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CARAT 2006

JO2 Devin Wright

Editor

More than 600 Pearl Harbor based Sailors are underway to participate in the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2006 exercises.

USS Hopper (DDG 70), USS Crommelin (FFG 37) and USS Salvor (ARS 52) are currently enroute to various locations in the Western Pacific to take part in the annual training event.

"The war on terror is truly a global war," said Cmdr. Mark S. Manfredi, commanding officer USS Crommelin. "CARAT is important to the United States because it demonstrates to our allies in Southeast Asia, one, our resolve, two, the fact that we are their allies and three, that we are not the 'Great Satan' our enemies would have them believe."

CARAT is a regularly scheduled series of military training exercises with Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia and the Philippines, designed to enhance interoperability of the respective sea services. The individual exercise phases generally focus on training with participating nations' sea services. The purpose of the exercise series is to improve military readiness and interoperability with each CARAT partner in a variety of mission areas of mutual benefit.

Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific, who operates from Singapore, is responsible for overall CARAT coordination.

CARAT began in 1995 with the concept of scheduling several previously existing bilateral exercises with Southeast Asian nations into one series of sequential exercises. Doing so resulted in more efficient use of U.S. Navy and Marine Corps assets and forces.



U.S. Navy photo by JOC(SW) Joe Kane

Sailors heave around on a mooring line as guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) departs Pearl Harbor for a four-month cruise to the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet area of operation. Crommelin will travel to various locations in the Western Pacific to take part in the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2006 exercise. CARAT is a regularly scheduled series of military training exercises with Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia and the Philippines, designed to enhance interoperability of the respective sea services. More photos on page A-10



Hawaii Navy News Briefs

Parking stall closure near tennis courts

Two groups of parking stalls adjacent to Wentworth Tennis Courts will be closed for construction on May 15. Six stalls will be closed along Ticonderoga Street near tennis court eight. Seven stalls will be closed between Frederick and Ticonderoga Streets near tennis court five.

Triathlon to affect traffic

Traffic near Pearl Harbor, on Kamehameha and Nimitz Highways, will be affected by the 3rd Annual Honolulu Triathlon from 6:30-8:30 a.m. on Sunday. Makalapa and Halawa gates will be closed. Those exiting Ford Island can make left turns only. Make right turns only exiting Borcher's Gate.

Service celebrated



U.S. Navy photo by JO2 Devin Wright

Sailors from various commands throughout Hawaii'i march in the USO Military Appreciation Month Parade on May 6 in Waikiki. The parade, down Kalakaua Avenue, included 1,600 National Guard Soldiers, 550 Schofield Barracks troops, hundreds of Army Reservists, 150 Marines, 145 Sailors, 125 Air National Guard members, 50 Air Force personnel and 25 Coast Guard members as well as veterans of WWII, Vietnam and Korean Wars. More USO information continues on page B-1.

New sea/shore rotation policy announced

JO2 Amie Hunt

Navy Personnel Command Communications Office

For the first time in more than four years, the Navy's sea/shore rotation policy is being updated to better match the Navy's billet base at sea and on shore.

The updated policy, contained in NAVADMIN 130/06, announces modifications to existing tour lengths, which were last revised in December 2001 (NAVADMIN 341/01).

"Getting the correct sea/shore rotation across the fleet is the first step toward creating a future force," said Vice Adm. John C. Harvey Jr., chief of naval personnel. "We have been making assignments based on a sea/shore rotation that reflects the billet base of 2001 and does not take into account the almost 19,600 enlisted shore duty billets that have been programmed for elimination to date."

Earlier this year, a

Sea/Shore Rotation Working Group convened to determine the optimal sea/shore rotation in the Navy. Chartered by the Chief of Naval Personnel, the group will continue analyzing and working on solutions to ensure that sea/shore rotations match the needs of the fleet forces and look at short and long-term challenges with the policy.

"As the force structure changes, the sea component has remained relatively constant. So, reduction has been taken on the shore side of the house, as either the work goes away or as civilian positions are brought online changing the billet structure," said Capt. George Taylor, director of enlisted distribution at Navy Personnel Command (NPC).

To develop this policy, the emphasis was first placed on properly manning sea duty and the front line operational units. Currently, 790 rates/ratings/Navy enlisted classifications (NECs) make up the

▼ See SEA/SHORE, A-4

Ceremony brings sense of closure to USS Lagarto families

Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Families of crew members who were lost on USS Lagarto (SS 371) gathered May 6 in Manitowoc, Wisc. to honor the men whose submarine disappeared six decades ago and was only recently located by divers.

USS Lagarto was last seen on May 3, 1945 in the southern Gulf of Thailand while preparing to strike an enemy convoy. Japanese records later indicated that the minelayer, Hatsutaka, reported sinking a U.S. submarine on that date.

Last May, nearly 60 years to the day after Lagarto was lost, British diver Jamie MacLeod

reporting finding Lagarto sitting upright in about 225 feet of water in the southern part of the Gulf of Thailand. MacLeod traveled to Wisconsin to attend the ceremony and to share his remarkable story with family members.

For Floyd Harrington of Lehi, Utah, the experience brought a much needed sense of closure. Harrington was 10 years old when his brother, Motor Machinist Mate George Clark Harrington, was killed aboard Lagarto. He carried a lot of uncertainty with him until he gathered in Manitowoc this weekend.

