

PMRF hosts NEO Express 2005



Sailors hone in Sea Warrior Program enhancing warfighting effectiveness. See story on page A-6.



JO2 (SW/AW) Johnny Michael
PMRF Public Affairs

A landing craft air cushioned, or LCAC, assigned to USS Peleliu (LHA 5), landed along the sands of Pacific Missile Range Facility's beach Tuesday morning, marking the start of a two-day exercise in which U.S. Marine personnel focus more on rescue than assault.

Termed non-combatant evacuation operation, or NEO Express 2005, the exercise is designed to focus more training on peace enforcement operations such as hostage and refugee extractions.

For this exercise, non-combatants were staged on another part of the base and U.S. Marine units were tasked with locating and then bringing them out of a hostile environment and to the safety of the awaiting Peleliu.

Shortly after the recently beached LCAC began to unload its personnel and vehicles, the hostile forces presented themselves in the form of opposing forces, or OPFOR, teams which had pre-staged in the area in anticipation of the landing.

Help soon arrived for the beleaguered LCAC crew, however, as 15 amphibious assault vehicles from 3rd Assault Amphibious Battalion, 1st

Marine Division, came crashing through the waves at a point just south of the compromised LCAC. More than 150 Marines disembarked from the heavily armored track vehicles and, after trading fire with the OPFOR forces, secured the area.

"My people haven't been involved in real world operations in more than two years, since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom," said Capt. Benjamin Venning, Alpha Company commander. "This landing afforded us the opportunity to focus on getting the vehicles to shore and acting as a cohesive unit."

The remaining equipment from the LCAC was then offloaded and the troops pressed on to the makeshift embassy where the mission targets awaited. After obtaining the evacuees, the Marines set up an evacuation control center, or ECC, from which they would run operations.

Meanwhile, the LCAC returned to Peleliu four more times throughout the day to bring more vehicles and gear to the landing zone.

A total of more than 20 vehicles and close to 200 personnel reached the beach at PMRF in order to execute this exercise.

"This has presented a new experience for most of my Marines," said Capt. Christopher Murphy of

Combat Logistics Company 32 "They got to use equipment and methods they had not utilized before."

Located on the northern Hawaiian island of Kauai, PMRF offers an excellent choice for this type of exercise said Senior Chief Petty Officer (SW) Kevin Chambers.

"These are the perfect conditions to run these operations. That's why we train in the places we do, to try to get it as real as possible," said Chambers.

The biennial Rim of the Pacific exercise, better known as RIMPAC features Marine landings at PMRF as well as a multitude of other operations spanning air, sea and under sea warfare in the range's enormous test area.

According to Hank Schauer, PMRF special operations program manager this exercise was a bit unusual since this type of training is usually only done during RIMPAC. The facilities geography and range capabilities offered an attractive opportunity to the Sailors and Marines from Peleliu.

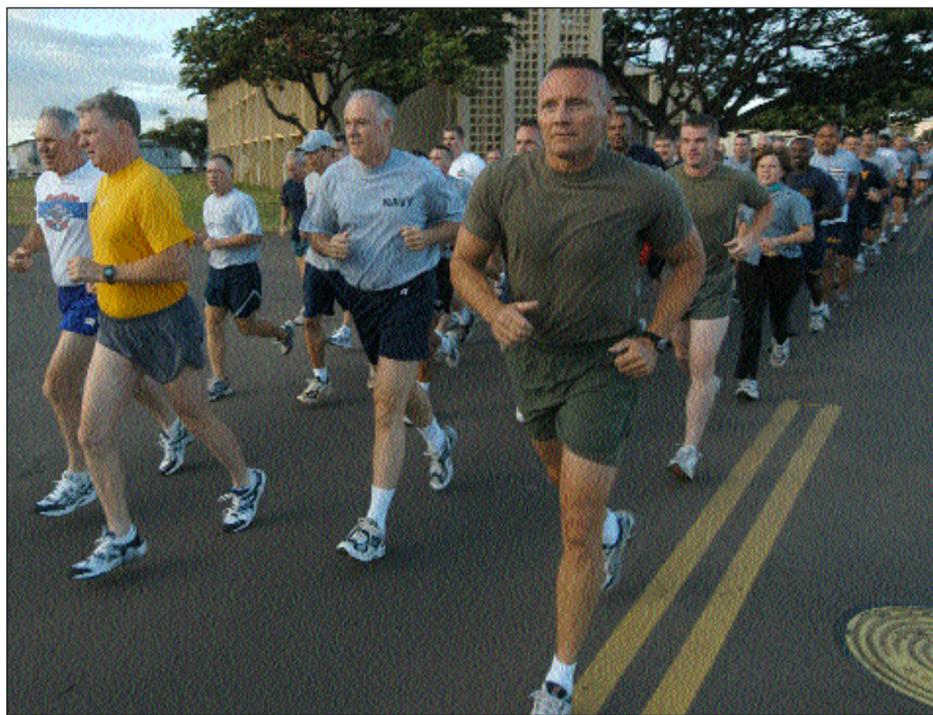
"These units were set to deploy this fall and saw PMRF as a chance to get some much needed training," said Schauer. "They asked and we responded."



Summer reading Kids can have summer reading adventures. See story on page B-1.

A U.S. Navy photo by JO2(SW/AW) Johnny Michael. A Marine role-playing a hostile or opposing force combatant fires on advancing personnel from the 3rd Assault Amphibious Battalion, 1st Marine Division on June 28 during NEO Express 2005. Sailors and Marines from USS Peleliu (LHA 5) trained for two days, focusing on non-combatant evacuation from hostile areas.

PT PACOM style



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Devin Wright

Personnel from United States Pacific Command ran the perimeter of Ford Island on June 27 in the first of what is hoped to be a monthly group physical training. The run was led by Adm. William Fallon, commander, Pacific Command.

