

PEARL HARBOR CELEBRATES AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE

July 4 fireworks were enjoyed by many of the world's navies who are at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i to participate in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2006. Ships from nations that were pier-side for the show included those from Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Peru, Republic of Korea and United States,



Photo by ABPH Quentin Mushins

Coalition Force gets underway for RIMPAC 2006

RIMPAC Combined Information Bureau

Coalition ships participating in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2006 got underway Wednesday, marking the start of the at-sea training phase of the exercise.

Over the next two weeks, ships participating in RIMPAC will be

involved in an intense series of drills and training which will include live missile firings, torpedoes firings, gunnery exercises, air defense, surface and undersea warfare, maritime interception operations, boardings, mine warfare and amphibious operations.

The main objective of RIMPAC is to enhance

the coalition forces' warfighting skills and coalition interoperability. The multi-national exercise also aims at promoting peace and security in the Rim of the Pacific region. The RIMPAC exercise is a tremendous opportunity for participating nations to enhance their

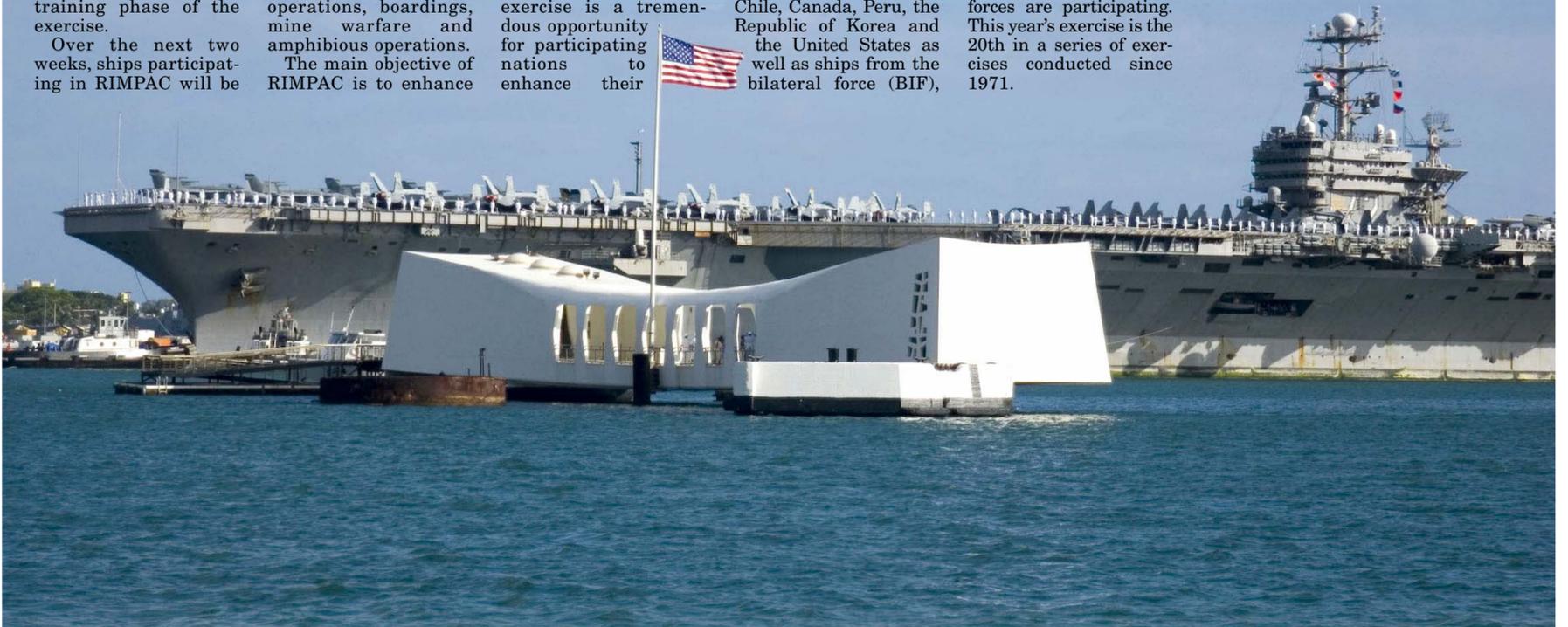
forces' skills in fighting terrorism, combating piracy and providing humanitarian assistance.

