

Fair winds and following seas...

# Hawai'i Navy News

Serving the "Best Ho"

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## Vitale turns over command of Region, MIDPAC to Alexander

MCC (SW/AW) David Rush  
Managing Editor

Rear Adm. Townsend G. "Tim" Alexander relieved Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale as commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, during a change of command ceremony held onboard Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Tuesday.

Guest speakers at the event included Adm. Gary Roughead, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Vice Adm. Bob Conway, commander, Navy Installations Command, as well as opening remarks from Hawai'i Governor Linda Lingle.

Before turning command over to Alexander, Vitale said it was an honor to serve as commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

"For two years, I have given barge tours in this harbor, 52 to be exact. To have had an opportunity to have met survivors, listen to their stories and share in their moments is priceless. It continues to teach me many important lessons about life that I will never forget. We must always be vigilant and never take our freedoms for granted," said Vitale.

"Always be humble, because life is a long lesson in humility - and always take care of your shipmates and they will take care of you," Vitale added.

According to Lingle, the leadership role and the Sailors who live and work here, are an important part of Hawai'i. "You're not just military leaders, you're part of Hawai'i's ohana [family] - these are the men and women who are willing to risk their lives to protect the freedoms that we enjoy in America. It's important to remember, day in and day out, what they have committed their lives to," said Lingle.

"I want Adm. Vitale to know, and Adm. Alexander, although he has just arrived, we will always welcome you back home to Hawai'i. Good luck to you both," Lingle added.

Alexander said he is ready to get started in his new position. "I look forward to building on the great relationships that

already exist between the Navy and the state of Hawai'i. To the men and women, Sailors and civilians of Navy Region Hawai'i and Surface Group Middle Pacific, I am eager to work with you and build upon your successes under Adm. Vitale's leadership."

Vitale commanded Navy Region Hawai'i and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific since August 2004 and took command of Carrier Strike Group Two/Commander USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Carrier Strike Group on June 7 in a ceremony aboard the carrier.

As Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i, Alexander will serve as regional coordinator, managing the Navy's shore installations and infrastructure in Hawai'i. The command serves more than 30 local Navy commands, including 12 surface ships, 16 submarines and four aircraft squadrons. About 15,000 active duty Navy personnel are stationed in Hawai'i, in addition to 20,000 Navy family members and 10,000 civilian employees.

In his other role as commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, Alexander will be responsible for the training, maintenance and readiness of the 12 surface ships homeport-

ed at Pearl Harbor, ensuring they are prepared for forward-deployed Fleet operations.

Alexander, who was nominated in May for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half), served as the commanding officer of Naval Base Coronado, Calif. since April 2004.



Rear Adm. Townsend G. Alexander



U.S. Navy photo by MCI James E. Foehl

Adm. Gary Roughead (center) witnesses the turnover of command from Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale to Rear Adm. Townsend G. Alexander during an official change of command ceremony on board Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Tuesday.

## USS Port Royal (CG 73) back home from deployment



U.S. Navy photo by MCC David Rush

Sailors stationed aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73) man the rails as she moors pier-side at Naval Station Pearl Harbor after completion of a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific and fifth Fleet area of operation.

Lt. Jason Fox

Port Royal (CG 73) Public Affairs

USS Port Royal (CG 73) returned from deployment Aug. 5 after supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The ship departed its homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i on Feb. 27 with Kaneohe based HSL-37 Detachment 3 embarked.

Port Royal joined other members of Expeditionary Strike Group Three, including the Pearl Harbor-based frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) and San Diego-based ships, USS Peleliu, (LHA 5), USS Germantown (LSD 42) and USS Ogden (LPD 5).

Before long, Port Royal split off from the rest of the strike group and made her first port call in Sydney, Australia. The ship hosted an official visit by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who addressed the crew on the bow of the ship, offering words of encouragement for a successful deployment.

Rice expressed great pride in the crew and complimented them on the professionalism with which they carried out the visit. Many Sailors attended lunch on the mess decks with Rice, including Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SW) Ronald Dixon, Port Royal's Junior Sailor of the Year.

"This was an incredible experience for us - the secretary of state was very gracious and expressed her gratitude to us for our service," said Dixon.

The crew also took advantage of their liberty time while on deployment, buying opals, seeing the sights and attending productions at the Sydney Opera House.

Departing Sydney in late March, Port Royal dodged two typhoons and made haste for the Horn of Africa, the area off the coast of Somalia and Kenya. Port Royal spent three weeks

there - executing a mission that dates back to the infancy of the U.S. Navy, defending the seas from piracy. The anti-piracy mission served as a primer for the balance of the ship's deployed operations conducted in the North Arabian Gulf.

