

## Responsibility urged to preserve Sailors' lives

Story and photo by MC3 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Arthur Johnson, commander of the Naval Safety Center, spoke with Hawai'i-based Sailors at Sharkey Theatre and Lockwood Hall on board Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor on April 22.

Johnson held a khaki call to talk with officers and chief petty officers about the importance of safety in today's Navy and held a motorcycle rider roundtable to discuss motorcycle safety tips for all Sailors.

"The safety of our Sailors is very important. We as senior leaders need to take a look at all the things we are doing right and continue that trend, but at the same time we need to evaluate the things that we could be doing better and make it happen," said Johnson.

"A majority of accidents in the military occur from motor vehicles and when you mix that with alcohol, it becomes a deadly combination," said Johnson. "Our leadership and the 'right spirit campaign' have done a great job of helping prevent Sailors from drinking and driving."

Chief Construction Mechanic Jose Lara,



Rear Adm. Arthur Johnson, commander, Naval Safety Center, speaks with officers and chief petty officers assigned to various commands in Hawai'i during a khaki call on April 22 at Sharkey Theatre at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. During his visit, Johnson discussed various safety topics, including alcohol awareness and motor vehicle safety.

assigned to Mobile Diving and Savage Unit One, looked forward to hearing Johnson discuss how to improve safety for all Sailors.

"It was good to be able

to voice our concerns and ask questions to the person that is responsible for the safety of the entire Navy," said Lara.

Johnson stressed the importance of person-

nel obtaining all safety qualifications.

"There are multiple courses that the Navy offers to give Sailors the training that they need to become better riders and

receive all required quali-

fications," said Johnson. "It is up to the experienced riders and command leadership to point the new Sailors that are inexperienced in the right direc-

tion and tell them the correct steps to take."

Sailors also had the opportunity to learn about the various events and activities that are offered throughout Hawai'i.

## Sailors compete in 2009 NAVSTA Pearl Harbor Captain's Cup

Story and photo by MC3 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor held a command picnic at Rainbow Bay Marina on April 24 to celebrate the end of the 2009 NAVSTA Pearl Harbor Captain's Cup competition.

More than 100 Sailors assigned to various commands in the Pearl Harbor area participated in six different events, including softball, basketball and volleyball during the five-day long contest.

"We had a great week of competition between all of the participants who were involved with the events," said Capt. Richard Kitchens, commanding officer of NAVSTA Pearl Harbor. "I want to thank

everyone who volunteered their time to make it possible to have this command picnic and our Captain's Cup games."

Chief Master-At-Arms Bernardo Gomez, president of NAVSTA Pearl Harbor's Morale, Welfare and Recreation committee, reflected on what the Captain's Cup means to the Sailors.

"Personnel look forward to this event every year because it allows Sailors to build camaraderie within their department and the command while having fun and competing in the different events," said Gomez.

Sailors were happy to have the opportunity to attend the picnic and enjoy the different events available, including sumo wrestling and jousting.

"It's good to be able to come out here and be involved in all of the festivities that are going on today," said Culinary Specialist 3rd

Class Tasha Myers.

During the picnic, the different teams competed in a canoe race and a tug-o-war competition to determine the winner of the Captain's Cup.

NAVSTA Pearl Harbor's security department took first place in the final events and was declared the 2009 NAVSTA Pearl Harbor Captain's Cup champions with a total of 30 points.

"It feels great to win the Captain's Cup competition," said Master-At-Arms 1st Class Matthew O'Brien, assigned to NAVSTA Pearl Harbor's security department. "Teamwork is an important key to anything you do and that is the reason we took first place here today."

Personnel Support Detachment Pearl Harbor came in second with 24 points, followed by Pearl Harbor fleet and family readiness program with 20 points.



Sailors assigned to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor participate in a tug-o-war athletic event at Rainbow Bay Marina during the 2009 NAVSTA Pearl Harbor Captain's Cup competition.



A child enjoys a bubble machine during the 2009 Springfest, held at Naval Station Pearl Harbor's Ward Field. The event hosted about 2,000 military patrons who had the opportunity to visit two dozen eco-friendly educational outdoor interactive exhibits, participate in outdoor sports activities, and watch live entertainment.

## Naval Station Pearl Harbor celebrates Earth Day and Springfest

Story and photo by MC2 John W. Ciccarelli Jr.

Naval Public Affairs Support Element West Det. Hawai'i

Naval Station Pearl Harbor hosted Spring Fest 2009 to celebrate the month of the military child at Ward Field on April 25. This year's theme was Earth Day.

MWR Springfest hosted approximately 1,200 patrons who had the opportunity to visit two-dozen eco-friendly educational outdoor interactive exhibits, participate in outdoor sports activities, and watch live entertainment.

"Celebrating Earth Day during Spring Fest is a chance to raise environmental awareness around the Navy community by educating and giving them the skills to learn ways to preserve and protect Hawai'i's fragile environment," said Aerographer's Mate 2nd Class Horace Mai, assigned to Naval Maritime Forecast Center/Joint Typhoon Warning Center.

The event was free and open to all active duty personnel, their families, sponsored guests and DoD civilians.

At the different exhibits, patrons learned

about storm water prevention and pollution, the native vegetation of Hawai'i, and ways to conserve energy in their homes.

"Many military families on Oahu live in base housing. We do not see the energy bills that accrue by the end of the month, so it's hard to tell if we're doing our part to conserve energy," said a Navy spouse. "I feel the festival reminds us, the military family, that conserving energy is not just about saving the military money, it's also about saving the planet. Sometimes it's hard for us to see the direct relationship to conserving when we're not the ones paying the bill."

