

Hawai'i Navy News

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USS Tucson returns from Western Pacific

MC1 (SW) Cynthia Clark

Commander, Submarine Force Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

The nuclear-powered attack submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) returned to its homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i from a six-month Western Pacific deployment on Sept. 21.

Since departing Pearl Harbor on March 21, USS Tucson visited Sasebo and Yokosuka, Japan, Saipan and Guam. While in Saipan, Tucson crew members joined forces with military veterans and cleaned a World War II bunker. Tucson was also in Yokosuka to celebrate the submarine force's 106th birthday at the annual ball, which was attended by numerous U.S. and Japanese Military Self Defense Force officials.

In June, USS Tucson participated in Exercise Valiant Shield 2006 near Guam, providing anti-submarine warfare training to three aircraft carrier strike groups. Tucson also participated in a bilateral exercise with the Royal Australian navy, submarine HMAS Farncomb.

Cmdr. Jimmy Pitts, Tucson commanding officer, said his crew played the role of aggressor, "superbly" training the carrier strike group in anti-submarine warfare. "The strike group was very capable," he said. "It was a lot of fun."

As for the Australians, Pitts said, "They are very capable submariners. It was a challenge for us and continued to build our friendship with the Australian submarine forces."

Pitts relinquishes command of Tucson today, but wanted his crew to know it was an honor to serve with them, especially on this last deployment.

"I'm extremely proud of their accomplishments. Each of the guys did a superb job, worked extremely hard and all of America can be proud of them."

Before heading home and spending time with their families, Tucson had a few more tasks to do. In addition to re-enlisting one Sailor and pinning dolphins on two officers, they also had a pinning ceremony for the new chief petty officers.

One of the new chiefs,

Chief Yeoman (SS) Darin Matrazzo, had his wife and his two-year-old daughter pin on his anchors. "I'm really proud of him," said his wife. "I was in the Navy too; it was so great to see him earn this."

Home just in time for his wife to deliver his second daughter, Electrician's Mate 1st Class (SS) Tim Fredericksen said while it was an honor to do such an important job for his country, it's just as important for him to be home with his family. "This is where it's at," he said.

Also among the new families was Tucson's executive officer, Lt. Cmdr. Charlie Maher, whose wife gave birth to their first daughter Aug. 1.

"I found out a day later by message," Maher said. "I'm very pleased. She's so beautiful. I'm so lucky."

Tucson has a crew of 18 officers and 118 enlisted men. It displaces more than 6,900 tons, is 360 feet long and can reach speeds in excess of 25 knots and attain depths of more than 800 feet.

Tucson is one of 17 nuclear-powered attack submarines homeported at Pearl Harbor.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (SW) Cynthia Clark

Chief Yeoman (SS) Darin Matrazzo, who was selected for chief petty officer during this deployment, greets his daughter and wife upon returning to Pearl Harbor. USS Tucson (SSN 770) returned from a six-month Western Pacific deployment Sept. 21.

Reflections of Pearl Harbor visit



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

Two ships from the Republic of Korea's Cruise Training Force 2006, destroyer Dae Jo Yeong (DDG 977) and logistics support ship Dae Cheong (AOE 58), arrived at Naval Station Pearl Harbor Sept. 21 for a brief port visit. While in Hawai'i, the Korean sailors visited the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) and met with members of the local Korean community.



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

The San Diego-based amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4) pulls into Pearl Harbor for a scheduled port visit on Sept. 22.

ESG 5 visits Hawai'i

MCSN Joshua Martin

USS Boxer Public Affairs

Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 5 commanded by Rear Adm. Mark W. Balmert pulled into Hawai'i on Sept. 22, the first stop on their 2006 Western Pacific deployment.

The purpose of the visit was to transfer command from Balmert to Capt. David Angood, commodore of Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 5.

The port visit also gave Sailors and Marines a chance to relax and enjoy

local culture before continuing with their deployment.

"It's traditional to stop in Hawai'i and these Sailors and Marines have earned it," said Boxer command master chief, CMDCM Shane Kamps. "This gives the crew a chance to visit a tropical paradise before we start doing the hard work ahead."

After Hawai'i, Boxer ESG will continue conducting operations in support of the global war on terrorism while transiting to the Persian Gulf.

"This ESG is a multifaceted group of ships. We

can do anything together," said Kamps. "Right now we are focused on the mission at hand, which is to go do what the Navy needs us to do and get the Marines on land."

Boxer ESG is comprised of Boxer, USS Dubuque (LPD 8), USS Comstock (LSD 45), USS Benfold (DDG 65), USS Howard (DDG 83) and USS Bunker Hill (CG 52). ESG 5 also includes PHIBRON 5, the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Coast Guard cutter Midgett (WHEC 726) and Canadian frigate HMCS Ottawa (FFH 341).



