harlow II and Edward Bukstel on Aug. 12, 2003, after military personnel requested assistance in setting up a communications network for troops overseas, FCF is supported by private and corporate donations. The foundation began operating Sept. 26, 2003.

"The foundation was formed as a public charity because we believe family is important, particularly in wartime, and that this is the least that the American people can do to show their appreciation for the sacrifices being made by our Soldiers and their families," said Harlow, executive director of the Freedom Calls Foundation.

FCF has been operating in Iraq at Camp Cooke for about five months, said Bukstel, the FCF operations director. Daily, 1,500 troops file through the FCF facility and are able to chat briefly with their loved ones.

They may only get 15-20 minutes, Bukstel said, but it can make all the difference. Having attended several of the stateside Internet videoconferencing events arranged by FCF, he said the events are very emotional.

"Obviously, it's the whole range of emotions," he said. "You have to see it. The American people have to see it."

One servicemember spent 15 of his 20 minutes singing "The Itsy Bitsy Spider" to his months-old infant son, Bukstel said. When his wife asked if he was going to talk to her, he told her he'd saved the best for last.

Families have traveled great distances to attend a videoconferencing event. And, Bukstel said, there is no reason to believe that the two upcoming events will be any different.

On Aug. 21, FCF, the Family Readiness Group of Headquarters Company, 980th Engineers and SBC Communications provided secure Internet videoconferencing at a military installation in Austin, Texas. Troops based at a camp in Iraq's Baathist Triangle had a chance to talk with approximately 300 family members.

Bukstel said SBC donated communications technology to link the facility to the Freedom Calls Network and has provided SBC Pioneers volunteers to help with mission.

On Aug. 23, FCF, the Columbus Blue Jackets hockey team, USA Hockey, and the 706th Transportation Company of Mansfield, Ohio, provided Internet videoconferencing for troops based in the Baathist Triangle and about 50 of their family members from Ohio. The event took place at Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio.

"This is a very meaningful way for families to connect with their loved ones deployed in Iraq. We have families - moms and dads, sisters, brothers, wives and kids - that are coming from all around Ohio," said Crystal Lybarger, 706th Transportation Family Readiness coordinator.

For more news from the Department of Defense, go to www.defenselink.mil.

NMCRS Centennial Quilt comes to Hawai'i

JO2 Devin Wright

Staff Writer

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) celebrated its first century of service Jan. 23 by unveiling a centennial quilt to commemorate the 100th birthday of the Society at their headquarters in Arlington, Va.

After a brief stay at the headquarters, the quilt began a one-year tour of NMCRS field service offices worldwide.

The quilt arrived at Pearl Harbor Aug. 18 for a one-week display at the Navy Exchange.

The throw has 66 squares unique to each of the 54 offices worldwide and 12 other squares from offices and programs from the past.

The quilt represents how far reaching the society is.

"This display is important because it gives us an opportunity to share with everybody how extensive the Navy relief is," said Paul Belanger, director, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Pearl Harbor. "We have offices on virtually every Navy-Marine Corps installation throughout the world. It is also an opportunity to celebrate our differences and similarities. We all pro-

vide the same, but we are all different. That's what this quilt represents," explained Belanger.

The quilt also shows a close-knit community.

"We are a volunteer organization," said Belanger. "I think this display shows us as an ohana. Hopefully, people will want to be a part of that and volunteer."

The exhibit also symbolizes the bond of Sailors and Marines.

"This quilt symbolizes the bond of Sailors and Marines," said Machinist's Mate (SS) 2nd Class Saulo Gonzales. "It symbolizes how we take care of each other and with the NMCRS, that bond is continually growing. It's nice to know there is help out there in case of an unforeseen accident, and to be able to receive help because a Marine contributed to the society or a Sailor is camaraderie at its finest," said the Los Angeles, native.

The quilt is now on display at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i Kaneohe through Tuesday.

For information on becoming a Navy Marine Corps Relief Society volunteer, contact Paul Belanger at 423-1314.



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Devin Wright
MM2(SS) Saulo Gonzales admires the NMCRS centennial quilt displayed at the Navy Exchange.

