

## Reuben James deploys to the western Pacific

Story and photos by MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

More than 250 Sailors aboard the guided-missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) departed Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Jan. 15 for a deployment to the western Pacific. Reuben James, one of eight ships assigned to Commander, Destroyer Squadron 31, will be on an independent deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

While on deployment, Reuben James will be conducting various missions, including a joint fisheries patrol with the U.S. Coast Guard and local nations in Oceania to protect vital natural resources. The ship will conduct humanitarian relief and goodwill projects and participate in several multi-national military exercises to build relationships and strengthen regional stability.

Cmdr. David Miller, Reuben James' commanding officer, was very optimistic about the deployment, noting that the crew and the ship are readily prepared for the tasks ahead.

"It has been a tough past few months with all the inspections, but



Photo illustration

Sailors say goodbye to their loved ones as they prepare to board the guided-missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) for a scheduled six-month deployment. Reuben James, a Middle Pacific surface combatant frigate of Commander, Destroyer Squadron 31, will be deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility and will be conducting various missions, including a joint fisheries patrol with the U.S. Coast Guard and with local nations in Oceania to protect vital natural resources.

the crew is more than prepared for this deployment and I have no doubt that they will perform nothing short of outstanding," said Miller. "We're ready to go and we're proud to serve."

Miller also said that Reuben James will have the opportunity to lend a hand to the local communities during port visits.

"We will make quite a few stops while on the deployment where we'll take the time to help out underprivileged communities in foreign countries with community relations projects," said Miller.

Friends and families waved farewell as they watched their Sailors aboard Reuben James depart Pearl Harbor enroute to the Pacific Ocean.

"It's really sad to have him leave today, but I know that this is his job," said the wife of a deploying Sailor.

"I never like to see my husband leave, but it is something that I'm used to and I just look forward to him coming home," added the wife of another Reuben James Sailor.

U.S. Navy guided-missile frigates fulfill a protection-of-shipping mission as anti-submarine warfare combatants for amphibious expeditionary forces, underway replenishment groups and merchant convoys.

## Pearl Harbor bids farewell to USS Los Angeles

Story and photos by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

USS Los Angeles (SSN 688) departed Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Jan. 14 for her final voyage to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for inactivation.

Los Angeles has faithfully patrolled the world's oceans for 33 years, conducting all but one of her 18 deployments in the Pacific. She is the fourth naval ship to be named after the city of Los Angeles and is the lead ship of her class.

Her many capabilities include wartime functions of undersea warfare, surface warfare, strike warfare, mining operations, special forces delivery, reconnaissance, carrier battle group support and escort, and intelligence collection.

"Los Angeles has been on



Photo illustration

Cmdr. Steven Harrison (left), commanding officer of USS Los Angeles (SSN 688), passes on the "Dick O'Kane cribbage board" to Cmdr. Howard Warner, commanding officer of USS Bremerton (SSN 698), during a departure ceremony held at Naval Station Pearl Harbor submarine pier. The guardianship of World War II submarine hero and Medal of Honor recipient Rear Adm. Richard H. "Dick" O'Kane's cribbage board, is traditionally held by the oldest submarine in the Pacific Fleet. Los Angeles departed Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Jan. 14 for her final voyage to Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for inactivation.

the Pearl Harbor waterfront for 32 years and it is with some sadness that we are now making our final voyage," said Cmdr. Steven Harrison, commanding officer of Los Angeles. "I am very proud of each and every Sailor onboard. We all have worked very hard to keep this warship at the forefront of submarine operations and the crew has done a fantastic job meeting every operational requirement."

Launched on April 6, 1974 at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company in Newport News, Va., Los Angeles was commissioned on Nov. 13, 1976. She hosted President Jimmy Carter and the first lady on May 27, 1997 for an at-sea demonstration of the capabilities of the nation's newest fast-attack submarine. She then made her first operational deployment to the Mediterranean Sea in 1977 and was awarded a Meritorious Unit Citation.

In 1978, Los Angeles transferred to the Pacific Fleet and

was assigned to Submarine Squadron Seven, homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The sub and her crew operated with distinction over the next 32 years, conducting 17 Pacific deployments.

Along the way, Los Angeles earned eight Meritorious Unit Citations, a Navy Unit Citation and the coveted Marjorie Sterrett Battleship Award, awarded to the Pacific Fleet's top warship. Additionally, she was awarded her squadron's annual Battle Efficiency "E" for excellence in combat readiness eight times.

Los Angeles participated in four multi-national "Rim of the Pacific" or RIMPAC exercises, and visited numerous foreign ports in Italy, Republic of the Philippines, Diego Garcia, Hong Kong, Mauritius, Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Canada and Singapore.

The United States Navy is steeped in customs, courtesies

See LOS ANGELES, A-8

## COMDESRON 31 hosts 2010 Surface Navy Women's Symposium

Story and photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

More than 160 Sailors attended the first Surface Navy Women's Symposium west of San Diego, which was held Jan. 19 at the Ford Island Conference Center.

Hosted by Commander, Destroyer Squadron (COMDESRON) 31 and sponsored by Commander, Naval Surface Forces, the third symposium of its kind focused on current issues and future initiatives applicable to women in the surface Navy, both enlisted and officers. Its theme was, "Developing, Encouraging and Leading a Total Workforce for the Future."

