



Master-at-Arms 1st Class (SW)
Jose Cruz Alvarez

Gunner's Mate 1st Class (SW)
Luiggi Baldo

Senior Chief Navy Counselor (AW)
Tony Peraza

Hispanic Sailors at Pearl Harbor *embrace heritage*

Story and photos by
Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

In today's U.S. Navy, more than 63,000 Hispanic Sailors, civilians and reservists bravely serve aboard ships and in ports all over the world. Hispanic Heritage Month, observed Sept. 15-Oct. 15, serves as a time for many to recognize the numerous contributions made by Hispanic American Sailors.

Master-at-Arms 1st Class (SW) Jose Cruz Alvarez, assistant anti-terrorism officer at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor's security office, said he and his family immigrated to America from their homeland of Puerto Rico when he was 20 years old.

"In Puerto Rico, there is not much difference in how you look and who you are because we are all from the same place," he explained. "[American culture] is very different because there are such diverse tastes. You have people who are into football, NASCAR, country dancing, hip-hop. There are also different tastes and customs, depending on what [state] you are in," he added.

Shortly after coming to America, Cruz Alvarez and his brother decided to enlist in the

Navy. Before transitioning to his current rate, he served a brief stint as a Navy cook in the galley.

"Believe it or not, I think that is where I learned the most because you have to prepare, serve and interact with people from all walks of life," he said. "There are also a lot of minorities in the food service so being of [ethnic background], it only brought us all closer together."

After 13 years, Cruz Alvarez now hopes to make a career out of his Navy enlistment, perhaps even becoming an officer. One of the many lessons the military has given him is to embrace who you are.

"I love my heritage," he said. "I love that I look different and sound different. And I take full advantage of it. I have never felt like the odd man out because today's Navy is such a [melting pot] of people. The best thing you can do with [military] life is just to embrace yourself and learn and appreciate other cultures around you."

Gunner's Mate 1st Class (SW) Luiggi Baldo, weapons officer at the NAVSTA security office, said his Peruvian roots help him now appreciate the opportunities the U.S. Navy has given him and his family.

Born in Peru, Baldo said he

and his family moved with his grandfather, who was a naturalized American citizen, to the U.S. in 1990 when he was 17 years old. Coming from a British Peruvian high school, Baldo said he spoke a little English, but still struggled with transitioning to American life.

"I had learned English in school, but coming to America you have different speeds and a different accent which took some time to get used to," he explained. "So it took me a little while to learn. I had to take some extra [English] courses and of course, had a couple American girlfriends who helped me along the way," he laughed.

In 2001, Baldo decided to enlist in the Navy because of an initial interest in becoming a diver. However, Baldo explained that his biggest "culture shock" came when transitioning from civilian to Sailor at 28 years old.

"It was definitely challenging coming into the military, but you do get used to it," he said. "I am a hard worker so that helped me a lot with blending in. It may have started off a little [rough], but after [eight] years in [the Navy], I think I've accomplished a lot."

Baldo said he chooses to express his heritage by invit-

ing friends over to celebrate with home-cooked local cuisines.

"I love to cook and have a lot of friends from everywhere, like Puerto Rico, Ecuador and Panama," he said. "So we all get together and we contribute local dishes from our homelands and we all share. It is a lot of fun."

Senior Chief Navy Counselor (AW) Tony Peraza, island zone supervisor for Navy Recruiting District Los Angeles, said he would describe his family's 1982 immigration from Guatemala when he was nine years old as the "ultimate rags to riches" story.

"Where we lived was a house which just had one big room," he recalled. "The floor was pure dirt, there was no running water, and privacy meant putting blankets around your area of the big room." After settling in Sacramento, Calif., Peraza's father served a four-year stint in the Marines, then became an airline pilot, a job that ensured a comfortable life for his family in the suburbs.

"We had a three-bedroom house and I had my own room," he said. "We also had medical and dental insurance. It felt like we went from [nothing] to having all of our needs taken care of."

Thanks to his father's influ-

ence, Peraza joined the U.S. Navy in 1990 and, 17 years later, enjoys a successful career as a Navy recruiting supervisor in charge of a branch that serves all of the Hawaiian Islands and Guam, as well as eastern countries, such as Japan, South Korea and Singapore.

"I love my [Navy] career because I truly enjoy doing my job," he said. "Being a Navy [recruiter], I feel like I am at a place now where I can have impact on the lives of my subordinates and Sailors as they enroll in boot camp, which is hopefully the beginning of their own [Navy] careers."

Over the years, Peraza maintains that his Hispanic heritage has served as a positive for him throughout his career. "I believe it takes all sorts of [ethnicities] to make our Navy better," he said. "Our [diversity] is what makes our Navy so great. Military life can be full of ups and downs, but with every bad experience lies an opportunity to grow and mature as a man and a leader."

