

USS Lake Erie returns to Pearl Harbor

MC3 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Sailors of Ticonderoga-class, guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) returned to their homeport of Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 4, following a four-month deployment to the Western Pacific in support of the global war on terrorism.

"It's great to come back home to family and friends," said Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class (SW) Louie Myers. "This is something I always look forward to."

When looking back on the deployment, Myers said he was glad to be a part of the team.

"The deployment was excellent. It's great to know we did our part in supporting the [global] war on terrorism," Myers added.

Family and friends of the 330 Sailor crew lined the pier waving "welcome home" signs and cheered the Sailors who

manned the rails as the ship approached the pier.

"To see them as they come in and then greet them is a heartwarming and exciting feeling," said a wife of a Lake Erie Sailor.

After the ship moored and the brow was in place, Capt. Randall Hendrickson, Lake Erie's commanding officer, invited friends and family aboard the ship to welcome home their Sailors and help celebrate their safe return.

"From being dry-docked in October to performing every mission assigned to us in less than a year is amazing," said Hendrickson. "I couldn't have asked more from the crew. They performed exceptionally well."

After a successful test of the ship's aegis ballistic missile defense's shipboard weapon system in April, Lake Erie and her crew departed Pearl Harbor

on May 4, conducting missions in the Seventh Fleet area of operations. It also participated in Exercise Talisman Saber 2007 and provided aircraft carrier escorts to USS Kitty Hawk, (CV 63), USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) and USS Nimitz (CVN 68).

During the deployment, the ship made port visits to Yokosuka, Japan; Guam; and Darwin, Australia. While on liberty, Sailors took in the culture and customs the areas had to offer.

Lake Erie was commissioned in 1993, is 453 feet in length, 55 feet wide and can reach speeds of 30 plus knots. The ship is a multi-mission, anti-air warfare, anti-submarine warfare, long-range strike and anti-surface warfare surface combatant. It is capable of supporting carrier and expeditionary strike groups, amphibious forces, or of operating independently and as flagships of surface action groups.

More photos of Lake Erie's return on page A-5.



Hawai'i commemorates 62nd Anniversary of the end of World War II

MC3 (AW) Eric J. Cutright

Fleet Public Affairs Center Detachment Hawai'i

Service members and veterans attended a ceremony held aboard Battleship Missouri Memorial on Sept. 2 to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender.

The Japanese Instrument of Surrender is a document which holds its place in history as the point where Japan conceded defeat and brought to an end World War II, the most destructive war of the modern era.

Attending the commemorative ceremony were more than 100 guests, including World War II veterans and active duty service members, as well as their families and friends.

Guest speakers at the ceremony were Adm. Timothy J. Keating, commander, U.S. Pacific Command, and Edwin Ogonowski, a former crew member of the Iowa-class battleship USS Missouri, during World War II.

"I always wanted to go aboard that ship before I pass away, so it's an honor to be aboard the ship 62 years later," said Ogonowski.

Ogonowski was a crew member of the Missouri and remembered what he felt when he saw the ship more than six decades later.

"I'm proud to be aboard the ship today, which I never figured I would. When I saw the ship yesterday, I felt like I was 20 years old ... and here I am



Presiding over an end of World War II ceremony, Sept. 2, aboard Battleship Missouri Memorial, Adm. Timothy J. Keating, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) talks about the "Greatest Generation." The Japanese signed the, "Instrument of Surrender," a declaration to the end of World War II onboard USS Missouri on Sept. 2, 1945.

82 and all my pain went away. I felt no pain, but I was in shock and I'm enjoying every minute of it," said Ogonowski.

During Ogonowski's speech at the ceremony, he reflected back to the day when the Japanese Instrument of Surrender was signed.

"We were looking down the superstructure and I saw all the dignitaries coming down - all from different countries: France, England and the other countries that participated in the surrender - as they were being greeted by Gen. [Douglas] MacArthur," said Ogonowski.