"It is an opportunity for female Sailors to get together and ask questions to discuss hot topics when it comes to female issues to some of the senior leadership, specifically



Rear Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, Deputy commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, left, Capt. Debra Bodenstedt, commanding officer of Naval Munitions Command, East Asia Division; Cmdr. Yvette Davids, former commanding officer of the guided-missile frigate USS Curtts (FFG 38); and Command Master Chief Teri McIntyre, assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), discuss women's leadership issues at the 2010 Surface Navy Women's Symposium. The symposium is hosted by Commander, Destroyer Squadron (COMDESRON) 31 and sponsored by Commander, Naval Surface Forces and focuses on current issues and future initiatives applicable to women in the surface Navy.

ly female leadership on the water front," said Lt. Amber Hopeman, assigned to COMDESRON 31, who coordinates

See SYMPOSIUM, A-8

## FISC Pearl Harbor assists with humanitarian relief

Story and photo by James Murray

Fleet and Industrial Supply Center

In January 2005, the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Pearl Harbor sent three of its officers to Singapore to assist with relief operations after the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami. Now, nearly five years to the day later, FISC is again sending three of its Navy personnel to assist with relief operations, although this time the three are bound for the other end of the globe – the Caribbean. Two of the three will be based in Florida, while the third, who was born in Haiti and speaks English and French-Creole, will initially be sent to U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, but may end



up in Port-au-Prince. For obvious reasons, Logistics Specialist 2nd Class LS2 (SW) Copernick Louis from Fleet and Industrial Supply Center at Pearl Harbor paints a sidewalk at FISC's former partner school, Momilani Elementary. Louis, a native of Haiti, is headed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, with possible transfer to Haiti, to help with the relief effort.

See HAITI, A-8 (See related stories on page A-2 and A-7)



Forest City goes green with paperless email program See page A-4



Nimitz Beach cleanup rewarding for Kapolei High School students See page A-6



USS Santa Fe holds change of command See page A-7



Ajax helps Naval Station scrub down NIOC See page B-1

## U.S. Navy delivers assistance, capabilities to unified response in Haiti

Defense Media Activity Anastasia

As the maritime component of unified response, the U.S. Navy is part of a larger U.S. government effort led by the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in response to the request for assistance from the government of Haiti after the devastating earthquake of Jan. 12.

With agility and flexibility, the U.S. Navy is key enabler of the role of the U.S. military to rapidly respond with critically needed capabilities to deliver humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to the areas that the government of Haiti deems most necessary.

USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), USS Higgins (DDG 76), USS Normandy (CG 60), USS Underwood (FFG 36), USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44), USS Carter Hall (LSD 50) and USNS Grasp (T-ARS 51), are on station in the vicinity of Haiti in support of host nation, U.S. State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) efforts to conduct humanitarian assistance/disaster relief operations in order to prevent human suffering and additional loss of life.

USS Bataan (LHD 5), USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43) and USS Carter Hall (LSD 50) with embarked Marines from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU 22) have also arrived in Haiti. In addition, USS Gunston Hall (LSD 41) has also been diverted to Haiti. These amphibious platforms will form a "sea base" from which humanitarian supplies can be moved ashore via helicopters and landing craft. Bataan also has robust medical facility that includes nearly 50 medical professionals as well as X-ray facilities, a 600-bed hospital, operating rooms, an intensive care unit, pharmacy and laboratory.

Approximately 1,480 U.S. military personnel are supporting Operation Unified Response on the ground in Haiti. Approximately 4,400 additional U.S. military personnel are supporting from U.S. Navy and Coast Guard vessels operating in Haitian waters.

The following numbers provide a glimpse of the impact these service members are making:

- More than 2,000 American citizens have been evacuated to Orlando, Fla., Homestead Air Force Base (AFB), Fla., or McGuire AFB, Pa.
- Maritime forces have distributed 20,160 rations of food since Tuesday.
- USS Carl Vinson delivered more than 30 pallets of relief supplies for distribution to affect areas Saturday. Nineteen helicopters embarked on the carrier are also flying airlift missions in support of relief efforts.
- More than 100,000 bottles of wa-



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Candice Villarreal

Naval Air Crewman 2nd Class Jason Harold of Goldsboro, N.C. transfers a young Haitian earthquake victim from an SH-60B Seahawk helicopter during a medical evacuation in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Jan. 16.

ter were delivered Sunday. With water being one of the most precious commodities, the focus continues to be on taking advantage of every opportunity to bring water ashore.

- USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) received seven injured Haitian civilians at approximately 7:30 p.m. EST Saturday when a U.S. Coast Guard MH-60J Jayhawk helicopter on a MEDEVAC mission was forced to divert due to weather. The helicopter was taking the earthquake victims from Port-Au-Prince to a hospital near Cap-Haitien Cape Haiti on the island's northern coast. USS Carl Vinson medical personnel are currently treating the seven Haitians, including an infant.

- USS Higgins (DDG 76), homeported in San Diego, is providing afloat logistical services for the Coast Guard helicopters.

- USNS Sacagawea (T-AKE 2), a dry cargo ship and USNS 1st Lt Jack Lummus (T-AK 3011), a dry cargo ship capable of offloading cargo without a port are scheduled to arrive in the next week.

- USNS Comfort (T-AH-20), homeported in Baltimore, Md., is in the area and providing an afloat, mobile,

acute surgical medical facility to the U.S. military that is flexible, capable and uniquely adaptable to support expeditionary warfare. Comfort's secondary mission is to provide full hospital services to support U.S. disaster relief and humanitarian operations worldwide. The ship comes with approximately 600 medical personnel and an expanded 1,000-bed hospital facility.

- On Jan. 14, Comfort the ship was in a scheduled maintenance availability. In the course of 72 hours, the Military Sealift command transformed an industrial shipboard site into an up and ready mobile naval hospital, fully staffed and equipped with the most up-to-date medical technology, ready to provide medical care to our neighbors in desperate need in Haiti.

- USNS Comfort, a 894-foot long ship, has a full spectrum of hospital services to support disaster relief efforts. Comfort has one of the largest trauma facilities in the United States and has four X-rays, one CAT scan unit, an MRI unit, a dental suite, a pharmacy and an optometry and lens laboratory. The ship also maintains up to 5,000 units of blood and can serve as many as 1,000 patients.

- Navy P-3 Orion aircraft are conducting aerial surveys of the area affected by the earthquake.

- Sailors from Navy Expeditionary Combat Command's combat camera, maritime civil affairs, maritime security, expeditionary logistic support and Seabee units, as well as other Navy divers and engineers, are supporting disaster response efforts and bring a diverse capability including assessment, construction, security, civil affairs and logistical support.