Fireworks illegal on Navy installations and in Navy housing areas

Karen S. Spangler
Assistant Editor

Happy Fourth of July! It's time to celebrate the independence of America. Observances of the Fourth of July holiday are synonymous with patriotism as Americans proudly display the American flag and celebrate their freedoms. It is a time for family get together, picnics and luaus, parades and many other events. For many people, the July 4th holiday also includes the use of fireworks.

Navy leadership wants Navy families to enjoy the Fourth of July holiday, but does not want it to be marred by accidents or tragedies.

"Fireworks, even in the hands of a responsible person, can be dangerous and unpredictable," said Capt. Norman Ho, assistant chief of staff for Navy Region Hawai'i Housing. "The possession and/or use of any type of fireworks on any Navy property, especially in Navy housing areas, is illegal and forbidden. Violators may face eviction from housing and disciplinary action," he said.

The ban on fireworks is a serious safety issue. Fireworks can cause serious injury and sometimes death. More than one victim has been "surprised" by fireworks that have exploded at an unexpected time due to mishandling or faulty materials.

According to statistics from the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), emergency rooms treated 9,300 people for fireworks-related injuries in the United States in 2003 and four people died from their injuries. About half of these injuries occurred among children ages 14 years and younger. Children ages five to nine years old have the highest injury rate for fireworks-related

▼ See FIREWORKS, A-2

Hawai'i Navy News Briefs

DoD identifies Navy casualty

The Department of Defense announced today the death of a Sailor who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Petty Officer 1st Class Regina R. Clark, 43, of Centralia, Wash., died June 23 in a convoy that was attacked by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in Fallujah. She was a culinary specialist deployed with Naval Construction Regiment Detachment 30, Port Hueneme, Calif. and was temporarily assigned to Marine Expeditionary Force.

Online stress management available

Sailors, Marines or family members seeking assistance in controlling and reducing stress can now utilize the Navy Systematic Stress Management Program, a Web-based tool available from the Navy Environmental Health Center (NEHC). The tool provides resources for effective stress management including articles, products and contact information to seek additional help. For more information visit the NEHC Web site at, <http://www.nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/stress/Str essMgmt.htm>

Flag officer announcement

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced June 29 that the President has nominated Rear Adm. Paul E. Sullivan for appointment to the grade of vice admiral and assignment as commander, Naval Sea Systems Command, Washington, D.C. Sullivan is currently serving as deputy commander for Ship, Design, Integration and Engineering, SEA-05, Naval Sea Systems Command, Washington, D.C.

JO2 Devin Wright Editor

The first of what is hoped to be many aircraft to be displayed at the Pacific Aviation Museum arrived on Ford Island on June 27.

A World War II B-25 Mitchell medium bomber that had been on display at Hickam Air Force Base was transported to Ford Island on a barge.

It was towed to the control tower on the island and will be the gate guard of the future museum.

The joint service aviation museum is scheduled to be completed and open to visitors Dec. 7, 2006.

"This museum will tell the story of the aircraft and the people who flew them during World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars," said Allan Palmer, chief executive officer of the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor. "The aircraft that will be on display here (Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor) are survivors of those wars. A lot of these planes are survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor and flew counter attacks against the Japanese. They

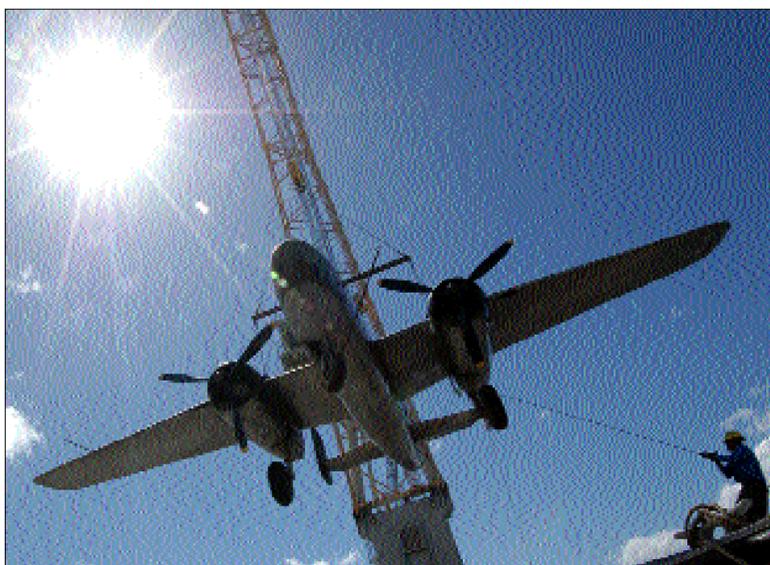
have bullet holes in them still today and we intend on keeping them that way so people can enjoy these historic structures as they were in those times," he added.

B-25 bombers were used during the Doolittle Raid when General Jimmy Doolittle and other B-25 bomber pilots flew the planes off USS Hornet to attack Japan. The Doolittle Raid was a turning point during WWII.

In addition to the B-25, the museum through grants and donations has acquired a MIG 15 and F-86 from the Korean War era, a Huey and Cobra helicopter from the Vietnam era, and a civilian plane that was caught, during flight, in the attack on Pearl Harbor. Also on display will be the plane that President George H. W. Bush learned to fly in as a naval aviation cadet.

The museum will be at a variety of different hangars near the control tower.

Visitors will be welcome to come and see the museum just as they do at the Battleship Missouri. Palmer expects 300,000 to 400,000 visitors in the first year.



US Navy photo by Ryan C. McKinley

A B-25 Mitchell medium bomber arrives at Ford Island on June 28. The plane is the first of what is hoped to be many aircraft to be displayed at the Pacific Aviation Museum. The museum is scheduled to open Dec. 7, 2006. Visitors will be welcome to come and visit the museum just as they do at the Battleship Missouri.

