

Women's History Month

Hawai'i

Navy News

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Pearl Harbor ships earn Battle "E"

MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Five Pearl Harbor-based ships, USS Russell (DDG 59), USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), USS Chafee (DDG 90), USS Hopper (DDG 70) and USS Lake Erie (CG 70), were announced as winners of the Battle Effectiveness (Battle "E") award Feb. 28 by Commander, Naval Surface Forces.

The Battle "E" is awarded annually to ships and crews that present the maximum condition of departmental readiness in their group and their capability to per-

form their wartime tasks.

"Everything is built on sustained superior performance, from making sure the laundry is running to the engineering plant running effectively," said CMDCM (SW/AW) Herbert Ellis, command master chief, USS Lake Erie. "Our crew must come here focused on a daily basis, treat each other with dignity and respect, and be ready to execute when called upon."

For Cmdr. Jeff Weston, commanding officer, USS Russell, the

Battle "E" award does not go to the ship itself, but the crew.

"It's a great honor for the ship, but it's not the ship who deserves it, it's the crew," said Weston. "The Battle E belongs to the crew and is a compliment to the job they've done all year."

The ships that are eligible for the Battle "E" are examples of the best ships throughout the fleet and must maintain a high level of

excellence throughout the year.

"We've had a great year, the crew responded to every challenge and met and exceeded every one of them," said Lt. j.g. Kate Suthers, training officer, USS Russell. "The Sailors motivate and look out for each other to ensure that everyone does what

they're supposed to do and that is what helps a ship win the Battle "E."

The Battle "E" award recognizes sustained superior performance in the following six excellence categories: Maritime warfare; engineering and survivability; command, control, communications and information warfare; logistics management; Commander Naval Surface Force Safety Award; and the Efficiency Excellence Award.



Navy makes wish come true

Story and photo by MC3 (AW) Eric J. Cutright

Fleet Public Affairs Center Detachment Hawai'i

World War II is a time in history that has fascinated many people for years.

One such person is 12-year-old Max Koth of Hampshire, Ill., who made his way to Pearl Harbor with his family on Feb. 24 to tour historical Ford Island after the Make-A-Wish Foundation made his dream come true.

While many kids Max's age watch cartoons on television, Max's favorite programs, such as the shows "Dogfights" and "Ice Road Truckers," air on the History Channel. So when Max, who has battled with several heart defects since birth, was approached by Make-A-Wish Foundation and asked what one thing he would really like to do, he asked if he could go to Pearl Harbor and see where the historical battle took place.

Making his way to Hawai'i was a rewarding experience in itself for Max. The youngster, who has never even seen an ocean before, had the chance to hit the beach the day before his tour of Ford Island.

"I thought he was afraid to go in the ocean because he's never been in the ocean so his sister took him. There was a wall to stop the waves from coming in and Max climbed up on it and at first he was scared, but the next thing you



Twelve-year-old Max Koth gazes at the USS Oklahoma Memorial located on Ford Island during a private tour sponsored by the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

know he's running down it trying to get the biggest wave," said Max's mother, Susan Koth.

The Koth family arrived at the Arizona Memorial Visitors Center and were met by Chief Yeoman (SW) Gypsy Roberts, assigned to Transient Personnel Unit, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, who was their tour guide for the day.

First the family was driven around and given an oral history of Ford Island. They saw the Navy Lodge, the landing strip that existed until about nine years ago across from Navy housing, and the control tower that was in the movie "Pearl Harbor."

The Koth family then visited some of the memorials, like the USS Utah Memorial, referenced as the forgotten memorial, the recently constructed USS Oklahoma Memorial, the Pacific Aviation Museum, where Max and his brother flew flight simulators, and the highlight for Max, the

Battleship Missouri Memorial where the family was given a special VIP tour.

"The Missouri was my favorite thing, seeing all of its cannons and guns," said Max.

"Just to be out here and to see his eyes when he saw the Missouri was like wow. He was speechless and he's never speechless. It's just great to see him happy," said Susan Koth about Max's reaction during the battleship tour.

As a finale on the tour, the Koth family visited the USS Arizona Memorial where they paid respects and reflected on all that had transpired during that fateful day Dec. 7, 1941.

At the end of the trip, Max was in awe and thankful for all the new things he saw.

