

New safety rules coming Jan. 1



JO2 Devin Wright
Staff Writer

Navy Region Hawai'i will implement five new driving safety standards Jan. 1 to comply with the Chief of Naval Operations' mishap reduction policy.

The change in regulations is intended to target what some motorists don't do, rather than what they do while driving.

"I call the new driving safety standards The Big Five," said Cmdr. Douglas Holderman, Navy Region Hawai'i Public Safety Officer. "Seatbelts, child protection seats, speeding, motorcycle personal protection equipment, and not letting people who aren't licensed drive your car are 'The Big Five' issues in focus."

For the first violation of "The Big Five," motorists will lose their base driving privileges for 30 days. If the motorist commits the same violation within one year of receiving the 30-day suspension, that motorist will lose his or her base driving privileges for one year. The new



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Devin Wright

GSM3(SW) Chris Caffey rides his motorcycle at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Navy Region Hawai'i is implementing new driving safety standards that will result in suspension of base driving privileges for those who violate the policies. The new standards apply to military members, their families and DoD employees.

driving standards apply to military servicemembers, their families and Department of Defense employees as well.

"Everyone on base falls

under the same rules," said Holderman. "If you look around off base, you'll notice that there just isn't a lot of parking. If you've had your base driving privileges

revoked and you park at the Navy Exchange parking lot your car will be towed.

"It is going to be a real inconvenience for not doing something as simple

as wearing a seatbelt, or wearing a motorcycle helmet," said Holderman. "A lot of us are excellent, aware drivers but are victims of other people's poor driving techniques."

Holderman hopes the new standards will save lives and prevent lost workdays.

"We want to lower our medical bills and increase productivity by keeping people at work and keeping them safe," Holderman said.

Many motorists may agree, driving is not only convenient but a necessity.

"If I were to lose my license, it would not only impact me but my family as well," said Quartermaster 1st Class (SW) Raymond Diaz of Naval Station Pearl Harbor Port Operations. "We wouldn't be able to buy large amounts of groceries. When my family comes to visit, I wouldn't be able to drive them anywhere on base. Professionally it would mess things up because sometimes you have to drive places on base and if you've lost your driving privileges, you have to ask for rides or

▼ See FIVE, A-6



Tis the season

Sailors, families can enjoy holiday festivities all around the island. See story on page B-1.

Hawai'i Navy News Briefs

Free football tickets
Any active duty military personnel can go to Aloha Stadium Dec. 24 and show current military I.D. card a receive a complimentary ticket to the 2004 Sheraton Hawai'i Bowl.

In addition, spouses and children above 12 years old may also show their military I.D., with the active duty member and each get a complimentary ticket. Children under 12 years old who are present, but do not have to have a military I.D., will also receive a complimentary ticket, but they will have to be accompanied by an active duty member.

This offer is only good on game day, while ticket supplies last. If tickets run out, the box office will stop issuing complimentary tickets.

Tripler to close down MRI capability Dec. 26 - Jan. 5

Tripler Army Medical Center's Magnetic Resonance Imaging Machine (MRI) is being upgraded. The current MRI capability is scheduled to shut down Dec. 26 and be back online Jan. 5, 2005 to accommodate the new installation.

Patients needing MRIs will receive consultations to have MRIs through the TriWest Network on a case-by-case basis by their providers.

For more information, the Radiology Department may be reached at 433-2970 or 2967.

Outpatient Pharmacy closing today

Tripler Army Medical Center's Outpatient Pharmacy on the fourth floor will close today from 1 - 3 p.m.

During this time, patients who need new prescriptions are directed to the Inpatient Pharmacy on the 2nd floor, G Wing in Room 413.

The Automated Oahu Consolidated Refill Pharmacy System may be reached at 433-6962 for refills. Patients with prescription questions may call 433-7880.

The Navy Exchange (NEX) Refill Pharmacy will remain open during these hours. It may be reached at 422-2394.

Bonhomme Richard enters Pearl Harbor



U.S. Navy photo by PH1(AW) William R. Goodwin

Sailors and Marines man the rails aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) during her arrival to Pearl Harbor, for a scheduled port visit. Bonhomme Richard is the flagship of Expeditionary Strike Group Five. Sailors and Marines completed final preparations for their current deployment during a 3rd Fleet Joint Task Force Exercise off the southern California coast during the last few months. Sailors and Marines aboard Bonhomme Richard and in ships included in the strike group are deploying in support of Commander U.S. Seventh Fleet potential contingency operations and theater security cooperation initiative. They will be operating for the next several months throughout the Pacific Ocean and in the Arabian Gulf.

Naval Health Clinic Hawai'i opens doors

Cmdr. G.F. Rubino and Bruce Omura

Naval Health Clinic Hawai'i
Public Affairs

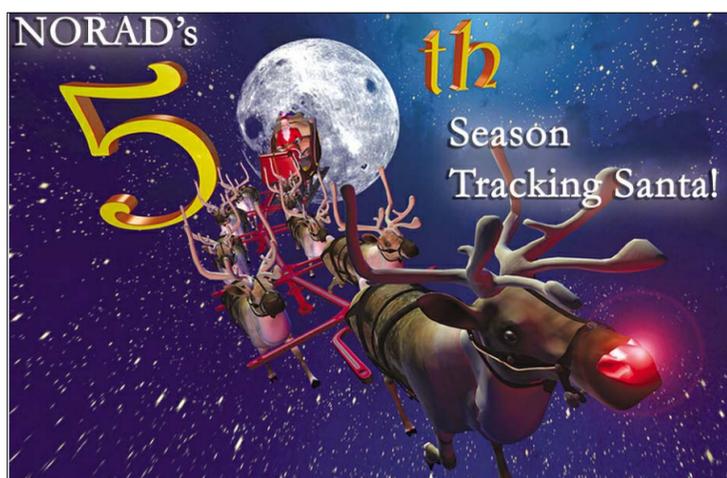
Naval Dental Center, Pearl Harbor and Naval Medical Clinic, Pearl Harbor consolidated commands in a ceremony yesterday at the Naval Station Pearl Harbor Gazebo to form a single command — Naval Health Clinic Hawai'i.

