

Happy 23<sup>rd</sup> Birthday U.S. Navy

# Hawai'i News

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## Navy Marine Golf Course reopens Oct. 14

Sara Mizushima

Navy Region Hawai'i  
Community Support  
Programs, Marketing

On Saturday, all 18 holes will reopen at the Navy-Marine Golf Course near Naval Station Pearl Harbor. All eligible patrons will be able to experience a whole new golfing experience.

"The Navy-Marine Golf Course upgrades will provide our patrons with a much improved course to play, specifically with the new irrigation system," said Jeff Harris, marketing director for Fleet and Family Readiness for Navy Region Hawai'i.

Prior to the renovation, the golf course struggled with its manual irrigation system. Since parts of the irrigation were 50 to 60 years old, pipes were rusted

and breaking daily. Recognizing that a good irrigation system is vital to any golf course, Navy officials decided to replace the irrigation system with the most modernized automatic irrigation system in the state.

Since nine holes needed to be shut down at a time during this project, explorations were conducted into other renovations that could be addressed at the same time. What started out as an irrigation replacement project soon turned into nearly a full renovation of the course.

The newly-replaced irrigation system now boasts about 15 miles of pipe and more than 1,500 sprinkler heads. The system operates from one pump, saving water, electricity and manpower. A newly specialized strain of grass for putting

greens called TifEagle Bermuda has been planted and the surrounds and tees now have Princess 77 grass, a hybrid Bermuda.

The new mounding of the course has created a more interesting and challenging game for each player. Virtually every hole has been upgraded and modernized, but the par has not changed. The course starts with a dogleg right going onto a vast green, with a white sand bunker nearby. The second hole begins on a raised tee where golfers will hit to a fairway which has been widened and lengthened.

New bunkers have been fashioned using new, light-colored, silica-based natural beach sand. A new three million gallon lake, complete with colorful koi and a billowing fountain, has been constructed on the

number seven hole where the entire fairway was lowered nearly eight feet.

A 40-stall driving range is also open and the golf course is currently working on a party patio that will provide an open-air setting for any get-together.

"We have done a lot of work and the course underwent extensive renovations. Things are looking very good, but like a patient recovering from surgery, the healing process will take awhile. However, we're excited and looking forward to showing off the new look of the course to our patrons," said Todd Nicely, golf program director.

Tee times at the golf course begin daily at 7:30 a.m. and the pro shop is open every day from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 471-0348.



U.S. Navy photo

On Saturday, all 18 holes will reopen at the Navy-Marine Golf Course near Naval Station Pearl Harbor. All eligible patrons will be able to experience a whole new golfing experience.

## Stoner relieves Wortman as commanding officer of USS Chicago

Story and photo by  
MCI (SW) Cynthia Clark

Commander Submarine Force U.S.  
Pacific Fleet Public Affairs Office

Cmdr. Rick Stoner relieved Cmdr. Rich Wortman as commanding officer of the submarine USS Chicago (SSN 721) in a ceremony Oct. 5 on the pier at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

Capt. Joseph Tofalo, commander, Submarine Squadron One, speaker at the event, likened the hard, multifaceted job of a submarine commanding officer to a "father, brother, coach, pastor, counselor, judge, jury, dictator and friend."

"This is not easy," he said. "But the rewards of command are great; it is a job without equal. It can carry out many different kinds of missions — guided missile strike, anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, insertion of SEALs [sea, air, land] and other special forces behind enemy lines, and intelligence collection. A nuclear-powered submarine commanding officer must be the master of all these."

Tofalo also had one final message for Wortman before he goes on to his next assignment as deputy commander, Submarine Squadron One, also stationed at Pearl Harbor.

"[Your tour] stands as a textbook example of how to adapt and overcome," said Tofalo. "In an era of fiscal constraints and doing more with less, all of us would do well to take a page or two from USS Chicago's playbook. Skipper, on behalf of the Navy, the nation and everyone gathered here today, I congratulate you on a job very well done. You have led your crew well and your performance has been superb."

Tofalo then presented Wortman with his second Meritorious Service Medal, but not before welcoming Stoner to the ranks of commanding officer.

"I know you are ready to hit the decks running," he said. "No matter what you go on to do in the Navy, this is the job you will always remember most. It is an awesome responsibility, but you bring impressive credentials of past success and I know you are up to the challenge."

