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Navy SEAL to receive posthumous Medal of Honor

MC2 Christopher Menzie

Naval Special Forces Warfare Command Public Affairs

A Navy SEAL who sacrificed himself to save his teammates during combat operations in Iraq will be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush the White House announced March 31.

The parents of Master-At-Arms 2nd Class (SEAL) Michael A. Monsoor will accept the nation's highest military honor on behalf of their son during a White House ceremony April 8. The medal is awarded for 'conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty' by a member of the U.S. Armed Forces during combat against an enemy.

"I was happy to hear Mike will get the Medal of Honor," said Special Warfare Operator 1st Class (SEAL) Tom DeShazo, who worked closely with Monsoor during the mission. "It is not something he would ever seek out or expect; but his clear decision to sacrifice his own life to save his teammates is worthy of this honor."

Monsoor, a 25 year-old machine gunner with SEAL Team 3, was providing security at a sniper lookout post on Sept. 29, 2006 in Ramadi when a grenade hit his chest and bounced to the floor. With only a moment to act, Monsoor threw himself onto the grenade, shielding three other SEALs and three Iraqi Army soldiers from the resulting blast.

"He had a love and respect for his teammates and his platoon. His nature was to complete the most difficult tasks without question," said Lt. Cmdr. Seth Stone, who served as officer in charge of Monsoor's unit during the action. "He was a fantastic warrior."

U.S. Navy photo by Mr. Oscar Sosa

Master-At-Arms 2nd Class (SEAL) Michael A. Monsoor sacrificed himself to save his teammates during combat operations in Iraq, Sept. 29, 2006. The Medal of Honor is pictured with the Navy Special Warfare (SEAL) Trident. The parents of Master-At-Arms 2nd Class (SEAL) Michael A. Monsoor will accept the nation's highest military honor on behalf of their son during a White House ceremony April 8, 2008. Monsoor is the first Navy SEAL to earn the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq and the second Navy SEAL to receive the award since Sept. 11, 2001. Monsoor is the fourth armed forces service member to receive the Medal of Honor since the beginning of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Although Monsoor died from his injuries, the two SEALs only a few feet from him survived with significant shrapnel wounds. The other SEAL and the Iraqi soldiers were either unharmed or received only minor injuries.

"Mike Monsoor exemplified the SEAL ethos," said Rear Adm. Joseph Kernan, the Commander of the Naval Special Warfare Command in San Diego. "He led by example and protected his teammates to the very end. But more than that, Mike was a brother in our family. We will honor him every day by upholding the values he shared with us as SEALs."

Monsoor is the first Navy SEAL to earn the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq and the second Navy SEAL to receive the award since Sept. 11, 2001. The other recipient, Lt. Michael P. Murphy, was recognized posthumously last October for his valor in combat alongside three other SEALs during a battle with Taliban forces in Afghanistan in 2005. Monsoor is the fourth armed forces service member to receive the Medal of Honor since the beginning of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Monsoor will be inducted into the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon during a ceremony scheduled April 9. His name will be engraved beside the names of some 3,401 other service members who have also been awarded the nation's highest honor. Monsoor was previously awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star (with Combat V) and the Purple Heart.

Awarded by the President in the name of Congress, the Medal of Honor was created in 1861 as a personal award of valor for members of the Navy. Soon thereafter, another version was created for the Army and ultimately the Medal of Honor was presented to more than 1,500 Civil War veterans. Later the Air Force created its own unique Medal of Honor design. Marines and Coast Guardsmen are awarded the Navy's version of the Medal of Honor.

U.S. Navy SEALs are the maritime component of U.S. Special Operations Command and the Navy's special operations force. The SEALs take their name from the elements from which they operate – sea, air and land. Experts in special reconnaissance and direct action missions – SEALs continue to successfully execute DoD's most important warfighting missions in the global war on terrorism.

MCPON visits Pearl Harbor

MC2 Michael A. Lantron, Commander

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr. met with Sailors assigned to commands aboard Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor during a visit to Hawaii, March 27-28.

During his visit, Campa answered questions from Sailors on topics including leadership responsibilities, the individual augmentee program, new uniforms and the direction of the Navy in the future.

