

## Sailors participate in Surface Line Week

**JO3 Ryan C. McGinley**  
Staff Writer

Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific (ATG MID-PAC) and the Pearl Harbor Chapter of the Surface Navy Association sponsored the 21st Annual Middle Pacific Surface Line Week at Naval Station Pearl Harbor from Oct. 3-7.

The activities consisted of 17 professional skill event competitions among Middle Pacific Navy and Coast Guard afloat commands, designed to share camaraderie, spirit and command pride between competing Sailors and Coast Guardsmen.

"Surface Line Week gives Sailors from various ships a good opportunity to work together towards a common goal in an atmosphere other than the workplace or on a ship," said Ensign Gregory Dusek, assistant coordinator for the event from ATG MID-PAC. "Certainly Sailors

have plenty of team building opportunities at work, but a competition like Surface Line Week provides Sailors with a unique and fun experience, which I think can strengthen the camaraderie that already exists."

Some of the events during the contest included signalman Olympics, heaving line tosses, knot tying, visit, board, search and seizure competitions, surface rescue swimmer events and the Damage Control Olympics.

"People love to get noticed for things they do well and Surface Line Week provides this opportunity in both athletic events, like the 5k run, and skill events like the Heaving Line Toss," said Dusek. "These skill events are especially good because these are things that are obviously important to the surface Navy, yet Sailors are rarely able



U.S. Navy photo by JO3 Ryan C. McGinley  
Damage Controlman Fireman Jason Robinson, assigned to the guided missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), rolls up a fire hose during the Damage Control Olympics as part of Surface Line Week at Pearl Harbor. The 21st annual, week-long event consists of 17 professional skill event competitions among Middle Pacific Navy and Coast Guard afloat commands.



**Fighting crime.**  
Helpful information on maintaining a safer neighborhood.  
See story on page A-6.



**Navy Chaplains dedicated to the end.**  
Pearl Harbor heroes memorialized.  
See story on page B-1.

## Hawai'i Navy News Briefs

**Flag officer assignment**  
Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen announced the following flag officer assignment Oct. 4:

Rear Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III is being assigned as director, programming division, N80, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

Locklear is currently serving as director, assessment division, N81, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C.

**Learn from the leaders**  
Mayor Mufi Hannemann will speak at the second of a series of leadership speaker events hosted by Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i Workforce Development Office on Oct. 19 at 10:30 a.m. at the Banyans Conference Center. Rear Adm. Michael Vitale, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i, will introduce Mayor Hannemann and provide an update on the Region's leadership development program. All are welcome. Time on the clock will be given to all Region personnel who attend.

## Kobe Bryant witnesses Navy chief re-enlistment

**JO2 Devin Wright**  
Editor

Los Angeles Lakers basketball star Kobe Bryant was a witness at the re-enlistment of a Pearl Harbor Sailor, assigned to SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team One (SDVT 1), on Oct. 7 at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa's Stan Sheriff Center.

Navy Chief Yeoman Lawrence "Lonnie" Sivils is a big fan of the Lakers and Kobe Bryant and made the request when he heard that the Lakers would be in town for an upcoming exhibition game.

"I knew the Lakers were coming here to Hawai'i for their training camp," said Sivils. "I sent the Lakers an e-mail stating my request to re-enlist while Mr. Bryant was over here. Having my family and friends here is special enough, but having Kobe here is an honor. I really didn't think much would come of it, but I got a call from John Black, a Lakers representative, saying that Kobe was willing to take part in my re-enlistment."

Kobe Bryant, who made his NBA debut at the age of 18 years becoming the youngest player ever to



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Devin Wright  
Los Angeles Lakers basketball star Kobe Bryant witnesses the re-enlistment of Chief Yeoman (AW) Lawrence "Lonnie" Sivils, assigned to the staff of SDVT 1, at the U.H. Manoa's Stan Sheriff Center on Oct. 7.

appear in an NBA game, said the honor to witness Sivils' re-enlistment was his.

"We are talking about a guy who has defended his country for 19 years," said Bryant. "As a basketball player, we just put a ball in a basket and that gives us an opportunity to inspire a lot of people, but here is a man who serves his country. What we do is minuscule compared to what service members do on a daily basis, which really goes unnoticed and is sometimes underappreciated. So

him asking me to be here was a great honor," said Bryant.

During Sivils' 19-year-career, he has served in Japan, England, Iraq and Hawai'i.

Sivils played high school basketball in Kentucky and junior college basketball in Texas.

After his three-year enlistment, Sivils plans to retire from the Navy and return to his hometown of Louisville, Ky. where he hopes to be a basketball coach.

## USS Tucson (SSN 770) departs for COMPUTEX training exercises

**JOC(SW/AW)**  
**David Rush**

Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet  
Public Affairs

USS Tucson (SSN 770) departed its homeport of Pearl Harbor on Oct. 11 to participate in a Combined Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) off the coast of Southern California.

For approximately three weeks, the nuclear-powered attack submarine's crew will conduct various anti-submarine warfare (ASW), and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) exercises as a part of the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) Strike Group.

According to Cmdr. James Pitts, USS Tucson's commanding officer, the exercises are designed to improve overall readiness for the submarine and the carrier

strike group. "We will participate with the USS Ronald Reagan Strike Group since we will be part of the group when it deploys early next year," said Pitts.

Pitts said the pre-deployment exercises are beneficial for all Navy assets involved. "It benefits both Tucson crew as well as the strike group in figuring out how to operate with the submarine as part of their command, and we help carry out the ASW mission tasking."

Pitts added that his crew is looking forward to accomplishing the tasks ahead. "The crew has worked incredibly hard and have performed superbly throughout all of the pre-deployment training. We're definitely ready to go to sea," concluded Pitts.

Command Master Chief Jeff Garrison, USS Tucson's chief of the boat, said his

crew is set for the upcoming challenges. "In addition to the ASW and ISR exercises, we will be conducting tactical readiness evaluations and conclude the underway time with an operational reactor safeguard evaluation. The guys have been working hard in preparation for these and for our upcoming deployment next year," said Garrison.

Electronics Technician 1st Class Edward Le Bron of the navigation department said he is confident that he and his fellow submariners are ready. "We're looking forward to the training, accomplishing our goals, and passing all of our evaluations with flying colors."

COMPTUEX is an intermediate level battle group training exercise. It typically represents the first time a carrier strike group operates together as a cohesive



U.S. Navy photo by JO3 Ryan C. McGinley  
A Federal Fire Department firefighter helps two students from Aliamanu Elementary School fight a controlled fire.

## Youth and Federal Fire Department observe Fire Prevention Week

Story and photos by  
**JO3 Ryan C. McGinley**  
Staff Writer

The Federal Fire Department (FFD) at Naval Station Pearl Harbor held its annual Fire Prevention Week from Oct. 9-15 with the theme of "Use candles with care."

A live fire demonstration at Aliamanu Elementary School for more than 800 students highlighted the department's prevention week Oct. 11, teaching children what to be

prepared for and how to act when they become involved in a fire situation.

"In October the fire department goes out to the public, and we make them aware of fire safety because prevention is the key to saving lives and property in a fire," said Victor Flint, fire inspector with the Federal Fire Department at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. "When the children go home, they share these safety tips with their

▼ See FIRE PREVENTION, A-4

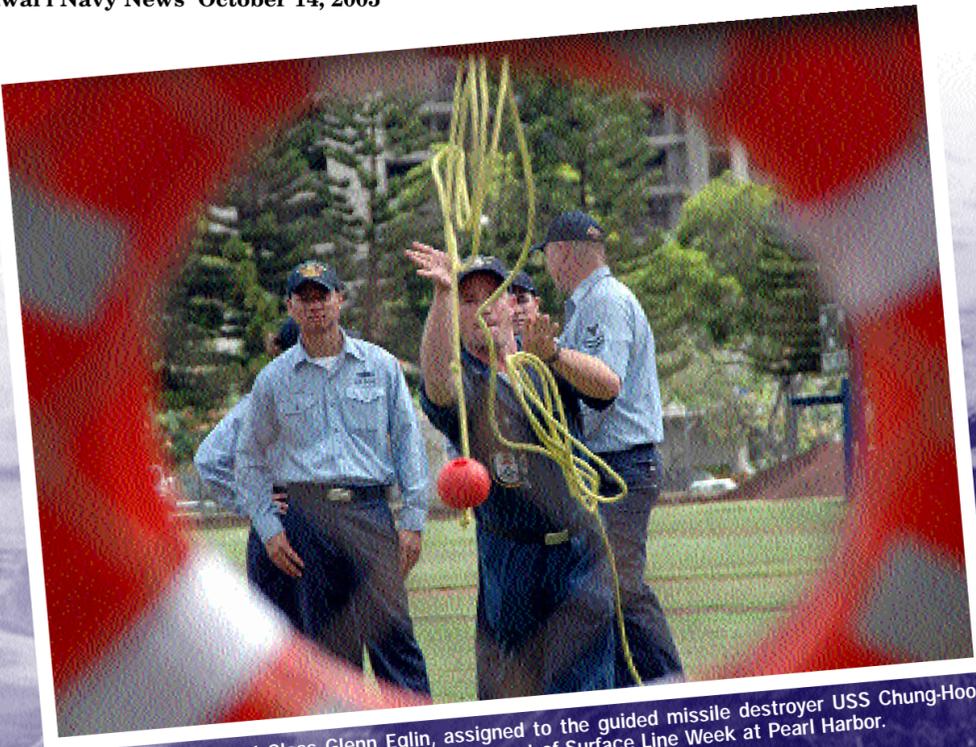


U.S. Navy photo by JOC (SW/AW) David Rush  
A Sailor aboard USS Tucson (SSN 770) makes final preparations before getting underway from their homeport of Pearl Harbor on Oct. 11 to participate in a COMPTUEX off the coast of Southern California.

team and is a critical step toward final certification to deploy overseas.