"It settled a lot of things," said Harrington. "We never knew what happened."

That was a sentiment echoed by many of the family members who attended the ceremony, hosted by the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc.

"For every single family here, this has been one of the most important events of their entire lives," said Nancy Kenney of Lake Leelanau, Mich., whose father Signalman 1st Class William T. Mabin was lost on Lagarto.

Kenny, working with museum director Norma Bishop and her staff, has been successful in finding family members of 51 of the 86 men lost. More than 150 of the family members traveled to Manitowoc to attend the ceremony.

"It is moving to know that even six decades after their death, the men who served in Lagarto are still loved and still missed," said Rear Adm. Jeffrey Cassias, Pacific Fleet submarine force commander who delivered the keynote address at the ceremony.

During the ceremony, there was a "tolling of the bell" for each of the 86 crewmembers, a gun salute and a flag presentation to the family members.

The Navy plans to send the diving and salvage ship USS Salvor (ARS 52) to the site during exercise CARAT 2006 in June to attempt to confirm the discovery.

Lagarto was one of 52 submarines lost on patrol during World War II.



U.S. Navy photo

Rear Adm. Jeffrey Cassias, Pacific Fleet submarine force commander, delivered the keynote address at the USS Lagarto memorial.

COMMAND IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Pacific Fleet Band



/command/.

The Pacific Fleet Band stands out as one of three large fleet bands in the U. S. Navy Music Program. This unit brings an unparalleled diversity to the job, with the skill to perform in many musical idioms ranging from large band classical repertoire, showtunes, small ensemble brass and woodwind music, big band jazz, small combo jazz, Dixieland music and all genres and varieties of rock music. In constant demand throughout the Pacific Fleet area of responsibility, these 45 musicians perform over 600 jobs per year.

/history/.

Hawai'i is richly steeped in naval history and the Pacific Fleet Band has long been a part of this heritage. Since before the attack on Pearl Harbor, Navy bands have been stationed in Hawai'i either on ships homeported at Pearl Harbor, or attached to Navy shore installations at Pearl Harbor, Barbers Point and even Waikiki.

The most recognized and highly decorated Navy band associated with Hawai'i was Unit Band 22. This was the band stationed aboard the USS Arizona (BB 39) at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

On the night of Dec. 6, 1941, there was a band competition called the "Battle of Music" at Bloch Arena on Pearl Harbor Naval Station. This competition began on Sept. 13, 1941 as an elimination tournament held every two weeks. It featured Navy Bands from "capitol ships" homeported at Pearl Harbor and those attached to shore installations in Hawai'i. Four bands were to compete in each round of the tournament with one winner per round selected to perform in the final competition. Each band performed a swing number, a ballad and one specialty tune and then played for the jitterbug contest. The Arizona band won the first round on Sept. 13 and was not scheduled to play again until the final competition.

The last round of the elimination tournament was scheduled, unknowingly, for that Dec. 6 evening in Bloch Arena. Present were bands from the USS Pennsylvania (BB 38), USS Tennessee (BB 43), and USS Argonne (AG 31).

Scheduled to compete but not present was the band from the USS Detroit (CL 8), which deployed a few days earlier. Several members of the Arizona band attended the contest because the first and second place winners would be competing against them in the final competition scheduled for Dec. 13. The Pennsylvania band was the winner that evening.

On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, while the band from the USS Nevada (BB 36) played Morning Colors, the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor occurred. The entire Arizona Band, while at battle stations passing ammunition under gun turret number one, was killed in the attack. In the weeks to follow, all the bands that had participated in the "Battle of Music" voted to posthumously award the tournament trophy to Unit Band 22, renaming it the "Arizona Trophy." This was a fitting tribute to the heroic members of the band who died that infamous morning. Unit Band 22 now stands the eternal watch onboard the Arizona for all sea service bands.

/function/.

Our mission is to provide top-quality music and entertainment in support of internal and external public relations, as well as the US Navy's retention and recruiting programs.

"It is a great honor to come to work each and every day with this group of highly trained, skilled and dedicated professionals. The members of the band do an amazing job representing the U. S. Navy and their nation on a daily basis."

Illustration by PH3 (SW) Ben A. Gonzales, Fleet Imaging Center Pacific, Hawai'i

Saluting Hawai'i's military....Military Appreciation Month events

May 13: 8th Annual Twilight Tattoo, 4-6 p.m., Fort DeRussy. Maj. Gen. Benjamin Mixon, commanding general of Hawai'i's 25th Infantry Division, will host the event that will feature performances by bands from Marine Forces Pacific, Pacific Fleet, Pacific Air Forces, Hawai'i Army National Guard and the 25th Infantry Division. The public is invited to this once-a-year performance by precision military marching bands. Free.

May 17: Military Recognition Luncheon, noon-1:30 p.m., Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. This year's luncheon will pay tribute to the Hawai'i Army and Air National Guards and will be attended by 500 troops from all services. The keynote speaker will be Brig. Gen. Joseph Chavez, commander of the 29th Separate Infantry Brigade. Hawai'i Gov. Linda Lingle and Adm. William Fallon are

expected to address the guests. The luncheon will feature the presentation of outstanding community service awards to members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Hawai'i National Guard and Hawai'i Army Reserves. The public can attend by contacting Waynette Tamashiro at the Chamber of Commerce, 545-4300, ext. 329 for ticket prices and other information. Seating is limited to the first 1,000.