- Various units are prepared to provide assistance with sea-based helicopters, to include H-53 Sea Stallions and H-60 Seahawks.

Another big part of the maritime relief effort is to start the rebuilding of port facilities near the Haitian capital. USNS Grasp (T-ARS 51), a rescue and salvage ship with embarked FBI dive team, arrived Jan. 17 to conduct surveys and assessments necessary to repair the port. This effort will be reinforced by USNS Henson (T-AGS-63), an oceanographic survey ship, and USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), which arrived Jan. 20. Additionally, USNS Sacagawea (T-AKE 2), a dry cargo ship, and USNS Sumner (T-AGS-61), an oceanographic survey ship, are

scheduled to arrive Jan. 22. USNS 1st Lt. Jack Lummus (T-AK 3011), a dry cargo ship, arrived Jan. 21.

USNS Big Horn (T-AO-198), a replenishment oiler, is supporting the effort by refueling the ships.

Navy units supporting this effort are under the operational control of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (NAVSO). As the Navy component command of U.S. Southern Command, NAVSO's mission is to direct U.S. naval forces operating in the Caribbean, Central and South American regions and interact with partner nation navies within the maritime environment. Routine operations include counter-illicit trafficking, theater security cooperation, military-to-military interaction and bilateral and multinational training.

The last time the Navy supported U.S. disaster relief efforts in Haiti was in September 2008. For 19 days, the amphibious ship USS Kearsarge using embarked helicopters and amphibious landing craft to delivered 3.3 million pounds of internationally-donated aid to communities isolated by flooding, and mudslides and damaged roads.

(See related story on page A-7)

## CNRH applauds NAVSTA Pearl Harbor for remaining free of alcohol-related incidents

Story and photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, congratulated Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor for remaining free of alcohol-related incidents (ARI) for more than one year on Jan. 20.

NAVSTA Pearl Harbor reached the mark on Dec. 26, 2009 and is quickly approaching 400 days of being ARI-free.

"Naval Station Pearl Harbor's achievement shows that there is good leadership and responsible behavior at all levels. Obviously, people are helping each other, taking care of their shipmates, and there are good alternatives being offered for Sailors and families," said Smith.

"I congratulate all the Sailors, Navy civilians and family members, both here at the installation and region-wide, who are helping to prevent alcohol-related incidents



Sailors assigned to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor participate in command physical training (PT) at Ward Field on NAVSTA Pearl Harbor. NAVSTA Pearl Harbor recently hit the one-year mark of being free of alcohol-related incidents, achieved in part by building camaraderie and promoting healthy lifestyles.

and promote healthy and safe lifestyles. Thank you for doing your part."

Capt. Lawrence Scroggs, executive officer of NAVSTA Pearl Harbor, said that cama-

radierie throughout the command has been instrumental in remaining ARI-free.

"Teamwork and camaraderie helps Sailors in the command, from the most senior to the most junior, take care of one another, and it is one of the biggest reasons we have been able to have no ARIs," said Scroggs.

Scroggs also pointed out the

importance of having strong leadership to help influence Sailors to make right decisions.

"Leadership by example is what is most important," said Scroggs. "The importance of meeting any goal, whether it's remaining ARI-free or completing a mission, stems from good leadership that places an importance on professionalism."

NAVSTA Pearl Harbor Command Master Chief Earl Gray noted NAVSTA Pearl Harbor Sailors represent more than just their command when it comes to having zero ARIs.

"When Sailors go out in town, they not only represent NAVSTA Pearl Harbor, they represent the entire U.S. Navy," said Gray. "It is important for our personnel to maintain good order and discipline while on liberty. If NAVSTA Pearl Harbor looks good, it has a positive effect and makes the entire Navy look good."

Chief Mineman Bradley Caven, NAVSTA Pearl Harbor's drug and alcohol program advisor (DAPA), said the training that Sailors receive during the command indoctrination

course about the DAPA program has had a big impact.

"During the indoctrination course, I go over the command's drug and alcohol program with each Sailor and answer any questions that they may have about the DAPA program," said Caven. "Another thing we give Sailors as a backup plan is dash cards, which allow them to take a cab for free back to the base or their home in case their original plans fall through or don't have enough money to pay for a cab."

NAVSTA Pearl Harbor is the U.S. Navy's busiest port, completing about 65,000 boat runs and transporting more than 2.4 million visitors and 200,000 vehicles each year. Personnel assigned to NAVSTA Pearl Harbor help transport more than two million visitors to the USS Arizona Memorial, manage bachelor's quarters of about 3,000 permanent party and transient personnel, and provide support and services to more than 55,000 people at the Pearl Harbor Fleet and Family Support Center every year.

# Hawaii Navy News Editorial

## PACOM sponsors study in education

Story and photo by  
Brister Thomas

Contributing Writer

There are nearly 25,000 military families based in Hawaii with approximately 8,000 transitioning annually. The Pacific Command, Joint Services and the Coast Guard are joining together to better understand the perceptions and needs of both children and families regarding their education experiences in Hawaii.

The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health has been contracted by the U.S. Pacific Command to conduct a study on the "Military Child: Education in Hawaii."

Robert Blum MD, MPH, PhD, director of Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute, said, "Like their parents, our military children sacrifice much for their country. We owe it to them to assure that wherever they are stationed they have the best education and support possible. This study will provide

all branches of the service the information needed to assure those opportunities are available to our children in Hawaii."

Concern within the military regarding recruitment and retention of military personnel who have school age children is rising exponentially due to recent Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) budget cuts which have instituted 'furlough Fridays,' increased cafeteria and bus rates and even the elimination of specific school bus routes. Hawaii is ranked 46th in American Public Schools for achievement (American Legislative Exchange Council Report Card on Education) yet the DOE spends more per pupil than most other states, ranking 31st at \$8,100 per student (National Center for Education Statistics). Lowest spending is Utah at \$4,838 and highest is New Jersey at \$12,568.

