

## USS Honolulu prepares for its last aloha

**Commander Submarine Force, US Pacific Fleet Public Affairs**

Honolulu's namesake ship is preparing to say farewell to its island home after two decades of service. USS Honolulu (SSN 718), which is scheduled to inactivate next year, will hold a farewell ceremony on April 15 prior to departing Hawai'i on its final deployment to the Western Pacific. "This is an exciting and challenging time for us," said Cmdr. John Russ, the nuclear-powered attack submarine's commanding offi-

cer. "We're preparing to leave our homeport for the last time and, at the same time, we're going through the normal challenges associated with getting the ship ready to deploy."

The submarine is currently in the third week of a pre-deployment maintenance upkeep period in Pearl Harbor. When it leaves Hawai'i for its deployment sometime after April 15, it will likely be the last time the submarine ever sees Pearl Harbor. The ship is scheduled to return directly to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton,

Wash. following its deployment to begin inactivation.

USS Honolulu has been homeported at Pearl Harbor for most of its operational life. After being commissioned in 1985, it moved to Hawai'i to join the Pacific Fleet in September 1986. It has completed nine deployments to the Western Pacific, participated in Operation Enduring Freedom and conducted operations under the Arctic ice. The submarine has received an impressive array of awards, including

six Battle "E"s.

Current and past crew members, as well as elected officials and community members from Hawai'i, will honor the USS Honolulu at the April 15 ceremony at Pearl Harbor. Vice Adm. Jonathan Greenert, who currently commands the U.S. 7th Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan, will be guest speaker. Greenert commanded USS Honolulu from 1991 to 1993.

USS Honolulu is the third ship named in honor of the city of Honolulu, Hawai'i. It was

launched in September 1983 and commissioned in July 1985, becoming the 97th attack nuclear submarine (SSN) and the 31st of the Los Angeles-class

SSNs delivered to the Navy.

The submarine has the ability to conduct a broad spectrum of warfare missions. In addition to its traditional role of seeking out surface ships and submarines, USS Honolulu is capable of launching strikes, operating with special operations forces, and conducting intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions.



USS Honolulu (SSN-718), a Los Angeles-class submarine, was the third ship of the United States Navy to be named for Honolulu, Hawai'i. The contract to build her was awarded to Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in Newport News, Va. on Sept. 15, 1977 and her keel was laid down on Nov. 10, 1981. She was launched on 24 Sept. 24, 1983 sponsored by Mrs. Joan B. Clark, and commissioned on July 6, 1985, with Capt. Robert M. Mitchell in command.



**Amelia Earhart**  
First lady of the air  
page B-1

## Hawai'i Navy News Briefs

### Hawaiian Electric Electron Marathon

The Hawaiian Electron Company is holding its annual Hawaiian Electron Marathon on March 18 on Ford Island from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Schools and military teams will race custom built electric vehicles. The event is free and open to the public.

### Brief power outage in Hospital Point family housing neighborhood

There will be a power outage in the Hospital Point family housing neighborhood between the hours of 7-8 a.m. and 5-6 p.m. on March 18. The outages are required to provide backup and restore normal power to housing residents prior to Naval Facilities Command Hawai'i installing their new transformer and switch gear to station A-2. If you have any questions, call Gail Hamada at 474-1920.

## Unleaded please



USS Reuben James (FFG 57) and USS Port Royal (CG 73) conduct an underway replenishment. The two Pearl Harbor based ships are currently deployed as part of Expeditionary Strike Group 3. ESG 3 is deployed in support of the global war on terrorism.

U.S. Navy photo

## Carrying I.D. cards is mandatory

**Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs**

A recent random check of people exercising on Naval Station Pearl Harbor revealed an alarming number of people did not carry their official Armed Forces identification card (I.D.) card while they were engaged in physical training. B U P E R S Instruction 1 7 5 0 . 1 0 B requires all military personnel to carry a military I.D. card with them at all times.

Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale, Commander Navy Region Hawai'i, said it's not a requirement without a purpose.

"If you think about this in terms of safety alone it makes good sense," Vitale said. "If something were to happen to you while you were out running - whether it's a medical problem or if you were to get injured and are incapacitated - who is going to be able to identify you? How will they access your medical records? Having your I.D. card on you solves that problem."

Naval Station Pearl Harbor's security officer, Lt. Edward Twigg, reiterated that carrying your I.D. card is a regulation that will be enforced in Hawai'i.

"This is also necessary to maintain our vigilance against those who have no purpose being on Navy property and could be planning to do harm," he explained. "If you are caught without your I.D. card base security forces will detain you until someone from your chain of command can vouch for your identity."



## Navy Region Hawai'i kicks off NMCRS annual fund drive

**JO2 Devin Wright**

Editor

Navy Region Hawai'i kicked off the 2006 Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Fund Drive at Sharkey's Theater on March 6.

Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale, commander Navy Region Hawai'i, encouraged NMCRS command representatives from various commands throughout Hawai'i to exceed last year's \$629,000 mark.

NMCRS is a resource for service members who find themselves in financial hardship.

"NMCRS is like an insurance plan," said Paul Belanger, director of Navy Marine Corps Relief Society at Pearl Harbor. "Everyone at some point in their lifetime will face some sort of an

emergency that will involve finances and require some sort of fall back. Service members who donate know that someday either they or their shipmates or fellow Marines will need assistance and that's what we provide," he said.

Service members who have used the service know first hand the importance of the NMCRS.

"My wife and daughter were in Biloxi just before Hurricane Katrina hit," said Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Christopher Weldon, assigned to Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Center. "We needed to evacuate. NMCRS helped us augment some of the cost from that. It wasn't a difficult process. They understood we needed some extra money and we got it. I know how important it is because I've been there," he said.

The NMCRS has 265 offices ashore and on ships across the globe and all the money they donate goes directly to the service members who need it, Belanger said. The NMCRS is a non-profit organization and run only by the donations it receives. The annual drive is the way to help augment the cost of subsidizing service member's emergencies. Nineteen volunteers founded NMCRS in 1904 to help Navy widows and orphans. Now the organization has 3,000 volunteers, offering emergency funding for Sailors and Marines in need. NMCRS provides a number of other services, including: scholarship assistance, funeral costs and interest-free loans for vehicle repair, budget counseling and more. The drive runs until April 14. Each command has a key person or persons collecting



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Devin Wright

Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i, speaks to attendees at the 2006 NMCRS fund drive kick off Monday at Sharkey's Theater.

contributions from civilians and service members. Active duty Sailors and Marines are able to donate a certain dollar amount each month by filling out an allotment form distributed by key persons.

The money will be taken out of their paycheck automatically each month. For more information on this year's drive, visit [www.pixi.com/~nmcrshi/](http://www.pixi.com/~nmcrshi/) <<http://www.pixi.com/~nmcrshi/>> .

# Sailors and Marines spread aloha abroad

Lt. j.g. Valerie Van Ho

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) Public Affairs

Thirty-one days at sea, seven weeks since you saw home, and it's your first foreign port and first liberty port of the deployment, what do you do? For 14 Sailors and Marines from USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), the answer is to continue what they were doing every day - serve. This time they reached beyond dedication to service for the American public and committed their free time in port to serve the community of Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. During a four-day port visit, the 10 Sailors and four Marines joined 10 Royal Malaysian navy Sailors in a true joint experience designed to serve and care for the local community.

First, the volunteers painted

and worked on electrical gear at the state orphanage. Then at the Sabah State Retirement Home, Sailors worked on plumbing and yard work. In both projects, the mission was twofold: to serve the local community and demonstrate to the rest of the world that "Americans like to give," explained Chung-Hoon Command Master Chief David Wisch, who organized the event. Secondly, the projects helped enable Sailors to "see something other than the waterfront and interact in a new way, especially with people."