USS Port Royal takes part in the Rose Festival

USS Port Royal Public Affairs

As the sun rose over Oregon on a Thursday morning, USS Port Royal (CG 73) cut through the Columbia River in transit to Portland. USS Port Royal, along with USS McClusky (FFG 41) and USS Decatur (DDG 73), were the three ships representing the U.S. Navy at the annual Portland Rose Festival, arriving on the evening of June 9 and departing June 13.

For nearly 100 years, the Portland Rose Festival has been one of the most popular attractions for the state of Oregon, and for the U.S. Navy, the Portland Rose Festival has offered a unique opportunity to interact with the public and give civilians a chance for a firsthand look at what the Navy does and has to offer.

"We love Portland," commented Fire Controlman 2nd Class (SW) Joseph Lovett assigned to USS Port Royal. "The city really takes care of us (the Sailors)," "When I've been out in town in my uniform this year, people have approached me with such excitement. They want to know if the ships are in, how soon they'll be here and most everyone has thanked me for my service. It's a very humbling experience. I'm very proud to represent the Navy at Rosefest and it's very rewarding to see the enthusiastic and positive responses from the Portland residents," he continued.

Numerous events for both Sailors onboard and Portland residents had been planned. Receptions for ships' officers, chiefs and enlisted were scheduled and jam packed with both Sailors and civilians. MWR provided ship's company with tours around Oregon, rafting, and access to golf courses and other athletic events. In addition, a carnival had been set up on the Tom McCall Waterfront Park, free to military personnel, and was filled with rides, game booths and food stands that were busy every day, despite the rainy weather. Tours, offered to the public, were filled with lines stretching down several blocks. Port Royal alone gave tours to more than 2,500 civilians and guests the days tours were offered.

Many Port Royal's Sailors had a great time at the Portland Rose Festival, including those who call the city home.

"Being in the Navy, many Sailors don't get a chance to go home very often, let alone have a port visit in their hometown," said Engineman 2nd Class (SW) Nathan Weeks, a native of the Portland area. "I'm glad I got the opportunity to show my family and the city of Portland a small glimpse of what Port Royal does. I'm also glad that the Sailors onboard Port Royal got the chance to experience the beauty and hospitality of Portland."



U.S. Navy photo

USS Port Royal (CG 73) maneuvers through the Columbia River in transit to Portland for the annual Portland Rose Festival on June 9. For nearly 100 years, the Portland Rose Festival has been a popular attraction for the state of Oregon.

Sea Cadets complete two-week 'boot camp'

J03 Ryan C. McGinley

Staff Writer

Ens. Jamie Lynn De Coster

USS Hopper (DDG 70) Public Affairs

The Battleship Missouri Sea Cadets - Hawai'i Division - completed their two-week training course today, which aimed to provide Hawai'i youth with a drug and alcohol free environment to foster their leadership abilities, broaden their horizons through hands-on training and guide them to becoming mature young adults.

"We get the opportunity to show youth the experience of the Navy and sea services," said Senior Chief Storekeeper Jack Herring, executive officer for sea cadet unit. "The goal for the two-week program is that the cadets get a basic understanding of the military, discipline, core values and what it takes to be a good citizen, which is the main point of the youth program."

The program resembles recruit training as cadets participate in physical training, marching drills and seamanship courses. They are taught proper uniform attire, military courtesies, rank and recognition and other military customs designed to give them an introduction to military life and provide them options

for their future.

"For the cadets who plan on joining the military, this program is going to be a big head start," said Steel Worker 2nd Class (SCW) Jackson Sheflin, instructor for the cadets. "For others, the program still helps them get their head on straight and lets them know that you have to present yourself as you want to be seen. They're learning self-imaging and building self-confidence."

Held in Hawai'i, the program allowed cadets to tour a variety of military installations and historic landmarks to further their education. Over the two-week period, the cadets visited the Coast Guard and Marine facilities, as well as toured ships and submarines on Pearl Harbor.

On June 22, the cadets toured USS Hopper (DDG 70) while the ship was undergoing a selected restricted availability (SRA) yard period. The Sea Cadets traversed the 505-foot destroyer, visiting the pilot house and a main engine room, as they learned about the multi-mission capable DDG platform and the maintenance period required to keep the ship up and running in today's fleet.

"You mean, they'll actually let me drive this billion dollar warship when I turn 18," a Sea Cadet inquired after seeing the ship's helm

console. When asked about his future career goals, the 12-year-old Sea Cadet replied, "I have a few options. Being on a submarine would be cool, but I really like surface ships, too."

Cadets also visited with Cmdr. Peter M. Driscoll Jr. the ship's commanding officer, for a question and answer period.

Hopper Sailors were interested in meeting the guests and many volunteered to show them around. "They all looked up to us like heroes," said Damage Controlman 3rd Class Aaron Solomona. "It reminds me of how important my job as a Sailor and a role model really is."

The cadets also toured USS Arizona Memorial, Battleship Missouri Memorial and other historic landmarks on Pearl Harbor.

"I spent an hour with them answering questions they had about anything and some of their questions were really insightful," said Sheflin. "They have been really impressed with what they have learned."

This was Sheflin's first time volunteering for the program and he said he took pride in shaping the Hawai'i youth into possible shipmates.

"I hope they come out of this program with a good self-image, self esteem, some basic military instruction and apply it to their life and possibly a military career," he said.

Fireworks: Leave it to the professionals

Continued from A-1

ed injuries. Males sustained about 72 percent of all injuries. Hands and fingers (26 percent), eyes (21 percent), and head and face (18 percent) were the parts of the body most frequently injured. More than half of the injuries involved burns (63 percent).

The NCIPC points out that fireworks can also cause life-threatening residential fires. The danger of accidentally igniting property fires is another serious concern. Fireworks can ignite the roof of a house, a car, a tree, etc. and cause extensive damage for which residents will be held personally liable.

