

# Hawai'i News

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## Emergency operations centers respond to tsunami warning

Grace Hew Len

Navy Region Hawaii Environmental Public Affairs Officer

The call came at about 1 a.m. early Saturday morning for port operations officer Lt. j.g. Gildaniel McKethan. He heard the words "emergency" and "tsunami" and raced immediately to the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Emergency Operations Center (EOC) where he would spend the next 13 hours preparing for a possible tsunami threat to the Hawaiian Islands.

At 12:46 a.m. on Feb. 28, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued a tsunami warning for the state of Hawaii, following an 8.8 magnitude earthquake that struck the coast of central Chile in one of the largest earthquakes ever recorded. The warning signaled that a tsunami was generated that could cause damage to all coastlines along the Hawaiian Islands.

"I felt a sense of urgency to get the ball rolling early," he said. "I needed to get fully engaged." That he did. Well be-



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

The guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) makes its way out of Pearl Harbor as the state of Hawaii prepares for a possible tsunami generated by an 8.8 magnitude earthquake near Chile. Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific ordered four ships based at Pearl Harbor to get underway as a precautionary measure. USS O'Kane, USS Crommelin (FFG 37), USS Chafee (DDG 90) and USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) were ordered to get underway to avoid potential damage to ships and piers from anticipated high tidal surges.

fore daybreak, other members of the emergency management team, security, fleet and family support, public affairs, and other support staff poured into the installation and regional emergency operations centers quickly and methodically to respond to a tsunami warning alert that tested the emergency response plans of agencies throughout the state of Hawaii.

Before the emergency sirens rang islandwide at 6 a.m., McKethan was ready with his plans to protect the harbor and the Navy vessels in port. Emergency response drills and training sunk in, and he felt confident to execute a plan that involved the sortie of Pearl Harbor-based ships, USS Crommelin, USS O'Kane, USS Chafee and USS Chung-Hoon, and four smaller vessels that were in the harbor. As a precautionary measure, the Navy orders ships to go underway to avoid potential damage to ships and piers from anticipated high tidal surges.

In a tsunami warning,

See SOCIAL MEDIA, A-8

## Pearl Harbor-based Sailors participate in Read Aloud America with local schools

MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Sailors assigned to various commands throughout Hawaii participated in Read Aloud America with four local elementary schools on March 1-3. Students from Hickam, Lehua and Iroquois Point Elementary Schools listened to stories written by Dr. Seuss and read aloud by Sailors.

"We are thankful for all of the Sailors that came to school and volunteered their time to read to the students today," said Lenna Crosby, parent network community center coordinator at Lehua Elementary School. "The students really enjoyed having the Sailors out here reading to them."

Sailors were just as enthused to read the books as the students were to listen.

"I really enjoy coming out here and reading to the students," said Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Rasheema Newsome

of Navy Region Hawaii. "I try to come out here every year when Lehua hosts this event. It's great to see the students' positive expressions while I'm reading."

Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Nelson Norman IV, assigned to the Pearl Harbor-based submarine USS Charlotte (SSN 766), chose to read a book that he enjoyed when he was younger.

"I wanted to read my favorite Dr. Seuss book, 'Green Eggs and Ham,'" to the students here today," said Norman, who read to a first grade class at Lehua. "It was always one of my favorites and the students really seemed to enjoy it, too."

Crosby said that the students and the teachers at Lehua were very appreciative of the Sailors who volunteered to read.

"The students and staff are very grateful for the time the Sailors spent at school," said Crosby. "Today's event went very well. We would like to



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (AW) Eric J. Cutright

Master-at-Arms 1st Class (EXW) Michael Britten reads the book, "Counting on Frank" by Rod Clement to a class of kindergarten students at Iroquois Point Elementary School for Read Across America. Read Across America is an annual event which coincides with the birthday of famous children's book author Dr. Seuss on March 2. The event helps to promote reading at a young age.

thank all of the Sailors that gave their time to read to the students."

Sailors who volunteered their time at Iroquois Point Elementary School noted that

the students were attentive. "I saw that the kids really enjoy when someone is reading

to them and they really listen. I think it was a really good experience and I look forward to doing it again," said Master-At-Arms 1st Class Michael Britten, assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"I found out about this program through my chain of command and I thought it was important to volunteer for this event," said Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Werner Kamaunu, assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Capt. Richard Kitchens, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, also participated in Hickam Elementary's Read Across America event on March 1. He and other Navy leaders have participated in various school outreach events in recent months.

Founded in Hawaii in 1995 by Jed Gaines, Read Aloud America is a non-profit organization that promotes literacy, encourages a love of reading in adults and children, and increases children's prospects for success in school and life.



U.S. Navy photo by Randy Dela Cruz

Electronics Technician 3rd Class Jordan Foy lays down a fresh coat of paint on a South Avenue crosswalk enhance crosswalk safety, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on March 3. To enhance crosswalk safety, Foy is assisted by Gas Turbine System (Mechanical) Fireman Adam Scott and Logistics Specialist Seaman Gerard Francois.

## JBPHH to conduct spring 'clean up and green up'

MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) will host an installation-wide base cleanup

from 9 to 11 a.m. March 9.

In support of this effort, commands based at JBPHH will participate in removing debris, conducting general cleanup and painting of highly visible areas such as base entrances, parking areas, roadway bor-

ders and sidewalks.