(The Silver Dolphin Bistro Galley is planning a Hispanic menu in observance of Hispanic Heritage Month. For more information, contact Silver Dolphin Bistro Galley at 473-2948 or visit <http://greatlifehawaii.com>.)

La Jolla upsets defending champ Lake Erie

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer

The USS La Jolla (SSN 701) upended defending champion USS Lake Erie (CG 70), 13-6, during a battle of unbeaten teams in a Morale, Welfare and Recreation Afloat Flag Football League game at Ward Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Oct. 3.

Cmdr. Douglas Sampson, commanding officer of La Jolla, quarterbacked the squad to two touchdowns in leading fellow shipmates to the upset while raising the team's record to 2-0 in league standings. Previously undefeated Lake Erie saw its mark drop to 2-1.

"This (win) feels pretty good – especially for such a small command," said Sampson. "We can't compete with the bodies that the surface ships can bring out, but we got some good athletes."

Sampson took over at signal caller during La Jolla's second offensive series and methodically led the team on an 11-play drive that covered 65 yards and into the end zone for the game's first touchdown.

La Jolla scored when Sampson lofted a rainbow to the back corner of the end



Cmdr. Douglas Sampson, commanding officer of USS La Jolla (SSN 701), reaches back before lofting a pass downfield during a Morale, Welfare and Recreation Intramural Afloat Division flag football game against USS Lake Erie (CG 70) at Ward Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Oct. 3. By beating Lake Erie, La Jolla improved its record to 2-0.

zone and found Electronics Technician 2nd Class Brandon Johnson, who leaped over his defender and snatched the ball out of the air for the score.

"He can get about four feet off the ground," noted Sampson about Johnson's ability to go vertical. "He can jump so well that if you can get the ball up in the air, he's got a shot at it. He's quite a weapon."

Johnson explained that

the scoring play was intended to isolate him in a one-on-one route against his defender.

Once he got free, Johnson said that he knew he was going to score. "If he (Sampson) puts it up, I'm going to get it," he stated.

Early in the second half, La Jolla missed a golden opportunity to add another touchdown when the team got the ball on the Lake Erie 36-yard line and drove

down to the 10 with first and goal.

However, on fourth down, Sampson overthrew Storekeeper 2nd Class Ricky Daignault, who was wide open in the left corner of the end zone.

Following the missed opportunity, La Jolla's defense stiffened and forced Lake Erie to punt from its own 20.

La Jolla took over on downs at the Lake Erie 29

and, despite getting sacked back to the 40 on the first play from scrimmage, Sampson rebounded to guide the team to its second touchdown of the day.

On second down from the 23, Sampson took a short drop and connected with Johnson at the 20.

Despite being surrounded by defenders, Johnson weaved his way through the Lake Erie secondary and zigzagged into the end zone

for his second touchdown - putting La Jolla up by a score of 13-0.

"I was having fun on that one," said Johnson about his highlight-worthy run to daylight. "They (teammates) said that they wanted one for ESPN."

With time running out, Lake Erie averted the shutout when they scored on a nine-play drive that covered 65 yards.

Operations Specialist 1st Class Lateef Day, Lake Erie quarterback, zipped a 20-yard pass to Fire Controlman 2nd Class Chris Robinson, who grabbed the ball for a touchdown as time expired.

"Our defense played well, but we had too many dropped balls on offense," said Day about the team's first defeat. "We had a couple of our personnel on leave, but that's no excuse. We come to play every day and we should have been ready."

Day stated that even though Lake Erie was dropped from the ranks of the leagues undefeated, he still believes that the team will be back stronger than ever.

"We're still the team to beat," said Day. "You can't win them all. We'll take our lessons from this loss and keep moving."

Forest City makes it easier to reserve community centers

Story and photo by
Ryan Wilson

Communications
Coordinator, Navy Housing
Forest City Residential
Management, Inc.

Forest City is working hard to make residents' lives a little easier. Effective Oct. 1, residents can pick up fitness center keys and reserve community centers at their con-

veniently located resident services offices. Previously, residents had to visit the community relations office on Nimitz Road, but Forest City is consolidating offices to provide better service.

An online calendar system will also be operational soon, allowing residents to check whether community centers are available by visiting Forest City's Web site,

www.fcnavyhawaii.com. This is the first time residents will be able to check community center availability from their computer.

All resident and reservation information will be kept confidential. That system is scheduled to be online now.

The McGrew Point Community Center.



Hickam Panthers beat Pearl Harbor Saints

Story and photo by Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer

The Hickam Panthers rolled out to a 12-0 lead, then held on to defeat the Pearl Harbor Saints, 26-20, in a Pee Wee Division (ages 11-12) season opener of the Hawai'i Military Youth Athletic Association (HMYAA) flag football season at Quick Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Oct. 3.