Following a brief port visit to the kingdom of Bahrain, Port Royal transited to the North Arabian Gulf where the ship operated continuously for the next 55 days. Port Royal served as the command ship for Task Group 158.1, charged with the defense of Iraq's Al-Basrah Oil Terminal (ABOT) and Khor Abd Allah Oil Terminal (KAAOT) in the North Arabian Gulf.

Iraq's economy relies heavily on the oil that moves through those terminals, accounting for over 90 percent of Iraq's gross domestic product. From small boat operations to flight operations, providing haircuts and feeding U.S. security personnel, training the Iraqi Sailors and Marines, Port Royal did it all.

On May 26, members of the crew responded to an accidental explosion and subsequent oil fire on KAAOT, pulling injured and burned victims from the waters of the North Arabian Gulf. Two corpsmen from Port Royal, Hospital Corpsman Chief (SW/PMF) Doreen Lehner, assisted by Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (SW) Heather Watts, saved the life of an Iraqi civilian oil worker on the burning terminal.

The young man was given life-saving first aid on the platform and transported on Port Royal's rigid hull inflatable boat, where he was resuscitated three times and finally delivered to medical facilities on Peleliu where he made a complete recovery.

For 55 continuous days in Iraqi territorial waters, Port Royal earned the Iraqi Campaign Medal.

Capt. Dave Matawitz, Port Royal's commanding officer, has commanded the ship for nearly two years and

turned over the ship on Aug 5 to his relief, Capt. David Adler, who returns to sea from the Navy Staff in Washington, D.C.

Matawitz summed up the deployment, "The accomplishments of this crew are incredible. These Sailors are trained to fight, to succeed and to be the best." He explained, "The ship was often involved in several missions simultaneously; controlling fixed wing aircraft and helicopters, conducting boarding and escort operations with both our boats, taking meals to Sailors on the oil terminals, or training for Tomahawk strike operations. They did it all and made it look easy. They are why our Navy is the best and I am very proud of them."

On the way home, Port Royal made a port call in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The crew enjoyed some hard-earned liberty, taking advantage of the shopping, desert safaris, a water park, and the world's largest indoor ski resort. On the transit home, Port Royal dodged a monsoon in the Arabian Sea and crossed the Indian Ocean before making her way through the Strait of Malacca to make a port call in Singapore.

The crew enjoyed liberty and completed critical voyage repairs that enabled a smooth transit home. While in Singapore, 40 members of the crew attended a discussion with the Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Mike Mullen, followed by an opportunity to join him for dinner.

On Saturday, Port Royal returned home after 158 days, 71 enlisted and six surface warfare qualifications, four major storms, and more than 30,000 miles of ocean in her wake.

The Port Royal team were welcomed home by spouses, children and families. Three of Port Royal's Sailors became new fathers during the deployment and met their children for the first time when the ship arrived at Pearl Harbor.

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# Pearl Harbor shipyard graduates 102 apprentices

Marshall Fukuki

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard  
Public Affairs

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard (PHNSY) welcomed 102 skilled male and female journeymen into its civilian workforce Aug. 4. The shipyard's apprentice class of 2006, representing 18 trades, officially graduated that day at a ceremony at the Naval Station Pearl Harbor gazebo and parade grounds.

The ceremony marked the completion of a rigorous four-year program in which apprentices completed at least 7,200 hours of paid on-the-job work experience, along with academic and trades training.

"Four years of hard work finally paid off," said Grant Akamine, who was honored as the outstanding apprentice of both his shop and the entire class of 2006. In 2001, the Aiea resident was working as a waiter and camera store clerk when his father, Miles, a painter supervisor with 35 years at the shipyard, told him about openings at the naval shipyard. Grant attended a job fair to familiarize himself with the various occupations offered and chose the shipwright trade. Shipwrights dock and undock ships and set up scaffolding and staging, he explained.

"Pearl Harbor is definitely a place where I could see myself working for the next 30 to 40 years," he said. "By coming into the shipyard, I am able to give to my family what I never would have been able to by working somewhere else.

"I enjoy it. I feel good about it," he said of his trade. "When you feel you're in a place where you belong, it makes it easier to wake up in the morning and come to work. I'm very appreciative of my job here."

U.S. Rep. Neil Abercrombie, keynote speaker, said Pearl Harbor is, "the keystone to defending the strategic interests of the United States in the Pacific," and, "you graduates today will be among the shipyard leaders of the future. ... You will be joining the workforce of the 21st century as those of the previous century leave."

U.S. Rep. Ed Case told the graduates, "We rely on you today as you go forth to be part of the economic engine of Hawai'i that has served us well in prior decades and ... can and will serve as well in the generation to come. ... On your shoulders will



U.S. Navy photo by Marshall Fukuki

The son of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard painter apprentice Pedro Quintal Jr. (in background), checks out the view through the plaque his father received during the shipyard apprentice graduation ceremony Aug. 4 at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Quintal was selected as the outstanding apprentice for his shop.

rest the future of one of the great institutions of our entire state."