"The event is going to be great because it allows everybody to get out and have a day to focus on the installation that they are a part of," said Builder

See CLEAN UP, A-7

## Local Navy, Air Force television unite to become Joint Base TV

Story and photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Navy TV at Naval Station Pearl Harbor and Air Force TV at Hickam Air Force Base recently combined to become Joint Base Television (JBTV) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The unification took place on Feb. 24, and checks off one more task that JBPHH has achieved on its way toward reaching full operational capability on Oct. 1.

JBTV will now broadcast both Navy and Air Force news from commands around the Pacific.

"Before JBTV stood up, we just had news updates about the Navy, but with having the news updates about the Air Force, viewers will now be able to receive a much wider array of news about our local Navy and Air Force communities," said Pedro Valdez, director of JBTV.

Valdez also noted that JBTV will provide more opportunities for Defense Media Activity (DMA) Hawaii's coverage of events to be viewed by service members and families.

"Along with running Naval Public Affairs



Pedro Valdez, director of Joint Base Television (JBTV), checks on monitors at the JBTV station at building 150 on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Support Element West's news updates, we are now running DMA Hawaii's news updates on missions they do throughout the Pacific Rim, keeping our viewers informed on the missions our local military personnel are doing outside of Hawaii," said Valdez.

JBTV is available on Oceanic Time Warner Cable channel two, to all personnel on JBPHH, Camp Smith, Marine Forces Pacific and all Navy and Air Force bases on the island of Oahu.

JBTV currently airs the Pentagon Channel 24 hours a day and seven days a week with local updates three minutes before and after the top of every hour.



Paul Hamilton is recipient of 2009 CIWS Excellence Award See page A-2



NIOC Sailors help keep Hawaii beautiful See page A-3



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Kilroy to come B-1

# Paul Hamilton is recipient of 2009 CIWS Excellence Award

Ensign Zachary Berglan

USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) Public Affairs

The Pearl Harbor-based, guided missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) is the recipient of the 2009 Phalanx Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) Excellence Award for the Pacific.

The MK 15 Phalanx CIWS is a fast-reaction, rapid-fire 20-millimeter gun system that provides ships with a terminal defense against anti-ship missiles that may have penetrated other operational defenses.

Phalanx automatically performs functions usually performed by separate, independent systems such as search, detection, threat evaluation, acquisition, track, firing, target destruction, kill assessment



and cease fire. It is also designed to engage anti-ship cruise missiles and fixed-wing aircraft at short range. Maintaining optimal performance for such a sophisticated piece of equipment takes a tremendous amount of time and energy by Paul Hamilton's experienced technicians.

"This award is especially rewarding because it is a tribute to all the hard work our technicians put in. To me, it is more special than any award I have received individually and is very well deserved for the team effort our guys put in," said Fire Controlman 1st Class Ivan Pearson.

Paul Hamilton spent almost half of 2009 in the Arabian Gulf executing ballistic missile defense (BMD) and maritime security operations. Maintaining CIWS in such harsh condi-

tions makes this achievement even more significant.

"This award is an incredible accomplishment for all of our Sailors because it shows that all of the work they put in really meant something," said Fire Controlman 1st Class Brandon Saul. "To win this award over some of the other great ships in the Pacific Fleet is a true reflection of the command and the crew that supports it," he continued.

The award is given based on a number of different elements of operational efficiency, such as number of hours the systems were operational, operational hours between failures, total rounds fired and the number of technical assists from outside sources.

Paul Hamilton is a key asset of Naval Surface Middle Pacific and Destroyer Squadron 31.

# USS Reuben James brings good will to East Timor

Ensign Kim Mai Pham

USS Reuben James (FFG 57) Public Affairs

DILI, Timor-Leste – Cmdr. David Miller, commanding officer of USS Reuben James (FFG 57), and a contingent of Reuben James' Sailors presented 28 boxes of women and children's clothing and toys to the Alola Foundation during a ceremony in East Timor on Feb 22.

The ceremony was kicked off by a series of community relations projects spearheaded by Reuben James' Sailors. Immediately after the ceremony, 41 Sailors visited the Becora Orphanage to distribute toys from Project Handclasp to the children. Project Handclasp supplies were also donated to the Timor-Leste

Ministry of Health.

Later in the day, the Sailors were escorted to the Villa Verde Orphanage in order to distribute the other half of the Project Handclasp toys. The children at the Villa Verde Orphanage were enthusiastic as they dug through the piles of toys and began playing on the spot. One of the children even called one of the Sailors "Santa Claus" as she tightly hugged a stuffed animal larger than herself.

After a warm welcome from the director of the orphanage, some of the Sailors played basketball with the children while others were led on an impromptu tour of the orphanage guided by several of the children. Prior to departure, the children gathered with the Sailors and began to

dance and sing songs in the local language as a way to say thank you.

At the end of their visit in Timor-Leste, many Reuben James Sailors felt that they had made a difference in the lives of the children they visited. However, it was apparent that in many cases the children had made more of a lasting impact on the Sailors.

"It was a very different experience than anything I've ever participated in and this has inspired me to partake in similar events in the future whenever the opportunity presents itself," said Fire Controlman 3rd Class William Harvey.

The Alola Foundation donation consisted of donations gathered through the U.S. 7th Fleet Spouses Association led by Nonie Bird, wife of the commander of the Navy's U.S. 7th Fleet, Vice Adm. John Bird.