Navy, HECO clean up Pearl Harbor bike trail See page A-2



USS Port Royal pins six chief petty officers See page A-6



Salvor departs Pago Pago, American Samoa See page A-4



Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility, an engineering feat See page B-1

Navy, HECO partner to clean up Pearl Harbor bike trail

Terri Kojima

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Sailors from various commands teamed up with volunteers from Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc. (HECO) on Sept. 23 to trim mangroves and remove litter along the Pearl Harbor bike trail as a cooperative community service project.

The team of more than 40 volunteers had a hot, muddy workout as they successfully filled up more than 20 truckloads of mangrove cuttings and trash that littered the shoreline from Neal Blaisdell Park to HECO's Waiau Power Plant in Pearl City.

It all started when Susan Li of HECO contacted Navy Region Hawai'i in search of a community service opportunity with the Navy. According to Li, HECO is committed to helping out the community and partnering with others is one way they are able to do this.

"The Navy is our neighbor and working together provides a great opportunity to build a closer relationship," said Li.

Cleaning up a segment of the Pearl Harbor bike trail made good sense to both parties since both the Navy and HECO conduct operations near the trail used by Sailors, military families and local community members. This was the perfect opportunity to augment the Navy's mangrove cleanup effort along the Pearl Harbor shoreline that parallels the recreational trail.



U.S. Navy photo by Terri Kojima

Volunteers from Hawaiian Electric Company and the Navy worked together to remove mangrove cuttings during Saturday's cleanup of the shoreline next to the Pearl Harbor bike trail. The overgrown mangrove plants in some areas had completely obliterated the view of historic Pearl Harbor. Here, Steve Oppenheimer from HECO (left), Culinary Specialist 2nd Class John Nickens (center) and Navy Chaplain Fred Holcombe from Naval Station Pearl Harbor were among more than 40 volunteers who turned out to help create a safer and cleaner trail for military and civilian community members to enjoy.

Randy Miyashiro, Navy Region Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources program manager, explained that mangroves are highly regarded in many places for stabilizing shorelines and providing a nursery ground for various fish and crabs.

"But here in Hawai'i, mangrove is viewed as an invasive species," said Miyashiro. "The

plant thrives in Pearl Harbor and is notorious for replacing native marsh habitats for endangered water birds such as the Hawaiian stilt."

Along the Pearl Harbor shoreline, the overgrown mangroves have resulted in aesthetic problems. "Residents in the area have complained that the thick vegetation, some which have grown to heights

up to 20 feet tall, impede their view of historic Pearl Harbor," said Miyashiro. "The dense overgrowth provides a cover that appears to have attracted illegal dumping," he added.

Since May 2006, Sailors from Naval Station's 1st Lieutenant Division have been taking turns wading through the muddy waters, cutting, chopping and pulling the invasive

mangrove plants to the shore for disposal.

"Since our [Navy] team is comprised of Sailors in a transient status, we can count on having not more than six Sailors at any time to tackle this arduous task," said Lt. Maria Navarro who is in charge of Naval Station's mangrove removal team. "So we're extremely happy to have volunteers from the Navy and HECO partner with us today - the more help we get, the faster we'll be able to clear the overgrown mangroves."

With beads of perspiration covering his face and neck from on and offloading truck beds of green waste and litter, Culinary Specialist 1st Class William Lowe III summed up why many responded to the call for help.

"It's sweaty work, but you get a good workout and feel great about being able to help the community," said Lowe. "It's about doing our part to keep our environment clean," he added.

Workers pulled a rusted old lawn mower, a six-foot, soggy couch, a mangled playground slide, and more from entangled roots and branches.

"We've got dumpsters full of green waste and all kinds of trash that people have thrown out here," said Lowe.

Bill Evans, who also labored in the heat of the humid day, was especially glad to help out. His rotating work schedule at HECO made it impossible to join his company's previous service projects and he wanted

to do his part.

"I live around here and use this bike path so I'm happy to get out and help," said Evans.

Ronald Cox and his son were busy hauling truckloads of mangrove branches and trash to HECO's green and solid waste dumpsters. Cox, who manages HECO's strategic operations planning, said community service is part of our [HECO] work culture.

"This is a natural partnership where we [Navy and HECO] really can collaborate our community minded folks to make a difference in the community and Pearl Harbor," said Cox, who is a former commanding officer of Naval Station Pearl Harbor. "I think we can expect a continuing partnership."

The sound of buzzing chainsaws, whirring weed whackers and rakes scraping the trail continued through the morning and by midday, nearby residents had a clear view of the waters of Pearl Harbor.

Saturday's combined effort, hard work and sweat directly contributed to the community by creating a cleaner and safer environment. But a long stretch of trail remains to be cleared. The Naval Station team is set on trimming the mangroves along the Pearl Harbor shoreline from the Pacific Fleet Aiea boat landing to the Waipio Peninsula. When Navarro was asked when the project would be completed, she replied, "The chain saws will keep buzzing until the job is done."

