

President visits Hawai'i military



President George Bush and First Lady Laura Bush meet with service members on Nov. 21 on the Hickam Air Force Base flightline, before boarding Air Force One and heading back to Washington, D.C. "The men and women who wear the uniform are the best that America has to offer. You belong to the finest armed forces the world has ever known," Bush told the service members. "I want to thank you for your sacrifice. I particularly thank your families for joining you in this noble cause. We'll succeed, and when we do, generations of Americans will look back on this period and say, thank God the United States had such men and women of character at the beginning of the 21st century," he said. The president stopped in the islands on the last leg of an eight-day Pacific economic tour after making stops at Vietnam, Indonesia and Singapore.

Photo by Sgt. Jeremy M. Vought

Pearl Harbor and PMRF receive Adm. Zumwalt Awards for VQ excellence

Fleet and Family Readiness Marketing/Commander, Navy Installations Command, Millington Detachment Public Affairs

Eighteen Navy installations received Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt awards for excellence in visitors quarters (VQ) management during a ceremony held recently at Navy Service Day Training in conjunction with the International Hotel/Motel and Restaurant Conference in New York City.

Similar to commercial hotel quality rankings, VQ operations are awarded three, four or five-star ratings. Installations that have earned five-star ratings are recognized as Adm. Zumwalt award winners and are the ultimate in Department of Defense lodging operations.

"Achieving a five-star rating is a major significant accomplishment," Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter said in a Navy-wide message announcing the Adm. Zumwalt award winners. "Bravo Zulu to all managers and staff whose hard work and dedication significantly improved the quality of life of our Department of Defense travelers."

The 2006 Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt award winners include: Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i; Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawai'i; Naval Station Ingleside, Texas; Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas; Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas; Navy Supply Corps School, Athens, Ga.; Naval Station Mayport, Fla.; Naval Support Activity, Panama City, Fla.; Naval Base Kitsap, Wash.; Naval Air

Station Whidbey Island, Wash.; Naval Station Everett, Wash.; Naval Support Activity Crane, Ind.; Naval Support Activity Annapolis, Md.; Naval Support Activity Washington, D.C.; U.S. Naval Air Facility, Misawa, Japan; Commander, Fleet Activities Sasebo, Japan; Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan; and Commander, Fleet Activities Chinhae, Korea.

Five-star ratings are awarded for the overall excellence of an installation's entire VQ operation, including enlisted and officer quarters, distinguished visitors quarters and flag officer quarters.

The ratings are the result of a thorough and detailed accreditation process which is mandatory for all VQ operations and includes unannounced validation visits by a Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) accreditation team, as well as specific performance standards for facilities, services and fiscal management.

The CNIC accreditation team visits each naval installation every two years to evaluate VQ operations and determines the overall standards of service being provided to all customers. Over the past two years, 26 Navy installations have achieved a five-star rating.

"We want travelers to know that our VQ is a home away from home," said Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Orlando Besorio, VQ manager, U.S. Naval Air Facility, Misawa, which received its sixth consecutive Zumwalt award. "The people who work at our VQ try to make visitors feel like they are at home while away from home, and make sure they want to come back."

Ohio makes first Trident SSGN visit to Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by MC1(SW) Cynthia Clark

Commander Submarine Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

USS Ohio (SSGN 726) moored at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Nov. 20, marking the first time the newly-converted guided missile submarine, or SSGN, has visited the historic port.

"It is fitting we're making the first SSGN visit to Pearl Harbor," said CMDM (SS) Larry Hamon, Ohio's chief of the boat. "Our motto, 'always first,' truly describes it. Ohio's first at everything we've done; it's great to be first at this."

Commissioned in 1981, USS Ohio was the lead ship of its class designed to carry Trident missiles for strategic deterrence and was the first ship of its class to have those missiles removed as part of its conversion to SSGN.

The SSGN's primary mission is to clandestinely insert and support special operations forces ashore. It also has the abil-

ity to launch precision strikes ashore with Tomahawk missiles.

Both capabilities are increasingly important in the global war on terror, said Adm. Edmund P. Giambastiani, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, during a return to service ceremony last February.

"This platform has truly been a case study in transforming our military capabilities to meet the future needs of our joint forces," said Giambastiani. "In doing so, the Ohio has proven our concepts are validated as the SSGN prepares for our uncertain future by being on station and providing a forward-deployed presence, adaptability and modularity..."