"This is an important and historical time for Navy Medicine in Hawai'i," said Capt. Charles O. Barker, first commanding officer of the newly created Naval Health Clinic Hawai'i. "It is an important time because our country is currently in a global war on terrorism and must focus high energy and scarce resources to this effort if we are to win. This is a historical time for us because Navy Medical and Dental are reuniting as one command after 50 plus years of being separate commands.

"By re-aligning our medical and dental services under one command, we will be more effective and efficient, thus preserving resources better used elsewhere," Barker continued. "This makes great sense."

▼ See CLINIC, A-4

NORAD set to track Santa Claus



2004 marks 50 years of NORAD tracking Santa Claus on his worldwide Christmas Eve journey.

Compiled by
JO1 Daniel J. Calderón
Editor

The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) is gearing up for another busy Dec. 24. The organization is preparing state-of-the-art equipment for a specific purpose — to track Santa Claus as he makes his way around the world Christmas Eve.

This Christmas Eve will mark the 50th year NORAD has tracked Santa's worldwide trip. According to NORAD officials, they use four high-tech systems to track Santa - radar, satellites, Santa Cams and jet fighter aircraft.

It all starts with the NORAD radar system called the North Warning System. This radar system has 47 installations strung across Canada's

North and Alaska. NORAD makes a point of checking the radar closely for indications of Santa Claus leaving the North Pole on Christmas Eve.

The moment the radar tells NORAD trackers Santa has lifted off, they begin to use the same satellites they use in providing warning of possible missile launches aimed at North America. These satellites are located in a geo-synchronous orbit at 22,300 miles above the Earth.

The satellites have infrared sensors, meaning they can see heat. When a rocket or missile is launched, a tremendous amount of heat is produced - enough for the satellites to see them. Rudolph's nose gives off an infrared signature similar to a missile launch.

The satellites can detect Rudolph's bright red nose with practically no

▼ See SANTA, A-8

SECNAV sends his holiday message to Sailors, Marines

Special message from Secretary of the Navy Gordon England



Secretary of the Navy Gordon England around the world recognize your selflessness and dedication. As the President has often stated, your work is the greatest force for good among all nations.

Throughout the world, the holiday season is a time of renewed hope for peace and goodwill. You are the foundation of that hope. The men and women who wear the cloth of our nation have freed millions of people from oppressive regimes and brought them peace, goodwill, freedom and liberty. Each of you is continuing the marvelous legacy of other great generations that have preceded you.

Yours is the greatest gift that can be given to your fellow man. It is truly a blessing to worship openly, to speak freely, and to pursue life, liberty, and happiness. These freedoms are not ours alone. They are the right of all mankind, no matter the season.

In October, the Afghani people proudly stepped forward to freely elect a president for the first time in their long history. Your service ensured that their voices were heard. Soon, the Iraqi people will also vote as our military men and women continue to bring hope and confidence to millions more. Your bravery is showing the world that freedom is the future for all mankind.

As you celebrate the holidays, especially those of you who are separated from loved ones, know that your service and sacrifice are deeply appreciated. Whether deployed or here at home, millions of Americans and others

This holiday season, remember to think of safety for your family, friends and shipmates. We're a family, and families love and care for each other. If you are traveling - whether across town or across time zones - do so safely. Holidays are statistically high periods for accidents and injuries, and there is no more tragic loss than one that was preventable. Stay safe and give yourself, your family and your shipmates the most precious gift of all - life.

It is an honor and privilege to be your Secretary. You and your families give so much during the holidays and every day for our nation. You are special individuals, serving at an extraordinary time, contributing to a greater good.

May God bless all of you during this joyous season and in the year ahead, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Region completes PCB clean up

Terry Kojima
Navy Region Hawai'i Environmental Public Affairs

The Navy announced it had treated more than 44,000 cubic yards of soil containing polychlorinated biphenyls, commonly called PCBs, from 85 sites at naval installations on Oahu this year.

The announcement came at a Pearl Harbor Restoration Advisory Board public meeting held at the Aiea Library Tuesday.

The cleanup was conducted using a thermal desorption unit at a centralized treatment plant at the former Naval Air Station Barbers Point at Kalaeloa.

Some community members attending the citizen advisory board meeting learned how PCB-contaminated soil was processed through the unit's various decontamination stages, as they viewed a video of operations taken at the treatment plant. Other members had visited the plant at the start of operations in November 2003.

"It's (thermal desorption) a fascinating approach, which was used to clean the soil," said Ron Mobley, who joined the Pearl Harbor RAB in June.

According to the Navy's project engineer, Janice Fukumoto, the technology was effective and resulted in a cost avoidance of \$24 million.

"The technology was effective and resulted in a cost avoidance of \$24 million," said Janice Fukumoto, the Navy's project engineer. "It would have cost about \$1,000 to ship one cubic yard of contaminated soil off island, but only \$400 to treat each cubic yard at the unit that was brought in specifically for the project."

Normally, the Navy excavates and ships soils containing PCB out-of-state for disposal. This was the first time the Region used the thermal desorption process, which separates the PCBs by "baking" or heating the soil to almost 900 degrees. At this temperature PCBs are vaporized, cooled, and reformed into a sludge; while the sterile soil is rehydrated with water and then stored for reuse. Some of the soil was used to backfill the excavated sites.

