

Explore Hawai'i's Sea Traditions ...



at the Hawai'i Maritime Center

The "Falls of Clyde" is the world's only remaining four-mast, full-rigged ship. The ship is being restored at the Hawai'i Maritime Center which is near the Aloha Tower Marketplace.

Story and photos by
Lacy Lynn
Staff Writer

From Polynesian wayfinding to modern-day yachting competitions, the Hawai'i Maritime Center (HMC), near the Aloha Tower Marketplace, is home to many artifacts and stories from Hawai'i's sea history.

"The more than 50 exhibits displayed at the museum portray Hawai'i's rich maritime history and present-day activities," said Karla Vasey Grace, HMC manager.

The exhibits chronicle the islands' relationship to the sea, including ancient Polynesian traditions, contact between Europeans and Hawaiians, and the sports, trade and tourism of more modern times.

The museum's newest exhibit is an interactive exploration of Hawai'i's whaling industry in the 1840s, an exhibit that is good for younger patrons.

Kids can learn to tie sailors' knots, see what the inside of a whaling vessel looked like, and participate in other learning activities such as following the routes of whaling vessels.

One of the museum's more unique exhibits is the complete skeleton of a humpback whale, which was found in a cove off Kaho'olawe. The skeleton is extremely rare, because most humpbacks sink to the bottom of the ocean when they die. Leiwi,



or "Lei of Cherished Bones," was named in a contest for Hawai'i's schoolchildren in 1992.

The HMC has been in its current location since 1988, and admission includes an audio tour of the museum in English, Japanese or Korean as well as entry to the "Falls of Clyde" and the "Hokule'a."

The "Falls of Clyde" is the world's only surviving four-mast, full-rigged ship. The ship was built in 1878 in Port Glasgow, Scotland and served as the largest ship in Hawai'i's sugar trade. After the turn of the century, the ship carried petroleum. The ship was brought to Hawai'i in 1963 through funds raised by public subscription, and became a National Historic Landmark in 1989.

Hal Knight, a retired chief electrician's mate, is a Navy League member who spends his winters in Hawai'i. Knight's interest in "Falls

ADMISSION

Regular rate
Adults: \$7.50
Youth (ages six-17): \$4.50
Children six and under FREE
The Hawai'i Maritime Center is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Military and Kama'aina rates
Adults: \$6
Youth: \$4

of Clyde" is part of a long interest in history and a recent foray into genealogy. While reading a history of the ship, Knight discovered a seaman who served aboard "Falls of Clyde" who shares the same last name.

Also moored at Honolulu's historic Pier 7 is the "Hokule'a," a replica of Polynesian sailing canoes used by the first Hawaiians. In the 1970s, the vessel proved ancient Hawaiian sailing and Wayfinding techniques could still be utilized. Since 1976 the Hokule'a has voyaged more than 50,000 nautical miles.

The museum offers a wide variety of exhibits and activities for those who are interested in the sea, and its link to the many people who have lived in Hawai'i through the centuries.

"I imagine a lot of Navy people would enjoy a whole history like that," said Knight.

The museum is open daily from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. However, guests should arrive at least an hour and a half before closing to give themselves enough time to look through the entire museum.

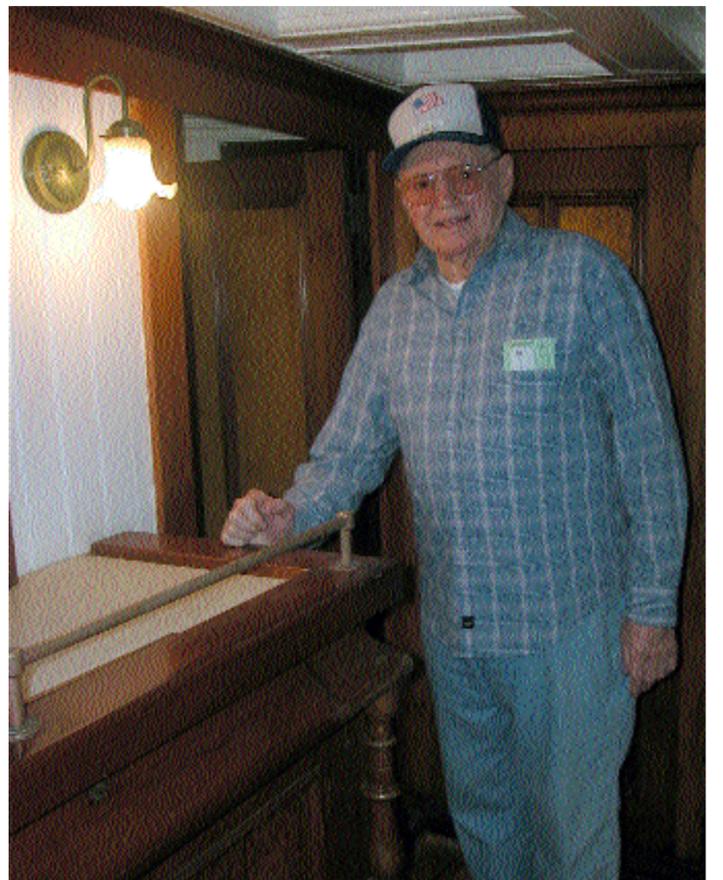
Pay parking is available at the Aloha Tower Marketplace and patrons can call for \$5 validated parking.

The HMC depends entirely on ticket sales and donations and the museum's small staff also relies on volunteers.