The apprenticeship program is the result of a partnership between the shipyard, U.S. Department of Labor and Honolulu Community College (HCC). Apprentices attend community college-level courses taught at the shipyard by HCC instructors and earn an associate's degree in the applied trades from HCC as part of their training.

At the successful conclusion of their apprenticeships, graduates receive certificates from the Navy and the U.S. Department of Labor attesting to their proficiency in ship maintenance. They also convert to journeyman positions paying about \$26 an hour.

Today's graduates embody the hope and future of the nearly 100-year-old naval shipyard. Over one-third of the 4,300-person civilian workforce is either age 55 and older and meets the age requirement for retirement, or will become age-eligible within the next five years.

The apprentice program, which was resurrected in 1998, has been



U.S. Navy photo by Marshall Fukuki

Grant Akamine of Aiea, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard shipwright apprentice, is congratulated by U.S. Rep. Neil Abercrombie during the shipyard apprentice graduation ceremony Aug. 4 at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Akamine was selected as the outstanding apprentice for both his trade and for the entire graduating apprentice class of 2006.

the key to revitalizing the waterfront workforce. At that time, the average age of a civilian worker was nearly 49 years. The program, by bringing in about 135 apprentices every year, has improved the average age to slightly over 44.

The civilian workforce reflects the diverse population of the islands. The workforce is still overwhelmingly male, but the 10 women among the graduating apprentices comprise a growing cadre of females in non-traditional occupations at the shipyard. Over the last 10 years, women have increased from nine percent to 12 percent of the workforce, making the greatest gains in the professional and blue-collar fields.

Roberta Awana of Kailua graduated from the program as an electronics mechanic. Her job at the shipyard involves testing, modifying, installing and removing electronics equipment aboard ships. "It's different than anything I've ever done before," she said. "It's so diverse. Some days, it's very techni-

cal ... [like] troubleshooting. Other days, it's simply turning wrenches. It varies so much. Every day is new and different."

As for being a woman in a predominantly male blue-collar environment, Awana said, "It takes a little getting used to. I have a great bunch of guys I work with. We have a job to do and we do it. Gender's not really an issue."

Shipyard management views the graduates as the best candidates among the state's labor pool. The hiring process for the class of 2006 began in early 2001. A written test administered in May of that year cut a field of 2,250 applicants down to about 260. This group, after undergoing personal interviews, physical exams, background checks and other screening, was narrowed to 114 apprentices brought aboard in January 2002 as the class of 2006.

Brendan Cravalho, crane resource manager for the shipyard, said, "When we hired them, they were the best of the best, and they

still are."

The Mililani resident and class of 1974 apprentice graduate said, "They still have to hone their skills. They still have to grow. It's up to them, [but] I have full confidence in them. They're going to do great things for this shipyard."

Capt. Frank Camelio, commander of the shipyard, addressed the graduates and their role in the shipyard. He said, "Your future is our future. Your success will be our success. ... Greatness is within our grasp. I know you will help us reach it."

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is the largest industrial employer in the state of Hawai'i and contributed more than \$550 million to the local economy in fiscal year 2005. Strategically located in the Pacific Ocean, it is a full-service naval shipyard and regional maintenance center for the U.S. Navy's surface ships and submarines.

For more information on Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, visit <http://www.phnsy.navy.mil>.

# Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

## CNO's '1,000-ship' Navy concept

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



FLTCM(SS/SW) Rick West

Hoo-yah, Warriors. During my travels Navy-wide, some shipmates I ran into were asking about all the exercises and operations we've been doing lately, especially in the joint and allied arena. They were interested in the point of it all and what it means to them.

So I asked them if they had ever heard of the "1,000-ship Navy." Some Sailors thought we were planning on cranking up the shipyards and start pumping out ships left and right. Others just didn't have a clue on what it was.

Well, Warriors, it is one of the main points to all the joint and allied exercises and operations that we conduct. It's about changing the concept of sea power.

So, let's get to it then. What's the 1,000-ship Navy? Right now it is a concept our CNO, Adm. Mike Mullen, is talking about. In several of his speeches and interviews, he's talked about changing the concept of sea power from just the U.S. Navy ensuring maritime security to combining the capabilities and talents of all freedom-loving nations of the world; sort of a loose framework for building partnerships, both enduring and emerging.

He's talking about forming temporary teams for specific challenges, but over time, building them into

general and enduring cooperation. Everyone brings to the table what they can for as long they can, depending on where and when the event occurs.