Construction projects around Pearl Harbor

Installation appearance projects:

Navy Region Hawai'i has received funds for four installation appearance projects from Commander Naval Installations Command. Personnel may see tree removal work at the Makalapa VIP guest quarters and some landscaping efforts at the bachelor officer quarters (BOQ) complex and NAVPACMETOC/JTWC areas on Makalapa compound. In addition, there will be some tree trimming work fronting the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard headquarters building.

Waterline installation, NAVSTA Pearl Harbor:

Naval Facilities Command, Hawai'i installed a 30-inch waterline across North Road, just south of building 150, in early August and completed their work on Aug. 16. From Aug. 21-Sept. 8, it installed more waterline in the government vehicle parking lot on the south side of building 150. Starting Sept. 11, waterline installation continues across Ticonderoga Street and into the right-hand inbound lane of South Avenue. This effort is expected to reach Paul Hamilton Avenue by Oct. 7. Drivers should continue to be mindful of this installation

work and drive cautiously.

Repair wharves F12 and F13, Ford Island:

NOVA Corporation received the \$13.4M Ford Island wharves F12 and 13 repair project in September 2005. Construction began in August 2006, with estimated project completion in March 2007. Currently, the contractor is working on under deck pile demolition. Pile driving will commence in the near future.

Pacific Aviation Museum, Ford Island:

A groundbreaking ceremony for the \$8.5 million Pacific Aviation Museum project was held on March 21. The project involves a complete conversion of hangar 37, a 65-year old hangar totaling 32,500 sq ft, into a museum while preserving the historical appearance. The contract was awarded to Kiewit Construction in February 2006. So far, the exterior building painting and structural steel construction and waterline trenching is complete. Work has started on the building's interior. The project is scheduled to be finished by the end of October 2006. The Pacific Aviation Museum is planning their grand opening for Dec. 7.

NOAA PRC Ship Operations Facility, Ford Island:

In February 2006, the \$21 million National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Pacific Region Center (PRC) Ship Operations Facility project on Ford Island was awarded to Healy-Tibbitts. Work includes the structural repair of piers F10 and F9, complete restoration/renovation of building 184, repair of S-291 small boat pier and repair of S368 small boat ramp. Visible work currently underway is at wharves F-9/F-10 where the pier and deck are being repaired and excavation for electrical duct banks and sewer manhole installation are in progress. The estimated completion for the wharves is February 2007 with the rest of the project to be finished by June 2007.

Repave drive/replace pipe railing along fenceline, Makalapa compound:

This project started in Sept. 15 and is scheduled for completion on Nov. 16. It will repave Makalapa Drive from the parking lot of building 258 to the intersection of building 250 and adjacent parking areas.



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

Naval Facilities Command Hawai'i is installing a 30-inch waterline which is now continuing across Ticonderoga Street and into the right-hand inbound lane of South Avenue. This effort is expected to reach Paul Hamilton Avenue by Oct. 7. Drivers should continue to be mindful of this installation work and drive cautiously.

Scheduled road closures:

• Major road construction continues at Pearl Harbor at the intersection of Valkenburg Street and Warden Avenues (one lane open). Work is scheduled from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. through Sept. 30. In addition, the construction of a new stairway near building 414, which began in August, is scheduled to proceed until

the end of September.

• On Ford Island, contractor Fluor is expected to complete roads and site improvements by the end of September. This \$16 million project provides 2.5 miles of new main roads and roundabout, 1.5 miles of new secondary roadways, and the resurfacing of 1.5 miles of existing pavements to accommodate Ford Island development plans.

• On Ford Island, a partial road closure of Wasp

Boulevard, adjacent to buildings 130, 176 and 175 from Ranger Loop to Kamehameha Housing area, will occur for the installation of new underground electrical lines. The work began Sept. 25 and will continue approximately through Oct. 9. Access to buildings 130, 175 and 176 will be provided via detour from Wasp Boulevard onto concrete apron areas surrounding those buildings. Access to Kamehameha housing area will not be affected.

Hawaii Navy News Editorial

Don't be a victim to payday lenders

Atlantic Fleet Master Chief
Jackie DiRosa



Atlantic FLTCM
Jackie DiRosa

One of the biggest concerns the Navy is working on right now is protecting its Sailors from predatory lenders. As the Navy's concern grows, so does the problem. Do you know what a victim looks like to a payday lender? Well, chances are if you are military, under 25 and away from home for the first time, the victim looks a lot like you.

According to the Department of Defense's latest report on predatory lending, nearly 50 percent of enlisted service members are less than 25 years old, typically without a lot of experience in managing finances, and without a cushion of savings to help them through emergencies. They are on their own without the guidance or assistance of

family, with perhaps their first significant paycheck. They are paid regularly and are not likely to be downsized, out sourced or to quit their employment. And, the military makes it a priority for service members to pay their debts. And predatory lenders know this.