Ships participating are those from the multinational force (MNF) including Australia, Chile, Canada, Peru, the Republic of Korea and the United States as well as ships from the bilateral force (BIF),

which is comprised of Japan and the U.S.,

More than 19,000 Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Soldiers and Coast Guardsmen, along with 35 surface ships, six submarines, 160 tactical aircrafts and amphibious forces are participating. This year's exercise is the 20th in a series of exercises conducted since 1971.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Dennis C. Cantrell
The USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) passes the USS Arizona Memorial for a scheduled port visit at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i before the start of Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2006.



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Still ready to serve



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Ben A. Gonzales

More than 30 Sailors re-enlisted in the Navy on the Fourth of July during a ceremony aboard the historic Battleship Missouri Memorial. Vice Adm. Barry Costello, commander, United States Third Fleet, presided over the ceremony which coincided with the nation's 230th birthday. Many of the Sailors who took the oath are participating in the Rim of the Pacific 2006 exercise and elected to re-enlist aboard one of the Navy's most historic warships.

USS Reuben James rescues Kenyan sailors

Ensign Jon Derges

USS Reuben James, Public Affairs

USS Reuben James (FFG 57), homeported at Pearl Harbor, rendered assistance to a distressed dhow while operating in the Arabian Sea on June 23. While conducting maritime security operations (MSO) as part of the Pakistani-led combined task force (CTF) 150, the ship received a call for assistance.

"I was surprised to get a phone call from the CTF 150 battle watch captain asking us to head north toward the dhow in distress," explained Cmdr. Logan Jones, USS Reuben James' commanding officer.

The frigate immediately changed course and sped toward the coordinates of the dhow. It also launched one of its two embarked helicopters from Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (light) (HSL) 43, Det. 3, to pinpoint the distressed vessel and assess options for saving the crew.

"The seas were treacherous - 10 to 12-foot swells - and wind speed was pushing 40 knots," said Jones. "The dhow's engine had stopped operating and the boat was steadily drifting toward the rocky shoals south of Al Kuri, Yemen."

"The two dhow crew members were exhausted, having been stranded for days with no sleep. Two other shipmates had already perished at sea, attempting escape by swimming ashore," he said. "The boat was pitching violently in the seas and the crew members were hanging

onto the boat's structures for dear life. It wouldn't have been long before the boat would've been broken up by the nearby rocks and the crew killed by the pounding seas and undertow."

Once the Reuben James' SH-60B helicopter spotted the dhow, the air crew immediately notified the ship that an immediate rescue attempt was necessary.

"When we first showed up, we saw that the dhow had broken its anchor line and was about 200 yards away from the coast and getting closer," said Aviation Warfare Systems Operator 2nd Class (AW) Eaan Green. "I believe that if we hadn't acted when we did, the boat would've been crushed against the rocks with the fishermen on it."

The air crew then sought the best way to rescue the imperiled crew.

"We first looked at the dhow, but there were too many obstacles in the way and we didn't have a clear shot at lowering our aircrewman down onto its deck," recalled Lt. Cmdr. P.J. Cummings, who piloted the helicopter. "We then launched an inflatable life raft onto the deck of the dhow. We'd hoped that they would get the raft into the water and away from the ship so we could hoist them up."

However, after both options proved unsuccessful and with time rapidly running out, the air crew coaxed the dhow's crew members into the water where they managed to swim away from the violently-pitching dhow. The helo then lowered a

search and rescue (SAR) swimmer into the water.