"It leaves me speechless because there's not too many that get to come out here and see all this stuff that I saw today. It means a lot because I had so much fun. I'll remember this entire trip. I'll just remember it all," said Max.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael O'Day

Sailors from HSL-37 receive instruction from Damage Controlman 1st Class (SW) Delbert Corbin and Damage Controlman 2nd Class (SW/AW) Manuel Ford, instructors at the Center for Navy Engineering Learning Site, Pearl Harbor during a training exercise on a Mobile Aircraft Firefighting Training Device at the Navy Region Hawai'i Federal Fire Department.

CNE Learning Site Pearl Harbor constructs new trainer

MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

The Center for Naval Engineering (CNE) Learning Site Pearl Harbor began construction of a new \$1 million state-of-the-art training facility Jan. 7 onboard Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

"Our job here is to train Sailors with the most current tactics to combat

fires," said Chief Warrant Officer John Walls, officer-in-charge, CNE Learning Site Pearl Harbor.

CNE Learning Site Pearl Harbor trains Sailors in naval engineering, basic and advanced damage control, and aviation and machinery room fire fighting tactics.

The new facility will improve training for Sailors and will save the Navy more than \$200,000 annually by switching from

a JP-5 and propane fueling system to a propane only fueling system.

"The tactics that ships use to fight fires are ever-changing and we need the school to evolve to keep up with that change," said Walls.

The old system required more than 3,000 gallons of JP-5 and 100,000 gallons of propane to operate annually.

See New TRAINER, A-2



NAVFAC Hawai'i wins CNO Fiscal Year 2007 Safety Ashore Award See page A-2



Chief of Naval Operations signs new diversity policy See page A-3



Residents can help take a bite out of crime See page A-8



Arizona Detachment See page B-1

NAVFAC Hawai'i wins Chief of Naval Operations Fiscal Year 2007 Safety Ashore Award

Story and photo by
Denise Emsley

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawai'i

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawai'i's commitment to safety was highlighted recently as the command was selected by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) on Feb. 26 to receive the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Achievement in Safety Ashore Award for a medium industrial facility.

By winning this award, NAVFAC Hawai'i was identified by the CNO to have directly supported the Secretary of Defense's 75 percent mishap reduction goal by reducing mishap trends and costs and by demonstrating safety leadership.

"This award recognizes Navy activities that have demonstrated the best occupational safety and health programs within each of their respective categories," said Roger Hubbard, safety director at NAVFAC Hawai'i. "Each and every member of the NAVFAC Hawai'i team should take pride in this accomplishment, especially



The Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i Safety Team and NAVFAC Hawai'i learned Feb. 26 that the command was selected by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) to receive the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Achievement in Safety Ashore Award for a medium industrial facility.

since everyone worked extremely hard to imbed a safety culture that makes working safely a genuine priority."

Over the past three years, the command has made significant strides in reducing mishaps throughout the organization and has been busy educating and energizing employees to look out for both themselves and their co-workers.

"It has been a terrific safety evolution and it is

exciting to see how far we have come," said Hubbard. "Our employees have focused and committed themselves to executing their mission of supporting the fleet in Hawai'i in a safe and expeditious manner. Everything came together and the numbers speak for themselves."

NAVFAC Hawai'i's safety program has documented a 70 percent reduction in its lost-time mishap rate (direct time off work after a mishap) and a 62 percent

reduction in no lost-time mishaps (medical appointments or restricted duty, for example). In addition, lost work days and workers compensation costs have steadily decreased due to an aggressive focus on return-to-duty and light duty opportunities for employees.

"Selection by the CNO is a tremendous honor and validates the outstanding efforts and commitment of the entire NAVFAC Hawai'i team," said Capt. Clifford Maurer, commanding offi-

cer, NAVFAC Hawai'i. "Our safety team, led by Roger Hubbard, has been innovative, engaging and responsive to the needs of the workforce. Thereby, they have helped to create a culture of excellence that extends well beyond safety. It is a true pleasure to watch the workforce's efforts translate into positive results and now this great recognition."

Some of the many actions taken by the command that resulted in this selection include:

- Placing strong emphasis on leadership ownership and accountability, which increased chain-of-command involvement in the safety program.

- Providing special training and education on operational risk management (ORM) for all employees, both industrial and administrative, enabling them to anticipate and mitigate hazards through the use of ORM's five-step process.

- Heightening ergonomics safety awareness of all employees.

