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## **Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam holds second open house**

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Nearly 400 Air Force and Navy active duty and civilian personnel attended the second Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) open house and town hall meeting at the Hickam Air Force Base Enlisted Club on Jan. 26.

The purpose of the open house was to help answer questions and alleviate concerns as Naval Station Pearl Harbor (NSPH) and Hickam Air Force Base (HAFB) transition into a single joint installation beginning Jan. 31.

Capt. Richard Kitchens, commanding officer of Naval Station Pearl Harbor and prospective JBPHH commander, said that results of the transition will support both Air Force and Navy missions, along with all tenant commands, service members and their families.

“By capitalizing on best practices of both services, the joint base plans to continue to enhance war-fighting readiness, maximize delivery of installation support services throughout the joint base, and capture identified efficiencies,” said Kitchens.

Using a town hall style panel discussion, Airmen, Sailors and civilians directed questions to Kitchens and other members of the JBPHH Partnership Council and spoke about their concerns about the joint base. Topics discussed ranged from chain-of-command issues and traffic policies to civilian contracts.

Capt. Bret Muilenburg, commanding officer, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawaii; Col. Sam Barrett, vice commander, 15th Airlift Wing; Col. Charles Baumgardner, commander, 15th Airlift Wing Mission Support Group; and Capt. Randy Moore, commanding officer, Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Pearl Harbor are part of the JBPHH Partnership Council who participated with Kitchens in the panel discussion.

Despite the concerns, Kitchens said the joint basing will not negatively impact operational mission functions nor mandate a reduction of jobs.

“Joint basing will truly be a ‘joint’ team effort which will respect each of our service cultures, identities and history,” said Kitchens. “It will focus on optimizing installation management and result in higher levels of service. This will cost more initially, but will save money in the long run.”

During the transition phase, also known as the “initial operational capability” (IOC), 53 support functions will start to practice a joint way of operating. Twenty-six functions will begin transitioning on Feb. 1; 27 will begin transitioning on June 1.

This transitional phase is designed to allow commands to smooth out policies and procedures before the “full operational capability” (FOC) date of Oct. 1, by which time all assets from the transitioning Air Force support functions, real estate and funding will transfer over to the Navy.

According to Kitchens, JBPHH will directly affect more than 1,800 Air Force military and civilian personnel as several base functions, such as command management, logistics support and chaplain ministries, combine during the transition phase.

Religious Program Specialist 1st Class Kimberly Robinson who represented the chaplain ministries at NSPH said she has no concerns as the two services come together in the future.

“I think it’s a good idea to incorporate the two services,” said Robinson. “There’ll be more resources for counseling and assistance for Airmen and Sailors in need.”

JBPHH is scheduled to be in “full operational capability” on October 1.

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