

Give Thanks

Happy Thanksgiving!

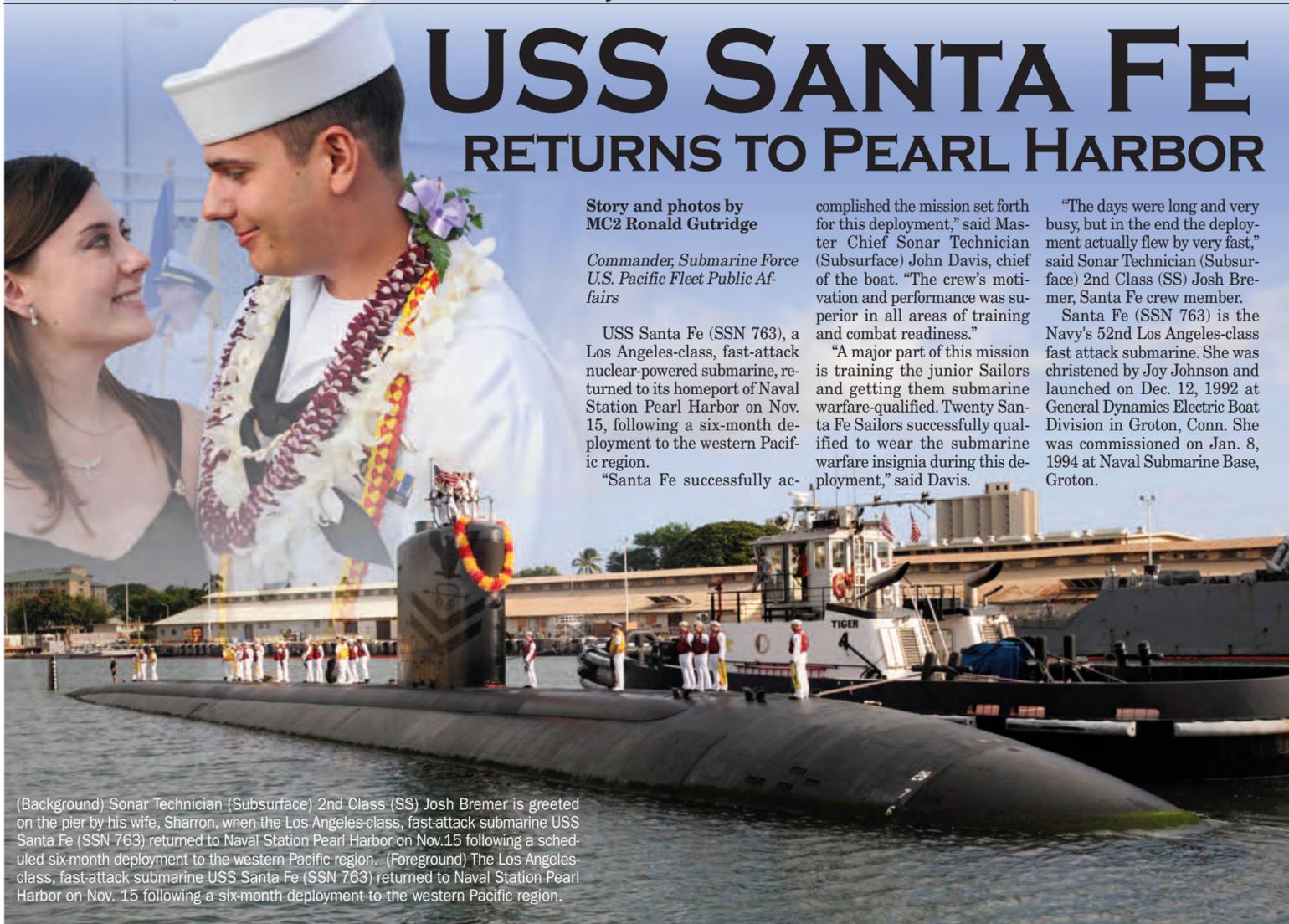
Hawai'i Navy News

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USS SANTA FE RETURNS TO PEARL HARBOR

Story and photos by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

USS Santa Fe (SSN 763), a Los Angeles-class, fast-attack nuclear-powered submarine, returned to its homeport of Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Nov. 15, following a six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

"Santa Fe successfully ac-

complished the mission set forth for this deployment," said Master Chief Sonar Technician (Subsurface) John Davis, chief of the boat. "The crew's motivation and performance was superior in all areas of training and combat readiness."

"A major part of this mission is training the junior Sailors and getting them submarine warfare-qualified. Twenty Santa Fe Sailors successfully qualified to wear the submarine warfare insignia during this deployment," said Davis.

"The days were long and very busy, but in the end the deployment actually flew by very fast," said Sonar Technician (Subsurface) 2nd Class (SS) Josh Bremer, Santa Fe crew member.

Santa Fe (SSN 763) is the Navy's 52nd Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine. She was christened by Joy Johnson and launched on Dec. 12, 1992 at General Dynamics Electric Boat Division in Groton, Conn. She was commissioned on Jan. 8, 1994 at Naval Submarine Base, Groton.