Ohio, homeported at Bangor, Wash., is conducting training exercises and work-ups in the Hawaiian Islands in preparation for its maiden deployment next year. Dual crews will allow the ship to deploy for extended periods, conducting crew swaps in forward locations.

Ohio can carry as many as 154 Tomahawk or tactical Tomahawk

land attack missiles, and can insert, extract and support as many as 102 special operations forces personnel, utilizing either dual dry-deck shelters or the advanced SEAL delivery system (ASDS). Its onboard command center and state-of-the-art communications systems give it the ability to direct joint operations ashore.

Hamon said it was fitting that Pearl Harbor is Ohio's first port visit as an SSGN.

"This is where submarine history was made," said Hamon. "It's very good for them to see the various landmarks on the old submarine area of the base. This is really where the modern era of submarines began."

Ohio completed its SSGN conversion in February and USS Florida (SSGN 728) completed its conversion in May. USS Georgia (SSGN 729) and USS Michigan (SSGN 727) are also in the conversion process and are scheduled to return to the fleet over the next two years. After conversion, each submarine is expected to remain in service for 20 years.



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

USS Ohio (SSGN 726) moored at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Nov. 20, marks the first time the newly-converted guided missile submarine, or SSGN, has visited the historic port. Ohio, homeported at Bangor, Wash., is conducting training exercises and work-ups in the Hawaiian Islands in preparation for its maiden deployment next year. Dual crews will allow the ship to deploy for extended periods, conducting crew swaps in forward locations.



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Chung-Hoon culinary specialists cook for their shipmates See page A-4



Strongman competition
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Happy 30th birthday, USS Los Angeles

Story and photo by MC1 (SW) Cynthia Clark

Commander Submarine Force Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

The Navy's oldest active attack submarine is now three decades old. The crew of USS Los Angeles (SSN 688) held a ceremony to mark its 30th birthday Nov. 13 on the pier at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

Cmdr. Erik Burian, Los Angeles commanding officer, cut the celebratory cake during the festivities, which included an awards ceremony and a barbecue on the pier for the crew and their families.

"It's a pretty remarkable and historic submarine," said Burian.

"The crew is really excited to be part of this celebration; I tell them she is 30 years strong, not 30 years old."

The lead ship of her class, Los Angeles was commissioned on Nov. 13, 1976. Since then, 47 more submarines have been commissioned in the class. The Los Angeles-class submarines incorporated improved sound quieting and a larger propulsion plant than previous classes and are capable of performing undersea and surface warfare, mining operations, special forces delivery, reconnaissance, carrier



Cmdr. Erik Burian, commanding officer of USS Los Angeles (SSN 688), marks the 30th birthday of his submarine with a celebratory cake cutting.

battle group support and intelligence collection.

Retired Master Chief Frank Lister said he is still proud of the submarine 30 years later. Lister served as the chief of the boat when Los Angeles was commissioned. Now retired and residing in Texas, he said the job the submarine carries out continues to be important to national defense.

"She's a marvelous boat," Lister said. "I'm thrilled the submarine force is doing a spectacular job. The Navy needs submarines like Los Angeles safeguarding our

nation."

"It really demonstrates the agility of nuclear power," said Burian. "There are no limitations. She remains just as viable an asset to conduct special warfare missions and is no less capable a force for defending our country than any other ship on the waterfront," said Lister.

The festivities didn't last long for Los Angeles. Soon after the celebration, it was back underway, continuing work-ups in preparation for a Western Pacific deployment next year.

Officers honored with prestigious Stockdale Award

Lt. Justin Cole

Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Mike G. Mullen, presented the Vice Adm. James B. Stockdale Leadership Award to Cmdr. Brian T. Howes, commanding officer of USS La Jolla (SSN 701) homeported at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, and Cmdr. Richard L. Clemmons Jr. on Nov. 14 in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes, a room paying tribute to those who have been awarded the Medal of Honor.

"As officers in the Navy, we are many things," said Mullen, "but first and foremost, we are leaders. These two officers represent the epitome of leadership and are a credit to the commands they represent."