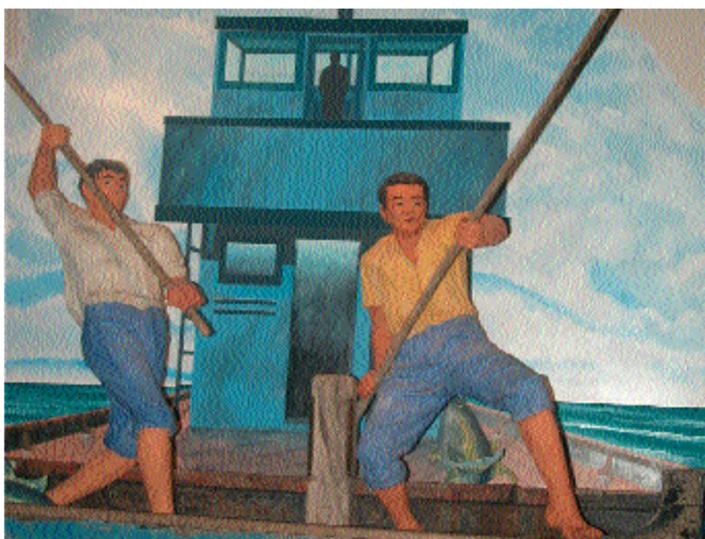
According to Grace, groups or individual Sailors can get involved in Hawai'i's maritime history through volunteer work.

Volunteer opportunities include greeting guests as they purchase admission, assisting them in the HMC gift shop or working on different restoration projects on the Falls of Clyde.

For more information on the Hawai'i Maritime Center, volunteering or group tours, call 523-6151.



Hal Knight, a retired chief electrician's mate and World War II veteran, explores the captain's quarters of the "Falls of Clyde" after reading a ship history written by Bob Krauss. Knight discovered he shared a last name with one of the seamen who served on the ship during the early 20th century.



Fishermen on the "Bluefin" of Honolulu struggle to reel in their latest catch at a fishing industry display at the Hawai'i Maritime Center.



Passenger ships from the mainland brought tourists to the Hawaiian Islands in the years before commercial airlines. The "Lurline" replicates this experience for Hawai'i Maritime Center visitors today.



Photo by Karen Spangler

A member of the USS Chicago Ohana Wives Club assists a customer during Tuesday's "McFundraiser" at the Moanalua Shopping Center McDonald's.

USS Chicago wives hold 'McFundraiser'

Karen S. Spangler
Assistant Editor

Spouses from USS Chicago Ohana Wives Club donned dark blue USS Chicago (SSN 721) and Navy caps as they took over some of the duties at a local eatery Tuesday during a "McFundraiser" at the McDonald's at Moanalua Shopping Center.

The event was the ohana's biggest fundraiser of the year. The spouses' ohana was given a percentage of the proceeds taken during the three-hour period and earned approximately \$350 which will be used to fund ohana events.

Erica Scott, the club's secretary, said, "The purpose of the Chicago Ohana Wives Club is to provide support to all of our families on board, especially during times of deployment. We offer the children opportunities to get together outside of the house, wives a chance to venture out of the house in the absence of their husbands [who are on deployment], and most importantly, support from home to our Sailors wherever they may be."

Noting that this is not an easy task, nor a cheap one, Scott explained that all functions and events are funded solely by the wives' club and all money from the club is provided through the fundraisers.

During the McFundraiser, several USS Chicago wives helped customers at the front counter, took orders at the drive-through, prepared French fry and drink orders, bagged orders and helped with cleanup.

Yvonne Montoya, wife of Fire Control Technician 2nd Class James Stewart, was kept busy at the drive-through window. "I appreciate McDonalds for supporting our ohana and our military. It was a great learning experience and I have a better appreciation for the fast food industry. Working the drive-through was fun," said Montoya.

"I'm lovin' it!!!" said Ashley Perry, wife of Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Steven Perry, who

helped prepare the drinks for the wives who worked at the front counter.

McDonald's, which supports numerous McFundraisers for schools and other organizations, was enthusiastic about the USS Chicago wives' event and glad to be of help. "McDonald's is proud to be part of the Pearl Harbor base community and to support the USS Chicago (SSN 721) ohana in its fund-raising efforts," said Alton Montera, McDonald's operations manager. "We understand how difficult deployments can be for our military families and we are happy to help them in their efforts to support our men and women in uniform."

Scott, wife of MM2 Orlando Scott, coordinated the event and helped with child care for the wives who were working at the fundraiser. "I am overwhelmingly grateful to our Chicago wives for all that they do to help our command. It was wonderful to see firsthand how many people do support our silent service and it was comforting to see that in times of deployment, we are not always alone."

The ohana also has other fundraisers. An ongoing project which started in December is the sale of Pizza Hut 'Good Deals for Good Deeds' coupon books. The coupon books are available at a cost of \$3 each.

The ohana recently finished compiling a cookbook with more than 210 recipes from the club's wives, which is dedicated to all submariner wives. The USS Chicago Ohana Wives Club is currently taking pre-orders for the cookbooks, which are being sold at \$10 each. The club also accepts donations. The club's fundraisers and donations help support its families as well as the service members who are deployed.

The USS Chicago left on deployment in January.

For more information about the USS Chicago Ohana Wives Club or to support any of their fundraising efforts, call 421-1566.

Hotel offers accommodations for furry, feathery friends

Karen S. Spangler
Assistant Editor

Pets are welcome at the Honolulu Airport Hotel for incoming and outbound military families who need accommodations for their furry or feathery family members.

The hotel is the only TLA-approved facility on Oahu that currently provides accommodations for pets. The program is only available for service members and their families.

The pet accommodations are handled on a case-by-case basis and arrangements are determined by the number of pets, size of pets, etc.

Offering accommodations to military families with pets isn't anything new, but according to Les Nishimura, the military liaison at the hotel who coordinates the pet program, many people are unaware of the existence of the program. The hotel started offering pet accommodations for service members about two years ago, as the state's pet quarantine laws were revised and changes were made to the 120-day quarantine policies.

There are only a few rules for those military families who opt to utilize the pet program at the hotel, but it is essential that they are followed, emphasized Nishimura.

All of the rules apply whether the pet is a dog, rabbit or parakeet. Pets that are permitted at the hotel include dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs and birds.

Families must leave a \$150 pet deposit with the hotel. The deposit is a per family fee, regardless of the number of pets. The deposit is necessary to cover any damages that might be caused by pets.

Nishimura noted, "I've never had any problems with them."