USS Tucson is the 59th Los Angeles-class attack submarine and the 20th of

the improved Los Angeles-class attack submarine to be built. Construction began on June 10, 1988 and it was commissioned Aug. 18, 1995.



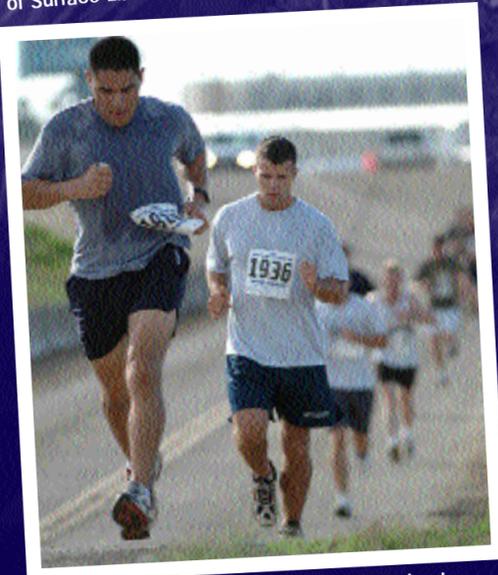
Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Glenn Eglin, assigned to the guided missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), participates in a heaving line toss as part of Surface Line Week at Pearl Harbor.



Sailors assigned to the guided missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57), plug a leaking bulkhead during the Damage Control Olympics.



Hull Technician Fireman Ryan Hoppel, assigned to the guided missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57), helps his shipmate, Operations Specialist 3rd Class Lee Archuleta, don his self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).



Sailors participate in a 5K run on Ford Island.



Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Michael Santiago, assigned to the guided missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), aids a victim during a search and rescue swimmer MEDEVAC litter drill.

## Surface Line Week: Sailor's skills put to the test

Continued from A-1

to show their skills in a competition format like they may be able to in more traditional athletic events."

The final day's events included a tug-o-war, chili cook-off and cake decorating competitions.

"The events give each Sailor participating a chance to compete in something they are good at while at the same time they receive praise and acknowledgement for their ability and skill in whatever this event may

be," said Dusek.

Commands received points based on both participation and performance. Awards were presented on the last day to both individuals and teams finishing in first, second and third in each event, and to commands finishing first, second and third overall.

USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) was the overall first place winner for the week with 97 points. USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) came in second with 65 points and USS Russell (DDG 59)

came in third with 64 points.

"Above all else I hope that the Sailors competing in Surface Line Week had fun and enjoyed showing off their skills and abilities," said Dusek. "Although I am sure everyone competing wanted to win, in the end the purpose of Surface Line Week is have a good time participating in the various events and to build camaraderie among shipmates while at the same time giving Sailors a chance to be acknowledged for the things they are good at."



A Sailor assigned to the guided missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), participates in a knot tying competition

# Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

## Life after the Navy - Troops to Teachers

**FLTCM(AW/SW)**  
**Jon R. Thompson**



FLTCM(AW/SW)  
Jon R. Thompson

What are you going to do when you leave the Navy? Have you given it much thought? Most young Sailors tell me they leave the Navy to go back to school. There's nothing wrong with that. It's no secret the G.I. Bill affords veterans a great way to pay for schooling. For some of you, however, you may be more interested in teaching than being a student. If you are serious about teaching and want to enter a profession that gives back to others, I'd ask you consider the Troops to Teachers (TTT) program.

Troops to Teachers was established in 1994 as a Department of Defense program. The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2000 transferred the responsibility for program oversight and funding to the Department of Defense.

Recently, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 provided for the continuation of this program through fiscal year 2006. The objective of Troops to Teachers is to

help recruit quality teachers for schools that serve students from low-income families throughout America. Troops to Teachers helps relieve teacher shortages, especially in math, science, special education and other critical subject areas, and assists military personnel in making successful transitions to second careers in teaching.

In most states, Troops to Teachers does not train or certify teachers, but rather helps you to find and enter the programs that do. Then, if you are eligible, Troops to Teachers provides financial assistance in the form of stipends or bonuses. Becoming a teacher with the assistance of Troops to Teachers needs to be viewed as three distinct processes occurring at the same time. Some individuals begin teaching before becoming fully certified.

- TTT registration - To receive funds, you must register with TTT and request financial assistance, and then later on fulfill the required 3-year teaching commitment in a high needs district or campus.

- Certification - You must fulfill the certification requirements of your desired state, often by participating in a teacher certification program.

- Finding a job - Obtaining a position is your responsibility. The TTT national and state support offices assist with certification and job-hunting advice, but are unable to perform employment agency functions.

For many of you, teaching may seem attractive. Thanks to Troops to Teachers, Sailors find it much easier to navigate the process. Few people would disagree that teachers are vital and we need more dedicated people in our society to take up the challenge of educating our youth. If you think you're up to that challenge, and have a desire to teach, Troops to Teachers can help. For more information about

Troops to Teachers, write or call:

Phone: 850-452-1241  
DANTES Troops to Teachers  
Toll Free: 1-800-231-1241  
6490 Sausley Field Rd.  
DSN: 922-1241  
Pensacola, FL 32509-5243

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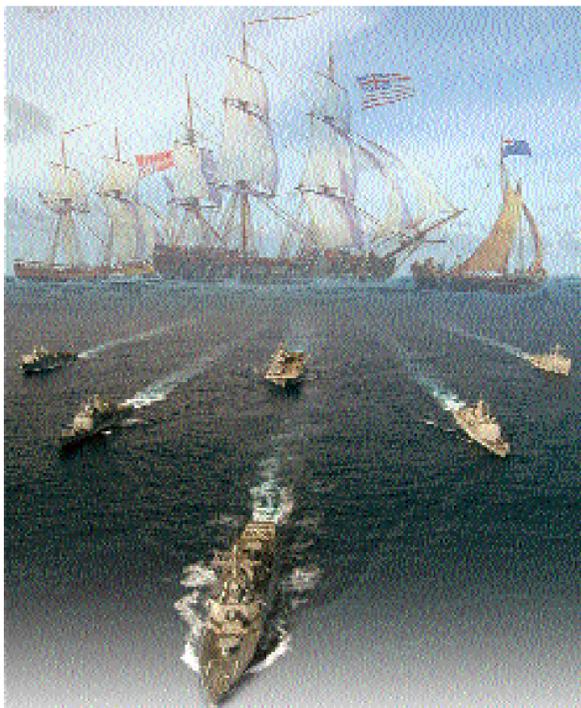
E-mail: [ttt@voled.doded.mil](mailto:ttt@voled.doded.mil)

Henry Brooks Adams once wrote, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." I like that quote because it points to the power of teaching. Think back, what teachers influenced you? What were the traits of the teachers that inspired you to learn? Most of us have teachers we remember into adulthood because they had a significant impact on our life. Do you have the kind of passion that will allow others to learn from you? Do you want to have an impact on others?

One way or another, most of us learn a great deal about teaching from our time in the Navy, whether that is a single tour or a career. As you become senior, you are charged with training your people.

Teaching is a part of our Navy life, whether we look at ourselves as formal teachers or not. The jump to teaching school might not be as great as you think. The Troops to Teachers program might be perfect in helping you realize a teaching dream. For most of you, the only thing holding you back could be the call itself.

