

Navy Region Hawai'i receives environmental award

MC2 (SW) Ben A. Gonzales
Public Affairs Center Detachment Hawai'i and

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

The Department of Environmental Services of the City and County of Honolulu presented the Navy in Hawai'i with the 2007 Everyday Environmental Team Leadership Award during a ceremony held Monday at Kapolei Hale, the city's civic center complex in leeward Oahu.

Lt. Maria Navarro and Master-at-Arms 1st Class Fred D. Roach of Naval Station Pearl Harbor accepted the award on behalf of the Navy for the hard work Pearl Harbor Sailors put forth in local clean-up projects during the past year. The Navy has helped in the effort to clean up local areas of importance and has made a good impression with the support of Sailors stationed in Hawai'i.

Sailors from Naval Station were among hundreds of volunteers who partnered with the city, local schools, churches and community organizations to clean up Kapakahi Stream in Waipahu. Other Sailors got down and dirty to cut mangroves and pickleweed from Pouhala Marsh in Pearl Harbor.

Sailors from Naval Munitions Command at Pearl Harbor have been working side by side with students from Campbell High School on a regular basis to rid North Road in Ewa Beach of all sorts of garbage. Navy volunteers continued to reach out to the local communities by spending their weekends picking up litter from Maili Beach in Waianae and litter strewn along Kamehameha Highway.

The Navy is a very important part here in helping the Pearl Harbor area. We feel that it is pretty important that we get everybody out there and when we say everybody, we mean that the Navy is very much a part of our community out here in Hawai'i," said Iwalani Sato, who is the city's storm water quality outreach coordinator.

Personally, I am very excited and encouraged about the fact that we have a tremendous amount of Sailors coming out to support us. Just to give you an example, in 2006 I had the honor and privilege to work with more than 11,000 volunteers who collected over 40 tons of



The governor and members of the City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services presented to Master at Arms 1st Class Fred D. Roach and Lt. Maria Navarro, representing Naval Station Pearl Harbor with the 2007 Everyday Environmental Team Leadership Awards on Monday, at the Kapolei Hale building located in Kapolei's business and industrial park.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Ben A. Gonzales

trash, which was pretty amazing. Many of the chores were to collect trash from storm drains, educate people to not dump trash into storm drains, and to get rid of graffiti around Hawai'i," Sato added.

Sato praised the efforts of Sailors and members of the community who have united to support the environmental

clean-up endeavor.

This was a great way of getting people to come together, a shared vision to keep our ocean clean. It's also a way of giving back to our community. We are taking pride in our community and, more importantly, working together to keep our community clean and safe," said Sato.

Many Sailors have pitched in to help

clean up the community and have come away with a great sense of accomplishment.

It's important that the Navy participated in the environmental community cleanup to show the Navy is supporting the city and county of Honolulu. We want

USS Lake Erie grants a wish

MC2(AW/SW)
Justin P. Nesbitt

Public Affairs Center
Detachment Hawai'i

USS Lake Erie (CG 70) was recently presented with a task unlike any it had ever been handed. They received a request from the Make-a-Wish Foundation to welcome aboard a young man and his family and give him the opportunity to be a Lake Erie Sailor for the day. Neil Smith's dream came true when the crew of Lake Erie hosted a visit to the ship on March 20.

Smith is a very unique young man. At the age of 16, he has a dream and that is to be a Sailor in the U.S. Navy. This dream, though, is unattainable.

"I wanted to explore the Navy," said Smith. "I wanted to see what it was like to live on a ship and see what (Sailors) do."

He has been diagnosed with arterial venous malformation. The debilitating disease is a congenital disorder of the veins and arteries that make up the vascular system which blocks the flow of blood from arteries to the veins.

Spearheading the request for the visit to the Lake Erie was Gunner's Mate Chief (SW) Joseph Cassista of the ship's operations depart-



Neil Smith is greeted by Capt. Randall Hendrickson, commanding officer of the USS Lake Erie (CG 70), before beginning his tour of the ship on March 20. Smith's visit was sponsored by the Make-A-Wish Foundation program.

ment. The hardest thing about Tuesday was the time," said Cassista. "We received the email asking if we would host the tour last week while we were still underway," said

Cassista. But he said that the entire crew wanted to do everything they could to make Smith's wish come true.

