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Pearl Harbor commands recognized for community service

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The Chief of Naval Operations recognized three Pearl Harbor-based commands for their outstanding community service projects with the announcement of the winners in the Navy Community Service Awards program.

In the Personal Excellence Partnership (PEP) category for a large shore command, the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard received an honorable mention, Afloat Training Group, Middle Pacific (ATG MIDPAC) received an honorable mention for a small shore command and Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One (MDSU-1) received an honorable mention for a small sea command, for the many community service activities that personnel volunteered for in the period from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

“I’m proud of everything that shipyard employees have done to give back to the community,” said Capt. Gregory Thomas, shipyard commander. “The philosophy of the command is to give our personal and professional best every day, both inside and outside of work. It is an honor to be recognized for our volunteer work at this level.”

The shipyard’s nearly 4,800 civilian and military employees volunteer thousands of hours each year in the local community. Through various command-sponsored community service programs, the shipyard supported more than 5,000 students in Hawaii over the past year.

Volunteers participated in campus beautification and improvement projects as well as tutoring programs and physical fitness activities. Shipyard military personnel also volunteered to serve as coaches, referees and judges for various Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps events that were held at Pearl Harbor.

Lt. Jennifer Hall, diving medical officer and public affairs officer for MDSU-1, noted the importance of MDSU-1’s involvement throughout the community.

“Not only does this recognition embody the command’s involvement as a whole, but it also reflects the true characters of many individuals who regularly volunteer to reach out to the community,” said Hall. “Many of our sponsorships and community involvement are voluntary and our Sailors take time away from work and their personal lives to take part in these many selfless activities. As leaders in our military, mentors to the kids and liaisons with our partners, MDSU-1 holds this award with pride and will continue admirably to serve the greater good.”

MDSU-1 participated in numerous events including, the Science, Service, Medicine, Mentoring Program that teaches high school and college students about military medicine as well as a continuing a partnership with Waipahu Elementary School.

Sailors assigned to ATG MIDPAC also volunteered numerous times throughout the community including various events with their partnership school, Iroquois Point Elementary School, as well as contributing many hours coaching youth sports and teaching Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps about the Navy.

Ninety personnel from ATG MIDPAC volunteered more than 700 hours to community events between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009.

The Personal Excellence Partnership program is a collaborative effort among Navy commands, public and/or private sector organizations, and schools and youth groups. Its purpose is to assist America’s youth, from pre-school through high school, to become better educated, healthier and more responsible citizens.

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