Pets are not permitted in any of the hotel's common areas, such as the lobby, restaurants, swimming pool or children's playground. Families with pets are offered rooms on the first floor of the hotel to provide easy access to outdoor areas. They can walk their pets in the parking lot and adjacent areas on the back side of the hotel, but according to Nishimura, many families take their pets for a walk around the



U.S. Navy photo by J02 Devin Wright

The spouse of a Sailor, stationed at NAVMAG, plays with her dog Scrapy at the Honolulu Airport Hotel.

block or find grassy spaces nearby to exercise their pets.

"Everybody needs to watch out for everyone else," said Nishimura, advising that if hotel guests/pet owners see infringements of the rules, they should offer a reminder to the pet owner who is breaking the rules. "You don't want to lose this special privilege," he cautioned.

For outbound military personnel, only pets who weigh less than 20 pounds can be transported on the hotel shuttle to the airport.

Kennels for larger animals won't fit in the hotel's airport shuttle. Nishimura recommended that service members make arrangements with a local cab company for a taxi van if they need to transport larger animals to the airport. He explained that the charge to transport pets to the airport is a reimbursable expense.

Owners of cats are responsible for

setting up, cleaning and disposing of the cat litter box.

Nishimura handles all of the military programs and service members for the hotel. As a retired Army service member, Nishimura was very cognizant of the problems that service men face and wanted to offer solutions.

"When I was on active duty, I saw all of these problems that my Soldiers had," he said. "When I started working with the hotel, I said, 'I'm going to make everything as easy as possible for service members."

"We have to make it as simple as possible," Nishimura explained. "They don't have to get stressed out. I'm going to help them whatever way I can."

Nishimura said that military members should work with their sponsors, but admitted that he also offers guidance to families and sometimes works as an "intermediary sponsor" if a service member doesn't have a sponsor or has had little contact with their sponsor.

He said military people call him throughout the day and sometimes even through the evening hours to make arrangements, but this is something that Nishimura is accustomed to and handles well. For the retired military man, it's all about helping the service members.

Although the hotel sees a greater number of families with pets who use the hotel accommodations during peak PCS times, the hotel is always a popular place for military pet owners. Nishimura said that an average of half a dozen families, including both inbound and outbound military, check in to the hotel each day during off-peak seasons.

He stressed that military service members or their families or sponsors should contact him directly to make arrangements for the pet accommodation program. This is necessary in order to arrange reservations and to go over the pet rules, Nishimura explained. "If they just call the hotel and ask if they take pets, they will be told no," he advised.

To contact Nishimura for more information or to make reservations, call 372-0587.

Holy Week services (March 20-26) at Pearl Harbor Base Chapel

March 20 - Passion/Palm Sunday

• 8:30 a.m. - Protestant Passion/Palm Sunday communion service, Submarine Memorial Chapel

• 8:30 a.m. - Catholic Passion/Palm Sunday mass, NCTAMS Pac Chapel

• 8:45 a.m. - Catholic Mass, Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel - Blessing of the Palms, procession, reading of the Passion, Mass (Mass will be one and one-half hours in duration.)

• 10:30 a.m. - Protestant Passion/Palm Sunday service, NCTAMS Pac Chapel

• 10:30 a.m. - "The Wave" Protestant Easter service,

Submarine Memorial Chapel

• 11 a.m. - Protestant Easter Cantata "At the Cross" service, Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel

March 21-22

• 11:35 a.m. - Daily Mass, Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel

March 23

• 5 p.m. - Daily Mass, Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel

Holy Thursday, March 24

• 6 p.m. - Catholic Holy Thursday Mass, Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel

Good Friday, March 25

• Noon - Catholic Stations

of the Cross, Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel

• 1 p.m. - Protestant Good Friday service, Submarine Memorial Chapel

• 6 p.m. - Catholic Good Friday Service, Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel

Holy Saturday, March 26

• 7:30-11 p.m. - Catholic Easter Vigil Mass, Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel

Easter Sunday, March 27

• 6 a.m. - Easter Sunrise service, USS Missouri

• 6 a.m. - Easter Sunrise service, NCTAMS Pac Chapel

• 9 a.m. - Catholic Easter Mass, Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel

• 8:30 a.m. - Protestant Easter Communion service, Submarine Memorial Chapel

• 8:30 a.m. - Catholic Easter Mass, NCTAMS Pac

• 10:30 a.m. - Protestant Easter service, NCTAMS Pac

• 10:30 a.m. - "The Wave" Protestant Easter service, Submarine Memorial Chapel

• 11 a.m. - Protestant Easter Service, Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel

• 6 p.m. - "Q & A" Protestant service, NCTAMS Pac Chapel

New law improves TRICARE benefits for Reservists, families

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

In the coming months, Reservists and their families can expect additional improvements in TRICARE benefits as a result of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal 2005, which was signed into law last October.

Several temporary TRICARE benefits that were authorized by previous legislation are made permanent or extended by NDAA 2005.

NDAA permanently authorizes TRICARE eligibility for up to 90 days before an active duty reporting date for Reservists who have delayed effective date orders to serve on active duty in support of a contingency operation for more than 30 days and for their families.

Also made permanent is the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP), a 180-day, post-deactivation transitional TRICARE benefit for eligible members and their families. NDAA authorizes the DoD to prescribe in regulations for



Photo courtesy of Tripler Regional Medical Center
A soldier and his family discuss their benefits with a TRICARE representative.

physical examination that each member must receive prior to separating from active duty service.

The TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Project (TRFDP), which ensures timely access to health care for families of activated reservists, has been extended through Oct. 31 to help ensure seamless implementation of these provisions. The demonstration project, which began on Sept. 14, 2001, was originally due to end Nov. 1, 2004.

The new legislation authorizes waiving the TRICARE Standard and Extra deductibles for the family of Reserve members who are ordered to active duty for more than 30 days. This will help reduce the financial hardships of activation for members who have civilian coverage by avoiding a potential double payment of health care deductibles. The annual TRICARE Extra or TRICARE Standard deductible, depending upon the service member's status,

is \$50-\$300.

TRICARE is authorized by NDAA 2005 to pay up to 115 percent of the TRICARE maximum allowable charge (TMAC) to non-participating providers who treat family members of the activated selected Reserves. This allows DoD to protect the beneficiary from "balance billing" for an amount up to 15 percent above the TMAC and enhances continuity of care for these family members with their civilian providers.