(Background) Sonar Technician (Subsurface) 2nd Class (SS) Josh Bremer is greeted on the pier by his wife, Sharron, when the Los Angeles-class, fast-attack submarine USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) returned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Nov. 15 following a scheduled six-month deployment to the western Pacific region. (Foreground) The Los Angeles-class, fast-attack submarine USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) returned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Nov. 15 following a six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

Two Hawai'i commands promote stewardship of environmental resources

MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Two Navy commands in Hawai'i received honorable mention awards during the 2009 Navy Environmental Stewardship Flagship awards competition Nov. 5.

Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific (ATG MIDPAC) and Naval Station Pearl Harbor were both recognized by the Navy Community Service Program (NCSP) for 2009.

"I'm very happy that the hard work of our volunteers at ATG MIDPAC was recognized at this level," said Senior Chief Fire Controlman (SW) Craig A. Hohnstein of ATG MIDPAC. "Our people are active and visible members of the community. They're always willing to help out where they can."

The NCSP began in 1992 by then Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Frank B. Kelso. The purpose of the program is to foster and nurture community ties with the Navy and promote volunteerism while developing better naval leaders through the experience.

"ATG MIDPAC volunteered 291 hours last year helping to clean up our island home," said Hohnstein. "As a command, we organized projects targeted to improve the environment and to teach young people to take pride in their home."

NCSP distinguished shore, sea and overseas commands for outstanding community



U.S. Navy photo by Senior Chief Fire Controlman (SW) Craig Hohnstein Chief Warrant Officer 3 Robert Houck digs up plots for the Aiea Elementary School's gardening club as part of Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific's (ATG MIDPAC) command community service. ATG MIDPAC was awarded honorable mention during the 2009 Navy Environmental Stewardship Flagship awards as they completed more than 290 hours of community outreach programs.

service, including service that promotes good stewardship of environmental resources.

"We participated in a cleanup at Richardson Marina to help preserve our beautiful waterfront," said Hohn-

stein. "We helped the children of Iroquois Point Elementary School to plant 400 bushes on their campus. We planted 35 trees and bushes at Aiea Ele-

See ENVIRONMENTAL, A-7



Judy Kosaka, Morale, Welfare and Recreation fitness director, stands by Capt. Richard Kitchens, commanding officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor (NAVSTA) and Rear Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, deputy commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, during ribbon-cutting ceremonies announcing the reopening of Makalapa Gym at Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) headquarters on Nov. 13.

Renovated Makalapa Gym bolsters culture of fitness

Story and photo by Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer

Rear Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, deputy commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Capt. Richard Kitchens, commanding officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor (NAVSTA), along with representatives from Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR), celebrated the reopening of the Makalapa Gym during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) headquarters on Nov. 13.

The sparkling newly-renovated fitness facility was unveiled after being under

construction for nearly six months at a cost of approximately \$800,000.

However, both time and expense seemed to be well invested as the finished product drew an arousing approval from all who attended the festivity.

At the ceremony, both Van Buskirk and Kitchens gave kudos to Standard Construction Group, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawai'i, MWR and all of the people who helped see the renovation to completion.

"This is really wonderful," said Van Buskirk. "I knew what it was like in the 1990s when I used to come back here to play basketball and seeing where it has

come from, it's fantastic."

Besides more than doubling the amount of fitness equipment in the gym, the well-lit environment is also enhanced by an energy-efficient central air conditioning system and 42-inch plasma televisions, which line the upper walls of the cardio room.

Mens and womens locker rooms have been redone with new tiles and shower fixtures, and the entire facility is now 100 percent compliant with the American Disabilities Act.

Van Buskirk recalled that the old facility resembled a small room stuffed with equipment. Comparatively,

See MAKALAPA, A-8



Pearl Harbor choir sings praises to Father Damien See page A-2



USS Michigan Gold Crew changes command See page A-2



Joint Base working groups plan toward smooth transition to JBPHH See page A-8



No boredom for roller derby gals See page B-1

Pearl Harbor choir sings praises to Father Damien

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer

It's been a little more than a month since Pope Benedict XVI of the Roman Catholic Church canonized Father Damien De Veuster into sainthood during services at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy on Oct. 11.

Yet for Cmdr. Timothy Koester, head chaplain, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, and several members of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel Catholic Choir (PHMCCC), the experience of performing at the sacred event still lingers on.

"You can't be the same," said Jan McKinney, who has been part of PHMCCC for two years. "You've been to Rome, and you've seen, felt and was part of the most wonderful Holy Spirit type of situation," she said.

According to Koester, a total of 16 members of the Pearl Harbor choir made the journey that began with a flight out to Father Damien's hometown of Tremelo, Belgium before proceeding to Rome for the canonization Mass, which filled the basilica and flowed out into St. Peter's Square.

The 16 singers from Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel lent their heavenly voices to Hawai'i's Damien Canonization Choir, which was part of a 500-plus contingent that flew from the islands to honor Father Damien.

"There were a number of individuals from choirs around the Hawaiian islands that were invited,"



Members of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel Catholic Choir, led by Edwina Siu on piano, hold rehearsals at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Nov. 12. A total of 16 members of the choir joined fellow islanders in the Hawai'i Damien Canonization Choir, which was part of a 500-plus contingent that flew from Hawaii to Belgium and Rome to celebrate the canonization of Father Damien.

said Koester. "But we were among three choirs that were given a general invitation by the diocese."

Although the group's flight was delayed a day in Los Angeles, the choir more than made up for lost time once it touched down in Belgium.

