

# Hawai'i News

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## Welcome home USS O'KANE & USS PAUL HAMILTON

**Combined story by MC2 Davis Anderson and MC2 (SW/AW) Joseph R. Vincent**  
*USS John C. Stennis Public Affairs, and MC3(AW) Eric J. Cutright, Fleet PACEN Det Hawai'i*

Burke-class guided-missile destroyers USS O'Kane (DDG 77) and USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) returned home to their friends and families Aug. 20.

"This cruise has been an unforgettable learning experience," said Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 2nd Class (SW) Jason Welch, who finished his first deployment. "There were many good

times over this long deployment, but I'm ready to go home and relax a bit."

Cmdr. Chris Bushnell, USS Paul Hamilton's commanding officer praised his Sailors for an outstanding job. "The Paul Hamilton's crew was tremendous ambassadors for not only Paul Hamilton and the Navy, but also the United States."

"It's so exciting to be back after a long deployment,"

said Engineman 3rd Class (SW) Orenthal Walker, assigned to O'Kane. "It's like arriving at the ship for the first time all over again."

"I am so excited to see my husband and can't wait for him to meet his daughter," said the wife of a O'Kane Sailor. "I am just so proud of them and the work they do."

"I thought that we would never be coming back when we left because seven

months seemed like such a long time, but we got out there and did the work that we had to do and I realized how important it is that we do this and that our presence is everywhere," said Cryptologic Technician Seaman Jessica Staples of Aurora, Colo., as she disembarked USS O'Kane coming of her first deployment.

Many family members were anxiously waiting as their Sailors made their

way to the pier. "I can't express the overwhelming emotions that I'm feeling right now, it's been a long wait and we're glad they're finally here," said the wife of one Sailor aboard USS O'Kane.

Although O'Kane and Paul Hamilton both departed Pearl Harbor Jan. 26 as part of the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group to par-

**See BACK HOME, A-3**

Following the successful completion of a seven-month deployment, Sailors assigned to the Pearl Harbor-based Arleigh



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace shakes the hand of a Sailor assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor following an all-hands call outside Sharkey Theater.

### Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman visits Naval Station Pearl Harbor Sailors

**Story and photo by M3 Michael A. Lantron**  
*Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs*

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace visited more than 500 military personnel assigned to commands throughout the Pearl Harbor area for an all hands call at Sharkey Theater on Naval Station Pearl Harbor as part of his tour of military bases on the island of Oahu.

The visit was part of Pace's tour of military bases to thank military personnel for all they have done during his 40-year

military career.

"I have come a long way to say what is most important - thank you," said Pace.

Through his hour-long speech and response to questions, Pace regularly spoke on his admiration for the men and women who serve the country and their role in how the country operates.

"Your job is important. One percent of the people in America, including yourselves, are protecting the other 99 percent," said Pace. "What you do here every day maintains the peace and stability in the Pacific."

Following the all hands call, Pace shook the hand of every person who attended the event

and presented them with an official coin.

"Having him shake everyone's hand was one of the coolest things I've ever seen," said Electronics Technician 3rd Class Brandon Sharp, assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor. "It was great to see him bring all of the branches together in one place."

Pace took the position as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in September 2005 and will visit bases worldwide to show his appreciation of military personnel prior to being relieved by the current Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Mike Mullen.



U.S. and Japanese mayors along with Capt. Don Hodge, Chief of Staff, Navy Region Hawai'i, pay tribute to fallen Sailors and Marines who lost their lives on Dec. 7, 1941 during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

### U.S., Japanese mayors honor fallen

**MC3 Eric J. Cutright**  
*Fleet Public Affairs Center Detachment Hawai'i*

A group of U.S. and Japanese mayors visited Naval Station Pearl Harbor August 19 to honor and pay respects to the 2,400 Sailors and Marines who lost their lives during the Japanese attack December 7, 1941.

Representatives of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Japan Association of City Mayors accompanied by Capt. Don Hodge, Chief of Staff, Navy Region Hawai'i, took a Navy operated ferry-boat out to the historic USS Arizona Memorial to conduct a wreath laying ceremony to honor the many fallen.

"I am very honored and pleased to see all the memorials of the Pearl Harbor attack, even though it was a very sad and unhappy incident," said Mayor Norihisa Satake of Akita, Japan.

