

# VETERANS' DAY

*We remember & honor those who served*

# Hawai'i Navy News

Serving the "Best Homeport in the Navy"



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## Port Royal, Hopper to join Tarawa ESG

**MC2 (SW) Alexia M. Riveracorrea**  
*Fleet Public Affairs Center, Pacific*

The San Diego element of the Tarawa Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) departed Nov. 5 for a six-month deployment to the U.S. 5th and 7th Fleet areas of operations.

USS Port Royal (CG 73), USS Hopper (DDG 70) and USS Ingraham (FFG 61) will join the Tarawa ESG in Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i.

Units from San Diego include Amphibious Squadron 1, USS Tarawa (LHA 1), USS Cleveland (LPD 7), USS Germantown (LSD 42), 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit and elements of Naval Beach Group 1.

"We will be working with different units as one team in the Pacific and Indian Oceans," said Capt. John Miley, ESG commander. "The crew is ready to provide support and humanitarian assistance."

More than 5,500 Sailors and Marines make up the Tarawa ESG, which has the flexibility and power to conduct strike warfare and engage enemy forces in the air, on the sea's surface and beneath the surface. In addition, they provide support capabilities using landing craft air cushion and landing craft utility vehicles, CH-46s, CH-53s, AH-1, UH-1, SH-60 helicopters and AV-8B

Harrier jet aircraft.

"All the training, preparation and everything we've done over the past year up to this point will now be put to the test wherever we're ordered to go," said Capt. Donald R. Shunkwiler, Tarawa's commanding officer. "Our crew is well-trained to carry out the mission in all aspects."

Prior to the ship's departure, families and friends at the pier spent time with their Sailor or Marine, giving their last goodbye.

"My family just hopes the best for me and that I do my job and come back safe," said Information Systems Technician 3rd Class (SW) Erik Andrade Torres, assigned to Tarawa. "This is my first six-month deployment and I look forward to visiting new countries, learning more about different cultures and helping the community."

During a 2005 deployment, the Tarawa ESG conducted maritime security operations, participated in Exercise Bright Star, and served as an afloat staging base in the north Arabian Gulf, where they trained with the Iraqi navy and protected key Iraqi oil terminals.



Photo illustration

## Forest City Military Communities, Navy receive two national awards

**Becker Communications**

Forest City Military Communities Hawai'i has received two national awards for its public-private housing partnership with the Department of the Navy, Hawai'i. The awards included the Navy Installation Housing Team of the Year award from the Professional Housing Management Association (PHMA) and a Project of the Year merit award from Multifamily Executive.

The Navy Installation Housing Team of the Year award is given annually to the installation team - defined as having both federal and contractor or partner groups - who can demon-

strate their collective achievements in providing an outstanding living environment for military members and their families. For the second year in a row, Forest City Military Communities Hawai'i and Navy Region Hawai'i have shared this award.

The 2007 Multifamily Executive Awards are presented to more than 30 groups and/or individuals to recognize excellent projects and programs across 17 categories. Forest City received the Project of the Year merit award for its Ohana Military Communities project on Oahu.

"Forest City Military Communities Hawai'i is honored to receive these two prestigious awards as they

are a testament to our commitment to enhance the quality of life for Hawai'i's military families through superior homes and meaningful neighborhoods," said Jon Wallenstrom, senior vice president. "Winning the Outstanding Installation Team award from PHMA for the second year in a row is truly rewarding for us."

Since closing on the fourth phase of its partnership with the Department of the Navy in October, Forest City Military Communities in Hawai'i is now managing over 6,500 homes for Navy and Marine families. A majority of the homes will be demolished and built anew, resulting in a development budget exceeding \$1.8 billion.



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

Forest City Residential Communities treats Navy families to free ice cream during a "Keeping It Cool" event in Navy family housing. Then Navy and Forest City have received two national awards for its public private venture housing partnership.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Elisia Gonzales

Adm. Timothy J. Keating (in white), commander of U.S. Pacific Command and conference host, addresses the media with chiefs of defense from the Asia-Pacific region during the 10th annual Chiefs of Defense Conference on Nov. 2. The theme of the conference was "Charting a Course Toward Stability and Mutual Prosperity."

## Asia-Pacific chiefs of defense committed to peace, stability

**U.S. Pacific Command Public Affairs**

Senior military leaders from nations in the Asia-Pacific region met to discuss mutual security challenges, improve mutual relationships, and foster security cooperation at the 10th annual Chiefs of Defense Conference held in Honolulu on Oct. 30-Nov. 2.