"My whole purpose of the trip was to come and visit Sailors and listen to them talk about the things they think we're doing right and the things they think we may need to improve on," said Campa. "My connection with Sailors in the fleet is where my credibility rests, so coming out here to engage with the Sailors, see what they're doing and talk to them is really valuable for me."

While in Hawaii, Campa held all-hands calls at NAVSTA Pearl Harbor, Marine Corps Base Hawaii and the Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93). Campa was also the guest speaker at the Hawaii region Chief Petty Officer Birthday Ball held March 28.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jennifer A. Villalovos

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Joe R. Campa Jr. addresses Sailors during an all hands call at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

Campa stressed the importance of the ships, submarines and aircraft located in Hawaii as it relates to the Pacific area of responsibility and the war on terrorism.

"The ships, subs and aircraft in the region are very important to the security of the Pacific," said Campa. "We have a long, rich tradition of service in this part of the world and the importance of that is demonstrated in the investment we

See MCPON, A-2

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

Rear Adm. T.G. Alexander, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific salutes Capt. Randall M. Hendrickson (center) who turned over command to Capt. Ronald A. Boxall during a change of command ceremony at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

Hendrickson hands ship to Boxall

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Capt. Randall M. Hendrickson, commanding officer of the Pearl Harbor-based Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser (CG 70), was relieved by Capt. Ronald A. Boxall, former executive assistant to the Director, Warfare Integration/Senior National Representative, Tuesday, during a change of command ceremony onboard Lake Erie at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

During his tour, Hendrickson was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the third-highest award bestowed upon service members by the Department of Defense, for his outstanding leadership and tireless efforts while serving as the commanding officer for Lake Erie during Operation BURNT FROST.

Operation BURNT FROST took place Feb. 2 to 22. During the mission, Lake Erie Sailors orchestrated an unprecedented intercept of a malfunctioning satellite by utilizing a modified Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) and the AEGIS weapons system. Their success resulted in complete destruction of the satellite and prevented possible harm from its uncontrolled reentry.

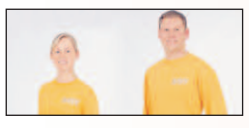
Following his 21-month tour as Lake Erie's commanding officer, Hendrickson will report for duty at the office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington D.C.

Lake Erie and her crew are part of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and are committed to ensuring security and stability in the Pacific and contributing to homeland defense.

Modern U.S. Navy guided missile cruisers perform primarily in a Battle Force role. These ships are multi-mission [Air Warfare (AW), Undersea Warfare (USW), Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) and Surface Warfare (SUW)] surface combatants capable of supporting carrier battle groups, amphibious forces, or of operating independently and as flagships of surface action groups. Cruisers are equipped with Tomahawk cruise missiles giving them additional long range Strike Warfare (STRW) capability. Some Aegis Cruisers have been outfitted with a Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) capability.

Submarine community mourns shipmate
See page A-2

Sailors receive Hawaii Medal of Honor
See page A-4


New PT uniforms ready to hit shelves
See page A-6

Chung-Hoon Sailors set their sights
See page B-1

Submarine community mourns shipmate

MCSN Luciano Marano

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

Memorial services were held March 21, for retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. Stanley "Stan" K. Nicholls, 86, at the Pearl Harbor Submarine Base Chapel.

Nicholls departed on Eternal Patrol February 29 at the Disabled American Veterans Center in Honolulu. Born in Oakland, Calif., he is survived by his wife Diane, son Michael, daughter Karen Thorp, stepsons John and Bob Trinka, and grandson Justin.

Nicholls joined the Navy in 1941 and during his 31 years of service he would reach the enlisted rank of Master Chief Petty Officer. He served on USS Segundo (SS-398), USS Greenfish (SS-351), and USS Pompon (SS-267) making numerous successful war patrols during WWII. Nichols also had the distinction of being a certified Diver 1st class.

He accepted a Limited Duty Officer (LDO) commission and would serve the latter years of his military career as a naval officer. Nicholls would eventually retire in 1972, at the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Having retired on a Friday, Nicholls returned to work as a General Schedule (GS) employee the following Monday and would serve an additional twenty years as the Command Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC) Force Personnel and Manpower Officer, earning numerous civilian awards and retiring for the second time in November 1990.