Dr. Jean Silvermail, director, PACOM education division, recognized the growing need in Hawaii that led military officials to operate a joint effort to gain a

deeper understanding of military families and their children's transitions to and from Hawaii. This is the first time that the military is funding the study to be by the military, about the military. It is also the first time that parents and students are invited to participate, from all schooling options.

Inputs will be gathered from families of private, public, charter, parochial and home-schools. Col. Mike Davino, director for manpower, personnel and administration, Headquarters United States Pacific Command, explained, "The PACOM Longitudinal Study is a great opportunity for the voice of military parents and students to be heard. Instead of a snapshot in time, like most studies, this one gives families the opportunity to let us know their degree of satisfaction with whatever education choices they made for their children throughout their tour of duty in Hawaii. The data will help us to improve the educational opportunities for our military children here."

The study will include a census of all military personnel as they come on island in order to develop a complete picture of their issues, concerns and perspectives. And it is the first to follow these families longitudinally including when they are reassigned.

In one of the focus groups with the youth, Dr. Michael Blum, a licensed psychologist, asks questions like, 'How do you like your school?' 'What is your favorite part about school?' 'Do you feel as if you stand out?' Her years of experience dealing with children's issues lend a unique perspective since she was also a military child. Her husband, Dr. Robert Blum, the director of the study, is a pediatrician and also a licensed therapist. Together with their staff from Johns-Hopkins, they have built a qualified team with individuals from the University of Hawaii.

The study focuses on Hawaii schools and will take place over a three-year period. It includes families and students from all

branches of services. The bilateral approach initiates with focus group discussions, including both parents and students (aged 10 through 18) and includes a Web-based survey.

The survey allows participants to respond from personal computers and permits a unique look as families PCS (permanent change of station) from Hawaii to other duty stations. This layered look into a family's approach to education provides the ability to evaluate how prepared families and student feel as they enter new school systems.

As a result of this study, officials intend to have a more complex understanding of the concerns of service members and how those concerns change over time. The project goal is to provide policy and program guidance to assure that children of military families experience a quality education and optimal social experiences, and that families experience a positive tour of duty in Hawaii.

Mercedes Welch, a graduate

of the Naval Academy, former Marine, Navy spouse and mother of four home-schooled children, participated in the focus group and said, "I highly encourage all families to join this study, especially the children. It can be as easy as taking a survey from your own home. Our students often provide a deeper, broader perspective and their input is critical to the success of this study. It is refreshing to see the Navy to take a positive, action-oriented interest in our children as this study is not focusing on how do we assimilate our children to the system, but how can we work the system to fit the child."

If interested in participating, they are continuing their search for focus groups and the Web-based survey. Childcare is offered for focus groups. They request that you contact them directly through the local offices of UH and Susan York.

To participate in the study or for more information, please contact Susan York, University of Hawaii, yorks@hawaii.edu, (808) 956-9210.

Dr. Michael Blum of Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute works with parents during a focus group as part of U.S. Pacific Command's "Military Child: Education in Hawaii" study.



### Letter to the Editor

A statement of gratitude for the military volunteers who assisted in moving the Battleship Missouri on Jan. 7 and 8

I cannot begin to express the level of appreciation we have for the hundreds of active duty and retired service members who volunteered in moving the Battleship Missouri. This includes those men and women who volunteered as line handlers for the Mighty Mo's return to Battleship Row on Jan. 7, as well as those who stepped forward — with just a few day's notice — to help us cast off and return safely during Universal Pictures' filming at sea on Jan. 8.

The valuable time and skill of these selfless men and women were essential in these two historic movements of the battleship. It was inspiring to see them at work. I could not help but recognize the symbolism: as one individual working alone, moving a vessel might be impossible. But working together, we can move battleships.

Michael A. Carr  
President and chief operating officer,  
Battleship Missouri Memorial



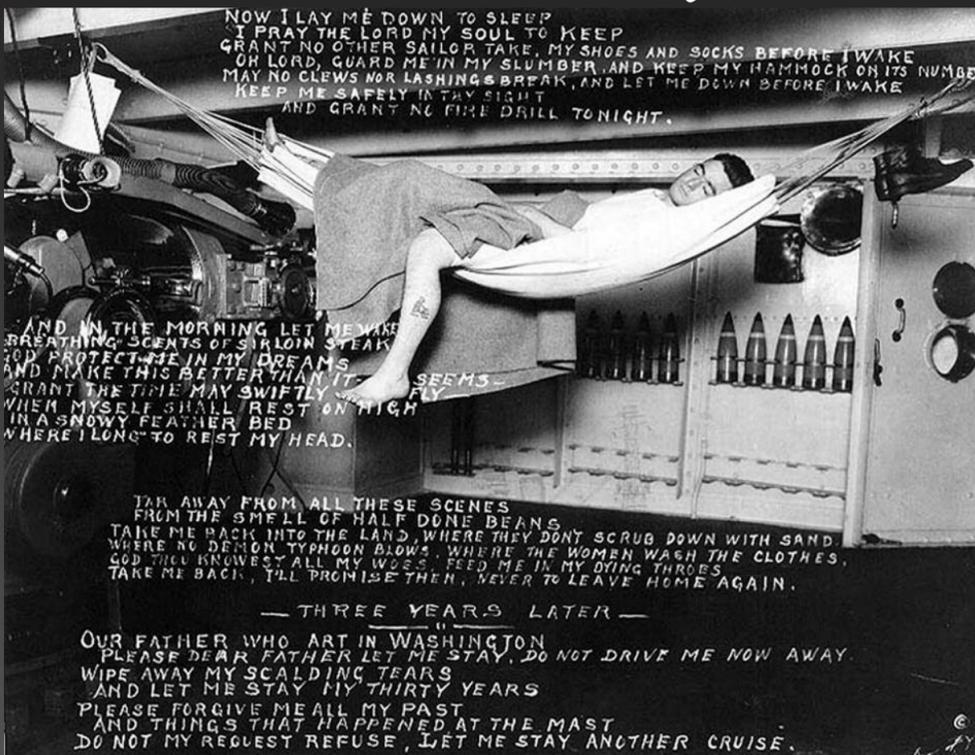
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Visit [www.hawaiiavnews.com](http://www.hawaiiavnews.com) to access complete HNN stories and related photos. This site is managed by the Honolulu Advertiser, the publisher for HNN.