'New' Pearl Harbor McDonald's re-opens



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, along with Ronald McDonald and Veronica Kaneko, president and managing director of McDonald's of Hawai'i, joined guests at the grand re-opening of the McDonald's at Pearl Harbor on March 15. The event marked the new McCafe, one of the first locations in Hawai'i to have the addition. The renovated



Bremerton returns to Pearl Harbor

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Chung-Hoon gears up for mission

See page A-4



Russell, Japanese navy participate in PASSEX

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Naval Academy Glee Club...Tribute in song

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Senate confirms Keating, Renuart to key commands

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service



Adm. Timothy J. Keating

The U.S. Senate confirmed the nominees to the top posts at U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) and U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) during the March 19 session.

The full Senate confirmed Navy Adm. Timothy J. Keating as PACOM commander and Air Force Lt. Gen. Victor E. Renuart Jr. to receive his fourth star and to become commander of NORTHCOM and North American Aerospace Defense Command.

Renuart, who currently serves as Gates' senior military assistant, will assume Keating's NORTHCOM post.

In announcing both officers' nominations in February, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates praised them for establishing a record of accomplishments in a variety of complex and challenging assignments.

Each has shown the requisite combination of military, diplomatic and intellectual skills to be successful in these two positions, he said. They both have served this country extremely well, and if confirmed, they both

will continue to do so, agreed Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Keating, a native of Dayton, Ohio, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1971. Before assuming his current post in November 2004, he served as director of the Joint Staff.

Renuart entered the Air Force in 1971 following graduation from Indiana University and received his commission through Officer Training School in 1972. He was director of strategic plans and policy for the Joint Staff before becoming the defense secretary's senior military assistant in August 2006.



USS Bremerton (SSN 698) returns to the operational side of the Pacific submarine force as she arrives at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on March 14. Bremerton completed her first set of sea trials after concluding a three-year

Bremerton returns to Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by MC1 (SW) Cynthia Clark

Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

USS Bremerton (SSN 698) returned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on March 14 after completing her first set of sea trials in more than three years.

According to Capt. Stephen Marr, Commander, Submarine Squadron One, Bremerton entered the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard in February 2004 for an engineering refuel and overhaul and had been in the ship-

yard ever since.

It feels tremendous to have Bremerton join us at the submarine piers, Marr said. After three years of hard work in the shipyard, their first set of sea trials went superbly and ahead of schedule.

Bremerton's return to the submarine piers at Pearl Harbor marks her as an up and running, operational submarine, ready and willing to service the fleet.

It's good to be back in business, said Cmdr. Thomas Zwolfer, Bremerton commanding officer.

It's good to bring her back to her natural home. The shipyard did a

good job getting the ship back together and we look forward to getting out to sea again as soon as possible.

Zwolfer and Master Chief Fire Control Technician (SS) Dave Steele, Bremerton's chief of the boat, both agreed the crew's high morale and hard work were key to the success and completion to the underway.

Bremerton, the 10th ship of the Los Angeles-class of submarines, was commissioned March 28, 1981. With a crew of more than 120 enlisted and 10 officers, she is 360 feet long and has the capability to carry

NAVFAC Pacific civilian answers nation's call

Don Rochon

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific Public Affairs

Jay Cooper, a civilian civil service employee working for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific (NAVFAC Pacific), will leave Hawai'i on Saturday to work in Iraq for nine to 12 months. Cooper volunteered for duty after reading a memo from the Department of Defense asking for civil service workers to help U.S. State Department provincial reconstruction teams

(PRT), which are deployed throughout the country. PRTs are groups of experts designed to help local Iraqi provincial governments develop their capacity to govern and promote economic development, increase security, and assist them in meeting the basic needs of their citizens. PRT members work hand in hand with Iraqi provincial governmental officials.

This is something I believe in and want to do. I'm thankful for this opportunity and especially for a wife who shares my beliefs and wholeheartedly supports my decision,

said Cooper. There comes a time when an opportunity presents itself and one must make a decision whether principles and beliefs are simply words we spout or the root of ideals we hold dear. That time has come for me, he continued.