Not one to be slowed down by retirement, Nicholls remained active in many facets of the submarine community around Pearl Harbor. He was a life member of both the United States Submarine Veterans of WWII and United States Submarine Veterans Inc. (USSVI). Nicholls was heavily involved in local volunteer work at the Navy Retired Activities Office (RAO) Hawaii, Community Association, and the Pacific Fleet Submarine Memorial Association.

"Anyone dealing with the Pacific Fleet submarine personnel or billet management in the past 50 years, will have run across and known one of the finest gentlemen ever serving in the submarine force," said memorial coordinator and COMSUBPAC Executive Officer Lt. Almond Smith.

The ceremony at Pearl Harbor included several guest speakers and music provided by organist LaVona Schlicher and vocalist Katie Doyle.

"I never heard him say a bad word about anybody," friend and speaker Jerry Drum said of Nicholls. "He'd go out of his way to help anybody.

"We got back about a half a century, and he was truly a Sailor's Sailor and a gentleman's gentleman," said Drum.

"Stan excelled at everything he ever did," recalled fellow speaker Ken Joiner. "He truly is the last of a breed that is disappearing too quickly, he should be honored."

Following the ceremony, Nicholls was interned at the Punchbowl National Memorial Cemetery in Honolulu. Then, friends and family gathered together for the reception at Lockwood Hall back at Pearl Harbor.

"Men like Stan come around once in a lifetime," said Joiner. Obviously many people agree with the statement. The ceremony was attended by so many people that seats quickly filled, and some were forced to stand outside the front door to hear the eulogy.

MCPON connects with Sailors

Continued from A-1

have on our forces here."

MCPON also stressed the importance of leadership throughout the chain of command.

"I believe a leader should be judged by the success of the people that they lead. I think there's accountability on every level of the chain of command," said Campa. "I tell Sailors to look at the opportunity the Navy provides for them and don't be afraid to step up to the challenges. Every time a Sailor does that, the Sailor wins and we become a better Navy."

Campa also talked about the Navy's future as it pertains to Sailors and conducting operations.

"We're a Navy that's still downsizing and still conducting individual augmentee missions, which I see us doing for the foreseeable future. The demand for our maritime forces is the highest it's ever been," said Campa. "I don't think we can continue the pace we are at now and keep quality Sailors without great leadership."

Hawaii Sailors were pleased to have the opportunity to speak with the MCPON and give their opinion on what's happening in the fleet.

"It was great to have him take time out of his schedule to speak with us and answer our questions," said Fire Control Technician 3rd Class Justin Medders, assigned to NAVSTA Pearl Harbor. "Anyone who had a question was given a complete answer and he kept us completely informed on how things are going in the Navy."

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Ronald Reagan CPOs celebrate 115 years of deckplate leadership

MCC (SW/AW) Donnie Ryan,

USS Ronald Reagan Public Affairs

Chief Petty Officers (CPO) from USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 14 took time out from conducting Composite Training Unit Exercises to gather in the ship's CPO mess April 1, to honor the 115th birthday of the chief petty officer rank.

The event included speeches, recognition of CPOs killed in combat, the honoring of famous chiefs throughout history who helped build the CPO mess, special food and entertainment.

"Today is our 115th birthday," said Ronald Reagan's Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Jim DeLozier. "We are joining chiefs around the world in celebrating 115 years of the fouled anchor and the deckplate leadership it represents.

"The CPO birthday is an annual recognition of who we are as chiefs, and a tribute to the chiefs who laid the foundation upon which our CPO mess is built," he said.

"Making chief was my singular goal when I joined the Navy,"

Chief Electronics Technician (SW/AW) Christopher Clark

DeLozier said the special day calls for both celebration and reflection from members of the CPO mess.

"Today is also a day for those of us who wear the khaki uniform to reassess ourselves," added DeLozier. "It's important that we ask ourselves if we are living up to the expectations found in the CPO Creed."

Many CPOs put on their black ties and combination covers with their working khakis for the day as a throwback uniform to honor CPOs of the past.

"I am proud of where I came from and want everyone to know that," said Chief Postal Clerk (SW/AW) Mario Barco, who decided to wear the special uniform.

Several chief petty officers from Ronald Reagan and CVW-14 took active parts in the celebration.

"Anytime chief petty officers gather to celebrate our heritage or to bring new chiefs into the fold, we take the opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the Navy, our mission and the Sailors we serve by reading the Chief Petty Officer Creed," said Chief Information Systems Technician (SW) Alvin Mitchell, who served as master of ceremonies for the event.