The ceremony was held not only to honor the event of the signing of the surrender, but also to honor the service members of yesterday and today.

"This ceremony honors men and women who served. It hon-

ors the lives of those that gave their lives in the war in the Pacific," said Keating. "It honors the alliance that we now have with those we fought in World War II and it honors the men and women in uniform."

The former General of the Army and Supreme Allied Commander, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, spoke 62 years ago, of the unconditional surrender.

"It is my earnest hope, and indeed the hope of all mankind, that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past - a world founded upon faith and understanding, a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish - for freedom, tolerance and justice," said MacArthur.

Officials break ground for Pacific Warfighting Center



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Paul D. Homnick

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye; Adm. Timothy J. Keating, commander, U.S. Pacific Command; Rear Adm. T. G. Alexander, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; Capt. Clifford M. Maurer, commanding officer, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i; Col. Michael S. Duvall, director, Training and Exercises Directorate, U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM); and Fooney Freestone, chief executive officer, Nan, Inc., dba Ocean House Builders broke ground on Aug. 29 for the Pacific Warfighting Center on Ford Island. The \$20 million state-of-the-art facility, expected to be completed July 2009, will enhance joint and multi-lateral operational missions and training by providing an environment for commanders and their staffs within the PACOM region to train for scenarios that can either be live, virtual or networked.



Key West returns from deployment

See page A-2



Submarine Squadron One Sailors compete in Commodore's Cup

See page A-6



Hawai'i breaks ground for Regional Operations Security Center

See page A-2



Naval Station picnic

See page B-1



Culinary Specialist 3rd Class David Quintero greets his wife with the ceremonial first kiss as Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Key West (SSN 722) returned home to Pearl Harbor, on Aug 28. *Additional photo of Key West return on page A-5.*

Key West returns from deployment

Story and photo by
MC2 Michael Hight

USS Key West (SSN 722)
Public Affairs

Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Key West (SSN 722) returned to its homeport of Pearl Harbor on Aug. 28 following a seven-month deployment to the Western Pacific.

The Key West left Pearl Harbor in January to support U.S. commitments in the Western Pacific and to strengthen foreign U.S. relations.

"It is overwhelming to be home," said Culinary Specialist 3rd Class David Quintero after receiving the ceremonial first kiss. "There are so many emotions and so much joy."

Cmdr. Thomas Ishee, Key West's commanding officer, said the deployment was a great success because of the pride and professionalism of the crew.

"They did a fantastic job," he said. "They are the finest crew that I have had the pleasure of serving with."

In addition to producing four new chief petty officers and 35 submarine warfare specialists, Key West conducted multiple community relations in Japan and Hong Kong and participated in six national and theater-specific operations.

Key West is the 35th Los Angeles-class submarine and was commissioned Sept. 12, 1987 at Naval Base, Norfolk. It transferred to its homeport at Pearl Harbor in July 1996.

Hawai'i breaks ground for Regional Security Operations Center

Story and photo by
MC3 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

The National Security Agency/Central Security Service, Hawai'i (NSA/CSS) held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Hawai'i Regional Security Operations Center at Naval and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific (NCTAMS PAC) headquarters in Wahiawa on Aug. 30.

The new facility will be used to gather and analyze intelligence from U.S. interest areas, such as the Middle East and Southeast Asia, allowing high-ranking officials to make better tactical decisions.

"This state of the art facility will enable us to strengthen our intelligence support to the nation's policy makers and combatant commanders," said U.S. Navy Capt. Jan Tighe, commander of NSA/CSS, Hawai'i.

The new complex will cost \$318 million, is approximately 250,000 square feet, and will be constructed on 70 acres at NCTAMS PAC headquarters. The complex will replace the Kunia Regional Security Operations Center, now known as the National Security Agency Hawai'i, which was built in 1945 and then remodeled in 1979.

The groundbreaking began with a traditional Hawai'iian blessing to the construction site by Kahu Kordell Kekoa.