"First, I was lowered into the water by the hoist. I tried to convince the gentlemen to jump into the water and swim to me so we could raise them up to the helo, but they didn't want to go," said Aviation Warfare Systems Operator 3rd Class (AW) Tim Hines. "Finally, after being lowered a fifth time, the two men finally jumped in the water. We were able to bring them to safety." Moments later, the dhow was destroyed. The two Kenyan sailors were taken to the Reuben James where they thanked their team of rescuers.

"Not only are they happy to be alive," said Jones, "but they're particularly excited to have opportunity to watch the World Cup soccer games that were broadcast on the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service."

As the Kenyans enjoyed the match and warmed up with fresh clothes and a hot meal, Jones reflected on the life-saving efforts of his crew. "The pilots and aircrew of HSL 43, Det. 3 performed a remarkable feat of airmanship in order to rescue these gents in such contrary environmental conditions," Jones said. "We're all very pleased and proud to have been a part of this life-saving effort."

Reuben James and other U.S. and coalition forces conduct MSO under international maritime conventions to ensure security and safety in international waters so that all commercial shipping can operate freely while transiting the region.



U.S. Navy photo by PHAN Kathleen Gorby

The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) passes by USS Arizona Memorial on its way to moor for a short port visit at Pearl Harbor. Twenty-four USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) Sailors re-enlisted at the USS Arizona Memorial on June 29.

Ronald Reagan Sailors re-enlist at USS Arizona Memorial

MC3 (SW) Marc Rockwell-Pate

USS Ronald Reagan Public Affairs

Twenty-four USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) Sailors re-enlisted at the USS Arizona Memorial on June 29 during a brief port visit to Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i.

"Re-enlisting at the USS Arizona Memorial is something that you'll never forget," said Navy Career Counselor 1st Class (AW/SW) Valerie McNairy from Houston who coordinated the re-enlistment ceremony. "The history and symbolism of the memorial are what make it so special," she added.

The USS Arizona Memorial sits directly over what was once a direct reflection of 1940s Navy strength. After the early morning attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, USS Arizona memorialized 1,177 Sailors.

According to one Ronald Reagan Sailor, the sacrifices those Sailors made was the

reason he wanted to re-enlist at the USS Arizona Memorial.

"I think that by me re-enlisting at the Arizona Memorial, it's a tribute to not only the United States, but also to the Sailors who lost their lives when Pearl Harbor was attacked," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (AW/SW) Paul Manansala from Los Angeles. "I think the best part of the whole experience was getting to see all the names of the people that were lost that day and the serenity of the memorial."

Another Ronald Reagan Sailor said that going to the memorial was more than a time to reflect; it was a profound learning experience.

"Re-enlisting at the memorial gave me the chance to find out more about Arizona's historical past," said Postal Clerk 3rd Class (SW) Demetri Williams. "I didn't really know too much about it when I went to re-enlist, but now I understand why it's a historical landmark. And it felt great to be able to honor

the Sailors' memories."

Capt. Terry B. Kraft, Ronald Reagan's commanding officer, said visiting the Arizona Memorial was something that he wouldn't soon forget.

"It was an absolute thrill to stand on the hallowed ground above the USS Arizona," said Kraft, who was the re-enlisting officer for five Sailors at the Arizona. "I was honored to re-enlist some of our very best ship and air wing Sailors. I will certainly never forget it."

Along with the Sailors who re-enlisted at the Arizona Memorial, seven Sailors re-enlisted aboard USS Missouri (BB 63), currently on display in Pearl Harbor as a museum. Kraft added that it was fitting his Sailors re-enlisted at these two sites, symbolizing both the beginning and conclusion of World War II.

Ronald Reagan and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 14 recently returned from a regularly scheduled deployment in support of the global war on terrorism and maritime security.