The Sabah State Orphanage is home to 80 children, ranging in age from four months to 17 years old. "Many of the children were orphaned when their parents were arrested on immigration charges and sent back to their countries without their children," explained Chief Culinary Specialist (SW)

William Carballo of Bronx, N.Y. "We ate lunch with the kids and we played with them in the playground with the swings."

"I went because I wanted to see the living conditions and how they were treated, but mostly because I wanted to do something nice for the kids," explained Lance Cpl. Lance Naringi of Stanten Island, N.Y. The result? "I loved it.... the kids were great. At first they were a little shy, then they opened up to us," Naringi said.

Naringi's favorite memory was when the boys at the orphanage brought out a radio while they were painting their room and started singing along to the American songs. "They knew every word," remarked Naringi.

CS3 David Acevedo of Bartlett, Ill. even taught the kids how to break dance.

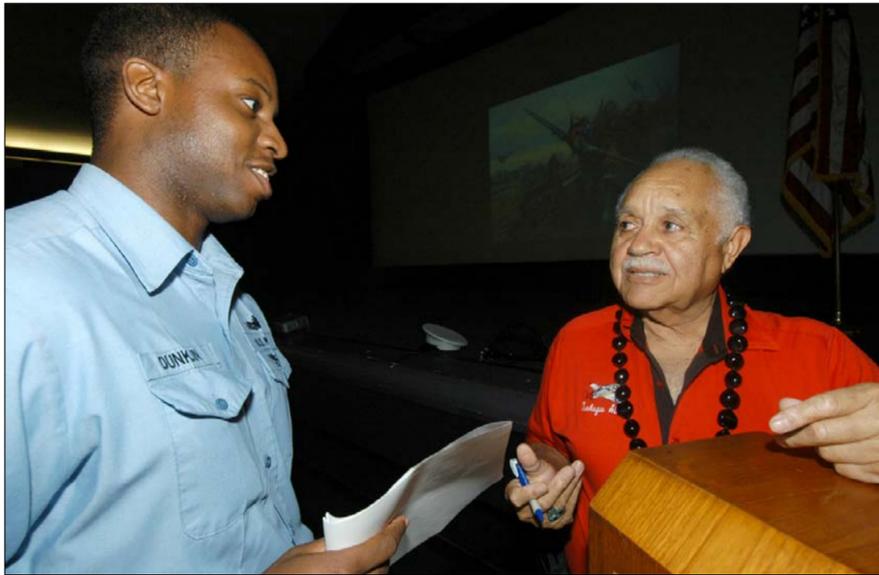
Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW)

Andre Hopson of Philadelphia, Pa. said, "This was the best part of my liberty in Kota Kinabalu." Hopson was one of eight Sailors who participated in both projects. "We had a ball, joking, running around with the kids, talking to people, shaking hands, taking pictures, and joking around with their military," said Hopson.

Hopson said his favorite experience came when the Sailors working at the retirement home were joined by a group of Malaysian youth from the area. The youth began working with them and it was a chance to "really interact with them. It made my day," he explained. Hopson had the opportunity to give advice to a young Malaysian boy whose goal was to come to the United States for school. "It puts a different light on how we live. When you listen... you see how much we take for

granted. We got it good. You might complain about some extra work or double watches, but we have running water, electricity, a bed to sleep in and clothes for so many days. For some, they only have one pair of shoes and many people to one bed," said Hopson.

Chung-Hoon Hawai'i's newest guided missile destroyer departed for her maiden deployment on Jan. 5. Planning for the community relations projects began five months prior to deployment. For each project, the day began at 9 a.m. and ended at 5:30 p.m. The following personnel also participated: CTRC(SW/SS) William Rodgers, IC1(SW) Camerino Pagan, MR1 (SW) David Parent, CTR1(SW) Corey Johnson, CTA1 Thomas Taunton, DK1(SW) David Wisner, OS3 Carliss Stegall, Lance Cpl. Eddy Byrne, Lance Cpl. Mike Delgado and Pvt. Cory Jamieson.



U.S. Navy photo by J02 Devin Wright

Storekeeper 1st Class (SW/AW) Capreece Dunklin, assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor, receives an autograph from Tuskegee Airman Leo R. Gray (Lt. Col. USAF Ret.) at Sharkey Theater on March 2.

## Tuskegee Airmen visit Pearl Harbor

J02 Devin Wright

Editor

In observance of African-American Heritage Month, Naval Station Pearl Harbor hosted a ceremony March 2 at Sharkey Theater honoring three Tuskegee Airmen. The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African-American fighter pilots during World War II.

"Blacks in aviation is a segment in history that needs to be told," said William "Bill" Hollowman (Lt. Col USAF Ret.) and a Tuskegee Airman. "That's why we come to events like this at different venues around the nation. We want to broaden people's understanding. There are so many contributions in time of war to this nation by African-Americans - Dorie Miller, the Buffalo Soldiers, and on and

on. People need to understand that African-Americans have a rich heritage in the United States military. The opportunities for African-Americans have greatly improved, but there is always room for more," he said.

For service members in attendance, the occasion to meet and speak with the airmen who paved the way for racial equality in the military was a moving experience.

"This means so much to me," said Storekeeper 1st Class (SW/AW) Capreece Dunklin, assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor. "It really allows you to reflect on our history in the military and if you want to know where you're going, you need to know where you've been. The opportunity to meet some of the men who have helped me have a fair and equal opportunity is an

honor. I'm inspired. They've made me feel that anything is possible," said Dunklin.

The training program for the Tuskegee Airmen began July 19, 1941. More than 966 African-American military aviators were trained at an isolated training complex near the town of Tuskegee, Ala. and at Tuskegee Institute, now known as Tuskegee University. Four hundred and fifty black fighter pilots under the command of Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. (who later became the U. S. Air Force's first black general) fought in the aerial war over North Africa, Sicily and Europe, piloting, P-40, P-39, P-47 and P-51 type aircraft. The airmen flew 15,553 sorties and completed 1,578 missions with the 12th Tactical U. S. Army Air Force and the 15th Strategic U. S. Army Air Force.

## Update on construction projects at Pearl Harbor

Lt. Cmdr. Joe Simpkins

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawai'i and Naval Station Pearl Harbor Public Works Officer

Who "does" roads? Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i's public works office is responsible for repair and maintenance of all Navy streets and roads. Repair projects can be as simple as filling a pothole, or as extensive as total replacement of a road's surface.

Over the past two years, several roads have been resurfaced, including Pearl Harbor Boulevard and others in the submarine piers area. Although these proj-

ects are very disruptive during construction, once they are completed, they are very much appreciated. This work not only makes the base look better, but also safer for drivers and pedestrians alike.

As reported in recent editions of Hawai'i Navy News, there are several roads on Ford Island being re-built or resurfaced. This work will continue well into April. There are also road and parking lot resurfacing projects in the Pearl Harbor Shipyard area. Information on road closures and lane reductions will continue to be provided by Navy message and in Hawai'i Navy News.

Please note....help is needed in identifying faded

cross walks and intersection markings throughout Navy property. If you know of an area that needs re-painting, please pass that information to your building monitor.

**Other projects of interest:**

Road closures on Ford Island: Various roadways on Ford Island will be closed to traffic for construction and repair from Jan. 25 - April 14. Proper detours, signage and safety precautions will be in place. Please allow extra time to get to and from your destinations on Ford Island during this period.