Shipmates, teachers are vital. None of us would have achieved much without teachers who, along our education paths, have inspired us to learn and grow. The pool of teachers must continually replenish itself by attracting some of America's finest into that profession. I'd encourage each of you to consider teaching and to research the Troops to Teachers program. Most of the teachers I have talked with say their work is extremely rewarding. The best teachers are motivated, self-confident, organized and have compassion. To me, those same traits describe our best Sailors. If you think you have what it takes to teach, take the first step and contact Troops to Teachers.



### CNO's birthday message to the fleet Flexible and ready for 230 years

#### Navy News Service

To commemorate the Navy's 230th birthday, Oct. 13, 2005, Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Mike Mullen released the following message to Sailors around the fleet:

It was considered by at least one delegate to the Continental Congress "The maddest idea in the world." The creation of an American fleet implied independence and sovereignty. It signaled a readiness for war that not all the colonists were prepared to accept. And yet Oct. 13, 1775, Congress voted to arm two small ships and send them on a cruise to intercept British transports. With the stroke of a pen, the Continental Navy was born.

However modest that beginning, there can be no question of the vital role played by the U.S. Navy in defending freedom throughout our nation's history. In wars large and small, at sea and ashore, American Sailors have proven time and time again the enduring value of strength from the sea.

We prove it yet today. The nation is again at war - a long and treacherous war - and we are again stepping into the breach to fight it. From the mountaintops in Afghanistan to the windswept sands of Kuwait and Iraq, from the warm, still waters of the north Arabian Gulf to the broad expanse of the Pacific Rim, we are taking the fight to the enemy.

Let there be no doubt that we are winning. Afghanistan is free. Democracy is being born



CNO Adm.  
Michael G. Mullen

in Iraq. Al Qaeda, though potent, is weaker. Even the devastation wrought by natural disaster on our own shores - and to our own families - is eased. The lives of millions of people are better because of our efforts and the sacrifices of our loved ones. There is, of course, much work yet to do and challenges yet to face, but I am convinced that this generation of Sailors - at this critical time in our history - will make all the difference.

It might once have been the maddest of ideas, but today the Navy doesn't just imply independence, sovereignty and readiness. We are those things. In the steel of our ships and the in the hearts of our Sailors, we take them with us wherever and whenever we go. We make them real and we bring them right back home again.

As Capt. Nora Scott Tyson, former commanding officer of USS Bataan (LHD 5) put it, "We know there's a reason for what we do, whether it's the global war on terrorism or humanitarian relief. If you're not flexible and you're not ready, you're in the wrong business." Well, I've seen it firsthand. You are flexible, you are ready and you are definitely in the right business. John Paul Jones and Stephen Decatur have absolutely nothing on you. I'm thrilled just to wear the same uniform.

Happy birthday, Shipmates!

### History calls to action



World War I Navy Recruiting Poster by artist Howard Chandler Christy, 1917

U.S. Navy historical photo

### Hawai'i Navy News

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Hawai'i Navy News is a free unofficial paper published every Thursday by The Honolulu Advertiser, 605 Kapiolani Blvd., Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96813, a private firm in no way connected with DoD, the U. S. Navy or Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i. All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: [hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com](mailto:hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com) World Wide Web address: [www.hawaii.navy.mil](http://www.hawaii.navy.mil). This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication pri-

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# Fire prevention: Sparking awareness

Continued from A-1

mom and dad and older brothers and sisters. Statistics show us that a lot of times it's the little ones that remember to call 911 and get the family out and test the smoke detectors."

Sparky the Fire Dog and Smoky the Bear also attended the event at Aliamanu helping children to learn about fire safety.

"The presentation was really exciting," said Valerie Kamemoto, vice principal for the school. "I think the children really enjoyed having Sparky the Fire Dog and Smoky the Bear here."

FFD supplied fire trucks, hose demonstrations and stop, drop and roll activities for the children to participate in, hop-

ing to make them familiar with firefighters and to not be scared of them.

"This is where it starts. Curiosity can involve a child to where [they're] starting a fire or it can help us prevent fires," said George Salcedo, federal fire inspector/investigator. "I hope the children learn about fire safety, how to evacuate a home, how to call 911 and how they are going to react to a fire."

Kamemoto said making children aware can help them aid their parents in preventing fires and also keep their homes safe.

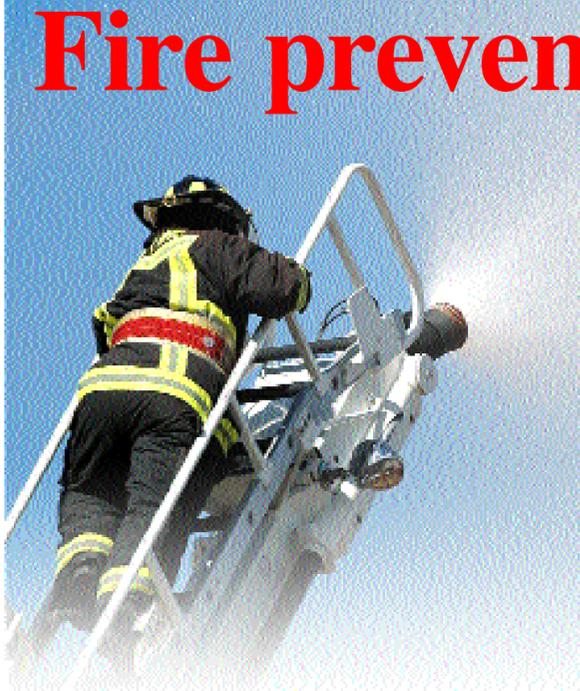
"I hope they learn the information they need to be safe at home, as well as to help their parents in making sure their homes are safe, including

things like smoke detectors and the information they need to protect themselves if they are caught in a situation with a fire," said Kamemoto.

There were also static displays of firefighting and hazardous material equipment, a house of hazards display and fire prevention information at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange, Kaneohe Marine Corps Exchange and Schofield Barracks Commissary throughout the week.



A student poses with a toy fireman's hat.



A Federal Fire Department firefighter helps a student from Aliamanu Elementary School put out a controlled fire during a demonstration. FFD showed children how they extinguish a fire, how the hoses operate and various other firefighting techniques.



Children from Aliamanu Elementary School demonstrate to their peers the proper technique to stop, drop and roll.



Federal Fire Department firefighters demonstrate to students how they put out fires.

# USS Essex (LHD 2) completes productive SRA

JOC (SW/AW)

Christina Johnson

USS Essex Public Affairs

USS Essex (LHD 2) completed a selected restricted availability (SRA) period Oct. 3 by performing sea trials off the coast of southern Japan.

Essex, commanded by Capt. Martin J. Keaney, received numerous repairs and upgrades during the eight-week SRA.

"The SRA was primarily about refreshing Essex and her systems," said Keaney. "The flight deck, hangar and upper vehicle storage deck all had new non-skid applied, many areas were re-preserved to include both troop walkways, well deck false beach infrastructure, well deck catwalks and bulkheads, and several replenishment-at-sea enclosures - all done by contractors so our 'Iron Gators' could concentrate on other ship's force jobs, training and well deserved leave," he added.

According to the ship's maintenance and materiel officer, Senior Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (handler) (AW/SW) Roger Benoit, both civilian contractors and the ship's crew put in many hours to get the ship ready for the continuous deployment schedule which is normal for a forward deployed naval force asset.

"Contractor man-hours totaled



U.S. Navy photo by J02 Brian P. Biller

Landing Craft, Utility (LCU) 1631, assigned to Assault Craft Unit One (ACU-1), prepares to pull into the well deck aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2). Essex is currently participating in Amphibious Specialty Training, which certifies the well deck for operations.

more than 58,000, ship's force man hours were more than 42,000 with nearly all the 750 SRA and continuous maintenance jobs completed on time or ahead of schedule," said Benoit.

Time well spent was in the area of habitability. Using U.S. Surface Forces Pacific Habitability Funds, Essex was able to renovate both the air department berthing and showers and toilets facilities, and opera-

tions department berthing shower and toilet facilities. Aviation Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (AW/SW) Keith Heatherly said he was very impressed with the result of the upgrades.

"I think that having a berthing that looks like a giant stateroom is an outstanding thing for all the guys in the berthing," said Heatherly. "Getting a new berthing is a really nice morale booster, especially for a

forward-deployed ship. The racks all have outlets, fans and combination locks installed and are more spacious."

"Because of the efforts of Team Essex, including ship's company, SRF (ship repair facility), FISC (Fleet and Industrial Supply Center), CFAS (Commander, Fleet Activities Sasebo), Port Ops and all the civilian contractors, Essex is ready," said an enthusiastic Keaney.