The soils came from the cleanup of sites that once housed electrical transformers. Prior to 1977, PCBs were commonly used as insulation or coolant in electrical equipment. Over



U.S. Navy photo

The thermal desorption unit at the former Naval Station Barbers Point at Kalaeloa cleaned more than 44,000 cubic yards of soil containing PCBs. Some of the cleaned soil was returned to the location from which it was removed.

the years some of the fluid leaked into the ground. Today, all Navy transformers containing PCBs have been replaced by non-PCB transformers said Fukumoto.

The thermal desorption unit is being demobilized now, after treating soils at multiple sites, including 10 sites at Naval Transmitting Facility and Naval Magazine at Pearl Harbor; five sites at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station in Wahiawa; two at Naval Magazine at Waikale; three on the Waipio Peninsula; ten at former Naval Air Station at Kalaeloa; two at West Loch; one at Iroquois Point and 53 in Pearl Harbor.

Cleanup of other transformer sites that were not included in the thermal desorption project will be conducted as part of the Navy's ongoing Installation Restoration Program, said Peter Nakamura, who manages the region's cleanup initiatives.

Both John Muraoka, who is the RAB Navy co-Chair, and Nakamura agree that the Navy's partnership with the community is important to the success of the cleanup process. Community members were kept informed and involved throughout the PCB Thermal

Desorption Project through site visits, fact sheets, and information on operations that were discussed at the RAB meetings.

"The board [RAB] meetings, which are open to the public, provide opportunities for community members to provide input on cleanup decisions that affect their community and livelihood," said Muraoka.

According to Mobley, the RAB informs the community of the options the Navy is considering to improve a mess that was created in the past from a spill of oil, or a leak of some chemical, or other manmade contaminant.

"Having the community be a part of the cleanup process is extremely healthy," said Mobley. "It helps us [community members] understand what's being done and provides an opportunity to comment when something doesn't sound right."

Navy Region Hawai'i has three advisory boards serving the Pearl Harbor, Central Oahu, and Leeward Coast areas. For information, call the Navy Region Hawai'i Environmental Public Affairs Office at 473-2926 or visit the Region's environmental Web site at: www.hawaii.navy.mil/cnbdata/n4/rab-page.htm.

Navy families get in the holiday spirit



U.S. Navy photo by J03 Ryan C. McGinley

IS2 Timothy Alvarado, assigned to Joint Intelligence Center Pacific, and his wife Sarah stand in front of their house at Hale Moku Navy housing displaying their patriotic Christmas lights.



Image courtesy of Pacific War Memorial Association

Engraved bricks at the Pacific War Memorial at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, are available for purchase through Dec. 31.

Engraved Memorial bricks available through Dec. 31

Special to Hawai'i Navy News

The deadline for ordering engraved bricks to honor veterans, active duty service members, Reservists, family members or others in the "Walkway of Honor" that surrounds the Pacific War Memorial aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, has been extended to December 31.

The Pacific War Memorial Association, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization chaired by Alice Clark of Kamuela, Hi., raised the funds to erect the Pacific War Memorial that now overlooks Kaneohe Bay.

The memorial was dedicated in 2002.

The Walkway of Honor surrounding the base of the memorial is comprised of plain and engraved 4" by 8" bricks. Each engraved stone, with up to three lines of 20 characters each, counting spaces and punctuation marks, will be set apart by adjacent stones without inscription.

Limited edition, signed and numbered 11" by 17" prints of artist Hitoshi Hida's rendering of the memorial are also available.

For more information, contact the association at 533-3759, or visit www.pacificwarmemorial.com.

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

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Beware the Grinch

Commentary

Chapel Pennant

Symbol of the season

Chaplain G. P. Theriot

Naval Station Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel

This year in the Chapel at Pearl Harbor, we decided to do something a little different. In addition to the Christmas tree we put up each year at this time, we put up a "Chrismon" tree.

This is an evergreen tree like the other one, but instead of the colorful ornaments so common in this season, we put up "Chrismons" or Christian monograms. Some of the adults and many of the children carved and decorated these symbols of our faith. During a worship service, families and individuals gave a short description of the symbol they chose and read a related passage from the Bible.

Among the seventeen different Chrismons that were hung, the meaning of most were obvious; the cross, the star in the east and the manger. These pointed to the birth of Jesus, which is celebrated in Christmas. But, there were some others not quite so obvious, but equally important. These included the fish, the ship and the dove. They were important because they were born out of persecution.

The first of these was the fish. Two people would meet and in the course of their conversation, one would make a semi-circle in the sand with his foot. A non-believer wouldn't know what it meant. If the other person were a Christian, he would make another semi-circle with his foot connecting it at the same beginning point as the first mark, making a simple fish design.

By this they identified themselves as Christians and symbolized their mission to lead other people to faith. Jesus said, "I will make you fishers of men." The ship was another early symbol of the Christian

faith. It's three masts reminded believers of the scene at Calvary when Jesus was crucified. But, it also symbolized the spread of Christianity, when as a result of the persecution they faced, they "went unto all the world making disciples of all nations". Then, there was the dove, which is depicted as descending. This symbolized the coming of God's Spirit on Jesus at His baptism.

These and other symbols of the early church appeared on their meeting places and in their art. They identified Christians and gave them encouragement as they faced opposition and persecution.

Increasingly, Christians and other religious people are facing opposition from the secular culture in which we live. Whereas we used to be respected and later simply tolerated, now people of faith are being openly opposed. One day it may become even more costly to be a person of faith.