*(Editor's Note: The update on construction projects on Naval Station Pearl Harbor will be an ongoing feature of Hawai'i Navy News.)*

## STORY IDEAS?

Contact the HNN editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements:

Phone: (808) 473-2888

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# Hawai'i Navy News

# Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

## Avoid the "payday pirates"

**Pacific Fleet Master Chief(SS/SW) Rick West**



FLTCM(SS/SW) Rick West

Hoo-yah, Warriors! Going to get straight to the point on this article because the subject is that hot - payday lenders or what is often referred to as predatory lenders. This is a must read for all military personnel, ombudsmen and family members.

Recently you've probably heard or seen several personnel in leadership positions talk about the payday lenders ... with all this talk, there must be a reason.

Financial issues account for a big portion of the deckplate issues that we as leaders see daily and, hopefully by this article, you will know where to go for help before it becomes an issue (proactive) and also where to go if you are currently in financial trouble (reactive).

The fastest growing reason contributing to financial trouble is the use of the payday loans or predatory lenders. These "payday pirates," as I like to think of them, are not interested in helping you out. Trust me on that. They are interested in one thing - making money and making it off of you and if you use them, they will win and you will lose ... every time.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, a cash advance loan secured by a personal check - such as a payday loan - is very expen-

sive credit. Here's how it works:

If you need: \$300

Payday lenders lend you: \$300 against your paycheck in two weeks.

You should pay them: \$360 in two weeks (lending charges).

You can't pay, so you roll it over: \$360 against next pay check

After one month, you now owe: \$440 (more interest, lending charges)

And so on and so on. Each time you roll it over, the charges and interest build.

They'll say the fees are just \$20 per \$100 borrowed - and also say that many credit cards charge 24 percent interest or more. But that 24 percent figure is the annual rate. Payday loans are two-week loans that turn into long-term debt and their annual interest rates can easily surpass 400 percent. Bottom line: This is not a good deal!

The payday pirate is making about \$100 a month - \$1,300 a year for every customer and spending only \$300. It's a great deal - for them, but for you, "not so much."

I cannot imagine anyone in his or her right mind signing up for a

400 percent loan. I cannot imagine anyone OUT of his or her right mind signing up for this scam.

Let me share with you the words from Rear Adm. William French in the Pacific Northwest.

"I have personally witnessed the detrimental impact of payday lending on military families and the drain it has had on military readiness."

O.K., I think now you know this is a huge concern for our Navy. We've got to engage it at all levels. Payday pirates can have a huge impact on your credit rating - which helps you get a legitimate loan. Indebtedness can hinder your military career; it will cause a lot of stress at home and it can cause you physical and mental harm.

Let me also share with you some very sobering statistics sent to me from the "Tacoma News Tribune's" editorial page.

"The Center for Responsible Lending, a non-profit organization that tracks this issue, says the average payday borrower winds up paying \$800 on a \$325 loan. And that's just an average.

"It's common to hear of strapped young military personnel owing thousands of dollars on loans that were originally for hundreds of dollars."

Warriors, this just makes no sense to me at all. Before you get to this point, talk to somebody -

the command financial specialist, your chief, your LPO, the chaplain, a peer, anyone but that payday pirate who is waiting for you outside the gate.

You chiefs, LPOs and divisions officers should discuss this at every opportunity and by being proactive, you will not become reactive. Some of the recommended things you should consider are as follows:

- Inform leadership when making a big purchase or if you are thinking of using a payday lender.

- Use the resources available to you to make an informed decision. (Your CPO or division officer, command financial specialists, or Fleet/Family Support Center has several programs to ensure your success.)

- Live within your means ... do you really need the new truck? I drive a '95 Mazda.

- When you need credit, shop carefully. Compare offers. Look for the credit offer with the lowest annual percentage rate - consider a small loan from your credit union or small loan company, or a loan from family or friends.

- Compare the APR and the finance charge (which includes loan fees, interest and other types of credit costs) of credit offers to get the lowest cost.

- Ask your creditors for more time to pay your bills. Find out

what they will charge - as a late charge, an additional finance charge or a higher interest rate.

- Make a realistic budget and figure your monthly and daily expenditures. Avoid unnecessary purchases, even small daily items. Also, build savings, even small deposits can help, to avoid borrowing for emergencies or unexpected expenses.

- If you need help on debt repayment or developing a budget, contact your local Fleet and Family Support Centers (FFSC) or command financial specialist. FFSC currently has some outstanding classes that maybe you can incorporate as part of indoc for both the military member and the spouse.

OK, I'm off the 1MC. I think it's clear that I'm 110 percent against this practice and want to ensure you don't end up in financial distress. So next time money's a little tight, go talk to an expert to help you find a way other than the payday pirate. I know you'll make the right choice. Hoo-yah!

Fleet Tip: I recently found an outstanding Web site [www.militarymoney.com](http://www.militarymoney.com), and I think this site would be worth a visit. Once on the site, look at the departments section and click on money. You will see an article called, "Caught in a Debt Trap." This will open your eyes. Good luck!

Commentary

## Fireside Chat

Navy Region Federal Fire Dept.

### Be careful with candles

**Victor Flint**

*Prevention Division, Federal Fire Department*

Anything with an open flame or a glowing tip should be treated with care and caution. Candles and burning incense have been the cause of numerous fires in military housing and billets.

One home in Aliamanu Military Reservation (AMR) was lost and its occupants were sent to the hospital with injuries because of a child playing with a burning candle in his bedroom. There were many other indications that candles were left burning in this home because there was plenty of scorching on table tops and other furniture throughout the home.

Two Navy homes have also been lost because the occupants were burning candles. In one of the incidents, the occupant was not home at the time that the candle started the fire. There were no injuries. However, all of the family's possessions were lost.

The other home was lost, but more than the furniture and clothing were lost - this family lost a pet in the fire. Hawai'i also lost a piece of history. The home that burned was a historic Pearl City Clipper Home built in the 1940s.

There have been two

recent incidents in the barracks where the occupants were burning incense that caused combustibles to ignite when the burning incense dropped out of its holder. The fires that evolved not only gutted the occupants' rooms, but also affected the whole complex, disrupting hundreds of lives and causing injuries to its occupants.

The individual's intentions of burning candles and incense are usually to create a mood, but the mood could rapidly change if the following precautions are not practiced:

- Nothing combustible/flamable should be left near the candle and/or incense.
- Have a secure, non-combustible base for the candle and/or incense.
- Avoid tipping from pets, children, wind blown curtains.
- Do not allow children to light candles and/or incense. These are not toys.
- As with matches and lighters, keep candles out of the reach of children.
- Never, ever leave the burning candle and/or incense unattended.
- Call 911 if you discover that there is a fire.

For more information, call Inspector Victor M. Flint of the Federal Fire Department's prevention division at 474-7785.

## Sky's the limit



File photo

Pictured here with her custom Lockheed 10E Electra, Amelia Earhart's name became a household word for her aviation accomplishments. She was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic and in January 1935, Earhart was the first person to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean from Honolulu to Oakland, Calif. In 1937, Earhart set a final course to be the first person to fly around the world. Somewhere within the 29,000 mile journey near Howland Island, Earhart missed a scheduled report. Nothing further was heard from her. See section B-1 for more about Earhart.

## Hawai'i Navy News

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Official U.S. Navy file photo of the nuclear-powered Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS La Jolla (SSN 701) being pulled away from its pier.

## USS La Jolla named top food service in sub force

**JO2 Corwin M. Colbert**

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

The Pearl Harbor-based attack submarine USS La Jolla (SSN 701) was named first place winner in the submarine category of the 2006 Capt. Edward F. Ney award on March 7.

The Ney award was created in 1958 by the Secretary of the Navy and the International Food Service Executives Association (IFSEA) to improve and recognize the quality of food service in the Navy.