During Wortman's tour as commanding officer, he brought Chicago on a 12-month maintenance period, extend-



Cmdr. Rick Stoner relieved Cmdr. Rich Wortman as commanding officer of the submarine USS Chicago (SSN 721) in a ceremony Oct. 5, at Pearl Harbor Naval Station.

ed from four, only to be back into the yards for three more months to fix an unexpected problem a month later. In spite of only four months of underway time in two years, Chicago completed a "successful" Western Pacific deployment.

Wortman thanked the Chicago chief's mess and wardroom for overcoming those obstacles and "bring the ship back to life." He also wanted his crew to know their work was not over upon his departure.

"You have only begun to scratch the surface of your full potential," he said. "The door of success is wide open for you. I challenge you to step through. I am a better man for being your commanding officer and could not be prouder of you all."

While assuming command of Chicago, Stoner told his new crew he also wouldn't accept any less.

"To the Chicago officers and crew, I pledge my unwavering dedication and support to you as we make Chicago the best that it can be," he said. "We as Sailors have chosen a life of service. I ask for your commitment and dedication as we prepare Chicago to answer our nation's call to fight the global war on terrorism, defend our freedoms and meet any other challenges that face us in the future. I know each of you are up to this challenge."

Wortman previously served as deputy executive assistant to Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. His other sea tours include USS Olympia (SSN 717), USS Charlotte (SSN 766) and USS Kentucky (SSN 737). He is a 1987 graduate of Duke University.

## Navy to offer new initiatives to personnel serving as IAs

Chief of Naval Personnel  
Public Affairs

The Navy recently announced approval of several initiatives aimed at rewarding Sailors who serve in designated combat zones.

Sailors who serve in individual augmentee (IA) billets are now eligible for several new benefits, such as points toward advancement and preferred duty location, following release of NAVADMIN 273/06.

There are approximately 11,000 Sailors serving on the ground in the Central Command area of responsibility (CENTCOM AOR). More than 4,000 of those are serving on the ground in Iraq.

"We need to do everything we can to take care of our Sailors and their families while they are doing this very important mission," said Vice Adm. John C. Harvey Jr., chief of naval personnel. "Every opportunity needs to be taken to make this assignment a positive one for their careers and not a hindrance."

Specific initiatives vary depending on location and length of tour, but can include awarding points toward advancement for enlisted personnel, advancement exam flexibility for Sailors in designated combat areas, duty preference for next shore assignment, and continuation or suspension of assigned sea or shore duty clock during IA assignment.

In addition, IA tour lengths will continue to be addressed. For instance, some assignments to Djibouti as part of Joint Task Force Horn of Africa (JTF-HOA) will be shortened to six months from a year for augmentee personnel.

Notification timelines for IAs are continuing to increase. All IAs in the last two months were given greater than 30 days notice, with 68 percent being given greater than 45 days notice. The new target goal for notification is 60 days to fill recurring requirements.



U.S. Navy photo by MCI Jackey Bratt

Sailors man their M-16A1s and sit a vigilant watch as they conduct convoy exercises during the Navy's Individual Augmentee Combat Training course at Fort Jackson, S.C. The fast paced, two-week course is instructed by Army drill sergeants and designed to provide Sailors with basic combat skills training prior to being deployed as individual augmentees, mostly to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR).

"IA requirements are not going to go away," said Harvey. "We need to embrace this mission, make use of our volunteers, and provide them and their families with the support they deserve while they are deployed away from home."

The new initiatives will award two points toward advancement for an IA serving in a designated combat zone (Iraq, Afghanistan, HOA) for a period greater than

179 days. Advancement exam flexibility is also available for IAs. Personnel deploying to one of these billets may take their exam up to two months early or one month late to fit around their tour. However, no Sailor will be required to take an exam while they are serving in a designated combat zone. Specifics on these and the rest of the IA initiatives can be found in NAVADMIN 273/06.



"Make a Difference" everyday

See page A-2



Hurricane awareness: Plan ahead

See page A-4



MDSU One CWO's get pinned

See page A-6



Preventing cooking fires

See page B-1

# School volunteers 'make a difference' every day

Kathy Wooldridge

Navy Region Hawai'i School  
Liaison Officer

In Hawai'i, 41 Navy commands make a difference year-round through their participation in the Navy's Community Service Personal Excellence Partnership Program, commonly called the "Adopt-a-School" program. These 41 commands on Oahu and Kauai have committed to partnerships with 49 public elementary, middle and high schools. Each partnership is unique, matching the needs of the individual schools with the abilities and availability of their Navy partners.