So what's he talking about here? Well, down to the bottom line - it's bringing the best and brightest of all countries together to form a fleet of unmatched capability ready to conduct any mission, any time anywhere. Put another way, it's team-building.

Our Navy is awesome and manned by outstanding Sailors. But someone else may have the skills and knowledge we need to help fight the fight, from the blue water into the littorals and in the brown-water. Another country may have valuable insight on navigation, politics and tactics of some other area of the world.

So the 1,000-ship Navy brings together our friends and allies to create a huge fleet that draws on the strengths and capabilities of each other. As you've heard many times in the past, TEAM stands for Together Everyone Achieves More. This is how the CNO explains it:

"As we combine our advantages, I envision a 1,000-ship Navy - a fleet-in-being, if you will, made up of the

best capabilities of all freedom-loving navies of the world. Can you imagine the possibilities if we worked toward increased interoperability through more standardized training, procedures, and command and control protocols?"

"This 1,000-ship Navy would integrate the capabilities of the maritime services to create a fully interoperable force - an international city at sea."

Now I hear the next question and that's, "Why is this important to me, the deckplate Sailor?" Again, fair enough. Here's why it's important.

I've said it time and again, there's no one who can match a U.S. Navy Sailor. You all are simply the best and we will continue to get better. But good as we are, we cannot do everything and we certainly can't go it alone, especially since we've declared war on terror.

Each star player relies on the whole team and to win the war on terror, to ensure freedom of the seas, and promote stability and peace, we are going to need help...simple as that.

Did you know we just finished the Rim of the Pacific exercises in Pearl Harbor? It's a biennial exercise held in the Pacific and it's not so a bunch of Sailors can gather in Hawai'i for a nice vacation.

It's so we can build social, working and training relationships all over the Pacific so that in a time of need,

we can react as a team. We invite Japan, Australia, Republic of South Korea, Canada, Chile, Peru and the United Kingdom to participate in this huge naval exercise.

Those countries send their best and brightest; we all combine together to train and learn and the result is a much larger, more capable fighting force with longer reach and longer sustainability.

The same applies to other exercises like CARAT, Keen Edge, SEACAT and a host of others.

Combat readiness and warfighting are not the only benefactors of the 1,000-ship Navy. It's about being able to respond to anything - sort of like a global neighborhood watch.

A great example would be responding to disasters and provide humanitarian assistance (HA) anywhere in the world.

Just remember the USNS Mercy is currently on an HA deployment in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific. We have combined international militaries and non-governmental organizations with our folks to not only provide HA to people in need, but also build relationships, develop training and operational protocols, and prepare for greater challenges in the future - and all as one team.

If you want to see more about the Mercy team, visit its Web site at [http://www.cpf.navy.mil/news\\_image/s/Mercy/index.htm](http://www.cpf.navy.mil/news_image/s/Mercy/index.htm).

A few of my recent articles have

talked about topics like forward-deployed naval forces, leadership and liberty responsibility. All of those items play a part in the 1,000-ship Navy.

We all play a far greater role in our Navy than we realize. Even one of our most junior seamen can have an impact on the Navy's reputation and the reputation of Americans as a whole without realizing it.

Each and every one of us makes an impression about the ability, judgment and professionalism regarding our Navy. Each negative liberty incident strengthens a negative opinion of us and wipes away a hundred good things that we've done.

Every time a fellow Warrior doesn't give 100 percent in an exercise with our friends and allies, it reflects on our ability to be part of the team and the 1,000-ship Navy.

That's why we all need to care. And that's why it should matter to all of us.

In closing this article, I would like to pass along something I saw during RIMPAC. It was on a banner on the side of a South Korean destroyer and it read: "The sea makes us one!" I think that says it all right there. Hoo-yah!

Fleet tip: Log on to Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) and become familiar with the individual augmentee (IA) Web sites; all Sailors are potential IAs. See you in the Fleet!

Commentary

### Chapel Pennant

## No more excuses

**Lt. Demetric Felton Sr, CHC, USN**

*Navy Region Hawai'i Chapels*

We have all at one time or another made excuses for our lack of attention, motivation or downright rebellion. No matter the excuses we come up with, they never really seem to satisfy, or to make up for the reason we did or did not do something. Someone once said, "Bad excuses are worse than none." Here are some bad excuses I ran across:

"I won't be in today. My fish is sick and I need to take it to the vet."

"I'm calling in scared. I am 'afraid' that I am not coming in today."

"I couldn't do my homework coz I got stuck in a mine-shaft."

"But all my friends don't have a bedtime!"

"It was my brother who did it!"

Excuse for skipping church: (real mysterious sounding): "I just had this feeling I shouldn't be there."

There are too many hypocrites in church. We've all heard it before. We like making excuses, but don't really like accepting excuses from people we expected to come through for us in the clutch.