So what does a predatory lender look like? Frankly, your best friend - at least at first. They're readily available around most military bases and require little more than an avenue of repayment to loan you money. Please understand this - your financial ability to pay them

back is no concern to them. They don't care if they cause you more financial hardship. They want to secure income based on checks, bank accounts, car titles, tax refunds, etc. According to the report, 91 percent of the loans require the borrower to pay it off completely by the next payday, which most cannot afford to do. Now the lender has the borrower where they want him. The borrower must borrow again and pay a fee, or the lender will cash the uncovered check and the service member will face serious consequences. The average borrower pays back \$834 for a \$339 loan.

There are so many legitimate alternatives to get out of a financial problem than to go to one of these places. Your first step should be your command financial counselor.

I know that asking for financial help may feel uncomfortable at first, but things can only get more uncomfortable as you get deeper into debt. For instance, 80 percent of all denials and revocations of security clearances in the Navy last year was linked to financial reasons. For rates that depend on their clearances, financial health could be detrimental to your career.

Another resource is your Navy Legal Services Office (NLSO). I highly recommend taking your contracts - for car loans, house loans and financial loans - to someone with experience who can look at what you are getting into. There, someone looking out for your best interests can advise you before you sign something you'll regret.

And lastly, the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) is

a safety-net for Sailors with financial hardships. There, they can receive budget counseling and financial assistance to find their way out of whatever crisis they may be in. In 2005, NMCRS provided nearly \$36 million in no-interest loans or grants to more than 40,000 cases at an average of \$835 per case. No, they won't loan you money to get that brand new I-Pod you've been eyeing, but they can see to it that you're financially capable of saving enough to buy it yourself.

The bottom line - you must educate yourself and seek out help from reliable, trustworthy sources. Remember that your time and money is worth checking out the alternatives, as well as the small print. In the long run, you'll get more out of every payday - and feel more secure financially.

National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2006

A proclamation by the President of the United States of America

Americans are a diverse people, yet we are bound by common principles that teach us what it means to be American citizens. During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we recognize the many contributions of Hispanic Americans to our country.

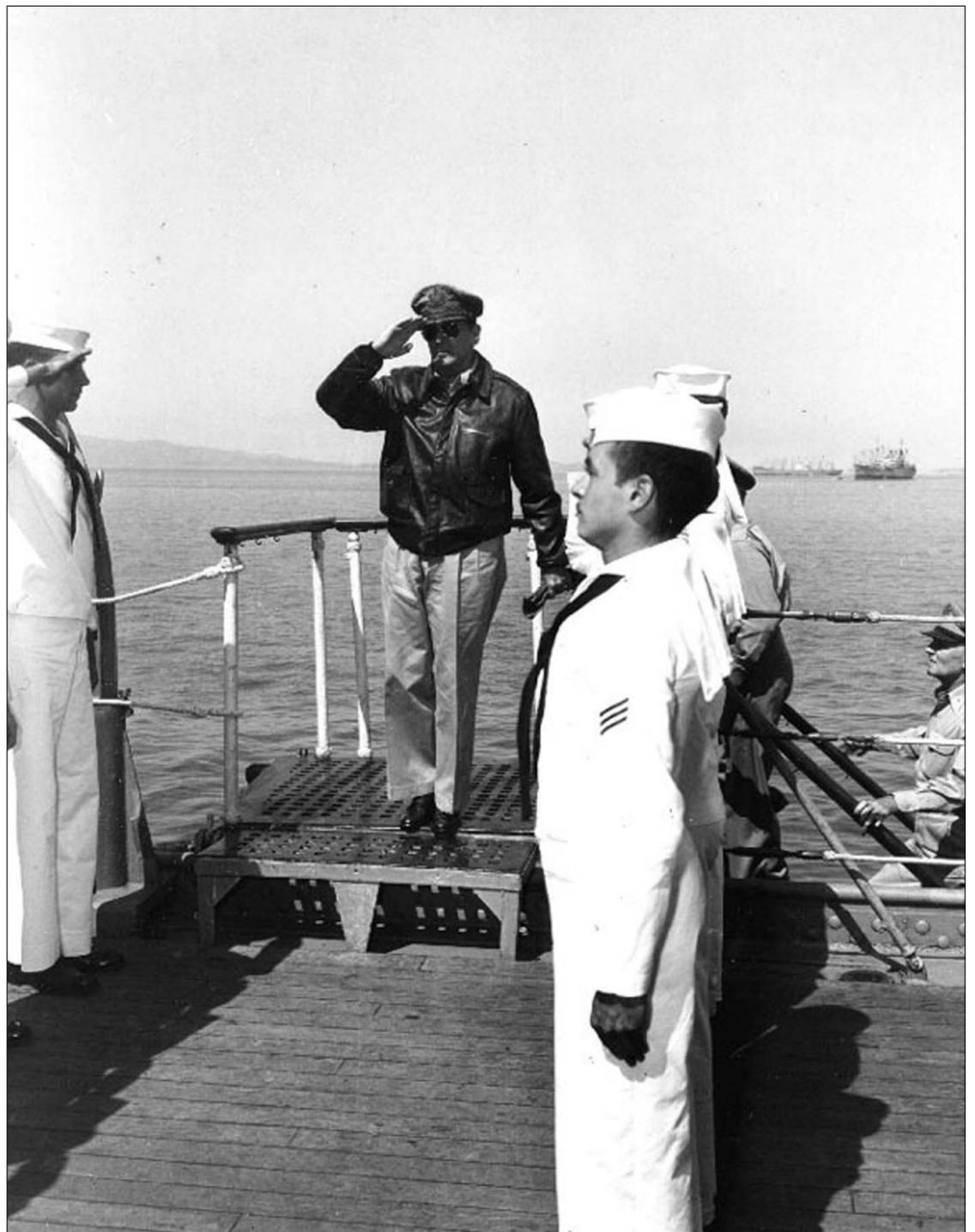
Through hard work, faith in God and a deep love of family, Hispanic Americans have pursued their dreams and contributed to the strength and vitality of our nation. They have enriched the American experience and excelled in business, law, politics, education, community service, the arts, science and many other fields. Hispanic entrepreneurs are also helping build a better, more hopeful future for all by creating jobs across our country. The number of Hispanic-owned businesses is growing at three times the national rate and increasing numbers of Hispanic Americans own their own homes. We continue to benefit from a rich Hispanic culture and we are a stronger country because of the talent and creativity of the many Hispanic Americans who have shaped our society.