The volunteers assist schools throughout the year in a number of ways. Navy volunteers read to schoolchildren and have the children read to them. Sailors coach students for school complex track meets, cheer students on during fun runs, and play pick-up basketball games during recess.

They mentor at-risk youth, tutor for Math Olympiad competitions and conduct cooking classes. Sailors paint teacher workrooms, install white boards in classrooms and build sidewalks on school campuses. Drug Free assemblies are led by Navy volunteers and supported by Navy bands and drug-sniffing dogs. Volunteers set up equipment for family fun days, power-wash sidewalks and buildings and participate in school community council meetings.

School children have enjoyed ship tours, courtesy of their Navy partners, and educators have been escorted on Naval Station Pearl Harbor tours. Navy volunteers affect all lev-

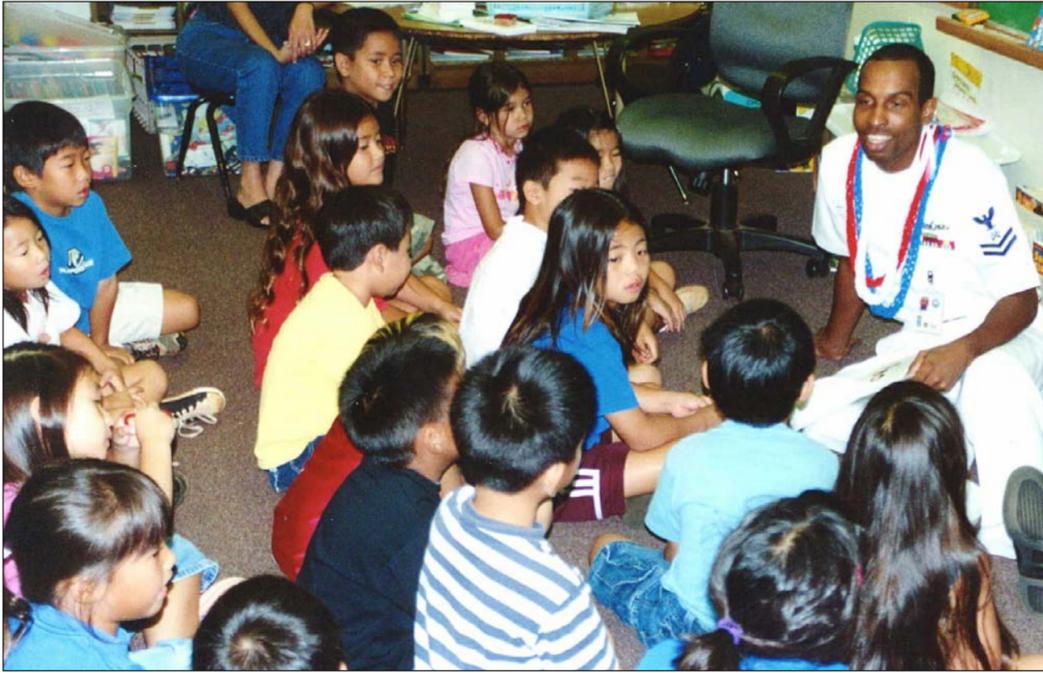


Photo by James Murray

A FISC Sailor talks and reads with Momilani students. Forty-one Navy commands make a difference year-round through their participation in the Navy's Community Service Personal Excellence Partnership Program, commonly called the "Adopt-a-School" program. These 41 commands on Oahu and Kauai have committed to partnerships with 49 public elementary, middle and high schools.

els of the public schools they have adopted: they assist administrators and staff with campus projects, help teachers in the classroom, and tutor, talk with and coach students. They proudly share their Navy careers with students and staff curious about Navy life. And, they do this all year long.

Doreen Higa, Momilani Elementary School principal, talked about her school's seven-year partnership with Fleet Industrial Supply Center (FISC PH) Pearl Harbor. "This is a long proven partnership that our school and community has been fortunate to experience. This partnership not only brings valuable

personnel and other resources to our school but most importantly who these men and women represent," she explained.

"When active duty personnel show up in their uniforms, the message I am proud to be an American' sings loud and clear. The students, faculty and staff are gently reminded of the

service these brave people provide to keep our country free. We could not teach this concept any better. FISC giving presence is an inspiration to all," continued Higa.