A traditional cake-cutting ceremony also took place featuring the oldest and youngest members of Ronald Reagan's CPO Mess.

"Making chief was my singular goal when I joined the Navy," said Chief Electronics Technician (SW/AW) Christopher Clark, who was born in 1981 and holds the honor of being Ronald Reagan's youngest CPO.

"For years I watched as people would come into my offices with a question, and the first thing they would do was scan the room for a chief," said Clark. "Many would leave if they did not see one, while others would just ask 'When is chief gonna be back?'

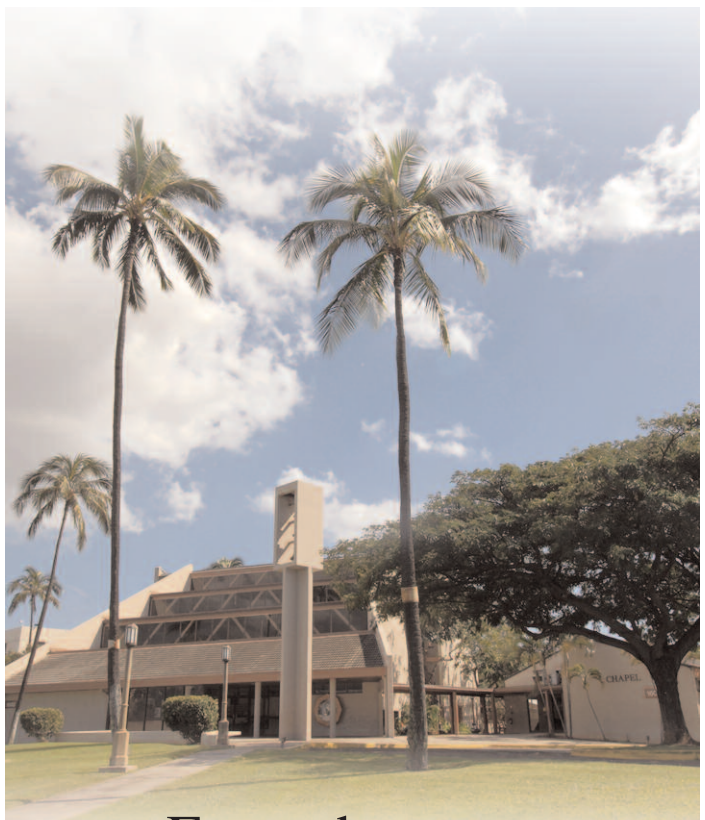
"Regardless of whether I could help them, they had been trained to 'Ask the Chief'," added Clark. "It's a position that warrants the envy that goes with it and it comes with a great amount of responsibility. I am up to the task. Shipmates, I am here, I am ready to help, 'Ask the Chief'".

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Kathleen Gorby

Chief petty officers (CPO) aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) wear black ties and combination covers in honor of the 115th birthday of the CPO rank.

Commentary

Chapel Pennant



Easter happens every time the sun rises

LCDR Scott E. Carlson

CHC, USNR

It never ceases to amaze me how important it is for folks to get to church on Easter Sunday. There's the story about the Navy recruit who was asked his religious preference: "C and E," he replied. "C and E?" the recruiter questioned. "Don't you mean 'EC,' Episcopal Church?" "No," retorted the recruit, "Christmas and Easter."

If the Risen One is nothing more than a once-a-year Energizer Bunny with a dead battery, squeezed between an Easter egg hunt and a high fat Sunday morning brunch, we shouldn't bother changing the Eveready and just forget the drum roll.

Let me suggest that Easter be not a meaningless annual religious tradition where we are slumped on a hard pew for one hour, but rather a commanding state of mind that stands tall and strong 365 days of the year.

Rather than viewing the Risen One's shock and awe over death, darkness and despair as something to bury at the back of the closet alongside the Easter egg baskets, consider it more a "morning after" party without having to pray to the porcelain god.