The live entertainment included juggling artists Team Rootberry, dancers from 24-VII Dance force, and exhibits from The Green House.

The Federal Fire Department, Navy Recycling Program, Naval Maritime Forecast Center and Joint Typhoon Warning Center Navy Hawai'i Energy Team and Navy Region Hawai'i's natural resources program also participated.

Earth Day exhibitors included the City and County of Honolulu's department of environmental services, Hawai'i Nature

See EARTH DAY / SPRINGFEST, A-8



Help prevent the flu  
See page A-3



How to lose your on-base driving privileges in five easy steps  
See page A-4



CNRH holds first Hawai'i Regional First Class Petty Officer Leadership Symposium  
See page A-7



Navy flexes muscles at bodybuilding show  
See page B-1

# USS Hopper returns from Western Pacific deployment

Story and photo by  
MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i Public  
Affairs

Although the normal sunshine of Hawai'i was replaced with clouds and rain, friends and families on the pier braved the weather to hold signs and wave to their loved ones as Sailors aboard the Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) returned to its homeport of Naval Station Pearl Harbor on April 23. The ship's return followed a three-month deployment to the Western Pacific in support of the Mid-Pacific Surface Combatant Operational Employment program.

"They all go through so much while they're gone, so it's an exciting and wonderful sensation to know they're coming home safe and sound," said the wife of a Hopper Sailor.

Hopper Sailors were proud of their efforts, working as a unit



The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) makes her way pier side to Naval Station Pearl Harbor after a three-month deployment on April 23.

during their time at sea and joyful to greet their loved ones waiting on the pier.

"We really flexed our ability to be liquid in that we never knew what was coming up next and we did everything we were asked. It was just a great job by everyone onboard," said Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW) Justin Storto.

"It feels great to be back in Pearl Harbor after three months," said Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class (SW) Roberto Bonilla. "To come home and be able to hold my son and wife in my arms is a wonderful feeling."

After the ship moored and the brow was in place, Sailors and their significant others participated in a traditional "first kiss" ceremony, with the rest of the crew departing the ship shortly after.

"It feels great to be back in Hawai'i. We're going to enjoy the time we have with our families and friends as much as we can," said Cmdr. Timothy Kott, Hopper's commanding officer.

Kott also complimented his Sailors for their extraordinary efforts throughout the deployment.

"As always, the crew performed remarkably and everything we asked of them, they executed perfectly. Everything we did will pay us great dividends for our future certifications and for future deployments," said Kott.

During the deployment, the crew enjoyed five port visits to three countries, including Japan, Korea and Guam. In addition, Sailors also contributed to the host nations' schools and orphanages during four community relations projects.

Hopper departed Pearl Harbor on Jan. 20 to join the USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) Battle Group and members of Destroyer Squadron 15 while supporting the Mid-Pacific Surface Combatant Operational Employment program. While on deployment, Hopper participated in numerous advanced phase training events and exercises in addition to acting as a ballistic missile defense asset

by providing an increased presence of naval ships in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.

The Mid-Pacific Surface Combatant Operational Employment program calls for Hawai'i-based surface combatants to focus on the Western Pacific by conducting intermediate/advanced training and regular deployments in the Western Pacific. The program also furthers America's maritime strategy by posturing credible power in the Western Pacific to protect our vital interests, assure our friends and allies, and deter potential adversaries.

Hopper is 505 feet in length, 66 feet wide and has a maximum speed of 30 plus knots. Guided-missile destroyers operate in support of carrier strike groups, surface action groups, amphibious groups and replenishment groups and are multi-mission [anti-air warfare (AAW), anti-submarine warfare (ASW) and anti-surface warfare (ASUW)] surface combatants.

# Pacific Fleet announces Sea, Shore Sailors of the Year

Story and photo by  
MC1 Sarah K. Murphy

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public  
Affairs

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Adm. Robert F. Willard announced the 2009 Pacific Fleet Sea and Shore Sailors of the Year during a ceremony held April 23 at the Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu.

Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class (AW) Christopher Green was named the Pacific Fleet Sea Sailor of the Year and Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW/AW/FMF) James Nicholson was named the Pacific Fleet Shore Sailor of the Year.

All Sailor of the Year finalists competed against first class petty officers throughout the Pacific Fleet; however, the final competition was narrowed to four in each of the two categories – sea and shore.

"Sailors of the Year are selected because of their individual accomplishments within their command," said Willard, keynote speaker. "I'm immensely proud of all of you for the superior performance you represent, the broad skills you bring, and the influence you've had with all the Sailors you've touched in past years."

Representing Strike Fighter Squadron 41 (VFA-41), Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif., Green will be meritoriously promoted to chief petty officer this summer, along with the Fleet Forces Command and Reserve Force Sailors of the Year.

"To be presented with this title is absolutely amazing," said Green, a Tucson, Ariz. native. "It's hard to believe I was selected from this outstanding group of people and the most rewarding part about this competition is leaving here with a wonderful group of friends."

Nicholson represents Naval Operational Medicine Institute, San Diego. Because of his selection as the Shore Sailor of the Year, he will travel to Washington, D.C. and represent Pacific Fleet at the Chief of Naval Operations Shore Sailors of the Year competition. If selected, he, too, will be meritoriously promoted to chief petty officer.

"Just being a part of the entire process has been my greatest honor," said Nicholson, a Bremerton, Wash. native. "An even greater honor, and one I look forward to, will be representing Pacific Fleet in Washington, D.C."

Willard spoke of what these Sailors of the Year represent and how he hopes they will continue to inspire their fellow shipmates.