After the blessing, Rear



Representatives from NSA/CSS Hawai'i, the Navy, and Hawai'i Senator Daniel Inouye break ground during a ceremony Aug. 30 for the new Hawai'i Regional Security Operations Center complex at the U.S. Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific in Wahiawa.

Adm. T. G. Alexander, Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, accompanied Hawai'i Sen. Daniel Inouye; U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Keith Alexander, director, NSA/Chief, CSS, U.S. Navy Capt. Jan Tighe; U.S. Navy Capt. Clifford Maurer; and ceremony participants Mike Stramella, Cynthia Dearfield; Gerry Majkut; Theron Holloway; Cary Sparks and Henry Lee, to break ground for the new facility with Hawai'iian digging sticks, known as o'o's.

"Without the intelligence gathered by facilities like this, our policy makers are literally hand tied," said Inouye. "This facility is an important element in the progress of our nation."

A major portion of the con-

struction will include building a new operations and data management facility (OPS), which will consist of a new command center, operations briefing center, data analysis section, mission planning areas, administrative offices and video-conferencing rooms.

"What will rise from this site is NSA's commitment to continue to provide the national and tactical decision makers with the best cryptological support possible," said Lt. Gen. Keith Alexander. "This is a commitment from Congress to provide the resources to further America's intelligence advantage."

In addition to the OPS facility, several support buildings, comprised of a new base entry

control facility, a new warehouse facility, and visitors' control center, will be constructed.

"Because of the mind-boggling changes in communication technology over the last two decades coupled with the disturbing social and political dynamics, we need more, newer and better ways to process intelligence," added Alexander. "This building and its design, infrastructure, capabilities and location will support and protect an unparalleled intellectual combine."

The building is scheduled to be completed in late 2010 and the facility is the largest contractor contract in the history of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Pacific Fleet Master Chief challenges CPO selectees to get back to basics



U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief Tom Howard

U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief Tom Howard returned to the basics Aug. 21 when he spoke to more than 100 chief petty officer (CPO) selectees aboard Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

He talked about the importance of stepping up to the plate as chief petty officers, setting the standard for all to emulate, and

preserving Navy history and traditions.

"You are our reliefs," he said as he pointed to the chiefs, senior chiefs and master chiefs sitting in the audience as sponsors and mentors for the selectees. "You've got to step up and do what we have done, what those who have gone before us have done."

Among the cornerstones of getting back to the basics, Howard explained, is the importance of "getting to know your people." Howard challenged all selectees to go the extra mile to know the Sailors in their charge in order to become a true deckplate leader.

"Your job now is to become the chief that makes a difference in the lives of your Sailors," he said. "You can't do this unless you know who they are, and each one of them is different. Become the chief who makes a difference."

Taking his own advice, Howard familiarized himself with the chief selectees in attendance by canvassing the auditorium in search of the most junior selectees. Two raised their hands with only six years in the Navy. After calling out the seven- and

eight-year chief selectees, he turned his attention to those with nearly 20 years of naval service. Seven chiefs with just over 19 years stood.

"Your time has come," Howard said as the chiefs' mess erupted in applause. "In three more tours, any one of you could be the (master chief petty officer of the Navy). You are the future of our Navy."

"Don't say why; say why not," he encouraged the selectees.

Howard also advised the selectees that getting back to the basics also meant holding morning quarters and uniform inspections to ensure all Sailors are informed and ready to "do the job."

Before taking questions, Howard reaffirmed the need for each and every Sailor to learn and to study Navy history. He spoke of the Sailor's Creed and its history, evening colors, about the USS Juneau (CL 52) and the five Sullivan brothers assigned to Juneau who were killed when it sunk Nov. 13, 1942, and other historic events to emphasize that to forge the future, Sailors need to remember the past.

"We are fortunate to be stationed here in the Pacific where our naval history was arguably forged during World War II," he said.

Chief (sel.) Jonathan Bailor from USS Pasadena (SSN 752) accepted the challenges made by Howard and agreed that understanding Navy history and tradition is important for all Sailors.