### A Sailor's Prayer



A hammock-bound Sailor's reflections on Navy lower deck life, with second thoughts as re-enlistment time nears. Taken in a five-inch/51 gun casemate on board USS Nevada (BB-36) by A.E. Wells, the ship's photographer, during the early 1920s. Note ready-service shells on the casemate bulkhead, gun at left, shoes tied to hammock lashings and tattoo on the man's left leg. (Donation of the Montana Historical Society. Collection of Philip Barbour, Jr., 1958).

### Hawaii Navy News

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Hawaii Navy News is a free unofficial paper published every Thursday by The Honolulu Advertiser, 605 Kapiolani Blvd., Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813, a private firm in no way connected with DoD, the U. S. Navy or Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with Commander, Navy Region Hawaii.

All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: [hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com](mailto:hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com) World Wide Web address: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Hawaii/>

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# Forest City goes green with paperless email program

Story and photo by Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

In an effort to reduce paper waste and keep the neighborhood residents abreast of pertinent information in a timely and effective manner, Forest City Navy Hawaii is adopting a new green initiative, called 'Hi email. Bye tree-mail.'

"Forest City is committed to providing their residents with the best possible living experience while also taking care of our land and resources," said Ryan Wilson, communications coordinator, Forest City Navy Hawaii. "After all, saving paper just makes sense for a company with a name like Forest City."

Wilson said the program is not eco-friendly, but will allow residents to receive critical information immediately, such as newsletters and emergency notifications, while reducing paper usage.

Throughout the month of January, Wilson said Forest City is running a new paperless email campaign to promote the program and encourage more residents to submit their updated personal email addresses to Forest City so they may receive email notifications when the program launches in February.

Forest City Navy Hawaii is currently managing 23 neighborhoods on Oahu and one at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Bark-



Melanie Brown, Forest City Resident Relations Specialist, updates the personal email contact information of Forest City resident Cassidy Fellowes during the January campaign of Forest City's new green initiative, called "Hi email. Bye tree-mail." Launching in February, Forest City Navy Hawaii will send out emails to residents involving critical information, newsletters and emergency notifications, in an effort to reduce paper usage.

ing Sands on Kauai. Wilson said that PMRF is the first Forest City community to have all residents give their email addresses for the new program. He is hoping the rest of the neighborhoods will follow.

"More than 600 people have updated us so far and we only hope that will continue," he said. "We want our residents to get involved because this will only improve the communication and resident services they receive from us."

Wilson said only one email ad-

dress per household is needed and military email addresses will not be accepted because if the service member deploys, the rest of the family might not be able to get the important residential information.

Residents do not have to submit a personal email account, but will be held responsible for finding out information on their own or checking Forest City's Web site for neighborhood notifications.

Those who submit a personal email address will be entered into

a drawing for an assortment of prizes, such as Napster and iTunes music gift cards and thumbdrives and will be eligible for two grand prizes including an iPod Touch and a Sony Reader digital book.

"The motivation behind this campaign is the drive toward new technology," said Wilson. "We are going to give away more than 100 prizes throughout the month of January and hopefully get our residents excited about this new program in the process."

Cassidy Fellowes, a Navy spouse and Moanalua Terrace resident, said she is glad Forest City is moving toward a paperless communication system.

"I think this program is great," she said. "It just seems like it will be a lot more efficient, especially since residents will not have to deal with 'snail mail' anymore."

Tamara Cruz-Mattos, an Army spouse and a Catlin Park resident, said the program is beneficial not only to residents, but also to Forest City and the environment.

"I think there is a lot of good things that could come out of this new initiative," she said. "We are not wasting paper; we are saving money as well as protecting our environmental resources. With all this [neighborhood] information going to my email, I don't worry anymore about missing important notices or waiting for flyers in the mail."

With this new push to go paper-

less, Randy J. Brown, Forest City resident services manager, said Forest City will have greater flexibility in how they communicate with their residents.

"The beauty of this program is we can customize who we want the emails to go to instead of saturating our entire email list," he said. "For example, we can narrow it down to a street or an individual if we know there will be a meter installation, an outage scheduled or any construction updates coming up."

Wilson added that only in special circumstances, such as cases dealing with resident confidentiality, would letters be sent out to the individual resident by Forest City.

In addition to the many positive aspects of the program, Brown said he also hopes more residents will become aware of all of the community activities available at Forest City community centers.

"Our basic premise is we just want to keep people connected and informed," he said. "It is just an added bonus that we are able to save money and help the environment, too."

For Forest City residents interested in updating their personal email accounts with Forest City, either stop by the Forest City resident service office in person or contact Ryan Wilson at 839-8600. For more information on Forest City Residential Group in Hawaii, visit [www.fcnavyhawaii.com](http://www.fcnavyhawaii.com).

**Diverse Views**

*Should there be more head-to-head competition between Pearl Harbor and Hickam Air Force Base in intramural sports?*

Ensign  
**Jason Ortega**  
USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93)

"It would definitely make it better. Anytime you can bring in the other side, it's going to open it up."

Religious Program Specialist 1st Class  
**Elliot Warley**  
U.S. Pacific Command

"There should be more inter-branch competition. You get more participation and more recognition for everything."

Ensign  
**Greg Shinego**  
USS Port Royal (CG 73)

"Whether its Air Force or Army, they are our brothers in arms. But when we're out on the field, it makes great competition. I would love to beat some Falcons."

Lt.  
**Bill Sullivan**  
Hickam Air Force Base

"Ultimately, we are fighting the war as a team. The more we get to interact with those guys, I think, the more effective we are on the battle field."