May 20: Hawai'i Army Museum Society will present "Living History Day" from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fort DeRussy. The public is invited to see displays of vintage military vehicles, weapons, uniforms, insignias, and other military memorabilia from different periods in U.S. history. Various re-enactors will share the history behind vintage displays. The Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawai'i and Tropic

Lighting Band will perform. Special arrangements have been made for the showing of classic war films, "Tora Tora Tora," "From Here to Eternity" and "Midway."

May 20: Combined Military Band Concert, 7-8:30 p.m., at historic Hawai'i Theatre. A 75-piece concert band selected from the members of the Pacific Fleet Band, Marine Forces Pacific Band, 25th Infantry Division Band, Pacific Air Forces Band, Coast Guard Band and 111th Army Band will present an evening of music ranging from light classics to marchers and popular hit tunes from the 1950s to the '60s. The concert is free and open to the public. Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Chamber of Commerce and the Hawai'i Theatre box office. Tickets also available at Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs Office by calling 473-2880.

Hawai'i **Navy News** Editorial

New sea/shore rotations

FLTCM(AW/SW) Jon R. Thompson

If you haven't seen NAVADMIN 130/06 announcing changes to the Navy's sea/shore rotations, you need to review it. Almost every rating in the Navy is affected by the changes that better align tour lengths to our sea-centric force.

The revisions update existing sea/shore rotations that were put in place four years ago. As our Navy continues to evolve, it is critical we maintain sufficient manning aboard our sea and shore commands. Since 2001, the Navy has eliminated more than 19,000 shore duty billets, but until now, sea/shore rotations did not take that reduction into account. The new sea/shore rotations will make it easier for detailers and community managers to maintain our billet base at sea and ashore.

So what does this mean to you? Depending on your rating, the changes may increase the number of months you spend on sea duty and shore duty. According to the Chief of Naval Personnel, there are



FLTCM(AW/SW) Jon R. Thompson

790 rates/ratings/NECs that make up the Navy's sea/shore rotation force. Of these, 150 will have an increase to their sea duty time, with most seeing a change of six months or less. Forty will increase eight to 12 months and only five will increase more than 12 months. On average, sea tour lengths for E-5 to E-9 will increase from 47 months to 51 months while shore tour lengths will increase from 34 to 36 months.

Those of you within your nine-month window to negotiate orders will be able to proceed with those orders. The Navy Personnel Command will adjust projected rotation dates based on length of tour remaining. Projected rotation dates (PRD) of February 2007 or earlier will not be adjusted.

From a fleet perspective, the

changes are critical because proper manning is essential to all our ships, squadrons and bases. Without correct manning, meeting mission requirements becomes an even greater challenge. Most of us have served in commands that had manning shortfalls. I can tell you from past experience that when a command is improperly manned, it's difficult to maintain good morale because the work that would be done by the missing people is often placed on the backs of others. Proper sea/shore rotations help reduce that negative impact.

The Navy is a sea-going force. Hopefully, you all understand that. While there are a few shore intensive ratings, the majority of our ratings are sea intensive. It should not come as a surprise that the majority of your career will be (and should be) served on sea duty. Having said that, it is equally important the Navy provide balance. Correct sea/shore rotations help us all map out a career path. What's more, the

time we spend on shore duty allows for career diversity and the necessary time to pursue higher education.

As we look to the future, it's clear our Navy is changing. We are building smaller ships that are crewed by far less people than most legacy ships. It is important we continue to monitor how the manning aboard these new ships and units affect our ratings while ensuring our legacy ships are properly manned as well. To that end, the Chief of Naval Personnel has created the Sea Shore Rotation Working Group (SSRWG) to investigate, analyze and develop solution sets for current and future billet bases. That group will be key to our future manning success.

The changes in sea/shore rotations are very good for our Navy. I hope you see how you fit into the bigger picture. While you may personally incur only a couple more months at a sea duty command, when you do the math on a larger, total Navy scale, you realize a couple

months here and a couple months there start to add up quickly and help us ensure our units have the right people at the right time. As of May 8, there were 298,938 enlisted people serving on active duty in our Navy. It's clear to me that even small sea/shore rotation imbalances start to have a significant impact on our readiness. Every one of you, in every rating, needs to do your best to maintain your sea/shore rotation. Detailers are charged with holding you to the Navy's plan. Your part is to do your best to work with your detailer to help stay on track.

Shipmates, my challenge to each of you is to embrace the new changes in sea/shore rotation and plot your career wisely. While going to sea is not always easy, most of you will find it a little easier if you look to the future and plan using the new sea/shore rotation guidelines as a beacon. If you plan correctly, you should be able to serve a productive, rewarding career in the Navy with the proper balance of both sea and shore tours of duty.

Commentary

Chapel Pennant Knowing God

Chaplain Gene Theriot

There probably hasn't been a time in recent history when religion has been more in the news than today. In every newspaper, radio talk show or news broadcast from the front, there are stories with religious connections and a lot of "God talk." Yet, with as much "God talk" as there is, many people have very vague and conflicting notions about God, who he is and what difference he makes in people's lives.