"This award obviously reflects the hard work by the culinary specialists," said La Jolla Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Nelson Hildreth. "They truly care about the food and the service of the crew. Their focus on customer service is well appreciated by the rest of the crew and we are all proud of the win."

Lt. Brennan Stoufflet, the

ship's supply officer, learned Tuesday morning of the selection, La Jolla's first Ney award. He said he and his culinary specialists are overwhelmed at winning.

"When selected by the squadron, we were very excited. Then we won the Pearl Harbor submarine force award which was like icing on cake," Stoufflet said. "When we went up for the big award, we held our breath and hoped for the best."

Stoufflet said his division's secret to success was record keeping, training and good customer service practice.

"The guys do their best everyday, not just when the inspectors come onboard to critique us."

Accepting the award on La Jolla's behalf will be Culinary Specialist 2nd Class John Nadig of Rochester, N.Y. He said he is pleased about winning and honored to be chosen to accept the award.

"I am very excited because it means we are the best sub-

marine food service venue in the fleet," said Nadig.

"We don't do things better than everybody, we just do everything we can the right way," said Nadig. "Our training is the key, and that training carries on to the galley and mess decks."

Nadig congratulated everyone who was nominated and said he knew the competition was close. Along with the trophy awarded to the submarine, the Navy Supply Corps will pay for a two-week college-credited culinary course for three of the culinary specialists aboard.

The Ney is the latest in a series of awards for La Jolla's supply department. The nuclear-powered attack submarine's crew won the 2005 Supply Excellence Award and a bronze medal in the Hawaii State Food Expo. It won Best in Show award and People's Choice award at the Naval Submarine Support Command's quarterly food competition.

## Aegis ballistic missile defense flight test successful

**Missile Defense Agency**

Air Force Lieutenant General Henry "Trey" Obering III announced that the U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA), in cooperation with the Japan Defense Agency and the U.S. Navy, Wednesday successfully completed a cooperative flight test mission. This flight test mission, entitled Joint Control Test Vehicle-1 (JCTV-1), demonstrated the performance of an SM-3 missile that has been modified with a Japan-designed advanced nosecone and the Aegis BMD Weapon System. In previous Aegis BMD flight test missions, the SM-3 missile maneuvered to eject the nosecone before deploying the kinetic warhead to intercept the target. With the modified configuration, the nosecone opens like a clamshell without any missile maneuvers.

At approximately 10:45 a.m. (HST), a simulated target was entered into the Aegis BMD Weapon System onboard the USS Lake Erie (CG 70). Based on the simulated target, the ship developed a fire control solution.

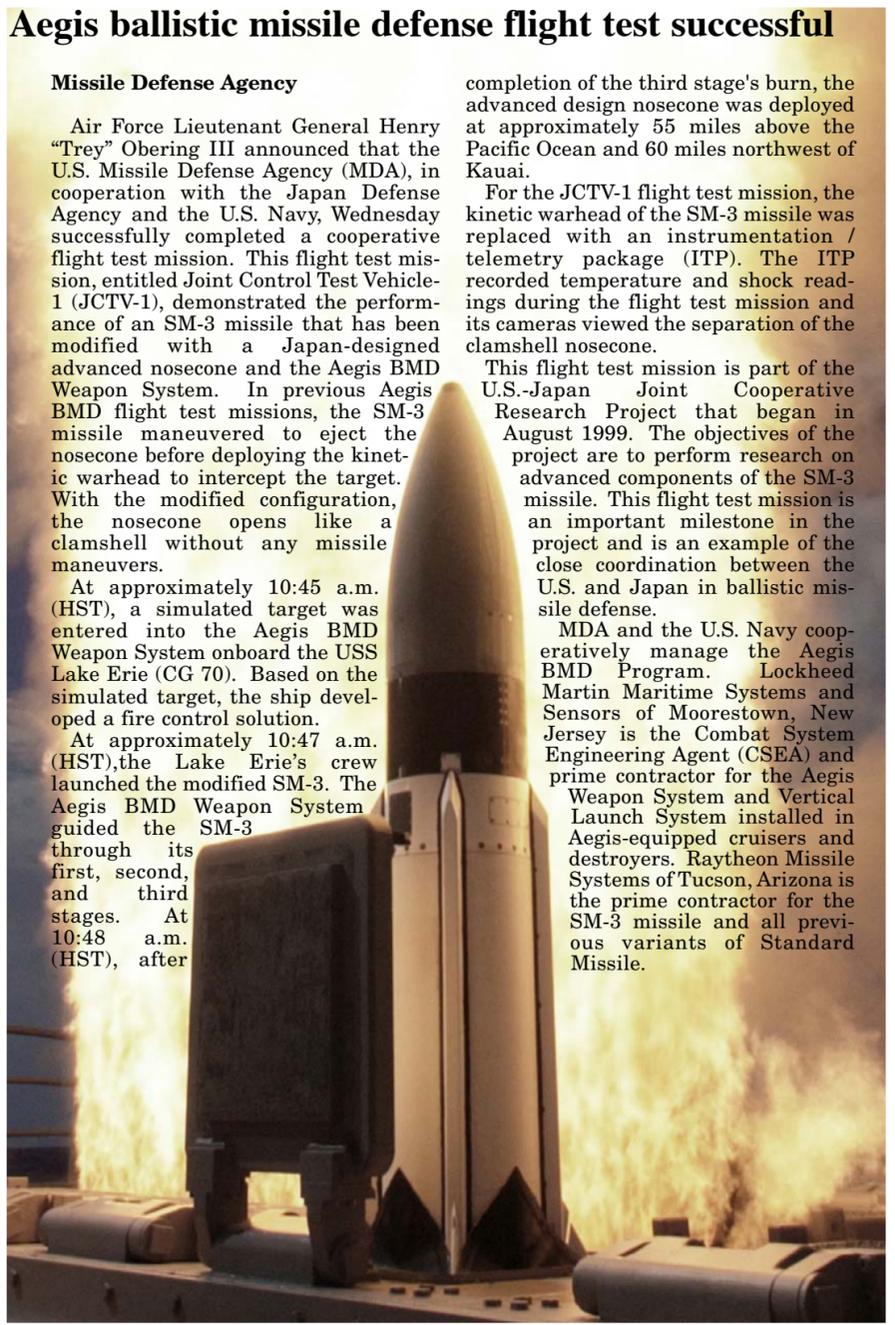
At approximately 10:47 a.m. (HST), the Lake Erie's crew launched the modified SM-3. The Aegis BMD Weapon System guided the SM-3 through its first, second, and third stages. At 10:48 a.m. (HST), after

completion of the third stage's burn, the advanced design nosecone was deployed at approximately 55 miles above the Pacific Ocean and 60 miles northwest of Kauai.

For the JCTV-1 flight test mission, the kinetic warhead of the SM-3 missile was replaced with an instrumentation / telemetry package (ITP). The ITP recorded temperature and shock readings during the flight test mission and its cameras viewed the separation of the clamshell nosecone.

This flight test mission is part of the U.S.-Japan Joint Cooperative Research Project that began in August 1999. The objectives of the project are to perform research on advanced components of the SM-3 missile. This flight test mission is an important milestone in the project and is an example of the close coordination between the U.S. and Japan in ballistic missile defense.

MDA and the U.S. Navy cooperatively manage the Aegis BMD Program. Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems and Sensors of Moorestown, New Jersey is the Combat System Engineering Agent (CSEA) and prime contractor for the Aegis Weapon System and Vertical Launch System installed in Aegis-equipped cruisers and destroyers. Raytheon Missile Systems of Tucson, Arizona is the prime contractor for the SM-3 missile and all previous variants of Standard Missile.