# Pearl Harbor Highlights



Ensign Megan Kunkemoellen, left, Ensign Lauren St. Pierre-Hetz and Ensign Kaylene Klingenstein discuss their personal experiences as women in the Navy at the 2010 Surface Navy Women's Symposium on Jan. 19. Hosted by Commander, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31 and sponsored by Commander, Naval Surface Forces, the symposium focused on current issues and future initiatives applicable to women in the surface Navy.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Families watch as their Sailors aboard the guided-missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) leave for a scheduled six-month deployment on Jan. 15. Reuben James, a Middle Pacific Surface Combatant frigate of Commander, Destroyer Squadron 31, will be deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility and will be conducting various missions, including a joint fisheries patrol with the U.S. Coast Guard and with local nations in Oceania to protect vital natural resources. Reuben James will also conduct humanitarian relief and goodwill projects and participate in several multi-national military exercises to build relationships and strengthen regional stability.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup



Cryptologics Technician (Interpreter) 3rd Class Omley and Cryptologics Technician (Interpreter) 3rd Class Ulrich Meeting Arthur Albert (WWII Veteran) aboard Battleship Missouri during its underway after leaving dry dock on Jan. 7. (See story and additional photo on page A-6.)

U.S. Navy photo by CTR2 Kristy Kulski

USS Arizona Memorial ferry boat 39-3, Cassin Young, is the newest bio-diesel boat to operate at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Cassin Young is the third of five state-of-the-art bio-diesel boats to debut in Pearl Harbor. The boat is named after Capt. Cassin Young, a Medal of Honor recipient for heroism and distinguished conduct in action while serving as commanding officer of USS Vestal (AR-4) during the Dec. 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico



Logistics Specialist Seaman Fawn Thayer paints the deck leading to the USS Arizona Memorial on Jan. 13. Sailors assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor Arizona Detachment volunteered to beautify the Arizona Memorial. The Arizona Detachment is responsible for transporting visitors and guests from the Arizona Visitor's Center to the Memorial.

U.S. Navy photos by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

## Nimitz Beach cleanup rewarding for Kapolei High School students

Story and photo by Grace Hew Len

Navy Region Hawaii Environmental Public Affairs

For 17 students from Kapolei High School, the day at the beach wasn't spent boogie boarding or surfing with buddies. On Jan. 18, the students went to Nimitz Beach in Kalaeloa with gloves and trash bags in hand to pick up litter along the beach's shoreline as part of an Interact Club service project.

Navy Region Hawaii provided volunteer support and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) supplied trash bags, work gloves and water and ensured a safe cleanup.

Nearly 30 bags of trash were collected during the morning effort which proved to be well worth the time for Ben De Castro, a senior at Kapolei High School and two-year member of the Interact Club. "It's fun and gives me a good feeling to do this," he said.

Projects like the beach cleanup also provide him valuable opportunities to earn community service hours as required to maintain good standing with the Interact Club, which is the school's version of the Rotary Club. This is the first time that the Kapolei Interact Club has partnered with the Navy to clean up the beach, said Ben, whose father served in the Navy.



Ensign Chris Pisciotta from Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific and these students from Kapolei High School were some of those who participated in a beach cleanup project at Nimitz Beach at Kalaeloa on Jan. 18.

The volunteers scooped up lots of picnic debris, particularly bottles and bottle tops buried in the sand. Countless discarded cigarettes butts littered the picnic pavilions, to the dismay of the students. Such carelessness prompts an important reminder for patrons to do their part to put litter in its place, no matter how small the rubbish is, said Gerald Hamilton, MWR's outdoor recreation director.

"Keiki walk around barefoot and can be hurt by cigarettes, glass and bottle tops," Hamilton said. He noted that the lifeguards do a tremen-

dous job already and said he appreciates efforts by neighboring schools and other groups such as scouts and JROTC cadets. Nimitz Beach attracts fewer people than White Plains Beach located a mile away, but both beaches are popular and can be overwhelmed with crowds and their trash.

If you or your command would like to participate in the next beach cleanup or other environmental outreach efforts, please contact Grace Hew Len at the Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office at 473-2926 or grace.hewlen@navy.mil.



Line-handlers get ready to place lei over the side of Battleship Missouri during its underway after leaving dry dock on Jan. 7.

## NIOC Hawaii Sailors volunteer for USS Missouri underway

Story and photo by CTR2 Kristy Kulski

Navy Information Operations Command, Hawaii

On the morning of Jan. 7, commands throughout Navy Region Hawaii took up the mantle of the many Sailors who have served on the great Battleship Missouri.

After 12 weeks spent in dry dock undergoing repairs, the Mighty Mo was ready to return to her home berth at Ford Island. Gently tugged from the shipyards at Pearl Harbor, her deck rang again with the excited voices of service men and women underway. Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Hawaii Sailors came to give Missouri honors by manning the rails and handling the lines, and by doing so, remembering those Sailors who came before on the great ship.

Each Sailor held a special connection with the Mighty Mo—from Sailors whose time out to sea rivaled their time on land to the newest, whose first experience with a ship was on that day. Ensign Hillary Gage called it a "powerful moment" and "inspirational." As the golden sunlight first dawned on the teakwood deck, there was a sense of history in the air.

For some of NIOC Hawaii's Sailors, the con-

nection to Missouri was within their family. Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 1st Class James Arnal (SW/AW) stepped on board as the second Arnal to serve on Missouri. In the 1950s, his grandfather was stationed onboard as a young gunner's mate third class, likely handling the lines just as his grandson did on this day. He was motivated "to sail on a great ship that my family served on," calling the Mo "a Navy symbol."

Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) 2nd Class (CTI2) Samuel Doucette, with one hand on Missouri's rails, confided, "I am going to call my grandpa while we are underway."

For others, the Mighty Mo brought the history to them. A living legend and a World War II veteran, former Machinist's Mate 1st Class Arthur Albert, wore his old dungarees and described to NIOC Sailors the day a kamikaze attacker struck the bow. He was climbing a ladder well when the impact jarred him to his knees.