The award, established in honor of Vice Adm. James Bond Stockdale, is presented annually to two commis-



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Chad J. McNeeley

CNO Adm. Mike Mullen presents Cmdr. Brian T. Howes, commanding officer USS La Jolla (SSN 701), the Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale Award for Leadership in the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon.

sioned officers on active duty below the grade of captain who are in command of a single ship, submarine, aviation squadron or operational warfare unit at the time of nomination. It is awarded in honor of Stockdale's distinguished naval career symbolizing the highest standards of excellence and leadership.

Unlike most other Navy awards, recipients of the

Stockdale Award must be nominated by their peers who themselves must be eligible for the award.

"We are, by nature, a competitive outfit," said Mullen, a 1987 recipient of the award. "The fact that these two gentlemen were nominated by others who are competing with them speaks volumes of their character."

Both winners thanked the crews of the ships they commanded, as well as their families and friends who aided them in their careers. Howes thanked former commanding officers for giving him the guidance to get him to where he is today, but reserved most of the credit for the award for his crew of USS La Jolla (SSN 701).

"I feel kind of like the coach taking credit for winning the big game," said Howes. "I was fortunate enough to inherit an incredible group of Sailors who worked together to achieve extraordinary things."

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

The holidays are coming!

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

Hoo-yah, Warriors! As my headline here says, the holidays are coming up on us. I know everyone is ramping up for some well-deserved leave and liberty with friends and families.

But before I go too far along, I ask that we all take a moment during our celebrations to remember our fellow Warriors overseas fighting the fight, doing the J.O.B. so we can be with our families. While they stand the watch, we need to keep them in our thoughts and prayers. Like many of you have done, they are doing a superb job - keep up the great work.

OK, now for the holidays - lots of fun, visiting with family and friends, parties, you name it. I hope you make the most of this season. You've certainly earned it for the hard work you're doing every day. I can never say it enough, but you (our Sailors) are the key element in our Navy's mission accomplishment.

But - and you knew there was a "but" - I hope you will practice some smart holiday ORM [operational risk management] and safety.



FLTCM(SS/SW) R.D. West

driving in high-volume traffic, driving fatigue, and alcohol. So you know where I'm going with this one.

Prior to letting people knock off for leave or liberty, a good, responsible leader will look all of them in the eye and thoroughly discuss holiday and traffic safety. Those leaders will go over the risks and remind their Warriors how to avoid them. They will save lives.

During the mid-November to early January timeframe, more people will be on the roads running shopping errands, driving to and from family get-togethers, or trying to make their way to and from leave. That's a lot of cars, a lot of people and a lot of chances for folks to slip up and make a costly mistake.

I know ORM and holidays don't sound like a mix, but shipmates, they are. It's probably moreso than any other time of year because we usually see a congregation of the worst possible risks: wintry weather,

So those are just some of the risks. Now I want to go over some things everyone can do to manage them.

First off for leadership, you should include the following items when you talk with your Sailors about their travel plans:

- Absolutely no drinking and driving.
- Safe driving practices in inclement weather.
- Protective equipment.
- Long-distance travel plans - many Web sites can lay out the plans.
- Car maintenance (is your vehicle in tip-top shape?)
- Leave chits (Did you put the command contact data/cell phone numbers of the command team on the leave chit?)
- Does the member include overnight stops in the trip planning process?

To help you out with smart counseling and advice, visit <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/> and click on the "traffic safety" tab. There's lots of great info you can use to develop an information campaign to keep Sailors mindful and safe.

Another great resource is the National Sleep Foundation's Web site, <http://www.sleepfoundation.org>,

that has some great info on helping Sailors understand the dangers of long-distance driving. Just click on the "drowsydriving.org" link and you are good to go.

On a separate topic, have you checked out the Naval Safety Center Web site? Its seasonal safety section, <http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/seasonal/default.htm>, has just about everything you could want to properly train and counsel your folks.

That reminds me, did you receive your copy of the publication called TRAFFIC 5100? It is the most comprehensive publication on traffic safety I've seen to date and it is published by the Naval Safety Center. I strongly encourage you to have one in every division and in every wardroom and CPO (chief petty officers) mess. The direct file download link is: http://safetycenter.navy.mil/media/traffic5100/pdf/Traffic5100_Entire_Handbook.pdf. Please get a copy today. Now to our Sailors everywhere.

As I said earlier, you have certainly earned a break and deserve the best holidays possible. But listen to your leadership this season.