Sailor places sixth in double sculls rowing

Tim Hipps

Special to American Forces Press Service

Navy Lt. j.g. Henry Nuzum teamed with Aquil Abdullah to finish sixth in the men's double sculls rowing "A" final Aug. 21 in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games.

France's Sebastien Vielledent and Adrien Hardy won the gold medal in the 2,000-meter event at Schinias Olympic Rowing and Canoeing Centre. Slovenia's Luke Spik and Iztok Cop won the silver medal. Estonia's Rossano Galtarossa and Alessio Sartori took the bronze medal.

Two-time Olympian Nuzum, 27, of Chapel Hill, N.C. and Abdullah, 31, of Washington, D.C. were clocked in at 6:36.86.

"It was a good race, probably a notch up on the semi," said Nuzum, attached to the Navy Recruiting District in Philadelphia. "This was probably our best race of the year. It wasn't perfect, but not many crews race perfect."

"We thought a very challenging, but attainable goal would be to make the Olympic final," he said. "When we did that (Aug. 18), we kind of shifted our gears and said we wanted to be in the middle of the pack and maybe pick off somebody for bronze, but it didn't work out that way."

Nuzum, a graduate of Yale University and Surface



Photo by Mark Kornweibel

Nuzum(right) and Abdullah win the men's double at team trials.

Warfare Officer School, tipped his hat to Navy Sports Director John Hickock at Millington, Tenn., crediting his chance to compete in the Olympics to the Navy's "100 percent" support.

Dedication, versatility key for Pacific Fleet Band

MM3 Greg Bookout

Staff Writer

The Pacific Fleet Band at Pearl Harbor serves the Navy through a variety of music genres, tours and events.

In order to support the demands of a fleet naval band, members must be versatile and talented instrumentalists. This is evident in the selection and training of a Navy musician, which starts with an in-depth audition before the student is ever admitted to the music program training.

"We need a high-level musician who can play a vast variety of music," said Lt. Ken Collins, band director. "The Navy has a rigorous audition process before any prospective member is admitted to A-school. The prospective band members must have a musical background. Many have some college experience or a degree in musical studies."

While most instrumentalists' expertise is in a single instrument, many can and are expected to play

multiple woodwinds, percussion or even brass.

"Mostly what we are looking for are high quality instrumentalists in their respective area, but due to our billeting resources, some of our members must double," said Collins. "Doubling instruments is very common for the woodwinds section. Flutists must also play saxophone, saxophonists must double on flute or clarinet, and musicians specializing on the clarinet must also play the saxophone. Outside the woodwinds section, vocalists, guitarists and keyboard must double in auxiliary percussion," Collins added.

The Pacific Fleet Band must support many musical genres - from ceremonial and parade style, to 'big band' and even a contemporary entertainment band to support their variable schedule.

"We play a schedule which includes about 530 performances per year," said Senior Chief Musician Mike La Pean, assistant director. "Also, we include one or two major tours per year. Our schedule can be pretty busy."

"We support public concerts, band clinics in local schools, retirement ceremonies, aloha welcoming ceremonies, special events such as the Navy Ball and Dec. 7 remembrance, and any event requiring a live musical accompaniment," Collins added.

One of the band's major tours for 2004 is an upcoming trip to India. The trip will consist of over 30 performances throughout a 21-day tour of the country, including visits to members of the Indian Navy, underprivileged children in an orphanage, and many diverse regions of the country.

"The importance of this trip is to reach out to the people of India," said MUCS Robert Bowman, the senior chief in charge for the India trip. "This trip gives us a great opportunity to make some friends and show the American flag a little bit."



Photo courtesy of Pacific Fleet Band

MU2 Danny McGowan plays the drums at the Honolulu Zoo with the PACFLT Big Band.



Photo courtesy of Pacific Fleet Band

MU1 David Kraus plays the trombone at the USS Arizona Memorial with the Pacific Fleet Big Band.

The Pacific Fleet Band, as well as other Navy bands, often travel to areas, such as India, where the Navy is not often present.