- Implementing a pilot program called "Stretch and Flex," originally inviting eight work centers with the highest incidence of related injuries to voluntarily par-

ticipate. The pilot received a 90 percent participation rate and led to the program being extended to all interested work centers throughout the command.

- Establishing two new safety awards programs, which first, recognizes leading, individual safety performers with a special safety act monetary award, and second, identifies and rewards on a quarterly basis a work group from each of the four industrial-based branches.

An award ceremony for presentation of the CNO's FY07 Achievement in Safety Ashore Awards is scheduled for March 11 in Virginia Beach, Va. at the 16th Annual Safety Professional Development Conference. Nine Navy commands, including two from the 50th state, NAVFAC Hawai'i and the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, will receive public recognition and a plaque at this event.

CNO shore activity winners will be forwarded as the Navy's nominees for the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Award for Achievement in Safety Ashore, with the announcement of winners expected in April.

New trainer: More efficient, environmentally friendly



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael O'Day

Sailors from HSL-37 extinguish a simulated aircraft fire during a training exercise on a Mobile aircraft firefighting training device at the Navy Region Hawai'i Federal Fire Department.

Continued from A-1

The propane was used to burn up toxic black smoke created by JP-5 in order to operate the trainers. The JP-5 was sent through a smoke abatement tower, burned by the heat of the propane and sent into the atmosphere.

"Most of the propane was used in heating up the smoke abatement tower to 1,300 degrees to clean the air," said Chief Machinist's Mate (SW) James Maglaris. "The new system will not require a warm-up because the air from the propane

will already be clean."

The new modernized facility will utilize a propane only fueling system, with only 15,000 gallons required to annually operate the facility.

Without delays, the new facility is expected to be ready to train students in August of this year, following an inspection by Naval Personnel Development Command. The current facility on board NAVSTA Pearl Harbor was built in 1976 and is one of two CNE training sites using JP-5 fueling systems to produce fire for training.

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Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Chief of Naval Operations signs new diversity policy

MC2 (SW) Rebekah Blowers

Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead recently issued the Navy's diversity policy in which he urges leaders to anticipate and embrace the demographic changes of tomorrow and build a Navy that always reflects the makeup of the country.

"The purpose of this policy is to ensure that everyone in the Navy understands how I feel about diversity. I believe that diversity is the responsibility of every leader, both military and civilian. Each leader must set and live the example, as well as create an environment in our Navy where every individual's contribution is valued and respected,"

he said. "Most importantly, the Navy must reflect the face of the nation. When the nation looks at its Navy, it should see itself reflected back."

Leadership is the foundation upon which the Navy is built and has served as the cornerstone of success for the organization since its inception. CNO has entrusted and challenges all members of the Navy team to lead diversity efforts through leadership, mentorship, service and example.

"I want our Navy's leaders to internalize this policy and demonstrate a personal commitment to attract young men and women to the Navy and compel them to stay Navy. For those who are currently serving in our Navy, we must mentor these young people and provide opportunities for them to reach and maximize their fullest potential,"

Roughead said. CNO emphasized that we all bring abundant life experiences and perspectives and approach challenges and problems in various ways. It is these very talents and perspectives that make the Navy so successful, he said. Diversity is a necessity to remain a competitive, relevant and strong global force for peace.

"As an organization that's diverse at all levels, infused with many perspectives, we become stronger, more talented, more capable and more effective. At the end of the day, this is what our country wants and this is what our country deserves, a Navy that is out and about doing what it needs to do with the support of its country and the strength of its diversity to move forward," Roughead said.



U. S. Navy photo by MC1 Michael Billings

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead talks with Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Steven C. Love, a crew member aboard the admiral's barge GITMO 7, at U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on Dec. 21, 2007. Roughead visited with service members, civilian staff and family members assigned to Joint Task Force (JTF) - Guantanamo, conducting an all hands call and receiving briefings on JTF operations.



How to get your tax rebate

Lt. Graham Winegeart and Antonette Babauta

Navy Legal Services Office, Guam

The legislation commonly referred to as the Bush Economic Stimulus Plan has passed, meaning among other things, that millions of Americans will be entitled to a tax rebate. This rebate is supplemental to any tax refund a taxpayer may receive and it will be made as a separate payment at a different time.