I see way too many SITREPS come across my desk about Sailors doing foolish and reckless things that wind up hurting or killing themselves or others.

Trying to drive cross-country in a day and a half is just a SITREP waiting for a date-time group. Hoping, instead of knowing, that your car will make a trip is asking for trouble.

Shipmates, be smart. Plan. Be responsible. Make the right choices throughout the holidays so that your family can celebrate with you instead of remembering this season in a negative manner.

Bottom line: Your families and I need you back on the deck plate, hangar, field, office or any other place you might work after the holidays doing the J.O.B.

I'll leave the rest to local leadership to do their part as well - and they know what to do.

As for me, I'm back pounding the deck plates again, hoping to talk to as many young Warriors as I can. I know I can do that if you all will promise me to think safety and ORM during the upcoming holiday season. Hoo yah, safety! See you in the fleet going deep ... fleet master chief out!

Thanksgiving Day messages

A proclamation by the President of the United States of America

As Americans gather with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving Day, we give thanks for the many ways that our nation and our people have been blessed.

The Thanksgiving tradition dates back to the earliest days of our society, celebrated in decisive moments in our history and in quiet times around family tables. Nearly four centuries have passed since early settlers gave thanks for their safe arrival and pilgrims enjoyed a harvest feast to thank God for allowing them to survive a harsh winter in the New World.

General George Washington observed Thanksgiving during the Revolutionary War and in his first proclamation after becoming President, he declared Nov. 26, 1789, a national day of "thanksgiving and prayer." During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln revived the tradition of proclaiming a day of thanksgiving, reminding a divided nation of its founding ideals.

At this time of great promise for America, we are grateful for the freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution and defended by our armed forces throughout the generations. Today, many of these courageous men and

women are securing our peace in places far from home, and we pay tribute to them and to their families for their service, sacrifice and strength. We also honor the families of the fallen and lift them up in our prayers.

Our citizens are privileged to live in the world's freest country, where the hope of the American dream is within the reach of every person. Americans share a desire to answer the universal call to serve something greater than ourselves, and we see this spirit every day in the millions of volunteers throughout our country who bring hope and healing to those in need. On this Thanksgiving Day, and throughout the year, let us show our gratitude for the blessings of freedom, family and faith, and may God continue to bless America.

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 laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Thursday, Nov. 23, 2006, as a National Day of Thanksgiving. I encourage all Americans to gather together in their homes and places of worship with family, friends and loved ones to reinforce the ties that bind us and give thanks for the freedoms and many blessings we enjoy.

Special message from Marine Gen. Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