"Japan and America have a strong and friendly relationship and we are attempting to bring more peace into the world, so I pray for the Sailors who were killed and I hope that we can make this a long-lasting, peaceful

world," said Satake.

After the wreath laying ceremony, Pearl Harbor Sailors conducted a waterborne tour around the harbor for the mayors giving them additional insight as to what occurred during the attack, including a pass by Battleship Row and by Hospital Point where USS Nevada (BB-36) ran aground after sustaining heavy damages, but avoided blocking the channel.

"It was an absolutely great event and a wonderful chance to show off Pearl Harbor to the mayors from Japan and some of our U.S. cities," said Hodge.

"Our mission is to promote our good relationship with our friends over in Japan who are some of our greatest strategic allies. The mayors in Japan are the one's where the 'rubber meets the road,' and by promoting good relations with the Navy, we promote everything we do with Japan," added Hodge.

Members of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Japan's Association of City Mayor's arrived August 19, in Honolulu, to participate in the Ninth Annual U.S./Japan Mayor's Fellowship Exchange Meeting, August 20-21, to discuss ideas on environmental challenges, and other issues concerning individual municipalities.



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# CNO approves physical fitness uniform



U.S. Navy photo by MCC Eric A. Clement

1st Marine Logistics Group (1st MLG) Command Master Chief (CMDCM) German Fiesco and other Navy senior enlisted leaders stretch, as they wear-test the Navy's proposed physical training uniform, prior to a work out.

## Sharon Anderson

Chief of Naval Personnel  
Public Affairs

Adm. Mike Mullen, Chief of Naval Operations, approved the first Navy physical fitness uniform for all Sailors E-1 through O-10 this week.

"The goal was to design a uniform for wear during command directed group and unit PT activities and that our Sailors will be proud to wear," said Vice Adm. John C. Harvey Jr., Chief of Naval Personnel. "What CNO has delivered more than meets that goal."

The uniform consists of a gold short sleeved shirt and Navy blue shorts. The shirt is moisture wicking and odor resistant polyester with Navy in reflective lettering on back with and front.

The nylon moisture wicking and odor resistant Navy blue shorts come in six and eight inch lengths, providing standard appearance among different height Sailors, it also has reflective piping and reflective Navy lettering. The shorts have side pockets with

a hidden ID card pocket inside the waistband.

"We carefully evaluated the materials, styling and functionality in designing this uniform," said Harvey. "We looked at the lessons learned from the other services and got feedback from our Sailors – young, mature, male, female, officer and enlisted – and

*"We looked at the lessons learned from the other services and got feedback from our Sailors – young, mature, male, female, officer and enlisted – and arrived at this design."*

-Vice Adm. John C. Harvey Jr.

arrived at this design."

"This is a high quality, high performance product that I know our Sailors will be proud to wear, because we asked them," Harvey added.

Upon delivery to the fleet, anticipated to be spring 2008, all command directed physi-

cal training and semi-annual physical fitness tests will be performed while wearing the PT uniform. However, the uniform does not have to be worn during individual exercise.

"Sailors may still wear personal PT gear when not participating in command PT activities or the semi annual fitness tests," said Robert Carroll, Head, Navy Uniform Matters Office.

Uniform availability at uniform centers and command uniform distribution activities will be phased in beginning with major Fleet concentration areas in spring 2008. Reserve enlisted will be issued uniforms by their commands.

Sailors' clothing replacement allowance will be adjusted starting October 1, 2007 to allow for the purchase of two sets of short sleeve shirts and shorts.

"We have designated optional items including a long-sleeved shirt, compression shorts, head gear and running shoes which can be worn during these events," said Carroll. A Navy wind suit is also in the works.

# Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

## Sailor's Creed: What does it really mean?



Pacific Fleet Master Chief  
Tom Howard

*I am a United States Sailor. I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and I will obey the orders of those appointed over me.*

*I represent the fighting spirit of the Navy and those who have gone before me to defend freedom and democracy around the world.*

*I proudly serve my country's Navy combat team with Honor, Courage and Commitment.*

*I am committed to excellence and the fair treatment of all.*

Aloha, shipmates! As you may imagine by now, we're going to talk about the Sailor's

Creed this week, continuing a series of articles on pride and professionalism in our Navy today. Before we jump into the article, however, please take a moment and reread the Sailor's Creed available above. This time, really pay attention to the words and the meaning behind this passage.