The Hawai'i choir's whirlwind tour started off in its first night in Belgium, where the group was invited to combine its voice with the Belgium choir in a Saturday

evening rehearsal.

Then on the following morning, the joint choir of 250 people – 68 from Hawai'i - performed at Sunday Mass, before being whisked away to the town of Ninde for a tribute to Father Damien.

"Sunday morning was a big Mass," said McKinney. "The king and queen of Belgium were there along with high dignitaries. I think there were 17 bishops and two cardinals. It was a really big deal."

"Then they took us down to Ninde for a huge celebration. The tent (at Ninde) could only hold 4,000 people, and they filled it up four times. So we had to perform four times."

The group ended its four-day stay in Belgium with a visit to the tomb of Father Damien in Louvain.

"I found Belgium to be quite intriguing because there really was a spirit of oneness," said Koester. "It was real people recognizing that he [Father Damien] had done some-

thing rather marvelous and it felt wonderful to be a part of that."

After a full day of travel, the followers from Hawai'i made it to Rome to embark on the final leg of their pilgrimage.

In addition to the choir's performance at St. Peter's Basilica, the 16 PHMCCC members joined fellow islanders in song at other churches that included: St. Maria Sopra Minerva, Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, Basilica of St. John Lateran, and St. Francis of Assisi.

"I felt so privileged," said McKinney. "I've been in church choirs all over the mainland, but I have never sang in such beautiful churches. We sang in the five most outstanding places."

Edwina Siu, choir director at PHMCCC, said that although she had been to Rome before, she would never forget the sights, sounds and events that surrounded the sainthood of Hawai'i's blessed Father Damien.

"It was really a wonderful opportunity," noted Siu. "Singing in St. Peter's Basilica, right there at the altar, gave me chicken skin. It was just so special. What a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Meanwhile, for Lisa Timbancaya, a 10-year member of PHMCCC, the trip was life changing.

"It was so spiritual, you feel like a different person," she said. "When I look back, I can say, 'Wow, he (Father Damien) has been gone for so long, but he is still touching people to this very day.'"

McLaughlin relieves Doty as commanding officer of USS Michigan Gold Crew

Story and photo by
MC3 Luciano Marano

Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Capt. Philip G. McLaughlin relieved Capt. Charles J. Doty as commanding officer of USS Michigan (SSN 727) Gold Crew in a change of command ceremony held Nov. 17 at the Parche Submarine Memorial Park on Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

"I am thankful for the opportunity to have commanded an amazing warship, in this theater that is so vital to our national security," said Doty. "Most of all, the ability of USS Michigan to support the continuum of the defense of our country is due to the effort of the officers and the men who served this ship – past, present and future."

Doty was awarded the Legion of Merit (gold star in lieu of the third award) for his exceptional performance as commanding officer from Au-



Capt. Charles J. Doty is piped ashore after he was relieved as commanding officer of USS Michigan (SSN 727) Gold Crew by Capt. Philip G. McLaughlin during a change of command ceremony held Nov. 17 at the Parche Submarine Memorial Park on Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

gust 2007 to November 2009.

"I look forward to witnessing the success of the ship and crew under the

leadership of Capt. McLaughlin and the CO's that will follow him," said Doty.



Joint base newspaper needs a name

Do you have ideas for a great name for the new joint base newspaper? We're seeking suggestions for a name for the combined newspaper for Pearl Harbor and Hickam.

Hawai'i Navy News, the Navy newspaper that now

serves the Navy in Hawai'i, and the Hickam Kukini, the Air Force newspaper which serves the Air Force community in Hawai'i, will combine next year as the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam reaches full operational ca-



pability.

If you have an idea for a name for our joint newspaper, a name that would represent two great services and one special installation, please share it with us.

This is your opportunity to participate in the naming of the joint base newspaper, your newspaper. We look forward to hearing from you, our readers.

Please email your suggestions to Karen Spangler, managing editor of Hawai'i Navy News, at Karen.spangler@navy.mil.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Navy Public Health Center Web site offers 'one-stop shopping' for flu-related guidance

MC1 (SW) Arthur N. De La Cruz

Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center

The Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC) in Portsmouth Va. manages a comprehensive influenza Web site that offers up-to-date guidance about influenza infection to a variety of personnel.

The site serves dual roles by providing situational awareness and responses to the continuously evolving and ongoing information about influenza, and guidance for the prevention and control of infection. The publicly accessible site is geared toward healthcare and non-healthcare professionals, military members and those eligible for military health benefits.

"The influenza Web site was designed to consolidate all the influenza information from policy and recommendations to guidelines, both on the military and civilian sides of the house," said Lt. Cmdr. Linda Dunn, the Medical Corps officer who initiated and maintains the site's information.

NMCPHC receives guidance, policies and memos from such entities as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Defense, Homeland Defense and the Navy.

As NMCPHC receives updates about influenza, Dunn filters through it all and posts only pertinent information, which in turn



falls into specific categories. "We're trying to keep the Web site up-to-date with new policies, clinical updates for treatment, and other resources about influenza prevention," said Dunn.

A portion of the site is designed specifically for healthcare professionals and non-healthcare professionals both in and out of the military.