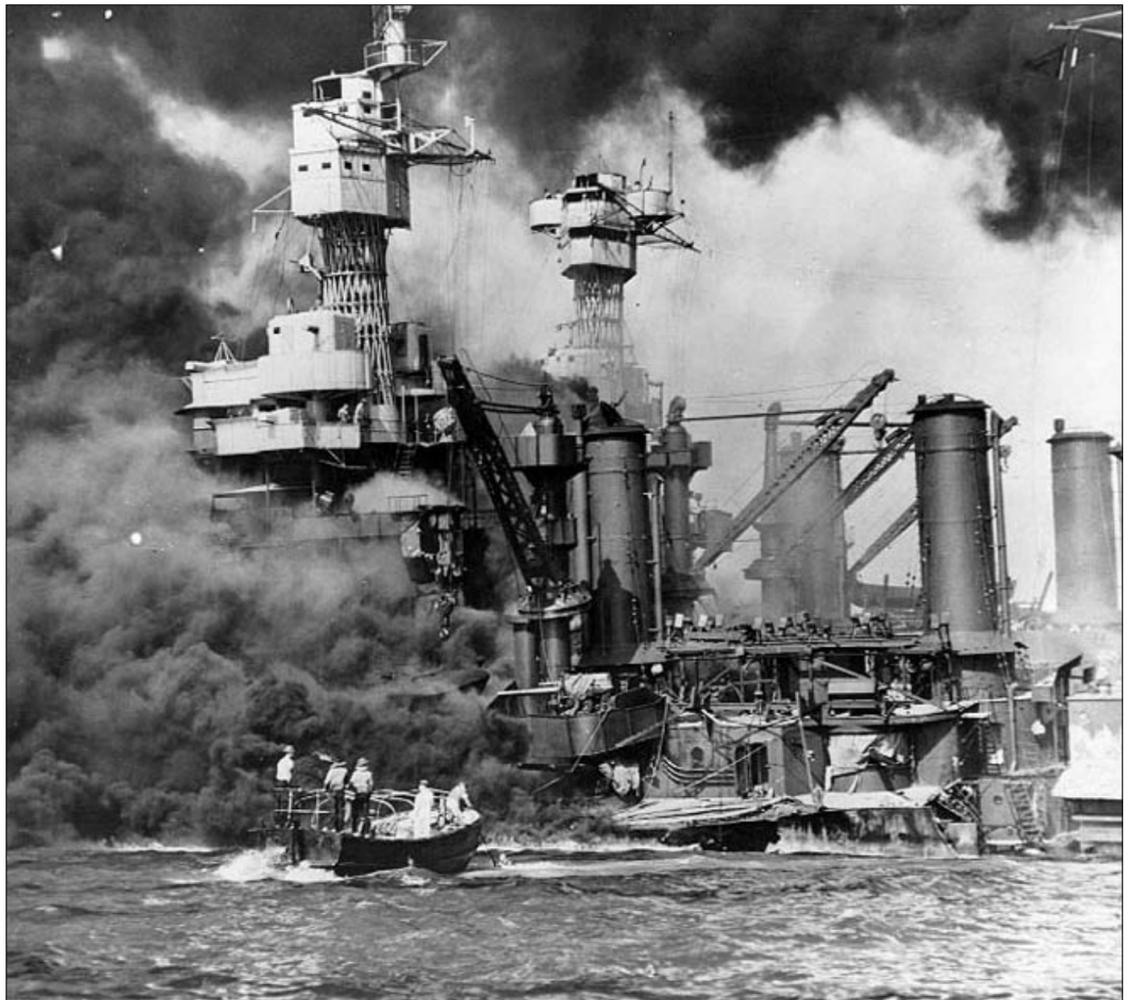
For many Americans, Thanksgiving is an opportunity to spend time with family and reflect on those things for which we are most grateful. How fitting then that the week we celebrate Thanksgiving, we also honor the tremendous contributions of the families of the men and women who serve in our nation's military.

Serving in the armed forces is a challenging endeavor that requires teamwork to be successful. Our military team would not be complete without the loving support of our family members.

Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen work long hours and deploy for extended periods of time. Many in uniform will be away from loved ones this Thanksgiving holiday. I am extremely proud of the selfless commitment of our military, and I realize that they could not have done it alone. The men, women and children of our military families are at the heart of our armed forces, and their contributions are absolutely vital.

On behalf of the Joint Chiefs, I join all Americans in paying tribute to our military families. Thank you for everything you do to support freedom around the world.

Rescuing survivors from attack



Official U.S. Navy photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives
Sailors in a motor launch rescue a survivor from the water alongside the sunken USS West Virginia (BB 48) during or shortly after the Japanese air raid on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. USS Tennessee (BB 43) is inboard of the sunken battleship. Note extensive distortion of West Virginia's lower midships superstructure, caused by torpedoes that exploded below that location. Also note 5"/25 gun, still partially covered with canvas, boat crane swung outboard and empty boat cradles near the smokestacks, and base of radar antenna atop West Virginia's foremast.

Hawai'i Navy News

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USS Chung-Hoon culinary specialists cook for their shipmates



U.S. Navy photo by

Culinary specialists onboard Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) maintained high morale among their shipmates by preparing their favorite foods every day during their deployment near Southeast Asia.

Ensign Michelle K. Stanforth

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93)

Recently USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) returned from her maiden deployment conducting expanded maritime interdiction operations near Southeast Asia. Although morale was high upon returning home, it was sustained during the deployment by the culinary specialists onboard.

Part of the reason why crew morale is so high on Hawai'i's newest destroyer is because every week the culinary specialists go 'above and beyond the call of duty' to prepare favorite foods for the crew. Every Tuesday is taco/fajita day, Thursday is aloha burger day, and Saturday nights promise a variety of snacks such as fried cinnamon rolls, homemade pizza rolls, nachos, hot wings and ice cream socials.