"These eight Sailors will bring so much depth to our Navy, and they represent the very best of an all-vol-

unteer force, the United States Navy, that will stack its personnel against any other Navy on the globe," Willard said. "These young Sailors of the Year represent our future ... we need you."

Prior to the announcement of the winners, the eight Sailor of the Year finalists participated in a variety of personal and professional evaluations as well as leadership, naval heritage and team-building events.

Pacific Fleet Master Chief (SW/AW) Tom Howard, who spearheaded the competition, called the entire week a career development process for the finalists. He explained what leadership is looking for in a Sailor of the Year.

"We are looking for a well-rounded Sailor,"



Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, announces Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW/AW/FMF) James Nicholson as the 2009 Pacific Fleet Shore Sailor of the Year during an awards ceremony held April 23 at the Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu. Nicholson, a Naval Operational Medicine Institute Sailor, will travel to Washington, D.C. and represent Pacific Fleet at the Chief of Naval Operations Shore Sailors of the Year Competition.

Howard said, "somebody who is a professional within the rating that they have, someone who is familiar with some of the programs that are out there, and someone who can represent all our Sailors across all our communities throughout the Pacific Fleet."

The other Sailors nominated for the Sea Sailor of the Year title were Religious Program Specialist 1st Class (FMF/SW) Patrick McCormick, 1st Marine Logistics Group; Special Operations (SEAL) 1st Class Marcos Ybarra, SEAL Team Three; and Air Traffic Control 1st Class (AW/SW) Alea Creighton, USS Tarawa (LHA 1).

Others nominated for Shore Sailor of the Year were Operations Specialist 1st Class (SW) Terrish

Bilbrey, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Religious Specialist 1st Class (FMF/SW) Patricia Hernandez, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton; and Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class (AW/SW) Ethan Clark, Fleet Readiness Center Southwest, Detachment Point Mugu.

The Sailors of the Year received a ceremonial cutlass, and the runners-up received a Lone Sailor statue and Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medals.

Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, former chief of naval operations, initiated the Sailor of the Year program in 1972 as he sought to recognize outstanding Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Sailors at sea. The following year, the Shore Sailor of the Year program was introduced.

# Hawaii Navy News Editorial

## Help prevent the flu

Naval Health Clinic  
Hawaii

Given the recent national focus on several aggressive cases of Influenza Type A (H1N1), there are things you can do to help keep you from getting sick and to prevent the spread of flu illnesses.

Steps you can take to prevent the spread of germs:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or simply wear a surgical mask.
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.
- Put your used tissue in the waste basket.
- Clean your hands after coughing or sneezing.
- Wash with soap and water or clean with alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too. For added protection, consider wearing a surgical mask if you are exhibiting symptoms. If you are in close contact with someone who is sick, you need an N95 respirator sold at building supply stores.

If you develop a high fever and other moderate respiratory symptoms (cough, chest pain, difficulty breathing, significant muscle aches), please contact your primary care manager. When you are sick, stay home from work, school and group activities and postpone errands. You will protect others from catching your illness. Wear a mask if you must go out in public.

Keeping healthy is no accident. Do your part to keep yourself and your family, friends and coworkers from getting sick.

For more information, please refer to the following Web site or call the Oahu Joint Services Flu Hotline at 808.433.1FLU.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

## VBSS: Evolving with the mission

Ed Barker

Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Whether searching a dhow in the Persian Gulf for hidden weapons, or boarding and inspecting a suspected pirate mothership off the coast of Somalia, visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) teams are playing an important part in the Navy's 21st century maritime strategy.

Managed by the Center for Security Forces (CENSECFOR) in Norfolk, Va., formal VBSS training was created following the Gulf War in 1990 as a way to standardize and continue the maritime interception operations introduced there as a result of UN resolutions.

"The course was designed to standardize what was previously done through on-the-job training and pass-down," said Kurt Martin, anti-terrorism program manager for CENSECFOR. "We introduced the curriculum in 1998 and updated it in 2005 to reflect what the teams would be facing in the fleet."

Initial VBSS skills training is delivered by CENSECFOR at four locations: Chesapeake, Va., Mayport, Fla., San Diego and Pearl Harbor. The initial training continuum



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jason R. Zalasky

Visit, board, search and seizure team members (VBSS) in a rigid-hulled inflatable boat (RHIB) from the guided-missile cruiser USS Vella Gulf (CG 72) close in to apprehend suspected pirates. Vella Gulf is the flagship for Combined Task Force 151, a multi-national task force conducting counterpiracy operations to detect and deter piracy in and around the Gulf of Aden, Arabian Gulf, Indian Ocean and Red Sea.

includes three courses lasting a total of eight weeks, with some team members receiving additional follow-on training. Skills taught in the VBSS courses include tactical movement and shooting, defensive tactics, repelling, searching and other team skills.

The center's training covers both VBSS Level I, which focuses on ships that comply with the instructions of the inspection team, and Level II, which addresses the tactics used to board vessels that are non-compliant. Level II ships have freeboard (the distance between the waterline and the main deck of the ship) of 25 feet or less above the water. Non-compliant vessels that have greater than

25 feet of freeboard, or that are actively opposing the boarding, are handled by teams of special operations forces (SOF).

"Time and again on this deployment, the investment in training of my VBSS team has paid off," said Cmdr. Steve Murphy, commanding officer of USS Mahan (DDG 72), currently operating as part of Combined Task Force (CTF) 151, a multinational task force conducting counterpiracy operations in the Gulf of Aden.