Hawaii Navy News Editorial

Be a good neighbor: Responsibility from both sides of the fence

FLTCM(AW/SW)
Jon R. Thompson

Are you a good neighbor? Okay, maybe that's a little vague. How about: Do you respect your neighbors? Do you know your neighbors? Do you think they respect you?

All of us have neighbors no matter where we live. On a ship, our neighbors are as close as a rack away. If you live in an apartment, your neighbors are only a wall or floor away. If you live in a house, you have a little more distance but nonetheless, you need to be mindful of some of the responsibilities we share as neighbors. The "do unto others as you'd have them do unto you" rule applies.

No matter where we live, there are some accepted norms that we should abide by. What's more, there are also laws and city ordinances that dictate our responsibilities as homeowners. Whether or not you abide by the norms is up to you, and I'd like to think the majority of us respect those



FLTCM(AW/SW)
Jon R. Thompson

neighbors.

Have you ever had to call the police to report loud noise or a party? Have you ever talked to your landlord about unruly neighbors? Have you ever had to call a city office to report a neighbor that refused to maintain his or her lawn or property? Many of us have, and my hope is that we are the people making the calls, not the people causing the calls.

Being a good neighbor is actually pretty easy. There are some universal expectations that go hand-in-hand with living next to others. My challenge to each of you is to think about these things

and norms and live in respect with our neighbors. Unfortunately, I sometimes hear about things that make me wonder if all Sailors are aware of the things we need to take into consideration as

and ask yourself if you are truly doing your best to be a good neighbor.

- Maintain your property. Keep your yard and space neat and clean, grass mowed and garden weeded. If, at a minimum, you keep your home's outward appearance neat and clean, others will know you care about where you live.

- Keep the noise down. If you live in an apartment, this is especially critical. Others may have children who go to bed early, or adults may work odd shifts. Don't blast your stereo or turn your television up too loud.

- If you have a party, inform your neighbors if you expect it to go late. Try to mitigate any concerns your neighbors may have about the noise. If a neighbor complains, turn the sound down, move the party indoors, or end the party. Keep in mind your neighbors have the right to peace and quiet, as do you.

- If you borrow things from your neighbors, return them in a timely fashion. Never take any-

thing without asking. Just because you know your neighbors or consider them good friends, taking things without asking is, in another word, stealing.

- If you or a member of your family damages something on your neighbor's property, offer to pay for the damages.

- Respect your neighbor's privacy.

- If your neighbors are going on a vacation, offer to assist them with their lawn, collection of mail, and keep an eye on their property. Mutual trust is easy to establish between neighbors as long as you always do what you say.

Being a good neighbor isn't difficult, but it also isn't necessarily easy. Cultural differences, income differences, longevity differences and a whole host of other factors can sometimes make living next door to people challenging. My best recommendation is to try to get to know your neighbors. If you are able to strike up a friendship, whatever perceived differences you

might have may be minimized.

When you move into a new home, whether an apartment or house, go around and introduce yourself to your neighbors. If you have children, the visits can be especially gratifying as you may learn who the other children in the neighborhood are, perhaps the same ages as your children. This proactive measure may be just enough to help others get over their own shyness.

In my experience, people who reach out to other neighbors find it helps ease some of the tensions of moving into a new neighborhood.

In the Navy, we move often. Our neighbors come and go, and each of us has a responsibility to be a good, respectful neighbor. A little common courtesy goes a long way. If we're all mindful of the fact that our actions affect others around us, I think you'll find living next door to someone can be quite tolerable, whether you become best friends with your neighbors or not.

Commentary

Fireside Chat

Navy Region Federal Fire Dept.

You've lost everything... now what?

Victor Flint

Fire Inspector, Federal Fire Department

Statistics show that everyone will be involved in a fire at one point or another in their lives. So what would you do if you lost everything?

The first hours after the fire are the most confusing and filled with anxiety. Most people are not able to think clearly because they have been traumatized by one of the worst events that they will ever experience, and certainly never forget. So what do you do?