Essex returned to Sasebo, Japan in April after completing an eight-month deployment that included service in the Persian Gulf and off the coast of Sumatra as part of Operation Unified Assistance. Essex, the Navy's only forward-deployed amphibious assault ship, operates out of Sasebo, Japan, and is the flagship for the forward deployed amphibious ready group.

## Navy's new lighterage system revolutionizes ship-to-shore transport

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Public Affairs

The U.S. Navy is currently testing a new and improved lighterage system that can be assembled into causeways, docks, or ferries, providing the Navy and Marine Corps with a safer, more versatile way to deliver vehicles and critical supplies from ship to shore during war or peacetime operations.

"The new system will enhance the Navy's logistics over the shore capabilities and replace the Navy's existing lighterage system," said Charlie Blum, an engineer with Naval Facilities Engineering Command's (NAVFAC) Sealift Support Program Office, which manages the new lighterage program.

Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific and Amphibious Construction Battalion One are currently testing the new lighterage at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Calif. The testing, through spring 2006, will demonstrate whether the system can operate in higher sea states, at faster speeds and with better maneuverability.

"Military equipment has gotten bigger and heavier," said Blum. "The amount of time it takes to unload utilizing the current system



U.S. Navy photo by J02 Paul Cage

The Navy's Improved Modular Lighterage System (INLS) is tested by Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific and Amphibious Construction Battalion One. INLS is a redesign of a floating dock system originally used during World War II. The system assembles to form ferries, causeway piers, or ships ramp roll-off discharge platforms, providing the Navy and Marine Corps with a safer, more versatile way to deliver vehicles and critical supplies from ship to shore during war or peacetime operations.

has become longer, too. The Navy and Marine Corps want to get ashore in the minimum amount of time and that's what this new [system] provides."

The Improved Navy Lighterage System (INLS) is a redesign of the

existing Navy Lighter (NL) system that has been around for almost 50 years, developed for use in World War II and used consistently throughout the years. Now, nearing the end of its useful life, the NL system with less cargo capacity and

power needs to be more efficient and reliable especially in turbulent seas. INLS's flexibility and stability make it more resilient under such conditions.

"The old system was limited to operating in a sea state two," said

Blum. "The current system is capable of operating in a sea state of three and is expected to be survivable at a sea state of five. It is also designed and built with enhanced technology and is truly a quantum leap over the previous system."

The new lighterage system comes in sections that lock together like building blocks to create a variety of floating structures. These structures allow Navy ships to transport heavy equipment, such as tanks and trucks, to shore, and cargo, such as food, water and equipment parts, between ships and from ship to shore when moorings have been damaged or are unavailable.

"We're very confident in these craft because we pretested them for five months before bringing them here," said Blum. "The Navy and Marinette Marine have worked closely to get this done. We feel it's a superb product and will exceed everyone's expectations."

Marinette Marine Corporation, Marinette, Wis. was awarded a multi-year contract in 2003 to manufacture 29 INLS modules. The total contract is valued at more than \$404 million. Full rate production modules are slated for delivery to the Navy's amphibious construction battalions and to all three maritime prepositioning force squadrons through 2010.



U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class Gloria J. Barry

Sailors assigned to USS Boxer (LHD 4), USS Dubuque (LPD 8), USS Hopper (DDG 70) and USS Mobile Bay (CG 53) represent the U.S. Navy during San Francisco Fleet Week 2005 as part of the opening program during the San Francisco 49ers against the Indianapolis Colts game at Candlestick Park. Fleet Week is a 5-day celebration held annually to recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces.

## San Francisco Fleet Week comes to a close

J01 (SW) Jason McKnight

San Francisco Fleet Week Command Information Bureau

The 25th annual San Francisco Fleet Week wrapped up Oct. 12, with more than 2,000 Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen from eight ships experiencing the hospitality of "The City by the Bay."

"I was never so proud as when they steamed into San Francisco Bay, manning the rails under the magnificent backdrop of the Golden Gate Bridge," said Commander, Amphibious Group 3, Rear Adm. Chris Ames.

Sailors attended numerous events across the bay area, including an "MVP Luncheon" at San Francisco City Hall, a barbecue on the pier, and a special recognition dinner at the Empress of

China Restaurant.

Sailors also participated in community relations projects and were recognized during the San Francisco 49ers/Indianapolis Colts pregame show at Candlestick Park.

"This is my first time at Fleet Week, and I now know that people really do appreciate what we do," said Damage Controlman 3rd Class Noe Ayala, from USS Dubuque (LPD 8).

More than 8,500 San Franciscans and tourists visited U.S. and Canadian ships moored at the city's historic Embarcadero, which were open to the public daily.

"[Fleet Week] is the greatest thing the military can do for civilians," said W.P. Mendez, of San Francisco, a former U.S. Navy operations specialist. "It shows both sides, military and civilian, how much we really care for each other."

## Military personnel who bought gear can claim reimbursement

Jim Garamone

American Forces

Press Service

Some service members who bought their own protective gear will get reimbursed for the purchase under a new policy approved Oct. 4.

David S.C. Chu, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, approved the directive that allows military personnel to be reimbursed "for privately purchased protective, safety or health equipment."

The order covers the period between Sept. 10, 2001 and Aug. 1, 2004. Pentagon officials said "relatively few" service members are affected by the order.

In the early days of the war on terrorism, there was a shortage of interceptor armor. The services issue body armor to those most in need of it. However, some service members - both active and reserve component - bought their own protection.

Legislation passed by Congress last year authorized the services to reimburse service members for the expenditures. The legislation applies to a speci-

fied set of personal protection equipment and can be claimed "by either the member or by another person on behalf of the member for the member's personal use in anticipation of, or during, the member's deployment for operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom."

Reimbursement is limited to the actual purchase price - plus shipping - of the equipment; receipts are not needed. Under the legislation, those claiming reimbursement must turn in their privately purchased gear. The services will destroy the equipment, as it may not meet government standards. Under the policy, reimbursement cannot exceed \$1,100 for any one piece of equipment.

The services can request to add items to the list. The list includes: the complete outer tactical vest or equivalent commercial ballistic vests. The components of the vest - groin protector, throat protector, yoke and collar assembly, collar protector, ballistics inserts and small arms protective inserts - are covered individually. The list also includes the Kevlar helmet, ballistic eye protection and hydration systems.

# Residents can help take bite out of crime

(Crime prevention – part 1)

**Karen S. Spangler**

*Assistant Editor*

No one wants to be the victim of crime. Everyone likes to think that they are safe and secure and not susceptible to crime - wherever they live. Unfortunately, in today's world that isn't the case. Crime can happen even in the best of neighborhoods - including Navy family housing neighborhoods. However, Honolulu Police Department (HPD) statistics show that property crimes in Navy housing communities throughout Hawai'i continue to happen less frequently than elsewhere.

But there are things that everyone can do to deter would-be burglars and criminals.

One essential ingredient in "taking a bite out of crime" is teamwork between security police and housing residents. How can you help? There are a number of ways that residents can be more proactive in their community and can protect their homes and property from thieves.

"We're all neighbors here," said Capt. Taylor Skardon, commanding officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, at a town hall meeting held Oct. 11 at Caitlin-Radford-Halsey-Miller Community Center, as he asked Navy housing residents for their support in instituting crime prevention measures.

He emphasized the benefits of community crime watch programs. "They have shown positive results in cutting down crime. I highly encourage you to get together and form one," he said.

Explaining that criminal activities are primarily conducted by thieves looking for an "easy pickup," he cautioned residents to lock up their valuables and not leave high value items in plain sight in their cars or other visible locations.

"It's amazing what people leave inside their cars - computers, wallets, etc.," he noted.

Keeping areas around homes

well-lit also serves as a deterrent to burglars. Residents were advised to call the housing office and request the installation of exterior lighting or motion lighting if they notice dark areas around their homes that might offer concealment for would-be burglars.

There are a number of measures that residents can use to protect their homes. Residents can call base security and request a walk-through by security experts who will provide tips on how to protect their homes from crime. To arrange a security inspection, call 590-7674.

Skardon noted that statistics have shown no appreciable increase in crime incidents in Navy housing neighborhoods over the past year. He assured residents that security police would be a visible presence in housing neighborhoods. In the Caitlin community, for example, there are now four security patrols - two vehicle patrols and two bike patrols.

He emphasized that residents should call security at any time that they notice a suspicious car or person in the neighborhood or in the vicinity of their homes.

According to CWO2 Mark McCready, security officer for Naval Station Pearl Harbor, a Neighborhood Watch Program can be a valuable tool in helping to prevent crime.

"The Neighborhood Watch is an invaluable program as long as the participation is there. It depends on how much of a proactive stand you are willing to take in your neighborhood," he said.