Throughout our history, Hispanic Americans have also shown their devotion to our country in their military service. Citizens of Hispanic descent have fought in every war since our founding and have taken their rightful place as heroes in our nation's history. Today, Americans of Hispanic descent are serving in our Armed Forces with courage and honor, and their efforts are helping make America more secure and bringing freedom to people around the world.

As we celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, we applaud the accomplishments of Hispanic Americans and recognize the contributions they make to our great land. To honor the achievements of Hispanic Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 100-402, as amended, has authorized and requested the president to issue annually a proclamation designating Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 as "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

Now, therefore, I, George W. Bush, president of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, 2006, as National Hispanic Heritage Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities and programs.

General MacArthur boards USS Missouri



Official U.S. Navy photograph, now in the collections of the U.S. National Archives

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur boards USS Missouri (BB 63) off Inchon, Korea on Sept. 21, 1950.

STORY IDEAS?

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Hawaii Navy News

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New DoD requirements force MWR closures

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Recently, in an effort to comply with new Department of Defense (DoD) standards for fitness center staffing requirements, Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i (CNRH) announced that it would close the Kona Breeze Pool and Power Point Fitness Center located at Kalaeloa on Oct. 1. In an effort to possibly transfer the facilities to other operators, that closure date has been moved to Oct. 15. The Navy has been working with federal, state and local authorities who may be interested in assuming con-

trol of the Kona Breeze Pool and Power Point Fitness Center via a short-term lease with the Navy upon their Oct. 15 closing.

According to Lynn Tanaka, planning and programming officer, Naval Facilities Command Hawai'i, "The Navy is interested in making arrangements with new operators for the current facilities who could provide continued operations of the fitness center and pool with short term leases for the benefit of the local community."

Staffing requirements necessitated the need to consolidate the Navy's fitness facilities.

"The Department of Defense standard for fitness center staffing requirements have changed," explained Cheryl Camp, director of Morale, Welfare and Recreation for CNRH. "Military-run fitness centers are now required to have a minimum of two staff members on duty at all times. Unfortunately, our funds were not increased to accommodate this requirement and its higher cost."

These changes led CNRH to review how it could meet these new requirements at its multiple fitness facilities across Oahu with its available funds. In order to comply with the new DoD stan-

dards, CNRH's decision was to modify two smaller facilities and close the Kona Breeze Pool and Power Point Fitness Center.

"One of the things we did before making this decision was look at the volume of users at our facilities and at Kona Breeze and Power Point. While they may have appeared busy at times, these facilities were actually not being used anywhere near capacity. When we factored in annual building, energy and maintenance expenses above our labor, it made sense to consolidate our people and funds into our other facilities," Camp said.

"I understand that local

residents of Kalaeloa find the facilities' location very convenient and may be disappointed by our decision, but the Navy must act responsibly with the funds available to us - their tax dollars. This solution ensures we were in DoD compliance and also ensured that our employees working at these facilities kept their jobs," continued Camp.

"The pool and gym are located on what was the former Barbers Point Naval Air Station which has been non-operational since 1999," explained Lt. Barbara Mertz, public affairs officer for Navy Region Hawai'i. "Fortunately, the Navy alone operates eight

other pools and seven other fitness centers within a reasonable distance. These multiple facilities give us the capacity to serve all of those who have been currently using the Kalaeloa facilities. Additionally, current Kalaeloa customers also have the option of using the multiple fitness centers and pool facilities offered by the other military service branches on Oahu."