# USS Lake Erie arrives in Thailand

Ensign Aimee Lindner

USS Lake Erie (CG 70) Public Affairs

Guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70), homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, arrived in Laem Chabang, Thailand on March 1 for a scheduled port visit. The ship is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

During the port visit, Lake Erie's Sailors are looking forward to experiencing the cul-

ture and interacting with the people of Thailand.

Many Sailors have signed up to participate in riding elephants, visiting a tiger zoo, touring Bangkok, observing the flight of the gibbons, scuba diving, and participating in a Habitat for Humanity community relations event.

"I am really looking forward to coming back to Thailand. I have been here many times and every time, the people are warm and welcoming," said Master-at-Arms 1st Class

(SW) Justin Alderson.

The port visit also serves to further the engagement mission of U.S. 7th Fleet ships. Regular port visits around the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility affirm the U.S. commitment to peace and stability in the region.

Operating in the western Pacific and Indian Oceans, the U.S. 7th Fleet is the largest of the forward-deployed U.S. fleets, covering 52 million square miles, with approximately 50 ships, 120 aircraft and 20,000 Sailors and Marines assigned at any given time.



## Center for Service Support Hawaii to discontinue courses

As of Oct. 1, the Center for Service Support learning site at Pearl Harbor will no longer offer the following courses: R-supply, barber, culinary specialists records keeper, galley watch captain and food service attendant.

Learning sites in San Diego and Norfolk will continue to provide these courses.

For more information, contact Logistics Specialist 1st Class Miguel Melendez at miguel.a.melendez@navy.mil or 472-3200.

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

- March 11 – Submarines: with blogger Melissa Chang
- March 18 – One-year Hawaii Navy News partnership with KHON
- March 25 – Individual augmentee appreciation

(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.



U.S. Navy photo by CTMI (SW) David Vest

Sailors from the First Class Petty Officers' Association at Naval Information Operations Command Hawaii volunteer their time to clean up litter and trash along Kunia Road on Feb. 20. The effort is part of the Hawaii Department of Transportation's adopt-a-highway program.

## NIOC Sailors help keep Hawaii beautiful

Ensign Melissa Ocasio

### Naval Information Operations Command, Hawaii

Every year in Hawaii, the State Department of Transportation spends \$2 million picking up litter along Hawaii's roads and highways. The First Class Petty Officers' Association (FCPOA) of Naval Information Operations Command Hawaii (NIOC) is doing its part to help minimize this expense

by participating in the Hawaii Department of Transportation's adopt-a-highway program. Sailors from the NIOC Hawaii FCPOA dedicate one Saturday morning each month to walk a two-mile portion of Kunia Road and pick up litter. The latest effort was on Feb. 20 as Sailors, dressed in high visibility vests and T-shirts, handpicked the sides of Kunia Road for litter and hazardous items. "It's nice to do something positive for the command, the

community and the environment," said Cryptologic Technician (Maintenance) 1st Class (SW/AW) Derek Labbe. The NIOC FCPOA has helped in removing littered car parts, alcohol bottles, electronic devices and non-biodegradable plastics. "With more people, we can cover two miles very quickly. We encourage anyone available to come and help," said Cryptologic Technician (Interpreter) 1st Class Emily Dabruzzi.

# Pacific Fleet announces Pacific Partnership 2010

## U.S. Pacific Fleet

Preparations are underway to conduct the fifth in a series of annual U.S. Pacific Fleet humanitarian civic assistance (HCA) endeavors, known as Pacific Partnership, to the western Pacific and Southeast Asia.

Pacific Partnership 2010, which is scheduled to take place between June and September 2010, is aimed at strengthening regional relationships with host nations and partner nations in Southeast Asia and Oceania. Pacific Partnership is designed to enhance these relationships through medical, dental and engineering outreach projects that reinforce the mutually supporting roles between participants. Another benefit is to help participants practice the skills that would be called upon in response to a disaster.

"The world we live in today is more interconnected than before and we have learned that by working together we are better prepared to overcome challenges such as natural disasters," said Adm. Patrick Walsh, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. "Partnership and cooperation are key to success in a crisis," he continued.

An unprecedented six-nation visit will be conducted this year. The Military Sealift Command's hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), as the lead vessel, is scheduled to visit Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia and Timor-Leste. Two additional visits are scheduled to Palau and Papua New Guinea by other Navy ships.

"A mission of this scope and magnitude requires cooperation and collaboration across a broad spectrum of multi-national agencies and organizations, all of whom set the stage to make Pacific Partnership both possible and successful," said Walsh. Pacific Partnership also improves the ability of the U.S. and regional countries to prepare for and better respond to disasters, such as pandemic illness, typhoons, earthquakes and tsunamis.

U.S. naval forces have responded to numerous natural disasters over the years and each response has highlighted the importance of establishing relationships prior to such events. Pacific Partnership strengthens these long-term relationships by building international teams of both military and civilian specialists to deliver valuable medical, dental, veterinary and engineering services to local communities identified by the host nation.

"Ultimately, we will form stronger relationships in the region and continue to build on the foundation set by previous HCA missions," Walsh said. "It comes down to commitment, and we're eager to once again demonstrate our long standing support to the people in the region."