After the fire is declared out by the fire department, certain actions must be taken to secure property and start the recovery process. So plan ahead. Here are some helpful guidelines to assist you if (when) you are involved with a structure type of fire:

- Do not go back into the structure. Once outstay out and stay out of the way. But stick around. Do not leave the scene.

- If you come home to

discover that your home was involved in a fire, do not go into the structure without speaking to a fire department official and/or your housing representative. The reason is that the structure may not be stable and the atmosphere in the structure could be deadly from the fumes. Also, you do not want to compromise the investigation.

- Work with the fire department investigator to find out what actually happened that caused the fire.

- Contact the American Red Cross and other relief services for some immediate aid and assistance.

- Call your insurance company. Even in government housing, you should have renters' insurance. Important papers and receipts should be secured in a fire resistant box or safe.

- Discard food, beverages and medications exposed to heat and smoke.

- Let others know of your relocation, (employer, family, school, etc.).

For more information, contact Inspector Victor M. Flint at 474-7785.

Stars and Stripes...so gallantly waving



The U.S. Ensign frames the ships of a convoy during World War II.

U.S. Army historical photo

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Hawaii Navy News Online

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USS Salvor, USS Patriot arrive in Ho Chi Minh for port visit

MC3 Adam R. Cole

Task Force 76 Public Affairs

USS Salvor (ARS 52), homeported at Pearl Harbor, and USS Patriot (MCM 7), completed a five-hour, navigational complex transit down the Saigon River to arrive in Vietnam for a scheduled port visit July 1 aimed at enhancing U.S.-Vietnam relations and allowing the Sailors of both ships to experience the culture-rich city and outlying area.

The visit will be the fourth U.S. Navy visit to a Vietnamese port and the third to Ho Chi Minh City since normalization of diplomatic relations in 1995. This visit will mark the first time that two U.S. Navy ships visit Vietnam concurrently; their combined crew equals 180 Sailors.

Both ships flew the Vietnamese flag alongside the U.S. flag during the river transit, a symbol, said the commanding officers, of the unified relations that the two nations are continually developing. Such relationship development is the key to this port visit, they said.

"USS Patriot and its crew feel honored to have the opportunity to visit Vietnam," said Lt. Cmdr. Richard D. Brawley, Patriot's commanding officer. "While here, Sailors will have the opportunity for positive exchanges with the people of Vietnam and contribute to the community. We are confident that this visit will lead the way for a stronger bilateral relationship between our two countries."

U.S. Consul General to Vietnam Seth D. Winnick, whose office is in Ho Chi Minh City, embarked Patriot and three coast guardsmen from the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) boarded Patriot at the mouth of the river, both parties interacting with the crew and learning more about a U.S. Navy ship throughout the extensive transit.

Winnick echoed Brawley's thoughts on the importance of the visit and what Sailors should be able to get out of it.

"This port visit is a further step to building bilateral ties between these

two nations and making relations between the two ever more normalized," said Winnick from the bridge of Patriot. "This visit should provide the Sailors an incredible opportunity to see and understand Vietnam today and likewise allow the people here to understand the Sailors and a little more about America. Ho Chi Minh City, and throughout Vietnam, exudes an atmosphere that is very warm and friendly and I am confident the Sailors will enjoy their visit here."

During their visit, the crews will carry out a community service project at the Thien Binh Orphanage in Dong Nai Province on two separate days, helping install a number of items to renovate the orphanage.

Sailors will also play a volleyball match with sailors from the PAVN navy, conduct ship tours for invited guests, and enjoy visiting historical and cultural sites around Ho Chi Minh City. The captains of both ships and leading officers will make a number of courtesy calls during the visit, including a floral presentation at Ho Chi Minh City Monument and the People's Committee, the city's governing body.

"We are glad to welcome them to our country," said Maj. Le Thanh Hai, one of the coast guardsmen who was on Patriot during the transit. "We feel connected between militaries, between nations...they are friends. We want to show them Vietnam, to experience our country."