"I have been to 42 countries and most all of the United States as a naval musician," said trombonist MU1 Frank Perry. "Many of the countries we play for are getting the only view of Sailors or the U.S. Navy they will ever get to see."

"Even in some inland states, many people never get to see the Sailors or the Navy. We try to portray a positive image of the Navy to the public because we are what they will associate with the Navy," he added.

Due to the high standards of becoming a Navy musician, the community is very small and includes only about 800 members Navy-wide and only 44 musicians and one officer for the Pacific Fleet Band. The

band must handle all of its own logistics and sustain itself.

"The band is self-contained, we have to manage it, do our own scheduling, and provide all of our own command resources," said Collins. "Each member of the command has collateral duties to perform aside [from] being a musician."

As a result of being self-sufficient and running on a rigorous schedule, the members have less time for preparations and must learn new musical pieces, often to memory, very quickly.

"Rehearsal time is very limited," said Collins. "The musicians must learn music extremely quickly. Sometimes we are only able to run through a piece once before we have to perform it."

Although working on a tight schedule sometimes, many musi-

cians say that their work is fulfilling and that the Navy is a good opportunity for career musicians.

"I came in the Navy as a musician and being able to play for a living and work with talented musicians in a variety of settings is rewarding," said MU2 Danny McGowan. "We have to be very adaptable in our play, but job provides as good of job security as it can get."

The band director noted the Pacific Fleet Band provides a positive tool for the Navy with their goodwill tours, community performances and local naval ceremony support.

"We are a very unique tool that the United States has," said Collins. "We can foster esprit de corps, spread goodwill and portray a positive image of the Navy. I see the band as a vital public relations asset to the Pacific Fleet."

Navy families needed to host exchange students

Lacy Lynn

Staff Writer

Exchange students from all over the world arrive in Hawai'i each year, and these visits are made possible by the hosts who open their homes and welcome strangers as family.

The International Hospitality Center (IHC) is currently seeking hosts to provide home stays for students for durations ranging from a weekend to a full academic year, and everything in between.

According to Barbara Bancel, executive director of the International Hospitality Center, students in the program are carefully selected and take part in an intensive orientation program.

While in Hawai'i, students attend public school in their host's district or one of several private schools that offer scholarships to IHC exchange students.

IHC provides counseling and assistance to hosts and students throughout the academic year and ensures program participants are cov-

ered by medical insurance and have their own spending money.

Hosts work with IHC during the selection process and families may choose the age, sex and nationality of the students they sponsor.

Hosts provide room and board without compensation, but describe their involvement in the program as a rewarding experience.

"Volunteers who participate in this program gain as much as they receive," said Bancel, who added that many Navy families have participated in the IHC's exchanges and several of them have become repeat hosts.

According to Bancel, military families "have a vision of the world and a curiosity about other countries, cultures and languages. The American military is itself multicultural and...a very caring community."

Chief Warrant Officer Paul Fischer of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and his wife Kathy have hosted several students over the past 10 years, and are currently hosting two girls from Germany and Russia.

The Fischers began hosting over the summer

and then decided to host during the academic year because they were sad to see their new family members leave so soon, according to Kathy.

"The kids are fantastic. It's amazing to me how well they can adapt," said Kathy, "We learn from them and they learn from us," she added.

Bancel strongly encourages military families to host for the educational and cultural benefits they receive, but also for what they have to offer to exchange students.

According to Bancel, military families make good hosts because they are used to moving and becoming involved in new communities. These experiences give Navy families the skills exchange students are learning by adapting to a new culture and a new place, said Bancel.

Brenda Burks and her spouse have been a part of the IHC's host program for five years. He's in the Navy and she's a school adjustment counselor.

According to Brenda, "I have two daughters of my own, 14 and 11, and this broadens their life experience."

Brenda pointed out that another benefit for Navy host families is the addition of a new family member.

"With parents going away, it's kind of like a loss of a parent. To bring someone else new to the family gives us a different avenue to look at," she said.

Students are treated as family members during their homestay and after they leave. Kathy Fischer and Brenda Burks both said their families still keep in contact with all the exchange students they have hosted over the years.