This Sailor's Creed is not just a bunch of words thrown together that your chain of command requires you to recite at quarters, selection boards, awards quarters, or all-hands calls (although all of the above should be done). These words symbolize the Sailors of our past, the Sailors of today, and the Sailors who will lead our Navy into the future. These words should symbolize your commitment to the Navy and who you are as a Sailor.

In 1993, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Frank Kelso directed and personally participated with a recruit training panel to create a creed for all bluejackets. Every recruit was given a copy of the final product and was tasked to commit it to memory. The mission was unity and esprit de corps. A year later, the new Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Jeremy Boorda, tweaked the passage, replacing the word "bluejacket" with "Navy," to best describe all

Sailors. Another change in 1997 called for the replacement of "my superiors" to "those appointed over me."

Today, the Sailor's Creed is recited by all Sailors, no matter what profession in the Navy they have chosen, and the mission remains to promote unity and esprit de corps. But, even more so, shipmates, the Sailor's Creed should invoke pride in all of us. Each time I recite our creed, it gives me goose bumps on my arms. When I recite our creed and watch other Sailors recite it, you can tell when they feel it, when they really feel it. The pride rises up in their voice and they truly stand taller.

No matter what rank I wear on my collar, I am a United States Sailor. No matter what medals, ribbons or warfare devices I have on my chest, I am a United States Sailor. No matter how many hash marks I have on my sleeve, I am a United States Sailor. If you wear the cloth of the world's finest Navy and have taken the oath, you, too, are a United States Sailor. With honor, courage and commitment, we must stand with pride as we "represent the fighting spirit of the Navy and those who have gone before (us) to defend freedom and democracy around the world."

It is who we are, what we do!

When Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Joe Campa first became our MCPON, he spoke of what it meant for him to be a Sailor. More specifically, he told a sea story that took him back to the time when he was a young seaman aboard the dock-landing ship Ogden. While on a port visit to Hawaii, his chief took his division to visit the USS Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor. The trip to the historic site was not just a lesson in naval history, but instead Seaman Campa's chief told his division about the "service and sacrifice that those Sailors made that day. On that day, the MCPON said he gained the understanding of what it meant to be a U.S. Sailor.

Each day I'm able to look out the window in my office, I stare over at the USS Arizona memorial and USS Missouri memorials and think back to the sacrifices our Navy family has made over the years. I think of the Sailors who gave their lives in defense of our free-

doms, both then and now. They may not have had a Sailor's Creed then, but by god, because of their blood, sweat and tears, we are able to have one now. And, if each of us --you and I-- is able and committed to the nation and our future, we'll have the Sailor's Creed for our children's children and those who relieve us as we "go ashore" when the time comes. This creed is for them; this creed is for us.

Until next time, shipmates, sail safe and sail together! I urge you to never stop believing in what it is we stand for.

Remember, if you have

any questions or comments regarding my messages to you, drop me a line at [cpf.fleetfeedback@navy.mil](mailto:cpf.fleetfeedback@navy.mil).



Photo

## Back home

Continued from A-1

participate in a wide variety of exercises and operations, such as maritime and approach operations and Expeditionary Strike Force training in the Arabian Gulf and exercise Valiant Shield 2007, Paul Hamilton received different orders two days into their deployment and was reassigned to the USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group (RRSG).

"The president wanted a two-carrier presence in the Arabian Gulf," said Paul Hamilton's Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Christopher Bushnell. "Stennis went right to the Arabian Gulf. Kitty Hawk was in the yards, so RRSB surged out of her notional deployment schedule. Her destroyer escorts were going through maintenance periods, so they put together other ships to make her strike group: Paul Hamilton, USS Russell (DDG 59) and USS Lake Champlain (CG 57)."

The training Paul Hamilton underwent with JCSSG prior to their deployment helped them to integrate effectively with this new strike group in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR).

"A major part of our mission was theatre engagement, to go out and actually work hand-in-hand with the state department on diplomatic missions. The ship performed above and beyond the call of duty," said Paul Hamilton's Operations Officer, Lt. Justin Harts.

As Paul Hamilton performed her mission in the 7th Fleet AOR, O'Kane provided support to USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) Carrier Strike Group.

"O'Kane deployed at a high rate of speed to the Middle East and contributed to stability and security of that region and set a one-day record for having the most

approach and assist visits in the Arabian Gulf," said Commander, Carrier Strike Group 3, Rear Adm. Kevin Quinn. "She also interacted with the navies of that region, which helped build the capability and capacity of those forces to deal with maritime threats in their own waters. O'Kane's performance was outstanding."