Over the past four years, Pacific Partnership has provided a variety of medical, dental, educational and preventive medicine services to more than 150,000 patients in 10 countries. More than 70 engineering projects in more than a dozen countries have included school refurbishment and construction of entirely new clinics for remote villages.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Jon Husman

The Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) approaches the pier at Naval Base San Diego, concluding a four-month Pacific Partnership 2008 deployment to Southeast Asia.

## Women's History Month observance planned

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific will present Women's History Month 2010, "Writing Women Back Into History," from 11 a.m. to noon March 16 at Lockwood Hall lanai, building 662, at Pearl Harbor.

The guest speaker for the event is Capt. Patricia Cole, commanding officer of Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific (NCTAMS PAC). Military and civilian personnel are strongly encouraged to attend with supervisors' approval. This event can be included in your self-assessment for the NSPS EEO/Diversity Leadership Objective.

For more information, contact Lacy Lynn (EEO specialist) at 471-0231 or email at lacy.lynn@navy.mil.

*This week in*  
**NAVAL HISTORY**

*March 1*

- 1942 - U-656 becomes the first German submarine of World War II to be sunk by naval air (VP-82).
- 1954 - First of six detonations, Operation Castle nuclear test.

*March 2*

- 1859 - Launch of Saginaw at Mare Island, first Navy ship built on west coast of U.S.
- 1867 - Birthday of Civil Engineer Corps.
- 1899 - Act of Congress creates the rank of Admiral of the Navy for George Dewey.
- 1973 - Women begin pilot training to U.S. Navy.

*March 3*

- 1776 - First amphibious landing operation. Continental naval squadron under Commodore Esek Hopkins lands Sailors and Marines, commanded by Capt. Samuel Nicholas, on New Providence Island in the Bahamas, capturing urgently-needed ordnance and gunpowder.
- 1871 - Navy Medical Corps is established.
- 1915 - Office of Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) is established.
- 1915 - Congress creates Federal Naval Reserve. Under it, Naval Reserve Force is built.

*March 4*

- 1911 - Appropriation of the first funds for experiments in naval aviation.
- 1925 - Congress authorizes restoration of USS Constitution.
- 1947 - Operation Highjump, which is air operations in Antarctica, ends.
- 1963 - Navy Hercules aircraft completes 12-day rescue operation of critically ill Danish seaman from Danish freighter off the coast of Antarctic.

*March 5*

- 1942 - Name "Seabees" and insignia is officially authorized.
- 1943 - USS Bogue begins first anti-submarine operations by escort carrier.
- 1960 - USS Newport News (CA-148) and personnel from Port Lyautey complete emergency relief operations at Agadir, Morocco after Feb. 29 earthquake.

*"Yeomanettes" serving their country during WWI era*

U.S. Navy photo by Navy Historical Center

Female yeomen are inspected by Rear Adm. Victor Blue (left center), chief of the bureau of navigation, on the Washington, D.C. monument grounds in 1918. The yeomen, dubbed "yeomanettes," were the first large-scale naval personnel employment of women to meet the severe clerical shortages during the World War I era. As part of their duties, these women primarily served in secretarial and clerical positions, though some were translators, draftsmen, fingerprint experts, ship camouflage designers and recruiting agents.

*Hawai'i*  
**Navy News**

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# Diverse Views

## Did the impending tsunami affect you and did you have any concerns?

(Views from Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific)



ITC  
**Tiffany Rogers**  
Operations Dept,  
NCTAMS PAC

"Being newly reported to the island, I wasn't prepared to even be thinking about a tsunami but with all the coverage and the precautions they said and the location of where we are, (Wahiawa) I didn't have any real concerns about it."



ET2  
**Brian Christensen**  
Maintenance Dept,  
NCTAMS PAC

"It did affect me because I really couldn't go out and do anything that day; the beach was all closed off. Also, I went to the mall later that day and half of the stores were closed, but I was glad nothing really happened. The only concern I have is "the boy who cried wolf" kind of scenario, where next

time there is a real tsunami and no one is going to do anything about it because nothing happened this time."



MA1  
**Alexander Europa**  
Operations Dept,  
NCTAMS PAC

"I really wasn't too concerned about it. We looked at past history from the one in 1960, and it didn't look like it was going to be too bad over at the North Shore, up in Waiialua where I live. But I was concerned about water damage to my vehicle, so my dog and I drove up to Wahiawa to NCTAMS PAC

to stay in a higher elevation.



IT2  
**Kawana Elrod**  
Operations Dept,  
NCTAMS PAC

"It did affect me, I actually came in to work early so I could get some work done and found out about the earthquake in Chile and the tsunami, so I had to run home and get my bag ready with everything I needed."



CW03  
**Doyle Purdy**  
Pacific Region Operations Center,  
NCTAMS PAC

"No, I wasn't in the evacuation zone so it didn't affect me."



**Lloyd Cereleja**  
Comptroller,  
NCTAMS PAC

"Not really, where my house is located is outside of the evacuation zone. I was watching the newscast and listening to the radio for updates so it didn't really bother me. My concern was for our military members living in the evacuation zones."



Lt. Cmdr  
**Marcia Ziemba**  
Operations Officer,  
NCTAMS PAC

"It did affect me and I did have concerns. I live on Ford Island at an astonishing elevation of 18 feet above sea level, so luckily I also have an aunt and uncle who live in Mililani at a much higher elevation we did spend the day up there, got off the Island, just in case, not necessarily concerned about

the wave, but more concerned about the water level surge."