NDAA 2005 creates a new program called "TRICARE Reserve Select." This program will give Reserve and National Guard members - who meet certain eligibility criteria - the opportunity to purchase

TRICARE Standard-like health care coverage for themselves and their family members after they demobilize. It is anticipated that the specific details about this new program will be available in the near future. The following is a general description of the benefit plan, which will be more fully outlined by DoD in the next few months.

According to the initial description of the TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) program, Reserve component (RC) members, who have committed to continued service in the selected Reserve for one year or more, qualify for TRS coverage:

- National Guard and Reserve members who served on active duty in support of a contingency operation for 90 days or more, on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and who were released from active duty before Oct. 28, 2004, or within 180 days of that date, may enter into an agreement to serve continuously in the selected Reserve for a period of one or more years and begin participation in TRICARE Reserve Select at that time. For example, if an RC member was activated for one year in support of contingency operations, he/she would be eligible to sign up for four years of TRS coverage while obligating himself/herself to serve in the selected Reserve for that same four years.

- This agreement to serve must be approved by the member's unit and must be

entered into within one year of Oct. 28, 2004.

- TRICARE Standard-like coverage under this program will begin the day after the RC member's eligibility for 180 days of TAMP Program coverage ends.

- For every 90 days of consecutive active duty service, RC members and their eligible family members may purchase one year of TRICARE Standard-like coverage for the same period they commit to serve in the selected reserves.

- Members will be able to purchase the new TRS coverage on a self-only or self-and-family basis. The monthly premium amount has not yet been determined.

- TRICARE Reserve Select members will not be eligible for care at military treatment facilities (MTF) nor for MTF pharmacy benefits. They also will not be eligible for TRICARE Prime Remote or TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members.

Visit www.tricare.osd.mil or www.triwest.com for more information about TRICARE coverage for reservists.

Hawaii Navy News Online www.hawaii.navy.mil

PMRF taking steps to protect lives, birds, aircraft

JO1 Daniel J. Calderón
Editor

(Part 2 of 2)

On the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), three federal agencies are working together to preserve the safety of aircraft flying in and out of the airfield, the lives of Sailors who man those aircraft and the albatrosses who nest on PMRF.

One problem for Brenda Zaun, wildlife biologist at the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, was dogs, both wild and domestic, that would almost annually kill nesting albatrosses on private, unprotected lands near the refuge on the north shore. In addition, a percentage of albatross eggs are infertile and would never hatch. She then offered her site as an alternative to destroying eggs on PMRF, which would supplement the number of chicks and, in time, when those chicks returned to nest, would increase the population on Kauai.

"We went to Capt. Jeff Connelly, commanding officer of PMRF, and he was willing to give the new program a chance," Burger said.

"Everybody really pulled together."

The new program was more in line with the nature of the birds. Although the albatross maintain nest fidelity, nesting parents do not care which egg or chick they care for as long as it is within the nest they know. This means, USDA personnel could bring viable eggs to parents with eggs that were spoiled or sterile.

No one ever thought about surrogate parents," Patrick said. "For whatever reason, it just never came up."

Since the albatross population maintains egg synchronicity, all the eggs were laid and would be hatching at around the same time. The challenge was to move the eggs or newly hatched chicks off PMRF before they imprinted themselves with the location of their nest. Another challenge was determining which eggs to remove from nesting birds at Kilauea Point.

"It was a race against time," Zaun said. "While Jayme and Judson [Ventar, another USDA worker,] would gather the eggs from PMRF, I would go out and 'candle' the eggs here so I would know which ones needed replacing. I wasn't

going to replace a good egg with another good egg."

Once Patrick arrived with the eggs or chicks, she and Zaun would take and replace the bad eggs or empty nest with a good egg or chick from PMRF.

"We were able to find foster parents for every one we brought in," said Zaun. "All I thought was that if I didn't find a parent, this chick was going to die. That was just not acceptable."

During the "crisis condition," 26 chicks and eggs were successfully placed with foster parents at Kilauea Point NWR and other north shore colonies. None of the parents rejected the new eggs or chicks.

"There was a lot of dedication on everyone's part," Burger said. "There was no requirement for anyone to do this. I think the catalyst was the [PMRF] XO [Lt. Cmdr. Jeanene Torrance]. She broke the chain of thinking that we had to do it the same way we had always been doing it."

Burger credits that paradigm shift with saving the lives of 26 albatross and with the potential for assisting with generations of birds to come.

"This really was a labor of

love," he said. "Everyone involved really went above and beyond what they had to do to make this work."

"It was an exciting project," said Patrick. "For two weeks, we worked at least 12 hours a day and we had to scramble to get equipment to move the chicks since we'd never done that before. It was hectic, but the cooperation helped things go very smoothly. Once we were able to see the chicks with the surrogate parents, it was very gratifying."

Since albatrosses live 40-50 years, the birds that continue to nest on PMRF will be returning to their spot to lay their eggs. However, Burger, Zaun and Patrick are working on plans for the future to ensure the "crisis condition" does not arise again.

"Starting in fiscal year 2006, the region is paying for the relocation program," Gilbert said. "So far, with what has been done this year, things are going very well. I haven't seen any accidents and there is definitely a reduction in the amount of albatross here."