"Our sixth graders know of this giving through volunteerism from the wonderful men and women in the Navy since they were kindergartners. FISC PH is an important part of Momilani's successes. We are grateful," said Higa.

Chief Culinary Specialist Adeline Lopes is Naval Station Pearl Harbor's coordinator for its partnership with Admiral Arthur W. Radford High School. "Sailors who volunteer for any community volunteer project in connection with Radford High School enjoy the fact that they are able to interact with not only students from the school, but also families from the community," said Lopes.

Senior Chief Navy Counselor John Wood knows that the work his volunteers from Pacific Fleet Headquarters do throughout the school year makes a difference to the school children. Pacific Fleet volunteers mentor and tutor those students with the greatest need; as a result of their continual commitment to these children, Kalihi Elementary School met the state's adequate yearly progress standards under No Child Left Behind.

"I felt great about that and passed it on to the volunteers. The volunteers are making the school better, the kids better, and the school is making the grade," said Wood.

These 49 partnerships prove that their commitment to each other every day is "making a difference" in Hawai'i.

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

# Hawaii Navy News Editorial

## Are you a hard or soft target for crime?

**Pacific Fleet Master Chief(SS/SW) R.D. West**

Hoo-yah, Warriors. Fleet Thompson covered identity theft in a recent article and I encourage you to read it. I would like to follow along the same lines about personal and home security – whether you live in town or in military or public-private venture (PPV) housing. Keeping a home secure and safe can be a challenge.

The outstanding security professionals at Navy Region Hawai'i, with added support from Pacific leadership and the Honolulu Police Department, are aggressively addressing the problem of home/community security, but let's face it – they can do only so much.

While we continue to improve security efforts, we all know it's not feasible to make housing areas 100 percent secure. I wish it were.

Since wishing doesn't work, what's the answer?

You are. I am. We all are. It's a fact that thieves go for the easy targets rather than the challenge of a well-protected target. So it's up to us to help our civilian police and Navy security forces by making sure we offer only the hardest possible targets for crime.

So how do we do this? A lot of it is common-sense approaches to home and personal security and I'll talk about that in just a second. But one of the most impor-



FLTCM(SS/SW) R.D. West

And that's the person or home that thieves live for. I ask you all to remember that bad things can happen to any of us, but we can reduce that risk by taking some appropriate measures.

Now the security professionals over at the Navy Region Hawai'i Security Department are very serious about helping you protect yourselves from crime, so they gave me some great information I'd like to share.

First off, let's look at numero uno – yourself. We all need to look after ourselves and our families to make sure we are not making either a target.

I know this sounds like a port visit safety brief, but bear with me. Foreign port or here at home, sadly, there are bad people everywhere. Security says this is what you can do to keep yourself safe:

- If you think something is wrong, or if a situation seems dangerous, you are probably right – get out of there.

- Don't assume suspicious people, cars or situations are "OK." If you see a policeman or security

guard, mention it. Record the license plate number and take a mental picture.

- If you're being followed on foot, change direction or cross the street and vary your pace. If you're being followed in a car, turn and drive the other way.

- Avoid dangerous places and situations. Don't invite trouble. Use good judgment about where you go, what you do and what time you do it.

Next we need to look at how we are protecting the home, which also protects us as well.

According to the crime statistics, most break-ins are crimes of opportunity. They usually occur during the day and are committed by teenagers. The best opportunity is the vacant home since it provides an inviting target.

The key is to think like a burglar. Most are looking for something quick and easy. Navy Region Hawai'i Security offers these tips to help you prevent being robbed:

- Keep your bushes and shrubs trimmed and off the windows. A huge shrub providing cover against your windows is a burglar's welcome mat.

- Organize and/or participate in a neighborhood watch. Local police can help you and those signs around the neighborhood tell potential thieves your neighbors are watching.

- Post a monitored security system sign in your yard whether you have one or not or a "beware of dog" sign visible at your home

(even if you don't have a dog). A burglar looking for an opportunity will be less likely to take the chance even if you're bluffing.

- Motion-activated floodlights strategically placed are a great investment and most home improvement stores offer them and motion sensors at fairly reasonable prices.

- Get solid deadbolts and door peepholes. Don't rely on a little chain to keep someone out. A good shove with someone's full body weight will most likely trump the chain.

- Make sure all the external lights are working, such as your porch lights, streetlights, etc.