IHC is a community-based, volunteer organization providing programming and hospitality services to government and foundation grantees and sponsored international exchange students. Last year, the center placed 4,883 participants from 48 countries with the help of over 1,200 community volunteers statewide.

According to Bancel, the center's current need is for families to host Australian students for November, December and January.

For additional information, call (808) 521-3554 or (877) 521-3554.

MWR

Movie Call

Sharkey Theater
Naval Station Pearl Harbor
(473-0726)

FRIDAY

7:00 p.m. I, Robot (PG 13)

SATURDAY

2:30 p.m. A Cinderella Story (PG)

4:30 p.m. Anchorman (PG 13)

6:30 p.m. Cat Woman (PG 13)

SUNDAY

2:30 p.m. Spider-Man 2 (PG-13)

4:45 p.m. Thunderbirds (PG)

6:30 p.m. I, Robot (PG 13)

THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. Cat Woman (PG 13)

\$3 adults; \$1.50 children (6-11)

*Special: \$2 adults; \$1 children (6-11)

Memorial Theater
Hickam Air Force Base
(449-2239)

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

7:00 p.m. A Cinderella Story (PG)

SUNDAY

7:00 p.m. Cat Woman (PG 13)

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. Cat Woman (PG 13)

\$3 adults; \$1.50 children (6-11)

*Special: \$2 adults; \$1 children (6-11)

Sgt. Smith Theater
Schofield Barracks
(624-2585)

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

7:00 p.m. Anchorman (PG 13)

SUNDAY

7:00 p.m. King Arthur (PG 13)

\$3 adults; \$1.50 children (6-11)

*Special: \$2 adults; \$1 children (6-11)

Editor's note: Every effort has been made to provide the most up-to-date information at the time of publication. However, scheduling of these events is subject to change. It is recommended that you call the contact numbers for the individual events to determine whether or not the activity will be held.

OCEANS CPO CLUB

Oceans CPO Club hosts T.G.I.F. tonight. Enjoy free pupus beginning at 4 p.m. A DJ will spin the latest tunes from 5-8 p.m. Oceans is open to the "top three" of the enlisted (E7 - E9) and their guests. Friday hours are from 11 a.m.-midnight and Saturday hours are from 3:30-10:30 p.m. For more information, call 473-1743.

PETROLEUM DAY AT THE COUNTRY BAR

Tonight is Petroleum Day, with giveaways of gas for patrons' vehicles, at the Country Bar at Club Pearl. The club is open from 8:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday with country music spun by Copperhead Productions and Big Jim. Two-step the night away on the circular oak dance floor. For more information, call 473-1743.

ABANDONED VEHICLE AUCTION

MWR will host an abandoned vehicle auction from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. **Aug. 28.** Attendees are invited to come early to get the first look. The auction is open to the general public. Vehicles are sold "as is" and all sales are final. Military and DoD civilians should enter Nimitz Gate and follow signs to "event parking." A free shuttle service will transport the general public to and from the auction lot. Children under the age of 16 are not permitted on the auction lot. The event is a silent auction with minimum \$50 bid. For

more information, call 422-2975.

TAILGATE PARTY TIME

Enjoy a tailgate party on Richardson Field before each University of Hawai'i home football game. The season starts **Sept. 4.** Party stalls are \$5 each and are large enough to accommodate one vehicle. The cost includes free ice, prizes, games and activities. For more information or to reserve a space, call the marina office at 473-0279.

DISCOUNTED MOVIE TICKETS AT ITT

Discounted movie tickets to Consolidated and Signature Theaters are available at ITT. Prices are \$6.25 per adult and include admission, a medium drink and one large popcorn. There are no expiration dates and gift certificates are available. Certain restrictions apply so check with the theater box office. For more information, call 473-1190.

DEEP-SEA FISHING

Go deep sea fishing aboard the "Coreene C," a 47-foot sport fishing boat. A full day exclusive charter is \$485 (nine hours, six-passenger maximum). A shared charter is \$105 per person (four-passenger minimum). A half-day charter is \$360. The fee includes all bait, tackle and equipment. Bring snacks and beverages. For more information, call Captain Joe Irvin at 386-9024.