According to proponents of the Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP), the program's primary success is because it operates on a "help each other" philosophy. By participating in a Neighborhood Watch Program, residents are assisting the security police and protecting each other. For the program to be a success, fighting crime must be a collective effort between the police and the community. They note that by cooperating with each other and



base security, members of the NWP can reduce crime in their community in a way that is most effective - by stopping it before it begins.

Another part of the crime prevention equation is to avoid leaving your possessions unsecured or in plain view.

Items that are left unsecured and where they are easily visible are not only tempting to thieves, but also provide criminals with easier opportunities.

McCready advised residents that leaving their property unsecured is an invitation to a thief. "It doesn't mean you're a target, you're just a 'target of opportunity,'" he offered.

"If you leave something in plain view and it's valuable and easy to carry, it may not be there in the morning. Lock your valuables up. If it's in the carport or driveway or garage, lock it up," he added, giving an example, "Don't leave your \$2,000 laptop on the front seat of your car - whether it's locked or unlocked."

This holds true whether vehicles are parked at home or at another location, such as a shopping center. He advised that people should not lock valuable items in the trunk of the car - where people can observe the action - and then leave the car to continue shopping, etc. It may become a window of opportunity for an observant thief.

He discussed the significance of adequate lighting around homes and property, particularly motion lighting, as a crime deterrent.

"Thieves don't like surprises and don't like light," he remarked. Interior lights should also be put on timers when you can't be at home to give the impression that people are at home, he advised.

"Crime knows no boundary. No matter if you're living in a [Navy] housing community or in a civilian community, you should place the same amount of emphasis on crime prevention," he reiterated.

A good strategy to use is to layer your defense against crime, the security officer noted. "Crime prevention comes in layers. It all starts with what the criminal sees. How hard is it to get? Is it locked up? Is it lit? How easy is it to carry?"

"All of these are indicators that you need to do something about your property. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and that's quite true," he continued.

McCready also recommended the use of home security systems and vehicle alarm systems. "Locking your vehicle just isn't good enough. You need an alarm system that immobilizes it [vehicle] or alerts [owner]," he advised. He also discussed a feature that can be purchased for auto alarm systems that works with a pager and pages the owner instead of blasting an alarm. "It's more neighborhood friendly," he explained.

There should be at least two door locks on doors to your home, a knob lock and a deadbolt, according to McCready.

He advised residents to place a wooden dowel in the tracks of sliding patio doors as an added precaution. The same technique can be used to secure windows, he noted.

McCready discussed the importance of calling 911 and notifying security whenever residents notice a suspicious person or vehicle in their neighborhood.

"When in doubt, call 911," he emphasized. "We'd rather respond 100 times than fail to respond at a time when we really need to. Anytime there is doubt, call the security forces," he said.

**Here are some things that you can do to avoid becoming a victim of crime:**

- Lock your car doors.
- Roll up your windows and secure your car as much as possible.
- Secure your vehicle, even if you're only going to be away for a few seconds.
- Don't leave valuables in your car. Thieves will break your windows to steal valuables left in plain view.
- Be careful if you place valuables in your trunk; a thief may be watching.
- Never leave expensive toys, bicycles, tools, etc. unsecured in an open garage.
- Don't leave items such as bicycles, power toys (such as battery-powered cars), lawn equipment and tools unattended in the yard, driveway, carport, lanai, etc. Even though they are on your property, they aren't safe from thieves. Such individuals don't have any respect for your privacy or think twice about trespassing on private property.
- Ensure that exterior lights/motion lights, etc. in your garage and/or parking area are working.
- Trim shrubbery, bushes and trees around windows and doors. Overgrown foliage creates a natural hiding place for would-be thieves looking to enter your residence.
- Immediately replace burnt-out lights around the outer perimeter of your residence. More importantly, turn those lights on during hours of darkness.
- Consider installing automatic timers for interior lights. These are readily available from several large retail stores at a minimal cost.
- Arrange for a neighbor or friend to pick up mail and newspapers when you're going to be away from home for more than a day.

# Navy and PowerLight dedicate Hawai'i's largest federal solar electric system

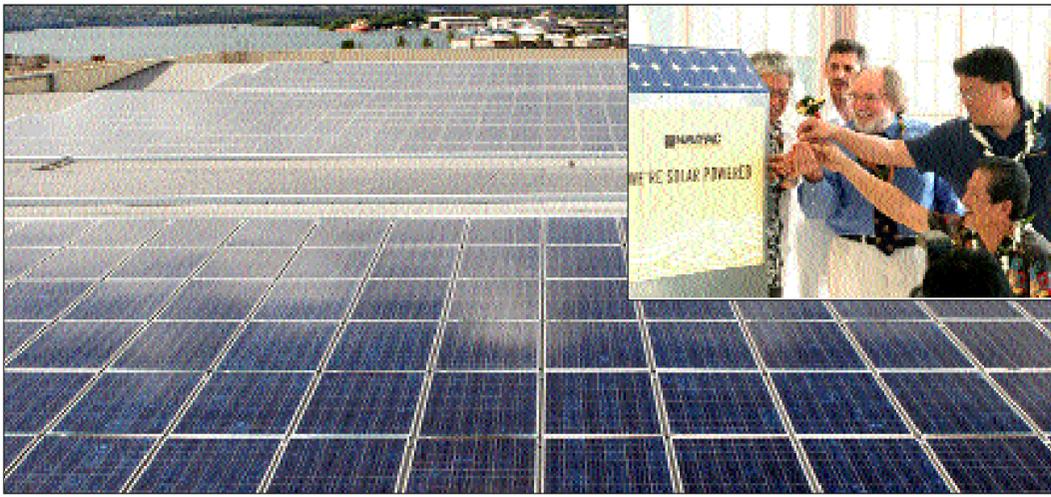
## Naval Facilities Engineering Command Public Affairs

On Oct. 13, 2005, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawai'i (NAVFAC Hawai'i) and PowerLight Corporation, held a Solar Dedication ceremony to celebrate the installation of the largest federal photovoltaic array in Hawai'i.

The 309kW PowerLight PowerGuard solar electric rooftop system, located atop Ford Island's Building 54 at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, will generate clean and reliable electricity for the Navy. The array covers 31,000 square feet of roof space, and incorporates 1,545 solar panels made by Sharp Corporation. During the daytime, this solar system generates energy equivalent to that normally used to power over 300 homes.

"The deployment of solar power at NAVFAC Hawai'i demonstrates the Navy's commitment to using energy management practices that reduce operational costs and protect the environment," said Capt. Richard D. Roth, commanding officer, NAVFAC Hawai'i. The array's solar power will be added to the Navy's electrical grid at Pearl Harbor and provide additional peak power during the busiest part of the work day. Not only will it reduce the demand on Hawaiian Electric Company's power grid, it will improve air quality by avoiding thousands of tons of polluting nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide emissions. In addition, the solar power is expected to save the Navy \$40K per year, at current Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) rates.

"Installing photovoltaics at govern-



The 309kW PowerLight PowerGuard solar electric rooftop system, located atop Ford Island's Building 54 at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i (Photo courtesy of PowerLight Corp.)

(Inset from left to right) Senator Daniel Akaka, Rear Adm. Michael Vitale, Commander Navy Region Hawai'i, Congressman Neil Abercrombie, Kevin Saito, Energy Manager, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, and Riley Saito, manager, project development, Powerlight Corp. flip the switch as a final gesture during the NAVFAC solar dedication ceremony held on Ford Island, Pearl Harbor on Oct.13. (Photo by J02 Corwin Colbert)

mental facilities is a sound, sensible way for us to use distributed energy resources to meet our renewable energy goals as well as reduce operating costs," said Capt. Roth. "In addition, deploying these technologies assures our energy independence."

Pearl Harbor's solar power system began as a HECO initiative and joint venture with the Navy. Originally, HECO offered to finance and build a photovoltaic array on Navy land, which they would lease. Over time, the project was adjusted and what began as a 100 kW photovoltaic sys-

tem in a large-scale energy park to be located in Pearl Harbor's West Loch area, evolved into a 309 kW system placed onto the roof of Ford Island's Building 54.

"Solar power proved to be a wonderful energy solution," said Kevin Saito, energy manager, NAVFAC Hawai'i. "By leveraging Hawai'i's abundant sunshine, this photovoltaic system combines the environmental benefits of solar with the ability to provide onsite power. This project provides a more, cost-stable source of electricity, mitigating the sharp

increase in fuel prices with which we are so familiar."

The 309kW photovoltaic system was designed and installed by PowerLight Corporation of Northern California, and is operated by Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawai'i. Funding for this project was obtained through the outstanding efforts of the State of Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation.