The tempo picked up in March for the "hump day" meal which celebrated the mid-point of the deployment. Reservations were taken by phone and the mess decks were set up for "the formal meal" that would be served - complete with white tablecloths and china. Votes were taken on who would serve the meal, who would clean up after the meal

and who would wait on the tables. The meal consisted of prime rib, herb crusted chicken, lobster tails, baked potatoes, fresh hot rolls and New York style cheesecake (you get the picture).

On May 23 came the finale - a luau to celebrate the end of deployment, complete with roasted pig on a makeshift spit on the flight deck. The crew was served a 'luau' of grilled rib eye, Polish sausage, spare ribs, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, pin wheels, fried plantains, ice cream, butterscotch brownies, fudge brownies and chocolate chip cookies.

Throughout the deployment, the Sea Warriors of Chung-Hoon were also treated to restaurant-style birthday meals, complete with personal waiters and, of course, birthday cake and ice cream. The crew was served two extravagant Mongolian barbecues and held "steel beach" picnics every Sunday, hosted by a different department each week.

The culinary specialists also hosted receptions in Kota Kinablu, Malaysia, Republic of Tonga and Port Vila Vanuatu where visitors were able to experience just a taste of what the crew enjoys on a daily basis.

Navy focuses on suicide prevention, awareness

MCSN Shannon K. Cassidy

Fleet Public Affairs Center, Pacific

The Navy is focusing its efforts to educate its Sailors about programs available to them during Suicide Prevention Month.

During November, Fleet and Family Support Centers (FFSC) worldwide are educating service members about the risk and protective factors to help Sailors identify warning signs in their shipmates or trouble within themselves.

"Knowing the warning

signs that someone is thinking about committing suicide will save a shipmate's life," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SW/AW) Joe R. Campa Jr. "If you're a leader - and specifically for the chiefs - you must know your people well enough so that you can tell if they start to change. Recognizing the signs of suicidal thoughts can help prevent future tragedies."

According to the Department of the Navy Suicide Incident Report, suicide is still among the top three causes of death in the Navy.

"Compared to homicides, we're killing ourselves more than other people are killing us," said Dr. G. Bruce Schumacher, FFSC clinical life skills educator in San Diego.

The first step in preventing suicide is to identify and understand the risk factors. Risk factors are anything that could increase the possibility that a person will harm themselves, such as alcohol or substance abuse, a history of depression or mental disorders, or the loss of a relationship.

FFSC offers annual general military training about suicide prevention, as well as

life skills classes, that help treat and deal with the symptoms of such issues.

"Sailors cannot be afraid to use the wealth of resources that the Navy provides," said Campa. "These resources are there to help you and all of our shipmates through times of crisis. The Fleet and Family Support Center has a staff that is highly trained to help anyone, and they care about what you are going through and they will help you if you go to them."

For many reasons, such as pride, shame or embarrassment, people don't seek or use the resources available to them.

"There is nothing wrong with asking for help," said Schumacher. "Nobody is born with all of the resources within to handle every situation in life. Somewhere along the line, you're going to have to ask for help, and there is nothing wrong with that."

Suicide can be prevented. The Journal of the American Medical Association and other affiliations concur that all warning signs of suicide, such as change in appetite, weight or sleeping patterns, diminished ability to think or concentrate, are magnified when a person with suicidal thoughts is under high stress or pressure, making warning

signs that much more recognizable.

While general military training on suicide prevention helps Sailors to know the signs of a person who is considering committing suicide, Campa said it's really going to take to take everyone, such as chiefs and senior petty officers, to be out on the deck plates, knowing what is going on with their people on a daily basis.

"You can't recognize that someone is suicidal if you don't know what their normal routine is," said Campa. "We can prevent suicides when we take the time to learn our people."

Pearl Harbor Highlights



U.S. Navy photo by MCI (AW/SW) James E. Foehl

Professional Bull Riders (PBR) Austin Meier (left) and Mike Lee (right) view the USS Arizona Memorial with friends and family during a historical white boat tour of Pearl Harbor. The PBR were on the island of Oahu for the Hawai'i All Star Challenge tournament and visited Naval Station Pearl Harbor to meet Sailors and learn more about the history of the Navy and Pearl Harbor.



Above: A contractor who helped renovate the Navy-Marine Corps Golf Course near Pearl Harbor is one of the first to play on the renovated course. He teed off from the seventh tee in front of the course's new lake, complete with fountain, that helps keep the new course irrigated.