SCHOOL-AGE CARE

Extended childcare is available before or after regular school hours for children ages five-12. Activities include arts and crafts, games, snacks, special events and Power Hour (help with homework). For parents' convenience, the program

offers drop off and pick up of children at selected schools: Catlin Clubhouse serves Aliamanu, Pearl Harbor Kai, Pearl Harbor and Nimitz Elementary Schools. Iroquois Point Clubhouse serves Iroquois Point Elementary School. For more information, call 421-1556.

MASSAGES BY "THE LOTUS TOUCH"

Want to improve circulation, increase flexibility, release muscle tension and receive a greater sense of well-being? Try "The Lotus Touch." Patrons can enjoy a hot and cold stone massage which includes face, neck and shoulders. A 75-minute treatment costs \$90. Other treatments are available for as low as \$15. Appointments are available at Bloch Arena and Power Point Fitness Centers. For more information, call Ruby at 386-4812.

FFSC

All classes are free and located at the Fleet and Family Support Center, building 193, unless otherwise indicated. To register for classes or for more information, call 473-4222.

An Adults Molested as Children support group meets from 1-3 p.m. every **Tuesday.** This group offers a safe place to learn to deal with your feelings, talk with other survivors and heal through support.

A class in **Savings and Investment Basics** will be offered from 8-10 a.m. **today** at NCTAMSPAC. Learn the basic skills of managing and budgeting your money.

A Resume Workshop will be offered from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. **Aug. 31.**

The workshop covers the basics of resume writing and information on the different types of resumes and what works best for their skill sets.

Managing Money and Credit will be presented from 9-10:30 a.m. **Sept. 1.** Learn the basic skills and techniques of managing your money and budgeting, what you should be aware of with credit cards and loans, and planning savings goals.

A class on **Sponsor Training** will be given from 8-10 a.m. **Sept. 3.** Learn how to become a good sponsor by having the information needed to assist incoming personnel and their families. Spouses are encouraged to attend.



- **Today:** Card game night, 6:30 p.m., \$5.
- **Aug. 28:** Waimea Falls Park tour, 10 a.m., \$20.
- **Aug. 29:** Make your own luggage tag, 6 p.m., \$2.
- **Aug. 31:** Sunset dinner cruise, 3 p.m., \$35.
- **Sept. 3-6:** Lava Flow Trip to Kilauea. Register by **Aug. 20.**

Weekly events:

- Sunday:** Chess tournament, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday:** WWE wrestling, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday:** 8-Ball tournament - 7 p.m.
- Wednesday:** Game show - 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday:** 9-Ball Pool tournament - 7 p.m.

Community Calendar

To have your activity or event featured in the Community Calendar, e-mail your requests to hnn@honorluadvertiser.com or fax 473-2876. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's issue. Items will run on a space available basis.

The Honolulu Council of the Navy League will host a benefit golf tournament **today** at the Leilehua Golf Course. Proceeds from the tournament will be used to support the Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs for the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and maritime services. The tournament format will be a four-person scramble with check in at 10 a.m., noon shotgun start and dinner at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$150 per player or \$500 for a team of four and includes green fees, cart, prizes, lunch, on-course refreshments and a buffet dinner.

Volunteers are also needed to assist with tournament registration and serve as course marshals and contest monitors. For registration or more information, call the Navy League office at 422-9404 or visit the Web site at www.navyleaguehawaii.org.

Meet the author, James D. Hornfischer, author of "The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors," from noon-1 p.m. **Aug. 29** at the Navy Exchange book department. The book is a stirring account of the U.S. Navy's impossible victory during the Battle off Samar, October 1944.

The Kaneohe Officers' Spouses' Club (KOSC) will host an aloha coffee for members beginning at 7 p.m. **Aug. 31** at the officers' club at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe. Businesses from the local community will be featured. For more information, call 254-2491.

Irish country folk music will be performed by singer, songwriter and accordionist Eddie Coffey and his four-member band from 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. **Sept. 1-10** at the Navy Exchange.