During port visits, O'Kane's Sailors acted as American Ambassadors to a variety of nations throughout the Middle East and Southeast Asia. Sailors also used these opportunities to relax and learn about local culture and customs.

USS O'Kane and JCSSG soon turned their focus to exercise Valiant Shield 2007 and Paul Hamilton would rejoin JCSSG to participate in the exercise.

The exercise was held Aug. 7-14 and included 30 ships, 280 aircraft and more than 20,000 service members from the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

Upon completion of Valiant Shield, Paul Hamilton's crew would return to Pearl Harbor, knowing they completed a very unique and successful deployment.

"They supported major exercises, such as Foe Eagle and Talisman Sabre," said Rear Adm. Kevin Quinn, commander, Carrier Strike Group 3. "They contributed to security and peace throughout the Pacific during their operations. They were tasked to work with two different carrier strike groups, and every report I received was that their performance was outstanding."

Sailors from Paul Hamilton and O'Kane will both enjoy some well-deserved time off, after completion of their recent seven-month deployment before returning to sea.

More photos on page A-5

## Surrender of Japan, 1945

**PATROL**

Patrol 4 U. S. Submarine Base, Navy 128 Wednesday, August 23, 1945

**WE DID IT AGAIN!**

1776  
1812  
1898  
1917  
1945

**V-J DAY - DAWN OF PEACE**  
by Clarence Strong Williams

V-J Day has at last dawned upon a war-torn world. With the dawn comes a new day, different from the war days that preceded it, and at variance as well with the ante-bellum days of peace, for V-J Day dawned upon an era of confusion, an age of change.

V-J Day was ushered in with clamor and clangor. A steady din of auto horns punctuated by the shrill crescendo of air raid sirens broke the tranquil stillness of a community still bearing the scars of war. It marked the calm that had settled upon an area, which not so long ago, resounded with the explosions of Japanese bombs and the busy bursts of machine gun bullets, as the Japanese pilots dove on life boats and strafed the peaceful occupants of automobiles.

When the news was received that Japan had surrendered, service men and civilians patrolled the streets, jubilant with joy because those who had died at Pearl Harbor, the heroes who had fallen by the wayside in the "March of Death," postlude of Bataan, and everyone whose life had been sacrificed in the war against Japan, had been avenged.

The evening sky, which formed a background for the spot, where on December 7, 1941, stricken battleships lay helpless in their death throes, was lit up with "the rockets' red glare" proving to all the world that "our flag was still there," ready and waiting for the morning to come and the bugle call to colors.

The darkening vault of the heavens was pierced by quivering searchlights, joyously waving a fabric of luminescence against the background of the stars. The automotive world sang the psalms of victory with a blast and blare. The searchlights received the chorus with a blaze of light, while the black night formed a shroud

Front page of "Patrol," newspaper of the U.S. Submarine Base at Pearl Harbor, for Aug. 29, 1945, celebrating the end of World War II. In addition to headlines and a patriotic cartoon, it features an article by Clarence Strong Williams, entitled "V-J Day - Dawn of Peace." (Courtesy of Capt. Clarence S. Williams, USNR (retired), 1970.)

U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph

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**Deputy Public Affairs officer - Terri Kojima**

**Managing Editor - MCC (SW/AW) David Rush**

**Leading Petty Officer -**  
MC1 (AW/SW) James Foehl

**Editor - Karen Spangler**

**Staff Writer - MC3 Michael A. Lantron**

**Technical Adviser - Joe Novotny**

**Layout/Design - Tony Verceluz**

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**Hawai'i Navy News**

# Paul Hamilton gets six new chiefs

MC2 Davis Anderson

USS John C. Stennis  
Public Affairs

The crew of USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) congratulated six of their first class petty officers when the chief petty officer selection results were announced early morning Aug. 9.

First class petty officers who are eligible take a Navywide advancement exam in January; those who pass the exam with a high enough score are then considered by a board of master chiefs who select the new chiefs for each rating.

"It's a tremendous accomplishment for all the guys who get selected," said Paul Hamilton's Commanding Officer Cmdr. Christopher Bushnell. "It's a signal that they're ready for more responsibility and it tests their leadership as well. I think it's awesome."