Many NIOC Sailors came to visit and speak with Albert. Among them, CTI2 Sarah Sperling listened attentively and proudly shook the WWII veteran's hand and thanked him for his service.

Logistics Specialist 1st Class David Leflet (SW) watched as the battleship slowly moved into the har-

bor and remarked, "I think that is it important for us as Sailors to not only embrace our past, but to take every opportunity to participate in it."

The day onboard Missouri also brought a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Sailors to celebrate a re-enlistment ceremony. Members from every service stood in formation to re-enlist. Among them was Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 1st Class Max West (AW) from NIOC Hawaii who took his oath with the ship's company of the day looking on.

The connection to Sailors who have come before was clear as each member lifted his right hand and swore to defend the nation. West made his oath with a sense of appreciation saying, "I am happy to be given the opportunity to do this while the Missouri is underway."

As Missouri crossed the harbor, line-handlers passed a lei over the side to honor the great battleship's historic trek. Manning the rails and proudly standing together were members from all services looking out over Pearl Harbor. The sight was greeted with a cheer from the crowd of onlookers from shore who lined the edges of Ford Island from tip to dock. Three generations after her first crew, the Mighty Mo was once again affectionately and proudly brought to berth.

### KHON (FOX) TV 2 \ Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

- Jan. 28 – Battleship Missouri Memorial re-opening
- Feb. 4 – Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
- Feb. 11 – Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Volunteer of the Year
- Feb. 18 – National Engineers' Week: "Women in Engineering"
- Feb. 25 – Capt. Rodney Whittington, Federal Fire Department, FFD Union Firefighter of the Year

(The segments currently air between 6:15 and 6:45 a.m. each Thursday. Previous segments can be viewed at <http://www.bit.ly/KHONNavy>)

#### Got a story for KHON Hawaii Navy News?

Email [hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com](mailto:hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com) or call Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs at 473-2875. Stories must have a Navy tie and be of interest to the general public.

# USS Santa Fe holds change of command

Story and photo by  
MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

Cmdr. David Adams relieved Cmdr. Vernon Parks Jr. as commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) during a change of command ceremony held Jan. 15 at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

Rear Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, deputy and chief of staff of U.S. Pacific Fleet and guest speaker, praised Parks and his crew on their accomplishments on board Santa Fe.

"Planning and executing every single evolution flawlessly and on time are the ingredients for success," said Van Buskirk. "Cmdr. Parks, it is always an honor to be able to point to the mark of success through superb ship performance. When a ship succeeds like Santa Fe, the crew succeeds as well."

Following his remarks, Parks was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (Gold Star in lieu of the second award) for his exceptional performance as commanding officer from January 2007 to January 2010.

Parks reflected on his time spent in command and the accomplishments of the crew.



Cmdr. Vernon Parks Jr. is piped ashore after being relieved as commanding officer of Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) by Cmdr. David A. Adams during a change of command ceremony held Jan. 15 at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

"You are the best crew a captain could ever have," he said. "You have met all the tasks and challenges we have encountered with tenacity. You have put all your effort into the team, not the individual. Your pride and professionalism is the foundation of our mission."

As Adams assumed command of Santa Fe, he acknowledged the quality of the crew he was inheriting.

"It is an honor to be a part of this great ship and crew," he said. "We will do our mission to deter the enemy to the fullest. While the Santa Fe will always be our Lucky Lady, I look forward to making our luck together."

Parks earned his commission through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps at the Pennsylvania State University in 1989, graduating with a bachelor

of arts degree in political science.

His sea tours include USS Baton Rouge (SSN 689), USS Hyman G. Rickover (SSN 709) and USS Helena (SSN 725). His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (five awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards) and various unit awards.



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Aaron Shelley

Haitian citizens receive water from air crewmen from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 9 assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70). Carl Vinson and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 17 are conducting humanitarian and disaster relief operations after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake caused severe damage near Port-au-Prince on Jan. 12, 2010.

## CNO Podcast: Navy's relief efforts in Haiti

MC1 (SW/AW) Tiffini Jones Vanderwyst

Office Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

"Right now what we are doing is responding to the most urgent needs that are there..." said Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO). "We are looking at ways that we can provide immediate relief, provide the medical capability that is required, provide the mobility that we can provide with our helicopters and also get some of the basic services back on line again."

CNO said the Navy is prepared to stay as long as it

takes to help restore some of the extraordinary damage to the region and help get the citizens of Haiti back on their feet. He also gave many thanks to the men and women who are working around the clock to help the relief efforts.

"It's making a difference in so many lives and I just want to thank you for that," said Roughead.

To listen to the podcast about Navy relief efforts in Haiti, visit <http://www.navy.mil/media/audio/cno/CNO%20HAITI%20RELIEF.mp3>.

For more news from Chief of Naval Operations, visit [www.navy.mil/local/cno/](http://www.navy.mil/local/cno/).

### Navy Region Hawaii



Commander, Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) is now on Facebook (Navy Region Hawaii) and Twitter ([twitter.com/NavRegHawaii](http://twitter.com/NavRegHawaii)). Feel free to follow CNRH on these Web sites and check out the latest updates and news about the Navy in Hawaii.

## Haiti humanitarian relief

Continued from A-1

(SW) Copernick Louis is, perhaps, the most motivated of the three volunteers. He was born in Haiti and lived there until his family relocated to Fort Myers, Fla., when he was seven. Louis, who is assigned to FISC's contracting department, enlisted in the Navy about seven years ago. Despite being sent 5,000 miles away to Hawaii, he continued to regularly visit his grandparents, aunts, and other family members in Port-au-Prince.

The images of the disaster shocked him and he endured three days with no information on the fate of his Port-au-Prince relatives until, finally, good news reached him: All were safe . . . although at least one had a close call. That person was living in a concrete apartment building that split down the middle as though a massive ax had cleft it; somehow, the building had remained standing. All of Louis' relatives are now living in his grandparent's house in the country.