Each taxpayer has a possibility of receiving \$600 for themselves and \$300 for each of their qualifying children (must be 16 years old or younger on Dec. 31, 2007 and must meet the other current requirement of law). There are actions taxpayers must take in order to qualify and there are many factors that will impact the amount, if any, they receive.

The requirements are easily fulfilled, but they are absolute requirements. First, each taxpayer and qualifying child must hold a valid social security number. An individual tax identification number (ITIN) does not meet this requirement.

Second, each taxpayer must file a 2007 federal tax return. This rule applies even to those that are not otherwise required to file a federal tax return. Further, the return must be filed during 2008, as the IRS will not pay rebates after Dec. 31, 2008.

Next, a taxpayer will not receive a rebate if they qualify as the dependent of another taxpayer. Finally, a taxpayer must either have a tax liability in 2007 or \$3,000 or more of "qualifying income." "Qualifying income" includes earned income (e.g., wages, salaries, tips and self-employment income) plus certain non-taxable social security benefits (not Supplemental Security Income (SSI)), veteran's benefits and railroad retirement benefits.

There are also certain factors that will limit the amount of the rebate particular persons may receive. For instance, taxpayers without a 2007 tax liability, but with \$3,000 or more of "qualifying income" will receive only \$300 each.

Further, taxpayers will not receive a rebate for themselves that exceeds their tax liability for the year. For example, a joint filing couple with two qualifying children with adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$35,000 and a federal income tax liability of \$1,070 will receive a rebate of \$1,670 (\$300 for each of the two qualifying children and \$1,070 for the two tax taxpayers).

Finally, the rebate will gradually phase-out at higher income levels. More specifically, the rebate is reduced by five percent of the difference between the statutory phase-out amount (\$75,000 for individual filers and \$150,000 for joint filers) and the actual AGI. For example, a single filer with an AGI of \$80,000 and a tax liability in excess of \$600 will have his rebate of \$600 reduced by \$250 (five percent x (\$80,000 - \$75,000)) and receive only \$350.

The IRS will start processing rebate checks in May 2008 and stop on the last day of this year. If you listed a direct deposit bank account on your return, your rebate will be direct deposited into the same account. Otherwise, your check will be mailed. Make sure you update your mailing address on your return or complete and file with the IRS a change of address form.

If you are a resident of a possession of the United States, you may also qualify for a rebate. The details of those programs may be different, so you should seek advice from a tax professional.

These are general rules with many exceptions. In order to determine whether these particulars are applicable to you, please seek the advice of a tax professional. There is often no need to pay for this advice. As a military member, retiree, or a dependent of a member or retiree (certain other categories of person also qualify), you are entitled to free legal assistance. Every branch of the military has a Judge Advocate General's Corps that provides confidential, legal assistance free of charge. Go to www.legalassistance.law.af.mil to locate the nearest military legal assistance office.

WAVES do their country proud



"Proud-I'll say"

This is one of the recruiting posters for women from World War II - the WAVES [Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services]. This is a poster by John Falter of a father with the picture of a WAVE.

Photo courtesy of Naval Historical Center

Hawai'i Navy News

Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i
Rear Adm. T. G. Alexander
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Director, Public Affairs - Agnes Tauyan
Deputy Public Affairs Officer - Terri Kojima
Managing Editor - MCC (SW/AW) David Rush
Leading Petty Officer -
MC1 (AW/SW) James Foehl
Editor - Karen Spangler
Staff Writer - MC2 Michael A. Lantron
Contributing Writer - Blair Martin
Technical Adviser - Joe Novotny
Layout/Design - Tony Verceluz

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Nimitz CSG ships arrive in South Korea for port visits

Nimitz Carrier Strike Group 11 Public Affairs

USS Nimitz (CVN 68), USS Princeton (CG 59) and USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53) arrived in Busan on Feb. 28 for a scheduled port visit in conjunction with exercise Key Resolve/Foal Eagle 2008 (KR/FE 08).

Additionally, the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90), homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, arrived in Donghae and the guided-missile destroyer USS Higgins (DDG 76) pulled into Pohang on Feb. 28. During these port visits, Sailors will participate in friendship building activities, meet local citizens, experience local customs and traditions, and enjoy the many recreational activities offered in Busan, Donghae and Pohang, Republic of Korea (ROK).

The deployment of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Nimitz to backfill USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) while the Kitty Hawk undergoes maintenance exemplifies U.S. commitment to peace and stability in the Pacific region.