Bushnell added that the influence of chief petty officers touches the whole command.

"It's more than just being an expert in your area," said Bushnell. "It's having a command-wide impact."

Now that results have been announced, the chief petty officer selects will go through a six-week transition period, where they will learn about being a chief from their chief's mess.

"We're going to show them leadership, the right way to guide our Sailors," said Senior Chief Gas Turbine Systems Technician (SW) Robert Vowles, Paul Hamilton's coordinator for the chief's transition. "The Navy is standardizing the chief's transition, it used to be specific to the command, but now we are going to



do it according to the MCPON's (Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy) guidance; focusing on deck plate leadership, pride and naval history."

All of this training will culminate in six-weeks when the new chiefs are pinned with their gold-fouled anchors and take their place within their departments as the recognized experts, leaders, and liaison between enlisted Sailors and the ship's officers.

"There have been several great chiefs in my career who I have looked up to," said Chief Navy Counselor (SEL) (SW) Richard Green. "I am hoping to learn as much as I can, so I can be a chief and not just an E-7."

Although the chief selects can look forward to a very taxing six weeks, they know the end result is worth the effort.

"I think it's going to be very busy, I think it's going to be very challenging, but I am looking forward to it," said Green. "It's all about obtaining the goal and the goal is getting pinned Sept. 21."

Paul Hamilton's chief pinning ceremony in September will recognize:

Chief Gunner's Mate (SEL) Brandon Curtis,

Chief Cryptologic Technician (Technical) (SEL) William Kegley,

Chief Gas Turbine Systems (Electrical) (SEL) Derek Monks,

Chief Torpedoman's Mate (SEL) Eric Przyborski and

Chief Quartermaster (SEL) Rafael Romero and Green.

Paul Hamilton returned to its homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Aug. 20, and the pinning ceremony is scheduled to take place Sep. 21.

# Ruling allows Navy to continue using low-frequency sonar

MC1 Brandan W. Schulze

Navy Office of Information

The National Marine Fisheries Services issued a final rule Aug. 16 that allows the Navy to continue operating Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System Low Frequency Active (SURTASS LFA) sonar in the western Pacific Ocean for the next five years, subject to a yearly authorization renewal.

SURTASS LFA consists of two separate components. The LFA portion of the system is suspended vertically below the ship and transmits low-frequency sound energy into the water. SURTASS, the passive portion of the system, is towed behind the ship and is made up of a series of underwater microphones that detect natural and man-made sound energy in the water. This allows underwater objects, such as submarines, to be detected.

"SURTASS LFA gives us a solid capability that has been proven at sea," said Rear Adm. Carl V. Mauney, Director, Submarine Warfare. "It allows us to detect and track diesel-electric submarines at long range, enabling action, if necessary, at a time and place of our choosing."

Deputy Assistant



U.S. Navy photo

The USNS Able (T-AGUOS-20) operates a Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System (SURTASS). It consists of a pair of arrays towed side-by-side from USNS Able and offers significant advantages for undersea surveillance operations in deep and shallow-water.

Secretary of the Navy (Environment) Donald R. Schregardus says the ruling "will allow the Navy to continue operations in the western Pacific that are vital to our national defense."

According to Schregardus, the system is vital for use in tracking extremely quiet diesel-electric submarines, which could pose a potential threat to Navy Sailors and

ships if they go undetected.

When operating on battery power, these submarines can conduct nearly silent underwater operations. As countries continue to acquire diesel-electric submarines, the Navy makes tracking them a priority.

"SURTASS LFA sonar is the single best system the Navy has to find and track such submarines at long distances. This system

helps keep our service members, our ships and our national interests safe," said Schregardus.

He said SURTASS LFA is necessary for national security, and is operated in a manner that is environmentally sound. Past research has facilitated the development of science-based mitigation measures that allow the sonar to operate in harmony with the ocean environment. Sonar operators monitor for the presence of marine mammals prior to, during and after sonar activity and either turn off or delay start-up if marine mammals come too close.

Schregardus said that five years of these sonar operations in the western Pacific produced no evidence of any harm to marine mammals or their populations.

"The Navy's extensive operations experience with this system, in combination with thorough scientific studies on the system's effects on marine mammals and fish, confirms that this sonar can coexist with ocean life," said Schregardus.

Schregardus claims that SURTASS LFA destroys ocean life and cannot be operated in harmony with the environment are "simply untrue and not supported by scientific fact."