When that happens, what symbols will be most meaningful to us. Will they be hood ornaments that symbolize our affluence or our insurance policies representing our supposed security? Or, will they be things like the Anchor Cross that speaks of "the hope we have as an anchor for our souls" or the lamp that reminds us that God's Word is "a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path".

In this season of the year in which there are many symbols of our materialism and privilege, let us remember those symbols of God's persistent love and abundant provision for the deepest needs of our lives.

If you would like to talk to someone about how you can know this God in a meaningful way, please call the chaplains at Naval Station Pearl Harbor at 473-3971. One of us would be delighted to speak to you.

Opinion

FLTCM(AW/SW)

Jon R. Thompson

U.S. Fleet Forces

Command Command

Master Chief



In case you haven't noticed, many of my recent columns have focused on the upcoming holiday season. Never are so many health and personal finance issues key to Sailors lives' than during the holiday season.

Unfortunately, it's also a favored season for criminals, who have an expanded pool of targets. Homes and malls spill over with gift displays and distracted shoppers rush between stores and cars, often carrying too many packages. Homes are also often left empty in the great homeward-bound holiday migration.

Face it shipmates; crooks love the holidays as much as everyone else, but chiefly because it's an opportune time for crime.

Last year an estimated 413,000 robberies occurred nationwide. Of that number, the percentage of offenders who used firearms and strong-armed tactics (hands, fists, feet, etc.) was approximately 40 percent, while those who committed a robbery using knives, cutting instruments or other weapons stood at 9 percent.

The statistics tell a sobering message - robbery victims risk more than losing their belongings. If a robber threatens you with a weapon, your chances of safely disarming the suspect are small. To be prepared, your best protection lies in thinking ahead, "What would I do if this happened to me?"

If you don't have a plan you may panic or do something to cause the robber to hurt you.

Fortunately there are ways to protect yourself and to lessen your chances of becoming a victim.

Here are some tips that may help not only during the holidays, but all throughout the year:

- Stay alert of your surroundings at all times. Stay with the crowd; there is safety in numbers. Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in a place or area, leave.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area, close to the entrance and away from large obstructive vehicles or vehicles that have tinted windows.
- If you must leave valuables in the car, lock them in the trunk or out of sight. Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- On your way back to the car, don't carry so many packages that you can't see what's around you. Locate keys before getting to the car and always look inside the vehicle before getting in.
- While shopping, dress casually and comfortably; avoid wearing "flashy" jewelry.
- Never leave a purse on a counter or in a shopping cart unattended. Instead of a wallet, keep cash in your front pocket or in a separate money clip or pouch that allows you to hand it over without sacrificing your credit cards, identification and personal papers.
- Take the profit out of robbery by not carrying large sums of money, or credit cards whenever possible.
- Before using an ATM, choose one that is located inside a mall or a well-lighted location. Withdraw only the amount of cash you need. Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone standing near you, and don't throw your receipt away at the ATM location.

• Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, con artists may try to distract you. Pickpockets, often in crowded areas, frequently work in pairs so one can bump you while the other grabs your valuables.

• Watch out for people standing near you in the checkout line with a camera cell phone in their hand; it can be used to photograph your credit cards.

Now what if, despite all your best efforts, you become a robbery victim? What should you do then? Law enforcement officials recommend three things:

First, don't panic - stay calm. If a robber indicates there is a weapon in his pocket, assume it is a gun. If the robber has a gun, assume it is loaded.

Second, don't resist. Obey the robber's instructions. Listen closely to what the robber says and do not argue. The robber wants your valuables, not you. Things can be replaced, you can't.

Lastly, be alert. To catch the thief, police need you to tell them what happened and to provide a description of the suspect; the clothes they wore, any distinguishing characteristics, including height and build. Note the path, direction or type of vehicle the suspect used to get away.

Once it's safe to do so, notify police immediately. Avoid discussing the crime with other witnesses; while the event is fresh in your mind, jot down some notes.

Don't touch any items left behind by the robber; safeguard them until police arrive. Shipmates, the holiday season should be a time for giving, sharing and enjoying family and friends.

Don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving muggers, robbers or pickpockets a better chance to do their dirty work.

Enjoy the season and keep safe!

Hawai'i Navy News

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Dignitary visits Pacific Command



U.S. Pacific Command photo by Army Staff Sgt. Bryan Beach

His Excellency the Hon. Mr. Avelino Cruz, Republic of the Philippines Secretary of National Defense (center) is introduced to US Pacific Command senior staff members by Adm. Thomas B. Fargo, Commander US Pacific Command (left) during his visit Monday.

Military members sought as teachers in Hawai'i

JO1 Daniel J. Calderón
Editor

The state of Hawai'i is hoping military members will help alleviate the teacher shortage in the state.

Hawai'i Pacific University stepped in to the effort to train prospective teachers during a press conference announcing the impending opening of its Master of Education in Secondary Education program. The program will begin in Summer 2005.

With the announcement, HPU joined University of Hawai'i, Chaminade University, University of Phoenix and Brigham Young University-Hawai'i in providing training for students who want to be educators in the state of Hawai'i.

"Every course will have a field component," said Dr. Leslie H. Correa, associate vice president for academic administration and dean of liberal arts for HPU. "We also have reciprocal agreements with 44 other states."

This means teachers who are certified through HPU's program are eligible for certification in states with reciprocal agreements. HPU's field component refers to training in actual classrooms while taking classes. Correa said the majority of the program is geared for military students and others who are trying to earn degrees and maintain a full-time job.

"Just about all our classes are in the evenings or on Fridays and Saturdays," he said. "The schedule is designed to provide accommodations for working students. Also, there is flexibility in the field component. We know they can't just quit their jobs and go back to school."