"The majority of the policy and instructions area is for healthcare professionals like physicians or an independent duty corpsman," explained Dunn. "But it's also for the healthcare administrator or anyone else who needs to coordinate different influenza prevention and education programs and needs to understand what

types of vaccinations and protocols they need to support those programs. Visitors can find guidance on all the different policies and instructions outlining proper protocol for successful programs."

The site provides information such as who receives immunizations first, when to implement different guidance throughout the year, when to increase surveillance, and how to report influenza-related events held at commands and activities.

"Whether you're a healthcare professional or a dependent who knows nothing about medical health information, anyone visiting this site can find basic information about influenza and how to prevent its infection," said Dunn.

Flu Shot Schedule

Seasonal flu shots for beneficiaries are available at the clinics at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, Kaneohe and Naval Health Clinic Hawai'i, Makalapa from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. on Thursday.

Makalapa Clinic will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month.

Naval Health Clinic Hawai'i (NHCH) is offering the H1N1 vaccine to non-active duty beneficiaries. The H1N1 vaccination is given only at the NHCH Headquarters building, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, contact Oahu Joint Services Flu hotline at 433-1FLU.

is some restricted information that requires security clearance for access – surveillance reports.

"We produce our surveillance reports by coordinating information from throughout the Navy and the Marine Corps," Dunn said. "We have both surveillance reports and surveillance guidance, which are both accessible on the site. But our reports require a common access card (CAC) while our surveillance guidance does not."

Dunn explained that some areas were specifically geared toward beneficiaries and other areas toward professionals, but anyone and everyone visiting the site can benefit from the range of information.

"Whenever we find something that's big news that healthcare people need to know, we'll follow up with it and either post that information or add a link as necessary," said Dunn.

For more information and resources, visit the influenza Web site at [http://www.nehc.med.navy.mil/Dieaes.aspx](http://www.nehc.med.navy.mil/Dieaes_Conditions/influenza_resource.aspx).

(Editor's note: An interview with Dr. (Navy Lt. Cmdr.) Melissa Austin, group medical officer for Commander Surface Group Middle Pacific and Destroyer Squadron 31, airs on Navy Channel 2 daily. Dr. Austin provides information and answers questions about both seasonal flu and swine flu. The segment is presented at 23 minutes after the top of each hour, 24 hours a day.)

This week in NAVAL HISTORY

November 16

- 1776 - First salute to an American flag (Grand Union flag) flying from Continental Navy ship USS Andrew Doria, near Dutch fort at St. Eustatius, West Indies.
- 1856 - Barrier Forts reduction begins at Canton China.
- 1942 - Navy's first night fighter squadron (VMF(N)-531) is established at Cherry Point, N.C.
- 1963 - President John F. Kennedy on USS Observation Island witnesses launch of Polaris A-2 missile by USS Andrew Jackson (SSBN-619).
- 1968 - Operation Tran Hung Dao begins in Mekong Delta.
- 1973 - Launch of Skylab 4 under command of Lt. Col. Gerald P. Carr, USMC. The missions lasted 84 days and included 1,214 earth orbits. Recovery is made by USS New Orleans (LPH-11).

November 17

- 1917 - USS Fanning (DD-37) and USS Nicholson (DD-52) sink first enemy submarine, U-58, off Milford Haven, Wales.
- 1942 - USS Langley, first aircraft carrier, reports for duty.
- 1941 - Congress amends Neutrality Act to allow U.S. merchant ships to be armed. Navy's Bureau of Navigation directs Navy personnel with armed guard training to be assigned for further training before going to armed guard centers for assignment to merchant ships.

November 18

- 1890 - USS Maine, first American battleship, is launched.
- 1922 - Cmdr. Kenneth Whiting, in a PT seaplane, makes first catapult launching from aircraft carrier, USS Langley, at anchor in the York River.
- 1962 - USS Currituck (AV-7) rescues 13 Japanese fishermen from their disabled fishing boat Seiyu Maru, which was damaged in Typhoon Karen.

November 19

- 1813 - Capt. David Porter claims Marquesas Islands for the United States.
- 1961 - At the request of the president of Dominican Republic, a U.S. naval task force sails to Dominican Republic to bolster the country's government and to prevent a coup.
- 1969 - Navy astronauts, Cmdr. Charles Conrad Jr. and Cmdr. Alan L. Bean (part of Apollo 12 mission), are third and fourth men to walk on the moon. Cmdr. Richard F. Gordon Jr., the command module pilot, remained in lunar orbit. During the mission lasting 19 days, four hours and 36 minutes, the astronauts recovered 243 pounds of lunar material. Recovery is by HS-4 helicopters from USS Hornet (CVS-12).

November 20

- 1856 - Cmdr. Andrew H. Foote lands at Canton, China with 287 Sailors and Marines to stop attacks by Chinese on U.S. military and civilians.
- 1917 - USS Kanawha, Noma and Wakiva sink German sub off France.
- 1933 - Navy crew (Lt. Cmdr. Thomas G. W. Settle, USN, and Maj. Chester I. Fordney, USMC) set a world altitude record in a balloon (62,237 feet) in flight into stratosphere.
- 1943 - Operation Galvanic, under command of Vice Adm. Raymond Spruance, lands Navy, Marine and Army forces on Tarawa and Makin.
- 1962 - President John F. Kennedy lifts the blockade of Cuba.