U.S. Navy photo

A Standard Missile - 3 (SM-3) is launched from USS Lake Erie (CG 70) in a Missile Defense Agency and Japan Defense Agency joint test in the Pacific. The cooperative test demonstrated the SM-3 with a Japan-designed advanced nosecone. The flight test, a milestone in a joint cooperative research project, is an example of the ongoing coordination between the U.S. and Japan on missile defense efforts.

## Around the Fleet

PACOM Admiral thanks Essex,  
31st MEU for a job well done

U.S. Navy Photo by JO1 James Evans Coyle

Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, Adm. William J. Fallon, visited the crew aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2) to thank them for helping to support recovery efforts following the Feb. 17th landslide on Leyte island. Sailors and Marines from the Forward Deployed Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), Essex and USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49), arrived off the coast of Leyte Feb. 19 to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

JOC (SW/AW) Christina Johnson

USS Essex Public Affairs

Adm. William J. Fallon, commander, U.S. Pacific Command, visited USS Essex (LHD 2) on March 2 to thank the crew and embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) for their hard work during the Leyte humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts while the ship was underway off the Philippine coast.

Essex, commanded by Capt. Martin J. Keaney, along with USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) and elements of the 31st MEU, were diverted from the previously planned Exercise Balikatan 06 to help in the relief and recovery efforts after a devastating landslide covered a village in the southern area of Leyte on Feb. 17.

Keaney started the "all-hands call" on the flight deck by telling the crew, "The efforts of the past week, assisting in disaster relief and humanitarian assistance in Leyte within 36 hours of the tasking order, is another example of our readiness for all missions. FDNF (forward-deployed naval force) Sailors and Marines are the ready force."

Keaney's comments were echoed by Fallon, the senior U.S. military officer in the Pacific.

"You all responded with speed, agility and flexibility, shifting from Exercise Balikatan to the relief effort," said Fallon. He explained to the crew that the word "balikatan" means "shoulder to shoulder" in Tagalog. "The significance is you all stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the Philippine military in recovery and

rescue efforts and I salute your terrific work and your flexibility."

Many senior Filipino civilian government and military members made the helicopter flight out to the ship to thank the crew. Secretary of National Defense, Secretary Avelino Cruz, thanked the Sailors and Marines for their participation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

"On behalf of the Philippine government and the Philippine people, let me extend our appreciation and thank you for your help. This is a clear example of the close alliance between our countries, as it has been for more than a century," said Cruz.

Essex and Harpers Ferry operated as sea-based platforms beginning Feb. 19 for numerous sorties into southern Leyte, bringing relief supplies, equipment and personnel from ship to shore. Helicopters from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 262 (reinforced), landing craft utilities (LCU) from Assault Craft Unit (ACU) 1 Western Pacific Detachment and landing craft air cushions (LCAC) from Assault Craft Unit (ACU) 5 Western Pacific Detachment were in continuous motion to provide the much-needed humanitarian aid from Feb. 19 until Feb. 28.

"What you did to help us in the recovery effort will remain in the hearts of all Filipinos for years to come," added Cruz.

The Sasebo, Japan-based Essex is the Navy's only forward-deployed amphibious assault ship and the flagship for the forward-deployed amphibious ready group.

Officer promotion  
boards rescheduled

Sharon Anderson

Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

The fiscal year 2007 active duty commander line promotion selection board has been rescheduled for April 7 and the active duty lieutenant commander line promotion selection board is now scheduled for April 20.

"The FY-07 Active O-5 Line Selection Board was rescheduled for 7 April in order to minimize delay in reconvening the board, ensure that promotions for selectee will occur on time in FY '07, and to allow the least disruption to the published board schedule," said Rear Adm. Dave Gove, commander, Navy Personnel Command at Millington, Tenn. "It is also a requirement to notify eligible officers at least 30 days in advance of the convening of a board so that letters to the board president, if desired, may be completed and forwarded prior to the start date."

The rescheduling of the active O-5 line board made it necessary to delay the active O-4 line promotion board by two days due to space constraints that limit the number of boards held simultaneously.

The original commanders' board in February was disbanded after it was discovered that written material, not specifically approved by the Secretary of the Navy for distribution to board members, was made available to selection board members, both prior to and during the selection board.

Once a selection board convenes, all communication with board members must be in writing, approved by the secretary, and be made part of the board's official records with the exception of routine administrative matters.

An investigation into the issue has begun. The officer who sent the unapproved material has been relieved, pending the outcome of the investigation.

For more information on the boards, see NAVADMIN 071-06 posted at [www.npc.navy.mil](http://www.npc.navy.mil).

## Resource, Situation Awareness Center officially opens in Pentagon

JO2 Abraham Essenmacher

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

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the Pentagon officially opening The Resource, Situation Awareness Center (RSAC) for business, March 8.

The space will be used by Navy leadership in the event of a crisis happening in the world that

requires assistance from the Navy, to include tsunamis, hurricanes, and attacks against the United States and its allies. The space has been placed by the other military branch's crises management rooms in the Pentagon.

"It provides a collaboration of effort between all the services in supporting the joint staff and all of the service's title ten function," said Capt. Vincent Drouillard, director of the Navy Operations Center. "Basically we have all the

operations and intelligence divisions of the four services co-located within a single area so it provides just a great opportunity to collaborate briefs and other functions that our operations and intelligence perform."

The RSAC's location in the Pentagon was placed with jointness, and convenience in mind.

"It was built because the secretary of defense had a vision for all the services to collaborate better. In the past, Navy Operations

Center and Navy Operations Division was in one part of the Pentagon, and Army was different, and some of them were in Navy Annex, etc., and this gets us all in the same area," Drouillard explained. "And the secretary of defense's vision was that there would be better collaboration between all the services and between the services and the Joint Staff."

Having RSAC where it is and

having such collaboration allows the four services to respond better to any crisis and endorses a more collaborated information line, keeping one service's information from contradicting another and preventing those military branches from working together.

RSAC's existence will also streamline the process of providing the best force to a crisis area, giving the Sailor, Marine, Soldier, and Airman tasked, the best possible support needed from all four branches, in a timely manner.



U.S. Navy photo by PHAN Justin R. Blake

Sailors man the rails as the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) gets underway from Naval Air Station Everett, Wash.

## Lincoln Strike Group underway

JO2 Michael Cook

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) Public Affairs

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) left its homeport of Naval Station Everett, Wash., on Feb. 27 under gray skies and cool temperatures for a routine deployment to the Western Pacific (West-Pac).

After several months of rigorous training to sustain capabilities, Lincoln's crew of approximately 3,300 Sailors will apply the lessons learned in the past to missions of the future.

Lincoln's commanding officer, Capt. C.A. McCawley, urged Lincoln Sailors to use the training they've acquired and apply it in the forthcoming months.

"As we depart Everett, it is imperative that USS Abraham Lincoln look toward excelling at whatever lies ahead, wherever we may go," said McCawley as he addressed the crew. "From the reactor spaces to the signal

bridge, I am confident that the hard-working professionals aboard Abraham Lincoln will exceed expectations, just as you have in the past."

After transiting south, Lincoln is expected to pick up the 2,000-plus personnel of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2, along with various aircraft and equipment before steaming west.

McCawley reminded Abe's crew that the relationship and coordination between the ship and CVW-2 are what makes the two units such a cohesive team.

"The air wing is the Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group's main power of projection," McCawley said. "Together, we will continue to focus and be deliberate in our actions."

This deployment will be the first West-Pac since Lincoln's historic cruise in 2004, when Lincoln and CVW-2 Sailors responded to the Southeast Asian tsunami disaster that occurred Dec. 26, 2004. After

Operation Unified Assistance, Lincoln returned and has since been conducting readiness training in accordance with the Fleet Response Plan.