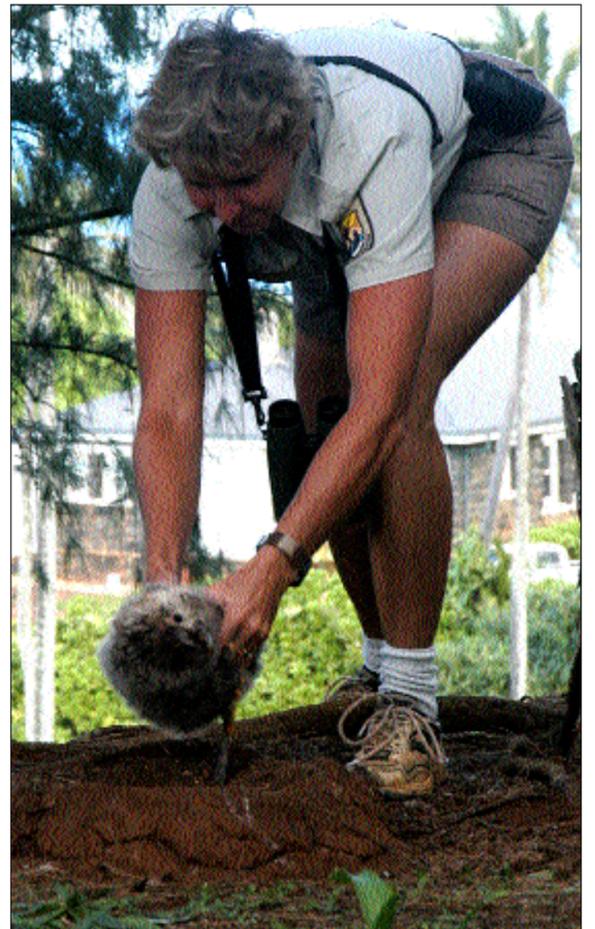
"I'm glad that we're altering what we have been doing in the past," said Zaun. "We're thinking a lot about the bird. We're maintaining the safety of the people and of the aircraft, but we are also taking into account the safety of the birds here."

Currently, there are 100 nesting pairs at the wildlife refuge with 73 chicks and an undetermined number of unmated birds. Zaun said she is anticipating a new influx of albatross during the next nesting season. The next season should begin in November.

"We're looking forward to the supplements," she said. "This new program will help increase our population for years to come."

"I'm excited about working with Brenda and John in the future," Patrick said. "Our primary goal is aviation safety but we're also concerned with protecting the species."

Details on the new program are still being worked out among the three agen-



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

Brenda Zaun, wildlife biologist for the Kauai National Wildlife Refuge Complex, returns an albatross chick to its nest at the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. More than 100 albatrosses nest annually at the protected refuge. There, the birds are safe from people and animals.



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

Albatrosses at the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge on the island of Kauai nest with their chicks. This year, 26 chicks from PMRF were paired with "foster parents" at the refuge.

cies. Discussions involve exactly when to move the eggs and the disposition of the nesting birds. One thought is to conduct an in-depth study of albatross habits on the island.

"The next step is trying to learn about where they are going and what they are doing," said Patrick. "It would be nice to have that piece of the story."

"It would be great if we got a graduate student to do a study here," Burger suggested. "They would just study the birds. We would maintain the same relocation process we have in place

now, but the graduate or doctoral student would study the patterns of movement here."

Burger and Zaun believe such a study would be an asset to bases and air facilities around the world who have to deal with migratory bird populations. However, Zaun, Burger and Patrick are pleased with the work that has been done so far regarding the Laysan Albatrosses of Kauai.

"It's great to have the birds here," Zaun said. "We want more birds here. They're welcome. They're safe and they have a place to reproduce."

MWR

Movie Call

Sharkey Theater
Naval Station Pearl Harbor
(473-0726)

FRIDAY
7:00 p.m. Coach Carter (PG 13)
SATURDAY
2:30 p.m. Are We There Yet? (PG)
4:30 p.m. In Good Company (PG 13)
6:45 p.m. Alone in the Dark (R)
SUNDAY
2:30 p.m. Are We There Yet? (PG)
4:30 p.m. Phantom of the Opera (PG 13)
7:00 p.m. Coach Carter (PG 13)
THURSDAY
1:00 p.m. Pooh's Heffalump Movie (G)
7:00 p.m. Assault on Precinct 13 (R)
\$3 adults; \$1.50 children (6-11)

Memorial Theater
Hickam Air Force Base
(449-2239)

FRIDAY
7:00 p.m. Are We There Yet? (PG)
SATURDAY
2:00 p.m. Pooh's Heffalump Movie (G)
7:00 p.m. Are We There Yet? (PG)
SUNDAY
2:00 p.m. Pooh's Heffalump Movie (G)
7:00 p.m. Boogeyman (PG-13)
WEDNESDAY
7:00 p.m. Boogeyman (PG-13)
THURSDAY
7:00 p.m. Are We There Yet? (PG)
\$3 adults; \$1.50 children (6-11)

Sgt. Smith Theater
Schofield Barracks
(624-2585)

FRIDAY
7:00 p.m. Boogeyman (PG-13)
SATURDAY
2:00 p.m. Pooh's Heffalump Movie (G)
7:00 p.m. Are We There Yet? (PG)
SUNDAY
7:00 p.m. Are We There Yet? (PG)
THURSDAY
7:00 p.m. Boogeyman (PG-13)
\$3 adults; \$1.50 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.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EVENTS

- **March 26:** Kaluanui Ridge hike, 9 a.m., \$5. Register by **March 23**.
- **March 27:** North Shore Shark Adventure, time to be announced, \$90. Register by **March 24**.

MARCH MADNESS

Enjoy "March madness" today through **March 20 and March 24-27** at Club Pearl's Pool & Pizza. Times will be announced. Catch the "mad march" to the NCAA Final Four or enjoy the games on any of the 11 big screen televisions or the 52-inch plasma. For more information, call 473-1743.

SPRING HOLIDAY PARTIES

Celebrate the season at free spring holiday parties hosted by MWR at housing neighborhood community centers. Children of all ages are invited to enjoy the fun activities. The schedule follows:

- **March 19,** 9-11 a.m., Pearl City
- **March 20,** 2-4 p.m., Iroquois Point

RAINBOW BAY MARINA REGATTA AND FAMILY FUN DAY BBQ

Rainbow Bay Marina regatta and family fun day barbecue will be held from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. **March 19**. The free, fun in the sun event will offer a variety of family activities. Sail the historic waters of Pearl Harbor, try the ancient Hawaiian sport of

outrigger canoeing or test your skill in kayaking and paddleboating. For those who are not up to that kind of exertion, the marina staff will offer a piloted harbor cruise. Or enjoy the party from the shore and watch the boat races, jump in the bounce house or enjoy a meal at the local-style barbecue. The event is sponsored by USAA. For more information, call 473-0279.