COMPACFLT Officers Spouses' Club will host its annual Aloha Welcome Coffee from 10 a.m.-noon **Sept. 2** at the Nimitz House on Makalapa. Membership is open to any spouse of an officer or spouse of a civilian GS-7 or above, active duty, retired or deceased. For more information, call 423-0068.

USS Hopper Ohana will host a Labor Day picnic and barbecue from 3-7 p.m. **Sept. 5** at Grenfell Pool on Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Those attending should bring a dish to share and their own beverages.

The ohana will host its monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. **Sept. 7** at the fellowship hall of the Pearl Harbor Base Chapel. Ohana officer elections will be held and there will also be discussion about the shoe box auction, halfway parties and ohana T-shirts. Childcare will be provided at a cost of \$1 per child.

The ohana will host its Kid's Halfway Party at Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. **Sept. 18.** Tickets are \$15 per person; children under the age of four will be admitted free. Those who plan to attend should RSVP by **Sept. 7.** For more information about any of the events, email hopperohana70@yahoo.com or call Sabrina at 625-5438.

Enter the **Baby Days Crazy Hair Contest** if your baby has crazy hair or if you just like to get creative with your tot's tresses from 1-2 p.m. **Sept. 11** in the children's department at the Navy Exchange. Those who enter the Navy Exchange Baby Days contest have a chance to win a bassinet with layette products.

Babies aged two years and under are eligible.

The Cat in the Hat will visit the book department of the Navy Exchange from noon-2 p.m. **Sept. 11.** Dr. Seuss books and DVDs will be available for purchase.

Boating Skills and Seamanship classes will be taught by Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 18 in two sections at McDonalds at Pearlridge Uptown. Classes will be held from 6-8:30 p.m. on Monday and Thursday evenings beginning **Sept. 13.** Section one, Boating Skills and Safety, costs \$35 and includes seven lessons, a manual and exams.

The course meets U.S. Coast Guard, state and national boating education requirements. Section two, Seamanship, consists of five lessons for a fee of \$35 and includes a manual, exams and a certificate. Combined courses are offered for a \$60 fee and students completing section one may sign up for the second for the reduced fee. These courses are designed to make the boater more safety conscious and safer operators. For more information, call Kawika Warren at 595-4934.

JEMS Job Fair 2004, the 17th annual JEMS job fair, will be held from 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. **Sept. 15** at The Banyans at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The job fair is open to military family members, active duty personnel, military retirees and reservists, and DoD/Coast Guard employees with base access.

No children will be admitted; attendees are asked to please plan accordingly. The job fair provides an opportunity to talk to recruiters, drop off resumes, pick up applications and research the job market. For more information, visit the JEMS web site at <http://www.JEMSHawaii.com> and click on job fair/events. For more information, call Rita May at 473-0190.

The Hawai'i Nature Center is seeking volunteers to help with clean-up and restoration from 8:30-11:30 a.m. **Sept. 25** at Pouhala Marsh in Waipahu. The marsh, which is the largest wetland habitat in Pearl Harbor, will be the new field site for the center's third grade wetland program that teaches children about the wetlands and the endangered Hawaiian birds that live there. The work will involve removal of trash and pickleweed so volunteers should be prepared to get dirty, wet and hot. Volunteers should provide their own work gloves and water and wear long pants and covered shoes. Pickleweed removal will involve getting wet up to the waist. For more information or to sign up for this special project, contact Pauline Kawamata, volunteer coordinator, at 955-0100, ext. 18.

Volunteers are needed to serve as volunteer guardian ad litem (VGALs) for Hawai'i's First Judicial family court. VGALs serve as advocates for abused and neglected children who are in the family court system. Free training is provided. Volunteers must enjoy working with children and be able to confront difficult issues. The next training class is scheduled to begin **Oct. 9.** Those interested in attending the next class should contact the VGAL program staff as soon as possible. For more information, call the VGAL program office at 538-5930.

The Pearl Harbor Aquatics Tsunami is a competitive swim team which practices daily at the Navy's Richardson Pool. It is open to both military and civilian swimmers ages six and up. The team is a USA Swimming affiliate. For more information, visit the team's web site at www.tsunamis.homestead.com, call 471-9181 or email: phsc@inix.com.