- Make sure you are home – even if you aren't. Put your lights on random timers, have a trusted neighbor collect mail and newspapers if you can't get them stopped, have a neighborhood kid take care of the lawn, anything to keep your home looking "lived in."

- If you are in military or PPV housing, stay in touch through Web sites or town meetings. The Hawai'i PPV Web site is [www.omcliving.com/](http://www.omcliving.com/).

- Don't leave items visible in your vehicles and ensure home valuables (both inside and out) are locked up. Lock your home and car door even if you're only going to be away for a moment.

The Naval Safety Center has checklists and tips to help, so I strongly recommend you take the time to review them and give your home a good security review.

As a service to our Sailors, Navy Region Hawai'i Security personnel will also help you review your home's security status. If you would like a security professional to review your home's security, contact Chief Master-At-Arms Tangela Arnold at 474-6192 and schedule the review. Because of demand, you might get Chief Arnold's voice mail, but she asks that you leave her a message and she will schedule you into her calendar and give you a call back.

Now with all that said, it is still possible to find yourself a victim. No security is perfect. Protect yourself by having all the records and photos you'll need to settle up with the insurance company.

Additionally, you can mark your valuables with an engraver or ultraviolet marker. If the police recover any of your possessions, the fact that they are clearly marked may be useful evidence.

There are many other suggestions ranging from the very expensive to the do-it-yourself. You may already be using some. The main point is personal security is a partnership with you, the Navy and local police to keep everyone safe – on liberty or at home.

I ask you all to help out by doing your part. Rest assured that Navy leadership is taking a hard look to ensure our neighborhoods are safe. So stay secure and be vigilant. Help each other!

Commentary

## Chapel Pennant

### A season of change

**Lt. Cmdr. David Stroud, CHC, USN**

*Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel*

Fall is one of my favorite times of year. I enjoy wearing flannel shirts and raking piles of leaves into which my daughter can jump. In Hawai'i, however, if it weren't for football on TV it would be hard to tell that fall had begun. When I talk to my family in Detroit, I hear about the weather getting cooler and the leaves changing on the trees. Here in Hawai'i, because the weather is so nice year round, the change of season is much more difficult – if not impossible – to perceive.

The changes in our lives can be very similar. Often the changes are very hard to perceive. I am reminded of the joke about the old married couple who were driving in their car and saw a teenage couple in the car ahead. The two teens were sitting next to one another in the front seat, the boy's arm around his girlfriend. The older couple sat apart, next to the car doors. The old woman turned to her husband and said, "What happened to us? We used to be in love like that." The man turned to his wife and replied, "I don't know, but I haven't moved." When things occur slowly, over time, it is hard to know what has happened.

It is important for each of us to take some time to take a look at our lives and to see what has changed. We need to ask ourselves if we are doing things the way we want them to be done. Are we working as hard as we used to? Do we show our spouses the love we once did? Are we spending

the time with our kids we said we would spend once the big project was finished? Do we call our parents as much as we used to? We need to ask ourselves questions like these to get some bearing on where our lives are going and what we need to do to change our course to the direction in which we wish to go.

We need to do the same with our relationship with God. It is easy to get away from doing the things that make our relationship with Him flourish. In the book of Revelation, we read about some churches that were moving away from God instead of toward him and much of their problems were not perceived because they happened gradually. God said to them, "Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen: Repent and do the things you did at first." (Revelation 2:4-5)

This fall, think about the change of seasons in your life. Think about what you want your life to be like and what needs to happen to get there. Think about the God that loves you and wants to have a relationship with you. Turn toward Him and experience the love and peace that he has for you. Don't wait another season, you might not notice when it comes.

## Tribute to Nimitz and Medal of Honor vets



Parade for Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz and Medal of Honor veterans, New York City on Oct. 9, 1945. Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) of the Navy, march on lower Broadway during the parade. U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph

## Hawaii Navy News

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# Hurricane awareness: Plan ahead for safety and care of family pets

(part 6)

Karen S. Spangler

Editor

Remember – it's still hurricane season and it's important that island residents remain alert and prepared – just in case.

What about man's [woman's] best friend? We love our pets and they are important members of our families. But pets are not allowed in public evacuation shelters. What will happen to Rambo or Fifi if a hurricane hits the island and you must evacuate to a shelter?

Pet owners need to plan ahead and be sure to make advance preparations to ensure the safety of their pets in the event of a hurricane or other natural disaster. Hurricane season runs through November in Hawai'i so there is still plenty of time for a visit from one of the dangerous storms. As you are preparing your family for a hurricane, include the care of your pets in the disaster plan.