Cooper is the comptroller/financial management support line manager at NAVFAC Pacific and heads a group of more than 30 financial management professionals. In Iraq, he may be advising Iraqi Provincial Councils (local seats of power) on any number of financial management practices that he

has experience in, and which the PRT may require, including budget formulation and implementation, long-term financial planning or small market development.

Jay's selfless commitment to our important mission in Iraq is truly inspiring and a source of pride for all of us, stated Rear Adm. Christopher Mossey, NAVFAC Pacific commander. I am absolutely convinced that he will prove to be a tremendous asset and will make a critical contribution to this national effort.

Provincial reconstruction teams are based in desig-

nated locations outside the area of Baghdad known as the Green Zone.

It is dangerous, no doubt, but the reality of the matter is that I would much rather say that I did something to try and make this effort a success than to look back and say I didn't go because it was too dangerous, remarked Cooper. I won't be in any greater danger than that faced by our service men and women every day.

Cooper will still be working for the Department of the Navy, but will be under the direction of a Department of State for-

ign service officer, who leads the PRTs. Logistical support and security will be provided by the local military command where he will be located. Cooper will be required to first attend a five-day course in Washington, D.C. conducted by the Foreign Service Institute, which is designed to provide familiarization with the work of PRTs and the Department of State. Next, he will be off to training at the U.S. Army Replacement Center at Fort Bliss, Texas. This is a six-day training course that provides civilians with familiarization of military field operations. Upon

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

What do all these new deployment terms mean?

FLTCM (SS/SW) R.D. West

U.S. Pacific Fleet Force Master Chief



FLTCM(SS/SW)

Hoo-yah Warriors! I hope everyone is enjoying a safe and prosperous 2007. I have been out and about the fleet since the beginning of the new year meeting many of you and as I have said many times over, you continue to amaze me with your enthusiasm, dedication and willingness to complete any and every mission.

Shipmates, I want to take this time to talk to you about the Navy's new focus on the deployability and employability of our assets as well as other terms used, like dwell, Fleet Response Plan (FRP), and Homeport Tempo. You may have heard these terms used and it is important you understand them and understand what is behind the changes in how we deploy the Navy and you.

In order to help you understand these new terms and

the new operational focus, I want to take a look back a couple of months. In the last few months, the Navy has been reviewing the deployability and employability of its forces to find out how we could increase operational availability while still preserving overall readiness and quality of service for you and your families. As a result, we revisited deployment policies, revised some definitions - as you saw above - and signed a new instruction. These changes complement the FRP by limiting deployment lengths and by providing you and your family more stability in your planning.

Before we dig deeper into further details of the new instruction, let's stop and look at what some of these

terms mean. First, deployability and employability describe a window of operational availability open to task units outside scheduled maintenance and training periods required to maintain unit readiness. Employment, also known as the FRP cycle, is the time from the end of one maintenance phase to the end of the next maintenance phase.

A deployment is time spent providing presence to combatant commanders (COCOMs) regardless of deployment length. As a result of our new deployment policies, any forward-deployed time now counts. Our nation is at war and you and your families have proven that you understand this means the nation depends on the capability of naval forces to provide forward operational presence. You remain committed to carrying out the Navy's - and the nation's - mission.

In relation to deployability and employability, Homeport Tempo is the percentage of time a unit is in homeport or

on station from the end of a maintenance phase to the end of the next maintenance phase. Keep in mind that all deployable elements have a maintenance period, but these maintenance periods vary in length and loss of operational capability. For example, ships experience a total loss in availability when they are required to be pier-side or in drydock. Other units, like air wings or detachments assigned to the Naval Expeditionary Combat Command, do not lose full capability. These units can still be employed to their level of current capability.

Lastly, dwell is the ratio of the number of days a unit spends on its last deployment to the number of days the unit spends in homeport, on station, or in local waters between deployments. This term replaces the Navy's term turn-around ratio.

This change, as well as other terminology changes, aligns our verbiage and our deployment policy with our Marine Corps, Army and Air Force counterparts to the extent

possible.