"The relatively common themes that each of you expressed, individually and then collectively, strike us as a powerful statement," said Adm. Timothy J. Keating, commander of U.S. Pacific Command and conference host, in his closing remarks to the Asia-Pacific Chiefs

of Defense.

Participants from Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Vietnam and the United States attended the conference on Oahu. Chiefs of Defense from Canada and France also attended.

Keating stressed the unanimous desire by attendees to reduce the potential of misunderstanding between countries in the Asia-Pacific and therefore, achieve greater peace and stability and a bet-

ter quality of life for future generations of all people in the Asia-Pacific.

The theme of the conference was "Charting a Course Toward Stability and Mutual Prosperity." The group received presentations on topics such as maximizing regional multinational operations, mitigating impact of energy issues on regional security, and military support to law enforcement.

Lt. Gen. Syed Athar Ali, director general, Joint Staff for Pakistan, stated the importance of meetings like the chiefs of defense conferences, not only to discuss regional

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# Sailors, Kalihi Elementary School celebrate Red Ribbon Week

Story and photo by  
MCSN Byung K. Cho

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public  
Affairs

Hawaii-based Sailors and Kalihi Elementary School faculty and students celebrated the third annual Red Ribbon Week at the school Oct. 31.

Red Ribbon Week is a week-long event when students throughout the United States pledge to live a healthy, drug-free and alcohol-free lifestyle.

The National Family Partnership organized the first nationwide Red Ribbon Campaign to educate children about the effects of drug and alcohol abuse in 1988.

The red ribbon was adopted as a symbol for the movement in honor of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, a federal agent with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, who was kidnapped and killed in Mexico City while investigating drug traffickers in 1985.

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Joshua VanOrden from

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, introduced a military working dog to students and explained how it can sniff out drugs.

In addition, the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band treated students to a performance.

One fifth grade student said she enjoyed watching the band sing songs. "I like the Sailors coming here because they like helping us," she said.

"This is my favorite gig I do every year," said Musician 2nd Class James Randorff, a guitarist in the Pacific Fleet Band. "The kids are so appreciative of what we do for them."

"The students enjoyed watching the band's performance and the military working dog demonstration."

Pacific Fleet selected Kalihi Elementary School as part of the Adopt-a-School program in 2005. Sailors have volunteered their time to go to the school and help mentor and tutor the students, as well as participate in events such as Red Ribbon Week.

"The Sailors have been instrumental in supporting this program," said Natalie Mun-Takata, school principal. "The involvement between our Navy partners and our students is so important because the Sailors contribute to their education."

Mun-Takata said it is also important that the Sailors volunteer and interact with the children because it shows the children that they care.

"I think it went really well; the kids were excited to see the band and the military working dog," said Senior Chief Religious Program Specialist (SW/FMF) Peter Dyksterhouse, Pacific Fleet Staff Personal Excellence Partnership coordinator. "We're going to increase our volunteer efforts at the school through tutoring and more events like this."

Dyksterhouse said it is important for Sailors to volunteer in the community because it gives the community a better understanding of what the military does.



Senior Chief Religious Program Specialist Peter Dyksterhouse, Pacific Fleet Personal Excellence Partnership coordinator, gives a high-five to a Kalihi Elementary School student during the school's third annual Red Ribbon Week ceremony on Oct. 31. Red Ribbon Week is a week-long event when students throughout the United States pledge to live a healthy, drug-free and alcohol-free lifestyle. Pacific Fleet has worked with Kalihi Elementary School as part of the national Adopt-a-School program since 2005.

# CNO-directed master chief visits USS Russell Sailors

Story and photo by  
Ensign Theresa Donnelly

USS Russell (DDG 59)  
Public Affairs

CNO-directed Command Master Chief (CMDM) (SS/SW) Mark Rudes from Commander, U.S. Third Fleet visited Hawaii-based, guided missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) on Oct. 30-31, while the ship was underway off the coast of southern California.

The visit was one stop in a series of visits to the various ships assigned to the USS Abraham Lincoln Strike Group.

While onboard, the master chief visited several sections of the ship, including a stop at the chief's mess, speaking about the critical importance that the mess plays in mission success and crew morale.

Additionally, Rudes stopped by the crew galley, engineering spaces and radio, shaking hands with every crew member he encountered, asking where they were originally from, and getting a general feel on how things are going at the Navy's deckplate level.



Third Fleet CNO-directed Master Chief Mark Rudes speaks to USS Russell (DDG 59) Sailors Electricians Mate 2nd Class Eddie Ko and Gas Turbine System Technician 2nd Class (mechanical) Matthew McTighe about upcoming naval policy changes.