"Whether in support of the counter-narcotics mission or our new, more aggressive approach to stopping piracy, extensive training and the teamwork and principles of risk manage-

ment that it has instilled have resulted in safe mission accomplishment."

Although anti-piracy operations are getting significant news coverage, Martin notes that VBSS teams are not specifically trained for an anti-piracy mission.

"You won't find the term 'anti-piracy' in any of the CENSECFOR VBSS training curriculum," added Martin.

"The fact that the ships depend on the VBSS teams is a by-product of the cohesive unit that forms, and their ability to deliver the team via rigid-hull inflatable boats, board vessels and, if necessary, defend themselves should the situation arise. VBSS teams are on Navy ships throughout the world 24/7, keeping the bad guys from smuggling everything from guns to cocaine."

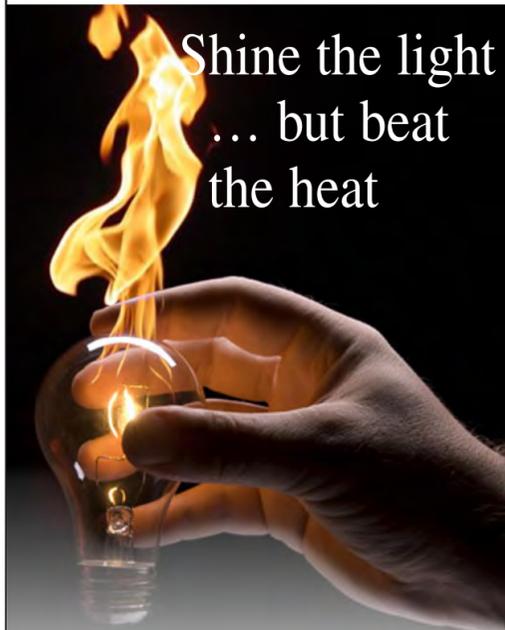
"VBSS teams are an all-volunteer force and generally consist of young, athletic Sailors that are gung-ho," said Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate (SW) Michael Edwards, training and readiness action officer for Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic. "It's an intense program that is challenging to complete, but the experience and results are worth it. The missions are interesting and varied; as a VBSS team member afloat, life is never dull."

Commentary

## Fireside Chat

Navy Region Federal Fire Dept.

Shine the light  
... but beat  
the heat



Victor Flint

Battalion Chief, Federal Fire Department

Electric lights come in all sizes, shapes and colors. Big, tall, large and small. Red, blue, clear or coated. Whether it's inside or outside, there is an electric light for any kind of lighting project that you desire.

There is another choice to make. How many watts? In simple terms, the number of watts a light bulb is determines how much light that particular bulb can produce. And there lies the problem. A light bulb can reach hundreds of degrees in a short amount of time. The greater the amount of watts of a light bulb will also determine the amount of heat that bulb will produce.

On the average, the heat generated from a regular, low wattage (25 to 60 watts) light bulb is from 200 to 500 degrees. High wattage light bulbs (90 to 150 watts) burn much hotter. And halogen bulbs can reach temperature of 1650 degrees.

According to most manufacturers of electric light fixtures, 40 to 60-watt light bulbs are recommended. Appliances usually use 25-watt bulbs. If high wattage bulbs are used, the temperature will be hot enough to melt the light cover and to set fire to nearby combustibles such as fabric curtains and decorations.

Sometimes people will attempt to dry their wet clothes by draping them over the electric light fixture. You are only asking for trouble. Do not use the electric light fixture to dry clothes.

If halogen types of lighting are used, make sure that nothing combustible is close by.

Do not use the socket of your light fixture for anything but a light bulb. Any attempts to rig the fixture could result in a short circuit, electric shock or worse.

For more information about electric lights and other fire-related questions, call Battalion Chief Victor Flint at the Federal Fire Department's Fire Prevention Division at 471-3303, ext. 633.

## Battle of Coral Sea, May 1942



Official U.S. Navy photograph, now in the collections of the U.S. National Archives

USS Lexington (CV-2) during the action, seen from USS Yorktown (CV-5), on May 8, 1942. Large number of planes on deck and low sun indicate that the photo was taken early in the morning, prior to launching the strike against the Japanese carrier force. Yorktown has several SBDs and F4Fs on deck with engines running, apparently preparing to take off. Lexington, whose silhouette has been altered by the earlier removal of her eight-inch gun turrets, has planes parked fore and aft, and may be respotting her deck in preparation for launching aircraft.

## Hawaii Navy News

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# How to lose your on-base driving privileges in five easy steps

Karen S. Spangler

Editor

Driving on Naval Station Pearl Harbor and other Navy installations is a privilege that you have. But you may not realize that those privileges can be denied if you don't follow the rules.

A focal point of the driving and enforcement policies for driving on Navy Region Hawai'i installations is the "Big Five" program.

According to Linda Biggs, traffic administrator for Navy Region Hawai'i, the "Big Five" program was implemented in 2005 by Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i (CNRH). "In 2004, the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) issued a memo to establish a structured safety oversight to reduce mishaps. In response to the SECDEF memo, CNRH established the "Big Five" traffic violation enforcement policy," she noted.

In March 2009, Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, re-released a message reconfirming commitment to the "Big Five" initiative and demonstrating his strong support for the program.

"Motor vehicle accidents are a leading cause of death and serious injury. Strict enforcement of traffic laws has proven to reduce accidents and provides for a safer environment for both motorists and pedestrians," Smith said in the message.