What does all this mean to you? If your ship deploys on a routine deployment, goes for six months and comes home, you should, per the dwell time, remain in your home operating area for six months before the ship will deploy again to any other geographic command. Think of dwell time as your time at home. Prior to the Navy's new focus, the ship that had most recently returned from a deployment was considered the ready ship, ready to deploy at a moment's notice as it was the one geared up and set to go. Per the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), this is no longer the case.

In a recent message (NAVADM 051/07), the CNO, Adm. Mike Mullen, wrote that we are deliberately taking action to strike the right balance between our need to provide rotational forward forces, our obligation to prepare forces for major contingencies and crisis, and our time at home. His plan is to maximize our ability to

deploy, provide flexibility to our COCOMs, align our terminology with the other services, and account for all of your deployed time. Now, any time spent on deployment will count as deployed time, even if it's for one day only. Before the new plan, the deployment clock did not begin until 56 days into the deployment.

Although this is a new Navy policy, not all units will be affected by the changes. Because of unique missions or operating cycles, fleet ballistic missile submarines, aviation training and fleet replacement squadrons, military assigned to Military Sealift Command ships, permanently forward-deployed units, deployed units operating with rotating crews, naval mobile construction battalions and cryptological direct support personnel are not included.

Bottom line here, shipmates, is we are a nation at war. We have taken the oath to support and defend our nation as part of the country's warfighting, seagoing

Commentary

Fireside Chat

Navy Region Federal Fire Dept.

Extension cords - the shocking truth

Victor M. Flint

Battalion Chief, Federal Fire Department

Most people use extension cords as a convenience without knowing how dangerous they can be. Misuse and/or abusing extension cords causes numerous fires in government housing every year. The Federal Fire Department recommends the following precautions:

Use the right extension cord for the right job. Light duty, heavy duty, inside, outside - check to see which one is right for you.

Use only an approved type of extension cord. UL (Underwriters Laboratories) or FM (Factory Mutual) are the good ones.

Avoid coiling cords to prevent heating and cracking.

Use only three-prong, plugged type of

extension cord. This is a grounded type of cord and is much safer. Never remove the third prong; you could get shocked.

Inspect your extension cord frequently. If your cord is cracked, pitted, crushed or frayed, then get rid of it.

Do not nail or staple extension cords to the wall or ceiling.

Do not run extension cords under carpets, over driveways, through windows or doors. That's how the cords get smashed and short out.

Do not run extension cords through a puddle of water or under water or attached to a metal fence.

But one thing is for sure. Extension cords are to be used as temporary wiring only. Use extension cords as a convenience; we all do. But when you're finished, unplug the extension cord at the power end (plug to outlet).

For more information,



U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph

Women's History Month salutes those who have served...

World War I Navy nurse with two convalescing U.S. Marines, one of whom has lost his right leg. The other has had his right arm amputated. She is wearing the indoor duty uniform with cape.

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Hawai'i Navy News

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The flight deck crew of USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) quickly remove the chocks and chains prior to the launch of Battle

Chung-Hoon Sailors gear up for their next mission

Story and photo by
Ensign Michelle
Stanforth

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93)

For the Sailors who sailed with USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) on her maiden deployment, it doesn't seem all that long ago that she pulled back into its homeport at Naval Station Pearl Harbor from Operation Enduring Freedom-Philippines.

In fact, it was only nine months ago and now with a great amount of turnover in the crew, the race continues for Chung-Hoon. Several of the plankowners, those who were part of the very building and commissioning of the ship, are handing off the baton to a new crew for the second leg of her mission. Fire Controlman 2nd Class Michael Govatos said, "The quick turnaround from the previous deploy-

ment, the relentless under-way training schedule, and large crew turnover together are a tremendous challenge. We are definitely up for the task though. Since day one, this crew has met every challenge put forth to them and came out on top. The plankowners are turning over a ready ship to a ready crew.

Chung-Hoon sprinted through rigorous unit level training and readiness assessments for engineering and combat systems prior to taking a break for the holidays. Now the ship and its crew are back for the long-distance portion of the race toward deployment, building up her endurance for a six-month marathon.