The Bible tells a story in John 5:1-9 of Jesus healing a man who had been paralyzed for 38 years. Jesus saw the man lying by the Pool of Bethesda, where other sick patients would lie, waiting to enter the water in hopes they would be healed of their infirmities.

Jesus walked up to the

man, knowing his situation, and asked him simply, "Do you wish to get well?" You would think that the man would have responded with an enthusiastic, "Yes! I want to be healed!" But instead, he began to give excuses. He had been in that sad condition for so long that his will was as paralyzed as his body.

Just like the lame man, many of us have had our will paralyzed. We make excuses for not trusting God enough to give him our pain, past and problems. But no excuse will suffice. God is ready, willing and able to heal us of all our hurts and fears.

Jesus didn't accept the man's excuses, but rather commanded, "Get up, pick up your pallet and walk." He would not allow the man to use his excuse for not receiving the free gift of healing. The cure was immediate and the man got up from his paralyzed condition and began to walk. Imagine the emotions this man must have felt to have the use of his limbs once again.

In Matthew 11:28, Jesus invites us, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." What an awesome invitation! Don't let your excuses of being too busy or not good enough stop you from experiencing the joy that God so freely offers to all of us. You will be glad you did. For more information on how to experience God's love, joy and peace, call the chaplains' office at 473-3971 to speak with a chaplain.

## Troops landing on Guadalcanal



Photo courtesy of U.S. Naval Historical Center

Raising the Colors on Guadalcanal after the initial landings, circa Aug. 7, 1942. The officer standing second from right in this group appears to be the First Marine Division commander, Maj. Gen. Alexander A. Vandegrift, USMC.

### Hawai'i Navy News

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BMC Cedric White  
CSC Jossy Acre  
UTC Thomas Sharp

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AE1 (AW) Mark Kummer  
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ABH1 (AW) Thomas Williford

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OSC (SW) Matthew Blanton  
OSC (SW) Eric Hubbell  
FCC (SW) William Eilmes  
ENC (SW) Dean Malibiran  
CTMC (SW/SG) John Hibberts (transferred)

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GSEC (SW) Elmer Balduenza  
GMC (SW) Jaye Bell  
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GSMC (SW) Donald Ling II  
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CTIC Joel Simmons  
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CTRC Margo Whitfield  
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CTIC Jeffrey Salazar (enroute to Misawa)  
CTTC Jeannelle Macey (attached to CID under ATG) PHNSY

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GSMC Charles Arnold  
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YNC (SS) Darin Matrazzo  
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CS1 (SW) Randall Clift  
BM1 (SW) Jesse Rodriguez  
GSM1 (SW) Reywelin Rungduen  
STG1 (SW) Mathew Swanson  
ET1 (SW) Zachary Weymer  
PS1 (SW/AW) Edward Wisner Jr.

**USS Crommelin (FFG 37)**  
YN1 (SW) Kevin Valdez  
OS1 (SW) Gary Jefferson  
GM1 (SW) Derek Pisani  
AD1 (AW) Joseph Formica

**USS Hopper (DDG 70)**  
STG1 (SW) Eric Juarez  
DC1 (SW) Darrick Hays  
IT1 (SW) Mildred Rivera-Fisher  
FC1 (SW) Scott Fearnow

**USS O'Kane (DDG 77)**  
CTA1 (SW) Christi Ahnemiller  
FC1 (SW) Teaqua Bailey

CTR1 (SW) Amber Betts  
QM1 (SW) Bryon Cain  
IT1 (SW) Ronald Clement  
BM1 (SW) David Gleich  
CTT1 (SW) Francis Kerrick  
IC1 (SW) Thomas Samella  
OS1 (SW) Earl Thomas

**USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60)**  
CTT1 (SW) Preston Edwards  
HT1 (SW) Blake Heller  
OS1 (SW) Ralph Jones Jr.  
YN1 (SW) Matthew Leibfreid  
FC1 (SW) Timothy Maddock  
STG1 (SW) Donald McDowell  
GM1 (SW) John Moore  
STG1 (SW/AW/IUSS) Kenneth Phillips

**USS Reuben James (FFG 57)**  
ET1 (SW) Jason Ziemer  
BM1 (SW) Avanish Ramsingh  
GSE1 (SW) Andrew Anderson  
DC1 (SW) Noel Gaon  
CS1 (SW) Lane Jones

**USS Russell (DDG 59)**  
STG1 (SW) William Cicchillo  
GSM1 (SW) Judson Imhoff  
HT1 (SW) Jeffrey Laughlin  
IT1 (SW) Richard Pullis  
GSE1 (SW) Sergei Udalov Jr.