"(Bringing back tradition) will make our Sailors want to be those who have gone before us," he said. "It gives our world purpose."

Bailor and the other Hawai'i-area selectees are among more than 4,000 selectees participating in a six-week induction process currently underway throughout the Navy to train, develop and prepare the new leaders to walk the deckplates as chief petty officers. Their ultimate goal is to be ready to lead.

"The conduct and quality of CPO induction will determine the future success of our newest chiefs," said Master Chief of the Navy (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr. "The quality of training is an indication of our commitment to our Sailors and our Navy."



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Joshua Adam Nuzzo
Chief petty officer selectees from the Hampton Roads area tour the Battleship Wisconsin (BB 64) on Chief Petty Officer Heritage Day. This event gave 495 selectees the opportunity to learn about their naval heritage.

Navy hosts Asia-Pacific Submarine Conference in Hawai'i

MC3 (AW) Eric J. Cutright

Fleet Public Affairs Center
Detachment Hawai'i

Thirteen nations including the United States sent representatives of their submarine forces to the seventh annual Asia-Pacific Submarine Conference held Aug. 27-29 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel in Waikiki, Hawai'i.

The conference, hosted by Rear Adm. Joe Walsh, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC), is designed to foster regional cooperation and develop and maintain relationships among Asia-Pacific submarine operators in submarine escape and rescue.

"One of the things that we've found is that many of the nations around the world

have submarine rescue assets and collectively, we have a tremendous capability. Individually, however, each nation really can't afford to just do it on their own, particularly in the Pacific where distance is such a factor in terms of the timeline of submarine rescue," explained Walsh.

Topics discussed in the submariner conference ranged from the technical differences

in the submarines based on 29 different submarine classes and rescue timelines. The timelines are based on the amount of carbon dioxide absorbent carried and the size of the submarine's crew, which can also be a deciding factor on how long the crew survives.

"This conference has proven to be very informative to the officers who belong to the submarine fleet, the

'silent service.' Almost 50 officers are here to share their experience and development, especially in the form of coordination, escape and rescue. I think that this is a great opportunity for all of us," said Commodore Sha Sohail, Commander, Submarine Force, Pakistan Navy.

Among the nations in attendance were Malaysia, Canada, Pakistan, Thailand, France, Japan, England,

Australia and the Republic of Korea.

"What's tremendous about submarine escape and rescue is that it really knows no national boundaries. All countries that operate submarines have a bond between submariners that we don't care what country the distressed submarines are from, we will bring all the assets to bare to help each other out," said Walsh.

Commentary

Fireside Chat

Navy Region Federal Fire Dept.



Cookouts are fun if done safely

Information provided by Federal Fire Department

Hot dogs and burgers cooked on the grill are tastes that are hard to beat. The Federal Fire Department reminds you that outdoor cooking can also lead to tragedy when carelessness causes serious burns. Use common sense and remember to cook safely. Here are some tips:

- Use charcoal lighter fluid safely. Never use gasoline to start or freshen a fire. Gasoline is explosive and much too dangerous to use on grills. Be cautious with charcoal lighter fluid. Use on coals only before the fire is lit. If you try to make a fire bigger by adding more fluid, the heat of the coals can ignite the stream of liquid and burn back into the can, causing it to explode in your hand.
- Try using electric starters in place of lighter fluids.
- Place grills where they will not tip over or ignite objects above them. Do not use on balconies or under awnings.
- Never bring a grill into the home. The carbon

monoxide produced by burning charcoal is dangerous in an enclosed space.

- Have a container of water or garden hose ready to extinguish a fire.
- Keep children away from fires and grills. They may try to climb on the grill to see what is cooking.
- If outdoor cooking burns anyone, cool the burn with water immediately. Cover the burn with a clean cloth and seek emergency help. Call 911 for emergency medical help.
- Although coals may appear cold, always soak them after cooking. Unsoaked coals can re-light a day later.
- Keep grills outside of tents and recreational vehicles.
- Keep damp or wet coals in a well-ventilated area. During the drying process, spontaneous combustion can occur in confined areas. If a bag of charcoal gets wet, leave it outside, away from the house.