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# Pearl Harbor Highlights



Sailors on board USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) man the rails as they pass the USS Arizona Memorial. JCSSG consisted of more than 6,500 Sailors and Marines and recently completed a scheduled deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.  
U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (AW/SW) James E. Foehl

A Sailor assigned to Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) hugs his two children after returning from a seven-month deployment.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Byung K. Cho



Sailors assigned to Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) leave the ship after returning from a seven-month deployment.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Byung K. Cho



A Sailor on board Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) feeds a mooring line over the side as Paul Hamilton prepares to moor pier side to Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Byung K. Cho



A tugboat assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor fires her water cannons in a traditional "welcome home" as Sailors man the rails of Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77).

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (AW/SW) James E. Foehl



A Sailor assigned to Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) holds his newborn baby girl for the first time during a homecoming ceremony at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Michael A. Lantron



# Russell Sailors score high during gun qualification



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Theresa Donnelly

Gunner's Mate 1st Class Timothy Rischawy loads an illuminator round in the upper loading section of the five-inch-54 calibre lightweight gun mount.

## Ensign Matt Arndt and Ensign Theresa Donnelly

*USS Russell (DDG 59)  
Public Affairs*

USS Russell (DDG 59) war fighters successfully completed the naval surface fire support (NSFS) qualification on Aug. 10, scoring a 92 percent on the overall exercise.

The team, captained by Ensign Matthew Arndt, Russell's gunnery liaison officer (GLO), shot a successful qualification exercise at Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) Barking Sands off the coast of Kauai, Hawai'i.

The purpose of the qualification is to ensure Russell's effectiveness at assisting in a ground engagement with Marines, who may need back-up fire support during a hostile situation. The ship supports this tasking by using its gigantic single five-inch, 54

caliber gun.

During the week of the qualification, Russell was involved in a number of other exercises and events, but the team stayed focused and executed the mission with precise attention to detail.

The combat information team, composed of operations specialists and fire control technicians, teamed up with gunner's mates to operate the ship's five-inch gun. Calls for fire missions were relayed to the ship from spotters flown in from Okinawa, Japan and were executed on a virtual range.

The ship was required to demonstrate proficiency in all areas of naval gunfire support in order to certify their ability to support the forces ashore. The CIC team triumphed after a rigorous two-week training schedule consisting of limited team trainers, classroom instruction, and hands-on

practicals. They were trained and assisted through the expertise of Center Surface Combat Systems Detachment Pearl Harbor's NSFS staff.

A big factor that led to the expert execution was the preparation before the event. Equally noted was that this was the first time that the majority of the Sailors had performed this exercise.

Fire Controlman 1st Class (FC1) Casey Edgar said, "We had a lot of training that led up to the point of the shoot. The five-day curriculum really prepared us to execute the mission with confidence."

FCC James Mcpheeters taught the team the classroom portion and hands-on training leading up to the final gun shoot and was impressed with the team's performance. "Overall, they did extremely well for a green team, especially considering that not many members had conducted NSFS

before" he said.

The Russell team was equally proud of their performance and very excited that all the hard work that went into training and preparation paid off.

"It was a great experience," said Operations Specialist 3rd Class Gabriel Evans, the radio telephone talker, who relayed all information from the spotter to the gun liaison officer. "I had a direct impact on relaying fire missions to the gun shooters and I learned so much," he/she? Said.

After the exercise, Russell's commanding officer Cmdr. Brad Coops presented members of the team with a Navy Achievement Medal (NAM) to reward the Sailors for all of their hard work and exceptional performance.

USS Russell is currently preparing for exercises with the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group.

## MDSU-1 gets Meritorious Unit Citation



U.S. Navy photo

CMDCM (MDV) Rick Bettua (left) Command Master Chief assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit ONE (MDSU-1) and Cmdr. Dan Colman (right-center) commanding officer, MDSU-1, are presented the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Meritorious Unit Citation from (left-center) USCG Cmdr. Roger Laferriere, deputy commander, USCG Sector Honolulu, and USCG Capt. Vincent Atkins, commander, USCG Sector Honolulu during a ceremony Aug. 3. The commendation was awarded to MDSU-1 for rendering assistance to a distressed Chinese motor vessel, Tong Cheng, Jan. 19 -26. MDSU-1 provided emergency hull repairs to the ship, temporarily restoring the vessel's watertight integrity until they made their way to Honolulu Harbor. Once in the harbor, MDSU-1 removed the fuel contaminated water from ship, allowing them to proceed into Barbers Point Harbor to have permanent repairs made.