WALLYBALL NIGHT

Stop by the Bloch Arena racquetball courts for free wallyball night beginning at 6 p.m. **March 23**. The event is free, but you must register in advance. Register no later than **March 21** by calling or visiting the Wentworth Pro Shop.

CAMP ADVENTURE SPRING BREAK CAMP

Registration for Camp Adventure spring break camp is now ongoing. The camp will run from **March 21-April 1**. Camp hours are from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday and will be held at Catlin and Iroquois Point Clubhouses. Day camp is open to patrons ages 5-12. Fees are based on total household income. For more information, call 421-1556.

TEEN FEAR FACTOR WEEK

Highlights of Teen Fear Factor Week **March 21-26** at Pearl City Community Center from noon to 6 p.m. will be crazy food challenges, wild outdoor activities and mind boggling trivia, complete with a scavenger hunt. Prizes will be awarded. Check the March teen calendar or call 454-0758 for more information.

ADULT RACQUETBALL CLINIC

A free adult racquetball clinic will be offered beginning at 5:30 p.m. **March 25** at Bloch Arena courts. Participants can learn tips to improve their game. Register no later than **March 23** by visiting or calling the Wentworth Pro Shop at 473-0610.

PEE WEE BASKETBALL

Registration for pee wee basketball will be from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. though **March 25** at the youth sports office, building 3456 on Main Street, just off Valkenburgh. Children between the ages of three and five years are eligible to register. At the time of registration, parents should bring player's birth certificate, current sports physical (dated no more than one year ago) and a \$35 fee, which includes T-shirt, medal and certificate. The league is open to family members of active duty, retirees, reservists and DoD civilians. For more information, call 474-3501.

POWER LIFTING MEET

MWR will host a power lifting meet starting at 8 a.m. **March 26** at Bloch Arena. The contest will include squat, bench and dead lift. The cost is \$40. Divisions will include men's, women's and master (40 years of age and over). Applications are available at all Navy fitness centers. For more information, call 682-5145.

8TH ANNUAL FORD ISLAND BRIDGE RUN

Sign up now for the 8th Annual Ford Island 10K Bridge Run which will be held **April 9**. Early registration (with T-shirt) is through March 26. Entry forms are available online at www.greatlifehawaii.com or can be picked up at any military fitness

center. For more information, call 473-2494.

LUNCHTIME YOGA

Take a lunchtime yoga session at Bloch Arena Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Improve your flexibility, strength and stamina while increasing your feelings of calm and well-being. The cost is one aerobic ticket. For more information, call 473-0793 or visit www.greatlifehawaii.com.

TEXAS HOLD 'EM TOURNAMENT

A Texas Hold 'em Tournament, a "Texas-sized" poker event, begins at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights at Beeman Center. Prizes, including trips, computers, poker sets, etc., will be given away. There is no entry fee. For more information, call 473-4279.



- **March 18:** Sunset dinner cruise (all you can eat buffet and show), \$35, 4:30 p.m.
- **March 19:** Sail plane rides, (10 to 60-minute rides), \$45+, 9:30 a.m.
- **March 20:** Brunch on the Beach (Waikiki), free, 10 a.m.
- **March 23:** March birthday bash, free, 7 p.m.

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.



Alone in the Dark: A detective travels to Shadow Island to solve the mystery of a friend's death. He discovers the secrets of the Abskani, an ancient tribe that worshiped demonic forces.

Are We There Yet?: When Suzanne's work keeps her in Vancouver for the holiday, Nick offers to bring her kids to the city. The kids are determined to turn the trip into a nightmare.

Assault on Precinct 13: A notorious cop-killer and mobster is unexpectedly brought into a Detroit precinct on New Year's Eve. By nightfall, the remaining cops and prisoners find themselves fighting for their lives against a group of rogue cops intent on taking them down.

Boogeyman: Tim is a man who is still haunted by traumatic memories, many linked to the death of his father. Tim returns to his old hometown so he can pay a visit to the house where he grew up. But while Tim wants to convince himself the ghostly memories are just a figment of his imagination, circumstances lead him to believe that there may be a kernel of truth to them.

Coach Carter: Ken Carter, who oversees Richmond High School's basketball program, found himself in the center of controversy when he locked out his entire varsity team in order to motivate them to improve their grades.

In Good Company: See Review

The Phantom of the Opera: A disfigured musical genius haunts the catacombs beneath the Paris Opera. When he falls in love with Christine, he devotes himself to creating a new star for the opera, exerting a strange sense of control over the soprano as he nurtures her talents.

Pooh's Heffalump Movie: The residents of the Hundred Acre Wood try to catch the terrifying Heffalumps. But Roo, too young to help in the hunt, comes across a young Heffalump named Lumpy, who proves that Heffalumps aren't at all what people say.

JO3 Ryan C. McGinley In Good Company

"In Good Company" is a feel-good 'romantic' comedy about life and the American corporation. But what stands out in this film is not the story, director or major stars, but a relative unknown actor who catapults himself to the forefront of everyone's mind, as he adds charm, laughter and humility to his character.

Topher Grace, whose most popular jobs to date have been on the disastrously annoying "That 70's Show" and various other small, insignificant roles, has a certain boyish charm to his personality that was unseen by everyone until now. This man has talent. He takes the character of Carter, who replaces Dan (Dennis Quaid) as head of advertising sales at the sports magazine, and turns him into a charismatic loveable person.

"In Good Company" is the kind of movie men and women will enjoy. It is not quite a romantic comedy, jumping genres to accommodate a variety of audience members.

Director Paul Weitz has a knack for creating a film that relates to a mass audience, and doesn't seem to alienate anybody. Another previous work, "About a Boy" accomplished the same feat, pulling at emotions while making audience members laugh. This is a film most men won't mind accompanying their girlfriends or wives too, because they will enjoy it just as much.