OS2  
**Daniel Smith**  
Training Division,  
NCTAMS PAC

"I live in the Pearl City Peninsula. I didn't want the water to come in and take us by surprise so my wife and I took precautions and headed up island and came up to Wahiawa."



YN2  
**Jaclyn King**  
Operations Dept,  
NCTAMS PAC

"I did have to evacuate. I live in the Marine Corps Base in Kaneohe. MPs came and told me that I needed to leave. We went on top of the Pali and played football most of the day. I really wasn't concerned about it. I thought that I might freak out if I ever heard that there was a tsunami that was actually going to

hit, but I was pretty calm."



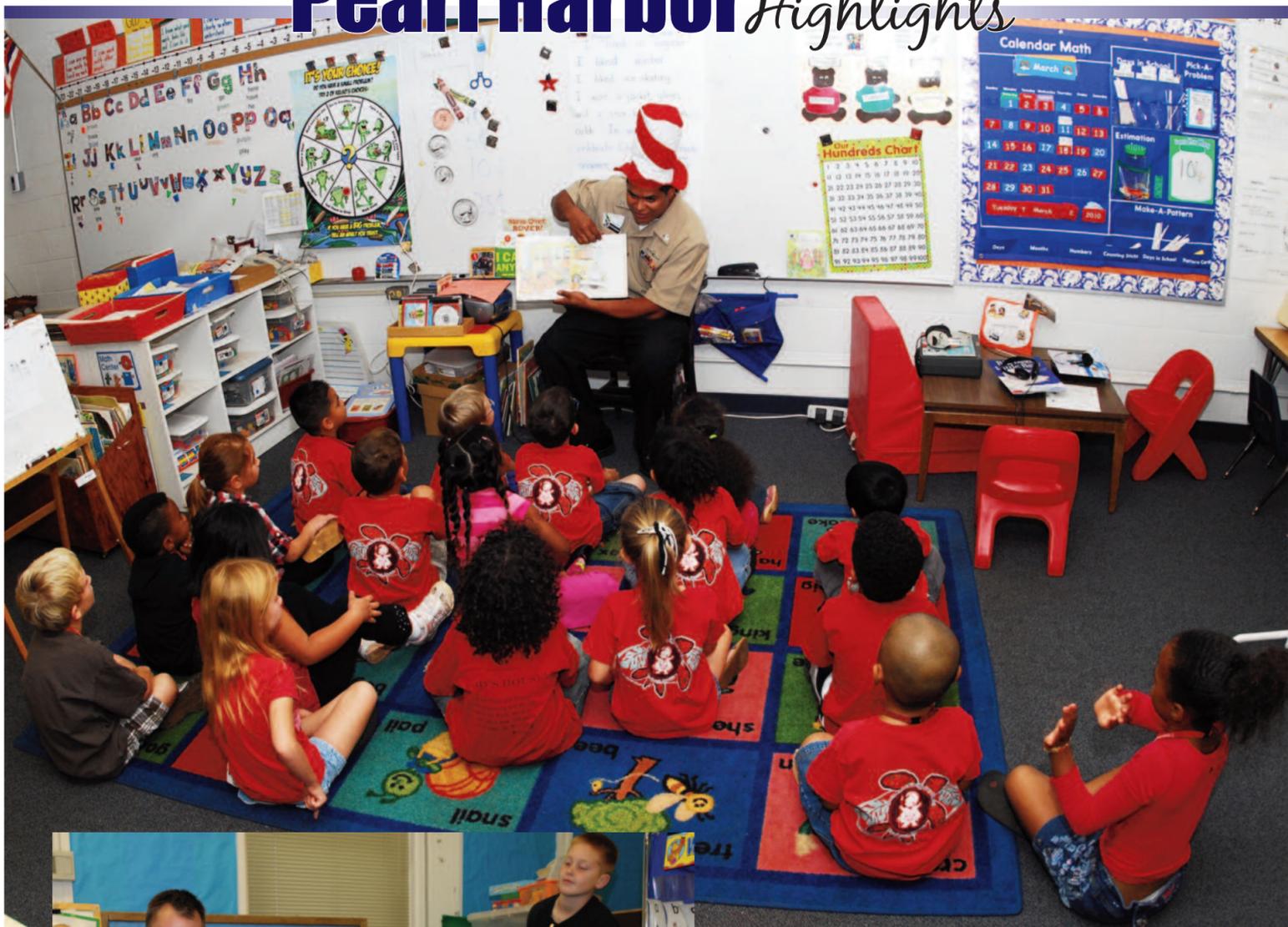
IT3  
**Donald Besch**  
Operations Dept,  
NCTAMS PAC

"It did affect me since I live right on the beach in Ewa. I was just getting off the midwatch; it was kind of stressful to rush home to pack up all my stuff and get my dog ready to evacuate the area and then to find out there wasn't one it was kind of a let down, but I was happy that my house is still there."

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views? Got opinions to share?