CNRH will continue to work closely with the Hawai'i Community Development Authority, the local re-development authority for Kalaeloa, and keep them informed of any progress.

Clothesline Project...abuse awareness



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

Delana Carter from the Domestic Violence Clearing House and legal hotline in Honolulu views T-shirts which were contributed to the Clothesline Project. The shirts were displayed during a ceremony held Sept. 25 at Fleet and Family Support Center at Pearl Harbor for a Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation signing. Women at local civilian shelters made the shirts in an attempt to share their feelings and bring awareness to the issue of violence against women. The Clothesline Project is a national campaign that was started in 1990 by a women's coalition on Cape Cod, Mass. to develop a domestic violence awareness program.

Salvor departs Pago Pago, American Samoa

Lt. j.g. Shannon Revell

USS Salvor (ARS-52)

After a brief port visit to the island of Tutuila, American Samoa - the first ever visit to the island for the ship - USS Salvor (ARS 52) departed Sept. 22 for her homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i.

Salvor arrived in American Samoa on Sept. 19, just after crossing the International Date Line, but still 2,600 miles southwest of Hawai'i. The expansive Pacific Ocean isolates the islands of American Samoa from other chains, but its relative proximity to Fiji made it a good final stop for Salvor before she returns to Pearl Harbor after completing a five-month deployment.

Salvor Sailors had the rare opportunity to explore Pago Pago's natural beauty and Polynesian culture. Seaman Jessica Summers was excited to have a little taste of American culture, "After all this time away from home, I was pleased to use American money, eat fast food and go bowling. But there was so much more, too. We definitely were not home and I have some more exotic adventures to take back."

For the crew, this port visit was the last in a deployment full of rarely visited locations. In Pago Pago the crew headed to the sea for surfing and

snorkeling, attended a traditional feast cooked over hot rocks, and watched fire dancers perform. Pago Pago provided the crew great outdoor activities, a new cultural experience, and is an example of how the Navy affords its Sailors a chance to see the world and experience other cultures.

Lt. Cmdr. Colby Howard, commanding officer of Salvor, said, "The crew really enjoyed American Samoa. The people were very friendly and the sunny days made every outside activity, from golf to snorkeling, beautiful."

American Samoa is a little-known American treasure, but Salvor's crew was able to experience the rich culture of the island while also providing great representation for the U.S. Navy.

Senior Chief Navy Diver Michael Moser, the senior enlisted advisor, said he was impressed by the friendliness of the people of American Samoa. "I had heard that Samoans are some of the friendliest people on earth and it turned out to be true. One of the villages had a rustic beachside hut that welcomed us. They invited us to their feast, played traditional music, taught us weaving, and entertained us with island lore."

Salvor is returning from a five-month deployment to Southeast Asia as part of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2006.

Pearl Harbor Highlights



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

A flutist onboard the destroyer Dae Jo Yeong (DDG 977) plays along with the ship's band following the arrival of two ships of the Republic of Korea's Cruise Training Force 2006. The destroyer and the logistics support ship Dae Cheong (AOE 58) arrived at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 21 for a brief port visit. While in Hawai'i, the Korean sailors visited the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) and met with members of the local Korean community.



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

Sailors from the Republic of Korea's Cruise Training Force 2006, waved as they arrived at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 21 for a brief port visit.



U.S. Navy photo by MCI (SW) Cynthia Clark

The staff of Commander, Submarine Squadron Seven, greets the submarine, USS Tucson (SSN 770) as it pulls into its berth at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 21, after a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific.



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

Rear Adm. T.G. Alexander, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, signed a Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation at a ceremony held Sept. 25 at the Fleet and Family Support Center at Pearl Harbor. During the event, Alexander was presented with certificates of recognition from the Hawai'i State Legislature and the Senate for the Navy's contribution to the prevention of domestic abuse. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



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

A Sailor from USS Tucson (SSN 770) embraces his wife and child after returning from a six-month Western Pacific deployment on Sept. 21.

The sun also sets...requiem for the Sea King

MC2 (SW/AW) Johnny Michael

Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai

After more than four decades of U.S. Navy helicopter operations, Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) Kauai bid farewell to the last of its military helicopters, the UH-3H Sea King known as Outrider 70.

The H model Sea Kings had been in service at PMRF for more than a decade, replacing the A model in 1996. PMRF follows a Navy-wide effort to remove the aging aircraft from the inventory and represents one of the last locations to have them still in service.

The process of disestablishing aircraft at commands is known as "sundowning" and in the case of the Sea Kings at PMRF, this has been a more difficult and lengthy "sunset" than anyone could have anticipated.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW/AW) Johnny Michael

Flight crew and flight line personnel gather after Outrider 70 touches down from its final flight at Pacific Missile Range Facility.