Abraham Lincoln is home to the Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group Commander, Rear Adm. Bill Goodwin, who said the 2006 deployment affords the strike group the opportunity to work with many coalition partners.

"The strike group will be training with coalition partners to improve our ability to operate with naval forces from many nations," Goodwin said. "The United States is committed to its alliances and will be working to develop partnerships with nations in the region to enhance security."

What the future holds for this deployment remains unknown, but the Sailors that comprise the Abe/CVW-2 team will rely on the knowledge gained while performing at sea.

Fiscal year 2007 budget supports  
Sailors, Marines and their families

Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

Continuing to improve the quality of life for Sailors, Marines and their families is a major theme of the Department of Navy's (DoN) fiscal year (FY) 07 Budget request, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen and Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Michael W. Hagee, told lawmakers at the Capitol, on March 8.

The services' two top officers each made statements and answered questions from the House Appropriations Committee, Sub-Committee on military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, about the military construction and Quality of life program in the Department of the Navy's (DoN) budget request FY 07.

"I have said this many times since taking this office last July family readiness is tied directly to combat readiness," Mullen told sub-committee members. "I believe that completely, our leaders believe that completely, and I know you and your colleagues believe that completely."

Mullen said the FY 07 proposal focuses on four main areas: maintaining the right bases with the right capabilities; fully supporting health care for service members, their families and veterans; providing quality housing, on or off base, for military fami-

lies; and meeting environmental responsibilities with good faith and integrity.

"It [the FY 07 proposal] will eliminate all inadequate Navy housing and finish the privatization of 97 percent of our U.S. housing inventory," Mullen said. "It keeps out-of-pocket BAH (basic allowance for housing) expenses down to zero, and it permits us to continue our Homeport Ashore Initiative by providing barracks for 98 percent of the 13,000 junior Sailors worldwide who now must live aboard ship while in homeport."

The proposed budget represents a \$4.4 billion increase from last year's baseline appropriations. It includes a 5.9 percent increase in BAH, a 2.2 percent pay increase and improved facilities for schools and child care.

Mullen also advocated the need to continue helping Navy families affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

"Only in the last couple of weeks did we stand Task Force Navy Family down, transitioning their duties to other intrinsic Navy organizations," Mullen said.

He noted that task force personnel resolved 82 percent of issues reported before transferring responsibilities to local commands, but there is still much to be done.

"We estimate that some 1,300 severe issues mostly

housing and financial-related still affect nearly 900 families," Mullen said. "We are committed to resolving each and every one."

Hagee echoed Mullen's sentiments on the growing awareness and recognition of military families and their vital role in supporting Sailors and Marines worldwide, noting that retention is higher among married Marines.

"Today we have more dependents than we do active-duty Marines," Hagee said. "We say we don't retain Marines, we retain families."

Hagee also noted that quality of life efforts are not just about amenities like housing, it's also about ensuring Sailors and Marines are properly trained and well equipped to meet the challenges they confront on a daily basis. He said the department's budget request is committed to upgrading several Marine training sites, and past investments are already paying off on the battlefield.

"They know they're well equipped, they know they're well-trained, they know they're well led," Hagee said about Marines serving in Iraq. "And they know they have the backing of the American people and their Congress. And that makes a big difference. They also know that they are making a difference."

# New Navy working uniform and service uniform concepts approved

JOC Michael Foutch

Task Force Uniform Public Affairs

Outfitting the Sailor of the future took another step forward when Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen approved plans for a single working uniform for all ranks and a year-round service uniform for E-6 and below Sailors.

Based on recommendations made during a comprehensive briefing by Task Force Uniform (TFU) on Feb. 24, Mullen agreed to production of both a battle dress uniform (BDU)-style working uniform for all Sailors E-1 to O-10 and a more practical, year-round service uniform to withstand day-to-day classroom and office-like environments where the service uniform is typically worn.

"These are good uniforms, designed to support the modern Sailor," said Mullen. "Durability, safety, ease of wear and cleaning were all factors that weighed heavily on my mind as did, quite frankly, the survey data and the opinions of wear testers. This wasn't a popularity contest by any stretch, but we would have been foolish not to consider the opinions of the men and women who will wear these uniforms."

The BDU-style working uniform, designed to replace seven different styles of current working uniforms, is made of a near maintenance-free permanent press 50/50 nylon and cotton blend. Worn with a blue cotton T-shirt, it will include an eight-point cover, a black web belt with closed buckle and black smooth leather boots, with black suede no-shine boots for optional wear while



U.S. Navy photo by JOC Michael Foutch

Two Sailors pose aboard USS Constitution wearing the blue digital-patterned battle dress uniform concept. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen approved plans for a single working uniform for all ranks, E-1 to O-10, based on recommendations made during a comprehensive briefing in Washington, D.C. by Task Force Uniform on Feb. 24.

assigned to non-shipboard commands.

"When I walk down the piers, I see a Sailor standing watch as a pier sentry in January and it's 30 degrees and freezing rain," Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/AW) Terry Scott

said. "You have to ask yourself: Does the uniform that we currently issue protect us, and the answer is no."

To meet the all-weather requirement, the new working uniform will include several cold weather options, such as a unisex pullover

sweater, a fleece jacket and a parka. It will also be made in three variants - in a multi-color digital print pattern, predominately blue with some gray for the majority of Sailors and shipboard use, and a woodland digital pattern and a desert digital pattern for Sailors serving in units requiring those types of uniforms.

"The intent of TFU always has been to give our Sailors a uniform in which they can work comfortably every day and is more appropriate for the joint environment in which we operate," Scott said. "Even better, we've created a uniform that's also easier to maintain, is longer lasting, helps reduce the size of the sea bag, while at the same time recognizing the tradition and heritage of serving in the Navy."

The service uniform for E-6 and below is comprised of a short-sleeve khaki shirt for males and an overblouse for females, made from a wash and wear 75/25 polyester and wool blend, with permanent military creases, black trousers for males with beltless slacks for females and optional beltless skirt, and a black unisex garrison cap. Silver anodized-metal rank insignia will be worn on shirt/blouse collars and cap. The service uniform will also include a black, relaxed-fit, Eisenhower-style jacket with a knit stand-up collar and epaulets, on which petty officers will wear large, silver anodized-metal rank insignia. Those entitled to wear gold chevrons will continue to wear gold chevrons on the large metal rank insignia on the jacket.

"In our research, we found the group most dissatisfied with their present uniforms were E-6 and below," Scott

said.

The manner of wear for both of these new uniforms remains under development by TFU and will not be effective until guidelines on prescribed wear are incorporated into the Navy uniform regulations.

"There are a lot of concerns about the manner of wear for the working and service uniforms that we need to address so we have a smooth transition when the time comes," said TFU director CNO-directed Command Master Chief Robert Carroll.

The working uniform and service uniform are not expected to be available for purchase and wear until late fall of 2007, after which they will be introduced to Recruit Training Command (RTC) and eventually distributed to the rest of the fleet. Details on when the uniforms will be available for purchase and wear at specific geographic locations will be released at a future date.

Until the new uniforms are available for wear, all existing uniform regulations will apply. During the expected two-year transition period, Sailors will be required to maintain a complete inventory of sea bag items with each reflecting a professional appearance.

"We want our Sailors to keep a professional appearance," Carroll said. "We don't want people wearing worn-out uniforms because they're waiting for the new ones to hit the shelves."

Once the working and service uniforms are adopted, Sailors will receive a uniform maintenance allowance appropriate to support purchase and wear.

The announcement of the new uniforms, Carroll said, is the culmination of a three-

year project that began with the charter of Task Force Uniform to deliver a proposal to reflect the requirements of a 21st century Navy. An analysis of a fleet-wide survey conducted during the summer of 2003 led to the creation of concepts for working and service uniforms for a wear test and another fleet-wide survey last summer.