Brush fires are also a major concern since fireworks can ignite fires that could burn acres of land and place people in danger, destroy homes, and cause extensive damage.

Statistics provided by the National Fire Protection Association show that fireworks-related fires have caused at least \$15 to \$20 million in property loss each year in the past decade.

For more information about

fireworks-related dangers and damages, visit:

- NCIPC at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/fworks.htm>,
- National Fire Protection Association at <http://www.nfpa.org/search.asp?query=fireworks>
- Federal Emergency Management Agency at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/statistics/reports/pubs/tfrs.shtml>

Numerous Fourth of July celebrations are planned throughout the island and many of them include fireworks displays. Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) at Naval Station Pearl Harbor will host its annual July 4 block party.

Those who wish to enjoy fireworks as part of the holiday celebration are encouraged to attend one of the July 4 events. Not only are such displays a beautiful part of the Fourth of July holiday celebration, but they are well-organized and handled by professionals.

Please celebrate safely - and enjoy the holiday.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

You didn't join the Navy to sit on your stern!

FLTCM(SS/SW) Rick West
U.S. Pacific Fleet Command
Master Chief

Warriors, I previously released this article in Hawai'i, but decided to run it again to get coverage across the Navy because I think the topic is that important. As Sailors, we have many opportunities to visit foreign countries and get a quick snapshot of the local culture and the way of life associated with a foreign country.

But have you ever thought of living there?

Many opportunities exist for duty overseas; it's an excellent opportunity for you and your family to experience the monetary advantages, education opportunities, travel and the challenging assignments that make up overseas assignments.

In Japan, for example, we have two problems associated with forward deployed naval forces (FDNF) duty. First is getting Sailors to take orders to Japan; the second problem, and the biggest, is trying to get Sailors and their families to leave when their duty is completed ... they simply love the Japanese culture and the advantages of being stationed in the FDNF.

I had the opportunity to go overseas for duty and still today, I reflect on that tour as rewarding, fun and one that will always provide great memories. That said, I'd like to discuss an issue that not only affects the readiness of our Navy, but also provides some very interesting opportunities for you all - duty overseas and in particular, in the FDNF.

Many opportunities exist for us who have completed or will be completing an overseas tour. In fact, every Sailor who enters our great Navy should expect to do one or two tours overseas in their 30-year careers.

One of my big concerns as fleet master chief is that some of our forward-deployed Pacific Fleet billets are getting a bad rep, mostly because of a lack of good information. Hopefully through this article, I will address some of your concerns about FDNF duty and provide you some information that will

assist you and your family in making an informed decision to go overseas for a tour or two.

First, let's talk about what's close to everyone's heart - money. As some of you may or may not be aware, our Navy has started a cash-incentive program called assignment incentive pay (AIP) to help fill critical overseas billets that traditionally have been hard to fill. For some ratings, that can amount to almost \$1,500 a month extra.

Through the AIP program and the detailers, Sailors bid on a job, keeping the max in mind, and the most qualified Sailor gets the nod. But as we all know, there's no free lunch.

AIP is scaled to meet rating and location requirements, in other words putting a qualified Sailor in a needed billet. Critical-skill ratings get more than others and some locations that are harder to fill will have higher AIP ceilings. Talk with your career counselor regarding your eligibility for AIP.

And let's also not forget about other financial incentives to forward-deployed duty like overseas COLA, housing allowances, sea pay for sea commands and, for those looking to extend there, overseas tour extension incentive pay.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some incentives and advantages to being stationed in Yokosuka, Japan on sea duty. I will use an E-6 over eight for my example, living in housing (only a month wait now) with three dependents. That Sailor would get \$1,212 for COLA (cost of living allowance), possible max AIP of \$450 (will use this number for example only), that alone banks you around \$20K per year extra on top of your other pays which equates to approximately \$60K extra over a three-year tour, not a bad way to get yourself ahead financially and professionally.

Other items that are significant and should be considered are:



FLTCM(SS/SW)
Rick West

- Priority seating on MAC flights for environmental morale leave (EML).

- Paid travel for member and dependents on emergency leave.

- Spousal tax-free employment income (up to \$80K) (tax free). (I met a young Sailor whose wife was working in Tokyo three days a week making big bucks teaching English to Japanese students, all tax free.)

- No out-of-pocket expenses for orthodontic care (ex., children's braces).

- DODEA schools (in Yokosuka approximately 20 to 1, student to teacher ratio).

- A very robust MWR, offering many travel opportunities.

- Short waiting list for housing.

The Navy understands your financial concerns when it comes to this kind of duty and is ready to pay for the right people to do these tougher jobs. And remember the example above does not take into account base pay and other pays such as sea pay, sub pay etc...

Now let's talk overall Japan for a minute. Professionally, Sailors in Japan are finding themselves in a fast-paced, high op-tempo environment that constantly offers them a fresh supply of challenges and opportunities. Some of the challenges in Japan include:

- 17 ships.
- 43 shore facilities forward deployed in Japan.

- Three fleet activities at Yokosuka, Okinawa and Sasebo.

- Two naval air facilities at Atsugi and Misawa.

- Approximately 19,829 active duty Sailors and 18,842 family members.

That's a lot of jobs to fill. Speaking as someone who has sat a few selection boards, I can tell you flat out that Sailors who seek out the hard jobs, the jobs no one else will take, get noticed and could have an advancement advantage over others.

Whether at sea or on shore, surface, air or submarine, working with the Japanese Self Defense Forces or serving the Seventh Fleet, Sailors forward deployed to Japan have an extra advantage to develop professionally. For more information about duty in Japan (hearing Sailors' perspective), log

onto www.npc.navy.mil/enlisted

Now let's take a look at Guam.