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# Pearl Harbor Highlights



(Above) A Sailor reads to a class of kindergarten students at Iroquois Point Elementary School for Read Across America. Read Across America is an annual event which coincides with the birthday of famous children's book author Dr. Seuss on March 2. The event helps to promote reading at a young age.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (AW) Eric J. Cutright



(Left) Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Corey Sommer, assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam's USS Arizona Detachment, reads a Dr. Seuss book to students at Lehua Elementary School for Read Across America. Read Across America is an annual event which coincides with the birthday of famous children's book author Dr. Seuss on March 2.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

(Below) A member of the Joint Intelligence Operation Center (JIOC) basketball team launches a shot, while players from the "A" team of Navy Information Operations Command Hawaii (NIOC) squad wait for the rebound during an Afloat Intramural League game at Naval Station Gym, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on March 1. JIOC got past NIOC "A" to improve its record to 6-1.

U.S. Navy photo by Randy Dela Cruz



U.S. Navy photo by Randy Dela Cruz

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class William Francia of SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team One (SDVT-1) battles in traffic against the "B" team from Navy Information Operations Command Hawaii (NIOC) at Naval Station Gym, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on March 1. The SEALs won 49-32.



(Left) Margaret Doversola, CBS casting director, helps Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Jeremy Gabbard, assigned to Naval Command Pacific Fleet, fill out a form during an Hawaii Five-0 casting call session March 3 at Sam Snead's at Navy Marine Corps Golf Course clubhouse. The casting call is a chance for Navy personnel to wear their uniforms as extras during a filming of the series.

U.S. Navy Photo by MC2 John Wallace Ciccarelli Jr.



# U.S. Coast Guard, maritime partners in Hawaii help protect 'gentle giants'

Story and photo by  
Petty Officer 3rd Class  
Michael De Nyse

14th Coast Guard District  
External Affairs

Crews from the U.S. Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the State of Hawaii's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) are partnering this humpback whale season to ensure the safety of mariners as well as humpback whales as they migrate to Hawaiian waters.

Humpback whale migration season is generally from December to April and, according to the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Marine National Sanctuary, Hawaii's waters are relatively nutrient-free and too warm to support enough of the humpback's food to sustain them year-round. The whales must migrate back to colder water to feed and rebuild their blubber supply.

The 14th Coast Guard District in Hawaii is home to four Marine National Monuments (MNM) and two National Marine Sanctuaries (NMS), more than any other region in the United States.

During the 2009-2010 humpback whale season, a special mission has been added to the Coast Guard's "to-do" list. Called "Operation Kohola Guardian," it is a program created to formalize the Coast Guard's protection of the endangered humpback whale. Operation Kohola Guardian involves coordinated joint Coast Guard, NOAA and DOCARE patrols of the NMS during the peak months



U.S. Coast Guard crew members from Station Maui look on as Special Agent Chuck Raterman, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) law enforcement officer, passes his book of rules and regulations off and prepares to board a State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) vessel during a humpback whale patrol off Maui's triangle (the area of water between Maui, Molokai and Lanai) on Feb. 6. Crews from the Coast Guard, NOAA and DLNR are partnering this humpback whale season to ensure the safety of mariners as well as the 'gentle giants' while the whales winter in Hawaiian waters.

of January through March. The Coast Guard aims to protect both the safety of mariners as well as the endangered humpback whales while in the sanctuary by direct communication with boaters.

"It's important the Coast Guard, NOAA and DOCARE work together on this mission because the agencies share a common goal of protection of marine mammal species in the sanctuaries," said Special Agent Chuck Raterman, an 11-year member of NOAA currently stationed out of Guam.

Raterman recently spent some time with Coast Guard and DOCARE crews during a weekend patrol of the Maui

triangle, the area of water between Maui, Molokai and Lanai.

"We rely heavily on the transportation and assets our partners can provide for this mission," said Raterman, who talked with many recreational boaters during the patrol. "It truly is a multi-agency mission when we all come together like this."

Hawaii is a maritime state and many citizens work and play in the waters that surround the islands. It's estimated that 12,000 humpback whales transit Hawaiian waters each year and some mariners may not know they share this area with the humpbacks, said Raterman. Coast Guard crews conduct

weekly sanctuary patrols to ensure boaters and marine life stay safe.

"We have the unique ability to prevent a violation from occurring in the first place," said Cmdr. Mark Young, the 14th Coast Guard District's chief of enforcement and a 2005 graduate of University of Washington's marine affairs program. "I consider just being out there and showing our presence as a deterrent and key element in this operation because violators are less likely to harass a whale if they see a Coast Guard vessel on the horizon."

According to NOAA, there are several whale collisions near the Hawaiian Islands every year. Boaters can take

proactive measures to ensure their safety as well as the safety of the whales.

Keeping a boat's speed down when whales are known to be in the area is one step mariners can take. Weighing an average of 45 tons, a humpback whale collision with a mariner can be catastrophic.

When on routine patrol, Coast Guard surface and aerial assets scan the area for signs of whales. Upon a sighting, the crews alert mariners in the whale's vicinity to ensure a 100-yard safety zone is met. It is illegal to get any closer to a whale. Also, it's illegal for any aircraft to operate within 1,000 feet.

"One of our core missions is the protection of marine mammals so it's crucial that we work closely with our federal, state and local partners to ensure that the maritime community is keeping their distance when they transit," said Eric Roberts, the 14th Coast Guard District's marine protected species program manager, who oversees the Coast Guard's close coordination with federal and state partners on marine mammal issues.

One of the strategies of the Coast Guard's Ocean Steward, a program dedicated to the preservation of marine resources, is to partner with other agencies to create a force multiplier. The program provides a road map to ensure the nation's waterways and ecosystems remain productive by protecting all the nation's living marine resources.