"I just can't say enough about how meticulous and thorough TFU Director Master Chief Rob Carroll and his team approached their work," stressed Mullen. "The process they established and maintained was rock solid - measured and analytical. They looked at hundreds of options, studied countless pattern and color designs, and fretted over every minor detail, from button style to stitching. I am enormously proud of their effort and every Sailor can be, too," added Mullen.

The work of TFU will not stop. Next on the agenda is to evaluate additional uniform options, such as reviving the traditional service dress khaki uniform for chiefs and officers; conducting research on the feasibility, cost and distribution of a service-wide physical training uniform; considering adoption of a ceremonial cutlass for chiefs; and investigate adopting a more practical service-wide, all-weather coat that would provide a better military appearance.

"The bottom line for me in making these decisions," said the CNO, "is culture. Uniforms reflect our culture - who we are, what we stand for. I've said all along that no matter which way we go, I want Sailors to look like Sailors. I really believe these uniforms pass that test."

**Hawaii Navy News Online**  
www.hawaii.navy.mil

## Wharf improvements leave FISC "mission ready"

Jim Murray

*Fleet Industrial Supply Public Affairs*

"This will be the door through which our forces will go as they deploy," said Rear Adm. Daniel Stone, commander, Naval Supply Systems Command, at a Feb. 23 ribbon cutting ceremony and blessing at the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC), Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The ceremony marked the completion of MILCON (Military Construction) P-193, an ambitious waterfront improvement project at FISC Pearl Harbor wharves K-10 and K-11.

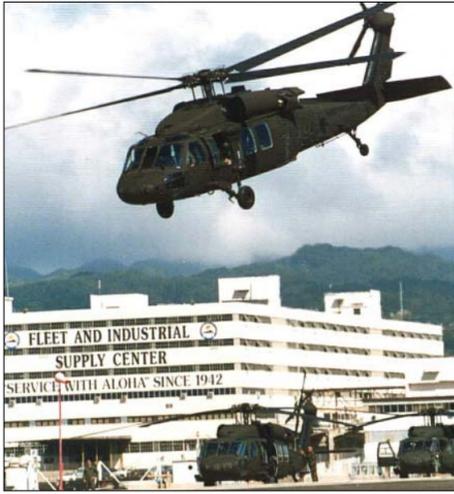
Situated at the Aiea end of the Pearl Harbor Naval Base, FISC Pearl Harbor periodically conducts massive loadouts of deploying military vehicles and equipment, including those bound for - or returning from - the Middle East. For years, these operations were held on Ford Island, but now that Ford Island is undergoing a marked increase in residential use, FISC's long term goal is to significantly reduce its "footprint" on the island. MILCON P-193 was one of the final steps in the process that will enable that to happen.

The \$28-million project began in September 2004 and was completed - four months ahead of schedule - in February of this year. The work not only increased the size of the pier; it also increased its strength so that it can now support loads of 1,000 pounds per square foot. In addition, the project included the demolition of a World War II transit shed and its replacement with a state-of-the-art building with six loading ramps, ample office space, and the newest technologies in automation.

The waterfront improvements were part of a vast modernization effort that has been underway at FISC Pearl Harbor for the past few years. Other projects linked to the modernization included the construction of an aircraft carrier mooring pad and a helicopter pad as well as additional improvements designed to enlarge and strengthen wharf areas.

"These piers give us a joint capability we have never had out here," said Stone, who also referred to the completed project as "the most visible step in the new concept of joint basing."

In addition, carrier strike groups and expeditionary



U.S. Navy photo

A U.S. Army helicopter takes off from FISC Pearl Harbor. FISC Pearl Harbor periodically conducts massive loadouts of deploying military vehicles and equipment, including those bound for - or returning from the Middle East.

strike groups will now find FISC Pearl Harbor to be a "one-stop shop" for all their physical support requirements.

The project was administered by the ROICC Blue Team of Naval Facilities (NAVFAC) Hawai'i and awarded to Miller-Watts Constructors, Inc., who not only completed it early, but also under-budget. In commenting on the superb work, Capt. Thomas Bersson, vice commander, NAVFAC Pacific, said, "The big thanks goes not just to the leaders, but to the tradesmen and craftsmen who worked on this project."

Echoing those remarks, Denny Watts, CEO/COO of Miller Watts, told his personnel that they had "honored themselves" with their exceptional work. In addition to the contractor, NAVFAC and FISC Pearl Harbor Facilities employees deserve credit for a job well done.

## USS Chung-Hoon visits Malaysia

Lt. j.g. Valerie Van Ho

*USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) Public Affairs*

Pearl Harbor-based guided missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG-93), departed Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, on Feb. 27, the first foreign port visit of her maiden deployment. The visit allowed the 350 Sailors and Marines on board an opportunity to experience the culture and hospitality of Malaysia. The visit marked a pause in a busy operational schedule for the ship and crew which had been at sea for 31 days.

The mission of the port visit was "two-fold" said Cmdr. David A. Welch, the ship's commanding officer. "The first priority is to afford our crew with the opportunity to rest, relax and experience the sights and people of a culture different than our own; the second priority is to promote goodwill between the people of Malaysia and the United States," said Welch.

The Malaysian navy and local officials welcomed Chung-Hoon and hosted two receptions for the crew of the destroyer. The ship hosted two media tours and a formal

reception for local dignitaries on board while anchored two miles from shore.

Cryptological Technician Technician 2nd Class (SW) Stephanie Brockman of Aurora, Ill., attended one of the receptions, describing the experience as phenomenal.

"I've never experienced anything like it," Brockman said. She also said she enjoyed the opportunity to meet many Malaysian counterparts and officials, but was particularly fond of the high quality local food, which included rare kinds of fish, unique local vegetables and unusual appetizers.

The Sailors and Marines of Chung-Hoon were also treated to the opportunity to experience a new culture. Crew members participated in tours which included climbing 14,000 feet up Mount Kinabalu, the largest mountain in Malaysia, white water rafting, bicycle tours of the city, a walking tour of the jungle which featured the proboscis monkey found no-where else in the world, and a day trip to a nearby hot springs. For others, it was an opportunity for much needed rest, which included spa packages and pre-

miere hotels, organized by Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

Fourteen Sailors and Marines took advantage of the time ashore to participate in community relations projects designed to help the local community. Crew members painted a local orphanage and worked on electrical gear for the children. Visiting a retirement home in Kota Kinabalu, Sailors devoted themselves to plumbing and yard work. Joining the Chung-Hoon Sailors were 15 Royal Malaysian navy Sailors.

"All Chung-Hoon Sailors and Marines behaved exceptionally ashore," stated Welch. "The greatest compliment I received was that the most frequent comment I heard about Chung-Hoon was not 'when were we leaving' but 'when were we returning.' I am very proud of this crew."

After the visit, the ship returned to her operating area, patrolling the waters of the Western Pacific, engaging in Expanded maritime interdiction operations. More details and photos of the ship can be located at the ship's Web site [www.chung-hoon.navy.mil](http://www.chung-hoon.navy.mil).

# Service members take part in Fort DeRussy Biathlon

U.S. Marine Corps Base  
Kaneohe Public Affairs

Along with 425 other entrants, Alan Taylor, 30, a Marine assigned to U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, competed in the 8th Annual Fort DeRussy Biathlon and Keiki Run-Swim-Run. Taylor crossed the finish line in 55 minutes and 41 seconds, finishing ninth in his age group.

In the race, adults can choose between a long course, five-kilometer run and one-kilometer swim or a short course, 2.5-kilometer run and 500-meter swim. The children's race distances varied by age group.