Long before a hurricane heads toward the islands, you should decide what arrangements you are going to make for your pet. These might include residence at local boarding facilities or making advance arrangements with a dependable friend or relative who can care for it during an emergency. If neither of these situations is an option, you should determine the safest place in your home for your pet and be sure that you have provided for its needs.

If you plan to board your pet, check with veterinary clinics or the local humane society to locate boarding facilities. When selecting a facility, you should be sure that it is out of the hazard area and ask if the kennel has an emergency evacuation plan. Visit the facility to determine their requirements and make sure that it meets your standards.

Many boarding facilities will require proof of current vaccinations, so be sure to keep your pet's vaccinations up-to-date. You should also keep a pet carrier on hand for each pet. The carrier should be large enough so that the animal can stand up and walk around



Photo illustration

inside it. Make sure that your pet has an opportunity to become familiar with the carrier ahead of time so that he feels comfortable when he has to be placed in it.

It is also a good idea to keep a current photo of your pet to help ensure identification if you are separated from him during the emergency.

You may plan to make advance arrangements with a dependable friend or relative for care of your pet. It should be a safe place that is away from coastal or low-lying areas.

You should be sure that your pet has a properly fitted collar and an identification tag on at all times. This is particularly important during hurricane conditions. Also keep a leash on hand in order to maintain control of your pet in the event that you need to take the animal to another location.

As you prepare the survival kit for your family, be sure to also stock up on pet food and cat litter for family pets. If they require special diets or medications, make certain to have a two weeks' supply on hand. You should also stock up on newspaper, plastic bags and cleaners/disinfectants to handle pet wastes.

Once storm conditions are approaching, make sure to bring your pets indoors well ahead of any disaster conditions. Never leave pets outside or tied up.

If you need to evacuate your home, you should prepare an indoor area where your pet can stay. Such an area should be a place that is safe for your pet and is easy to clean. Be certain that there is protection from breaking glass, wind and noise. Use an area that is easy to clean, such as a tiled area or garage. Be sure that your pet has access to a high place, such as a counter top, in the event that flooding occurs.

Follow safety guidelines if you have more than one pet that you must leave behind.

- Do not confine a dog and cat together, even if they are normally friendly.

- Keep small pets, such as rabbits, mice and birds, away from dogs and cats.

- Leave difficult or aggressive animals in cages to ensure that they can't get loose.

Prepare and be sure that your pet's basic needs are provided for:

- Leave water for your pets in bathtubs or sturdy containers that will not spill. You should provide at

## IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

**Emergency police, fire, ambulance**  
911

**Oahu Civil Defense**  
(recorded information)  
527-5372

**Oahu Civil Defense**  
523-4121

**State Civil Defense**  
733-4300

**National Weather Service**  
(weather advisories)  
973-4381

**American Red Cross**  
734-2101

**Hawaiian Telcom telephone repair service**  
611

**Board of Water supply troubleline**  
normal hours – 527-5207  
after hours - 527-5200

**HECO Service Center**  
548-7961  
(to report power outages, downed power lines, trees on power lines)

**The Gas Company emergency service**  
526-0066

**Streetlights out**  
City - 564-6113  
State - 831-6714

least a three-day supply of water.

- Leave only dry-type foods to prevent the animals from overeating.

- Use special food dispensers for birds and fish. They must eat daily to survive.

- Put down newspapers to cover the floor and/or have cat litter containers available.

After the hurricane is over and it is safe for you to return home, be careful when letting your pet loose outdoors and make sure that it is wearing an identification tag. Scents and landmarks that are familiar to your pet may have changed during the storm and could cause it to get confused and lost. If your pet should become lost, call and visit the humane society as soon as possible.

For more information on how to prepare for your pets in a disaster, contact the Hawaiian Humane Society at 946-2187 or the Oahu Civil Defense Agency at 523-4121.

In the upcoming weeks, additional hurricane articles will be published in Hawaii Navy News. The information is intended to provide interesting and helpful information about hurricanes that will help to prepare you in the event that a hurricane moves toward the

Hawaiian Islands.

More information about hurricanes and guidelines on hurricane preparedness may be found on Navy Channel 2 and on the Commander Navy Region Hawai'i Web page: [www.hawaii.navy.mil](http://www.hawaii.navy.mil). The Web page includes links to other sites that give helpful information about hurricane preparation.