U.S. Navy photo by MCI (SW/AW) Keith Jones



Above right: Rear Adm. T. G. Alexander, Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i, meets with Mufi Hannemann, mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, at Merry Point Landing on board Naval Station Pearl Harbor before departing with members of the Honolulu City Council on a barge tour of Pearl Harbor. The barge tour allows visitors of Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i an opportunity to experience an up-close and personal view of various historical sights and memorials of the Navy within Pearl Harbor.

U.S. Navy photo by MCI (AW/SW) James E. Foehl



Right: Navy diver 1st Class Lee Fitzgerald, assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One (MDSU-1) Detachment 5, based at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, demonstrates how to wear the Mk 20 full face mask to members of the Seychelles Coast Guard diving unit prior to conducting a familiarization dive and practicing emergency procedures during Exercise Island Response. The exercise is geared toward increasing the interoperability of U.S. Navy divers and divers from the Seychelles Coast Guard.

U.S. Navy photo by MCI Kathryn Whittenberger

USS Greeneville departs for the Western Pacific



Family members bid aloha to submariners onboard the nuclear-powered attack submarine USS Greeneville (SSN 772) as it departed its homeport of Pearl Harbor on Nov. 17 for a Western Pacific deployment.

**Story and photo by
Lori Cravalho**

*Commander Submarine Force
Pacific Fleet Public Affairs*

The nuclear-powered attack submarine, USS Greeneville (SSN 772) departed its homeport of Pearl Harbor on Nov. 17 for a Western Pacific deployment.

Cmdr. Lorin Selby, the submarine's commanding officer, said the morale of his 130 crew members is high and his submarine is well prepared.

"We've been working really hard to get ourselves ready," Selby said. "The crew has done a phenomenal job so they are really excited to get

out there and I think we're going to do a great job."

Greeneville is one of only two Los Angeles-class attack submarines capable of carrying the advanced SEAL delivery system (ASDS). ASDS is a manned combatant submersible that can carry special operations personnel in a dry environment, without them having to breathe through scuba gear. Like other attack submarines, Greeneville can also carry out a multitude of missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, intelligence gathering, and precision strike.

Greeneville returned from its last deployment in February 2004, after being the first attack submarine

assigned to be part of an expeditionary strike group concept.

Although this deployment will keep crew members away from loved ones during the holidays, Selby said the families have been instrumental in the preparations.

"The families have been really energetic, worked really hard and were working behind the scenes to get ready to send us off with all sorts of stuff," said Selby.

Selby expressed some of the boat's ambitions for the next six months ahead. "The goals for the crew are to come back a better team, better engineers, better warfighters, better navigators, and just better teammates, working together as one."

Golfers tee off at grand opening of Navy-Marine Golf Course

Story and photo by
MC1 (SW/AW) Keith Jones

Fleet Public Affairs Center
Pacific Detachment, Hawaii

The Navy-Marine Corps Golf Course, located near Pearl Harbor, held its grand re-opening Nov. 17 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a "scramble" golf tournament for more than 130 golfers invited to the event.

The event marked the first time the course has been fully open in nearly 18 months while the course underwent a \$6 million renovation project. The course had never fully closed, remaining at least half-open for most of that time, while the driving range and clubhouse operated without change during that interval.

The invited golfers were welcomed with clear, blue skies, a steady, cool breeze and a big

"aloha" from Rear Adm. T. G. Alexander, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

"It's a beautiful day and frankly, I can't think of a better way to spend it than here with you during the re-opening of this beautiful golf course," Alexander said. "Thank you for sharing this with us and hit your balls well."

After a blessing for the course, Alexander cut the ceremonial ribbon with course director Todd Nicely, who said he was very pleased with how the renovations turned out.

"This is a favorite golf course of many people and not a few people were apprehensive about the changes. Almost without exception, everyone is pleased with the changes we've made," said Nicely.

The changes are significant. It was the first total redo of all

the course's key elements since the course first opened in 1948.

All of the 18 regulation greens were redone as well as a chipping green. Every tee was renovated and a new look was given to the course with small hills that surround the fairways, increasing difficulty for golfers who like to hit it into the rough. Another part of the multi-million dollar project was a complete irrigation system for the course, including a new lake nested in next to the seventh hole.