The year spanning the initial proposed departure of the helicopters until now also marked one of the busiest in the range's history. Thanks to hard work, long hours and the addition of several augmentees, PMRF supported a vast array of operations throughout the year, including the 2006 Rim of the Pacific

(RIMPAC) exercise.

"Our team did a fantastic job despite the delays and challenges," said Capt. Mark Darrrah, PMRF commanding officer. "I couldn't be prouder of their service."

Outrider 70 will serve as a static display at PMRF, a reminder of an era of excellence in naval aviation.

Navy celebrates Hispanic Heritage

Joy Samsel

Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

The Navy is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month through Oct. 15. This year's theme is "Hispanic Americans: Our rich cultures contributing to America's future" and will feature celebrations throughout the fleet.

The tradition of observing Hispanic Heritage began Sept. 17, 1968 when President Lyndon B. Johnson designated a week in mid-September as National Hispanic Heritage Week. Twenty years later in 1988, President Ronald Reagan extended that week to a month-long observance.

"Since before the United States was a sovereign nation, people of Hispanic descent have supported and defended this country's ideal of freedom and government of the people and by the people," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr. "In 1779 Jorge Farragut, a seaman born on the Spanish island of Minorca, joined the South Carolina Navy and fought at the battle of Savannah and at the second defense of Charleston. Farragut is thought to be one of the first Hispanic Revolutionary War heroes."

Service to this nation by Hispanic Americans continues strongly today. According to the most recent census report, there are more than 42 million people in the United States who are of Hispanic origin. Of these, more than 43,000 are Sailors and civilians serving with the U.S. Navy. "Hispanics were a part of this land long before

the founding of this nation and continue to be an integral part of America and the Navy," said Vice Adm. Kevin Moran, commander, Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) and deputy chief of naval personnel (CNP). "Hispanics represent 7.7 percent of the active duty forces and 5.5 percent of the reserve forces today and hold 39 Medals of Honor. There are approximately 129,000 Hispanics serving on active duty with honor at all levels in Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Many have paid the ultimate price."

Navy Administration Message (NAVADMIN) 244/06 encourages all Navy commands to increase their knowledge and awareness of Hispanic culture and contributions by celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month through programs, exhibits, publications and participation in military and community events recognizing the diversity of our American heritage. Commands are also encouraged to support the Association of Naval Services Officers (ANSO), which recently completed 25 years of service to the Navy and its Hispanic community of officers, enlisted and civilians. Information on ANSO is available at their Web site.

The Department of Defense will observe Hispanic Heritage Month with a luncheon and awards ceremony at the Hispanic Engineers National Achievement Awards Corporation (HENAAC) Conference on Oct. 5-8 in Anaheim, Calif.

More information on diversity conferences, events and observances is available at the Navy diversity Web site www.npc.navy.mil/command-support/diversity/.

USS Port Royal pins six chief petty officers

Ensign Rachael Pitchford

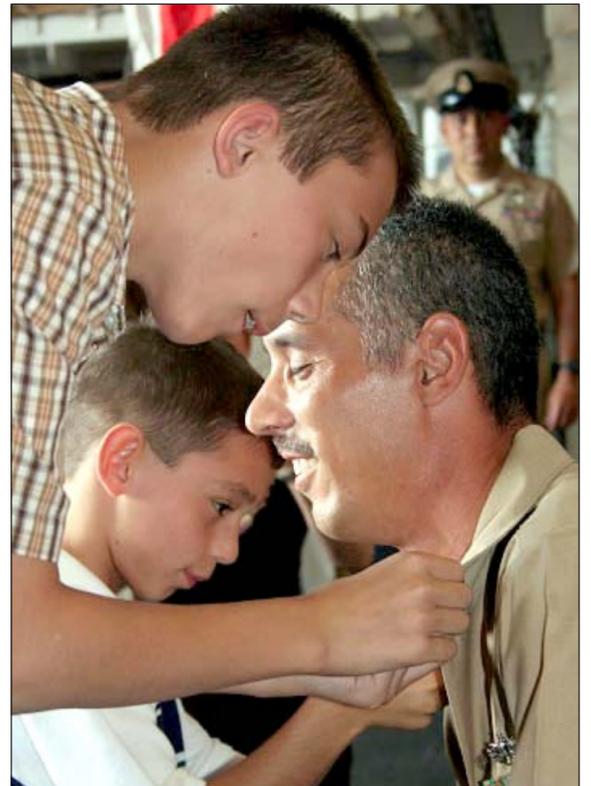
USS Port Royal (CG 73) Public Affairs

Six USS Port Royal (CG 73) Sailors proudly stood before friends, families and shipmates on Sept. 15 to receive gold anchors and the title of chief petty officer (CPO). Wearing crisp new khaki uniforms, the six CPO selectees awaited their turn to join "the fraternity of chiefs" and accept greater responsibility "beyond the call of printed assignment."