"LS2 Louis has a super sense of empathy and concern for Haiti, its people, and the immediate future of everyone there," said Cmdr. John Clark, FISC Pearl's contracting officer. "Accordingly, he immediately contacted his chain of command and requested a temporary assignment to assist with relief efforts."

Despite having no ties to Haiti, two other FISC military members also volunteered for the relief operation. Lt. j.g. John Casilio, CEC, who heads FISC Pearl's public works officer and who might be the only volunteer with a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering, departed on Jan.

19. According to Lt. Cmdr. Scott Hedrick, FISC fuels officer, "Lt. j.g. Casilio was moved by the events in Haiti and his first thought was, 'I think I can really help in any capacity and I know there are going to be Seabees there.'"

This will not be the first time Casilio has packed his seabag for a short-fused foreign assignment. He also did an 18-month tour in Ramadi, Iraq. Originally from Hellertown, Pa., Casilio is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy. When he reported to FISC last summer, he said, "I'm here to serve. My job is to take care of every person here." In Haiti relief operations, he will have a similar goal.

Lt. Cmdr. Lee Pasaraba, FISC's operational support officer, was the last of the three to leave, departing on Jan. 21. He volunteered for the relief operation because "it is a real world mission where one's efforts can have an immediate impact on assisting the people of Haiti."

Originally from El Centro, Calif., Pasaraba has a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Southern California.

All three of FISC's volunteers could be deployed for anywhere from one to six months. Pasaraba and Casilio will likely spend their deployments assigned as action officers at FISC Jacksonville.

Although Louis will initially be assigned to Guantanamo Bay, his language proficiencies and his knowledge of the country might result in his transfer directly to Haiti.

No one likes to witness disaster, but when it strikes, it is good to know there are good and decent people, backed by the might of the U.S. Navy, who will drop everything to help their fellow citizens of the world.

## Farewell USS Los Angeles

Continued from A-1

sies and rituals. One of the least known among these is the guardianship of World War II submarine hero and Medal of Honor recipient Rear Adm. Richard H. "Dick" O'Kane's cribbage board, traditionally held by the oldest submarine in the Pacific Fleet.

USS Kamehameha (SSN 642) was the longest commissioned of the oldest submarines to safeguard the board. When Kamehameha was decommissioned in 2002 after nearly 37 years of service, the board was cleaned and restored and passed on to USS Parche (SSN 683). Parche was the namesake of one of the most highly decorated subs to serve in the Pacific Fleet during WWII. When Parche decommissioned in July 2005, the cribbage board was passed on to USS Los Angeles. With the decommissioning of Los An-

geles, the board is being passed on to the oldest remaining submarine, USS Bremerton (SSN 698).

"It is with great pride that I hand over the "Dick O'Kane cribbage board" to Cmdr. Howard Warner, commanding officer of Bremerton," said Harrison. "I hope the crew of Bremerton enjoys reliving history playing this great game as much as we have."

Having outlived, outrun and outclassed her competitors, Los Angeles set the mark for submarine design, maintenance and operations for decades to come. Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle and Hawaii Lt. Gov. James Aiona Jr. therefore proclaimed Jan. 14, 2010 as USS Los Angeles Day in dedication to her builders, the U.S. Navy, the submarine force, and the boat's crews, past and present, for their unfailing dedication to their shipmates, the Navy, our state and nation.

## Symposium officers look at options for women

Continued from A-1

dinated the symposium.

Hopeman said the center piece of the symposium was the panel discussions where Sailors had an opportunity to ask the senior leadership about concerns, future Navy plans and personal experiences. Among the topics discussed in the panels were issues such as women in submarines, pregnancies and life/work balance.

"The idea of life/work balance is still an issue within the surface Navy for women," said Hopeman. "We're trying to juggle decisions between having a family and not having a family, staying in the Navy, not staying in the Navy, and having to be able

to balance that."

One of the messages Hopeman wished to convey was that there are options out there for women. Hopeman said the symposium was a means for everyone to network and build and maintain a community.

Stephanie Miller, the director of the Office of Women's Affairs in Washington, D.C., presented a Navy women's policy overview to the attendees. The overview featured past, present and future statistical information on female officers and enlisted personnel.

According to Miller, as of December 2009, women comprised only 15 percent of the Navy's total population. Rear Adm. Carol Pot-

tenger, commander, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, who was originally scheduled to be the symposium keynote speaker, provided videotaped remarks because she was busy assisting with Haiti relief operation planning in Norfolk.

Pottenger talked at length about how the Navy's senior leadership, from the Chief of Naval Operations on down, have committed to the development of a workplace environment that attracts our nation's top talent, with a special emphasis on recruiting and retaining women. Her passion in urging attendees to view their contributions through the lens of "honor, courage and commitment;" to take the

gloves off in asking questions, and to actively seek mentoring opportunities set the tone for the entire symposium.

Capt. Richard Clemmons, Commodore, Destroyer Squadron 31, who moderated the panel discussion at the symposium, said that what makes the Navy great are the individual attributes that each of our Sailors bring to the Navy, regardless of gender.

"In this case, we're focusing on one group - women - who are serving in the Navy, and it's special because we get to talk about the contributions that they make and continue to make-initiatives that are making our Navy a better place to serve," said Clemmons.

## Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam plans open house and town hall meeting

A Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) open house and town hall meeting will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 26 at the Hickam J.R. Rockers Enlisted Club. The open house will provide JBPHH information for many of the Air Force and Navy functions that will be transitioning to create the new joint base.

Everyone is invited, including military and civilian NAF and APF employees, residents, contractors and tenant commands.

There will be a one-hour town hall meeting conducted from 1 to 2 p.m. with Capt. Richard Kitchens, commanding officer of Naval Station Pearl Harbor who is the prospective joint base commander, and Col Giovanni Tuck, commander of 15th Airlift Wing at Hickam Air Force Base. They will be on hand to answer questions.

For the purpose of timeliness, please email any questions in advance to [lancaster\\_vickie@bah.com](mailto:lancaster_vickie@bah.com) by Jan.22.