While her previous deployment and training were primarily solo operations, Chung-Hoon is now integrating with the rest of her Expeditionary Strike

Group (ESG) for the last legs of training prior to deployment. In the spring, Chung-Hoon will deploy with the USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), an amphibious ship whose primary mission is transporting Marines, their landing craft, aircraft, tanks, and weapons. The ESG is made up of helicopter detachments, amphibious craft, and CRUDES ships, cruisers and destroyers escorting the amphibious ships to their forward-deployed area of operation.

The first portion of integrated training, ESGINT, proved to be exciting and somewhat sobering with the unexpected search and rescue mission for one of Bonhomme Richard's downed aircraft during a training exercise. In the midst of a separate exercise, Chung-Hoon, USS Chosin (CG 65) and their helicopter assets from HSL-

43 and HSL-37 sprang to action in active search and recovery efforts throughout the following 24 hours. All members of the crew were struck with the reality that we train as we fight and that even within training there are great risks.

After the initial phase of integrated training, Chung-Hoon and the rest of the ESG begin more complex and faster-paced integrated training in the following months during COMPTUEX and JTFEX.

"I am extremely proud and humbled by the performance of Chung-Hoon's Sea Warriors," said Cmdr. Dave Welch, commanding officer.

"Our OPTEMPO is high and our latest training cycle was compressed, but the crew has responded to each challenge with professionalism and superb performance."



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Charity Barrett. Remains of American service members from the Vietnam War arrived at Hickam Air Force Base on March 16. A joint service color guard memorialized the arrival of the

Repatriation ceremony held at Hickam

Joint POW/MIA
Accounting Command

A ceremony to honor recovered remains believed to be associated with American military members was held March 16 at hangar 35 at Hickam Air Force Base.

The remains of three service members were associated with the Vietnam War: one from

the Lao People's Democratic Republic, one from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and one from the Kingdom of Cambodia.

A joint honor guard memorialized the arrival of the remains. Following the ceremony, the remains were transported to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command where the forensic identi-

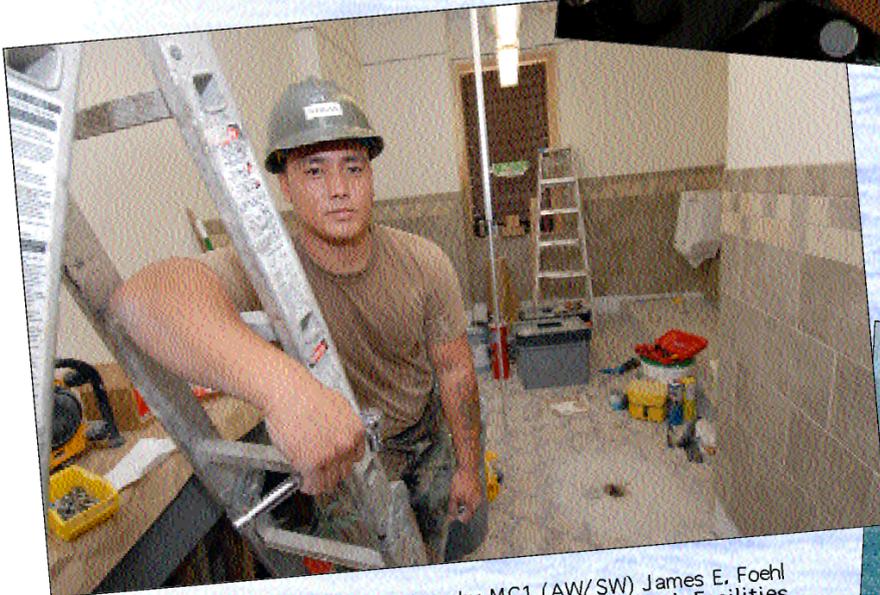
Pearl Harbor Highlights



U.S. Navy photo by MCC (SW/AW) David Rush
Sailors from various commands participate in anti-terrorism and force protection (ATFP) training at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. As members of ATFP units throughout the Navy, Sailors learn how to operate jet skis to help train shipboard security forces and to repel attacks in port.