For golfers familiar with the layout of Navy-Marine Corps Golf Course before the changes, they'll notice that the basic layout of the course has changed very little, but the quality of the course has improved tremendously.

"I've been playing this course off-and-on since 1986," said (Senior Chief, retired) Ian MacLean, a course regular.

"It's much nicer now and maybe easier from the tee to the greens, but it's more difficult on the greens."

The biggest change affected one hole, one that most golfers will notice about 10 minutes after first teeing off.

"The number two, par five, probably incorporated the most change," noted Nicely. "Using what we took out to make the lake, we raised the fairway up and lengthened and widened it substantially."

Navy-Marine Corps Golf Course has raised its prices, but not more than golfers who play at other military courses on Oahu would notice.

"Our fees had not gone up for four years because we held off until the end of the project. We did raise the price recently, but only equal to the other military golf courses," said Nicely. "But we're in a lot better shape than them now," he noted.



(From left to right) Navy Chaplain Jeffrey Han; Navy Region Hawaii's commander Rear Adm. T. G. Alexander; Pastor Edwin Sproat; Todd Nicely course director; and MWR director, Cheryl Camp cut the ceremonial ribbon to completely reopen the Navy - Marine Corps Golf Course located near Pearl Harbor. The course recently underwent an 18-month \$6 million renovation. It was the first complete renovation for the course since it first opened in 1948.

New boom guides enhance environmental protection, saves money

Terri Kojima

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Oil or fuel accidentally released into Pearl Harbor can wreak havoc on our fragile environment, but for the first time ever, a new spill containment system is being installed at Naval Station Pearl Harbor which will prevent the spread of spilled petroleum products.

According to the system's designer, Keith Nesmith, who is Navy Region Hawaii's port operations manager, the boom guide significantly reduces maintenance, clean-up and operating costs while ensuring efficient and effective containment in case of an accidental spill.

The innovative boom guides, which were designed to accommodate the industrial-type permanent booms that are used at Pearl Harbor and other harbors and ports, are



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

Keith Nesmith of Naval Station Pearl Harbor's port operations (right) explains the merits of the new and improved oil spill containment system to Clyde Yokota, director of Navy Region Hawaii's environmental department.

replacing the wire system that secures the permanent booms at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. In addition to allowing easy removal and installation for maintenance and cleaning of the permanent booms, the new

system is cost effective.

"The boom guide system has an estimated life of 15 years and costs nine percent less than the existing wire system - a savings of \$64K," said Nesmith. "The estimated cost

savings for personnel to remove and/or install the permanent boom during yearly scheduled maintenance over the next 15 years is 85 percent less than the wire system, a savings of over \$3 million."

In addition to the tremendous cost savings, the innovative guide enhances Navy Region Hawaii's oil spill containment system.

"As part of normal, standard operating procedures, booms are placed around the piers and ships at Pearl Harbor to contain any inadvertent spills during refueling and other operations," said Cynthia Pang, who is Navy Region Hawaii's on-scene coordinator for emergency spill responses. "Our team [emergency spill response team] is trained and ready to provide rapid response in the event of an inadvertent release, and effective and efficient booming techniques are invaluable to achieve this mis-

sion," she explained.

While permanent booms, which are interlocking, floating devices with a 24-inch skirt that extends beneath the water surface, have proven to be an effective precautionary measure at Pearl Harbor, the port operations manager observed some limitations.

"With the existing wire system, pier obstacles can make placement of the booms near the pier difficult or impossible," said Nesmith. "The new boom guide system enables us to install permanent booms inside or outside of pier obstructions and behind fixed mooring fenders, which enhances containment," he added.

In addition to protecting the environment, Nesmith said the booms are durable and safe.

"The bright orange guides are made of a molded urethane material with embedded steel fixing plates for

added strength," said Nesmith. "All materials are composite and stainless steel, which eliminates corrosion problems and reduces maintenance," he continued.

Nesmith considered the requirement for flexibility in his design.

"The face of the guide is flexible and can be compressed like a pier fender in the event that a floating apparatus, such as a barge or small boat, comes into contact with the boom guide," he said.

According to its creator, the new guide features a fastening system that allows it to be secured around any type of pier pile.

"The guides can be secured around wooden piles as well as concrete square piles, without affecting the pier structural integrity," said Nesmith. The new boom guides will be incorporated into continuing pier upgrades at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.