I think some of the people in the news know about God. Perhaps they had some religious training in the past and may even be involved in religious activities now. They may have gained a lot of information about God from their reading or study. Probably there have been in their lives, influential people who have taught them about God. But, although it's possible to read a biography of a great person and gain a lot of information about that person, it's not the same as knowing that person personally. Truly knowing a person involves spending time with that person, having conversations, knowing that person's values and goals, going through good times and bad and developing a closeness and intimacy that is developed through trust.

The psalmist speaks of both knowing about God and knowing God. In Psalm 135:5, he says, "I know the greatness of the Lord." In the history of the people of Israel, David knew of the great acts of God. From creation to the establishment of the nation, God had shown himself to be powerful, active and patient. David learned about God through God's interaction with the key figures of

Judaism. From Adam, he learned God was gracious. From Abraham and Sarah, he learned God was dependable. From Gideon, he learned God was all anyone needed, regardless of the situation. We, too, can learn about God by reading of his decisive actions in history. But David not only knew about God, he knew God. He encouraged others to "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8). This was more than a second hand knowledge about God, it was an experiential knowledge of God. David experienced the love, justice, faithfulness, patience, power, wisdom and strength of the Lord. He personally experienced these attributes of God by seeing him at work in his life.

Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch Christian who was imprisoned in a Nazi prison camp during WWII, observed, "You will never know God is all you need until God is all you've got." Like David, she was encouraging people who were unsure if there really is a God and if there is, if He is worthy of their trust. Like David, she was saying, "O taste and see [for yourself], that the Lord is good."

If you would like to learn more about how you can know God personally, please give the chaplains a call at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel. We would be pleased to help you learn how you can know God deeply and personally. We can be reached at 473-3971. May God's blessings be yours, this day and every day.

Recuperating at Pearl Harbor Hospital



Photo courtesy of Naval Historical Center

Battle of Midway survivor Ensign George H. Gay at Pearl Harbor Naval Hospital, with a nurse and a newspaper featuring accounts of the battle, June 1942.

Hawai'i **Navy News**

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U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Katie Meisenzahl

USS Russell Sailors assisted with renovation projects at the Nikom-Sang-Ton-Aeng Rayong 3 School during a recent port visit to Thailand. The volunteers also donated a variety of sports equipment to the school.

Kokua in Thailand

Ensign Katie Meisenzahl

USS Russell Public Affairs

During a recent port visit to Thailand, a number of USS Russell (DDG 59) Sailors drove past the action filled downtown area of Pattaya to the Nikom-Sang-Ton-Aeng Rayong 3 School to participate in a community relations project. Over the course of three days, Russell crew members as well as members of the Abraham Lincoln Strike Group assisted in construction and renovation at the school, attended by 600 children.

Forty-three Russell Sailors began work on two of the classrooms, which were in need of repair and painting. However, before getting to work, the volunteers were

able to interact with the children while giving them sporting equipment, including soccer balls, badminton sets and skateboards - courtesy of Project Handclasp. The gifts were accepted excitedly, which increased the second day when Russell presented and installed four computers for the children. Russell conducted a fund-raising event while underway prior to arrival in Thailand to make this special presentation possible. In doing so, the intent was to not only give the children a better place in which to learn, but also a way to help them learn more.

The school principal expressed his gratitude for the amount of work accomplished in a short period of time. "The local people, adults and children alike, are

very impressed with the amount of generosity and compassion all you [Sailors] bring with you every day you come here to work," he said.

Many of the Sailors in attendance remarked that they would remember this event above all others during their trip to Thailand. Gunner's Mate 1st Class (SW) Judson Imhoff, the coordinator of the event, summed up the impression left on both the school and the Sailors.

"Russell was honored to conduct a successful [project] at this school. We made a lasting impression on the students, teachers and staff of the school, and contributed to strengthening U.S. - Thai relations. This was a win-win situation for everyone involved."

Navy Region Hawai'i to observe Military Spouse Appreciation Day

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

The military spouse may not wear a uniform or take an oath, but they do serve the nation. Along with their military husbands and wives, they serve throughout the United States and around the world. Since 1984, the Armed Services have set aside a special day as part of Military Appreciation Month to recognize the innumerable contributions of military spouses. This year's Military Spouse Day is May 12.

Military spouses' love and support strengthens the nation's armed forces that serve across the country and around the world. It must be noted that military spouses, along with their families have had to endure weeks and months of separation from loved ones.

"Families are crucial to the success of Navy Region Hawaii mission," said Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii. Military Spouse Day provides an opportunity to say thank you and remind everyone that being a military spouse is not

an easy task. Separations due to deployments, new assignments, changing jobs and other duties have been issues faced daily by military spouses.

"Navy spouses have to be able to sustain themselves and the entire family when the military member is away," Vitale said. "The spouses of deployed Sailors take on much responsibility for managing the family and the household over and above what they would do when their spouse is there."

Military Spouse Day is designed to give commanders, installations and service members themselves the opportunity to recognize the importance of the military spouse.

"This is an opportunity to take time out of our schedules and celebrate with our military families," Vitale advised. "On 'Military Spouse Day,' take a moment and think about how vitally important these members of our family really are. As we celebrate Military Spouse Day, I want to give my personal thanks and express my gratitude to every military spouse for a job well done."