U.S. Navy photo by MCC (SW/AW) David Rush
Sailors attached to various commands at Naval Station Pearl Harbor undergo various training scenarios to prepare them for duties involving underwater operations, emergencies and procedures, and if they successfully complete the course, they will re-enter the fleet as military-certified scuba divers.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (AW/SW) James E. Foehl
Utilitiesman 2nd Class Darwin Naigan, assigned to Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawai'i (NAVFAC), takes a break during renovations to a male head at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. NAVFAC Hawai'i provides a single touch-point for best-value engineering, public works, and acquisition services in Hawai'i to Navy, Marine Corps, Department of Defense and other federal agency clients.



U.S. Navy photo by MCC (SW/AW) David Rush
National Park Service's Daniel Martinez, park historian for the USS Arizona Memorial, describes the attack on Pearl Harbor at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island for a National Geographic Channel shoot for the show "Raw History."

Chosin Sailors complete COMPTUEX, enjoy their visit in San Diego

Ensign Christina Linehan

USS Chosin (CG 65)

After a successful COMPTUEX (Composite Training Unit Exercise), USS Chosin (CG 65) visited the port of San Diego on March 2. While in port San Diego, Sailors worked diligently to perform preventative and corrective maintenance that could not be accomplished underway.

On their off duty time, Sailors enjoyed the local attractions, which included the San Diego Zoo, Sea World and visiting various cities in Mexico. The Gaslamp District provided Chosin Sailors with good food, entertainment and shopping. I love the Gaslamp District. There's always something to do, said Ensign Sabina Damaschin.

Sailors also had the opportunity to attend events outside the San Diego area.

Also on the agenda, Sonar Technician (Surface) 2nd Class (STG2) Neal Ward and STG3 Christopher O Malley attended spring training games for the San



U.S. Navy photo
USS Chung-Hoon and USS Chosin Sailors take a break after completing the Sue Krenn 15K at Mission Bay Park in San

Francisco. Sailors from USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) also joined in on the fun. It was a beautiful day to run a race in San Diego, said Newberry.

Chosin Sailors enjoyed their port visit, but there was plenty of work to be done once the ship was back underway. JTFEX (Joint Task

Controlman 2nd Class (SW) Steven Newberry ran the Sue Krenn 15K at Mission Bay Park. Sailors from USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) also joined in on the fun. It was a beautiful day to run a race in San Diego, said Newberry.

Chosin Sailors enjoyed their port visit, but there was plenty of work to be done once the ship was back underway. JTFEX (Joint Task

Japanese helo lands on USS Russell



U.S. Navy photo by GSMFN Derek Webster
The Japanese helicopter, the SH-60J Seahawk, from Japanese Maritime Defense Force (JMSDF) Haruna (DDH-141), lands on USS Russell (DDG 59), homeported at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, during deck landing qualifications. Russell was participating in the USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group Passing Exercise (PASSEX). The PASSEX afforded the Japanese and U.S. Navy the opportunity to work with each other in a variety of different tactical maneuvers and training exercises.

Construction projects around Pearl Harbor



Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawai'i

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawai'i's (NAVFAC Hawai'i) environmental division remediation section provides assessment, abatement and disposal services for lead paint, asbestos and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) for customers in the region. It also conducts mold remediation.

Recent jobs to remove mold have occurred at buildings on Ford Island, Fleet Industrial Supply Center Pearl

Harbor, Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, Naval Magazine West Loch, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, and NAVFAC Hawai'i. Remediation personnel have formal training in mold clean up by the Naval Regional Medical Clinic. Since there is no formal mold protocol to follow, personnel use Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) procedures and protocols for the remediation. This means that while removing mold, the area is isolated, specific entry procedures followed, and workers are suited up. All of this effort is to protect

personnel in the vicinity of the mold removal work as well as the remediation worker. In addition, an infrared air purifier destroys airborne spores and for cleaning of surfaces, a solution that kills the mold and prevents re-growth is used.

Employees who notice mold in their work spaces should report their observation to their building manager.

Scheduled road closures:

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard - Parking lot C will continue to be closed for repaving until March 31.

Fleet and Industrial Supply Center - There will be a partial closure of Vincennes Avenue (down to two lanes) and parallel parking by buildings 474 and 475 will be unavailable, due to the ongoing replacement of a waterline through April 9.