The designated location for the solar array, a historic, pre-World War II aircraft hangar on Ford Island, Building 54, received endorsements

from Navy Region Hawai'i's Historic Preservation (HP) architect and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). It was chosen for its suitable roof structure and lay out for the array.

PowerLight installed its PowerGuard solar electric rooftop system in September 2005. NAVFAC Hawai'i took responsibility for the array and its utilities personnel provided the equipment needed to connect the photovoltaic system to the Navy's power grid. In late September, the Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute (HNEI), partnering with NAVFAC Hawai'i, installed their monitoring equipment to collect data, and analyze the effectiveness of the solar array.

"We commend the U.S. Navy for taking such a strong leadership role in implementing clean, renewable solar power," said PowerLight President Dan Shugar. "Wider deployment of onsite solar generation is helping to secure our Nation's energy independence and national security. NAVFAC Hawai'i's vision to implement innovative technologies is terrific; our collaboration with the Navy has been instrumental in making this project, as well as one at Naval Base Coronado, a reality. PowerLight is committed to helping make the Navy more energy and cost-efficient, with minimal impact to the environment."

# FCPOA holds second junior enlisted seminar

## J03 Ryan C. McGinley

Staff Writer

The Navy Region Hawai'i First Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA) sponsored their second junior enlisted seminar for E-4s and below Oct. 6 at building 669, with the goal of enhancing career and personal growth.

"The overall goal of the program is just to bring awareness," said Cryptologic Technician-Administration 1st Class (SW) Wilmarie Alomar, a member of the FCPOA who helped coordinate the event. "We want to make junior personnel aware of the things that are avail-

able to them, and I think first class petty officers should be the first step in their communication ladder. As a first class you are responsible for the development of your juniors."

More than 30 junior Sailors from the area attended the seminar, which included a variety of topics for Sailors to focus on.

"I think this seminar was better than the first one because this is going to be more concentrated," said Alomar. "Last time there were a lot of topics that [distracted] from the most important ones."

The half-day event featured detailed discussions on a condensed selection of top-

ics. One of the primary topics was advancement.

Junior Sailors were given information on where to obtain bibliographies, study material and tips and how to best prepare for the Navy advancement exam. Other topics included the recent changes to the physical readiness instruction, mentorship and a presentation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service on drugs.

Alomar said the FCPOA is hoping to set the bar and hold seminars for junior enlisted Sailors twice a year, to help educate their Sailors and answer questions that might come up.

"There are young people

who came in the Navy recently and haven't been in too long, so why not start from the bottom talking to them and bringing these points across," she said.

Alomar said she hopes junior Sailors take the information they learned at the seminar and apply it to the real world and their jobs.

"Anything that they can

learn, that they didn't know before is good," she said. "Our goal is for them to learn something and be aware of something that they weren't before."

## Blue Angels honor Capt. "Butch" Voris



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Ryan Courtade

Enlisted members and support officers assigned to the U.S. Navy flight demonstration team, the "Blue Angels," stand in ranks outside the Ford Old Main Chapel in Monterey, Calif., as the team's F/A-18A Hornets perform a missing man formation following a memorial service that honors the life of retired Navy Capt. Roy M. "Butch" Voris. Voris, the original flight leader of the Blue Angels and Naval Aviation Hall of Fame member, passed away in his home in Monterey, Calif., on Aug. 10, 2005 at 86 years old.

## Navy Recruiting Achieves Milestones for FY '05

### JO1 Sonja Chambers

Navy Recruiting Command Public Affairs

Navy Recruiting Command (CNRC) marked its 50th consecutive month and fourth consecutive fiscal year (FY) of meeting active-duty enlisted accession and new contract objectives Sept. 30.

CNRC finished the year accessioning 37,703 active-duty recruits against a target of 37,635.

"We should all be proud of the hard work and dedication to mission our Navy recruiters have shown this year," said Rear Adm. Jeffrey L. Fowler, commander, Navy Recruiting Command. "In a much tougher market, these Sailors know what needs to be done and are getting after it."

CNRC began the year with a larger-than-normal Delayed Entry Program (DEP) at 69 percent as a hedge against a market that was expected to tighten during the Fiscal Year '05 execution year.

This strategy proved correct, as previously programmed recruiter reductions and a stronger-than-expected economy prompted recruiters to tap the DEP more frequently in order to make accession goals. The DEP ended the year at a strong 58 percent.

This hedge also enabled recruiters to continue meeting higher quality standards as the market narrowed.

Recruits with above average test scores improved, with 70.4 percent scoring.

Attainment of diversity was another success in FY '05. The percentage of African-American, Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander/Native American recruits who had above average test scores rose this year and diversity in officer accessions increased by seven percent.

An expanding national economy with low unemployment rates led to greater private sector competition for skilled non-veterans considering service in the Navy reserve.

Civilian unemployment rates hovered near historic lows for sectors in high demand by the Navy reserve such as Seabees, hospital corpsmen and masters-at-arms.

Additionally, continued high active-duty retention reduced the pool of experienced veterans available to serve in the reserves.

As a result, in FY '05, Navy recruiters accessioned 9,788 reserve enlisted recruits, which is 85.1 percent of the goal of 11,491.

## Fleet week ships host tours

### JO2 Paul Cage

San Francisco Fleet Week

Command Information Bureau

More than 8,500 people visited ships participating in the 25th Annual San Francisco Fleet Week in October.

Guests were shown damage control equipment and the ships' bridges, but the highlight for most was to be able to talk to Sailors about shipboard life and what it means to be in the Navy.

"This was my first time on a ship, and I found the tour really informative," said Chad Williams from Napa, Calif. who toured the amphibious transport dock ship USS Dubuque (LPD 8). "I was amazed to find out how old the ship is. Touring it, you couldn't tell (Dubuque was commissioned in 1967). It looked new. It was nice to see my tax dollars put to good use."

For some, touring the ship, this was a homecoming of sorts.

"I was on USS Coral Sea (CV 43) back in 1979. That was a good ship," said Jon Brooks from Sunnyvale, Calif. who brought his wife, daughter and friend to the tour. "I am glad I was able to share this part of my life with my family. I'm proud of my time of service, and I am proud to see that pride in service is still strong in the military."

The experience for Dubuque Sailors was also rewarding.

"I am proud to be able to share my life here on the ship with people who find our daily routines interesting," said Ensign Naomi Clerc from Buffalo, N.Y. "People were thankful for our service to our nation and I think the Dubuque crew showed that pride to everyone."

For Rosie Weinstein and her five-year old son Troy, visiting the ship was the highlight of their vacation to San Francisco.

"We saw two ships and watched the Blue Angels perform," said Weinstein, from Phoenix. "I enjoyed it, but I think my son enjoyed it more than I did. The Sailors let me take their pictures with my son. All the Sailors we've met have been professional and courteous, which is what we all expect."

More than 2,000 Sailors and Marines from USS Boxer (LHD 4), Dubuque, USS Hopper (DDG 70) and USS Mobile Bay (CG 53), as well as USCGC Morgenthau (WHEC 722), and four Canadian ships, HMCS Algonquin (DDG 283), HMCS Protecteur (AOR 509), HMCS Vancouver (FFH 331) and HMCS Calgary (FFH 335) are participating in Fleet Week, a five-day celebration held annually to recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by members of the armed forces.

## Hildreth relieves Howes as CO of Pearl Harbor submarine USS La Jolla

JOC (SW/AW)

David Rush

Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

USS La Jolla's commanding officer, Cmdr. Brian T. Howes, was relieved by Cmdr. Nelson P. Hildreth in a change of command ceremony held onboard the Pearl Harbor-based nuclear attack submarine Oct 7.

Rear Adm. Cecil Haney, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet's Deputy Chief of Staff for Fleet Warfare Requirements, Programming Force Structure and Analysis, guest speaker congratulated Howes for his leadership and the crew's enthusiasm throughout all of their exercises and deployments.

"This was all done with remarkable success due to the leadership of Cmdr. Howes and the dedication and perseverance of his crew. It's great to see the success this ship has had during his tour as the commanding officer," said Haney.

During the ceremony, Haney presented Howes with the Legion of Merit for his performance as commanding officer of La Jolla.

Howes said his crew deserves the credit for his success while serving as the submarine's skipper. "Their can do spirit amazes me to this day. What I have been the most impressed with during my command tour is the infectiously optimistic and enthusiastic attitude of this crew."

Hildreth acknowledged Howes after reading his orders to take command of the submarine. "I would like to thank Cmdr. Howes for an outstanding turnover. Your support has been outstanding, and the talented crew I see before me is the result of your efforts."