A Cinderella Story: Samantha lives at the beck and call of her self-obsessed step-mother and her sinfully wicked step-sisters. She finds her less-than-sparkling social life wonderfully complicated when she meets her Prince Charming online. Her anonymous cyber soul mate turns out to be Austin, her high school's quarterback.

Anchorman: When feminism marches into the newsroom in the form of ambitious newswoman, Ron, the top-rated anchorman in San Diego is willing to play along at first, as long as she stays in her place. But when she refuses to settle for being eye candy and steps behind the news desk, it's war.

Cat Woman: Patience Philips seems destined to spend her life apologizing for taking up space. This comes to a screeching halt when Patience inadvertently becomes a human guinea pig for the revolutionary anti-aging product Hedare and lands herself on the city police force's most wanted list.

I, Robot: See review

King Arthur: Arthur and his knights have only one mission to fulfill before being granted their freedom. As the Saxons attack Britain, they must head north to rescue the last Roman officials left in a village. Once there, the Knights of the Round Table team set free Guinevere so they can face the Saxons in battle.

Sleepover: Before their freshman year in high school, Julie has a slumber party with her best friends and they end up having the adventure of their lives. In attempt to cast off their less-than-cool reputations, they enter into an all-night scavenger hunt against their "popular girl" rivals.

Spider-Man 2: Peter faces new challenges as he struggles with "the gift and the curse", desperately trying to balance his dual identities as the web-slinging superhero Spider-Man and his life as a college student. Peter's life is about to become even more complicated as he encounters a formidable new foe, Dr. Octavius.

JOSN Ryan C. McGinley

I, Robot

Will Smith, the supposed king of summer actions movies, is back with yet another mechanical action film lacking story or complexity, yet remarkably boasting a stylish and original look from director Alex Proyas ("The Crow" and "Dark City").

Smith plays detective Spooner, a solemn, alcoholic character who loathes the technological push for robots in the year 2035. He discovers his friend's apparent suicide may just not be a suicide and investigates further, despite the warnings from his boss. See, a robot might have killed his friend and the CEO behind these robots is mighty powerful.

The robots are supposed to follow three simple rules, which, in effect, could not allow them to harm another human being. But something is fishy and Spooner uncovers surprise after surprise, which are not really surprises to the audience. The twists become tiresome and foreseeable as Smith makes small jokes and disobeys every order given to him. Small subplots about robots and whether or not they can think or feel have been done before, and done better. Yet the audience is still subjected to these tiresome debates as though they were original and interesting.

Based upon the book by Isaac Asimov, "I, Robot" has little to rave about, except for Proyas' stylish and unique mis-en-scene. The director creates a distinctive Chicago landscape and a noirish feel to a blockbuster film that's not supposed to have these attributes. This mixed with some creative action sequences and Smith's always funny one-liners makes "I, Robot" worthy of the extortionate monetary value set forth by Hollywood heavyweights.

The adaptive screenplay could have made this film great, yet it falls flat at every turn and the audience is left with nothing more than a neat looking action movie with some pretty cool special effects.

OVERALL RATING:

Courage to Care launches help for returning combatants, families

Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

A team of experts in military medicine and health communication at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences launched a new health education campaign Aug. 24 - "Courage to Care."

In particular, Courage to Care is aimed at helping combatants reintegrate back into their families after surviving the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. In general, the campaign is geared toward the entire Defense Department community - active-duty service members and members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families, as well as the health and community providers who serve them.

Courage to Care consists of ready-to-use fact sheets written for physician providers, as well as service men and women, on topics about military life and health. The fact sheets are in the public domain, intended for distribution to provider networks, and can be customized with a site's local contact information and resources.

The first of two fact sheets is titled "Reintegration Roadmap - Shared Sense of



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Alicia Tasz
A Sailor assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD-3) greets his family as he returns home.

Purpose," and is for the health and social service provider. Its companion sheet, "Becoming a Couple Again, Creating a Shared Sense of Purpose," is for military couples experiencing the transition.