"By partnering with NOAA and DOCARE, we've been able to increase our presence," said Roberts. "Units have been more active in pro-

tecting endangered species this year than in the last decade."

The Coast Guard's efforts to protect humpback whales are not limited to surface patrols. The 14th District crew members act as first responders to entanglements and other marine mammal distress calls, and they are often the reporting source to NOAA and DOCARE. While on routine patrols, Coast Guard rescue helicopter crews from Air Station Barbers Point sometimes spot distressed marine mammals. The aircrews play an important role by relaying important information to surface assets.

"About twice a year we attend training with NOAA officers on Maui when they hold courses on disentanglement training techniques providing us with the knowledge to free an entangled whale so we don't cause any further injury," said Seaman Garrett Dailey, a boat crewmember at Station Maui. "They also go over all the laws concerning rights of approach and the distance to be away from the whales."

The Coast Guard assists with an average of 12 whale entanglements each season and transports numerous marine mammals that are in danger to safer locations.

Mariners and citizens are asked to report injured or entangled marine mammals to the Coast Guard on VHF marine band channel 16 or at 808-842-2600 or by contacting the NOAA fisheries hotline at 800-853-1964.

For more information, visit the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Web site at <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/>.

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# Rear Adm. Smith provides mentoring advice to waterfront

Story and photo by Lt. Keith Hillsbery

Afloat Training Group, Middle Pacific

Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and commander, Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific (COMNAVSURFGRUMIDPAC) led a contingent of 10 surface warfare officer introduction (SWO INTRO) students through USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) on Feb. 18 for a lesson in zone inspection procedures, 3M spot-checks and professional mentorship.

"Zone inspections are the most important maintenance onboard any ship. Be your own toughest critic. Maintain strict attention to detail," the admiral said as he began his in-brief to the students. Although the discussion centered on keeping ships ready for sea, ensuring the safety of the crew, and extending the life of the ship, the words seemed to transcend into a seminar on how to be successful in your Navy career.

The students followed Smith through the rigors of a thorough zone inspection and were on their hands and knees verifying valves were



Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, discusses zone inspection procedures with SWO Intro Class 10-01 aboard USS Paul Hamilton.

positioned correctly, firefighting equipment was operational and ready for use, and that all of Paul Hamilton's damage control labeling was correct.

Smith told the students, "Sixty percent of problems are not within your line of sight." This statement holds true not only for zone inspections and proper spot checks, but as these young junior officers effectively manage their time in attaining professional qualifications such as officer of the deck, small boat officer and, ultimately, surface warfare officer (SWO) qualifications and also their division personnel and spaces. "There are references to all that we do in the Navy. Use the reference and maintain the standard," advised Smith.

As the admiral answered questions from the students after the training session, he instructed each student to take the time to look over PMS decks, verify that cards are correct and up-to-date, and that anyone can read and understand them. He offered, "Often we should do this in our own career. Step back and look at where you are, check the reference, and make sure that you are on the right course for success."

## 1st Lt. division will provide supplies, equipment for clean-up effort

Continued from A-1

1st Class (SCW) James Davenport, the leading petty officer assigned at the JBPHH 1st Lt. Division and the lead coordinator for the event.

The primary function of the 1st Lt. Division is to provide the upkeep, maintenance and repair for installation facilities. For the cleanup, the 1st Lt. will provide cleaning equipment and supplies to the participating commands.

"Basically we will be providing everything," said Davenport. "We're going to have all the equipment, all

the supplies: trash bags, gloves, PPE (personal protective gear), plus a little bit of training for the guys that need to know how to work a weed whacker."

The 1st Lt. Division will also provide leaf blowers, weed eaters and curbside trash removal. They will even provide painting supplies for any commands that need it.

"Once they have gathered up anything within a 50-meter perimeter around their area, all they have to do is bag it up and put it on the main road," said Davenport. "We'll come by

and pick it up."

Jane Mann, a management analyst at Commander Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH), recently received an on-the-spot cash award from Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander Navy Region Hawaii and commander, Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific, for her daily cleanup routes around the base.

"I feel I am further contributing by keeping a few other things (recyclables) out of landfills," said Mann. "This is especially important here in Hawaii because of our proximity to

the open ocean. Many of the recyclable items are plastic and marine life is being affected by people's carelessness."

Since 2008, Mann has been walking three miles around her neighborhood, two miles around JBPHH, and at least five miles at different venues around Hawaii with an organized walking group on Saturday mornings. During all her walks, she has been carrying a bag to collect litter and recyclable materials.

"When the admiral gave me the award, he told me if everyone picked

up one little thing every day, we wouldn't have a litter problem," said Mann, who also looks forward to the base cleanup.

"[Hawaii] is the Navy's best homeport, without a doubt," said Davenport. "It's important for us to provide a clean, beautiful installation for people who work and visit. It's not just for the tourists, but also the Pearl Harbor survivors who come here each year and other distinguished guests such as the MCPON, CNO and the Secretary of State. Everybody comes here."

## Leaders gather for Combined Force Maritime Component Commander Course

### U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet hosted the Naval War College's Combined Force Maritime Component Commander Course (CFMCC) for international flag and general officers Feb 18-24 at the headquarters compound.

The week-long course brought together 22 officers from partner nations of Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand and the U.S. The course consisted of a series of discussions and forums on topics such as command and control, information-sharing, disaster response and

environmental law.