Our Navy and Marine Corps forces in the Marianas are a highly critical and significant presence. The islands serve as a springboard for forward-deployed forces and provide some of the best operational support and training environments in the Western Pacific. Guam's opportunities and challenges include:

- Duty in one of more than 40 different commands including, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas, Submarine Squadron 15; U.S. Naval Hospital Guam; Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Guam; Space and Naval Warfare Systems, just to name a few.

- Duty at a strategic support hub, providing the "beans, bullets, and black oil" and the training opportunities, that place transiting units where they need to be and ready for action.

- Navy presence on Guam - 3,903.

- Forward-deployed ships in Guam include the USS Frank Cable (AS 40) (one of two submarine tenders in the Navy), USS San Francisco (SSN 711), USS Houston (SSN 713) and USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705).

The word is also slowly spreading that Guam is a great home and a great liberty port for our Sailors. Guam is one of the few military overseas bases where service members can find all the amenities of home for singles and families. Year-round tropical weather, beautiful beaches and world-class diving, great WWII history among other things are all available in this U.S. territory.

Along with space A travel throughout the Pacific Rim as well as DoDEA schools that provide a top-notch education, Guam offers just about everything to ensure an enjoyable and rewarding overseas family tour.

And then there is Korea. Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea presents a challenging tour providing leadership and expertise in naval matters to area military commanders and functions as a liaison to the Republic of Korea navy, U.S. Combined Forces Command and Commander, U.S.

Seventh Fleet.

While there are no ships homeported in Korea, there are still approximately 300 Navy billets. Sailors serving here find spacious housing and great MWR services and support.

Finally, there is Singapore. Even though there is not a Navy base in Singapore, there is still a Navy presence. There are approximately 90 Sailors, alongside 50 personnel from the other services, who serve here.

Singapore is one of the world's safest and cleanest countries, and Sailors stationed here have phenomenal quality of life with spacious homes for families and Navy-funded private education for their children. Single Sailors live in spacious apartments and have all the support of traditional MWR services.

Being stationed in any of these exciting billets will also give you the opportunity to travel to parts of Asia not seen by most Sailors on port visits. You can take a trip to the ancient Cambodian temples of Angkor, the Great Wall of China, or the architectural accomplishment of India's Taj Mahal.

While the old axiom, "Join the Navy, see the world!" may be a bit cliché, travel is one of the main reasons people joined, and continue to join, the Navy and there is no better way to explore the nuances of Asia than by being stationed there.

Taking on one of these challenging and rewarding billets may offer you and your family some extra money and great quality of life, but you'll also be rewarded with one of the most satisfying experiences of your life - experiencing a new culture.

Additionally, these billets are critical to the defense of our nation and the global war on terrorism and because we are having a hard time filling some of these billets, the Navy's mission and readiness could eventually start to suffer.

For more information on overseas duty, contact your career counselor and detailer. Another great source of information is to speak to someone who has been stationed overseas. I think you will find most all agree it's a great experience.

Until next time, stay focused on the mission and stay safe ... no DUIs!

Remarks by President Bush on the war on terrorism

President George W. Bush

(Excerpts from live broadcast June 28)

One year ago, we restored sovereignty to the Iraqi people.

In January 2005, more than eight million Iraqi men and women voted in elections that were free and fair.

We continued our efforts to help them rebuild their country. Rebuilding a country after three decades of tyranny is hard - and rebuilding while at war is even harder. Our progress has been uneven, but progress is being made. We are improving roads and schools and health clinics ... and working to improve basic services like sanitation, electricity and water. And together with our allies, we will help the new Iraqi government deliver a better life for its citizens.

In the past year, the international community has stepped forward with vital assistance. Some 30 nations have troops in Iraq and many others are contributing non-military assistance. The United Nations is in Iraq to help Iraqis write a constitution and conduct their next elections. Thus far, some 40 countries and three international organizations have pledged about \$34 billion in assistance for Iraqi reconstruction. More than 80 countries and international organizations recently came together in Brussels to coordinate their efforts to help Iraqis provide for their security and rebuild their coun-



President
George W. Bush

try. And next month, donor countries will meet in Jordan to support Iraqi reconstruction. Whatever our differences in the past, the world understands that success in Iraq is critical to the security of all our nations. As German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said at the White House yesterday, "There can be no question a stable and democratic Iraq is in the vested interest of not just Germany, but also Europe."

Today Iraq has more than 160,000 security forces trained and equipped for a variety of missions. Iraqi forces have fought bravely - helping to capture terrorists and insurgents in Najaf, Samarra, Fallujah and Mosul. And in the past month, Iraqi forces have led a major anti-terrorist campaign in Baghdad called Operation Lightning - which has led to the capture of hundreds of suspected insurgents. Like free people everywhere, Iraqis want to be defended by their own countrymen - and we are helping Iraqis assume those duties.

Thousands of coalition troops are involved in the training and equipping of Iraqi Security Forces. NATO is establishing a military academy near Baghdad to train the next generation of Iraqi military leaders - and 17 nations are contributing

troops to the NATO training mission. Iraqi Army and police are being trained by personnel from Italy, Germany, Ukraine, Turkey, Poland, Romania, Australia and the United Kingdom. Dozens of nations are working toward a common objective: an Iraq that can defend itself, defeat its enemies and secure its freedom.

I recognize that Americans want our troops to come home as quickly as possible. So do I. Some contend that we should set a deadline for withdrawing U.S. forces. Let me explain why that would be a serious mistake. Setting an artificial timetable would send the wrong message to the Iraqis - who need to know that America will not leave before the job is done. It would send the wrong message to our troops - who need to know that we are serious about completing the mission they are risking their lives to achieve. And it would send the wrong message to the enemy - who would know that all they have to do is to wait us out. We will stay in Iraq as long as we are needed - and not a day longer.

America has done difficult work before. We know that when the work is hard, the proper response is not retreat, it is courage. And we know that this great ideal of human freedom is entrusted to us in a special way - and that the ideal of liberty is worth defending.