The HMYAA is an inter-base youth organization that includes teams from Pearl Harbor, Hickam Air Force Base and Marine Corps Base Hawai'i.

"We have a good bunch of players," said Air Force Master Sgt. Louis Pate who is the head coach of the Panthers. "We especially got a good center and good quarterback."

In the seesaw battle between the two bases, the Panthers got on the scoreboard first and took a two-touchdown lead. But the Saints refused to give up and scored just before the end of the first half to pull to within five points at 12-7.

Following intermission, the Saints kept its momentum going by marching 65 yards for the go-ahead touchdown in only three plays.

Starting at their own five-yard line, the Saints' quarterback completed a pass to midfield, threw an incomplete pass on the second play of the series, before connecting with his receiver on a catch-and-run that went 35-yards and a score — giving the Saints its first lead of the game at 13-12.

However, after a quick four-and-out, the Hickam defense came up with a huge play that seemed to give momentum back to the Panthers.

With the ball resting on the Pearl Harbor 10-yard line, the Saints quarterback tried to pick up a fresh set of downs by heaving a throw to midfield.

As the ball was headed for the Saints' intended receiver, an alert Panthers defender intercepted the pass and took it to the house, which put Hickam back out in front at 18-13.

"That (interception) was a pretty big deal," said Lt. j.g. Andrew Eckenfels, who is in his first season as head coach of the Saints. "We should have taken a timeout to stop their (Panthers) momentum. I guess that's something we can learn on our side as coaches."

Down again, the Saints came back one more time as the team needed only



A youth from the Hickam Panthers Pee Wee (ages 11-12) football squad is about to haul in a pass over the outstretched arms of a Pearl Harbor Saints defender during the teams' season-opening game of the Hawai'i Military Youth Athletic Association at Quick Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Oct. 3. The Panthers got past the Saints, 26-20, in a game that switched leads four times.

five plays to go the length of the field before punching it in on a 20-yard run. The Saints converted its point-after to retake the lead at 20-18.

With the clock running down, the Panthers had enough time to mount one final drive and took control of the football at their own five-yard line.

On the first play from scrimmage, the Panthers received a break when the Saints defense was called for holding after giving up a completed pass.

The penalty tacked on additional yardage which placed the football on the Saints' 12-yard line.

Two plays later, Hickam went ahead for good on a one-yard touchdown pass. The Panthers made good on a two-point conversion to win by six points.

"The other team started off slow and we may have gotten a bit cocky,"

said Pate. "But our kids turned it around."

Pate stated that although the Panthers lost its lead after being ahead by two touchdowns, he and the rest of the team's coaching staff kept the boys focused by keeping things upbeat on the sideline.

"We keep things positive and don't get down on them," said Pate. "We coach them, but we always remember that it's their game. So we just try and let them play."

Meanwhile, Eckenfels said that he was equally proud of the way the Saints refused to give up while fighting back from behind.

"This was our first game so it's not a big deal," pointed out Eckenfels. "As coaches, we just want them to play and enjoy themselves."



Menu options changed on Tripler's phone line

Tripler Army Medical Center

"Listen carefully, as our telephone system has recently changed." Callers are often impatient when they find their calls being answered by a recorded voice that repeat this admonition. But callers to the 433-2778 appointment line should really listen as their choices did change as of Sept. 24.

Many callers simply dial the two or three number sequence they have memorized to reach the clinic of their choice. They will now have to rethink those numbers before pressing their phone pad numbers.

The first two menu options are now to make a primary care appointment (press "1") and to cancel an appointment (press "2"), according to Maj. Aristotle Vaseliades, chief of Tripler's clinical support division. This change is part of an Army medical department initiative to standardize how incoming calls are handled at all Army clinics and hospitals. "For example, the caller must press '4' instead of '2' to get the call routed to the surgery department appointment number," said Vaseliades. "The other major change is that an option has been established for Schofield Barracks Health Clinic in the opening menu." Callers have 10 initial menu choices instead of the previous seven.

Adding more menu choices will allow more callers to get to their desired clinic or office. Additionally, callers will only have to remember one number for any appointment need.

"We need to free up some phone lines for use by other clinics and support staff," said Vaseliades. "The need for phones has increased, as our healthcare staff has increased, to support the increase in the Soldiers and families being assigned to Hawai'i."

"We also now have more specialty care programs, like for traumatic brain injury and concussion, physical therapy, PTSD, and stress and pain management. They all need phones," said Vaseliades.

For healthcare consumers, however, phones are not the only way to contact their providers. "Everyone who seeks or receives healthcare from Tripler or the Schofield Barracks clinics do have another way to schedule or cancel primary care appointments," said Col. Suzie Martin, chief of Tripler's managed care division.

"Tricare Online has vastly improved from when it first became available and they are continuing to make it more user-friendly. People who haven't used it in awhile may be surprised at how easy it is to use and how quickly you can schedule or cancel such appointments." For more information, go to www.tricareonline.com.