Alongside the manifold global witnesses to springtime renewal, an awakening of the earth, and the lengthening of light and warmth in Northern climes, Easter is a celebration of not only what is, but more importantly what might be. It's the daily reminder that there is always light; no matter how dark life might look. It's the dawn of a new day, when yesterday is better off dead and buried. It's a rock solid hope in the midst of despair, a future when we only see the past, a new possibility when roadblocks abound. Easter is the cool, crisp air clearing our minds during morning PT and the endomorphic rush after cool down.

Let's face it: A theological concept is pretty irrelevant until it is experienced. What Easter challenges us to do is change our perspective. What we look for is what we see. Easter asks us to resurrect our mindset to seek what brings meaning, satisfaction and wholeness to our lives – most importantly when darkness abounds.

If we declare that we never experience hardship, difficulty or challenges we are simply fooling ourselves. Yet what is more important is not what comes our way, but what we do about it. Easter is an unwavering conviction that it's mind over matter: If you don't mind, it don't matter.

Reflections of the past...

Naval Historical Center photo

Chief Gunner's Mate Eugene Metzel, who served on board Wyoming, looks at the bronze plaque commemorating her First World War service with the Grand Fleet. Chief Metzel is wearing the World War II era service dress grey uniform. Photographed in 1945.

Hawai'i Navy News

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Servicemembers get Hawaii Medal of Honor

Story and photo by
MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Thirty-one fallen service members posthumously received the Hawaii State Medal of Honor (HMOH) from the Hawaii State Senate and House of Representatives during a ceremony March 25, at the Hawaii State Capitol.

The HMOH was awarded on behalf of the State of Hawaii to family and friends of service members who were killed in action while serving as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in 2007.

"Today we honor the service and sacrifice of your loved ones. Our nation continues to strengthen thanks to remarkable individuals like these 31 who were willing to sacrifice for the rest of us," said Hawaii State Gov. Linda Lingle. "Like all of America's fallen heroes, these 31 are not truly gone. They were defending democracy and our way of life and there is nothing anyone can do nobler than that."

Thirteen of the service members were represented by friends and families during the event, each receiving a plaque and certificate. All personnel were rendered with honors of two bells after their name was announced.

Three Navy Sailors were recognized during the ceremony including Lt. Cmdr. Morgan Tulang, Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Victor Jeffries and Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Mark Cannon.

Thirty-one fallen service members posthumously received the Hawaii State Medal of Honor (HMOH) from the Hawaii State Senate and House of Representatives during a ceremony March 25, at the Hawaii State Capitol. The HMOH was awarded on behalf of the State of Hawaii to family and friends of service members who were killed in action while serving as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in 2007.

Jeffries was the most recent of the three Navy Sailors to be honored. Jeffries died on Dec. 31, 2007 as a result of injuries suffered in a vehicle accident while assigned to Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group, Kuwait. Receiving the HMOH on his behalf was his wife, Elizabeth Aguirre-Jeffries.

"It was very emotional, but I'm grateful for the state of Hawaii and the military for this State Medal of Honor," said Jeffries. "We are very proud of Victor and this represents what [he] did for his family, the people of Hawaii, and the country and we greatly appreciate it."

A Hawaii native, Tulang died from apparent natural causes March 2, 2007, while assigned to U.S. Central Command Deployment Distribution Operations Center, Kuwait City. On hand to accept the HMOH on his behalf were his parents, Michael and Juliet Tulang.

"We feel really honored. This award brings back a lot of memories. Today is a great day and I'm thankful for the state of Hawaii to honor him," said Michael Tulang.

Cannon's family was not in attendance but will receive the HMOH at a later time. Cannon died Oct. 2, 2007, while conducting combat operations in Kunar Province, Afghanistan while assigned to 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, based out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

After the presentation of the awards, members of the Hickam Air Force Base Honor Guard performed a 21-gun salute followed by the playing of taps by the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band.

Following the ceremony, Rear Adm. T.G. Alexander, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, commented on the importance of holding the ceremony to honor the fallen service members.

"I think this meant a great deal to the families. It sends a very powerful message to them about how important their loved ones are to the state of Hawaii and how important the state sees their sacrifices," said Alexander. "It's important for all of us to stop and recognize the sacrifices people make for our country and that the families know how much we appreciate those sacrifices."

Recipients of the HMOH include members of the U.S. Armed Forces and the Hawaii National Guard who were residents of the State of Hawaii, attended an educational institution in Hawaii, or who were stationed in Hawaii by order of the Department of Defense. As of January 31, 217 service members with Hawaii ties have sacrificed their lives while in the line of duty serving as part of OIF and OEF.