(For more information, call Victor Flint at the Federal Fire Department's prevention department at 471-3303, ext. 633.)

Surrender of Japan, Tokyo Bay, Sept. 2, 1945

U.S. Navy carrier planes fly in formation over USS Missouri (BB 63) during the surrender ceremonies in Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2, 1945. Photographed by Lt. Barrett Gallagher, USNR, from atop Missouri's forward 16-inch gun turret. Aircraft types include F4U, TBM and SB2C. Ship in the right distance is USS Ancon (AGC 4).

Official U.S. Navy photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives



Hawai'i Navy News

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Navy women play key role in the global war on terrorism

Story and photo by
Ensign Theresa Donnelly

USS Russell (DDG 59)
Public Affairs

All across the country, women in the armed forces are working in essential positions, supporting the global war on terrorism and filling positions vital to the nation's defense. In just the surface warfare community alone, there are more than 1,316 female naval officers dedicated to serving their country.

The U.S. Navy has had a long and proud history of women serving at sea. The ranks of female naval officers has grown substantially over the last three decades and one role model today who epitomizes the strength and determination of a surface warrior at sea is Lt. j.g. Kathleen Ball of USS Russell (DDG 59).

Currently serving as Russell's navigator, she has been a strike officer, command duty officer, boarding officer, led two different divisions, and is only one of two search and rescue swimmers onboard. All of these accomplishments were earned before her 25th birthday.



Quartermaster 2nd Class Brett Carns and Lt. j.g. Kathleen Ball work out details for a transit plan onboard USS Russell (DDG 59) on Aug. 30.

A native of Palos Verdes, Calif., Ball entered the U.S. Naval Academy in June 2001

and studied oceanography. While in college, she played for the women's rugby team,

earning the coveted All American title in 2005.

Later that year, she report-

ed onboard the ship and was designated the strike warfare officer, planning Tomahawk strike missions. Additionally, Ball obtained her officer of the deck qualification and served as a boarding officer for Russell's visit, board, search and seizure team.

"I got a chance to develop a really good working relationship with the boarding team and I loved the chance to accomplish that mission," said Ball.

She was strike officer for approximately a year and a half leading the group, composed of fire controlmen and operations specialists, through two highly successful Tomahawk strike certifications. She earned the Navy Achievement Medal in January 2007 for her participation in the Tomahawk portion of Russell's Ultra C assessment.

"I really liked the team. I was able to be part of something really special and elite," said Ball. "We could really make it what we it wanted to and that allowed us to be very successful."

Her leadership skills as a division officer were unmatched as she often

gained the respect and admiration from her subordinates. Fire Controlman 2nd Class Matthew Gaitan worked for her during the time she was the strike officer. "She pushed everyone to be their best. She always wanted to help us achieve our goals. She wanted to help in any way that she could," said Gaitan.

Proving her versatility to assume a multitude of positions on the ship, Ball's next challenge came in the form of qualifying as a surface rescue swimmer. Having already been personally selected as Russell's navigator and extending for a second tour, the chance to serve as a rescue swimmer captured her interest.

"I saw an opportunity to learn survival skills that could potentially save someone's life and I knew that I wanted to be a part of this program," she explained.

Women are proving to be an operational asset to the surface warfare community. The role model of today can be found on a countless number of surface ships, serving in many capacities, and filling crucial billets essential to mission tasking.