Correa said there may be online portions of the program similar to other Masters of Education degree programs already in place. Also, students can create online portfolios that can follow them wherever in

the world they may go.

"For the military, that kind of flexibility is important," Correa explained. "Professors here have been good about working with military students."

HPU's program will also assist military members who are working through the Troops to Teachers program in trying to earn their teaching credentials. Pat Hamamoto, superintendent of the Hawai'i Department of Education, said she welcomes the program and other university programs to educate prospective teachers.

"Right now, less than 50 percent of teachers come from within the state," she said. "We wouldn't be able to continue our business of education without our of state help."

Hamamoto said she would like to see military members take on the role of educator after leaving the military service. She said their leadership and communication experience is invaluable to the process of education.

"As a principal, I always liked having former military members [as teachers]," she explained. "They understand the true power of communication and knew how to get their message across. It had something to do with the nature of the work they were coming from."

Hamamoto encouraged military members who are interested in participating the Troops to Teachers program to contact their military college office or to visit the Department of Education Web site at <http://doe.k12.hi.us/>.

The local phone number for the Troops to Teachers coordinator is 587-5580. On the DOE site, there are links to education programs and information on job postings and basic qualifications for teachers in Hawai'i.

For interested Sailors, the Navy College office on Naval Station Pearl Harbor is at <http://www.pearlharbor.navy.mil/NCO/index.htm>.

Clinic: Services to remain the same

Continued from A-1

Our mission will not change. That mission is to ensure a medically and dentally ready force and deliver high quality health care to all those entrusted to our care. Navy Medical and Dental in Hawai'i have always had a strong working relationship over the years as separate commands. We are now looking forward to a long and productive future of service as one Command, one Ohana: Naval Health Clinic Hawai'i," Barker concluded.

Historically, medical and dental clinics have traditionally operated side-by-side, but as separate commands. Now the two commands

will operate as one.

Officials said this integration will have no effect on the high level of healthcare given to beneficiaries. All mission and support functions that were held at Naval Dental Center, Pearl Harbor and Naval Medical Clinic, Pearl Harbor will continue under the direction of Naval Health Clinic Hawai'i.

In effect, the ceremony was more of a transformation to enhance mission effectiveness and customer service.

"The Navy-wide integration of medical and dental treatment facilities is firmly in alignment with the Chief of Naval Operations direction to improve efficiencies in everything that we do and to

streamline the total manpower structure," said Capt. William B. Parker, commanding officer of the former Naval Dental Center Pearl Harbor. "We will blend together the best practices from each command to more efficiently provide the best quality of care possible to the most deserving patients in the world – our Sailors, Marines and their family members."

"We will overcome the natural anxieties that accompany transformational change by building upon our firm foundation of quality health care so that we can make even greater contributions towards the overall goal of improving upon the operational availability of fleet units," Parker concluded.



U.S. Navy photo by PH2(AW) John F. Looney

Sailors and officers of the Pearl Harbor Naval Medical Clinic stand at attention during the presentation of colors at yesterday's Naval Health Clinic Hawai'i integration ceremony.



U.S. Coast Guard photo by PA2 Jennifer Johnson

Crewmembers from the Coast Guard's Maritime Safety and Security Team, homeported in Honolulu, race offshore in a 25-foot Safeboat. The team is the tenth such Coast Guard security team to be commissioned in the United States. The team's mission is to protect Hawai'i's ports and waterways.

Coast Guard commissions newest anti-terrorism team



U.S. Coast Guard photo by PA2 Jennifer Johnson

Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawai'i was the keynote speaker for the commissioning ceremony of the Coast Guard's Maritime Safety and Security Team to be homeported here in Honolulu.

PA2 Jennifer Johnson

Coast Guard District 14 Public Affairs

The Coast Guard commissioned its 10th Maritime Safety and Security Team (MSST) in Honolulu Dec. 9 aboard the Battleship USS Missouri museum.

"The battlefield is no longer in some far away land, it is on our land and in our waters," said Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawai'i. "With 75 people and a compliment of six boats, their deployment here will be an important aspect to Hawai'i's port security efforts."

MSSTs are a quick response force capable of rapid, nationwide deployment via air, ground or sea transportation in response to changing threat conditions and evolving Maritime Homeland Security mission requirements. They are modeled after the Coast Guard's port security units and law enforcement detachments.

"Our lifeline (in Hawai'i) is our waterways and ports," said Hawai'i Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona. "The Coast Guard plays a vital role in protection and this is just another layer of our homeland security efforts."

The teams were created in direct response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 and are a part of the Department of Homeland Security's strategy directed at protecting seaports and waterways.

They were established to protect military load-outs, enforce security zones, defend critical waterside facilities in strategic ports, stop illegal activities such as narcotics trafficking or illegal migrants, and provide a modest level of shore side protection.

"I wanted to protect my country and this is the best way to do it," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Tiffany Peltier, a member of the team.

MSST 91107 is the fifth Coast Guard anti-terrorism team to be commissioned in the Pacific Region, and the tenth to be commissioned nationwide. Other MSSTs are located in the ports of Seattle, Los Angeles/Long Beach, San Francisco, Anchorage, Alaska; Chesapeake, Va.; Boston, Houston, St. Mary's, Ga., and New York.

Oriskany starts final journey

Naval Sea Systems Command Public Affairs

A Navy contractor will commence towing ex-USS Oriskany from Corpus Christi, Texas, to Pensacola, Fla., in December in preparation as the Navy's first aircraft carrier to be sunk as an artificial reef in June 2005.