While in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility, the Nimitz Strike Group will participate in KR/FE 08, which was formerly known as the reception, staging, onward movement and integration exercise or



USS Nimitz (CVN 68), USS Princeton (CG 59) and USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53) arrived in Busan on Feb. 28 for a scheduled port visit in conjunction with exercise Key Resolve/Foal Eagle 2008 (KR/FE 08). Additionally, the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90), homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i arrived in Donghae and the guided-missile destroyer USS Higgins (DDG 76) pulled into Pohang on Feb. 28. During these port visits, Sailors will participate in friendship building activities, meet local citizens, experience local customs and traditions, and enjoy the many recreational activities offered in Busan, Donghae and Pohang, Republic of Korea (ROK).

U.S. Navy photo

RSOI. Key Resolve reflects the transition to a Republic of Korea-led exercise program.

The joint and combined field training exercise

referred to as Foal Eagle will be linked with Key Resolve, as it has been linked with RSOI for the past several years. KR/FE 08, like all other combined

forces command exercises, is designed to improve the command's ability to defend ROK.

The Nimitz CSG is commanded by Rear Adm. Terry

Blake. "Our goal is to maintain and strengthen our alliances and friendships in the region," said Blake.

The Nimitz CSG is comprised of Commander,

Carrier Strike Group 11, the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Nimitz; its embarked air wing, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 11; embarked Destroyer Squadron 23; the guided-missile cruiser USS Princeton (CG 59); the guided-missile destroyers, USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53), USS Higgins (DDG 76) and USS Chafee (DDG 90); Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 49 "Scorpions," HSL 37 "Easy Riders;" and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 11.

CVW-11's squadrons include the "Tophatters" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 14, the "Black Aces" of VFA-41, the "Sunliners" of VFA-81, the "Wallbangers" of Airborne Early Warning Squadron 117, the "Red Devils" of Marine Corps Strike Fighter Squadron 232, the "Black Ravens" of Electronic Warfare Squadron 135, the "Providers" of Carrier Logistics Support Squadron 30 and the "Indians" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Six.

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

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Pearl Harbor Highlights



The daughter of newly commissioned limited duty officer (LDO) Ensign Brian Bracy, assigned to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor, places a shoulder board on Bracy's uniform during his commissioning ceremony at Lockwood Hall onboard NAVSTA Pearl Harbor. Bracy, a former chief yeoman, was commissioned as an LDO following more than 15 years of enlisted service. To apply for a commission as an LDO, Sailors must be E-6 to E-9, having no less than eight and no more than 16 years of service. Limited duty officers fill leadership and management positions which require technical background and skills not attainable through normal development within other officer designators.

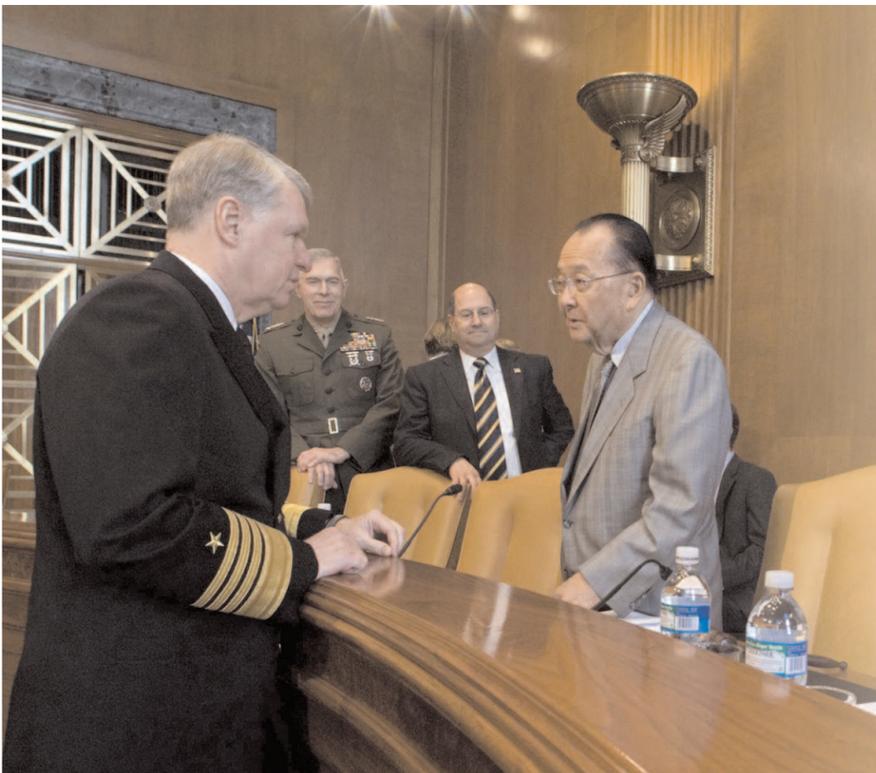
Yeoman 1st Class (SW/AW) Kristin Armstrong, assigned to Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i, is fitted for one of the two service dress white prototype uniforms at the Navy Exchange Uniform Shop onboard Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The fitting was the second of two fittings for more than 60 Sailors in the Hawai'i area participating in the dress white and service dress khaki uniform test. The Sailors will test two uniform designs for 90-120 days and provide feedback to the Navy Uniform Matters Office on the uniforms' functionality, appearance and acceptability.