Crew members attend Thanksgiving services aboard USS Santa Fe

Official U.S. Navy photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives
Crew members attend Thanksgiving Day services aboard the USS Santa Fe (CL-60) after deck, probably during the Gilberts campaign in November 1943. Note aircraft catapult at right, and triple six-inch/47 gun turrets in the upper left.

Hawai'i Navy News

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U.S. Navy photo by CT11 Jennifer Schooley

Volunteers from Naval Information Operations Command (NIOC), Hawai'i Joint Ministry Team helped gather clothing and other needed items to send to victims of the recent tsunami which devastated the islands of Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga.

NIOC Joint Ministry team supports Samoan relief effort

CT12 Theresa M Buitron

Naval Information Operations Command, Hawai'i

Nearly two months ago, when a deadly tsunami hit the islands of Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga, several charity organizations mobilized to help survivors by collecting food, personal item needs and clothing. The Pacific Baptist Convention, which has a church in nearby Mililani, procured shipping containers necessary to safely transport goods to the affected islands and sent out a call for clothing donations to send to those affected by this tragedy.

The Hawai'i Joint Ministry Team (JMT) of Naval Information Operations Command (NIOC) Hawai'i, headed by Navy chaplain Lt. Rob Nelson, Army chaplain Capt. Brian Murphy and Religious Program's Specialist (SW/FMF) 2nd

Class Richard Figueroa, answered that call.

They started by asking that clothing donations to be taken to the chaplain's office. But after the huge response they received, they began placing large, wooden crates around the command to take in more donations. "Quite honestly, I am shocked, in a good way. I would have been happy to just fill up the back of my vehicle with items, but now it looks like we will be needing a big, flat-bed truck," said Nelson.

Charitable organizations on the affected islands, that normally provide clothing to those in need, were devastated by the tsunami, due to their proximity to the water, so clothing became a top priority of goods needed to help the people. Other service branches and civilians who work with the command, many who have family and personal ties to the Samoan Islands, also

supported the effort.

The NIOC Junior Enlisted Organization made pledges to purchase items typically not donated by people, such as underwear and socks, etc. to be added to the clothing drive. Once the JMT had the means to send such items, the clothing drive was underway.

The JMT collected donations for three weeks and ended the drive Oct. 30.

It is 'trauma season' - tsunamis, hurricanes, etc. may be occurring more frequently during this time of year. This was a good opportunity for NIOC to help out an international cause and expand from local efforts. "From this effort, I have learned a lot about the people of this command," said Nelson. "I have learned about the heart of the command, what they are willing to contribute, and I know we will be able to do more for those in need in the future," he added.

Pregnant women will receive H1N1 vaccinations first

Tripler Army Medical Center

Until Hawai'i gets a lot more H1N1 flu vaccine doses, military and civilian doctors are focusing their attention on giving H1N1 flu shots to pregnant women.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identified pregnant women as being among those with the highest risk for grave complications if they get the flu.

According to the CDC (www.cdc.gov), drug companies shipped about 12 million doses nationwide. Hawai'i, like all states, is receiving its vaccine quantities in proportion to its share of the total population.

"We've been given permission to vaccinate pregnant active duty military personnel, but we currently have very limited vaccine quantities," said Col. (Dr.) Michael Sigmon, preventive medicine chief for the Army's Pacific Regional Medical Command

and Tripler Army Medical Center.

Oahu military clinics planned to first vaccinate all health care workers who are in direct patient care, but are changing plans because of the current situation. Sigmon urged pregnant women to contact their health care providers about getting the H1N1 flu shot. He also urged all to be alert to news reports and announcements of vaccine availability and shot clinics as they are scheduled.

Updated information is on the Tripler Army Medical Center's "fight the flu Web page (www.tamc.amedd.army.mil).

Over the next few months, all those who want the H1N1 vaccine in the United States will be able to get it. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which is directing the national H1N1 vaccination program, has ordered a total of 250 million doses of the vaccine in various nasal spray and injectable forms.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam



Diverse Views



Tom Moriarty
Commander Navy Region
Hawai'i, Morale, Welfare and
Recreation director

What do you know about the upcoming joint base merger?

I know that Capt. Richard Kitchens will be the joint base commander and the Air Force will

have a deputy commander. I also know that there are three phases involved in the merger. The initial operation will begin on Feb. 1, MWR and our Quality of Life department will activate on June 1, and the full operating capability will be implemented on Oct. 1.

What does MWR have planned for the merger?

We have a great opportunity to combine forces and open up more opportunities for both Sailors and Airmen. We will also be more involved in advertising for the different facilities throughout the joint base. Ultimately, the merge will open up a lot

more benefits for military members and their families.

How many people will be affected by the merger for MWR and the quality of life department?

When we merge we will have a total of about 1300 people working for MWR and the quality of life department.

How will MWR change when the merge happens?

Not much will change. We will still continue to provide excellent customer service, except now it will be providing service to more people.

Pearl Harbor Highlights



Elizabeth Lee, director of operations for USO Pacific and Eva Laird Smith, director of USO Hawai'i, untie a maile lei at the ceremony for the re-opening Nov. 5 of the newly-renovated USO Hawai'i center at Honolulu International Airport.