Howes' next assignment is commanding officer of the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command's Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit at Ballston Spa, NY.



U.S. Navy photo by JOC (SW/AW) David Rush

Cmdr. Brian T. Howes salutes the sideboys following a change of command ceremony held onboard USS La Jolla (SSN 701) on Oct. 7. Cmdr. Nelson P. Hildreth relieved Howes as commanding officer of the nuclear-powered attack submarine homeported at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

Howes graduated from Northwestern University in 1986 earning a bachelor of science degree in nuclear engineering and received his commission through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. Prior to USS La Jolla, he served on three previous submarines. As a junior officer, he was assigned to USS Los Angeles (SSN 688) from November 1987 to November 1990.

During his tour, the ship conducted a Western Pacific deployment and two northern Pacific deployments and was awarded the Submarine Squadron Seven Battle Efficiency "E" as well as the

Meritorious Unit Commendation for their 2004 Western Pacific deployment

On Oct. 4, the crew of La Jolla received a letter of commendation for its last deployment from February to August 2004, during which time it conducted an operation and participated in a number of exercises including Pacific Reach.

Hildreth previously served as the officer in charge of Moored Training Ship (Daniel Webster) at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit, Charleston. Prior to that assignment, he served as executive officer onboard USS Miami (SSN 755).

## Torpedo away!

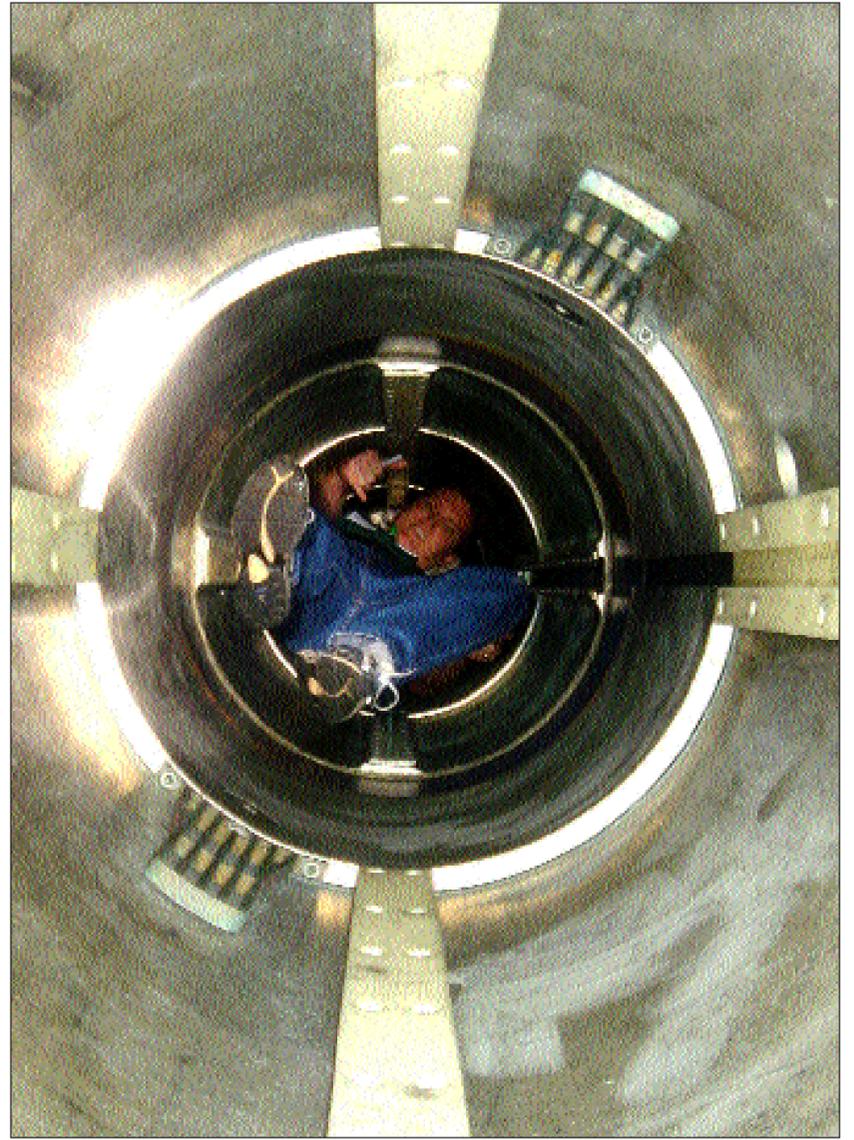


Photo courtesy of Honolulu Navy League

Garrett Grace, vice president of Central Pacific Bank, looks back after signing his name at the end of torpedo tube four on USS Cheyenne (SSN 773). The 21-inch wide, 19-foot long tube is used to launch the Mk 48 ADCAP torpedo and Tomahawk cruise missile. Grace, along with 18 other members of the Honolulu Navy League's "Bridge", embarked Cheyenne on Sept. 20, for a one-day orientation cruise south of Oahu that included submerging and high-speed maneuvering. Cheyenne, commanded by Cmdr. Rick Testyon, is an improved Los Angeles-class submarine, capable of launching Tomahawk missiles both vertically and from its torpedo tubes. The ship conducted the first strikes in Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003.

## Military involved in earthquake assistance



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Timothy Smith

Members of the Pakistan military and civilians from multi-national relief agencies carry an injured woman to a U.S. Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter for a medical evacuation in the remote Pakistani village of Rawalakot. The United States government is participating in a multi-national humanitarian assistance and support effort led by the Pakistani government to bring aid to victims of the devastating earthquake that struck the region Oct. 8.

## LeFever named earthquake disaster assistance coordinator

**Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet Public Affairs**

Rear Adm. Michael A. LeFever, commander of Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 1, has been designated as coordinator, Disaster Assistance Center, Pakistan.

LeFever and elements of his planning staff arrived on the ground in the nation's capital, Islamabad, Oct. 10 at the request of the government of Pakistan.

Four Navy helicopters from U.S. Naval Forces Central Command are enroute to provide additional heavy lift support. The four helicopters include two Navy MH-53E Sea Dragons, which are expected to arrive Oct. 12, and two MH-60 Seahawks, which are in the process of being moved.

Elements of ESG-1 - the amphibious assault ship USS Tarawa (LHA 1), amphibious transport dock USS Cleveland (LPD 7) and frigate USS Ingraham (FFG 61) - are heading toward the Pakistani coast to be in a better position to provide additional support, if requested.

"We will do everything within our power to bring aid to the peo-

ple of Pakistan," said LeFever. "We stand ready to provide food, water medicine and medical personnel into the areas that need it most. We also will work as an enabler with the non-governmental relief organizations, getting where they need to go to support the Pakistani people back on the road to recovery."

ESG-1 also boasts a robust medical capability. Fleet Surgical Team 3 is embarked, along with medical personnel from the three ships.

All told, more than 100 trained medical personnel can be employed, with a range of capabilities covering everything from first aid to anesthesia and surgical support.

"Our doctors and hospital corpsmen are ready and eager to help," said Capt. Monte Bible, ESG-1's surgeon. "Our number one concern right now is to prevent any further loss of life. We intend to arrive as quickly as possible and apply our expertise to relieve the suffering of the Pakistani people."

The adaptive nature of ESG-1 allowed for the planning element to be on a plane to Pakistan within hours of receiving the order from U.S. Central Command to provide whatever support the Pakistanis require.

# ORTSTARS provides rapid long distance response to Aegis ships

**Lawana M. Godwin and  
Ensign Jay Powell Dewitt**  
*USS Lake Erie Public Affairs*

Underway in the Pacific, the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) deploys with an Aegis combat weapon system designed with the next generation of remote technical support capabilities. For the first time in history, Sailors responsible for the Aegis are backed up by a shore-based technical support system 24 hours a day.

The Operational Readiness Test System Tech Assist Remote Support (ORTSTARS) redefines the Navy's current notion of long-distance technical support, and is improving readiness and reliability during its initial deployment.

Pioneered by the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Port Hueneme, Calif., (NSWC PHD) ORTSTARS was created as the Navy began to implement the Fleet Response Plan, a major restructuring of training, maintenance and operation schedules designed to enable the service to "surge" six carrier strike groups to world trouble spots, with two additional carrier groups available in 90 days. Accordingly, ORTSTARS provides rapid response to Aegis' technical problems and fosters far better coordination between ships at sea and shore-based technical support facilities.

Fire Controlman 3rd Class Nathan Barkdull, who does troubleshooting and maintenance of the Aegis system aboard Lake Erie, said ORTSTARS makes it possible "for ships to achieve and maintain 100 percent battle operational status and effectiveness indefinitely."