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



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael O'Day

Sailors from HSL-37 extinguish a simulated aircraft fire during a training exercise on a mobile aircraft firefighting training device at the Navy Region Hawai'i Federal Fire Department. The Federal Fire Department will host the Navy training for the next seven months while the fire-fighter trainer at Pearl Harbor is renovated.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Cynthia Clark

(Above) Nuclear-powered, fast-attack submarine USS Jefferson City (SSN 759), named for the capitol city of Missouri, passes by the Battleship Missouri Memorial while pulling into Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Feb. 29. Jefferson City is making one last stop in Pearl Harbor before returning to her homeport of San Diego, following a Western Pacific deployment.

(Left) Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead speaks with Senator Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) prior to his testimony to the Senate Appropriations Committee concerning the fiscal year 2009 budget request.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Tiffini M. Jones

Construction projects around Pearl Harbor

Installation of a new waterline at West Loch

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i has started a large, \$1.9 million waterline installation project at West Loch. The project includes installing 12-inch and 10-inch waterline for a total of 6,000 linear feet of new line. The first phase began on Feb. 27, starting at the intersection of G Avenue and 18th Street. Utility crews will continue along 18th Street toward Barracks Road. This phase will place approximately 2,200 linear feet of waterline and is expected to be completed in May.

During the second phase,

the new waterline work will turn left and follow Barracks Road until it nears building 615. Workers will then place line between buildings 601 and 620, across an open area, and finally connecting to an existing waterline on Iroquois Drive. Dates for this work have not yet been determined.

During phase one, ground work will start on the north side of G Avenue and 18th Street's intersection. The new waterline will then cross 18th Street and continue down the south side of the street toward Barracks Road. Motorists in the area should be aware of this work and note that from March 13-21 one lane of 18th Street will be closed to traffic.

Scheduled road closures and power outages around Pearl Harbor:

Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Pearl Harbor:

- Vincennes Avenue will be down to two lanes of traffic and parallel parking near buildings 474 and 475 will be unavailable due to the replacement of a water line through April 9.

- Due to repairs to a conveyor roof, traffic between buildings 474 and 475 along Vincennes Avenue will be modified through June 11.

- Portions of Simms Street between wharf K-9 and building 1900 will be closed for construction work through approximately Sept. 30. Access to wharves K-10

and K-11 will be between building 1900 and building 479. Access to wharves K-8 and K-7 will be relocated a short distance southward. The anti-terrorism security fence will be temporarily relocated by the construction contractor to accommodate the work.

Naval Station Pearl Harbor:

- Wharf repairs at S-19 will close the roadway along the wharf through June 11, 2009. Parking stalls between buildings 1682, 640, 641 and wharf S-19 will also be closed.

- Submarine base area - Six parking stalls on either side of the North Road-Bole Lane intersection will be closed due to repairs to F-76

and JP-8 fuel lines along North Road from through May 17.

- Makalapa - Due to a sidewalk improvement project, drivers will experience an occasional lane closure of Halawa Drive from Borchers Gate to building 250 through March 31.

- Ford Island - There will be public-private venture project construction at Wasp Boulevard north of the Chafee intersection. A new temporary road will be opened from Chafee Boulevard to provide access to the area from March 14-June 30.