Photo by Jarrette Kamaka



Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i (CNRH) and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific (CNSG MIDPAC) (left); Capt. Melvin Lee, CNRH chief of Staff; and D. Michael Hinkley, senior investigator for Commander, Naval Installations Command; wash a car during a car wash fundraiser on Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Leadership assigned to CNRH and CNSGMP held the car wash to raise funds for CNRH and CNSGMP annual holiday party.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Robert Stürup



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Scott Taylor

The guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) homeported at Pearl Harbor, conducts counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden. Chosin is the flagship for Combined Joint Task Force 151, a multi-national task force established to conduct counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Robert Stürup

Agnes Tauyan, director of public affairs for Commander Navy Region Hawai'i, and Commander, Naval Surface Group Mid-Pac holds a sign to direct traffic to a car wash fundraiser on Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Nov. 13. Leadership assigned to CNRH and CNSG MID PAC held the car wash to raise funds for the CNRH and CNSGMP annual holiday party.



U.S. Navy photo by Randy Dela Cruz

(Above and right) The Makalapa Gym reopened with a complete line of state-of-the-art resistance and cardio machines during ribbon-cutting ceremonies at Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) headquarters on Nov. 13. The gym, which has been closed since April, has more than doubled its workout area and includes remodeled locker rooms, an energy-efficient central air conditioning system and 42-inch plasma televisions.



National American Indian and Alaska Native Month celebrates rich heritages

Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month is a time that has been designated to celebrate the earliest American settlers for their cultural contributions and to educate the public about the heritage, history, art and traditions of the American Indian and Alaska native people.

One of the early proponents of an "American Indian Day" was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y. Originally, Parker had persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside one day for the "first Americans," which the scouts adopted for several years.

According to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, in 1915, at the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kan., a plan celebrating American Indian Day was formally approved.

The association directed its



Photos courtesy of LIFE, firstpeople.us and Morris Bitsie

president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to set aside a day of recognition. Coolidge issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915 that declared the second Saturday of May as American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of American Indians as citizens.

The year before this proclamation was issued, Red Fox

James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state to state, seeking approval for a day to honor American Indians. On Dec. 14, 1915, Red Fox James presented the endorsements of 24 state governments to the White House. There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

In 1990, President George Bush approved a joint resolu-

tion designating November 1990 as "National American Indian Heritage Month." In 1994, a proclamation was added, naming November as "American Indian and Alaska Native Month."

Alaska natives are the indigenous people of Alaska, including Inupiat, Yupik, Aleut, Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian, Eyak and a number of Northern

Athabaskan cultures.

Throughout the years, native Indians have played crucial roles in American history.

For example, Sitting Bull from the Sioux Tribe served as a brilliant warrior, a revered spiritual leader, and a cunning politician. He is most remembered for leading the Sioux nation against General Custer at Little Big Horn in 1876.

Navajo Code Talkers played an important role in World War II when they took part in every assault the U.S. Marines conducted in the Pacific (such as Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Peleliu and Iwo Jima) from 1942 to 1945. They served in all Marine divisions, transmitting messages by telephone and radio in their native language, a code that the Japanese never broke.

On Nov. 24, the National Park Service will honor Navajo Code Talkers of World War II on Ford Island near the USS Arizona Memorial.

For more information on American Indian and Alaska Native month, visit Indian Health Service Web site at www.ihs.gov/publicaffairs/heritage.

Ford Island Bridge closure

All lanes of the Ford Island Bridge will be closed on Dec. 7 from 7 to 10 a.m. for the 68th Anniversary Commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor. A sign will be posted prior to the closure at the entrance to the Ford Island Bridge, notifying all personnel of closure date and time. In the event of an emergency on the day of the closure, please call the Federal Fire department by dialing 911 for immediate assistance.



HSL-37 Det 1 and USS Chafee demonstrate FDNF deployment concept

Lt. Cmdr. Ben Domoto

Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37

Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37 (HSL-37), Detachment One, recently sailed with USS Chafee (DDG-90), homeported at Pearl Harbor, in support of Exercise KOA KAI.

Chafee and Detachment One recently returned from a six-month deployment to [U.S.] 7th Fleet in August and KOA KAI marked the first opportunity for the ship/air team to return to sea under a forward-deployed naval forces (FDNF) deployment concept.

Due to Hawai'i's relative proximity



U.S. Navy photo

Cruising in formation from left to right, USS Chafee, JS Yaeshio, Easyrider 50, USNS Henry J. Kaiser and USS Paul Hamilton, were major participants in Exercise Koa Kai conducted in October in Hawaiian waters.

to the western Pacific, the emphasis of the FDNF deployment concept is to maintain Hawai'i-based Naval Surface Group Mid-Pacific ships in readiness to deploy to [U.S.] 7th Fleet in order to support and complement Navy FDNF ships already based in the region, particularly Japan.

As the primary source of organic helicopter detachments for ships sailing from Pearl Harbor, HSL-37's goal to support the FDNF deployment concept is to maintain stable detachment to ship relationships throughout fleet training and readiness cycles. To the maximum extent practical, HSL-37 provides recently returning detachments to the same ship for significant underway periods in order to capital-

ize on established ship/air team relationships and maximize detachments' readiness.

USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) and USS Reuben James (FFG 57), both homeported at Pearl Harbor; Destroyer Squadron 31 ships; Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two aircraft and submarines USS Columbus (SSN-762) and JS Yaeshio (SS 598) were also major participants in Exercise KOA KAI conducted in Hawaiian waters.