Sea/shore: Rotation policy updated

Continued from A-1

Navy's sea/shore rotation force. Of these, 150 will have an increase to their sea duty time, with most seeing a change of six months or less. Forty will increase eight-to-12 months and only five will increase more than 12 months. On average, sea tour lengths for E5-E9 will increase from 47 months to 51 months, while shore tour lengths will increase from 34 to 36 months.

"The billet base changes over the last four years have caused an imbalance from a distribution of assets perspective. This sea/shore

rotation will help us ensure proper manning at sea and allow us to better align our billet base to the mission," said Cmdr. Tom Trotto, PERS 40 special assistant at NPC.

Sailors within their nine-month window to negotiate for orders will be able to proceed with those orders. NPC will adjust Sailor projected rotation dates based on length of tour remaining. Projected rotation dates (PRD) of February 2007 or earlier will not be adjusted.

"Our first priority is to properly man our sea duty and front line operational unit," Harvey said. "The working group is working

hard to address potential billet imbalances of the future as new ship classes and squadrons come online. They will also look at compensation strategies to increase flexibility and responsiveness to keep sea billets filled."

Future updates from the Sea Shore Rotation Working Group will be provided as the group continues working to better align fleet and mission requirements while providing more predictable career tracks for Sailors.

For related news, visit the Chief of Naval Personnel Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/cnp.

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Hawaii Navy News



FLEET ACTION



U.S. Navy photo by Journalist Seaman Apprentice Mike Leporati

Hospital Corpsman Megan Beach checks the flow of blood through a cell saver during training for an antilogous blood transfusion aboard Military Sealift Command (MSC) hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19). Mercy is on a five-month deployment to South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands in support of a humanitarian assistance mission.



U.S. Navy photo by JOC Joe Kane



U.S. Navy photo by JOC Steven Robinson

Commanding Officer of the Medical Treatment Facility Capt. Joseph Moore, assigned aboard the Military Sealift Command (MSC) hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), greets Philippine Consul Gen. Ariel Abadilla. Mercy is on a five-month deployment to areas of Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands where its crew and several health and civic related organizations will provide humanitarian assistance and conduct various community projects.

(Above) The Military Sealift Command (MSC) hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) prepares to depart Pearl Harbor after a scheduled port visit. Mercy made its first stop in Pearl Harbor, during a humanitarian assistance mission to the Western Pacific and Southeast Asia.



U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Erika N. Jones

Storekeeper 3rd Class Christian Sabandal of Los Angeles, Calif., and Storekeeper 3rd Class Rommer Gonzales of San Diego, Calif., prepare boxes to be air lifted in support of Project Handclasp from Military Sealift Command (MSC) hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19).

VR-51 Windjammers' aircraft soars past expectations

Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 51 (VR 51) Public Affairs

The Windjammers of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 51 (VR-51) set an operational milestone recently when their C-20G BUNO 165152 became the first Gulfstream IV aircraft to surpass the 15,000-hour flight mark. The mark was reached in February during a return from a mission in the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR).

"With the experience of the aircrew here and the expertise of the maintenance folks, our plane would not have a problem completing another 15,000 hours in any given environment," said AM1 Kenneth Maust, crew chief in training.

According to Lt. Cmdr. Neil McCown, operations officer with VR-51, what makes this event and VR-51's many other operational accomplishments even more praiseworthy are the underlying environmental and engineering conditions in which VR-51 must operate. When operating from home base, VR-51 aircraft are incessantly exposed to the highly corrosive salt, wind and humidity environment at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, Kaneohe Bay.

"This milestone is a testament to the Windjammer's unwavering dedication to mission accomplishment and safety, it has enabled us to achieve this remarkable feat," said McCown.

During numerous deployments to CENTCOM AOR, VR-51's aircraft have endured extreme desert temperatures and relentlessly blowing sand. Despite this year-round exposure to structurally damaging and equipment degrading conditions, VR-51 manages to meet all mission taskings and set new records for aircraft use on every flight. On a daily



U.S. Navy photo

The C-20G BUNO 165152 aircraft operated by the Windjammers of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 51 (VR-51) set an operational milestone recently when it became the first Gulfstream IV aircraft to surpass the 15,000-hour flight mark. The mark was reached in February during a return from a mission in the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR).

basis, VR-51 aircraft accumulates more flight hours and landings than any other Gulfstream-IV aircraft in the world and have become the defacto test bed for the G-IV fleet. Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation constantly gathers and uses operational, maintenance and structural information from VR-51 to revise fleet aircraft inspection requirements, operational usage rates and structural life limits.

In spite of the conditions in which they operate, VR51 also received the Chief of Naval Operations' safety "S" award recently for the

C-20G platform.

"Safety is the cornerstone of our unit's mission," said Lt. Cmdr. Hobie Anderson, VR-51 officer in charge.

Since its inception as a logistics support detachment in 1994 and subsequent squadron designation in 1997, VR-51 has evolved into an award-winning operational unit. Aboard their two modified Gulfstream IV aircraft, the Windjammers of VR-51 provide short notice worldwide airlift capability for all branches of military, as well as many other governmental agencies within the Department of

Defense (DOD) and Department of State. With an operational crew of four, the C-20G carries up to 26 passengers or 6,000 pounds of cargo. Combining long range with high speed, the aircraft of VR-51 can be on-station anywhere in the world within 72 hours.