The content derives from interviews conducted by the university's health professionals with affected service members and families who have experienced combat stress and family separation. The

fact sheets describe the reintegration challenges and offer a step-by-step process to help affected individuals re-establish their relationship as a couple and as a family.

Nancy Vineburgh, assistant professor of psychiatry, coined the campaign's name to convey the courage to care from military doctors, psychiatrists and counselors. It also conveys the courage to care that military families and communities

must assume in caring for their own health.

Vineburgh, who has worked on national public education, health education and health promotion campaigns, designed the fact sheets to be concise, contemporary and attractive. That in turn should facilitate and sustain the health dialogue between provider and the military service men and women on the receiving end.

She said Army Col. Charles Serio, the university's brigade commander, sent a copy of the fact sheet to a relative just returned from the battlefield who commented that it made so much sense.

"His wife said it was attractive enough to put on their refrigerator to remind them in the months ahead of the 'relationship makers and relationship breakers' outlined in the fact sheet," Vineburgh said.

"People tend to read and hold onto information that is attractive," Vineburgh noted. "These are issues that won't go away overnight. Our team wanted to address not just the issues, but the process of healing and recovery."

The university-based Courage to Care program is the brainchild of retired Air Force Dr. (Col.) Robert J. Ursano, professor and chairman of the department of psychiatry and director of the university's Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress.

Ursano was prompted to establish the program after receiving an e-mail message from a young woman whose brother, a member of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky., was returning home for two weeks of rest and recuperation in November 2003, according to Air Force Dr. (Col.) Molly Hall, an associate professor

of psychiatry.

The woman wanted to know how the family should prepare to welcome her brother home from the battlefields of Iraq. She also wanted to know what issues the family should understand before he arrived to diffuse any combat trauma he might have suffered.

"That e-mail wound its way to us," Hall noted. "Out of that request came the first health fact sheet on coming home for service members and their families on reunion."

Hall said that first fact sheet on reintegration was posted on the center's Web site in advance of Courage to Care becoming a university-wide campaign.

Ursano said Courage to Care speaks to the family's need and recognizes their energy, effort and caring.

"Whether it's taking care of a soldier who's lost his legs or whether it's taking care of a child with chronic diabetes, we forget what it means and how much of a family's energy goes to those activities," said the retired Air Force colonel. "It requires their courage to face it every day in order to manage those types of health problems."

Courage to Care fact sheets can be downloaded from the Uniformed University's Web site. For more information, call 301-295-2470.

Worldwide commissary case lot sale delivers savings

Bonnie Powell

DeCA

The September "World's Biggest Case Lot Sale" is just around the corner and the lines are forming up for savings. Commissary shoppers normally save an average of 30 percent or more by using their commissary benefit regularly, but case lot sale shoppers are willing to get up before dawn, stand in line and brave the elements - all for savings of up to 50 percent on popular paper goods, canned goods, cleaning products and more.

"During our last worldwide sale in May, customer savings topped over \$5 million on more than one million cases of product," said Defense Commissary Agency Chief Executive Officer Pat Nixon. "But it's more than that. It's also a community event that gives neighbors a chance to have some fun, and it brings additional business and activity to the installations."

The worldwide case lot sale has been staged in September since 2001. The event proved so popular that the sale was expanded in 2004 to twice each year - May and September. Commissaries have flexi-

bility in choosing which weekend during the designated month to hold their sale and nearly all of DeCA's 273 commissaries participate.

For September, a new feature is being added to the DeCA customer Web site. Shoppers can find out the dates of their nearest case lot sale by accessing the case lot sale link on the front page of <http://www.commissaries.com>. All commissaries and their tentative sale dates will be listed in the new section. Each store location will also have a direct link to the store's "spotlighting" page where cus-

tomers may find case lot sale hours for that particular store as the sale date gets a little closer. Many commissaries also list a sampling of items they plan on having at the sale.

Customers should always remember to check directly with their commissary before traveling since dates or product selection may change due to unforeseen circumstances such as inclement weather or occasional problems with product delivery. Store contact information and phone numbers can also be found on each commissary's Web page.