**USS Salvor (ARS 52)**  
BMC (SW) Gerald Daniel Gutierrez  
GMC (SW) Christopher Eric Barmes

**Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe**

**CRPW-2**  
ITC Trevor Fox

**FASO**  
AZC Tim Barnes

SKC Kevin Perryman  
**HSL-37**  
ADC Joseph Formica  
AEC Mark Kummer  
AOC Hans Pluntke  
ABHC Thomas Williford

**3rd MAR Radio**  
HMC Samuel Priagola

**3rd MAR REG**  
HMC Everett Coleman  
HMC Timothy James  
HMC Anthony Jones  
HMC Craig Meaders  
HMC Kevin Swisher

**VP-4**  
AEC Philip Burt  
AZC Jarvis Dean  
ADC Austin Van Loh  
ADC Cynthia Baker  
ATC Stephen Colandrea  
AZC Joaquin Concepcion  
ADC Michael Lapadula  
NCC Bobbi Maxwell  
AMC Jason Newall  
AOC Mark Sarna  
AMC Thomas Wollney

**VPU-2**  
MCC Benjamin Addision  
CTRC Charlie Allen  
ATC William Bogue  
AZC Traci Cole  
CTTC Eric Corpus  
CTIC Dennis Guhl  
ATC Cody Reck  
AEC Robert Rinehart  
ADC Franklin Varela

**VP-9**  
ADC John Blake  
AEC Ron Darr  
HMC Cheryl Hoover  
ADC Barry Martin  
AZC Harry Milner  
AEC Dennis Rodriguez

**NAVPACMETOCEN**  
AGC (AW) Anthony Anderson  
AGC (AW) Anna Delmont

**APSPAC**  
FCC (SW/AW) Christopher Glaser  
ITC (SW/AW) David Woodard  
FCC (SW) Mathew Graham  
ISC (SW/AW) Sharita Burns  
ITC (SW/AW) Bruce Clark

**METOC**  
AGC (AW) Anthony Anderson  
AGC (AW) Anna Delmont

**CPF**  
CSC Sean McMan  
PSC Rachel Familia

**CNL**  
AMC (AW) Kory Liedtke  
MMC (SW/AW) George Pacheco

**CNE**  
ENC (SW) Detra Perkins

**Center for Security Forces**  
BMC Corey Freedman

**JICPAC**  
ITC Michael Albrecht (SW)  
ITC (SW/FPJ) Rodney Chambers  
ITC (SW) Leonard Davis  
ITC (SW) Todd Kowalczyk  
ITC (SW) Barbara Novak  
ISC (SW) Robert Voellinger

**HQ USPACOM**  
ITC (SW) Scott Patterson  
CTA Christi Ahnemiller

**CSCS**  
OSC Daniel Roberts  
OSC Bryce Miller  
FCC Carlos Vargas

**SOCPAC**  
CTOC Damon Moore

# Pearl Harbor Highlights



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (AW/SW) James E. Foehl  
Guided-missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) and guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73) returned Naval Station Pearl Harbor after a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific and Fifth Fleet area of operation. Nearly 6,000 Sailors and Marines departed in February to operate in the Pacific and Indian Oceans in support of the global war on terrorism as part of Expeditionary Strike Group 3.



U.S. Navy photo by MCC (SW) Joe Kane  
An actor portrays a Japanese guard for a National Geographic film currently in production about the disappearance of Amelia Earhart. The film crew shot scenes at Barbers Point to show an alternative explanation of what happened to Earhart when her plane was reported lost at sea.



Above: Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97) passes the USS Arizona Memorial and Battleship Missouri as she transits Pearl Harbor and prepares to moor pierside at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Wednesday. Homeported at San Diego, the newly commissioned ship is currently on its maiden deployment enroute to the Western Pacific area of operation. U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (AW/SW) James E. Foehl



Left: USS Port Royal (CG 73) Sailors participate in a community relations project in Singapore, cleaning excess grout from tile as part of M.I.N.D.S. (Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore). U.S. Navy photo by GM1 (SW) Melissa Nicolas

# USS Port Royal, Peleliu aid in search and rescue mission

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

The Navy amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5), the guided missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73) and crew members aboard a Coast Guard C-130 Hercules airplane from Air Station Barbers Point took part in a joint search and rescue mission 120 miles southwest of Oahu on Aug. 4. The Coast Guard Command Center received notification at 6:30 p.m. that the fishing vessel Pacific Laurel reported taking on

water and that there were five people on board. The C-130 dropped two de-watering pumps and a VHF radio to the distressed vessel.

USS Peleliu and USS Port Royal, already enroute to Pearl Harbor, were diverted and assisted in the rescue. Once on scene, the Peleliu helicopters brought four of the five crewmembers aboard and escorted them to Pearl Harbor. The crew members were examined by the ship's medical personnel; there were no reports of any injuries. The master of the vessel chose to stay

onboard the Pacific Laurel to attempt salvage.