The squadron is comprised of both full-time support personnel and drilling reservists. This synergistic mix enables the VR-51 Windjammers to provide unparalleled fleet support across the far reaches of the globe, while at the same time achieving the highest

standards of safety and professionalism. Since 1998, the squadron has routinely been awarded the Battle "E," the Safety "S," and the Congressman Bill Young award for operational excellence. VR-51 aircraft have flown over 30,000 mishap-free flight hours in support of a broad spectrum of DOD initiatives.

Since the beginning of the global war on terrorism, VR-51 has expanded its mission to include a full-time presence in the Southwest Asia theater, as well as its primary mission of fleet logistics support. One of the squadron's aircraft has been assigned directly to the Deputy Commander of the U.S. Central Command in Al Udeid, Qatar for more than three years. While deployed in the Middle East, the Sailors of VR-51 provide essential operational capability to the highest echelons of the command structure. Past missions include flights into Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, several former Soviet republics, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and the Horn of Africa.

A summary of a recent deployment paints a clear picture of the essential role played by the Windjammers in the global war on terrorism. During a three-week detachment cycle in February of this year, VR-51 aircrew flew nearly 120 hours, transported 130 personnel and airlifted 5,000 pounds of cargo in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. High-profile missions included the transport of the secretary of energy, assistant secretary of defense, vice-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the governors of Nevada, Tennessee, Vermont and Virginia from Ali Al Salem, Kuwait, to Kabul, Afghanistan.

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Hawai'i
NavyNews

Navy officer sets sights on Gobi Desert run

JOC(SW/AW) David Rush

Commander Submarine Force Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Below freezing temperatures are common in the snow covered mountain peaks, while its desert floor temperatures exceed 100 degrees in the shade. This is no place for humans to go running.

Yet every year, competitors from all around the world do exactly that. Last year, 89 participants from 22 countries participated.

This year, one of those competitors is 29-year-old Scottsdale, Ariz. native, Lt. Brian Evans, who is an undersea dive medical officer stationed on board USS Frank Cable (AS 40) in Guam.

The race, known as the Gobi March, is held in the inhospitable climate of Gobi Desert



Lt. Brian Evans to run in Gobi march.

in northwest China and covers 150 grueling miles through some of the roughest terrain on the planet. The race, slated for May 28 to June 3, consists of six stages, lasting seven days, with distances ranging from 10 to 50 miles per stage. There are checkpoints positioned along the course every seven or eight miles.

Competitors are required to be fully self-supported throughout the event and must carry all their own food, gear and clothing, which they will need to complete the 150-mile course. Water and tents are

provided for participants.

Evans said he has been training relentlessly and is looking forward to the challenge. "Before the race I'll be running about 65 to 70 miles per week. I also use yoga to remain flexible and avoid musculoskeletal injuries."

According to Evans, the Gobi March is something that he has aspired to do since he began participating in various triathlon and Ironman events.

"I've wanted to do one of these desert races for a long time. Once I got to Guam, I was in a great place geographically, financially, and mentally to do a race of this magnitude," he said.

Evans added that the inspiration to overcome the odds and complete such a grueling competition comes from a friend who was paralyzed in an accident.

He recalled the fateful day. "In 2000, a buddy and I were in an adventure race in San Diego. One of the last obstacles was a mud pit. He slipped and severed his spinal cord at the C5 and C6 vertebrae. He lost use of all of his limbs," said Evans.

Evans said the Christopher Reeve Foundation came to his bedside to help him transition into his new body. He added that he is doing well, and married the same woman he was dating at the time of the accident.

While Evans gets ready to tackle the Gobi race, he is already looking down the road at future events.

Although the Gobi event may seem like the pinnacle of distance running events, Evans said it is just one of three events needed to qualify participants for the ultimate

challenge – the 'Last Desert 2006' race in Antarctica.

"Once you do the Gobi, Chile and Sahara races, then you can qualify to do the race in Antarctica. I'm not saying that's going to happen. I'll see how this first race goes."

Evans hopes that his enthusiasm for staying in shape helps his shipmates do the same thing. "I hope that Sailors are inspired by seeing that I can do this and they can definitely run more than a mile-and-a-half per week. The human body can do amazing things if you just put your mind to it."

As a doctor and an athlete, Evans added that staying in shape is not a temporary goal, but a lifelong commitment.

"Your overall well-being will increase by staying healthy and making the right choice. Make it a lifestyle. People ask

me what my diet is. I eat what I want because I am not trying to lose weight or gain weight. Usually what I eat is good stuff, but I also love pizza and ice cream. It's all in moderation," said Evans.

Evans said that winning the Gobi race is not what he is really concentrating on. "I am really focused and excited about it because I hope to raise a lot of money for the Christopher Reeve Foundation. My goal is to raise \$10,000," said Evans.

He added that raising money is important, but raising awareness is perhaps even more vital. "I want to bring as much awareness to the Christopher Reeve Foundation as possible. Even if I don't make the \$10,000 for the foundation, as long as people check out their Web site, I have gotten my point across," concluded Evans.

Brothers reunite aboard USS Reuben James (FFG 57) following long-term separation

Ensign Jon Derges

USS Reuben James (FFG 57) Public Affairs

Although they joined the Navy at the same time and graduated from recruit training and "A" school together, the Jones brothers had not seen each other for a year-and-a-half.