The Navy family housing Resident Handbook also provides guidelines on disaster preparedness and evacuation. The front pages of the Oahu telephone directory are another valuable resource for information on hurricane preparation.

You may also obtain up-to-date information by calling: Oahu Civil Defense recorded information at 527-5372 and National Weather Service recorded advisories at 973-4381. Listen to the weather advisories on local radio and television stations.

Keep in mind that your pets are totally dependent upon you for their care and safety in the event of a hurricane. Be a responsible pet owner to man's best friend.

(Some information provided by Oahu Civil Defense Agency and Hawaiian Humane Society.)



# FLEET ACTION



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Sarah Thomas  
Three Combat Rubber Raiding Craft (CRRCs) are recovered on the stern gate of amphibious transport dock ship USS Juneau (LPD 10) after conducting open ocean operations. Juneau, part of the Essex Expeditionary Strike Group, is conducting Blue-Green workups in preparation of its fall patrol with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU).



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Heidi Giacalone  
Flight deck crew members stand by as the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) prepares for night flight operations. Stennis and embarked Carrier Air Wing Nine (CVW-9) are currently conducting its Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) off the coast of Southern California.



U.S. Navy photo by MGSN Derek R. Sanchez  
Cpl. Andres Sanchez of Denver, Colo., gives a haircut to a fellow Marine aboard amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4). Sanchez is assigned to Command Element attached to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable (MEU/SOC). The 15th MEU/SOC is part of the forward-deployed Expeditionary Strike Group operating out of Sasebo, Japan.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Heidi Giacalone  
Aviation Warfare Systems Operator 3rd Class Michael Hauselmann plots aircraft patterns in the Air Warfare Module of Combat Direction Center aboard the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74).

# MDSU One commissions new warrant officers

Lt. Cmdr. Keith Dowling

*MDSU One*

On Sept. 29, the Heavy Lifters of Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One assembled at Rainbow Bay Marina to commission NDCS (MDV) Jason Deatrick and NDC (DSW) Robert Wantowski to the rank of chief warrant officer (CWO2).

With a backdrop of the USS Arizona Memorial and the Battleship Missouri Memorial, guest speaker CWO3 Eric MacDonald discussed the important contributions made by the diving warrant officer community. He mentioned the achievements of CWO4 George Stillson who was credited with pioneering the MK V dive helmet, publishing the first U.S. Navy Diving Manual and developing the U.S. Navy decompression tables which are still used today.

Following MacDonald's remarks, Deatrick and Wantowski raised their right hands and took the oath of commissioning. After taking the oath, ND1 Tony Pierick and ND1 Kevin Parsons removed the chief's



Photos by MC2 Justin Nesbitt

CWO2 Robert Wantowski (left photo) and CWO2 Jason Deatrick (right photo) from Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One at Naval Station Pearl Harbor receive their shoulder boards from their wives during a pinning ceremony Sept. 29 at Rainbow Bay Marina.

collar devices (fouled anchors) and their wives applied the CWO2 shoulder boards to the uniforms of the newly-commissioned officers.

"I consider it an honor to be selected as a CWO," stated Deatrick who was picked as an alternate from a package submitted two years ago. "I consider myself very

fortunate in that my selection as an alternate delayed my commissioning and offered me the opportunity to make senior chief and become a master diver."

Wantowski said that his motivation to apply for the program was in part based on "the upward mobility, increased responsibility and greater leadership opportu-

nities that the CWO community offers." "In addition, I like the fact that I will be able to maintain the technical aspect of the job," he said.

# George H. W. Bush christened at Newport News

MCSN Tyler Jones

Fleet Public Affairs Center  
Atlantic

The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77) was officially christened Oct. 7 at Northrop Grumman Newport News ship yard with its namesake and 41st president in attendance.

According to Northrop Grumman Corporation, former President Bush's attendance marks the first time in the shipyard's 120-year history that a president has witnessed the christening of a ship named in his honor.

"I hope the American people will accept my sincere gratitude for an honor that touches my heart," said former President Bush. "This is any naval aviator's dream come true."

The ship's sponsor, Bush's daughter, Doro Bush Koch, christened the ship with the ceremonial breaking of a champagne bottle across the bow.

President George W. Bush also attended the ceremony, standing side-by-side with Koch and his father for the christening.