He even received a haircut at the ship's barber shop. "He was very interested in the welfare of the ship," said

ship's barber, Ship's Serviceman Seaman Erasmo Delapana.

"After cutting his hair, he

presented me with a command coin. He was a real easy guy to talk to," said Delapana.

During the visit, Rudes mentioned many policy changes coming up for the Navy such as Task Force Uniform and specifically, the new PT uniform.

Russell Sailors asked the Third Fleet master chief questions regarding the direction that many of the enlisted "A" schools are headed as well as the overall direction that today's Navy is taking in terms of retention and manning.

Rudes emphasized the importance of balance between the needs of the Navy in regard to mission accomplishment while making sure that Sailors' personal needs are met.

"These are challenges that the Navy has, but a successful command turns these challenges into opportunities," said Rudes.

Russell strives to provide this balance to its Sailors. The ship takes the needs of the crew very seriously and complements mission tasking with morale, welfare and recreation events, pizza nights on the mess decks, and several other crew-oriented events.

The ship's weekly "town hall" meetings give all ranks a forum to voice their concerns, develop ideas to make Russell better, and inform all hands of upcoming events in the ship's schedule.

"It's always a pleasure to be on a ship with such high morale," commented Rudes.

Rudes' visit increased the crew's knowledge of the big picture of the Navy, informing Sailors of the many new changes happening in the fleet.

He also took the time to thank everyone for their service and emphasized the importance of the ship as an asset in the global war on terrorism.

"I thought that the visit from master chief really showed the crew that what we're doing is being recognized at a higher level," said Electronics Technician 3rd Class Tyler Kirkland.

Russell is currently operating with the USS Abraham Lincoln Strike group in Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX), which is designed to flex all warfare areas in preparation for next year's deployment.

# Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

## Navy to fund professional credentialing exams for Sailors

Ensign Jan Shultis

Center for Information Dominance Public Affairs

Sailors pursuing occupational credentials can now receive funding to pay for approved credentialing exams, according to NAVADMIN 293/07, released Nov. 2.

By using Navy Credentialing Opportunities Online (COOL), Sailors can see how they can earn civilian certifications and licenses based on their ratings and jobs.

"COOL offers Sailors tremendous opportunity of having the Navy fund the entire cost of exams for credentials closely aligned with their Navy jobs and training," said Vice Adm. John C. Harvey, Chief of Naval Personnel. The Navy is funding approximately 14,000-16,000 credentials this year. The Navy may issue a pre-paid voucher or reimburse costs associated with credential exams, as well as renewal and maintenance fees, provided funding is available.

Some occupations have certain professional and technical standards. The process of meeting these standards and earning official recognition (in the form of credentials, licenses or certificates) is called credentialing.

The Navy's credential program

is designed to further develop the personal and professional capability of the total Navy force, thus enhancing force readiness. Credentialing offers new, non-traditional training to enhance individual's capabilities and improve force readiness through workforce initiatives.

"The COOL Web page went live in July of 2006 and it's a great tool giving Sailors comprehensive information on how to obtain credentials and apply for funding," said Harvey.

Currently, more than 1,500 occupational credentials have been identified as having a strong correlation with Navy jobs that qualify them for exam funding.

The program is being administered on a first come, first served basis, with funds being released each quarter of the fiscal year. This will ensure availability of funds during the latter part of the year for Sailors who were not able to participate earlier due to deployments or other constraints.

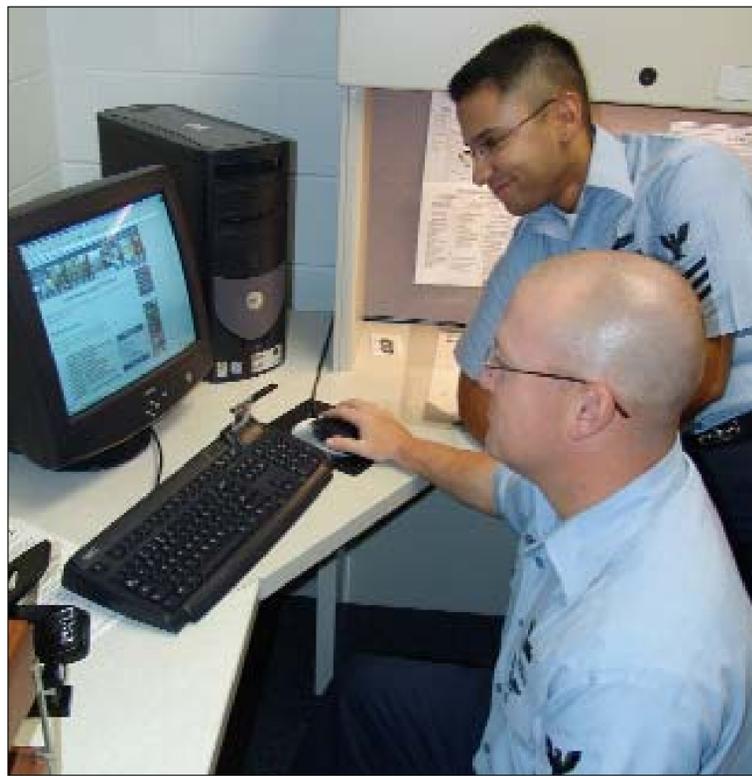
Capt. Connie Frizzell, program manager for the Navy Credentialing Program and commanding officer for the Center for Information Dominance, said the new funding policy will enable more Sailors than ever to achieve their educational and professional goals.

"The strong usage statistics on

Navy COOL indicate that Sailors are very interested in taking advantage of credentialing opportunities to build their professional qualifications," Frizzell said. "The new funding policy will make credentialing even more appealing and is a significant step forward in the professionalism of our Navy workforce. We're presenting Sailors with another key to career success that will benefit them while they're serving in the Navy and beyond."

Credentialing is important for several reasons. Federal, state or local law may require specific credentials to legally perform some jobs. Employers may choose to hire only employees who have certain credentials or to pay those employees more. Credentials may improve an employee's prospects for promotion. Credentialed service members demonstrate to prospective civilian employers that their skills are on par with their civilian peers. Civilian credentialing can contribute to military career development and may be accepted for self development requirements and in performance evaluations.

For more information, log on to Navy COOL at <https://www.cool.navy.mil>. Navy funding information is available on the costs and resources page.



U.S. Navy photo by Darlene Goodwin

Sailors visit the Navy Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (Navy COOL) Web site. Navy COOL offers Sailors detailed information on occupational credentials that correspond with every Navy rating, job and occupation, and outlines the paths to achieve them.

## Valuing diversity

AFCM (AW) Michael G. Cook

Commander Navy Region Hawai'i/Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific Equal Opportunity Advisor

How is valuing diversity different from equal employment opportunity (EEO)/military equal opportunity (MEO)/affirmative action (AA)?

This is one of the most common questions that arise when discussing diversity. EEO/MEO/AA are focused on preventing and or correcting discriminatory practices that impact workforce representation. Diversity goes beyond numbers and seeks to maximize the potential of every individual in an organization.

Simply put, EEO/MEO/AA are designed to level the playing field for everyone. The goal of diversity is to create a more flexible, diversity-friendly environment where the talents of all employees can flourish and be leveraged for individual,

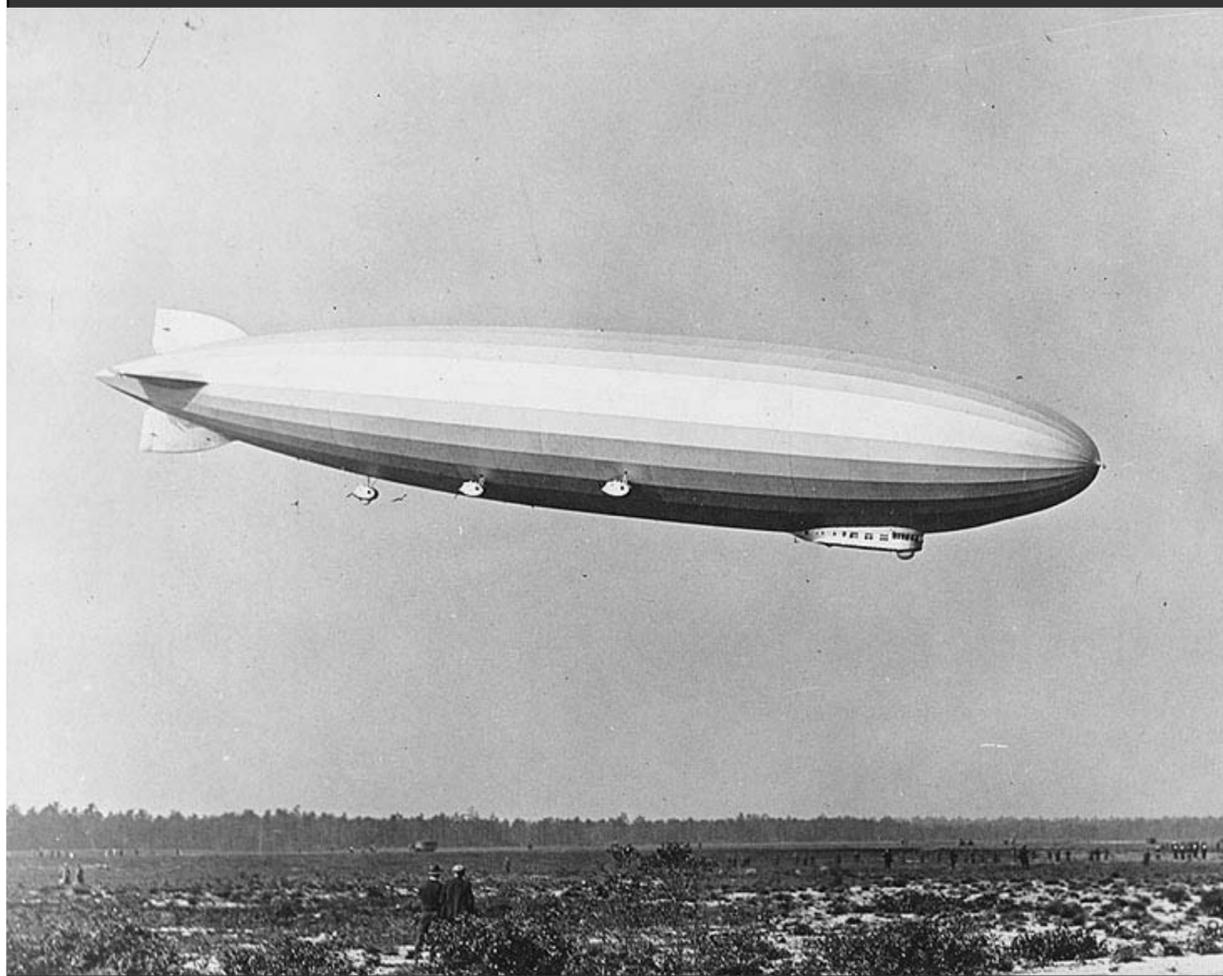
work team and organizational success.

The following provides comparisons between the two:

### EEO/affirmative action

- Quantitative: Focused on demographic profile change.
  - Government mandated: Imposed and often unwelcome.
  - Remedial: Focused on changing historic patterns of discrimination.
  - Reactive: Problem response.
  - Beneficiaries: Protected groups.
  - Initial step: Culture change not required.
- ### Valuing diversity
- Qualitative: Focused on environmental readiness.
  - Voluntary: Internally driven and welcomed.
  - Strategic: Focused on increasing innovation and creating competitive advantage.
  - Proactive: Opportunity driven.
  - Beneficiaries: Everyone.
  - Follow-up step: Culture change required.

## Navy airship arrives from Germany



Official U.S. Navy photograph from the collections of the Naval Historical Center

Airship LZ-126 arrives at Naval Air Station Lakehurst, N.J. after her flight across the Atlantic from Germany on Oct. 15, 1924. After delivery to the U.S. Navy, she became USS Los Angeles (ZR-3). Note that the airship has no markings. On Nov. 3, 1931, the dirigible USS Los Angeles (ZR 3) made a 10-hour flight from NAS Lakehurst, N.J., carrying 207 persons and establishing a new record for the number of passengers carried into the air by a single craft.

## Get ready to vote

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Korman

Navy Region Hawai'i Voting Area Officer

As we approach another election cycle, Navy units throughout Hawai'i should be in the process of distributing SF-76 Federal Postcard Application forms to all personnel, their voting age family members, and Navy civilians within each unit.

Unit voting area officers



(VAOs) may encourage their members to use either the hard copy or the electronic formats of the SF-76 form. It is important for citizens to register now, via the SF-76 form, to enable them to be permitted to vote later.

Information, assistance and resources can be obtained by contacting Lt. Cmdr. Edward Korman, via email at [Edward.Korman@navy.mil](mailto:Edward.Korman@navy.mil) or at 473-5023.

## Spouses to Teachers

Fleet and Family Support Center

Representatives will be available to provide information about the Spouses to Teachers Program from 9-11:30 a.m. Nov. 29 at Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC), Moanalua Navy Services Center. They will also offer information on other opportunities such as teachers assistants.

The Spouses to Teachers Program is a mobile career supporting the mobile spouse. It provides support to spouses of active duty military and selected Reserves in their pur-

suit of kindergarten through grade 12 teaching positions.

Limited funding will be provided to eligible spouses to reimburse the cost of examinations required for state teacher licensure/ certification. The maximum available financial assistance is \$600 per person.

Eligible participants include spouses of active duty personnel, spouses of members of selected Reserve and National Guard, and spouses of members of individual ready Reserve recalled to active duty.

For more information and to register, call the FFSC at 474-1999, ext. 1.

## Hawai'i Navy News

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# Port Royal officer returns from IA

**USS Port Royal (CG 73) Public Affairs**

USS Port Royal (CG 73) welcomed home Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Blakeslee, who returned from her assignment in support of the Navy's individual augmentee (IA) program, on Nov. 1 at Honolulu International Airport.

The guided missile cruiser's former combat systems officer left for an IA this past May in support of Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines. The IA program is a joint-service operation, where the Navy augments other forces in support of the global war on terrorism.

As part of the IA, Blakeslee embarked aboard USNS Fred W. Stockham where her responsibilities included planning and executing support for numerous joint operations and regional engagements. She helped coordinate medical support for over

2,100 citizens of the Philippines and aided in training Malaysia, Singapore and Philippine forces in maritime interdiction operations.

"The southern Philippine Islands are a hiding spot for a terrorist organization with financial ties to Al Qaida," explained Blakeslee. "It benefits the U.S. to support the goals of the Philippines for our own security."

Blakeslee and the crew of USNS Stockham have worked tirelessly to support these goals. "Since I've been onboard, we've been heavily involved in supporting the Philippines combat operations on Jolo Island. We've helped with the rescue of a sinking passenger ferry, we've provided medical support to civil action programs, and we've supported a special operations exercise with the Malaysian Special Forces."

Blakeslee will enjoy a few weeks in Hawai'i before reporting for her next tour of duty.

# NCTAMSPAC blood drive supports the warfighter

**Story and photo by CWO4 Clifton Jenkins**

*Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific Public Affairs*

Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific (NCTAMS PAC) hosted a blood drive on Nov. 1 at the base gym.

Representatives from Tripler Army Medical Center's (TAMC) blood donor center noted that Sailors lined up most of the morning and afternoon in order to support the life saving mission. The base gym was used as the staging area to pre-qualify members for this lifesaving gift. Sailors were interviewed through various stages to ensure that they were fully qualified.

According to Sgt. Jennifer Palacios, TAMC Blood Donor Center, this blood drive was one of the best command supported efforts ever.

Guy Harrigan, the blood donor recruiter, offered, "The efforts of NCTAMS PAC has



Sgt. Jennifer Palacios (left) and Sgt. Marcia Thompson, assigned to the blood donor center at Tripler Army Medical Center, prepare to receive a blood donation from Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Anna Sterling from NACTAMS.

always been greatly appreciated and their support of the community blood program will go a long way toward replenishing blood supplies and ultimately saving lives. In addition, the blood donor center very much appreciated

NCTAMS PAC efforts during this crucial time."

"The blood donor center collected 50 units from NCTAMS PAC personnel in this drive. The blood collected will be used to help the warfighters in Iraq and

Afghanistan," he added.

Those interested in scheduling a drive for their commands should contact Harrigan at 433-6699 or email Guy.Harrigan@amedd.army.mil.



**U.S. Navy photo**

Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Blakeslee returned from her assignment in support of the Navy's individual augmentee (IA) program on Nov. 1 at Honolulu International Airport.



## Final farewell to Adm. Crowe

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, presents the national ensign to Shirley Crowe, widow of Adm. William J. Crowe, the 11th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, during a funeral ceremony held Oct. 31 at Annapolis, Md. Crowe died Oct. 18 at the age of 82.

**U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Chad J. McNeeley**

# Pearl Harbor Highlights



(Above) Boatswain's Mate Seaman Justin Schendel, assigned to guided missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59), 'tags' the refueling probe of Canadian oiler HMCS Protecteur (AOR 509) during a replenishment at sea. The practice of affixing the crest of the receiving ship on the delivery ship's probe dates back many years. Russell has received fuel from replenishment ships a total of four times since leaving Pearl Harbor on Sept. 23. Russell is currently underway off the coast of southern California participating in Composite Training Unit Exercise.

U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Theresa Donnelly



(Right) Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Nikodem Wawozny and other Sailors onboard guided missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) stand at parade rest while waiting for Canadian oiler HMCS Protecteur (AOR 59) to come alongside for a replenishment at sea.

U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Theresa Donnelly



QMC James Watkins, assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor, re-enlists on Nov. 6 at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Fountain.

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



(Above) Seamen David Burley directs personnel to remove chocks and chains on USS Russell's (DDG 59) flight deck during a scheduled flight quarters. The ship has conducted over 60 approaches and landings of a wide variety of different helicopters during Composite Training Unit Exercise, a large scale series of tactical drills and scenarios with the USS Abraham Lincoln Strike Group. See story and additional photo on page A-6.

U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Theresa Donnelly

(Below) The Naval Station Pearl Harbor honor guard provides a gun salute at the scattering of ashes for Gunnery Mate 2nd Class Theodore Lane on Oct. 17 at the USS Utah Memorial located on Ford Island. Lane was a former crew member who served on board USS Utah.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 David N. Dexter



# Safety is paramount for USS Russell's flight deck crew

Ensign Theresa Donnelly

USS Russell (DDG 59)

Since the beginning of Composite Training Unit Exercise, the flight deck crews onboard the Pearl Harbor-based, guided missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) have conducted more than 70 deck landing qualifications (DLQ) and numerous personnel and parts transfers, all while demonstrating that safety is the number one priority for the ship.

The guided missile destroyer's flight deck can accommodate the landing of almost any type of military or civilian helicopter, with very few exceptions. Landings are performed both during the day and at night, when visibility is often restricted to just a few miles.

For this reason, among others, it's imperative that the crew is well trained and can quickly react in case an emergency arises.

"As soon as flight quarters is announced over the 1MC [general announcing system], the team is ready to begin," said Chief Boatswain's Mate Shawn Salazar. "They immediately start putting on their life preservers and check to see that it contains all the required gear."

Flight quarters is often briefed hours or days in advance with the crew's knowledge of what the evolution is going to be for, whether its DLQs, transfer of parts, or people needing to leave or come to the ship.

The crew begins by taking down all safety nets and lowering the ship's high frequency antennas. In order to do

this, the ship must slow down to a safe speed to allow personnel time to remove the safety nets that line the edge of the flight deck. Proper supervision is essential.

"Before we even start to take the nets down, the safety officer will check with the bridge to see if the ship is on a steady course and that all personnel have donned life jackets," said Seaman David Burley.

Next, the crew conducts foreign object damage (FOD) walkdown. This ensures that loose particles will not be sucked into the engines of the helicopter or cause an injury. Personnel form a line at the beginning of the flight deck and walk from the forward end to the aft end, visually inspecting the deck for any debris.

"If you have a huge piece of the deck's non-skid blow up during the landing, it could really hurt somebody," said Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Daniel Kleemeyer.

The ship's at sea fire parties, known as crash and smash, also participate in FOD walkdown.

The three fire teams will be on station as soon as flight quarters is called over the 1MC. More than 15 crew members, each assigned to different roles, are standing by in case of an aircraft fire or crash.

If the helicopter needs to take on fuel, there is an additional team known as grapes (due to the purple jerseys they wear) who will refuel the helicopter. They are standing by each time flight quarters is called, even if the helicopter is not scheduled for a refueling.

"Sometimes the helicopter

may stay longer than expected and it's our job to be there to provide the fuel if the helicopter needs it," said Gas Turbine (mechanical) 2nd Class Mathew McTighe, who is the refueling supervisor.

"The fire and fuel teams are extremely well trained. They know what their role is and how to fight the fire if it were to occur," said McTighe.

Prior to getting underway, the ship sends personnel to schools to ensure that the team receives the proper training. Russell's deck division, primarily in charge of the evolution, sends personnel to landing signal enlisted (LSE) school, often months before assuming the role. This is to ensure that they have plenty of on-the-job training beforehand.

Once on final approach, the ship's helicopter control officer, Ensign Kurt Welday, provides the helicopter pilot with information regarding wind speed, direction, and the course and speed of the ship. This is so that the winds are optimum for a safe landing.

Landing a helicopter on a moving ship is not an easy task. It takes a great deal of coordination, training and the motivation to conduct the evolution safely and properly. Russell's flight deck crew is a testament to the hard work and dedication to duty that these Sailors demonstrate on a daily basis.

Russell is currently underway off the coast of southern California participating in Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX), a large-scale tactical exercise with the USS Abraham Lincoln Strike Group.



U.S. Navy photo by BM2 Daniel Kleemeyer

Seamen David Burley, assigned to guided missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59), directs a Canadian SH-3 Seaking, which was assisting with a personnel transfer during Composite Training Unit Exercise. The large-scale training exercise is designed to improve interoperational ability between the USS Abraham Lincoln Strike Group and its carrier air wing assets.

# Pearl Harbor Sailors go head-to-head in RHIB race



Sailors paddle rigid hull inflatable boats (RHIBs) at the start of the RHIB race and regatta held at Rainbow Bay Marina on Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The event was part of Surface Line Week 2007, taking place from Oct. 26 to Nov. 2, which puts Sailors assigned to surface ships homeported in Hawai'i against each other in friendly competition to promote camaraderie, rating skill development and teamwork.

**Story and photo by  
MC3 Paul D. Honnick**

*Fleet Public Affairs Center  
Detachment Hawai'i*

Sailors from Hawai'i-based ships competed head-to-head in a rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) race and regatta Oct. 31 at Rainbow Bay Marina at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

Crews from guided missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) and guided missile destroyers USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), USS O'Kane (DDG 77) and USS Chafee (DDG 90) participated in the event as part of Surface Line Week 2007.

"The race is for the ships to be able to demonstrate some of the training that they've picked up through the last couple of years and to build

camaraderie," said Chief Fire Controlman Richard Purcell, race coordinator.

Prior to the race, the participants were judged on a boat inspection and boat report, and a "rules of the road" written exam to test their knowledge.

The crews started off by paddling their boats 30 yards to the first marker. After the first marker, the crews started their engines and ran the bulk of the race.

At the second marker, the crews killed their engines and ran on their emergency tillers, a device used when the boat's main engine fails.

For the final stretch of the race, the crews killed their emergency tillers and paddled to the finish line.

It was a close race, but after the final judging, Paul Hamilton's crew squeezed by

Lake Erie for the victory.

"It's for bragging rights, but at the same time it helps build camaraderie across the waterfront," said Ensign Brent Halloway, Paul Hamilton's first lieutenant. "You know everybody around the harbor so it's friendly," said Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Anthony Sanchez, Paul Hamilton's RHIB coxswain.

Even though the competition was fun, the event still served as a practical exercise for real-life scenarios including non-compliance visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) missions.

"When we do VBSS boarding, we have to be able to keep up and maneuver with other ships," said Engineman 2nd Class (SW) Kiel Barnott, Paul Hamilton's RHIB engineer.

## SurgeMain Reservists provide flexible support to Pearl Harbor Shipyard



Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SS) Scott Curtis (left) and Senior Chief Damage Controlman Richard Watterson return gauges to a storage enclosure after testing piping systems aboard USS Columbia (SSN 771).

**Story and photo by  
Marshall Fukuki**

*Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard  
Public Affairs*

Two SurgeMain Reservists had just completed three weeks of active duty at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and were in the process of checking out when they were asked to extend their stay. Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SS) Scott Curtis and Senior Chief Damage Controlman Richard Watterson agreed on the spot to remain another week to help support USS Columbia's (SSN 771) undocking schedule.

"It's this kind of flexibility and 'can do' attitude, coupled with extensive civilian shipyard-related skills, that make the SurgeMain program successful," said Lt Cmdr. Leonard Laforteza, Shipyard SurgeMain production and resource manager.

SurgeMain, short for surge maintenance, provides a part-time, flexible, fully qualified maintenance workforce of Reservists that the Navy can call up and assign wherever it is needed.

According to Laforteza, in Fiscal Year 2007, SurgeMain provided 145 Sailors for a total of over 2,200 man-days at zero cost to the shipyard.

In civilian life, Watterson of Goliad, Texas is a captain in the Houston Fire Department. A SurgeMain returnee to the shipyard, he said his most recent tour was an opportunity to work aboard submarines. "I am always happy to provide the support needed, whenever needed," Watterson said.

Curtis, of Elbridge, N.Y., is a supervisor in a control center for hydroelectric power plants. "It's been great. I enjoy it," he said of his time at the shipyard. "Ninety-five percent of what I've been doing is what I did when I was on active duty."

Curtis recalled that when he was in the Navy, he served as an engine room supervisor on submarines. One of them was USS Olympia (SSN 717), now being overhauled in the yard.

"The shipyard workers accommodated us well," he said. "Good and positive relationships were developed between SurgeMain members and shipyard workers."

## Chiefs of defense strive for common goal

**Continued from A-1**

military issues, but the coordination of disaster relief efforts and peacekeeping operations.

Keating agreed. "Each of us in our own way understands ... the benefit of cooperation and collaboration, and above all the necessity not to compete unnecessarily," Keating said. "There is immense power, in the gathering of like-

minded men and women who are committed to a common cause of peace and stability."

The conference host and location changes each year, alternating between U.S. Pacific Command in Hawai'i and a partner nation in the Asia-Pacific region. Last year it was hosted by the Malaysian Armed Forces.

U.S. Pacific Command is the headquarters responsible for

all United States air, ground and maritime military forces in the Asia-Pacific region. U.S. Pacific Command is the largest geographical command in the Department of Defense. It encompasses 43 countries bordered by two oceans, including an area that covers more than 100 million square miles from the west coast of the United States to the east coast of Africa.