This Fourth of July, I ask you to find a way to thank the men and women defend-

ing our freedom - by flying the flag ... sending letters to our troops in the field ... or helping the military family down the street. The Department of Defense has set up a web site - AmericaSupportsYou.mil. You can go there to learn about private efforts in your own community. At this time when we celebrate our freedom, let us stand with the men and women who defend us all.

To the Soldiers in this hall, and our servicemen and women across the globe: I thank you for your courage under fire and your service to our nation. I thank our military families - the burden of war falls especially hard on you. In this war, we have lost good men and women who left our shores to defend freedom - and did not live to make the journey home. The best way to honor the lives that have been given in this struggle is to complete the mission.

I thank those of you who have re-enlisted in an hour when your country needs you. There is no higher calling than service in our Armed Forces. We live in freedom because every generation has produced patriots willing to serve a cause greater than themselves. Those who serve today are taking their rightful place among the greatest generations that have worn our nation's uniform. When the history of this period is written, the liberation of Afghanistan and the liberation of Iraq will be remembered as great turning points in the story of freedom.

STORY IDEAS

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NEX and Navy outline shoplifting consequences

Laarni Gedo
NEX Marketing

The Navy Exchange (NEX) Hawai'i at Pearl Harbor, with support from Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i (CNRH), continues its campaign against shoplifting by outlining the consequences of committing the crime.

Last month, NEX Hawai'i and CNRH announced the necessary implementation of stricter shoplift-policy, requiring sponsor accountability, in an effort to put a stop to shoplifting which will result in more contributions to Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs.

"The new policy is needed to reduce loss so we can keep low prices and keep our dividends to support MWR at the highest practicable level," said Michael Cottrell, NEX Hawai'i district manager.

"If we prevent people from committing crimes, it's good for our patrons as well," Cottrell added.

Rodd Wilson, NEX district loss prevention manager, and his team of 20 people hope that by clearly outlining the grave consequences of shoplifting at the NEX, people will think twice about committing the crime.

"Imagine the disruption to a military family when one of the members is apprehended for shoplifting," Cottrell said. "Raising the level of awareness in the community will hopefully go a long way in preventing people from trying to steal. Parents should talk to their kids about this as part of their parenting process."

Shopping at the NEX and the Commissary are two significant privileges for active duty personnel, reservists and retirees. Not only is it a privilege, the NEX is also a significant contributor to MWR, which funds programs from athletic facilities to many community events, like the recent Pearl Harbor Auto Show. Stealing from the NEX, ultimately, is stealing from the military community--and is a federal offense.



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Devin Wright

Recipients of the NEX "aloha care packages" checks pose for a picture at a ceremony June 24 at the NEX. NEX presented more than \$40,000 in checks to various military commands throughout Hawai'i, who have personnel supporting the global war on terrorism. Commands will purchase care package items with the money which will be sent to their personnel.

NEX donates \$40,000 to troops

JO2 Devin Wright
Editor

The Navy Exchange (NEX) presented more than \$40,000 in checks to various military commands throughout Hawai'i, who have personnel supporting the global war on terrorism, for "aloha care packages" at a ceremony June 24 at the NEX.

The NEX, in partnership with Foodland and the Honolulu Star-Bulletin,

raised the money for the packages.

Over the past year, the three organizations raised the money to go towards the care packages for both active and reserve service members currently deployed.

"These packages are to help support our troops so they can continue fight for our freedom," said Janeane Robinson, NEX customer service manager. "We are proud to support the men and women in uniform and

hope these care packages show them that we are all behind them and they are on our minds," she said.

Guest speaker at the ceremony was Capt. David Bigelow, chief of staff, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, who said the kind of generosity displayed by the NEX, Foodland and the Honolulu Star-Bulletin is important to the Global War on Terrorism.

"I have never met a Sailor in my 30 years of service

whose day wasn't brightened by a care package," said Bigelow. "Those packages translate into smiles. They make happy service members. Being deployed is a lot easier if you know people are thinking of you and care about your safe return. That's what we have shown today," he said.

Commands have until July 15 to purchase and assemble their care packages which will be shipped to the troops shortly after.

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MSC logistics ship pioneers officer exchange program

Military Sealift Command Public Affairs

The U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command (MSC) charted new waters when two members of the United Kingdom's Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) completed a two-month tour at sea aboard MSC fast combat support ship USNS Bridge (T-AOE 10) in June.

The British mariners joined Bridge's crew when the ship deployed to the central and western Pacific Ocean with the USS Nimitz (CVN 65) Carrier Strike Group in May.

The RFA, MSC's counterpart across the Atlantic Ocean, provides the United Kingdom's Royal Navy with afloat logistics support. The RFA/MSC officer exchange program is designed to promote cooperation and the sharing of knowledge among allied fleet logistics forces.

Third officer Dale Checksfield, RFA, and deck petty officer Geraint Roberts, RFA, were

involved in many aspects of shipboard operation - from standing watch to manning cargo rigs during underway replenishments. They worked side by side with Bridge's civil service mariner crew, providing replenishment of fuel, ammunition, spare parts and stores to the strike group while underway.

With a top speed of more than 25 knots, MSC's fast combat support ships enable the U.S. Navy's combatant fleet to stay at sea and on mission by eliminating the need for ships to return to port to take on fuel and supplies.

"The crew aboard Bridge made me feel like a part of the crew since day one," said Roberts. "I was also pleasantly surprised at the similarity between RFA and MSC ship operations. Those similarities allowed me to assimilate quite quickly."

MSC and the RFA have had an officer exchange program at the headquarters level since the early 1980s. However, the exchange program was taken to the shipboard

level for the first time this year.

In May, an MSC engineering officer was assigned aboard the RFA tanker Wave Knight in the Caribbean Sea for several weeks. The mariner gained hands-on training on diesel-electric propulsion systems, which are similar to the systems aboard MSC's new Lewis and Clark-class dry cargo/ammunition ships.