"For several years, CNRH has conducted a successful traffic safety enforcement program focused on five serious traffic violations. This message reaffirms CNRH commitment to the Big Five Traffic Enforcement Program on all Navy installations and Navy property in Hawai'i,"



U.S. Navy photo by MCI James E. Foehl

Break any of the "Big Five" rules and you could be facing the loss of your driving privileges on base. Drivers should be aware that they can lose driving privileges and/or fines can be given with the first offense.

emphasized Smith.

Although it is important to follow all of the driving rules, the "Big Five" program gives an even higher priority to specific violations. Break any of these rules and you could be facing the loss of your driving privileges on base. Drivers should be aware that they can lose driving privileges and/or fines can be given with the first offense.

## Here are the five "biggies" that constitute the Big Five program:

- If you exceed the posted speed limit in excess of 15 mph, it is one of the Big Five. The posted limit is 30 mph unless otherwise indicated, such as in school zones or residential areas. (The bottom line – don't speed on base.)

- Make sure that your seat belt is fastened at all times when the car is in motion. This includes both drivers and occupants.

- Make sure that children are properly restrained in a child restraint system (all children under four years of age).

- Make sure to wear the required personal protective equipment (PPE) while operating or riding a motorcycle, moped or ATV.

- Do not allow an uncensored or unauthorized person to operate your vehicle.

The first offense for violations of the Big Five can result in a 30-day suspension of driving privileges on all Navy installations in Hawai'i. A second offense for the same violation in a one-year period will earn you a

one-year suspension of driving privileges on all Navy installations.

Biggs noted that in the five years since the Big Five program has been in place, there have not been any second offenses. The number of offenders has also drastically declined. She said that in 2005, they processed 366 individuals who had violated the Big Five. Statistics for 2008 showed 146 offenders.

While it may be a hard lesson to learn, the loss of driving privileges can send a stronger message than paying a fine.

"If you get stopped off base during a click it or ticket campaign, you have to pay a fine and it's annoying, leaves you short of money, and then the violation becomes a vague memory. When you take someone's [on base driving] privileges away, they seem to remember that," said Biggs.

"Driving on a military installation is not a right. It's a privilege," she added.

Biggs emphasized the importance of following the rules and regulations for driving on Department of Defense (DoD) property. "You don't have to like the rules, but you have to follow them," she said. "But there is a huge difference between the person who doesn't intentionally break the law and the person who has three speeding violations and a lead foot," she explained.

Those who are cited and mandated to report to traffic court must be represented by someone from their command in the rank of chief or above. Traffic court is held every Wednesday.

In determining the severity of the consequence for the violation, various factors such as the offender's appearance, demeanor and the reason for the violation may come into play.

Biggs noted, "Everyone has a story, everyone has a voice. Everyone has an opportunity to have their voices heard. I don't know what the outcome will be, but everyone has the right to tell their story."

Biggs said that frequently Sailors will go back to their commands and give training on the Big Five program to their shipmates. "I have received some wonderful Power Point presentations," she said with a smile. "It provides us with an opportunity for individuals to go back to their commands and further educate others," she added.

The importance and effectiveness of wearing personal protective equipment when riding a motorcycle or moped has been well documented. "The rules are in place for a reason – the command has statistical data that backs up that this program is working," she said.

Every citation has points. Drivers are allowed to accumulate up to 12 points within a 12-month period or 18 points within a 24-month cycle. The points are manually removed from the driver's record one year from the date of the citation for that offense. But a close check is kept of drivers whose cumulative points are near the maximum.

## Here is a partial breakdown of how some of the points are given:

- Parking illegally, such as on the grass or in a reserved space – two points.
- Improper passing – four points.
- Following too close – four points.
- Speeding: One to 10 mph over the speed limit – three points; more than 10 mph, but less than 15 mph over the speed limit, four points; more than 15 mph over the speed limit, suspension of driving privileges.
- Using a cell phone

while driving – three points.

Failure to use seat belts is one of the biggest violations, according to Biggs. "Our Navy is full of great Sailors. The majority of them are not out there to intentionally break the law. They're always moving and don't take the five or 10 seconds to make sure their seat belts are on, make sure they're not speeding, etc.," she offered.

Driving while under the influence (DUI) anywhere on the island is dealt with harshly and will result in an automatic one-year suspension of driving privileges. Violators are processed through the Navy Region Hawai'i traffic court as well as the state of Hawai'i traffic court.

"When you're caught [violating any of the traffic laws], you really have to ground yourself. Ask yourself if you have been abiding by the law. The answer is usually no," Biggs pointed out.

Here are some other friendly reminders pertaining to operation of your vehicle on base.

- Do not use your cell phones while driving. This is an absolute no-no, whether you're talking, dialing, texting, etc. – you get the idea.

- Be sure to watch for pedestrians in the cross walks and stop whenever you see a pedestrian waiting to cross, or if someone is already in the cross walk.

- Make sure that your vehicle has up-to-date registration, insurance, inspection and base decal.

"There's no pleasure in taking away someone's driving privileges, but if it will pay off for them as they mature and grow throughout the Navy, then it's worth it," said Biggs.

There are lessons to be learned. The driving privileges you save may be your own.

# Pearl Harbor Highlights

(Right) Capt. Donald Hodge, his wife and the PACFLT band represented the Navy at this year's Merrie Monarch Festival in Hilo. The Navy has been attending every year since the festival began.