Crew members from the Coast Guard Cutter Ahi, stationed at Honolulu Harbor, subsequently arrived on scene to relieve USS Peleliu. The Ahi remained on scene to aid the master of the vessel and assist in the salvaging.

USS Peleliu is homeported at San Diego and the Port Royal is based at Pearl Harbor. Both ships were returning from a routine overseas deployment when they were called to assist the distressed ship.

# Sea Scholars learn aboard Navy vessel

MC2 Devin Wright

Staff Writer

This summer, the Navy selected 13 men and women as unconventional Navy Sailors - teachers to participate in the Sea Scholars program starting Aug. 8 on board the 329-foot USNS Pathfinder at Pearl Harbor.

Oceanographers at Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO) and the University of Southern Mississippi selected teachers from

schools across the country to participate in the Sea Scholars project, a well-established program that helps teachers merge real-life scientific applications into classroom topics.

Sea Scholars allows math and science teachers to travel aboard operational oceanographic survey ships for a real seven- to 10-day oceanographic survey. "We are going to teach them oceanography so that they can have practical applications of math and science that they can take back to their students," said Mark Jarrett, senior NAVOCEANO representative "This is a great opportunity to energize these teachers which will, in turn, energize their students."

By eating, sleeping and attending class onboard the ship, the teachers gain an understanding of what life is like for oceanographic surveyors, the complexities and importance of the work, and how to incorporate some of what they learn into their class lesson plans.

"It's not every day a regular civilian citizen gets to sail across the Pacific," said Greg Graeber, a marine educator at the Dolphin Island Sea Lab in Alabama. "There is a huge push for ocean literacy right now and you can't be anymore oceanic than the Navy so I think it's great that they are willing to take teachers out to sea. This is going to supply us with more tools for our lesson plans to put into our classrooms. I live in Alabama and while we are bordered by a large body of water, I have students that have never seen the ocean so I am excited to bring this knowledge to them," he continued.

During the expedition, the 2006 class of Sea Scholars will take part in many everyday ship activities, including deploying over-the-side sensors, launching weather balloons, processing bathymetric data, examining mud, listening to underwater ocean noise and studying bioluminescence (plankton that emit light).



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Devin Wright

Two Sea Scholars practice using the depth charts aboard USNS Pathfinder Aug. 7. The Sea Scholars program allows math and science teachers to travel aboard an operational oceanographic survey ships for a real seven- to 10-day oceanographic survey. By eating, sleeping and attending class onboard the ship, the teachers gain an understanding of what life is like for oceanographic surveyors, the complexities and importance of the work and how to incorporate some of what they learn into their classroom lesson plans.



## Special release from the U.S. Department of Defense

The Department of Defense announced Aug. 4 the death of a Sailor who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Marc A. Lee, 28, of Hood River, Ore. was killed Aug. 2 during combat operations while on patrol in Ramadi, Iraq. Lee was an aviation ordnanceman and a member of a West Coast-based SEAL team.

## STORY IDEAS?

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

Phone: (808) 473-2888

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# Hawaii Navy News



U.S. Navy photo by RP2 (SW) Andrea Eastwood

Sailors from USS Port Royal (CG 73) distributed nearly 1,500 pounds of Project Handclasp materials valued at more than \$3,000 to the organization. Project Handclasp helps distribute donated humanitarian materials around the world via U.S. Navy ships on deployment. The ship recently made a port visit to Singapore while deployed with ESG-3.

## Port Royal Sailors extend hand to Project Handclasp

### USS Port Royal (CG 73) Public Affairs

On deployment to Fifth and Seventh Fleets with Expeditionary Strike Group 3, the guided missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73), homeported at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, made a port visit to Singapore.

While in port, 18 crew members took part in a community relations proj-

ect that provided help to one of the largest and oldest non-governmental organizations in that country that cares for the disabled. M.I.N.D.S. (Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore) received a day's labor from the Sailors who cleaned excess grout from newly-placed floor tiles, saving the organization many man-hours of valuable paid employees'

time to make the entry way presentable to families and visitors.

The crew also delivered two pallets of nearly 1,500 pounds of Project Handclasp materials valued at more than \$3,000 to the organization. Project Handclasp helps distribute donated humanitarian materials around the world via U.S. Navy ships on deployment.

# Powers relieves Bruner as commander, Submarine Squadron 7

MC1 (SW) Cynthia Clark

Commander, Submarine Force  
Pacific Public Affairs

Capt. Jeffrey Powers relieved Capt. Barry Bruner as commander, Submarine Squadron Seven in a ceremony Aug. 4 at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

Rear Adm. Michael Tracy, U.S. Pacific Command's director of strategic plans and policy, was guest speaker for the ceremony and lauded Bruner for his beneficial service to the fleet.