Skylark CENTRAL

MEGA WORD SEARCH

Find the these 86 types of vessels that operate ON WATER

AIRCRAFT CARRIER	SKIFF	TRIMARAN	U F A B T U O B A N U R R E D O R P E Y T C
GALLEON	CATAMARAN	DESTROYER	M S R E S I U R C I R E B E R C U T T E R U
RIVERBOAT	KEELBOAT	NARROWBOAT	I H T E H P R E P P I L C K G K A V Y R I D
BARGE	SLOOP	TRIEMER	A K B R I I O D D A C W L O N G B O A T M D
GALLEY	CATBOAT	DHOW	K A Y A K G O N T E C A N N I P A T H C A Y
RUNABOUT	KETCH	OUTRIGGER	E L A S A F H E T R S R B R E T R R Y N R B
BARK	SMACK	TUGBOAT	I R T T R N E T A O B T F I W S X F D A A A
GONDOLA	CLIPPER	DINGHY	Y E L L A G A A E R O A R P N B R Y R H N B
SAILBOAT	LANDING CRAFT	PACKET	J K T I U O O R A R E N O O H C S L O D O I
BATEAU	STEAMBOAT	U-BOAT	R N A T A O B M A E T S A E Y R R E F M A W
HOUSEBOAT	COBLE	DORY	T A O B E F I L N M O T A O B E S U O H A P
SAMPAN	LAUNCH	PINNACE	K T B C T V R I I M A L E A D D R T I R A I
BOAT	STERN-WHEELER	UMIAK	C N G N A B R I G A N T I N E P O O L S R A
HOVERCRAFT	CORACLE	DRAGGER	A A U I B A E O I J S C A T T R I R E M E I
SCHOONER	LIFEBOAT	PIROGUE	M P T J M G N E C D K L E C B S T R Y V G R
BRIGANTINE	CORVETTE	WATER TAXI	S M E B A D S N C N S S R O O F T A R S G C
HYDROFOIL	LIGHTER	FELUCCA	V A U E O B B A R I C T A T A O B R E V I R
SCOW	SWIFT BOAT	PONTOON	E S C L L A C L E W A T E R T A X I G R R A
CABIN CRUISER	CRUISER	WHERRY	G A A I R C T P R O N Y C R T H P C G A T F
HYDROPLANE	LINER	FERRY	R T N G R T A O B W O R R A N R D O U L U T
SCULL	TANKER	POWERBOAT	M E E H S C A R A V E L O Y A W L E L B O C
CANOE	CUDDY	WINDJAMMER	R N F T K A E D O V L B C H R C H U A Y I A
JET SKI	LONGBOAT	FREIGHTER	Y R R E H W T Y O C L V S G A R C E T M T R
SHARPIE	TENDER	PUNT	T O T R O R O H N E A A I N K S N U E L E R
CAPE ISLANDER	CUTTER	YACHT	I C R P E A D C E U G O R I P R U L L L E I
JUNK	LUGGER	FRIGATE	H J M N F F I K S L U G R D N O A N T E E E
SHIKARA	TRAWLER	RAFT	K U B O A T F A R C G N I D N A L B T M F R
CARAVEL	DANDY	YAWL	
KAYAK	MOTORBOAT		

WHO SAID IT?
 I pay no attention whatever to anybody's praise or blame. I simply follow my own feelings.

LAST ISSUE'S
WHO SAID IT?
 MOST FOLKS ARE ABOUT AS HAPPY AS THEY MAKE UP THEIR MINDS TO BE.
 -Pres. Abraham Lincoln

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

Find these 48 Languages spoken in EUROPE



ALBANIAN	IRISH
FRENCH	SERBIAN
NORWEGIAN	DANISH
BASQUE	ITALIAN
FRISIAN	SLOVAK
POLISH	DUTCH
BELARUSIAN	LATVIAN
GALICIAN	SLOVENE
PORTUGUESE	ENGLISH
BOSNIAN	LITHUANIAN
GERMAN	SPANISH
ROMANIAN	ESTONIAN
BULGARIAN	LUXEMBOURGISH
GREEK	SWEDISH
ROMANSCH	FAROESE
CATALAN	MACEDONIAN
HUNGARIAN	TURKISH
RUSSIAN	FINNISH
CROATIAN	MALTESE
ICELANDIC SCOT-	UKRAINIAN
TISH	FLEMISH
GAELIC	MOLDOVAN
CZECH	WELSH

Image courtesy of wikimedia.org

This Week's Trivia
 What class of U.S. naval ships routinely have two commanding officers assigned to them?

Last Issue's Question:
 Who was Chief of Naval Operations on Dec. 7, 1941?

Answer:
 Harold R. Starke. He was relieved as CNO in 1942 and became Cmdr, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe.