Scarlett Johansson adds additional quality as Dan's daughter, who inevitably falls for Carter. She, matched with Topher Grace, add fascination to what could have become a boring and clichéd romance. They work well off each other, partly due to the script written by Weitz as well.

"In Good Company" can best be described as a feel-good movie. It makes you laugh, tugs at emotions and inevitably makes you feel like everything is going to be okay, without straying intelligence. It's a smart movie, made appealing by good directing and extremely good acting, especially from the up and coming Topher Grace.

OVERALL RATING: ★★★★★

Community Calendar

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

The Mardi Gras Follies is currently on stage for its 50th anniversary and final curtain call on weekends through **March 19** at The Banyans at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The Las Vegas-style song and dance revue is the main fundraiser for the Pearl Harbor Performing Arts Association (PHPAA) at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Tickets are available at a cost of \$35, \$45 and \$50 per person and offer an evening of entertainment - including a buffet dinner, the Mardi Gras Follies show, tax, tip and free parking. A portion of the cost is tax deductible. For tickets, call 473-1703 on weekdays between the hours of 10 a.m.-1 p.m. You can also visit the Mardi Gras Follies web site at www.mardigrasfollies.com for more information.

The annual Hickam/Pearl Harbor **American Red Cross Volunteer Recognition Ceremony** will be held from 10 a.m.-noon **today** at The Banyans at Pearl Harbor. The lunch is complimentary for volunteers and \$12 for guests. For more information or to make a reservation, call 449-0166.

Navy Exchange Hawai'i associates and customers will paint the "Shades of Spring" on the runway at the NEX rotunda during the **Spring 2005 Fashion Show** which begins at 1 p.m. **March 19**. Customers can take a peek at what's fashionable and welcome spring in style. The event is for the whole family.

Join the Easter Bunny for breakfast from 8-10 a.m. **March 19** at the NEX food court lanai. Breakfast includes McDonald's pancake breakfast, Polaroid photo with the Easter Bunny, Easter favors and balloons. Children under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets will be pre-sold at the customer service desk and are available on a first come, first served basis.

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society 2005 Fund Drive kicks off **March 21-April 22** at the NEX. The Navy Exchange will offer benefit sales and authorized patrons can purchase a benefit ticket and receive 10-15 percent discounts on purchases on April 25-26. Other fundraising activities will include the Pennies From Heaven; containers will be available on all cash wraps.

A **free scrapbooking class** will be offered **March 22** at the Armed Services YMCA at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The class will introduce the basics needed to create beautiful scrapbooks for those cherished family photos. For more information or to sign up, call 473-3398.

Learn **Hawaiian quilting** and how to make a treasured family heirloom from Linda Yamamoto, a quilter with many years of experience. The class begins **March 24** and will meet from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Thursday at Armed Services YMCA at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The cost of the class is \$24. A list of supplies will be provided upon payment of class registration. For more information or to reserve a spot, call 473-3398.

Meet Shirley Parola, the co-author of "Remembering Diamond Head, Remembering Hawai'i," at a book signing from noon-1 p.m. **March 26** at the NEX. The book is a cookbook memoir filled with "East-West fusion cuisine" recipes and interesting stories. Parola is a retired English, speech and drama teacher.

The Pearl Harbor Commissary will close at 3 p.m. **April 6** for an **annual storewide inventory** and storewide reset. The commissary will reopen on April 7 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. The Pearl Harbor Commissary will add additional shelf spaces to provide patrons with a better flow of product throughout the day. To accomplish this, the commissary will close at 3 p.m. June 20 and will be closed all day June 21-22, reopening for normal business on June 23 from 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

A **VP-4 All Hands Reunion** is planned for **Aug. 4-7** in Portsmouth, Va. For more information, call Steve Andruszkewicz at (818) 652-9942 or email VP4Reunion2005@aol.com

The **American Red Cross**, Hickam Service Center is seeking volunteers to fill the following positions: chairman of volunteers, records chairman and publicity chairman. For more information, call the Red Cross office at 449-0166. The office is located at 655 Vickers Ave., building 1105 and is open from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Sea World San Diego is offering free admission throughout 2005 for all active duty military and up to three dependents. For more information, visit <http://www.herosalute.com/cavatz/index.html>.

The USS Chafee Ohana meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at the community center in Pearl City housing. Child care is provided at a cost of \$2 for the first child and \$1 for each additional child. For more information, call 780-4132 or contact chafeehana90@yahoo.com

The **Navy Exchange Appliance Store** has a new home, located in building 70 at the corner of Radford Drive and Bougainville Drive. It is open from 9 a.m.- 9 p.m. daily. For more information, call 421-1495.

How to contact **TriWest/TRICARE services** - Beneficiaries can contact TriWest with enrollment; Primary Care Manager and address changes; program benefits questions; claims status; fee payments and locating network providers in the area by calling 1-888-TRIWEST (1-888-874-9378), visiting their web site at www.triwest.com, or visiting TRICARE Service Centers located at Makalapa Medical Clinic and Kaneohe Bay Medical Clinic.

The TRICARE Service Center located at the Pearl Harbor Makalapa Clinic is open from 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. The TRICARE Service Center located at the Kaneohe Clinic is open from 7-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4 p.m.

T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), a nonprofit, non-commercial weight-loss support group, meets every Wednesday at the Armed Services YMCA, Aliamanu location. Weigh-in begins at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6:15 p.m. Membership fees are low and includes the T.O.P.S. magazine. There are also incentive programs offered. The first meeting is free. T.O.P.S. in Hawai'i is a support group for helping members Take Off Pounds Sensibly. The group recently held its state convention and crowned the state queen. She had lost all her weight by the end of December 2003 and lost 163 pounds. The first meeting of T.O.P.S. is free. If you need support in your weight loss efforts, the group offers low monthly fees and a low joining fee. Call Delcie at 623-1403 for information on the several chapters and meeting places on the island. For more information, call Delcie at 623-1403.

Teen's poem inspires expressions of thanks

Samantha L. Quigley
American Forces Press Service

Troops in Michigan will have no doubt that they and their families are appreciated, and it all started with a girl's poem and soft spot for the military.