In addition to international naval attendees, this year's CFMCC hosted one officer each from the Army, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marine Corps, as selected by their respective U.S. services.

"The opportunity to bring together operational commanders in an international forum such as this helps deepen our partnerships and strengthen our collective security efforts," said Adm. Patrick Walsh, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. "The candid exchange of ideas and shared insight between the attendees broadens our understanding of the mutual security challenges we face."

The CFMCC course uses experienced subject matter

experts as session instructors to develop perspectives necessary to effectively employ naval forces in a joint, coalition or interagency environment. This practical application of real-world events helps to improve the effectiveness of senior leaders from throughout the Pacific region who routinely function together.

The flag-level course is specifically designed to develop relationships among international maritime leaders in fostering trust and confidence in support of theater or regional cooperation in theater. This focus is oriented toward maritime security to prepare the attendees for theater-level leadership and offer a broad perspective of operational and

strategic levels of war.

"The course is conducted annually in Pearl Harbor to continue to advance understanding of security issues throughout the Pacific and improve our ability to work together to solve regional maritime challenges while understanding the multiple perspectives involved," said Rear Adm. Phil Wisecup, president of the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

Regional concerns and the CFMCC capabilities to address the concerns are the basis for course discussions to study and help evolve combined maritime command and control concepts and mechanisms, while advancing the understanding of those security issues facing participating nations.

"Trust and cooperation are fundamental to our ability to respond to any challenge across the military spectrum," said Walsh. "Every opportunity we have to engage in an open dialogue and learn from each other, as we have experienced during this week's CFMCC course, will serve to enhance our ability to operate more efficiently together in times of crisis."

The CFMCC course this year was facilitated by senior mentors including retired Adm. Arun Prakash of India, retired U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Barry Costello, retired U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Lyle Bien and retired U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Martin Berndt. These experienced experts ensured course and session objec-

tives were met. The course is based upon the principles of transparency, non-attribution and mutual respect for participants to provide a comfortable forum for open discussion of issues to facilitate a better understanding of the various perspectives involved in a multi-national force.

The first CFMCC Course, which focused on Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, was held in Newport in September 2006. U.S. Pacific Fleet has previously hosted CFMCC courses in 2007, 2008 and 2009. The U.S. Naval War College has also conducted CFMCC courses in Naples, Italy in July 2008 and in the Kingdom of Bahrain in November 2009.

## Social media plays important role in emergency alerts

### Continued from A-1

evacuations will be ordered for areas in designated inundation zones and along beaches and shorelines. At Pearl Harbor, evacuations took place at Hospital Point, a small housing community located near the mouth of the harbor, as well as Iroquois Lagoon, White Plains and Nimitz Beach cottages, and Rainbow Bay Marina.

Pearl Harbor is a protected harbor and high tidal waves diminish as they begin to enter the harbor, protecting Ford Island, which is 10 to 15 feet above sea level at different parts of the island. Ford Island residents remained safe during the tsunami warning, and the bridge was closed as a precautionary measure in the

event tidal surges could affect the integrity of the bridge.

Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) plays a key role in an emergency, providing assistance to military personnel and their families affected during disasters. FFSC activated its family assistance center to provide on-site support to families affected by an evacuation, and stood up a telephone hotline manned by trained personnel to provide information or counseling to Navy families.

According to FFSC work and family life supervisor Verdi Fujimori, her family information center staff received more than 150 calls during the course of the tsunami warning.

"The staff performed well in carrying out their duties," said Fujimori. "While no sig-

nificant damage happened, the alert helped us gain experience to be prepared when it happens again."

For Navy Region Hawaii's public affairs staff, getting out emergency public information quickly and accurately to Navy personnel and their families can be challenging. Using social media, like Facebook and Twitter, solved those issues and brings another exciting dimension to information dissemination. "This is the first time Navy Region Hawaii used Facebook in a real-life emergency situation and it proved to be extremely effective," said Agnes Tauyan, director of Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs.

Posts addressing evacuations, closures and special instructions for Navy fami-

lies provided Facebook and Twitter followers with the latest, most up-to-date information as well as the ability to comment and ask questions, which were answered quickly by public affairs staff or EOC personnel. Navy Region Hawaii's Facebook page was linked up to numerous local and national news organization Web sites. As a result, the number of Navy Region Hawaii's Facebook fans surged more than 180 percent, from 450 before the tsunami event to nearly 1,300 and rising.

As the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam emergency management officer, Dan Dubois tackled the lively

task of coordinating with the various departments to ensure his tsunami checklists were met. "We had never done a formal tsunami exercise before, but the EOC came together to deal with a myriad of issues and accomplished great things," Dubois said.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center cancelled the tsunami warning by 1 p.m. Saturday afternoon, prompting the Navy to call back the ships and resume operations at the installation. While the state dodged serious damage, the installation and region emergency operations center felt confident in their emergency

management plans and well prepared for future emergencies.

### Emergency reminders

- Stay tuned to local news, radio stations and official social media outlets for announcements and updates.
- Evacuate if advised or ordered to do so.
- Return to the evacuated areas only after an "all clear" is issued.
- Keep telephone and communications lines open for emergencies.
- Stay away from the beach and coastline areas.
- Have your evacuation kit and emergency supplies ready.



**Navy Region Hawaii launches social media**

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) is now on Facebook (Navy Region Hawaii) and Twitter (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.

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