The commercial tug Dolphin I will tow Oriskany for the five-to-six-day transit. The ship will remain berthed at the Port of Pensacola pending completion of the risk assessment products, issuance of sink approval and completion of final sinking preparations.

Officials said using ships as artificial reefs benefits the Navy by providing another reduction method to the inactive ship inventory, thereby reducing the environmental risk associated with storing inactive ships in sensitive waterways.

The Oriskany reef will also benefit marine life, sport fishing and recreational diving off the coast of Florida.

"The Navy and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are committed to working together toward the safe and expeditious sinking of the ex-Oriskany as an artificial reef," said Capt. Lawrence M. Jones Jr., program manager, Inactive Ships Program Office.

The Navy completed a comprehensive 11-month remediation effort on ex-Oriskany in accordance with



U.S. Navy photo

One of a series of photographs taken by a Navy F2H-2P 'Banshee' as it came in for a carrier landing on the USS Oriskany (CVA-34), somewhere off the coast of California. Oriskany is currently being prepared to be the first aircraft carrier sunk as an artificial reef.

the draft Best Management Practices for Preparing Vessels Intended to Create Artificial Reefs.

The remediation prepared the ship to be sunk as an artificial reef by removing fuels and oils, loose asbestos-containing material, capacitors, transformers or other liquid polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) components, batteries, HALON, mercury, antifreeze, coolants, fire extinguishing agents, black and gray water, and chromated ballast water.

Additionally, the wood flight deck and underlayment were removed due to high PCB concentrations found after the asphalt protective coating had been

removed from the flight deck. These measures are intended to ensure the ex-Oriskany reef is environmentally safe.

Because of the precedent-setting implications of this project, the Navy's risk assessment model and the resulting risk assessments must undergo a broad-based internal review by EPA, followed by an external peer review.

Once these reviews are complete, EPA expects to prepare a draft approval for ex-Oriskany and initiate the public participation process. A final permit decision will be made after the public comment period closes and EPA prepares a response to comments.

Reuben James changes command



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Nathan Christensen

Cmdr. John M. Figuerres addresses the assembled crew and families of USS Reuben James (FFG 57) during Wednesday's change of command ceremony. Figuerres turned command of the guided-missile frigate to Cmdr. Logan S. Jones. Figuerres led Reuben James' crew through several trials, including two availability periods, an extended dry-dock selected restricted availability period and a counter-drug deployment off the Central and South American coasts where 149 Ecuadorian migrants were rescued at sea. Figuerres' next tour will be on the staff of Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Pearl Harbor survivor tours USS Buffalo

J02 Corwin Colbert

COMSUBPAC Public Affairs

The crew of USS Buffalo (SSN 715) hosted a Dec. 6 tour for a Pearl Harbor Survivor.

Woody Derby, former crewmember of USS Nevada (BB 36), spent half of the day with his friends and family on board the nuclear attack submarine for lunch with crewmembers before touring the ship.

Derby has a unique relationship with the submarine because the sub crew are caretakers of the USS Nevada Memorial located at Hospital Point on Naval Station Pearl Harbor. He and his guests were on the island to participate in the Dec. 7 events held at the Arizona memorial. A day before the ceremony, they took some time touring various spaces aboard Buffalo.

Derby said he was humbled by the generosity and care the crew offered in hosting the tour and gracious for their memorial upkeep.

"We are going on board the Arizona Memorial to present wreaths for our crew and departed shipmates. Therefore, we decided to take a tour on this fine submarine," said Derby. "The commanding officer and his crew have done a wonderful job keeping a close eye on our memorial at Hospital Point," he said.

Derby said he is impressed with the submarine force.

"I think the submarine force is tremendous. I would think it would be tough to live on a submarine with 160 men and no room to move, but they adjust pretty well," said Derby. "The food in the galley was wonderful. It was astounding that they can feed that many people in the tiny little area."

Cmdr. Murray Gero, commanding officer of USS Buffalo (SSN 715), explained how he and Derby met.

"I met Woody in the fall of 2002," Gero explained. "He came out for that year's Dec. 7 event. It was sort of by accident. I received an offer to take care of the USS Nevada Memorial monument and prepare it for the Dec. 7 ceremonies. We developed and maintained a close relationship with Woody and his wife."

"The wardroom has taken responsibility for cleanup," continued Gero. "They keep it clean on a regular basis. The ship puts up a new flag after every Dec. 7 and every July 4 and I send the flags to Woody so he can send it to his Nevada survivors organization."

Gero said it is important for the present day Sailor to learn and meet Sailors from the past who have served their country.

"I think it's essential to sustained the tradition of the past. It gives our Sailors an identification of why they are here when they get to talk to someone who has been through some of the things Woody has been through," Gero concluded.

USS Nevada, first of a class of two 27,500-ton battleships, was commissioned in March



U.S. Navy photo by J02 Corwin Colbert

Pearl Harbor survivor, Woody Derby (left), and Cmdr. Murray Gero, commanding officer of USS Buffalo (SSN 715), say farewell after Derby's Dec. 6 tour of the submarine.

1916 and operated in the Western Atlantic and the Caribbean until mid-1918, when she went to the British Isles for World War I service. Following that conflict, Nevada was active in the Atlantic, Caribbean and Pacific. Nevada was modernized in 1927-30, exchanging her "basket" masts for tripods. She then returned to duty with the U.S. Battle Fleet, mainly operating in the Pacific over the next eleven years.

The only battleship able to get underway during the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack, Nevada suffered intense assaults by Japanese aircraft. After being hit by a torpedo and several bombs, Nevada's crew ran the ship aground to keep the channel open. Vigorous salvage work and temporary repairs enabled her to steam to the U.S. West Coast in April 1942. She spent the rest of the year receiving permanent repairs and improvements, including a greatly enhanced anti-aircraft gun battery.