U.S. Navy photo by Navy League of the United States Hilo Council



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Eric J. Cutright  
Lt. Dennis Kelly reads an excerpt of Rev. Martin Niemoller's poem, "First they came..." during the Holocaust Days of Remembrance Observance service on April 27 at the Aloha Jewish Chapel at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The poem describes the dangers of political apathy and what could happen because of it.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Sarah K. Murphy  
Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, congratulates Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class (AW) Christopher Green after he was named the 2009 Pacific Fleet Sea Sailor of the Year during an awards ceremony held April 23 at the Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu. Green, a Strike Fighter Squadron FOUR ONE (VFA-41) Sailor, will be meritoriously promoted to chief petty officer this summer, along with the Fleet Forces Command and Reserve Force Sailors of the Year.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Michael Hight  
Adm. Timothy Keating, commander, U.S. Pacific Command, lays a wreath during a joint-memorial service commemorating Australia-New Zealand Army (ANZAC) Day on April 25 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). Each year, Australia and New Zealand celebrate ANZAC Day, marking the anniversary of the first major military action fought by the two countries forces during World War I.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 John W. Ciccarelli Jr.  
(Above) Pearl Harbor Federal Fire Fighter Scott Haitsuka demonstrates how a thermal imager works to a group of children during the 2009 Springfest, held at Naval Station Pearl Harbor's Ward Field on April 25. (Below) Navy Station Pearl Harbor celebrates Earth Day during the 2009 Springfest at Ward Field, Pearl Harbor. The event hosted about 2,000 military patrons who had the opportunity to visit two dozen eco-friendly educational outdoor interactive exhibits, participate in outdoor sports activities, and watch live entertainment.



U.S. Navy photo by Randy Dela Cruz  
Players engage in a round of controlled mayhem while playing dodgeball at Bloch Arena Annex at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on April 23. Dodgeball was one of the team competition events that were part of the Captain's Cup challenge. Other events included softball, basketball, volleyball, canoe racing and tug of war.



## 'The Mission Continues' for wounded warriors, thanks to outreach program

Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

Thanks to The Mission Continues, a unique outreach program, many wounded, disabled or retired veterans who still want to serve their country are being given a second chance.

The non-profit organization's mission is to unite veterans and fellow citizens in "shared service to our nation."

One of the group's several philanthropic projects is a fellowship program which is awarded only to wounded, disabled or retired veterans interested in public service, but whose disabilities prevent them from continuing to serve in the military.

"The Mission Continues Fellowship program is designed for those who can no longer serve the country in uniform, but who still have a desire to serve," said Chris Marvin, national director of The Mission Continues. "We challenge those who have been injured in combat or in the line of duty to continue their mission of service here at home."

Other Mission Continues projects include a warriors in



Retired Marine Corps Master Sgt. Dionisios Nicholas greets visitors at the USS Arizona Memorial where he volunteers three days a week as part of his fellowship program with The Mission Continues organization. The organization gives wounded or disabled veterans a chance to serve their country through public service after they retire from military.

service program, which specifically targets wounded service members and allows them to organize and lead service projects, and a Veterans Tribute program, that allows citizens to complete service projects on behalf of a fallen service member.

"The Mission Continues [organization] is not a charity, it is a challenge," said Marvin, who is also a retired Army captain. "We award service fellowships to wounded and disabled veterans for volunteer service in

their communities."

Marvin said during typical fellowships, wounded veterans are able to serve their local communities by volunteering full-time over a 14-week period at charitable organizations of their choosing. The fellow also receives a \$6,000 grant in order to defray the cost of living expenses, he added.

"During the fellowship, the fellow not only strengthens his or her community, but also shows the community and the nation that we still need the service of veterans,

despite any wounds or disabilities," said Marvin.

Army Infantry Capt. Nicholas Iorio said he volunteers 20 hours each week at the Bishop Museum as part of his fellowship with the Mission Continues organization.

Iorio said he decided to become a fellow because he thought it would be a "healthy distraction" during his long rehabilitation process for a gunshot wound he sustained while during his deployment to Iraq.

"The Mission Continues program gave me something healthy to work on in between my rehabilitation therapy and appointments," he said. "The fellowship has allowed me to interact with various companies and programs that also support local community events."

Iorio, who plans to transition out of the Army in the next few months, said the program allows people in his situation to volunteer in productive roles within the local community, while still representing the military.

"After [some] people leave the military, they can have feelings of regret and still have a [real] need to still

serve in some capacity," he said. "Since joining this program, I have felt like a real team member, which is something that I sincerely missed after getting injured and [having to] rehabilitate alone."

After a series of back injuries, Marine Corps Master Sgt. Dionisios Nicholas said he reluctantly decided to retire from the military, but still wanted to pursue constructive work in his local community.

"I was not ready to hang up my uniform," said the Hawai'i resident. "I wanted to continue service to my country. [But] like anything I do in my life, I assess the situation, pray and remain patient."

Nicholas said his patience was rewarded when he received a Mission Continues fellowship last November. Today, he currently works three days a week as a volunteer for the National Park Service at the USS Arizona Memorial.

Nicholas credits his Mission Continues fellowship for giving him a fresh, positive outlook on his post-military life.

"Veterans are proud and typically do not like handouts or sympathy," he said. "The

[fellowship] saved my life and proves to be great opportunity for placing veterans into the workforce with very positive results."

Marvin said in order to qualify for a Mission Continues fellowship the applicants must be military service members with an injury or disability that prevents them from continuing their service in the military. They also must have volunteer service at a non-profit organization or charitable community program that demonstrates a "tangible good to the local community."

Mission Continues fellow Iorio will also be leading a "Salute the Troops" event on May 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Bishop Museum. The event will include entertainment, games and family fun activities as well as behind-the-scenes tour of the museum. During this military appreciation day, admission is free for all kama'aina, military service personnel and their families.