The Aegis multi-mission combat system comprises several elements, including a weapons control system and the AN/SPY-1 phased-array radar capable of performing search, track and missile-guidance tasks for more than 100 targets simultaneously.

First deployed in 1983, Aegis is the main combat system on approximately 68 Navy surface ships and has been continuously modernized. It is a centerpiece of the Navy's emerging bal-



U.S. Navy photo by Richard J. Brunson  
USS Lake Erie (CG 70)

listic missile defense program (BMDP).

ORTSTARS is a troubleshooting, maintenance and training system for Aegis that seamlessly links ships and support communities, using desktop communication tools to remotely test and analyze all components of the weapon system. ORTSTARS provides a single integrated solution to a shipboard problem without the need for onboard assistance from engineering centers such as the Southwest Regional Maintenance Center San Diego and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center.

James Fung, who works with In-Service Engineering Technical Support at NSWC PHD, said, "ORTSTARS establishes a new horizon not only for resolving problems, but a new method of supporting and maintaining systems for the fleet."

Current Navy distance support methods are unwieldy and time-consuming.

"In order for a ship to maintain its battle effectiveness, it must receive answers to technical requests immediately," Barkdull said. "With the old systems, replies to technical questions could take three to five days. In worst-case scenarios, a response could take as long as a week. During that interval, the ship is no longer at battle effectiveness and becomes a stone around the battle fleet's neck."

Prior to the development of ORTSTARS, Lake Erie Sailors responsible for fault diagnosis and repair of the Aegis system would contact technical support through secure e-mail, classified voice phone or naval message channels. If a problem could not be resolved, shore-based technicians typically would render immediate on-site assistance to the ship.

This process was unlikely to meet the challenges posed by the next generation of U.S. Navy combatants: the littoral combat ship, DD(X) destroyer and CG(X) cruiser, which will be at sea longer than ships of today's fleet.

NSWC PHD pioneered the ORTSTARS communication tool using the Aegis platform, but the revolutionary approach to conducting proactive distance support is transportable across all Navy platforms. Currently, ORTSTARS deploys on Lake Erie and the cruiser USS San Jacinto, which trail blaze technological advances for the fleet.

Hai Tonthat, network and processor engineering branch manager at NSWC PHD and the innovator behind the ORTSTARS concept, said, "The world is benefiting from the advances in communication technology. The proof of concept for the ORTSTARS engineering experiment leveraged the Navy's currently deployed commercial-off-the-shelf technology for the Aegis weapon system and information technology in the 21st Century (IT-21) resources pioneered by the Space and Naval Warfare System (SPAWAR) command."

"Introducing the concept just seemed like the right thing to do. All the critical components were in place. They just needed a connection vehicle - an Ethernet category-5 cable," said Tonthat

Fielded by SPAWAR, IT-21 technology connects the surface fleet by taking advantage of the rapidly growing availability of high-speed information networks emerging from the commercial sector. Secure sea-based networks that utilize collaborative tools, such as e-mail, chat, video teleconferencing and Web-based information portals, accelerate the speed of decision-making and enable Sailors to fundamentally alter the way they plan, prepare

and execute tactical operations.

The dual mission of maintaining combat readiness and leading the Aegis Ballistic-Missile Defense Program and Standard Missile 3 Program presents unique and complex challenges for the Sailors aboard Lake Erie. Their high readiness expectations demand equipment and support infrastructures that surge with the ship.

"The ORTSTARS' benefit to the rest of the fleet is reliability," Barkdull said. "At first, we were hesitant to accept the new software because a change creates the possibility of introducing another unstable element. ORTSTARS did the exact opposite. The technology gives us a solid foundation to troubleshoot and fix system issues. There is a small learning curve for anyone, but if the user is familiar with the system then they can simply sit down and learn the program almost immediately."

The essence of ORTSTARS is that it speeds communications between the ship and shore-based technicians and engineers, and fosters a team approach to the detection and diagnosis of faults in the system.

Aboard Lake Erie, an anomaly registers with the SPY radar triggering Aegis' built-in test function alerts. Barkdull attempted to resolve the intermittent SPY track problem using current shipboard distance support tools, such as technical manuals, Web information and intra-battle group collaboration. Barkdull and the fire-control team aboard Lake Erie considered the problem complex and transmitted a casualty report requesting assistance to Global Distance Support, which generated a trouble-ticket and assigned the action to NSWC PHD.

On duty at NSWC PHD, Calvin Pham, SPY radar in-service engineering agent, conducted research using the collaborative engineering environment to determine historical information for similar issues, system configuration, and status and technical advisories. With Lake Erie's permission, Pham remotely "boarded" the ship using ORTSTARS to conduct testing and troubleshooting on the SPY radar system. During the sequence of testing, Pham and

Barkdull can simultaneously view the results and collaborate using chat. The team identified the location of the anomaly and concurred on replacing the part. Using ORTSTARS, the remote team reconnected to validate the readiness of the Aegis system.

"ORTSTARS responded like a champ," said Pham. "This is a superb distance support tool for the fleet and shore support for resolving problems quickly and tracking incidents for maintenance."

Retired Chief Petty Officer Curt Garretson, now a civilian with in-service engineering technical support at NSWC PHD, said "When I saw the ORTSTARS demonstration as a Sailor, I wanted the capability immediately. Sailors bring two to four years of experience and rotate from ship to ship. As a Sailor, I wanted to collaborate in real time with technical support. Sailors can see everything that I do using ORTSTARS, so they are learning while observing."

The next step for ORTSTARS is deployment aboard several Arleigh Burke-class destroyers scheduled to enter the Navy Ballistic Missile Defense Program.

Deployment costs are minimal because of the maturity of the Aegis weapon system, and the use of IT-21 and commercial-off-the shelf technology.

Lt. Cmdr. Paul Wingert, combat systems officer for Lake Erie, said, "ORTSTARS provides an exceptionally fast and accurate means of receiving distance support. The ability to allow Aegis weapon system shore-based technical expertise to remotely monitor the combat system offers the possibility of cost savings and potential increases in operational availability for the Navy."

Barkdull said ORTSTARS provides significant advantages to Sailors on the deck plate. "After having used the ORTSTARS system, I would be able to work without the capability. However, functioning without ORTSTARS is not how I would choose to operate. ORTSTARS is a vast improvement upon the troubleshooting process and is now the preferred method of operations for us aboard Lake Erie."

# Hawai'i Navy News Sports

## Sailors honored at Lakers vs. Warriors exhibition game

**JO2 Corwin Colbert**  
Staff Writer

The National Basketball Association honored the men and women of the Armed Forces during the Los Angeles Lakers and Golden State Warriors exhibition game on Oct. 11 at University of Hawai'i Stan Sheriff Center.

Navy Region Hawai'i's Culinary Specialist 1st Class Jossy Sacre and Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Kunsoo Park of Combined Bachelor Housing Submarine Complex accepted an award of appreciation on behalf of the Navy during a pre-game ceremony along with members from other services.

In front of a crowd more than 7,300, both service members said they had so many emotions running through him.

"It was a proud moment," said Sacre. "I was lucky to represent the Navy."

Park and Sacre said they were humbled by the ceremony and eager to watch the game.

The pre-game ceremony was memorable but the comeback was even more memorable.

The Los Angeles Lakers who trailed 16 points in the first quarter won the game 101 to 93.

This game was not for the faint of heart. The game was slam-dunk frenzied. With majority of the dunks

coming from the Warriors, the crowd got their money's worth.

In the first quarter, the Warriors took a commanding lead making the Lakers look like a high school basketball team. They dazzled the crowd and the Lakers' bench with unreal dunks and eye popping three point shots for a 24-8 lead.

In the second quarter, led by Kobe Bryant, the Lakers began their comeback tale with Bryant scoring 16 points, in the end cutting the Warriors lead to one. Bryant accumulated 24 points-more than half his team's total.

Following the second quarter, the cheerleaders entertained the crowd dur-

ing intermission along with another ceremony honoring one of Hawai'i's Little League teams.

With the score 55-56, the Lakers took the lead with a 15-6 run in the third quarter leading 70-62. The Warriors made a valiant effort to regain the lead by pulling the game close in the fourth trailing 76-74.

However, in the end it was the Lakers' reserves shutting down the Warriors' hopes by holding on to the lead and sending Warriors' fans home to await game two to revenge the defeat.

As an avid Lakers Fan, Park said he was honored to represent the Navy at the game but watching the game was an added bonus.



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Corwin Colbert  
A team member of the Golden State Warriors dunks over the Los Angeles Lakers team during an exhibition game Oct. 11 at University of Hawai'i's Stan Sheriff Center.

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