In front of the Hale Koa Hotel on Waikiki Beach, on March 4, Taylor readied himself for the start, his race number 161 etched in permanent marker down his bare right shoulder.

Taylor's run time was 29 minutes, 24 seconds and his swim was 26 minutes, 17 seconds.

After the race, Taylor said he was satisfied with his finish time. "I looked at my watch about halfway through the swim and I had 48 minutes. And I was thinking, man, if I could make it under an hour, I'd be happy," Taylor said.

Taylor explained that he runs and swims in preparation for races, but doesn't have a set training program. The Fort DeRussy race was his second biathlon.

Taylor's first race was

the Splash and Dash Biathlon held at Fort DeRussy at hangar 103 in October 2005. The race consists of a 500-meter swim in Kaneohe Bay followed by a 3.1-mile run on the flightline. In this race, Taylor placed 14th in the 30 to 34-age division with a time of 40 minutes and 50 seconds.

Taylor also swam in this year's Valentine's Biathlon at Ala Moana Beach Park on Feb. 12. He did the 800-meter swim portion and his wife competed in the 2.5-meter run. The couple finished in 51 minutes 52 seconds.

Alan explained that the relay with his wife was easier and having the swim first versus the running portion is a different approach than the Fort DeRussy race.

"I've been trying to do all of the runs," Taylor said. He explained that he usually competes with his wife, who is a runner. "She was going to race today, but my son is sick so she couldn't make it out," Taylor said.

If he is still stationed at Camp Smith next year, Taylor said he plans to participate in the Fort DeRussy Biathlon again.

Another couple, Army Capt. Michael Gorham, Battalion S-4, Schofield Barracks and girlfriend, Army 1st Lt. Erin Heupel, Brigade S-1, opted to compete as a team and split the long-course race.

After finishing the run-



U.S. Marine Corps photo

Military and civilians take off at the starting line for the 8th Annual Fort DeRussy Biathlon on March 4. Finishing times for the long course individual race ranged from 33:44 to 1:28:45.

ning portion Gorham stood at the water's edge finish line and cheered on Heupel and other military racers.

Gorham and Heupel finished sixth in their age group with a time of 48 minutes 20 seconds.

Gorham said he enjoys

doing the relays. Over the past four years, he has competed in six races, including the Annual 5K Banana Man Chase at Ala Moana. For that race Gorham said, he and a friend, Army Capt. Jeff Soule, donned banana and strawberry suits as a promotional stunt for one of the race sponsors.

While you're not likely to see life-sized fruit running at Fort DeRussy, the biathlon offered a variety of courses: short, long, relay and children's races.

Lucy Leu, marketing coordinator for the Hale

Koa Hotel said in past year's approximately 68 percent of participants in the adult race were military and about 72 percent of the children were from military families. "This year was our largest event," Leu said. "Each year we get more and more participation."

## USS Paul Hamilton completes evaluation problem

Ensign Kathleen Kunkemoeller

USNR Auxiliaries Officer/Public Affairs

Describing his namesake ships, Arleigh Burke once said, "This ship is built to fight and you had better know how."

Last week, the crew of USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) had their chance to prove they do. Capping months of preparation and dozens of drills, Paul Hamilton completed her final evaluation problem (FEP) on March 3rd. The event was assessed by the Afloat

Training Group (ATG) and lasted two busy days.

The FEP is a challenging, two-day event in which all areas of shipboard readiness are assessed. The goal of FEP is to determine whether or not a ship has the capability to train watchstanders for any situation. Successful completion of FEP means that the ship is now "surge ready" and can be deployed at a moment's notice to virtually any area of the world.

The road leading to FEP began more than a year ago, when the ship began to map out its training needs and identify crew members

to go to various Navy schools. The planning during that period resulted in a robust training program beginning when the ship returned from deployment in September. In addition to the schools and shipboard training, numerous training teams were tasked with updating drill packages that would test the crew's proficiency.

In the months that followed, Paul Hamilton's underway periods were dominated by training events and drills. No area of the ship was spared - from bridge and combat watchstanders to engineers and

boatswain's mates, the entire crew was tested in virtually every area of shipboard survivability and combat readiness. Many hours were spent at general quarters (battlestations), fighting simulated fires throughout the ship, treating mock injuries and attacking virtual enemies using the ship's weapon systems. All of this led up to March 2 and 3 when ATG stepped aboard to watch the ship in action.

In the end, more than two dozen fires were fought, multiple inbound missiles were destroyed, enemy submarines and ships were

sunk and Paul Hamilton came out on top. The watchstanders were tried, tested and tired - but victorious. The ship remained afloat with a minimum loss of equipment or personnel in the simulated attacks. The final report by ATG said it best... "The crew of USS Paul Hamilton did an exceptional job in the training cycle, responding to numerous scheduling challenges. Their positive 'can do' attitudes were on display and prevalent during an excellent FEP."

Undoubtedly, the crew members of USS Paul Hamilton showed that they know how to fight.

# Hawai'i Navy News Sports

## All-Navy Women's Soccer Team needs players

Ingrid Mueller

Marketing and Multimedia  
Development Branch, CNIC  
Millington Detachment

The Navy Sports Program is looking for Sailors who are interested in competing for a spot on the All-Navy Women's Soccer Team, which will hold tryouts and training camp from April 11-May 1 at Naval Station Mayport, Fla.

"Soccer is our largest women's all-Navy team sport and we need a roster of at least 18 athletes to be able to field a team," said Donald Golden, head of the Navy sports program for the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Division, Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC), Millington Detachment. "We would like to invite a group of at least 25 athletes to try out for the 18 available roster spots," he said.

Sailors with high school or collegiate soccer experience are encouraged to complete a Navy Sports Program application, which is available on the MWR Web site at [www.mwr.navy.mil/mwr-prgms/sports.htm](http://www.mwr.navy.mil/mwr-prgms/sports.htm). The application, which gathers basic command and personal information, must be signed by the individual's commanding officer.



U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Kevin Tidwell

Airman Apprentice Jamie Klemmer, of Oceanside, N.Y. challenges Lt. Megan McNiff of Fairfax, Va. during the 2nd Annual Armed Forces Woman's Soccer Championship game held at Ft. Eustis, Va.

Applications are due to the Navy Sports Office no later than April 1. To expedite the process, applications can also be submitted via fax to (901)-874-6831/DSN

882. "It's important to note that there is no cost to the Sailor's command," said Golden. "The Navy Sports Program will pay for all

costs involved with participation in the program."

Athletes who are selected as members of the All-Navy Women's Soccer Team will compete in the Armed

Forces Sports Championships against teams from the Marine Corps, Army and Air Force. Following inter-service competition, the very best

Navy soccer players will be selected to compete as members of the U.S. All-Armed Forces Team and go on to the Military World Games, which will be held in Paris from May 22 to June 4. There the athletes will compete against teams from Germany, Canada, the Netherlands, France and ESALO (combined African team).

"We are also looking for Navy personnel who are interested in coaching the soccer team," added Golden. "Any base varsity coaches with prior experience in soccer are invited to submit the same application as the players," added Golden.

Completed applications should be faxed to the Navy Sports Office at (901) 874-6831. Applications may also be mailed to: Commander, Navy Installations Command, Millington Detachment, Navy Sports Office, N221E, 5720 Integrity Drive, Bldg. 457, Millington, TN 38054-6510.

For the complete sports schedule and more information, including the Navy Sports application, visit the Navy sports Web site at [www.mwr.navy.mil/mwr-prgms/sports.htm](http://www.mwr.navy.mil/mwr-prgms/sports.htm) or call the Navy Sports Office at (901) 874-6621/DSN 882 or e-mail [donald.golden@navy.mil](mailto:donald.golden@navy.mil) at