Some like it hot

Flames push water from a fire hose back as a federal firefighter assigned to Navy Region Hawai'i Federal Fire Department combats a fire during an aircraft firefighting training evolution with the Mobile Aircraft Firefighting Training Device (MAFTD) on Aug. 29 at Navy Region Hawai'i Federal Fire Department Headquarters. The MAFTD is a state-of-the-art training tool which resembles an aircraft and provides different live fire and smoke scenarios for training to increase federal firefighter readiness and their ability to respond to aircraft fire and rescue emergencies. *More photos of Fed Fire on page A-5.*

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

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Hawai'i Navy News

Pearl Harbor Highlights



Federal firefighters assigned to Navy Region Hawai'i Federal Fire Department combat a fire during an aircraft firefighting training evolution with the Mobile Aircraft Firefighting Training Device (MAFTD) at Navy Region Hawai'i Federal Fire Department Headquarters. The MAFTD is a state-of-the-art training tool, which resembles an aircraft and provides different live fire and smoke scenarios for training to increase federal firefighter readiness and their ability to respond to aircraft fire and rescue emergencies.

(Below) A safety observer watches as federal firefighters assigned to Navy Region Hawai'i Federal Fire Department advance to combat a fire during an aircraft firefighting training evolution with the Mobile Aircraft Firefighting Training Device (MAFTD) at Navy Region Hawai'i Federal Fire Department Headquarters.

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

Federal firefighters assigned to Navy Region Hawai'i Federal Fire Department combat a fire during an aircraft firefighting training evolution with the Mobile Aircraft Firefighting Training Device (MAFTD) at Navy Region Hawai'i Federal Fire Department Headquarters.

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



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

USS La Jolla's (SSN 701) chief of the boat, Command Master Chief (SS) Gary Smedley (left), and Cmdr. Pete Hildreth, commanding officer (right), hoist up the Commander, Submarine Force Pacific Submarine Squadron One Commodore's Cup trophy on Aug. 24 at Richardson Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. La Jolla has won both Commodore Cups since the event was created.

(Right) Friends and family of Sailors assigned to Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) come aboard the ship after mooring pier side at Pearl Harbor Naval Station Pearl Harbor upon completion of a deployment to the Western Pacific.

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



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Hight

Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Key West (SSN 722) pulls alongside the pier as she returns to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Aug. 28. Key West returned to her homeport after successfully completing a seven-month deployment to the Western Pacific promoting international relations and supporting the global war on terrorism.



(Above) A Sailor assigned to Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) goes up a ladder while holding his son during a homecoming ceremony following the ship's return to its homeport of Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 4 upon completion of a four-month deployment to the Western Pacific. The ship departed Pearl Harbor on May 4 to conduct missions in the Seventh Fleet area of operations.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Michael Lantron



Submarine Squadron One Sailors compete in Commodore's Cup



Sailors attached to USS La Jolla (SSN 701) compete in the battle stations event during the Commodore's Cup for Commander, Submarine Force Pacific Submarine Squadron One on Aug. 24 at Richardson Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. La Jolla has won both Commodore Cups since the event was created.

**Story and photo by
MCSN Byung Cho**

*Commander, U.S. Pacific
Fleet*

Sailors from Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Squadron One competed in the second annual Commodore's Cup at Pearl Harbor's Richardson Field on Aug. 24.

Sailors from USS Bremerton (SSN 698), USS Greenville (SSN 772) and USS La Jolla (SSN 701) competed in events throughout the day with the ultimate goal of winning the Commodore's Cup, a wooden trophy cup.

"The purpose of the Commodore's Cup is to build friendly rivalry between the boats and continue building teamwork among the Sailors on the boats," said Command Master Chief (SS/DV) Bob Ashton of Squadron One.

La Jolla earned bragging rights to the Commodore's

Cup for the second time by securing four out of the eight events.

"It's a great feeling that you're the best boat out there on the pier for two years in a row," said Yeoman 2nd Class (SS) Ramon Almanzan, a Sailor on board La Jolla.

Sailors competed in events such as a four-mile relay, volleyball, the emergency medical assist team challenge, heaving-line toss, tug-of-war, a mystery relay, battle stations and the mystery event.