Submarine base area

- Fourteen parking stalls at the corner of Nimitz and Pierce Streets will be closed for USS Parche Memorial repairs through March 28. Also, the parking near buildings 1310, 619 and 681 will be closed for tree removal and trimming from March 28-30.

Naval Station Pearl Harbor - The outbound lane from building 1314 (Club Pearl) parking lot will be closed and outgoing traffic will be detoured to other side of building to allow for roof repairs March 26-April 13.

Ford Island - Wasp Boulevard north of the Chafee intersection will be closed due to public-private venture housing work. A new temporary road will be opened at Chafee Boulevard to provide access to the area through June 30. The inbound lane of Yorktown Boulevard and both lanes of Cabot

Navy Region Hawai'i gets environmental award

Continued from A-1

to show that the Navy cares about the environment and wants to partner with the city in its environmental efforts to clean up the planet, the city and the island itself, said Roach.

It's a great honor to contribute to such a large scale clean up, like we did with our bike path of over 13 miles. We cleaned up a lot of area there - pollutants, contaminants, bio hazards, as well as ecological hazards such as batteries and things like that. It's a privilege to be out doing things like this for the Navy and the people of Honolulu, continued Roach.

The value of the Navy's volunteer work was lauded by Julie Muraoka, who is responsible for Navy Region Hawai'i's Clean Water Act Program.

According to Muraoka, the city's storm water quality branch regulates what discharges are allowed into the city's storm drain system.

Carelessness or lack of knowledge oftentimes results in pollutants entering the system [storm drain], said Muraoka.

Picking up litter is an important contribution to help protect Hawai'i's waters and the effort has far-reaching effects, continued Muraoka.

Pollutants can be carried by water flowing over streets and yards that could enter the storm drain system and eventually end up in our streams and ocean.

At Naval Station Pearl Harbor, helping to clean up the communities where Sailors work and live continues. We (Navy) are teaming up with the City and County of Honolulu, Honolulu Police Department, Aiea Middle School eighth graders and Pearl City Lions Club to clean up the historical Pearl Harbor bike path.

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MDSU One kicks off NMCRS fund drive with chili cook-off

HM1 Sara Gourley

Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One

The Heavy Lifters of Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) One held its second annual chili cook-off on March 13 to benefit the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Fund Drive. After the eight competitors cooked up some unique, challenging chilies, the MDSU One panel of judges did blind taste tests using a series of criteria to judge heat, spice, texture and overall taste to determine the winner.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Chris Spann won first place with Navy Diver 2nd Class Shawn Gerasimchik and Lt. Christopher Wolff placing a respectable second and third.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Enriquez Martino, a judge for the event, said, "It was a very close call



U.S. Navy photo by CMC Clarence Longtin MDSU One hosted its second annual chili cook-off on March 13 to help benefit the Navy-Marine Corps Relief

and a tough decision, but the winners certainly deserved the title.

After the judging was over, MDSU One sold chili dogs and bowls of rice and chili and raised more than \$160 for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. I was glad we kicked off our fund drive with an event that

brought everyone together and provided me an opportunity to address the entire command," said Information Systems Technician 1st Class Ryan Broyles who is part of the Command NMCRS Fund Drive Committee. The winners were announced and formally recognized at an

USS Russell transits South Pacific



Guided missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) transits the South Pacific while on deployment as part of the USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group. Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group is currently underway in support of operations in the western

Russell participates in PASSEX with Japanese navy

Story and photo by
Ensign Theresa Donnelly

USS Russell (DDG 59) Public Affairs

USS Russell (DDG 59) concluded its three-day passing exercise (PASSEX) on March 18 as Russell, Ronald Reagan Strike Group (RRSG) ships, and four Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force ships worked together executing various tactical exercises. The objective of the PASSEX was to enhance training and work with allied partners strengthening the relationship between the United States and the Japanese Navy.

Russell conducted a variety of different exercises including a tactical data information exchange, air defense exercise, a junior officer exchange program, deck landing qualifications and divisional tactics (DIVTACS), which involves high-speed close maneuvering drills. The PASSEX culminated with a photo exercise and a pass in review.