Christie Townsend of Rockford, Mich., now nearly 17, found inspiration for her poem "America's Voice" from a pictorial history of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Her poem was so powerful that it has been read at ceremonies honoring fallen Soldiers, and it even earned her a letter from President Bush praising her creativity.

But Christie didn't stop with the poem. She spent time before the holidays trying to make sure that troops deployed overseas could call their families back home. Her mother, Susan Townsend, said Christie raised about \$5,100 in phone cards.

"She has a huge heart for the military," Susan said. "She would have loved to have done it for every single one of them."

Instead of continuing on her own, she and her family took a suggestion to formalize Christie's efforts in hopes of garnering support. Thus was born America's Voice/Kid Expressed. The organization's nonprofit status is pending, Susan said.

Kid Expressed sends care packages and works to make sure deployed servicemembers have post cards and greeting cards from back home. The group also tries to help in sending

care packages that are waiting to be shipped to Iraq and Afghanistan by raising money to cover the postage.

The organization's next show of support won't leave anyone in the area wondering how the Townsends or Kid Expressed feel about U.S. servicemembers.

Christie has worked with her family and Kid Expressed to put up three billboards in the Grand Rapids, Mich., area conveying deep appreciation for U.S. servicemembers. Two of the billboards are set to go up next week, and the third on April 11. The official kickoff for the boards will be on March 25. Retired Army Lt. Col. David Britten, principal of Lee Middle-High School, will help with the ceremony.

The boards carry the image of four saluting children in the full dress uniform of each of the armed services. The message is quite clear: "... To Our Defenders of Freedom and their Families ... We Appreciate You Beyond Expression!"

And there is a very good reason the Kid Expressed board decided that children should be the messengers. "There is no purer form of expressing something than through a child," Susan said.

Christie said she would like to see the billboards appear nationwide. In fact, she said, she has been told there is a spot available in the center of Times Square in New York City, but Kid Expressed doesn't have the \$100,000 necessary to make that happen. She's more hopeful of getting one of the boards up near

Walter Reed Army Medical Center here so that the servicemembers there know they have America's support.

The motivation behind her own efforts and those of others showcased by the Defense Department's "America Supports You" program is important for deployed servicemembers, she said. "It means that America cares, that America has not forgotten," she said. "It means that America does appreciate them beyond expression. For us to support them, it's even a part of their healing to know that America supports them."

Susan said that she feels the support of America is critical to the troops - to help them heal or carry on with their mission. She also said she feels just as strongly that the troops' families need to feel that support too.

"When those men and women are deployed, so are their families," she said. "(The families) may not have to go to Iraq, but part of them is going to Iraq or Afghanistan."

She added that as the needs of those families arise, America's Voice/Kid Expressed wants to be able to help meet those needs.

One important aim of the America's Voice/Kid Expressed is expressed on its Web site: "It is also the goal of America's Voice/Kid Express to inspire our future generation in the appreciation and support of our military."

"That is my full intent," Susan said, "to inspire these kids to, when they see a Soldier, tell them, 'Thank you.'"

Navy Marine Golf Course ready to undergo irrigation improvements

MWR Quality of Life Marketing

Portions of Navy Marine Golf Course (NMGC) will be closed for course enhancements over the next 12 months. On March 14, the front nine holes of NMGC were closed as work on irrigation upgrades began.

These improvements will include the addition of a three million-gallon lake located in front of the seventh tee that will provide a new water hazard for the course.

A new computer-controlled system will have a pump house with two miles of pipe and wire to control nearly 2,000 sprinkler heads. This system will lower the cost of course maintenance through better use of water and maintenance staff.

Additionally, select trees will be thinned out and some tees will be renovated.



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

Portions of the Navy Marine Golf course will be closed over the next 12-14 months while undergoing renovations.

The driving range and the back nine holes will remain open during most of the course enhancements.

Upon completion of initial improvements, the front nine holes will reopen and the back nine holes will close for similar upgrades.

NMGC patrons are

reminded to also consider teeing off at the Barbers Point Golf Course and enjoy the new clubhouse that is scheduled to open this summer. To reserve a tee time at Barbers Point Golf Course, call 682-1911. Call 471-0142 for tee times at NMGC or for more information on the course upgrades.

Voting assistance program kicks off slogan contest

American Forces Press Service

The Federal Voting Assistance Program is accepting entries until July 10 for its latest slogan contest.

The winning slogan will be featured in the FVAP's 2006-2007 media campaign, which will focus on increasing voter awareness among U.S. citizens worldwide and encouraging them to participate in the democratic process, officials said.

Slogans also will be posted on the FVAP Web site in the 2006-2007 Voting Assistance Guide, officials added, and on motivational posters, audio-visual materials and in other FVAP publications and manuals.

According to FVAP officials, the aim is to promote interest in voting among people covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act -- members of the uniformed services, the Merchant Marine, their families, and all U.S. citizens residing outside the United States.

Submitted slogans should address the importance of voting or inspire someone to vote, and people may enter as many times as they like, but contest officials request that each entry be submitted separately. A panel of independent judges will choose the winning slogan based on

originality and motivational value, officials said. The contest winners and runners-up will receive a certificate signed by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Entrants may submit their slogan by e-mail, fax or mail. It should include their full name, their service (if military), mailing address, day-time telephone number, fax number and e-mail address.

E-mail entries should be sent to slogan@fvap.ncr.gov and should be text only, one slogan per e-mail, with contact information on each e-mail. Enter "Voting Slogan Contest" on the subject line. Due to security concerns, any e-mail message with an attachment will be deleted.

Slogans can be faxed to (703) 696-1352 or DSN 426-1352. The FVAP Web site has toll-free fax numbers from 51 countries. Submit separate page for each slogan with contact information on each page. No cover sheet is necessary.

People may also mail their entries to Federal Voting Assistance Program, Department of Defense, Attn: Voting Slogan Contest, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1155. If submitting by mail, type or print legibly on regular 8.5-by-11-inch paper, with one slogan per page and contact information on each page.

(Based on a Federal Voting Assistance Program release.)

GOT SPORTS? 

email us at:
hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com