Nevada returned to combat during the Attu landings in May 1943 and transferred to the Atlantic in mid-1943, her 5" and 14" guns were actively employed during the Normandy Invasion in June 1944 and the Southern France operation in August and September. The battleship then returned to the Pacific, where she assisted with the invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa in 1945.

Though damaged by a suicide plane and by an artillery shell, Nevada remained in action off Okinawa until June 1945. She spent the remaining months of World War II in the Western Pacific, in preparation for the invasion of Japan.

After World War II, Nevada steamed back to Hawai'i. She was too old for retention in the post-war fleet, and was assigned to serve as a target during the July 1946 atomic bomb tests at Bikini, in the Marshall Islands. The boat was formally decommissioned in August 1946. After two years of inactivity, Nevada was towed to sea off the Hawaiian Islands and sunk by gunfire and torpedoes.



U.S. Navy photo by JO3 Ryan C. McGinley

Marines and Sailors from Expeditionary Strike Group Five leave Quick Field Tuesday for a 3.2 mile motivational run around Pearl Harbor. More than 2,000 Sailors and Marines, who are stationed aboard seven U.S. Navy ships in port, participated in the run.

Sailors, Marines take over NAVSTA Pearl Harbor streets

JO3 Ryan C. McGinley
Staff Writer

More than 2,000 Sailors and Marines from Expeditionary Strike Group Five participated in a motivational 3.2 mile run around Naval Station Pearl Harbor Tuesday, in preparation for their upcoming deployment to the Western Pacific.

"The idea here is to have some motivation and celebrate the fact that we are fortunate to be Marines and Sailors, wear our country's uniform and defend our freedom," said Marine Col. Thomas Greenwood, commanding officer, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation organized the event, which included coordinating the course around Pearl Harbor, providing water and involving security.

"It's important that MWR gets involved because it's our job," said Mick McAndrews, programs director for MWR. "We take care of the active duty. Anybody that comes through here is our customer."

Greenwood said camaraderie and motivation were the main reasons for holding the event.

"We're out here to have a motivational run in the great state of Hawai'i," said Greenwood. "We're on our way overseas and this is a rare opportunity to get all 2,000 Marines and Sailors together and to have some



U.S. Navy photo by JO3 Ryan C. McGinley

Marine Col. Thomas Greenwood, commanding officer, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit Center, along with Marines and Sailors from Expeditionary Strike Group Five, participate in a motivational 3.2 mile run around Naval Station Pearl Harbor Tuesday in preparation for their upcoming deployment.

camaraderie."

The more than 2,000 Sailors and Marines are stationed aboard seven U.S. Navy ships in port and are

deploying in support of Commander U.S. Seventh Fleet potential contingency operations and theater security cooperation initiatives.

Five: Policy should reduce traffic mishaps by 50 percent

Continued from A-1

get the duty driver to take you places. It would be really hard on your family and ship-mates," Diaz added.

Gas Turbine System Technician-Mechanical 3rd Class Chris Caffey of Naval Station Pearl Harbor said motorcyclist are no different than automobile drivers when it comes to the need for transportation.

"I'm extremely dependent on my motorcycle," said Caffey. "It is the only form of

transportation I have. I don't know how I would get along without it. I do feel these are good policies, I mean, they are just trying to keep everyone safe. To be honest, I haven't always worn my helmet because I didn't really feel in danger but now by possibly losing my license I feel I have more to risk," he said.

The Region is also targeting military members 26 years of age and younger to give them more knowledge about defensive driving skills through an online educational program

called "Driving for Life."

The five-hour long course covers driving techniques from driving in foul weather, to increasing awareness of other drivers. The Region is also working on a "Train the Trainer" program that would teach representatives from various commands to train their personnel on how to drive for life.

The Region hopes the new "Big Five" policy will produce a 50 percent reduction in traffic mishaps by the end of fiscal year 2005.

Plan to help injured troops gets funding

Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

DoD has startup funding for a new initiative for service members injured in the global war on terror, a senior official said in Bethesda, Md., Dec. 7.

"We're looking at possibilities for internships and other types of trial employment," John M. Molino told attendees at the 17th DoD Disability Forum. "We're also looking at possibilities for mentoring."

"We intend for every injured or disabled veteran to have as many opportunities as he or she needs to achieve his or her maximum potential on active duty or in our civilian work force," said the acting deputy undersecretary for equal opportunity. "We are here for the people who fight to protect us."

In addition, the department is continuing and expanding its other efforts on behalf of people with disabilities, Molino noted.

He told the group DoD will continue using initiatives that have worked well in the past, such as the Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities, which

is co-sponsored with the Labor Department.

Molino pointed out each year, the Office of the Secretary of Defense funds about 200 summer jobs through the college recruitment program.

"In the past 10 years, we've been able to document almost 2,000 hires (1,833) at DoD activities around the world," Molino noted. "In fiscal [year] 2004, we hired 248 persons. In mid-March 2005, we'll release a CD-ROM with information concerning 2,000 students and recent graduates with disabilities who are looking for summer or permanent positions."

He advised conferees to get in touch with their component's disability program manager or DoD's administrative coordinator for the workforce recruitment program to find out how to benefit from the program.

Molino also encouraged conferees to participate in the department's "e-mentoring" program for disabled students.

DoD welcomes Americans with disabilities in its civilian workforce and increasingly in the military services, Molino said, and in its facilities, programs and activities worldwide.