During the mystery relay, Sailors ran from one point to another and performed a task that was given to them and then ran back. The mystery event consisted of the chief of the boat and commanding officer of the submarine relaying instructions for the Sailors to carry out through a sound-powered phone.

Each event was worth points, ranging from five points to 20 points. The submarine crew with the most

points at the end of the competition won the cup.

Families of the Sailors were also invited to join the festivities and watch the competition.

"We wanted to get everyone out here together, sharing a day to compete and have their families enjoy the atmosphere," said Squadron One Commodore Capt. Lee Hankins. Hankins said that the event strengthened camaraderie for all the Sailors who participated and attended the event.

"It boosts morale because it gets Sailors off the boat for a day in beautiful Hawai'i to share with their families," said Hankins. "The competition also provides bragging rights for the boat who wins."

"It's not only stressful on a submariner, but it's also stressful on the families," said Almanzan. "Coming together is great for the families and the Sailors because they get to share this time together."

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Russell demonstrates capability in ASW exercise

Ensign Douglas Marks

USS Russell (DDG 59)

USS Russell (DDG 59) recently concluded a successful underway period on Aug. 11 in support of Submarine Commander's Course 07-3.

The Submarine Commander's Course was designed to provide real-world training to submarine perspective commanding officers. Russell's mission during the week-long course was to provide a surface ship target in support of the course. The ship also provided a test platform for the surface warfare development group (SWDG) to further develop anti-submarine warfare (ASW) weapons and tactics for surface ships.

During the course of the week, Russell squared off against three

Los Angeles-class nuclear submarines. With the support of maritime patrol aircraft from VP-37 and helicopter assets from HSL-47, Russell searched for, localized and tracked each submarine during six mini-war phases. Russell engaged each submarine throughout the mini-war events with five MK46 exercise torpedoes.

Russell's ASW watch team used the exercise to fine tune their skills. From the commanding officer down to the last sonar technician, each team member was able to apply the training in a real world tactical situation. "I learned more about my system and the procedures I need to be successful while operating in an ASW environment in this week than I possibly could have learned in a classroom," said Sonar Technician (surface) 3rd Class Andrew Kolkjen. He was employed as Russell's primary underwater battery fire control systems operator and personally conducted the firing of five MK46 exercise torpedoes.

Russell's shipboard watch team also gained valuable tactical experience. Part of the exercise was for Russell to develop surface ship torpedo evasion maneuvers. Lt. Cmdr. Todd Cloutier, the submarine officer for Destroyer Squadron Nine, said, "Russell's ASW team was very enthusiastic and focused. They did really well. Surface ships aren't made to shoot submarines," he explained. "The real purpose is to make it to where a submarine can't shoot you or misses when he tries. With the type of maneuvers the ship did, it made it very difficult for the submarine to shoot."

With a successful week of operations complete, Russell's ASW team maintained they lived up to their motto: "Subs Fear Us."

Russell is currently assigned to the Abraham Lincoln Strike Group and continues to make preparations for her upcoming deployment.

USS Reuben James visits Funafuti, Tuvalu

Ensign Fallon Rossi

Reuben James (FFG 57) Public Affairs

USS Reuben James (FFG 57) pulled into Funafuti, Tuvalu on Aug. 30 for a scheduled port visit.

Tuvalu is an island nation consisting of nine coral atolls in the south Pacific Ocean, about halfway between Hawai'i and Australia.

While in Funafuti, Cmdr. Rich Haidvogel, commanding officer, visited Funafuti Governor General Filoimea Telito and Secretary to the Government Panapasi Nelesone. Telito provided refreshments and greeted the commanding officer saying, "We thank you so much for making the effort to visit us and we wish you happiness and prosperity throughout your journey."

The ship's morale, welfare and recreation division and religious ministries department staffs set up tours and community relations projects, respectively, for the Sailors.