Bridge, once a Navy combatant ship crewed by nearly 600 active-duty Sailors, is now operated by MSC and has a civilian crew of 171 civil service mariners. The transfer of Bridge and her sister fast combat support ships are part of the Navy's continuing transformation to a more efficient, cost-effective fighting force.

MSC operates more than 120 non-combatant, civilian-crewed ships that replenish U.S. Navy ships at sea, chart ocean bottoms, conduct undersea surveillance, preposition combat cargo at sea and move equipment and supplies for the U.S. military.



U.S. Navy photo

A distressed vessel was discovered by the guided missile frigate USS Rentz (FFG 46) 300 miles from shore with 90 people aboard, including women and children. Rentz provided assistance and took the Ecuadorian citizens to Guatemala, from where they would be repatriated.

U.S. Navy ship assists 90 reported Ecuadorians in peril

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command Public Affairs

Ninety reported Ecuadorian citizens, who were rescued from a distressed vessel in the eastern Pacific in June, were provided transportation to Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala, aboard the U.S. Navy ship that assisted them.

While transiting to El Salvador, USS Rentz (FFG 46) detected the 60-foot vessel proceeding north at slow speed and discovered the boat to be grossly overloaded with

90 reported Ecuadorian citizens. The number of people aboard the small boat made the vessel quite unstable.

The nameless and stateless boat had been at sea for 11 days and had minimal amounts of food and water left. The nameless boat was discovered more than 300 nautical miles from land with a faulty electrical system and was taking on water.

The commanding officer of Rentz declared the boat hazardous to safety of life at sea and began a transfer of the 90 persons. Once safely aboard Rentz, the reported Ecuadorian citizens received

food, water and medical attention. Crew members from Rentz took over the controls of the decrepid vessel and, guided by Rentz set sail for Puerto Quetzal, the closest port to return the citizens to safety.

When Rentz entered Puerto Quetzal, the 60-foot fishing vessel was turned over to Guatemalan authorities since its nationality and point of origin could not be determined.

Rentz is a guided-missile frigate homeported in San Diego. The ship has a compliment of 26 officers and 220 crew.

Got Questions?

Write to us at hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com

Pearl Harbor Sailors briefed on Sea Warrior program

JO3 Ryan C. McGinley
Staff Writer

Representatives from Task Force Warrior, a command tasked by the Chief of Naval Operations to integrate, communicate and accelerate the Sea Warrior program, visited Pearl Harbor on Monday and Tuesday to brief Sailors on proposed changes aimed at maintaining an agile and responsive Navy.

According to its Web site, Sea Warrior's mission is "rapid integration of innovative human resource processes that are synthesized with war-fighting systems and aligned to joint mission requirements to enhance Sailor growth and development, enhance the fleet response plan and max-

imize Sea Power 21 capabilities."

"Sea Warrior is a Sailor and fleet focused journey, which will end up transforming our Navy for the future," said Rear Adm. Robert T. Conway, commander, Task Force Warrior. "With your help, it will assist us in accelerating this to get the best possible product we can to the fleet."

The Sea Warrior program intends to enhance Navy joint warfighting effectiveness by delivering Sailors with the right skills to the right places at the right times at the best price, according to the Sea Warrior Web site.

Pearl Harbor Sailors responded favorably to the briefing, saying it explained how their careers in the Navy were going

to improve.

"The brief was informative in explaining how the Navy is going to keep our Sailors trained and get them in the right billet that's both beneficial for them and the Navy," said Navy Counselor 1st Class (SW/AW) Johnathan Young, assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor. "It also explained all the things we should be doing to make our job easier and hopefully, it comes together and online soon."

One of the focal points of the briefing was how the Navy will help shape well-trained Sailors who are capable of meeting and possibly exceeding all demands. One aspect of the component is Navy Knowledge Online, a Web site designed to provide interactive education and training.

"Being a reservist, the online learning and NKO portal is going to be beneficial for me in working with my active duty counterparts," said Quartermaster 1st Class (SW) Richard Leeper. "I'm still learning my way around the different places to go on the Web site, but so far it's been an excellent tool. I really enjoy going on there and learning something new every time I log on."

Most Sailors agreed the Sea Warrior program is a step in the right direction toward a Navy that is both modernized and flexible in meeting mission requirements.

"I definitely agree with the efforts of the Sea Warrior program to move toward a more agile and responsive Navy," said Young. "We need to have quicker responses to any action or order we are given. Sea Warrior is definitely a step in the right direction to get us to that point. Hopefully, with how it comes online and how they want it to come online, along with Sailor's feedback, it will have the effect we want it to have and everybody will benefit from it," he said.

For more information, visit www.sea-warrior.navy.mil or www.nko.navy.mil.



U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Ian W. Anderson

Capt. Randy Morgan of Commander, Task Force Warrior speaks to senior enlisted and junior officers about the Sea Warrior Program.

Tripler, Schofield earn the gold seal of approval from JCAHO

Briana Kaya
Tripler Army Medical Center Public Affairs

Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) and Schofield Barracks Health Clinic have achieved accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) by demonstrating full compliance with the highest national standards for safety and quality care. To maintain accreditation, Tripler and Schofield staffs underwent a voluntary onsite evaluation in December 2004 in which their performance was measured by the most rigorous standards in the healthcare industry.

According to the JCAHO's team of professionals (which consisted of administrators, physicians and nurses), Tripler met all

of the national patient safety goals and was in full compliance with all the national quality improvement goals.

"Above all, the national standards are intended to stimulate continuous, systematic and organization-wide improvement in an organization's performance and the outcomes of care," said Kurt Patton, executive director of the hospital accreditation program. "The community should be proud that Tripler Army Medical Center is focusing on the most challenging goal to continuously raise quality and safety to higher levels."