Coordinated anti-submarine operations was a major theme of the exercise, with both participating United States and Japanese submarines operating as the opposing force to hone the skills of both surface and airborne anti-submarine warfare forces.



Photo courtesy of USS Missouri Memorial Association

The Battleship Missouri entered Pearl Harbor's dry dock on Oct. 14 and, as a result, the memorial is temporarily closed to visitor tours. On Jan. 7, the "Mighty Mo" will return to her present location along Battleship Row and re-open by mid-January.

Sandblasting gets underway on drydocked Battleship Missouri

USS Missouri Memorial Association

Beginning Nov. 10 and with the Battleship Missouri fully encased in approximately six acres of plastic, it will be "full speed ahead" for sandblasting the ship's 336,000 square feet of steel hull.

By the fourth week of November, sandblasting will have stripped portions of the ship's hull down to bare metal, readying the hull for repairs, repainting and protection.

Future major project milestones will include the "bounce" (repositioning of the ship in drydock) in December, preservation work later

that month, and the ship's anticipated return to Battleship Row on Jan. 7.

For more information about the Battleship Missouri drydocking project, visit the Battleship Missouri Memorial's online newsroom at <http://www.ussmissouri.org/newsroom>.

Bright idea! Navy housing residents to receive energy conservation information

Naval Facilities Engineering Team Hawaii Energy Team

As a follow-up to October as National Energy Awareness Month, Navy housing residents will soon be receiving a fact-filled energy conservation flyer from the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Hawaii Energy Team and the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange. The 2009 Navy Housing Energy Conservation flyer is intended to motivate families to make a positive difference in their energy use.

"In Hawaii we pay some of the highest electrical rates in the country, and consequently saving energy and improving energy efficiency are priorities for Navy Region Hawaii," said Krista Stehn, NAVFAC Hawaii employee and Navy Region Hawaii energy manager.

"Navy housing residents are a critical component in the region's energy conservation efforts, and Sailors and their families are challenged to become more aware of

how they use energy and take steps to save it," said Stehn.

The NAVFAC Hawaii Energy Team joined forces with the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange to develop the energy conservation flyer specifically geared for Navy housing residents. The flyer provides residents with practical and easy ways to save energy. It also includes valuable information on energy efficient products on sale at the Navy Exchange.

"We are all key players in the region's energy conservation efforts," said Stehn. "By being mindful of how we use energy and taking simple steps to reduce our energy use, we can have a significant impact. The energy conservation flyer is a simple reminder to Navy housing residents to help the Navy save energy, money and the environment."

The 2009 Navy Housing Energy Conservation flyer was scheduled to be mailed out Nov. 16-17.



ATG MIDPAC, Naval Station Pearl Harbor recognized for environmental work

Continued from A-1

mentary School and created four plots for the school's gardening club. We feel that passing on the sense of environmental stewardship to the children in our community is as important, or more so, as doing the actual work," said Hohnstein.

Below is the breakdown of

the winners for the competition in nine categories:

Small Shore

Winner: Naval Technical Training Center, Meridian, Miss.

Honorable mention: Afloat Training Group, Middle Pacific, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

Medium Shore

Winner: Navy Informa-

tion Operations Command, Sugar Grove, Va.
Honorable Mention: U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard, Anacostia Annex, Washington, D.C.

Large Shore

Winner: Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md.
Honorable Mention: Naval Station Pearl Har-

bor, Hawaii

Small Sea

Winner: FBM Operational Test Support Unit Two, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Medium Sea

Winner: USS Mesa Verde (LPD 19)

Large Sea

Winner: USS Enterprise (CVN 65)

Small Overseas

Winner: Commander, Submarine Squadron 15

Medium Overseas

Winner: U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, Guam

Large Overseas

Winner: U.S. Naval Base Guam
"Bravo zulu to the winners

and honorable mention commands and thanks to all commands and individuals who participated," said Vice Adm. Michael K. Loose, deputy chief of naval operations for fleet readiness and logistics. "Your caring and dedication in protecting our environment reflect yet another way in which our Navy is a global force for good."

Joint Base working groups plan toward smooth transition to JBPHH

Vickie Lancaster

JBPHH Communication Consultant

As Naval Station Pearl Harbor and Hickam Air Force Base head toward initial operational capability (IOC) of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on Jan. 31, 2010,



functional working groups (FWGs) comprised of Navy and Air Force personnel are working diligently to develop the implementation plans and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to ensure a smooth transition into JBPHH.

At IOC, 26 functions will activate and begin sharing authority and start 'practicing' the joint way of doing business. On June 1, 2010, the remaining 27 functions will activate. This implementation period will allow the time and real experience necessary to refine and improve the joint work policies and procedures, "building the base" of the joint base.

"Joint basing gives us a great opportunity to offer enhanced levels of service

to the Navy and Air Force communities," said Capt. Richard W. Kitchens, commanding officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor and prospective Commander of JBPHH.

On Feb. 1, 2010, there will be few changes in the work and base environment. Most transitioning employees will not be moving their family pictures and relocating to another office. Support and program services are already located in the right places to provide

services effectively to their clients. This will not change before and after IOC and FOC (full operational capability on Oct. 1, 2010).

Simply, the transition means becoming a part of a larger organization with enhanced resources. There will be a very small percentage of employees in "back office" support type functions who may move, but only where consolidation makes sense.