More than 20 Sailors volunteered to deliver medical and hygiene supplies to a local hospital. The items were provided through Project Handclasp, an organization that transports educational, humanitarian



U.S. Navy photo

Cmdr. Rich Haidvogel, commanding officer of USS Reuben James (FFG 57), presents a ship's plaque to Funafuti Governor General Filoimea Telito on Aug. 30 following the frigate's arrival at the South Pacific island nation.

and goodwill material overseas on a space-available basis in U.S. Navy ships.

Sailors also assembled eight desks built by Construction Battalion Mobile Unit 303 Detachment at Pearl Harbor. The Seabees worked through the night so the desks could be delivered to the ship the day before Reuben James got underway for

deployment.

Sailors also donated toys and spent time with children from the Nauti Primary School who thanked the Sailors with shell lei and coconut drinks. They promptly opened the toys and put them to use with an impromptu game of volleyball played by teams of Sailors and children.

Electronics Technician 1st Class William Marshall said, "I really had a lot of fun and the people were friendly. Every time I turned around, someone was smiling at me, a small child, an elderly couple walking down the road... It definitely had a small town feel to it - and talk about relaxed."

The port visit also provided an opportunity to build a relationship between the two nations. "A port visit in Tuvalu provided a rare but important opportunity to promote mutual understanding and help foster growing relationships between our two countries," said Lt. Cmdr. Travis Sisk, Reuben James' executive officer. "Our visit to Tuvalu was tangible proof of America's commitment to peace and stability in Asia."

Reuben James is currently deployed in the Western Pacific as part of U.S. Seventh Fleet. The frigate is homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i.



U.S. Navy photo

USS Russell (DDG 59) concluded a successful underway period on Aug. 11 in support of Submarine Commander's Course 07-3.



Bringing them home

Honor Guard members from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawai'i conduct a homecoming ceremony for U.S. service members lost during the Vietnam War and World War II and recovered by recovery teams last month in Vietnam, Laos and Austria.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Charity Barrett

Commander, Carrier Strike Group Nine visits Russell

Story and photo by
Ensign Theresa
Donnelly

USS Russell (DDG 59)
Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, Commander Carrier Strike Group Nine, visited the Sailors of USS Russell (DDG 59) on Aug. 27.

This was the first visit from Buskirk since USS Russell was assigned to the USS Abraham Lincoln Strike Group earlier this year.

While onboard, the admiral was given a tour of the ship's combat information center (CIC) where the Tomahawk strike team did

a demonstration of a "call for fire," a critical step in Tomahawk strike mission planning. Additionally, Buskirk was given a short briefing of Russell's ballistic missile defense upgrade by Lt. Scott Rosetti, the ship's combat system's officer.

After the CIC tour, the admiral went to the ship's sonar control center where he was introduced to sonar in-performance suite, a recent systems installation, which has greatly enhanced Russell's anti-submarine warfare capabilities.

The visit concluded with a stop on the ship's mess decks where the admiral personally recognized four

Sailors, all who have made significant contributions to the ship. The ship's crew assembled in formation to take part in the awards ceremony and admiral's call.

One Sailor who was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal was Navy Career Counselor 1st Class David Hawkes, whose sponsorship program has been praised nationally as an example of positive mentoring when welcoming new Sailors to the ship. Additionally, command retention is at an all-time high with Russell recently qualifying for the Golden Anchor Award, due in large part to the hard work and dedication of

Hawkes.

Buskirk spoke at admiral's call about the ship's reputation fleet-wide. "You all have so much to be proud of, both at a personal level and on a ship-wide level," he said.

He also congratulated the ship for its recent success with the Sea Combatant Commander's course, a large scale anti-submarine warfare exercise that the ship performed with other naval assets in the Pearl Harbor area earlier this month.

Russell is currently preparing for a Western Pacific deployment and will be leaving with the Abraham Lincoln strike group early next year.



Rear Adm. Scott Van Buskirk, Commander Carrier Strike Group Nine, presents Navy Career Counselor 1st Class David Hawkes with a Navy Achievement Medal on Aug. 27 for his work with Russell's sponsorship program and Russell's high retention rate for 2007.