Residents can help take a bite out of crime

Karen S. Spangler

Editor

No one wants to be the victim of crime. People would all like to think that they are safe and secure and not susceptible to crime - wherever we live. Unfortunately, in today's world that isn't the case.

Crime can happen even in the best of neighborhoods - including Navy family housing neighborhoods. However, property crimes in Navy housing communities throughout Hawai'i continue to happen less frequently than elsewhere.

But there are things that everyone can do to deter would-be burglars and criminals.

One essential ingredient in "taking a bite out of crime" is teamwork between Forest City Security, the Honolulu Police Department and housing residents.

Local crime statistics indicate that most property crimes are preventable in a neighborhood. Some common sense tips residents can follow to avoid becoming victims of crime are:

- Lock your car doors.
- Roll up your windows and secure your car as best you can.
- Secure your vehicle, even if you're only going to be away for a few seconds.
- Don't leave valuables in your car. Thieves will break your windows to get to valuables that are left in plain sight. This includes your garage door opener.
- Be careful if you place valuables in your trunk. A



thief may be watching.

- Ensure exterior lights in your garage or parking area work.

- Never leave expensive toys, bicycles, tools, etc. unsecured in an open garage or carport. According to police, "The key is to make it more difficult for a thief to target your home or the homes of your neighbors."

Following are some guidelines on other important things to consider:

- Trim shrubbery, bushes and trees around windows and doors. Overgrown foliage creates a natural hiding place for would-be thieves.

- Immediately replace burned-out lights around the outer perimeter of the residence. More importantly, turn those lights on during hours of darkness.

- Consider installing automatic timers for interior lights. These are available from several large retail stores.

- Arrange for a neighbor or friend to pick up mail and newspapers when going away from home for more than a day.

Another way to help prevent crime is to get involved in the neighborhood crime watch program.

Neighborhood Watch coordinators agree that the hardest part of implementing a Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP) is convincing people to become involved. Despite concerns about crime in housing communities, community meetings are usually poorly attended. It has also been noted that there is a lack of volunteers to dedicate

the time and efforts that go into sustaining an effective Neighborhood Watch Program.

One coordinator explained she had to constantly reassure residents that the Neighborhood Watch program "does not mean becoming a nosy neighbor - just a concerned citizen." "We are the eyes and ears for security," she explained.

Statistics have proven that Neighborhood Watch programs work. With the help of informed, aware citizens working with law enforcement personnel, Forest City security, and each other, incidents of crime can be greatly reduced.

Residents in public-private venture neighborhoods who

do not have a program in place in their community can call their resident services office to express interest. They can also contact the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) Informational Resources Section at 529-3351 or via the Internet at www.honolulu.hpd.org for more information on how to get one started.

Police emphasized the importance of housing residents being aware of what is happening in their neighborhoods.

"One of the most important things housing residents can do to protect themselves is to know their neighborhood," they advised and made some recommendations: "It is important to know who belongs and who does not. What cars are parked where and at what time of day? Is there a suspicious looking person or vehicle driving down your street? While it could simply be a visitor or lost motorist, it could also indicate a potential problem, as thieves like to pick out homes that they can get into - and out of - without anybody noticing they are there."

If you notice suspicious activity, contact your Forest City housing security or HPD immediately," they emphasized.

The Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP) utilizes total citizen participants and involvement in a self-help cooperative battle against crime. The Neighborhood Watch signs posted in neighborhoods warn: "If I don't call the police my neighbors will."

According to proponents of the Neighborhood Watch Program, the program's primary success is because it operates on a "help each other" philosophy. By participating in a Neighborhood Watch Program, families are assisting the police and Forest City security and protecting each other. For the program to be a success, fighting crime must be a collective effort between the police and the community.

It is residents and their neighbors who really know what is going on in their neighborhood. By cooperating with each other, Forest City security and HPD, members of the NWP can reduce crime in their community in a way that is most effective - by stopping it before it begins.

Involvement in a Neighborhood Watch Program doesn't require a lot of time. It involves neighbors getting to know each other and familiarizing themselves with their neighbors' routines. In this way, any out-of-place activity can be identified and reported to security.

NWP members are trained to recognize and report suspicious activities in their neighborhood. They use crime prevention strategies such as home security surveys and operation identification. There are monthly meetings to discuss and become aware of crime in the community. A Forest City security representative will attend each housing community meeting to address resident concerns regarding crime.