However, thanks to a vertical replenishment (VERTREP), Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Isaac Jones, attached to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 43, Det. 3, currently embarked aboard USS Reuben James (FFG 57), found himself face-to-face with his brother for the first time in more than 18 months.

Perhaps it was fate, but more likely, it was the need for supplies that ultimately brought the Oberlin, Ohio natives together.

While both ships conducted maritime security operations (MSO) in the Navy's 5th Fleet area of operations (AOR), Reuben James requested a repair part from USNS Niagara Falls (T-AFS 3). Aviation Electrician's Mate Airman Caleb Jones, the other member of the Jones brothers duo, presently serves with Helicopter Sea Combat (HSC) Squadron 25, Det. 1, which was tasked with transporting the material from the Navy combat stores ship to Reuben James.

The brothers frequently communicate with each other via email and knew they were deployed to the same region.



U.S. Navy photo by IT2 Derek Elliott

Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Isaac Jones (right) and his brother Aviation Electrician's Mate Airman Caleb Jones (left) reunite for the first time in a year and a half. The Jones brothers hail from Oberlin, Ohio and are on deployment in the Arabian Gulf conducting maritime security operations.

But neither had any idea of how close they were to each other until the need for VERTREP arose.

HSC 25 personnel, aware that the delivery might also provide the perfect backdrop for an impromptu family reunion, arranged for Airman Jones to escort the helo delivery from Niagara Falls to Reuben James.

On the morning of April 27, an MH-60S helicopter arrived on the Pearl Harbor-based frigate's fantail with the needed material and an extra passenger.

"I don't get to see my brother too often anymore," said Airman Jones. "But when I heard he left on deployment the same time I did, I knew we would be somewhat close."

But neither believed they'd ever get this close. The brothers were subsequently reunited and greeted each other with a hug.

The Jones brothers were raised in a small farm home in Oberlin, Ohio by their mother and father. The Jones later moved to Detroit, where the brothers both graduated from Northern High School.

Both Reuben James and Niagara Falls support MSO while operating in international waters in the Arabian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and the Red Sea.

MSO set the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment, as well as complement the counter-terrorism and security efforts of regional nations. The operations deny international terrorists use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons or other material.

But on this day, it was MSO that ended up bringing the ships and, ultimately two brothers, closer together - if just for a brief moment in time.

"I appreciate all the assistance from Reuben James, Niagara Falls and HSC 25 Det. 1 in order to make this reunion happen," Petty Officer Jones said, following the meeting. "I don't get to see my brother too often anymore."

"And here," he smiled, motioning toward the vastness of the Arabian Gulf, "we meet again."

USS Arizona Memorial to receive clean fuel technology ferry boats

U.S. Navy Program Executive Office

In August, the Navy plans to release procurement information and an initial request for quotations to General Services Administration (GSA) vendors for replacement ferry boats for the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Procurement will be managed through PMS 325 within the Navy's Program Executive Office, Ships on behalf of the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation. The replacement ferries will be funded by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation-Federal Transit Administration to the State of Hawaii Department of Transportation.

"The replacement ferry boats will continue the U.S. Navy's support to the National Park Service as they tell the compelling stories of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor," said Capt. Patricia Sudol, the Navy's program manager for support ships, boats and craft project office within the Navy's program executive office, ships.

The USS Arizona Memorial is the state's premier visitor attraction with over one million people visiting the memorial annually. Through an interagency services agreement, the National Park Service and Commander, Navy Region Hawaii provide a passenger ferry service to shuttle visitors to and from the memorial.

The existing ferry boat fleet is composed of five 70-foot Navy utility boats configured for passenger service which are reaching the end of their service life.

The new replacement ferry boats will feature a hybrid electric vehicle (HEV) series propulsion system which includes Tier II-compliant diesel engine/generator(s), batteries and electric drive. The propulsion system requirements include optimization for bio-diesel fuel consumption.

"By reducing fuel consumption and air emissions, this configuration represents an evolutionary step towards eventually fielding a zero-emissions boat propulsion system," said Sudol.

The new ferry boats will be constructed of fiberglass and have a maximum length of 78 feet. They will accommodate up to 149 passengers and three crew members, including persons with disabilities. The boats will comply with federal accessibility standards and the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) safety requirements found in 46CFR Subchapter T.

The commercial availability of clean fuel technology (CFT) propulsion systems facilitates use of GSA Federal Supply Schedules for procurement and will expedite delivery of the new ferry boats.

The Navy anticipates releasing procurement information and an initial request for quotations to GSA vendors in August 2006.

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Hawaii Navy News

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U.S. Navy photo by Chief Journalist (SW) Joe Kane

Guided missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) departs Pearl Harbor for a four-month cruise to the 7th Fleet area of operation. The ship will travel to various locations in the Western Pacific to take part in the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training, or CARAT 2006 exercise. CARAT is a regularly scheduled series of military training exercises with Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines, designed to enhance interoperability of the respective sea services.



U.S. Navy photo by Chief Journalist (SW) Joe Kane

(Right)

(Right) Sailors man the rails as guided missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) departs Pearl Harbor.