Hawai'i Navy News Sports

Sailors take aim at Bellows Beach

(Right) PNSN Isaiah Holcomb from USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) waits for a target to walk by while playing paintball at the outdoor range at Bellows Beach. Nearly two dozen navigation department Sailors were involved with the paintball party. Paul Hamilton's Navigation Department collected the most canned goods during the ship's canned goods drive and were rewarded with a party provided by Morale Welfare and Recreation department.

(Below) USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) Sailors listen to a safety brief before going out for a round of paintball at the outdoor range at Bellows Beach.



Photos by Nicole Romero



Photos by Nicole Romero

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2005 Basic Allowances For Housing rates announced

Special release from the U.S. Department of Defense

The Department of Defense released the 2005 Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates Dec. 14, continuing the department's initiative of reducing military members' out-of-pocket housing costs.

In total, the planned increase in housing allowance funds for fiscal 2005 above the fiscal 2004 amount is about \$2.5 billion. The 2005 rates represent the final phase of the planned buy down in out-of-pocket housing expenses.

Out-of-pocket expense, the portion of the typical member's housing cost that the member is responsible for, has been reduced from 3.5 percent last year to zero this year. The 2005 rates represent the final phase in a series of steps taken to bring the average member's out-of-pocket expense to zero by 2005. However, the actual expense for an individual may be higher or lower than that average, based on his/her actual choice of housing.

Three components are included in the BAH computation:

- Median current market rent
- Average utilities (including electricity, heat, and water/sewer)
- Average renter's insurance

Total housing costs are calculated for six housing profiles (based on dwelling type and number of bedrooms) in each Military Housing Area (MHA). BAH rates are then calculated for each pay grade, both with and without dependents. An estimated \$12.3 billion will be

paid to more than 910,000 service members in 2005.

Data are collected annually for approximately 400 MHAs in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii. An important part of the BAH process is the cooperation from the services and local military housing offices in the data collection effort. Input from local commands is used to determine in what neighborhoods data is collected and to direct the data collection effort towards adequate apartment complexes and individual housing units.

For members with dependents, average increases in the BAH are approximately 8 percent. A typical E-4 with dependents, for example, will find his/her BAH about \$47 per month higher than last year. An E-8 with dependents will have about \$60 more in his/her paycheck.

An integral part of the BAH program is the provision of individual rate protection to all members. No matter what happens to measured housing costs, an individual member in a given location will never see his/her BAH rate decrease. This policy assures that members who have made long-term commitments in the form of a lease or contract will not be penalized if the area's housing costs decrease.

Geographic rate protection has also been provided to members. Geographic rate protection maintains a BAH rate at last year's level while the planned buy down in out-of-pocket expense is phased in. Geographic rate protection means that newly arrived members to an area will not see BAH rates that are substantially less than current members' rates.

Santa: Technology tracks legend

Continued from A-1

problem. With so many years of experience, NORAD has become good at tracking the progress of Santa, thanks to Rudolph. NORAD scientists have tried to determine the chemical process that creates the heat that is generated by Rudolph's nose but they have not been able to thus far.

The third system NORAD uses is the Santa Cam. The agency first began using it in 1998 - the year they put the Santa Tracking program on the 'net. NORAD Santa Cams are state-of-the-art high-speed digital cameras prepositioned at many places around the world. NORAD only uses these cameras once a year - Christmas Eve.

The trackers turn the cameras on about one hour before Santa enters a country then switch them off after capturing images of him and the Reindeer. They immediately download the images on to the web site for people around the world see. Santa Cams produce both video and still images.

The last system used is the NORAD jet fighter. Canadian NORAD fighter pilots, flying the CF-18, take off out of Newfoundland to intercept and welcome Santa to North America. Then at numerous locations in Canada other CF-18 fighter pilots escort Santa, while in the United States American NORAD fighter pilots in either the F-15 or F-16 get the thrill of flying with Santa and the famous Reindeer — Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and Rudolph. About a dozen NORAD fighters in Canada and



NORAD photo

"Santa Claus" is caught outside a house during his Christmas 1959 trip. NORAD has a collection of Santa images at www.noradsanta.org.

the United States are equipped with SantaCams.

Ringo Starr is joining the NORAD team again this year as an honorary Santa Tracker.

Ringo has perfected his Santa Tracking techniques from NORAD technicians and is an expert in the use of the SantaCam.

"Santa and I are personal friends. He's asked me to do this special job with this incredibly new SantaCam and I'll be tracking him as he comes over Great Britain," said Starr. "Children will see amazing things. I'm privileged to be one of the Santa Trackers."

During SantaCam training, Ringo was most fascinated about the omnidirectional capabilities and speed of this high-tech camera. From an undisclosed location in Surrey, England,

Ringo deftly focused on famous landmarks in Liverpool, England; Cardiff, Wales; Inverness, Scotland; and Kildare, Ireland. Children are encouraged to find these cities on a map of Great Britain.

NORAD officials said they hope Ringo will see images of Father Christmas somewhere in Great Britain this year.

To track Santa, log on to www.noradsanta.org. There are video clips from celebrities, information briefs on Santa history and photos of the elusive gift giver.

NORAD is the bi-national U.S.-Canadian military organization responsible for the aerospace defense of the United States and Canada. NORAD was created by a 1958 agreement between Canada and the United States. The agreement has been renewed nine times - most recently in 2000. NORAD provides warning of missile and air attack against both of its member nations, safeguards the air sovereignty of North America, and provides air defense forces for defense against an air attack.

NORAD's mission has evolved over the years to meet the aerospace defense needs of Canada and the United States. The most recent "evolution" in NORAD's mission came as a result of September 11, 2001. Because of that day, NORAD now monitors the airspace within Canada and the United States, too. There are men and women in NORAD constantly watching the skies to keep the United States and Canada safe.