## Federal Impact Aid for Hawai'i public schools

### Fleet and Family Support Center

Hawai'i's public school students will bring home federal census survey cards on Sept. 4. The cards need to be filled out by parents and returned to school the following day.

It is extremely important to complete the federal survey cards and return them promptly to your child's school. The data collected from these forms, and turned into the Federal Department of Education, determines the funding received by the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE).

Impact aid partially reimburses the state Department of Education for educating federally connected students. It is intended to replace the tax revenues lost to a community by the double impact of having non-taxable federal property.

Impact aid is the only federal education program where the funds are sent directly to the school district. Hawai'i is a one-district school system so the funds go directly into the school district's general fund for operations such as purchase of textbooks, computers, utilities and payment of staff salaries.

Non-response could result in the loss of millions of dollars in federal funds that benefit both our military and local communities.

Why fill out the card?

- Federal Impact Aid is a partial reimbursement to the school district for edu-

cating federally connected students attending public schools.

- Families of federally connected students pay less in taxes into the school district than local residents, taxes that fund education.

- Federal Impact Aid funds pay for teacher salaries and school programs, materials, equipment and supplies.

- Every card not returned means funds lost to Hawai'i classrooms statewide.

- Hawai'i has the highest number of military dependent children per capita in the nation (greatest impact on local schools).

Additional local impact of federal funds

Federal Survey Card results are the only official, current method to determine the military dependent population in a school. Aside from determining the amount of impact aid a school district will receive, military dependent population statistics also determine school eligibility for Joint Venture Education Forum funds, in particular textbook, technology, and repair and maintenance funds.

The larger the military dependent population, the higher the school ranking on the fund eligibility list. These funds will go directly to the students' schools. For more information about Joint Venture Education Forum funding, visit: <http://www.pacom.mil/jvef/funding.shtml>.

## Western Pacific humanitarian assistance exercise develops cooperation

### U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Delegates from the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS), including the United States, gathered in Bali Aug. 21 for a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) table-top exercise.

The location of the four-day exercise is symbolic for many of the WPNS delegates, as it is the site of a tsunami that ravaged Indonesia four years earlier.

Even though Bali is a tiny slice of the more than 17,000 islands that make up the

Republic of Indonesia, most people in this region can recall with vivid clarity the day when a devastating tsunami struck the western most part of the world's largest archipelago state, killing more than 220,000 people and displacing a half million more in Aceh.

"The tsunami caused an enormous loss of life and property," said Adm. Slamet Soebijanto, Chief of the Indonesian Navy.

The total damage was estimated by the Asian Development Bank at \$5 billion, almost equal to the gross

domestic product of Aceh.

Many navies across the Western Pacific, including the U.S. with its aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), provided humanitarian assistance to the region immediately following the catastrophe.

However, despite the outstanding support from many different nations, the 2004 tsunami highlighted the need for a coordinated effort to handle a large-scale natural disaster.

Two years ago in Chile, the 24 nations of the WPNS met to discuss HADR in a seminar

setting.

The next step in the learning process is taking place in Bali in the form of the table-top exercise designed to facilitate the exchange of best practices and lessons learned from the seminar in Chile. The exercise is also being held to increase interoperability and cooperation among the WPNS members.

U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Robert F. Willard addressed the WPNS at the start of the exercise Aug. 21 and spoke of the importance such an exercise will have on the region.

"Very little can be accomplished alone, and we are all made stronger by our ability to work together," said Willard.

Additionally, Willard praised the Indonesian navy for hosting the exercise, which demonstrated to participants the broad range of coordination and synchronization required to rapidly respond to a wide range of natural disasters.

Capt. Kevin Johnson, a U.S. Navy planner stationed in Pearl Harbor, said the next logical step in the process is a field exercise.

"HADR is a concept that everyone can agree on," said Johnson. "These types of exercises get every navy in the region talking and networking."

Johnson added that the HADR exercise is a good example of the Chief of Naval Operations' "1,000-ship navy" concept. "Many navies are working together for a common goal," said Johnson.

The WPNS, formed in 1988, aims to increase cooperation in the Western Pacific among navies and to provide a forum for discussion of maritime issues.