For more information on the Mission Continues or fellowship program, visit [www.missioncontinues.org](http://www.missioncontinues.org) or contact Chris Marvin at [cmartin@citizenleadership.org](mailto:cmartin@citizenleadership.org).

## Navy Region Hawai'i holds Holocaust remembrance

MC3 (AW) Eric J. Cutright

Navy Public Affairs  
Support Element West Det.  
Hawai'i

Service members and guests gathered at the Aloha Jewish Chapel on Naval Station Pearl Harbor for a special Holocaust remembrance service April 27.

The service was held to pay homage to the millions of Jews victimized by Nazi atrocities during World War II, and to educate future generations to prevent such a tragedy from

ever happening again.

"There are plenty of people around the world that still deny the very existence of the Holocaust," said Capt. Douglas Waite, command chaplain for Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. "Our brave men and women of the American military and our allies gave thousands of lives to end these atrocities. We need to remember them so that they are not repeated and to remind the world that the Holocaust really happened."

During WWII, the Nazis

banned Jews from German society with a series of laws and decrees that forbade intermarriage between Jews and non-Jews, removed Jewish children from schools, and excluded Jews from military service among other things.

Conditions soon escalated as the Nazis forced the Jewish population into ghettos and eventually into concentration camps, such as the one at Auschwitz-Birkenau. At the concentration camps, Jews were made into laborers or executed. By the end of the war, approximately six mil-

lion Jews had lost their lives in the Holocaust.

During the service, a 90-year-old Torah, which was saved from Nazi-occupied Poland during the war, was displayed and carried around so that those in attendance could touch it.

"The Torah itself was put together from pieces of parchment that were saved during the Nazi Holocaust, so we actually have a permanent Holocaust survivor in that Torah at this chapel on Naval Station Pearl Harbor," said Daniel Bender, the Jewish lay leader for the command. "It stands for all that hap-

pened and reminds us to be vigilant and make sure that nothing like this happens again."

Lt. Dennis Kelly, an officer in the Navy's Chaplain Corps, read an excerpt from Rev. Martin Niemoller's poem, "First they came..." The poem is famous for describing what occurs when people remain indifferent to injustice.

The service concluded with the cantor and congregation reciting the

Mourner's Kaddish.

"The things we forget we tend to repeat and so it's important to remind ourselves that over 60 years ago, millions and millions of not just Jews, but all kinds of people were killed by the Nazis," said Waite. "Our military forces and our allies fought a terrible war to stop it. If we're vigilant and remember, hopefully this sort of thing will never happen again."

(See photo on page A-5)



U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief Tom Howard speaks with first class petty officers assigned to various commands in the Hawaii-region about deckplate leadership during the first Hawaii Regional First Class Petty Officer Leadership Symposium at Sharkey Theatre onboard Naval Station Pearl Harbor on April 28.

## CNRH holds first Hawai'i Regional First Class Petty Officer Leadership Symposium

Story and photo by  
MC3 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawai'i  
Public Affairs

Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i (CNRH) hosted the first Hawai'i Regional First Class Petty Officer Leadership Symposium at Sharkey Theatre and Lockwood Hall onboard Naval Station Pearl Harbor on April 28-29 for more than 350 first class petty officers (FCPO) assigned to commands throughout Hawai'i.

The goal of the symposium was to talk to FCPOs about important topics in today's Navy, including diversity, career information and policies, and individual augmentees, among others.

U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief Tom Howard was on hand at the symposium to talk to personnel about deckplate leadership and mentorship.

"As a FCPO, you should already be working towards becoming a chief," said Howard. "The chief's mess expects leading petty officers to not only mentor the Sailors under them, but also the junior officers that are brand new to the fleet."

During his remarks, Howard also expressed the expectations he had for FCPOs.

"Good leaders take people to where they want to be," said Howard. "I don't expect you to be good leaders. I expect you to be great leaders, because they are the individuals that take people where they need to be."

Electronics Technician 1st Class Refugio Carrasco, assigned to Afloat Planning Systems Pacific, noted the importance of attending the symposium.

"This symposium helps us, as leaders, realize the things we are doing right

and at the same time, it makes us take a look at the things we could be doing better," said Carrasco. "I was looking forward to being one of the volunteer committee members for the symposium because it allowed me to help my fellow FCPOs, allowing them to gain valuable knowledge by attending today's event."

Yeoman 1st Class Phillip Harper, assigned to CNRH, said he had a major influence for creating the leadership symposium here.

"My command master chief originally brought the idea to my attention after a group of FCPOs in the Washington, D.C. area put together a leadership symposium last year," said Harper. "I can't take all the credit for bringing this plan to life. I had a great team of committee members that helped get everything in place to make this a very successful event."

## Lake Erie preps for sea trials

Ensign Brittany Lynn

Communications Officer,  
USS Lake Erie (CG 70)

USS Lake Erie (CG 70) lighted off her main engines on April 15 for the first time since entering a selective restricted availability (SRA) four months ago. During that time, Lake Erie has undergone an extensive amount of upgrades and maintenance, including the installation of the tactical Tomahawk weapons control system (TTWCS), global information grid electronic (GIG-E) local area network, ballistic missile defense (BMD) 4.0.1, and the refurbishments of a gas turbine generator (GTG), the mess decks and the ship's classroom.

Each installation and refurbishment will directly improve Lake Erie's war-fighting capability and quality of life for the crew. With TTWCS, theater commanders will now be able to view real-time tactical data, which greatly aids in the deployment of Tomahawk missiles.