JCAHO is a not-for-profit organization established in 1951. It is the world leader in evaluating the quality and safety care in over 17,000 healthcare organizations across the country.



Photo courtesy of TAMC

Hawaii Navy News Sports

The Anchor Run: more than just a course

PH3 Sara Coates
Contributing Writer

Afloat Training Group, Middle Pacific (ATGMID-PAC) Chief Petty Officers Association held its third annual Anchor Run on the morning of June 24 at Ford Island to raise money for their command and to support service members in a time of need.

More than 105 runners from various commands participated in this year's five kilometer (3.1 mile) run, which started and finished at the Navy Lodge and covers the perimeter of the island.

Chief Fire Controlman James McPheeters, assigned to USS Hopper (DDG 70), believes that it is a great way to bring commands together, promote team spirit and encourage Sailors to keep in shape.

"It's important to support these types of runs because it helps esprit de corps for the command," he said. "One foot in front of the other is all you need to know for this course."

McPheeters said the run helps to build endurance to pass the physical readiness test. He also believes leading by example is a good way to motivate Sailors who might be exhausted or are having difficulties. Sailors could be seen during the run motivating their shipmates to finish.

"It was great to run with the Naval Reserve Center, Honolulu," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Ann Tobey, assigned to Naval Environmental Preventive Medicine Unit -Six, who received encouragement



US Navy photo by PH3 Sara Coates

On June 23 Sailors from USS Hopper ran as a unit in the third annual Anchor Run around Ford Island. The run was sponsored by ATGMIDPAC to raise money for the Chief Petty Officer Association. More than 105 runners from various commands participated in this year's five kilometer (3.1 mile) run, which began and finished at the Navy Lodge and covered the perimeter of the island.

from them during the run. "They were extremely supportive and a motivating team."

The awards presented at this year's function were for first, second and third

for both men and women. The other awards that were handed out to the commands were for the largest team and for the first place team.

"Runs like this are a

great opportunity to get together as a group and get some exercise in the process," said Cmdr. Peter Driscoll, commanding officer, USS Hopper. "It seems appropriate that we support this ATG event since

they have been supporting our training for the last 12 weeks."

McPheeters said although awards were presented for the run, it's important to set and accomplish your own goals.

"Runners race for more than just a goal," said McPheeters, "be it for a medal or just for the satisfaction in knowing that they have succeeded in reaching the finish line."

Pentagon holds first worldwide town hall meeting

Sgt. Sara Wood
American Forces Press Service

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Joint Chiefs Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers held the first worldwide town hall meeting June 29 at the

Pentagon.

The session was beamed worldwide on the Pentagon Channel. In addition, some questions received via DoD's official Web site were asked.

The meeting was a chance for service members and DoD civilian employees to ask Rumsfeld and Myers ques-

tions in an open forum. The leaders addressed issues such as the budget, retirement and recruiting. This was an appropriate time to hold a meeting like this, because the upcoming July Fourth holiday holds a lot of meaning, Myers said.

"It has a lot of meaning to what the American spirit is all

about, particularly the spirit of the men and women in the Department of Defense," he said. "We are used to defending this country's freedoms."

Keeping the best people in DoD is important, Rumsfeld said, and therefore a way needs to be found to keep eligible employees in service past their mandatory retire-

ment dates. These people often are the "best and brightest" in the service and have valuable experience and talents that are useful. If they want to go, that's fine," he said. "But if they would prefer to stay, we ought to find ways to do that."

In response to a budget question, Rumsfeld stressed

that there is not a problem with the amount of money available to the military, but with how it is allocated. There is always competition with how money is spent, and it is up to leaders to make the right decisions about how to fund "the single most important thing we do," which is defending the country."



U.S. Navy Photo by PH2 John L. Beeman

The Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser USS Vincennes (CG 49) sits moored in full dress at the Dock Master Pier on board Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan for her decommissioning. Vincennes, the third ship in the Ticonderoga-class, was launched the April 14, 1984. She will make one last underway period as she makes her way to Naval Station San Diego, Calif., for decommissioning.

USS Vincennes decommissions after 20 years of service

JO3 Class Cynthia R. Smith

Fleet Public Affairs Center, Pacific

USS Vincennes (CG 49) Sailors, past and present, paid tribute to Vincennes and its 20 years of service to the U.S. Navy during a decommissioning ceremony at Naval Base San Diego June 29.

The guest speaker for the event was the mayor of Vincennes, Ind., Terry Mooney. During the ceremony, he spoke about how the decommission ceremony was a bittersweet moment for him.

"Today is kind of a somber day for me. We have had a ship carrying the Vincennes name representing us for almost 70 years, and to not have one now feels like we have lost a loved one," Mooney said. "Meeting and getting to know the crew has made it even harder, but we are proud of this ship and its crew, and it will be truly missed."

After Mooney addressed the crew and their guests, the commanding officer of Vincennes, Cmdr. Mark J. Englebert, praised his crew for their hard work and explained that it was a hard day for him as well.

"It's been an honor and a privilege to serve as the last commanding officer of Vincennes," said Englebert. "The ship has a lot of life still left in her, and it is hard to let her go."

For the crew of Vincennes, witnessing the decommissioning of their ship was also sentimental.

"It has been quite an experience," said Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 3rd Class (SW) Steven Tilles. "I have spent more than two years serving aboard Vincennes and have experienced many things I will never forget, but the thing I am most sad to see go is the crew. We were a very tight-knit crew, and I will be losing a lot of good friends."

Vincennes is named after a decisive battle fought at Vincennes during the American Revolution. Vincennes was commissioned in July 1985 and since then, Vincennes has sailed the Persian Gulf, Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean; operated with countless nations; and represented the United States on many international and domestic shores.

"Vincennes has had a distinguished career of superb service both at home and abroad," said Lt. Cmdr. Ferdinand A. Reid, executive officer of Vincennes. "I will remember with fondness and pride my time aboard."