For many of these young Sailors, this visit to Vietnam will undoubtedly be a highlight of their military careers while further cementing the growing friendship between the U.S. and Vietnamese military services, said Brawley.

Lt. Cmdr. Colby Howard, Salvor's commanding officer, noted the importance of this visit in national diplomacy. "The visit is part of both countries' efforts to promote mutual understanding and continue the improvement of bilateral relations."

Brawley said his Sailors will exemplify an ambassadorship for America and be respectful of the history and heritage of the Vietnamese people

while in port, as they already have throughout the current deployment.

Both Brawley and Howard feel the ships' deployment milestones will culminate in Vietnam.

"Patriot Sailors, and I am sure Salvor's too, have come to know and understand several countries throughout Southeast Asia because of this deployment," said Brawley, whose crew has been involved in two sets of exercises and a number of port visits, including Brunei prior to coming to Vietnam. "We are now doing something that very few Navy ships have had the opportunity to do before us. I know the crew understands the opportunity in front of them and will take full advantage of the experience."

Patriot is a mine countermeasures ship forward-deployed to Sasebo, Japan. Patriot and USS Guardian (MCM 5) serve under Task Force 76, which serves as the U.S. 7th Fleet's mine countermeasures arm in forward-deployed operations. The ship and embarked Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 5, Detachment (Det) 51 are currently deployed in Southeast Asia to support 7th Fleet's interoperability and training commitments in mine neutralization warfare and maritime operations.

Salvor is one of the U.S. Navy's four deep-ocean salvage and rescue vessels. The ship and her crew are currently taking part in the three-month Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise series. CARAT is an annual series of bilateral maritime training exercises between the United States and six Southeast Asia nations designed to build relationships and enhance the operational readiness of the participating forces. As part of the most recent CARAT phase in Thailand, the crew of Salvor, along with embarked divers from Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 1, completed six days of diving operations on wreckage in the Gulf of Thailand believed to be that of the lost World War II submarine USS Lagarto (SS 371).

Welcome home Louisville



U.S. Navy photos by MC3 Ben A. Gonzales

Sailors keep a watchful eye to ensure a safe evolution as they moor to the pier. The Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Louisville (SSN 724) returned home to Naval Station Pearl Harbor after completing a scheduled two-month deployment. Lower left: Chief Petty Officer Ronald Clark is greeted by his family on the pier. Lower right: Machinist Mate 2nd Class Frank A. Carrion receives the first kiss from his wife.



RIMPAC 2006

Rim of the Pacific Exercises



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Ben A. Gonzales

A Canadian navy CF-18 flies in formation off the coast of Hawai'i in celebration of Canada Day. Eight nations are participating in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2006, the world's largest biennial maritime exercise. Conducted in the waters off Hawai'i from June 26 through July 28, RIMPAC 2006 brings together military forces from Australia, Canada, Chile, Peru, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Cynthia Clark

Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force submarine Kuroshio enters Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Commander, Submarine Squadron One is hosting the submarine during their stay as part of RIMPAC 2006.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Dennis C. Cantrell

An aerial view of ships involved with Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2006. Seven Pacific Rim nations along with the United Kingdom are participating in RIMPAC 2006, a major maritime exercise being conducted in the waters off Hawai'i from June 26 through July 28.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2(AW) Grant P. Ammon

Canadian warships HMCS Regina, Vancouver and Algonquin show the flag this week while in Pearl Harbor as part of RIMPAC 2006.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Dennis C. Cantrell

Amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) pulls into Pearl Harbor for a scheduled port visit before the start of RIMPAC 2006.

Hawai'i Navy News Sports

Teamwork and camaraderie...

Teams from countries visiting Naval Station Pearl Harbor for Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2006 competed in a variety of sports events, including soccer, bowling, golf and surfing before heading out to sea for the multi-national exercise.

Photos by ABPH Quentin Mushins