The GIG-E LAN upgrade not only enables the ship's network to run faster, but more than 150 computers and printers were replaced with new machines. Many of the old computers, along with monitors and keyboards, were donated to local area schools.

However, the primary upgrade to the combat systems suite was the installation of ballistic missile defense (BMD) 4.0.1. Lake Erie, the Navy's premier BMD ship, is the only platform with the new 4.0.1 system. Once the new system is certified, Lake Erie will begin conducting a series of tests critical to the advancement of the theatre ballistic missile defense program.

The remainder of the ship underwent numerous refurbishments. Waste heat boil-



U.S. Navy photo taken by STG2 Eric Ordonez Ocampo

Capt. Ron A. Boxall, Lake Erie commanding officer, awards the Navy Achievement Medal to Sonar Technician 1st Class Nicholas Clauson for his hard work during the ship's current yard period.

ers, generators and various intake and exhaust systems were all restored. The ship's classroom received additional computers, allowing more Sailors access at once, and new televisions with multimedia capability were added to the mess decks to improve the quality of life for Sailors after hours. "This SRA is the most successful that I have witnessed in four years. The key was ensuring good communications between the 23 entities involved through pre-planning, daily production meetings, and maintaining a dynamic schedule," said Lt. Jeff Peterson, Lake Erie's SRA coordinator.

He continued, "Our success is also a testament to our leadership. Lt. John Redford, GSCM (SW) Wallis, ITC (SW/FMF) Michael Murakami, GMC (SW) Carlos Muniz, QMC (SW) John Gentry and CS1 (SW) Frankie Lee were all leaders who took ownership of these major projects and followed through."

Every department and every Sailor is working hard to make sure that Lake Erie will be ready to get under-

way. All it takes it a quick walkabout on the deck plates to see just how much progress has been made.

Impressed by their hard work ethic and their efforts in preparing the ship to get underway, Capt. Ron A. Boxall, commanding officer, awarded spot Navy Achievement Medals to 24 Sailors. Having just earned the fifth consecutive Battle Efficiency Award, Lake Erie has a reputation for excellence to uphold on the water-front.

Command Master Chief H.M. Ellis asserted that Lake Erie is up for the challenge. "As always, I am truly proud in the maturity and hard work that each and every Sailor has produced the past few months. It's truly amazing in the way our Sailors hit the deckplates daily, showing a tremendous act of ownership through their efforts in getting every job done right, the first time. As we move forward toward sea trials, I can honestly say that "Lake Erie is ready" to support any assignment we're tasked to do - Hooyah!" said Ellis.

### STORY IDEAS?

Contact the HNN editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements

### Hawai'i Navy News

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# NIOC honors victims of EC-121 tragedy

CTII (AW/NAC) Jennifer Schooley

Naval Information Operations Command, Hawai'i

Naval Information Operations Command, Hawai'i held a memorial ceremony on April 15 to honor the 31 lives lost when an EC-121 reconnaissance plane was shot down by North Korean fighters.

The tragic incident took place 40 years ago on April 15, 1969 and to this day it is imperative to remember our fallen service members. The ceremony was held at Naval Information Operations Command (NIOC) Hawai'i and was organized by Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) 1st Class (AW/NAC) Richard Linsley.

The EC-121 crew included 30 Navy men and one enlisted Marine. They were flying a routine reconnaissance flight at the time of



U.S. Navy photo by ITC3 Jai Pellerin / photo illustration

Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) 1st Class (AW/NAC) Richard Linsley delivers a speech during the 1st annual NIOC Hawai'i EC-121 Memorial Ceremony held April 15 at NIOC Hawai'i. (Lower half) Members of NIOC Hawai'i stand in ranks with bowed heads as they offer a moment of silence for their fallen brothers, the Sailors and Marine who lost their lives on April 15, 1969. Those lost were on an airborne mission when shot down by North Korea. This year marks the first year a memorial has been held for the men at NIOC Hawai'i.

the attack. The crew was 90 miles away from the North Korean landmass when it was heard from last. Out of the 31 crew members on board, only two bodies were ever recovered and returned to their families.

This year marks the first year this ceremony has been held at NIOC Hawai'i. Linsley has participated in the ceremony for nine years at other commands and decided this year to bring the ceremony to his new command. He felt the traditions of this ceremony not only honors those who have sacrificed everything for their country, but also serves as a way to remind Sailors today of how important they are to the mission.

"It is important we, as an aircrew community, maintain our traditions because too often we find when we don't, we lose a sense of purpose and a sense of vision. By looking back at

the sacrifices of our predecessors, we'll maintain our purpose and vision," said Linsley.

Next year Linsley hopes to see the ceremony welcome aircrewmembers all over the island in an effort to remind everyone we all have an important role in remembering the past. To further emphasize why this ceremony is so important, Master Chief Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) (SS/NAC) Ronald Stevenson, NIOC Hawai'i N3Y leading chief petty officer, said, "From the perspective of the EC-121 shoot down and the capture of the USS Pueblo by the North Koreans, we have to remain vigilant. When looking back at these tragic events and seeing today, 40 years later, North Korea is still an area we have to watch closely; remembering these incidents only furthers our mission and encourages our Sailors to persevere."

## Earth Day / Spring Fest

Continued from A-1

Center, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Pacific Services Center, State Department of Transportation Highways

Division and the U.S. Coast Guard's Sea Partners Program.

"This year's Earth Day fair has really provided a great opportunity for not only the military to learn about energy conservation, but for their children as well," said Alisa Davis, intern for the

Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. "The children of today are the ones who will be taking on the burden of the environment in the future and it makes me extremely humble that the Navy is helping teach them the right way to preserve it."