Employees can expect some administrative and

process changes within the transition periods. The FWGs are working hard to ensure that daily operations and program support continue to work "seamlessly."

"Through joint basing we will create a better base by combining the best practices of both services and seizing upon opportunities to innovate as we transition," explained Colo. Giovanni Tuck, commander of the 15th Airlift Wing at Hickam Air Force Base.

NAVFAC Hawai'i adds wildlife biology expert to environmental team

Story and photo by James Johnson

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i Public Affairs

In an effort to improve and provide high-quality environmental services for Navy installations, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawai'i recently added a wildlife biologist, Aaron Hebshi, to its environmental division.

"To have this new capability is essential for our ability to ensure environmental stewardship in this program area," said Aaron Poentis, environmental business line coordinator at NAVFAC Hawai'i. "Having Aaron [Hebshi] join our organization will enable us to develop a wildlife community, provide mentorship to our staff, foster relationships with the trustee/regulatory agencies, and allow our organization to provide sound, technical recommendations considering our leadership and mission operational demands."



At a Navy site at Lualualei on Oahu, Hawai'i, Aaron Hebshi, NAVFAC Hawai'i wildlife biologist, inspects empty shells left by *Amastrea Cylindrica* snail. This snail species, which is only found on Oahu, was thought to be extinct until it was discovered at the Navy site in 1995.

Prior to Hebshi's arrival, NAVFAC Hawai'i relied on the biologist at NAVFAC Pacific for needed services. Having a position dedicated to unique environmental efforts will increase productivity at both organizations.

For NAVFAC Hawai'i, the new wildlife biologist's two highest priorities include ensuring the Navy in Hawai'i remains in compliance with various state and federal laws, such as the endangered species act and migratory birds act, and implementing an Integrated natural resource management plan (INRMP).

All Department of Defense installations with large land holdings are required to have an INRMP, which is signed by state and federal agencies.

"I'm excited for the chance to work with projects that I am passionate about," said Hebshi. "Helping to promote healthy native and migratory bird populations at Navy sites, like the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai and wetlands on Oahu, presents some unique challenges, but will yield significant rewards. When wildlife populations are not healthy, federal laws such as the endangered species act become more constraining on the Navy mission."

Makalapa Gym bulks up, gets in shape

Continued from A-1

the new workout area has doubled in size and is an inviting suite filled with state-of-the-art machines.

Divided into two halves, the fitness center is loaded with 17 resistance machines in one area, while the other side is stocked with programmable treadmills, stationary bikes, elliptical machines and a stair stepper.

According to Mark McFarland, MWR fitness coordinator for Navy Region Hawai'i, the gym has everything needed to help anyone get into the best shape of his or her life.

Starting with the resistance machines, each Nautilus-designed piece of equipment is laid out in a synchronized order that allows individuals to pay full attention to every body part. Dedicated machines target legs, back, shoulders, chest, arms and abdominals.

"Basically, the whole idea is to provide a circuit that starts by working your large muscle groups down to the smaller muscles and abs," said McFarland.

And although the gym's only free weights, due to safety reasons, are limited

to a rack of dumbbells that range from 5-50 pounds, McFarland noted that the line of resistance machines will not only build usable strength, but will also enhance physical endurance.

"Our job, in Navy fitness, is to get them squared away and help them maintain their level of fitness," said McFarland. "We don't have to get them big and bulky. We want them to put on lean muscle mass."

Meanwhile, the various cardio machines take the boredom out of tedious endurance workouts by offering trainees a wide variety of choices.

One machine even allows a person to seamlessly move from a traditional elliptical exercise straight into a stair-stepping workout.

"This is a pretty cool machine," pointed out McFarland. "It decreases the perceived workout, but it gives a great cardiovascular output."

In taking in the grand tour of the renovated gym, Kitchens stated that in the 18 months that he has been here, he is amazed at the level of fitness options that are now available at Makalapa.

The completion of the fitness center is the third leg

of an ambitious project at COMPACFLT that has seen the transformation of the Makalapa Field into a first-class ball field, with new dugouts, backstop and irrigation system, and the addition of a 3,800 feet paved jogging path that winds throughout the base.

"I don't know how to categorize just how much improvement there has been," said Kitchens. "We now have a proper, dual-use ball field, and the jogging path connects (from base housing) to the ball field. So there has been tremendous improvement."

Van Buskirk agreed with Kitchens and added that the three finished additions at Makalapa will go a long way toward establishing a culture of fitness for total force readiness of the U.S. Navy.

"When I talk about the Navy, it's not just about uniform services. It's about the people who work here on a day-to-day basis, men and women in uniform, contractors as well as our civilian force," said Van Buskirk.

"This is an extension of our ohana to provide these facilities for not only people who work in the area, but also people who come to visit."

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawai'i Navy News upcoming segments

Nov. 26 – Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will not be a KHON TV 2 segment.

Dec. 3 – Pearl Harbor Day featuring a Pearl Harbor survivor

(The segments air between 6:15 a.m. and 6:45 a.m. each Thursday. Previous segments can be viewed at <http://www.khon2.com/content/news/navynews/default.aspx>)

Got a story for KHON Hawai'i Navy News?

Email hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com or call Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs at 473-2875. Stories must have a Navy tie and be of interest to the general public.