(Left & top right)

Family members say goodbye as guided missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) prepares to depart Pearl Harbor for a four-month cruise to the 7th Fleet area of operation. Hopper will travel to various locations in the Western Pacific to take part in the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training, or CARAT 2006 exercise.



U.S. Navy photo by Chief Journalist (SW) Joe Kane

Hawai'i Navy News Sports

No. 88 "accelerates" to Darlington

Jeffrey Nichols

Commander Navy Recruiting Command
Public Affairs

No. 88 Navy "Accelerate Your Life" Monte Carlo heads to the Darlington Raceway to participate in the Diamond Hill Plywood 200 in Darlington, S.C. today. Driver Mark McFarland will be at the wheel of Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s JR Motorsports-owned No. 88 Navy "Accelerate Your Life" Monte Carlo.

The fleet honoree for the race will be the VF-213A Fighting Blacklions.

As of the Talladega race April 29, McFarland has moved up to 18th in the Busch Series standings. McFarland began the Talladega race in the 27th position and finished seventh.

During the first part of the race, McFarland radioed that the car was tight. A couple pit stops and a few adjustments later, he radioed that the car was perfect in the middle, which helped his late-race rally toward the front.

Team owner Dale Earnhardt Jr., a master of restrictor-plate racing, coached

McFarland through the race from atop the pit box.

"I had the best coach on the pit box with Dale Jr.," McFarland said. "He said 'Stay in the middle lane and don't get out of it' and it paid off."

The seventh place finish was McFarland's career-best finish and the best-ever finish for the JR Motorsports No. 88 Navy "Accelerate Your Life" Chevrolet Monte Carlo SS team. Their previous best finish was 15th in March at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

"That finish was huge for our team," McFarland said. "We've been struggling a little bit. We never thought we'd get our first top-10 at Talladega. I'm real proud of all the guys on this team and thankful for the support of the Navy."

The Darlington race will be televised live at 8 p.m. Eastern time to a national audience on the FX Network and broadcast on Motor Racing Network (MRN) radio. Also, the race will be broadcast on American Forces Network Sports (AFN); check your local listings in your area for broadcast times.



U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Joseph Buliavac

Mark McFarland, driver of No. 88 Navy "Accelerate Your Life" Chevrolet Monte Carlo races around the Richmond International Raceway during the NASCAR Busch Series Circuit City 250.

Navy Men's Soccer wraps up successful spring season

Naval Academy Varsity
Athletics

The Navy men's soccer team recently wrapped up its spring season with a 2-0 victory over Big East power Georgetown on April 29, closing a successful spring season with a 6-1-3 record. The Mids ended on a high note, winning three straight games and posting a 4-0-2 record in the last six outings.

"Our players and staff are definitely excited about next fall's soccer season and we will build on the success from last season and on the accomplishments made from this spring season," said assistant

coach, Patrick Kennedy. "We have a good system in place and we believe the players have bought into the system because we see ownership in the things they do on and off the field. They are hungry to be winners and they took a big step this spring," he said.

The Mids opened the spring campaign on March 25 with a three-game trip to Charleston, S.C. Navy tied the College of Charleston in the opener, 0-0, then cruised past Coastal Carolina, 1-0, and the College of Charleston, 4-0. Coastal Carolina appeared in last year's NCAA Tournament, falling to College Cup participant

Clemson, 2-0, in the opening round.

The Mids returned home a week later where Loyola handed Navy its only loss of the fall, 1-0. Navy rallied in the second game of the day, a 1-0 victory over Virginia Military.

On April 9, it was off to Germantown, Md. for the Shut-Out Cancer Tournament and challenging contests against traditional powers, George Mason and Rutgers. Navy battled to a 0-0 tie in both games.

Following a week off, Navy hosted Atlantic 10 Conference members, George Washington and La Salle. Navy had per-

haps its best weekend of the spring season in recording two wins. In the first game, the Mids defeated George Washington, 2-0, before trouncing La Salle, 4-1.

Navy closed out the spring with an impressive 2-0 victory over Georgetown on Alumni Weekend on April 29.

"We ended the spring season on a high note with three successful games in the last two weeks which resulted in wins," said Kennedy. "We demonstrated a will to score goals in the last three spring matches and showed a balance in our attack. We need to carry over that success and hard work over to the next

pre-season in preparation for the fall. When we have all of our players healthy, fit and playing for each other, we are a very good team. Our players have learned that they must earn every success they achieve. This spring showed us that we have the potential to be one of the top teams in the Patriot League," continued Kennedy.

Rising senior MacKenzie Plank (Mountain View, Calif.) led Navy with five goals while Kennedy noted that rising junior Eric Gorden (Longwood, Fla.) had a strong spring at midfield. Seniors, Tom Shelly (Crofton, Md.) and Zach Pleis (Granite Bay,

Calif.), and juniors, Will Riordon (Oak Ridge, N.C.) and Brett Copare (Pittsboro, N.J.), were consistently solid in the defense and with starting goalkeeper Thomas Jenkins (Franklin, N.C.) and reserve Evan Barnes, the Navy defense allowed just two goals in 10 games.

The Mids finished 2005 with an 8-6-2 record and a 3-3-1 mark in the Patriot League, good for fifth in the league standings. Navy will open its 2006 season against Virginia Tech on Aug. 25 in Baltimore. The Hokies earned the No. 12 national seed for last year's NCAA Tournament.