"Never discount the absolute critical nature of your dangerous, but rewarding business," said Tracy. "Your contributions, not only to regional security and prosperity, but to the American partnerships in Asia and in the Pacific, are more vital than ever and their importance will only grow."

Before commenting on Bruner's outstanding job as commodore, he took a moment to focus on the man he has known since the early '90s when they served as commanding and executive officers onboard the attack submarine USS Newport News (SSN-750), homeported at Norfolk, Va.

"He is an instinctive mariner and he knows how to pass along those skills," said Tracy. "He always led by example, fostering teamwork and excellence along the way. It is not surprising that he has enjoyed such an accomplished career in this work we do, nor that he has led this squadron to the continued success that it has enjoyed."

Tracy shared Squadron Seven's accomplishments while under Bruner's leadership.

"He logged more time at sea or abroad than many of his predecessors, being where it counts most. The retention excellence in Submarine Squadron Seven units has been astounding and more importantly, consistent. In our three dimensional operating environment that allows little or no room for error, preparing ships for sustained deployed operations at sea, with sometimes short notice, is a difficult challenge. Commodore, you have done a magnificent job in meeting it," Tracy said.



Photo by MC1 (SW) Cynthia Clark

Capt. Barry Bruner was relieved as commander, Submarine Squadron Seven in a ceremony held Aug. 4 on the submarine piers at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. During the ceremony, Rear Adm. Jeffrey Cassias, commander, Submarine Force Pacific Fleet, presented Bruner with his third Legion of Merit.

Prior to wishing the new commodore well, Tracy concluded his observations about Bruner and his successful tour and the future of the Pacific Submarine Force.

"In all endeavors, he was well prepared," Tracy concluded. "He always followed up, got beyond the issues and worked things through to conclusion. Your efforts have tremendously shaped our current force and will help define the submarine force of tomorrow."

Tracy discussed Powers' reputation throughout the force, noting his "extremely impressive record of achievement across our entire operational spectrum and lots of Pacific experience."

Rear Adm. Jeffrey Cassias, commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, presented Bruner with

his third Legion of Merit before sending him off to serve as chief of staff of Commander Carrier Strike Group Five, onboard USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) in Yokosuka, Japan.

"During his watch, Submarine Squadron Seven sent three submarines on highly successful Western Pacific deployments," said Cassias. "Each ship operated superbly in the most challenging shallow water littoral operating areas in the world. He readied two submarines for complex shipyard availabilities where both were praised for their thorough preparations and flawless execution of these demanding maintenance periods."

Cassias said that Bruner spearheaded engagement efforts with the Korean Navy and strengthened

bonds between submariners while the Korean Submarine Jung Woon was deployed to Pearl Harbor for Rim of the Pacific 2006. Under his command, Submarine Squadron Seven led the force in taking care of its people as demonstrated by each of his submarines that earned the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Retention Excellence Award, Cassias said.

In his departing remarks, Bruner first thanked Capt. Ken Sault, his second-in-command at the squadron. "Over the past few months, I have never seen him make a single comment, recommendation or decision that was not aimed at helping the submarines of our squadron. His counsel is always spot on – I have come to rely on him dearly."

He then assured his squadron they were in good hands with Powers.

"I have seen Jeff in action and I know he will be an absolutely superb commodore," said Bruner. "I could turn over to no one better than Jeff and I am envious of the successes I know he and the squadron will have in the future."

Additionally, he thanked his command master chief, CMDCM (SS) Chris M. Shannon, calling him the, "finest CMC I have ever served with - period."

He also expressed his gratitude to the Sailors who worked with him on a day-to-day basis. "I have been wonderfully blessed and very fortunate to serve with the men sitting to your right. I will miss them greatly."

After reporting the relief of command of Submarine Squadron Seven, Powers took the opportunity to thank Bruner and his wife. He also assured Cassias that the squadron was in good hands, as well as gave a pep talk to his new squadron as their new commodore.

"Adm. Cassias, thank you for your vote of confidence in giving me this assignment – a dream opportunity," Powers said. "I will give my complete effort to fulfill your high expectations."

"With great joy and anticipation, I set my sights on the challenge of preparing our marvelous boats and their young, bright and eager crews for deployment," he said to the crew. "They are 'valens volens' – able and willing. We, too, must exemplify that motto."

Powers' previous assignment was as director of strategic forces for Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet. His career highlights include participation in the 1986 "Operation Titanic" with Dr. Robert Ballard and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Powers made one dive to the wreck of the RMS Titanic in the deep submersible Alvin.

He also served as the submarine officer detailee in Washington, D.C. and as commanding officer of the USS Florida (SSN 728) homeported at Bangor, Wash. He is a 1982 graduate of the University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y.