In the weeks leading up to receiving their anchors, chief selectees Jesse Babb, Matthew Blanton, William Eilmes, Eric Hubbell, Dean Malibiran and Michael Matthews trained with the chiefs' mess to learn the responsibilities of a chief petty officer.

Throughout the transition, experienced chiefs played the roles of teachers and mentors as they provided guidance to the selectees. "No other service takes the promotion from E-6 to E-7 as seriously as the Navy does," stated Command Master Chief Emiel S. Nicholson during the pinning ceremony. "The rank of chief petty officer has unique responsibilities that aren't written in any books. Not only are we expected to be the experts, we are also responsible to our junior Sailors, enlisted and officers alike, in order to mold them into future leaders."

During the ceremony, family members and special guests pinned two gold-fouled anchors onto the collars of each new CPO's uniform.



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Rachael Pitchford

Chief Petty Officer William Eilmes is pinned with his chief's anchors by his sons during the Sept. 15th pinning ceremony.

Afterward, fellow chiefs placed combination covers upon the heads of the new CPOs. With the gold anchors, the new chiefs embody the CPO Creed that requires them to be "a fountain of wisdom, the ambassador of goodwill and the authority in personnel relations as well as technical application."

In his remarks to the newly-pinned CPOs, Commanding Officer David Adler emphasized the importance of the role of a chief in Navy. "You will enjoy a measure of instant credibility just because you are the chief," explained Adler, "but don't forget...honesty and humility are valuable compasses for navigating through life - aboard ship or ashore."

Biggs receives achievement award

Navy Region Hawai'i
Public Affairs

Linda Biggs, public safety department supervisory management analyst and security support services supervisor for Navy Region Hawai'i, was presented with an outstanding individual achievement award from the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Donald C. Winter, on Sept. 14 in Washington, D.C.

Biggs was cited for "Individual Achievement in the Prevention of Private Motor Vehicle Mishaps" on Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

She was credited for her role in drastically reducing the number of repeat traffic offenders, from seat belt infractions to DUIs [driving under the influence], on Pearl Harbor Naval Base.

When sharing Biggs' accomplishments, Thomas A. Rollow, deputy assistant secretary of the Navy (safety), quoted from the Inspector General's Office report that "facing Mrs. Biggs in traffic court was like facing your mother and having to explain what you did wrong."



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Christening of Freedom (LCS 1)



The nation's first littoral combat ship, Freedom (LCS 1) – the inaugural ship in an entirely new class of U.S. Navy surface warships – prepares to make a side launch during her christening at the Marinette Marine shipyard on Sept. 23.

O'Kane (DDG 77), Carrier Strike Group 3 lead the way in ASW training

Ensign Thomas Scazzafavo

USS O'Kane (DDG 77) Public Affairs

USS O'Kane (DDG 77) entered the history books on Sept. 17 as part of Carrier Strike Group (CSG) Three, the first Pacific Coast-based Carrier Strike Group to complete the integrated anti-submarine warfare (ASW) course, phase two (IAC II) while underway.

Under the direction of Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Command, Information Analysis Center (IAC) was originally designed to be a three-

day classroom course, but evolved into a week-long seminar followed by a five-day at-sea training evolution, which was conducted off the coast of southern California.

The goal of IAC II is to enhance the strike group's interoperability and to conduct ASW in a real-world environment. "One of the most tactically and cost effective tools of developing nations to control the littorals [coastal waters] and shipping lanes is the submarine. During IAC II, CSG Three was able to hone its abilities to amass air, surface, and sub-surface threats against a prevailing threat," said Ensign Christopher Beck, O'Kane's

assistant weapons officer.

Under the command of Commander, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 21, the units of CSG 3 were tactically employed to search, detect, track and prosecute the submarine threat by combining their ASW capabilities to increase their effectiveness to counter the submarine threat. Optimum use of a wide array of sensors allowed CSG Three to bring the fight to the submarine prior to the submarine becoming a threat to the strike group.

"The at-sea phase of IAC was a perfect opportunity for O'Kane to practice the very important mission

area of anti-submarine warfare," said Cmdr. James J. Duke Jr., O'Kane's commanding officer. "Classroom instruction and simulators are very useful in preparation, but nothing can duplicate being at sea with all of the other pieces that come into play. With each event in the exercise, O'Kane's team got better and better. We were pleased to have the opportunity to get such realistic training."

IAC II participants included U.S. and Swedish air, surface, and sub-surface commands, including the units of CSG Three, the Swedish submarine HSWMS Gotland, and Fixed-Wing Patrol Squadrons 40 and 47.

CSG 3 is composed of USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), USS Key West (SSN 722) and USS O'Kane (DDG 77), homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, USS Antietam (CG 54), USS Preble (DDG 88), USNS Bridge (AOE 10) and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) Nine.

Homeported at Pearl Harbor since 1999, O'Kane is the 27th ship in the Arleigh Burke-class of guided missile destroyers.

The ship is currently underway in the southern California operating areas as part of Carrier Strike Group 3's Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX).