

## Navy missile likely hit fuel tank on disabled satellite

Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

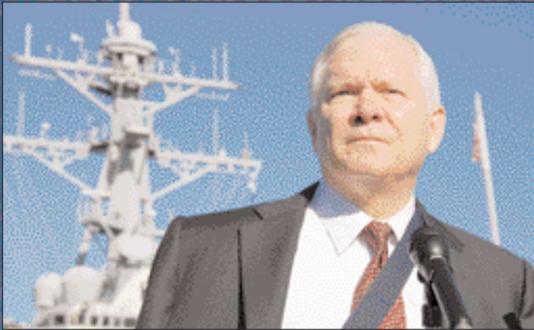
The missile fired from a U.S. Navy ship in the Pacific Ocean that hit a malfunctioning U.S. reconnaissance satellite late Wednesday likely accomplished its goal of destroying the satellite's toxic fuel tank, a senior U.S. military officer said Thursday.

Preliminary reports indicate the SM-3 missile struck its primary target, which was a tank full of toxic hydrazine rocket fuel carried aboard the 5,000-pound satellite, Marine Gen. James E. Cartwright, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters at a Pentagon news conference.

"The intercept occurred... We're very confident that we hit the satellite," Cartwright said. "We also have a high degree of confidence that we got the tank."

Video shown to reporters depicts the satellite exploding at the point of contact with the missile. Cartwright said the visible fireball and the vapor cloud or plume around it suggest that the fuel tank was hit and the hydrazine had burned up.

"The high-definition imagery that we have indicates that we hit the spacecraft right in the area of the



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (AW/SW) James E. Foehl  
Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates speaks with news media during a press conference Feb. 21 pier side at Naval Station Pearl Harbor after a visit to the Pearl Harbor-based guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59)

tank," Cartwright said.

However, he added, it probably would take another 24 to 48 hours of sifting through data "to get to a point where we are very comfortable with our analysis that we indeed breached the tank."

Radar sweeps of the satellite's debris field thus far show that no parts larger than a football survived the strike, Cartwright said. Post-strike surveillance shows satellite debris falling into the atmosphere above the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, he said. Small remnants are likely to burn up in the atmosphere, never making it to the Earth's surface.

The U.S. State Department has provided

updates on the situation to its embassies around the world, Cartwright noted. There are no reports of debris reaching the Earth, he said, adding that consequence-management crews are on standby to respond to such a circumstance, if required.

The SM-3 missile was launched by the USS Lake Erie, homeported at Pearl Harbor positioned northwest of Hawaii, at 10:26 p.m. EST yesterday, Cartwright said. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, who is on an overseas trip, gave the go-ahead to fire, Cartwright said.

The missile intercepted the satellite about 153 nautical miles above the Earth, just before it began to enter the atmosphere, Cartwright said. Joint Space Operations Center technicians at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif, confirmed the satellite's breakup about 24 minutes later.

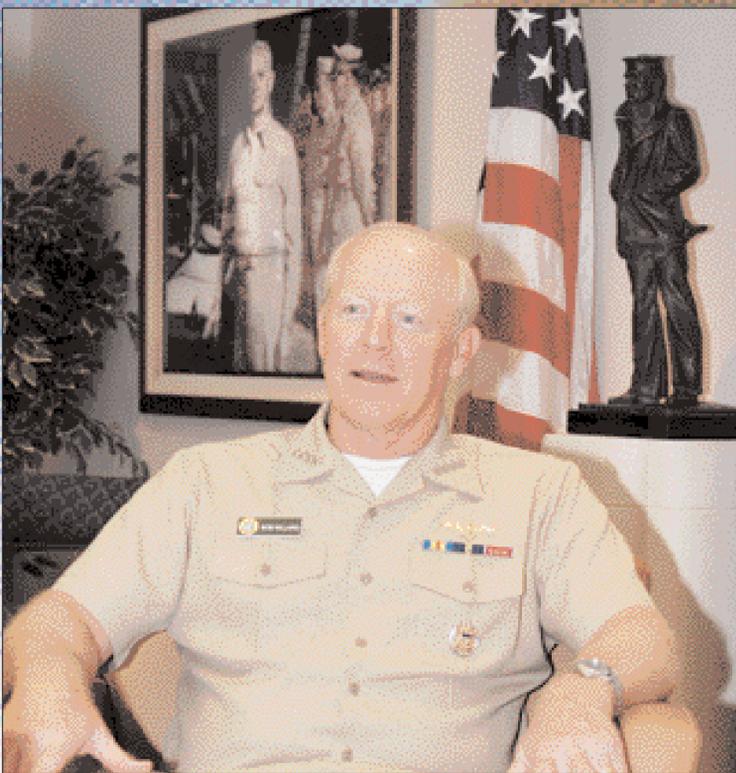
The National Reconnaissance Office-managed satellite malfunctioned soon after it was launched in 2006, making it unresponsive to ground control. The satellite, orbiting Earth every 90 minutes or so, was expected to fall to Earth in February or March with its tank of hydrazine intact, possibly endangering human populations.

President Bush directed the Defense Department to engage the satellite just before it entered the atmosphere. U.S. officials decided to shoot down the satellite because of the danger posed by the hazardous hydrazine, Cartwright explained, noting the goal was for the missile to hit and rupture the tank of rocket fuel, causing the hydrazine to burn up harmlessly in the atmosphere, along with debris from the stricken satellite.

See SATELLITE, A-6

A single modified tactical Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) launches from the U.S. Navy Aegis cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) on Feb. 20, successfully impacting a non-functioning National Reconnaissance Office satellite approximately 247 kilometers (133 nautical miles) over the Pacific Ocean, as it traveled in space at more than 17,000 mph.

U.S. Navy photo



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Sarah Murphy

Adm. Robert F. Willard, 32nd commander of the Pacific Fleet, pauses at his office to reflect on the important naval contributions of Adm. Chester Nimitz, days before the naval legend's birthday. Outside the admiral's office at Pacific Fleet Headquarters is a miniature Nimitz museum displaying personal memorabilia, medals and photographs of the former Pacific Fleet commander.

## Adm. Willard remembers Navy legend

Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

This Sunday marks the birthday of one of the greatest admirals in naval history, Adm. Chester Nimitz. Nearly 42 years after the commander's death, his legacy and namesakes remain strongly embedded in

Hawai'i and throughout the Navy. Today many schools, ships, highways, and even Pearl Harbor's main gate, bear his name, but it was Adm. Nimitz's extraordinary leadership over the Pacific Fleet during World War II, including the Battle of Midway, that has given him a prominent place in American history.

Adm. Robert F. Willard, Commander of the Pacific Fleet, said he, as well as his naval predecessors, can't help but be touched by Adm. Nimitz's historic naval contributions.

"This man accomplished greatness throughout World War II as he managed the Pacific

See NIMITZ, A-2

## Friends, family enjoy Navy experience aboard USS O'Kane

Lt. j.g. Dave Nobles

USS O'Kane (DDG 77)  
Public Affairs

The Pearl Harbor-based Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) recently hosted more than 150 visitors, family and friends of its crew.

After months of planning, O'Kane embarked the O'Kane "o'hana" the Hawaiian term for family – and left its homeport bound for Lahaina, Maui.

"It was truly a unique experience," said Cmdr. Tom Druggan, O'Kane's commanding officer. "Normally, family cruises are just out the channel and back. For us, this was a great opportunity to take our friends and families on a truly special adventure, both at sea and ashore."

The crew organized many events for their friends and family, including a scavenger hunt and several Morale, Welfare and Recreation contests, allowing the guests to get a glimpse into the daily life of a Sailor.

"I had a great time and it was my daughters' first time doing something like this," said the wife of Sonar Technician (Surface) 1st Class (SW) Troy Hunsberger. "The only thing that made it tough was the waves. I don't know how these guys do it." Although it took some of the new crew members a while to find their "sea legs," the enjoyment was shared by all.

"They all loved it," said Quartermaster 2nd Class (SW) Robert Timmer, who



U.S. Navy photo IT3 (SW) Stephanie Albers

Senior Chief Electronics Technician (SW) Robert Cuddeback and Gas Turbine System Technician (Mechanical) 3rd Class Arthur Wade of the USS O'Kane show a family member a parrot fish that was caught off the flight deck while anchored in Maui from Feb. 1 - 4. This was part of a cruise that allowed family and friends to ride the ship to Maui and experience life on a military vessel.

brought six family members on board for the trip. "It gave me a new appreciation for what I do, seeing how much they enjoyed experiencing it."

After arriving in Maui, families and friends were afforded an opportunity to enjoy the sights and sounds of the second-largest Hawaiian island, including Haleakala and the Road to Hana. Many were hosted by the Navy League of Maui, including a special Superbowl Sunday event.

"The island was beautiful," said the wife of O'Kane's weapons officer, Lt. j.g. Todd George. "It was my first time in Maui, and now I can't wait to go back."

Druggan said that there are risks associated with family day cruises that require a very high level of planning and expert execution. "These are rare opportunities, and I am thrilled that we could take advantage of it. And, as we showed, with the right planning, they can come off perfectly and be a huge success. I am receiving thank you notes and e-mails almost daily – our friends and families had a tremendous time."

The ship returned safely to Pearl Harbor with a cheerful O'Kane o'hana, who enjoyed the rare opportunity of life at sea as well as a wonderful port of call.



NMCRS recognizes Volunteers of the Year See page A-4



Crommelin loads Project Handclasp goods to deliver to Latin America See page B-3



FISC Pearl Harbor Flagship Awards 2008 See page A-7



USS Los Angeles Sailors participate in Great Aloha Run See page B-1



# Nimitz: Navy legend leaves behind strong legacy

Continued from A-1

war fight," he said. "I would think that Pacific Fleet commanders before, dating back over 60 years, have all been strongly influenced by Nimitz, the things he did, and the principled leadership he provided."

Willard, who became the 32nd Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet in May 2007, now not only shares the same title as the former naval legend but also the same passion for serving his country. "I've been fortunate to have the opportunity to serve my country for nearly 35 years and the privilege to lead

great teams of men and women serving in our Navy," he said.

Admiral Willard and his wife, Donna, currently reside at the Nimitz home on Makalapa. At Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Willard also works from Admiral Nimitz's office. The outside of Willard's office has been converted into a miniature museum, showcasing the leader's significant medals, memorabilia and original desk Nimitz used while he served as Commander of Navy's Pacific Fleet. "Every day I am reminded of his great contributions to our Navy and our Nation," Willard said. "I am

surrounded by memorabilia of his service as a fleet admiral and commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet and I am inspired to live up to his standard."

Photographs of Nimitz and other historic figures from World War II, such as President Franklin D. Roosevelt, General Douglas MacArthur and Doris Miller, adorn the walls, capturing the rich spirit of Navy's past. Candid photographs of Nimitz playing horseshoes with his men and romping with his beloved dog, Makalapa, also offer a lighter side to the naval legend.

For Willard, having his

Pearl Harbor office serve as a tribute to Nimitz only seems fitting. "I think about where we are today and what Admiral Nimitz and other great leaders from World War II accomplished," he said. "Many of the lessons we learned, some at the cost of many American lives, are still applicable today."

According to Willard, Nimitz's legacy can still be seen today in the faces of his Sailors who are faced with challenging missions. "When faced with overwhelming challenges, I want our service men and women to remember that Admiral Nimitz said: 'God grant me the courage not

to give up what I think is right even though I think it is hopeless," he said. "Our Sailors and Marines are out there doing their best in a world full of challenges and their collective actions are having a positive impact."

Willard also hopes Sailors and the naval community take time to learn more about Nimitz's inspirational leadership and the many contributions he had on naval history. "I would encourage all of our Sailors in the Pacific Fleet to take the time to learn about this man," he said. "He was an extraordinary leader who accomplished great things in a very challenging time for

our nation." When faced with leaving his own naval legacy one day, Willard remains positive, insisting it is purely a "team effort here at the Pacific Fleet headquarters."

"I think our Navy is making a powerful and positive difference," he said. "We're building friendships, facilitating regional cooperation, and ensuring maritime security. I'm proud to serve with the Sailors, civilians and families of the U.S. Pacific Fleet."

Willard's latest Rat-Pac Report podcast features his perspective on Nimitz's legacy. The podcast was posted Feb. 20 on [www.cpf.navy.mil](http://www.cpf.navy.mil).

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# Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

## Handbook now available: Guidelines for Navy family emergency preparedness

### Naval Services Family Line

Naval service family members may now obtain a handbook to prepare for a variety of natural or man-made disasters. This handbook, entitled "Are You Ready? Guidelines for Navy Family Emergency Preparedness" is being published and distributed by Naval Services Family Line.

"In this day and age it's important for families to be prepared for a variety of emergency situations," said Josi Hunt, chairman of Naval Services Family Line. "It is the service member's duty to be informed, to have a disaster plan and have resources available to them, and this book covers those things."

This handbook was compiled to offer family members an enhanced, printed version of the Operation Prepare program material that was initiated last April by Commander, Navy Installations Command. Vital information is included to ensure families are prepared as their own first responders. The key elements of this self-preparedness include creating a family emergency plan, completing

emergency contact cards, and compiling an emergency supplies kit.

"Each different disaster is covered and what types of things you need to do. It's a guideline. It's steps for the family members," said Hunt.

The handbook also includes critical information on actions to take immediately following a disaster. Resource charts with Web sites and telephone numbers offer guidance to family members during the difficult aftermath of a disaster.

To get a copy of the handbook for your family or family members within your command, visit [www.lifelines.navy.mil/FamilyLine](http://www.lifelines.navy.mil/FamilyLine), or e-mail Family Line at [nsfamline@aol.com](mailto:nsfamline@aol.com). You can also call Family Line at 1-877-673-7773.

Naval Services FamilyLine is a volunteer, non-profit organization of naval service spouses who are dedicated to providing educational material and other resources to families of our active duty men and women. Each year, FamilyLine edits, publishes and ships their guideline series of publications to families, commands, ombudsmen and FFSCs around the world.

Commentary

## Fireside Chat

Navy Region Federal Fire Dept.



### Turn them off

Victor Flint

Battalion Chief Ferderal  
Fire Department

The music we listen to on the radio, disks or tapes sound great and keep us going. The television and radio are two main sources of our day-to-day entertainment. As a matter of fact, it would be hard to go through one day without the television and/or radio. But the sad fact is that the television and radio could be the source of a lot of pain and problems. I'm not talking about bad programming. I'm talking about electrical shorts, electrocutions and yes, fires.

One of the problems is that many people use the television and radio for more than just entertainment; they use these devices as a form of security. They leave the television and radios on all the time. They want someone to think that someone is home or in the office when really, no one is there. This might deter someone from breaking in the home or office.

Another reason that people leave televisions and radios on is the myth that this actually saves energy. More energy is used turning the device on

rather than just leaving it on. So, you might as well leave the television or radio on, right? Wrong!

Televisions, radio and similar devices build up heat when they are in use. That's why these devices have vents in them - so the heat can vent out of the unit. The problem is when these devices are left on all the time, the heat builds up and up. In time, cooling vents get blocked with dirt and dust or covered with a decorative towel or other things and devices. The heat continues to build, and boom - electrical short, shock and fire.

But there's a way we can prevent this from happening. The Federal Fire Department recommends that when you're not watching television or listening to the radio, please turn these devices off. Simply by turning these devices off, you reduce the heat buildup and ultimately reduce the chances of a fire.

So remember, televisions and radios can continue to be a turn-on if you simply turn them off when not in use.

For more information, call Inspector Victor Flint at the Federal Fire Department's prevention division at 474-7785.

## USS Missouri (BB-63) lights up Chongjin, North Korea



USS Missouri (BB-63) Fires a salvo of 16-inch shells from turret # 2 while bombarding Chongjin, North Korea, in an effort to cut enemy communications, October 1950. Chongjin is only 39 miles from North Korea's northern border. This is a color-tinted version of a black & white original.

U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph

## Hawai'i Navy News

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# NMCRS recognizes Volunteers of the Year

MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Commander Navy Region Hawai'i  
Public Affairs

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Pearl Harbor Chapter held the 12th Annual Volunteer of the Year luncheon Feb. 14 at the Hilton Hawai'iian Village in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

The ceremony recognized two volunteers of the year and two kokuas (helper) of the Year from Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor and Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH) for their outstanding dedication, commitment and volunteer service to the NMCRS for 2007.

Capt. Donald Hodge, chief of staff for Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i, and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, was guest speaker at the event and thanked all the volunteers for what they do for the Sailors and Marines in Hawai'i.

"We cannot put a dollar figure on the great job you do and the kokua (aid) you bring to our Sailors and Marines," said Hodge.

The volunteer of the year awards were



Rear Adm. Jan Gaudio (Ret.), executive vice president and chief operating officer, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS), Paul Belanger, director, NMCRS Pearl Harbor, and Volunteer of the Year awardee for NMCRS Pearl Harbor, Mary Kay Masters, gather during the 12th Annual NMCRS Volunteer of the Year ceremony at the Hilton Hawai'iian Village.

presented to Mary Kay Masters for NAVSTA Pearl Harbor and Abby Hammond for MCBH.

"It's rather humbling. I'm only one of many [volunteers] and love doing it," said Masters, a former military wife and

active volunteer for more than 40 years.

Masters received the award for her exceptional service at NMCRS Pearl Harbor as a receptionist, chairman of receptionists and providing training for all new volunteers.

According to Paul Belanger, director, NMCRS Pearl Harbor, the ceremony is to honor the volunteers and the hard work they put in during the course of the year.

"The volunteers are people who give up their time, their talents and their hearts," said Belanger. "I'm blessed to be associated with them."

In addition to the volunteers of the year awards, Lina Jacobs for NAVSTA Pearl Harbor and Valerie Hobbs of MCBH were presented with the kokua of the year awards for representing the spirit of aloha and providing outstanding volunteer service.

The mission of the NMCRS is to provide, in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, financial, educational, and other assistance to members of the naval services of the United States, eligible family members, and survivors when in need, and to receive and manage funds to administer these programs.

## USS Hopper Sailors celebrates 'Half-Way Day'

USS Hopper (DDG 70)  
Public Affairs

USS Hopper (DDG-70), an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer homeported at Pearl Harbor, HI, left home in November with the Tarawa Expeditionary Strike Group (TARESG). After being at sea for three months, her crew celebrated "half-way day," symbolically marking the midpoint of their deployment.

"It was a really great opportunity for the crew to have fun and celebrate being half-done with deployment," said Ensign Sarah Mora, the Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) officer. "We had a great turnout for the voting and the event, and I think everyone really got a kick out of it."

The festivities included a silent auction where Sailors could bid on the executive officer (XO) or Command



U.S. Navy photo by FCCM William Sylves

Cryptologic Technician Technical 2nd Class (CTTC) Brandi Truett throws a pie at her chief, CTTC Mayra Kohlmann, as part of the pie in the face auction for Hopper's Half-Way Day festivities. The event was hosted by Hopper's MWR committee in order to raise money and morale during the celebration.

Master Chief to clean their spaces, lunch in the captain's cabin, or breakfast in the XO's chair on the Bridge, to name a few. The ship's schedule also supported the celebration

with a half-day off, only half the normal time dedicated towards cleaning the ship and karaoke on the mess decks.

The highlight of the holiday was definitely the pie in the

face auction. For four days, Hopper's crew placed votes for their "favorite" officer or chief. Ten members of Hopper's wardroom and CPO mess were selected to get "pied" during the steel beach. The bidding for the pie thrower was conducted on the spot, with bids reaching as high as \$450 for the executive officer.

All of the proceeds went towards the MWR fund, provides entertainment, competitions, and prizes for Sailors both in port and at sea.

Hopper is currently operating in U.S. 5th Fleet, helping to set conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment. U.S. and coalition forces operate throughout international waters in the Arabian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean, and the Red Sea, in support of a commitment to regional stability and security.



Honolulu's Mayor Mufi Hannemann meets with Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Riley Martin, a fellow local Iolani High School alumnus, while on a tour of the USS Los Angeles (SSN 688) on Feb. 14. Hannemann toured the engine room and the galley of the sub, taking time to say a few words of praise and thanks to the Sailors on board.

## Honolulu Mayor visits USS Los Angeles

Story and photo by  
MCSN Luciano Marano

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

Mufi Hannemann, mayor of Honolulu, began his Valentine's Day with the Sailors on board USS Los Angeles (SSN 688) at Pearl Harbor where he received a tour of the sub and a chance to visit with the crew.

"This is something I'll always remember and cherish," said Hannemann about his trip to the Los Angeles. "My wife was born and raised in L.A., so this is especially nice for me."

After touring the engine room, Hannemann paused in the sub's galley to say a few words to all the Sailors gathered there. "Thanks so much for everything you guys do for us," he said.

The tour ended in the sub's wardroom where Hannemann met with Cmdr. Erik Burian Los Angeles Commanding Officer; Capt. Lindsay Hankins, Commander, Submarine Squadron One and Master Chief Electronics Technician (SS) Andre L. Green, Chief of the Boat.

Making a surprise local connection, Hannemann met with Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Riley Martin, an Oahu native and fellow alumnus of Iolani High School in Honolulu.

Los Angeles, the first submarine of her class, has an outstanding record with Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, recently receiving both the 2007 Commander Submarine Squadron Battle Efficiency Award and the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Retention Excellence Award.

# Pearl Harbor Highlights

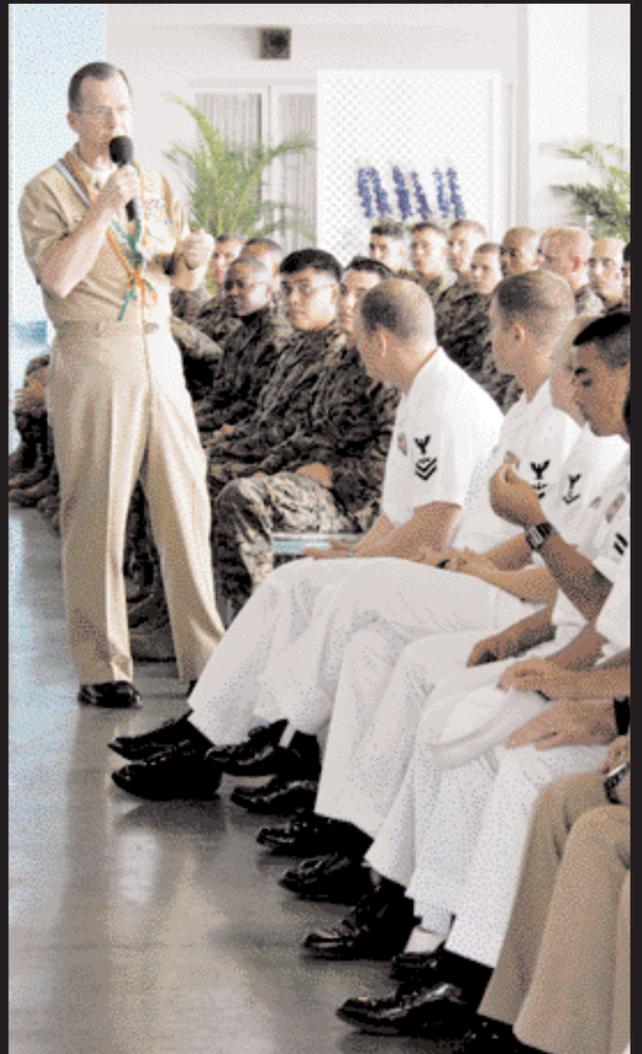


U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (AW/SW) James E. Foehl

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates speaks with news media during a press conference Feb. 21 pier side at Naval Station Pearl Harbor after a visit to the Pearl Harbor-based guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59). Gates commented on "what appears to be a very successful operation" regarding USS Lake Erie's SM-3 missile intercepting a malfunctioning U.S. reconnaissance satellite and the "incredible quality, dedication and skill of the men and women in uniform." Gates also expressed a special thanks to the people of Hawai'i for their support of our military and military families.

(Right) Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks to Hawaii-based service members during an all hands call at Hickam Air Force Base Officer's Club. Mullen was in Hawai'i to meet with senior leaders at U.S. Pacific Command, visit wounded warriors at Tripler Army Medical Center, and engage with service members. Mullen provided feedback to service members during the call on topics such as individual augmentee assignments, uniform issues, the war on terrorism, and his role in the development of military personnel. "My job is to make sure you are prepared for the fight," said Mullen.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron



(Right) USS Hopper's Executive Officer, Lt.Cmdr. Michael Johns, is hit from both sides during the Pie in the Face Auction. Johns received the most votes to be pied, and then received the highest bid to throw the pie. All of the fun was part of the Pie in the Face Auction for Hopper's Half-Way Day festivities. The event was hosted by Hopper's Morale Welfare and Recreation committee to raise money and morale during the celebration.

U.S. Navy photo by FCCM William Sylves

(Below) While supporting OEF-P, the EasyRiders visited MacArthur Park in Tacloba, Philippines.

U.S. Navy photo



(Below) Det Two conducting SAR training with EasyRider 50 from USNS Niagara Falls to Zamboanga, Mindanao. The 19 "Body Snatchers" of Det Two departed Pearl Harbor in late August to operate in the Western Pacific Ocean and South China Sea, working for Joint Task Force 515 and Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom—Philippines (OEF-P).

U.S. Navy photo



# The “Body Snatchers” of HSL 37 Detachment 2 return from OEF-P

Lt. j.g. Shaun  
“Goldmember” Turner

HSL 37 Easy Riders Public  
Affairs

The Easy Riders of HSL 37 Det Two returned to Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe Bay on Feb. 22 from a deployment embarked aboard USS Reuben James (FFG 57). The 19 “Body Snatchers” of Det TWO departed Pearl Harbor in late August to operate in the Western Pacific Ocean and South China Sea, working for Joint Task Force 515 and Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom—Philippines (OEF-P). The detachment maintained and operated a single SH-60B Seahawk multi-mission helicopter, EasyRider 50 - aptly dubbed “Hawai'i Five-O”.

The six-month deployment in support of the global war



U.S. Navy photo

Easy Riders of HSL 37 Det Two supported a practice compliant boarding of USNS Stockham by the Reuben James' VBSS team.

on terrorism offered a full spectrum of operational activity, as Det Two flew missions including intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR), intelligence prepara-

tion of the battlefield, logistics support, passenger transfers, vertical replenishment, and naval special warfare support. The EasyRiders also executed a search and res-

cue(SAR) mission and a medical evacuation from USNS Niagara Falls to Zamboanga, Mindanao. The SAR and MEDEVAC were some of the most rewarding missions for

the crew, as they provided opportunities to help fellow Americans in need in the forward-deployed environment.

While supporting OEF-P, the Easy Riders enjoyed unusually exotic port visits: Tuvalu, Saipan, Kota Kinabalu, Dumaguete, Tacloban, Singapore, Penang, Guadalcanal, Tonga, and American Samoa. The visits provided the crew many opportunities to participate in community relations projects, such as Project Handclasp, to help people improve their quality of life. The visits also gave young Sailors a chance to exercise ambassadorship roles throughout the region.

Reuben James rang in 2008 and her final phase of deployment, with a visit to Penang, Malaysia, after which the ship returned to the Philippines to finish her mission in the joint operating area. Before heading home, Det Two conducted some valuable inter-squadron

training with HS-10 and USNS GySgt. Fred W. Stockham. Blackfoot 2 and EasyRider 50 conducted section attack, aerial gunnery, and TACFORM training flights to improve both units' mission readiness, and Easy Rider 50 supported a practice compliant boarding of USNS Stockham by the Reuben James' visit, board, search and seizure team.

A scenic trip home included three port stops to remote island nations, including Honiara (Guadalcanal) in the Solomon Islands. Reuben James and the Body Snatchers returned safely to Pearl Harbor and Kaneohe Bay. Now at home, the pilots, aircrewmembers, and maintenance technicians of Det two look forward to reuniting with family and friends, as well as sharing their experience and qualifications to prepare their Easy Rider counterparts for future deployed operations.

## February proclaimed as Humpback Whale Awareness Month

The Hawaiian Islands  
Humpback Whale National  
Marine Sanctuary

Gov. Linda Lingle and Lt. Gov. James R. “Duke” Aiona Jr. have signed a proclamation declaring February as “Humpback Whale Awareness Month” in Hawai'i.

The goal of Humpback Whale Awareness Month is to enhance public awareness of Hawai'i's official state marine mammal and increase public involvement in ocean stewardship.

Hawai'i is home to the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, the only marine protected area in the nation solely devoted to humpback whale protection.

In the official proclamation, Lingle and Aiona “encourage (Hawai'i) citi-

zens to commit to the protection of Hawai'i's spectacular humpback whales for future generations.”

“I invite the public to enjoy the sanctuary's Humpback Whale Awareness Month activities and celebrate the homecoming of our amazing humpbacks,” said Governor Lingle.

The sanctuary is celebrating Humpback Whale Awareness Month by offering a variety of special activities around the state. Activities vary from lunchtime whale watches to special lecture presentations at various venues. Find out more about getting involved in Humpback Whale Awareness Month at: <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>

“We continue to need the kokua of our boating community to reduce the occurrence of vessel-whale colli-

sions,” said Laura H. Thielen, Department of Land and Natural Resources chairperson. “We expect Humpback Whale Awareness Month will help get the word out about collision avoidance and other important ocean resources management priorities.”

“Hawai'i is a special place for humpback whales,” said Naomi McIntosh, sanctuary superintendent. “Because Hawai'i is the only state in the United States where humpbacks mate, calve and nurse, it is essential that they are protected here. Humpback Whale Awareness Month provides opportunities for the public to find out more about the sanctuary and humpback whales, and learn how anyone in Hawai'i can play a role in protecting humpback whales and Hawai'i's other ocean resources.”

## Satellite: Intercept successful

Continued from A-1

“So, you can imagine at the point of intercept last night there were a few cheers from people who have spent many days working on this project,” Cartwright said. Department of Defense

A network of land-, air-, sea- and spaced-based sensors confirms that the U.S. military intercepted a non-functioning National Reconnaissance Office satellite which was in its final orbits before entering the earth's atmosphere.

At approximately 5:26 p.m. Hawai'i standard time, Feb. 20, a U.S. Navy Aegis warship, USS Lake Erie (CG-70), homeported at Pearl Harbor, fired a single modified tactical Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) hitting the satellite approximately 133 nautical miles over the Pacific Ocean as it traveled in space at more than 17,000 mph. USS Decatur (DDG-73) and USS Russell (DDG-59) were also

part of the task force. Russell is also homeported at Pearl Harbor.

The objective was to rupture the fuel tank to dissipate the approximately 1,000 pounds of hydrazine, a hazardous fuel which could be harmful, before it entered into earth's atmosphere. Confirmation that the fuel tank has been fragmented should be available within 24 hours.

Due to the relatively low altitude of the satellite at the time of the engagement, debris will begin to re-enter the earth's atmosphere immediately. Nearly all of the debris will burn up on re-entry within 24-48 hours and the remaining debris should re-enter within 40 days.

The Department of Defense DoD conducted a press briefing to provide further information related to the operation. The briefing can be viewed live on [www.Defenselink.com](http://www.Defenselink.com) through the Pentagon Channel.

# FISC Pearl Harbor Flagship Awards 2008

Story and photo by  
James Murray

Fleet and Industrial Supply  
Center Public Affairs

In a Feb. 14 ceremony, the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Pearl Harbor was presented with four Navy Region Hawai'i Community Service Flagship Awards for 2007. FISC was the winner in the "medium command" category for all four awards. The four were:

- Personal excellence partnership
- Health, safety, and fitness
- Campaign Drug Free
- Project Good Neighbor

FISC's recognition stems from its rewarding eight-year educational partnership with Momilani Elementary School, located in the Pearl City uplands overlooking Pearl Harbor. For the past eight years, FISC military and civilian personnel have volunteered their time to serve as "reading buddies" for Momilani's youngest students.

In addition, they have constructed a Hawaiian garden, painted, weed whacked, donated air conditioners and benches, and tackled an array of beautification and school improvement projects.



Volunteers from Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) at Naval Station Pearl Harbor paint a walkway at Momilani Elementary School. FISC was the recipient of the Navy Region Hawai'i Community Service Flagship Awards for 2007 in the "medium command" category at a ceremony Feb. 14. The award recognized FISC's eight-year partnership with the school and its many volunteer efforts.

Every year, they donate approximately 100 textbooks to Momilani students. Some of the Sailors also join the sixth graders in their PE

classes, leading them in exercises or participating in sports programs.

Last year, FISC Pearl invited the entire Momilani

student body, faculty, and staff to Pearl Harbor, where they toured the Arizona Memorial, the Utah Memorial, and the new

Pacific Aviation Museum.

"This represents a wonderful example of the good work Sailors are capable of doing," said Capt. Donald Hodge,

chief of staff for COM-NAVREG.

According to Capt. Bob Carter, commanding officer of FISC Pearl, the efforts of the FISC volunteers "will be felt for years to come."

Momilani has won two national Blue Ribbon School awards and is admired across the state for the quality of its academic program as well as its strong emphasis on character education. The May 2006 issue of Honolulu Magazine ranks Momilani as number one in its "Grading of Public Schools" article. In addition, Momilani has the highest grades in math and reading of any public school in the entire state.

"FISC Pearl Harbor is an important part of Momilani's success," said Doreen Higa, principal of Momilani Elementary.

"This is a long proven partnership that our school and community have been fortunate to experience," she added.

As an indication of the superb character of the Momilani students, last year they saved their empty soda bottles and cans and raised hundreds of dollars for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive.

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