Defense Dept. photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. D. Myles Cullen

Former President George H. W. Bush, followed by U.S. President George W. Bush and Florida Governor Jeb Bush, leave together after the christening ceremony for the aircraft carrier George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) on Oct. 7 at the Northrop Grumman Shipyard at Newport News, Va. CVN 77 is the 10th and last Nimitz-class carrier scheduled for construction and is expected to be delivered to the Navy in 2008.

"She is unshakable, she is unyielding, and she is unstoppable," said the President. "The men and women of the U.S. military represent the best of America, and they deserve

the best America can give them."

"Such a ship is not just a symbol of our power," said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael G. Mullen, "but a symbol of our freedom."

While the carrier still follows basic Nimitz-class specifications, Northrop Grumman has made numerous improvements. Most of the changes have been made to the 700-ton island struc-

ture, including the removal of one level and increasing the height of individual levels by nine inches, which leaves room to add new and upgraded systems as they become available.

The carrier's island, towering 20 stories above the ship's waterline, is the command center for navigation and flight-deck operations, allowing air-traffic controllers to see and direct the movement of aircraft on the ship's four-and-a-half acre flight deck.

The ship's communications systems have been dramatically redesigned to leave room for easy-integration of future systems upgrades. Improvements include communication and navigation systems upgrades, a new radar tower and transparent armor windows.

The most modern technology was employed for the ship's aircraft land and recovery equipment, Northrop Grumman stated. Technology of the same tier was tapped for improvements in the storage and handling of aircraft fuel.

According to Northrop Grumman, George H. W. Bush also features the new bulbous-bow design, the sec-

ond carrier to utilize that design. The new bow provides more buoyancy to the forward part of the ship and improves the hull's efficiency. The design was first seen with the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), commissioned in 2003.

The carrier's four brass propellers weigh approximately 30 tons each and are powered by two nuclear reactors that can operate for 20 years without refueling. The blades have been slightly redesigned to reduce wear and erosion.

George H. W. Bush's weight was also reduced by about 100 tons using a modernized covering on the ship's flight deck.

Nimitz-class aircraft carriers can exceed 30 knots while underway and can carry 80-plus combat aircraft. Ships in that class are 1,092 feet long and displace about 97-thousand tons fully loaded.

CVN 77 is the 10th and final Nimitz-class aircraft carrier to be built during the 31-year span of the class. Its delivery is set for early-to-mid 2008. The ship is expected to be able to operate for about 50 years.

## Navy seeking high quality recruits for NCS Program

MC2 (SW/AW) Gabriel Owens

Navy Recruiting Command Public Affairs

The Navy is offering an enlistment program with an active duty obligation of only 15 months after initial training followed by 24 months in the selected Reserve (SELRES).

Known as the National Call to Service (NCS), the program works like this: A recruit enlists under NCS and incurs a 15-month active-duty service obligation following completion of initial-entry training.

The 15-month obligation begins after a Sailor has completed his or her respective Navy School. Navy schools can run from three months to 18 months depending on rating.

This program is designed as a continuum of service between active and SELRES service that provides our Reserve force with assets necessary for the Navy to meet its overall mission.

Since the program's inception in 2003, over 5,000 Sailors have enlisted in the program. NCS is primarily aimed at top-tier, high-quality potential recruits, requiring a high school diploma and a minimum

overall Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) equal to or above 50. "The global war on terrorism requires a strong and vigorous Navy Reserve Component built upon a foundation of trained and experienced junior personnel," said Rear Adm. Edward Masso, assistant deputy chief of naval operations (manpower, prsonnel, training and education). "The National Call to Service program is an integral part of the strategy to fill critical Reserve component shortfalls and meet active component short-term work requirements," he explained.

It is aimed at high school gradu-

ates looking for a short active-duty commitment prior to college or even a college student who wants to serve their country and see the world before finishing their education.

Following a successful completion of active duty obligation, Sailors can transfer to the selected reserve for a 24-month obligation followed by the remainder of their eight-year military service obligation (MSO) in the SELRES, Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), active duty (if authorized) or in a qualifying National Service Program such as AmeriCorps (a network of local,

state and national service programs).

Program incentives include a \$5,000 bonus payable upon completion of active duty service, repayment on qualifying student loans up to \$18,000, and full Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits for 12 months or half-benefits for 36 months.

More information can be found at Navy Knowledge Online (NKO). NKO has a question and answer section on the NCS program that can be accessed by logging onto NKO at <https://www.nko.navy.mil> and typing keyword "national call to service" into the search engine.