From a tactical standpoint, Russell Sailors worked through some challenging situations. During its tactical data information link exchange, crew members had to work through such barriers as the language differential between crew members and the Japanese navy.

To work through the language differences was tough, but luckily my leading petty officer had spent 11 years in Japan which helped tremendously. We had to make use of special codes that aren't used too much. However, we were the first ship in the battle group to establish the data exchange and that was pretty cool, said Operation Specialist 2nd Class Christopher Elliott, who works in Combat



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Theresa Donnelly
Lt. j.g. Dan Bond gives instruction on Russell's radar to Ensign Yoshihara Koichi. Yoshihara is the assistant engineer on board JDS Yuugiri. He visited USS Russell on March 17-18 as part of the liaison naval officer program which enables junior officers to experience life on their allied counterpart's naval war-

Information Center (CIC).

Capt. Sean O'Conner, commanding officer of the USS Lake Champlain (CG 57) and RRSG air defense commander, praised Russell's expertise. Russell was able to establish communications

with Japanese ship Myoko early in the morning and cleared a path for the rest of RRSG Bravo to Russell's air defense team, he said.

Another aspect of the exercise was the liaison naval officer program. For two days, Japanese

naval officer Ensign Yoshihara Koichi came onboard Russell and Ensign Christopher Heney visited Japanese ship Yuugiri (DD 153).

Onboard Yuugiri, Heney was afforded the unique chance to witness first hand the exercises from a

Japanese perspective. After just a few short hours of arrival, Heney was already assisting in writing various messages sent out from the ship.

The Japanese navy went above and beyond to make sure I understood what they were doing. It was a great experience, commented Heney.

On the last day of the exercise, Russell took part in a divisional tactics exercise with the Japanese ships, the Ronald Reagan, the Lake Champlain and the USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), also homeported at Pearl Harbor. During this evolution, ships maneuvered in close proximity in a variety of different formations. To accomplish this precision exercise, Russell crew members plotted various courses to enable a safe and precise course.

Operation Specialist 3rd Class Justin Salmeron said, "I felt like we were really part of the bigger picture. The bridge took our recommendations for course changes and it validated the work we did. I also got to learn more about the various signals that ships use to communicate with each other."

The passing exercise was described as a huge success for all the ships involved. The PASSEX was a chance for our two navies to enhance military-to-military relationships and was designed to improve both naval forces capability for coordinated and bilateral operations, said Rear Adm. Charles W. Martoglio, commander of the Ronald Reagan Strike Group.

Russell deployed Feb. 3 and is currently surged with the Ronald Reagan Strike Group on a Western Pacific (WESTPAC) deployment.

Sailors from USS Lake Erie grant teenager his wish

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The tour took Neil and his family through the entire ship from deep in the main engine room right up to the commanding officer's stateroom and then the bridge.

I felt pretty fortunate to be selected to represent the ship. It was a real honor to be selected as a third class.

They could have chosen anyone, said Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Joey Luna who led the Smith family on the tour.

Showing Neil and his younger brother Sam around the ship, showing them what we do and being able to interact with them, that was definitely the highlight of the tour, said

Luna.

Seeing the missile compartments was great. The thing that really caught my eye was the R2-D2, said Smith, referring to the ship's close-in weapons system.

What separated Smith from other distinguished visitors the Lake Erie has hosted is the sendoff he received at the conclusion of his tour.

He was greeted by nearly 30 crew members, including both the commanding officer and the command master chief who presented him with a few mementos to remember his time spent aboard.

The first thing Operations Specialist Master Chief (SW/AW) Gary Horton gave to Smith was a sea bag,

which was a good indicator of the amount of gifts to be presented. The boy also received command ball caps, T-shirts, coins and photos, to list a few, but the most memorable gift was a shock to all.

In a very memorable presentation, he was frocked as an honorary master chief petty officer and presented

with a combination cover, one that has been in Horton's possession for more than 18 years.

I would like to thank the Navy and everyone on the Lake Erie for making me an honorary master chief, said Smith. It was cool.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation was founded in 1980 after a little boy