Hawai'i Navy News Online www.hawaii.navy

Pearl Harbor *Highlights*

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

Capt. Randall M. Hendrickson, commanding officer of the Pearl Harbor-based guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70), addresses his crew prior to turning over command to Capt. Ronald A. Boxall, former executive assistant to the Director of Navy Warfare Integration. Hendrickson turned over command of Lake Erie to Capt. Ronald A. Boxall during the ceremony at Naval Station Pearl Harbor following a 21-month tour as commanding officer.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jennifer A. Villalovos

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Joe R. Campa Jr. addresses Sailors during an all-hands call at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard about the importance of leadership and answers questions about individual augmentees, tuition assistance and advancement.

U.S. Navy photo by MCC (SW/AW) David Rush

Sailors assigned to the visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS) team aboard the Pearl Harbor-based guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) conduct a boarding drill on the decommissioned ship USS Duluth. The drill tests the basic principles of VBSS members, which consist of weapons handling techniques, tactical team movement, clearing rooms and passageways, tactical communications, intelligence gathering and combat first aid. *More photos and story on page B-1.*

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jennifer A. Villalovos

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Joe R. Campa Jr. and his wife, Diana, visit the home of Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class David Eberhart and his wife Hiroko. Edberhart was diagnosed with cancer in 2002 yet is still determined to make chief petty officer.

U.S Navy photo by MCC (SW/AW) David Rush

Lt. Bradley Gilbertson, Line Division Officer, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two, also a P-3C Orion pilot, shows local media the flight controls of the P-3C Orion aircraft of Patrol Squadron Four at Marine Corps Base Kaneohe. The aging four-engine turboprop anti-submarine and maritime surveillance aircraft were first brought into service in 1959. The aircraft are slated to be replaced by the P-8A Multi-Mission Maritime Aircraft, which are Boeing 737 jets.

U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Burgess

Pacific Fleet Band marches in the Prince Jonah Kalaniana'ole Commemorative Parade

U.S. Navy photo by YN2 (SS) David Bracero

In the control room of USS Pasadena (SSN 752), Sonar Technician (Submarine) 2nd Class Michael Micheli explains the operation of the ship's control panel to Dato Ismail Bin Haji Wadin, Federal Secretary of Sabah, Malaysia, and his wife from right, and Rear Adm. Ahmad Kamarulzaman, Royal Malaysian Navy, Commander, Naval Region Two. USS Pasadena was inport as part of a routine port visit in Sepangar Bay, Malaysia. Homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, USS Pasadena is currently deployed to the Western Pacific.

New PT uniforms ready to hit shelves

Kristine M. Sturkie

Navy Exchange Service Command Public Affairs

The Navy's new Physical Training or PT uniforms are ready to hit NEX Uniform Center shelves beginning this spring. To ensure there are enough uniforms in stock to meet demand the Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) is rolling out the uniforms in three waves.

"We want to ensure the rollout of the new PT uniform goes as smoothly as possible," said Cmdr. Mark Friermood, director, NEXCOM's Uniform Program Management Office. "Creating these waves allows us to watch our stock levels to ensure that the product meets the demand and that our manufacturers can keep us in stock. We know Sailors are enthusiastic to get the new uniforms, and we assure you, over the next five months everyone will."

The short sleeve gold performance PT shirt sells for $10.99 while the blue nylon shorts, available in two inseam lengths, six inch and eight inch, are $13.99. While only the short sleeve PT shirt and shorts are mandatory, there are other optional PT gear that will be available for purchase. Compression shorts are $9.99 for men's and ladies' regular length and $11.99 for the men's long length; long sleeved gold performance PT shirts are $11.99; 2-pack performance quarter length socks with arch support are $3.75 and 2-pack no show socks with arch support are $3.55.

The first delivery wave will begin in April when Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill., will start issuing the gear to new recruits.

In May, Sailors stationed in Virginia; West Virginia; Washington, D.C.; Maryland; Pennsylvania; California; Indiana and Illinois can begin purchasing uniforms from their local NEX.

NEXs in Hawaii; Europe; Japan; Guam; the Northwest and Southwest, which includes Jacksonville, Key West, Orlando and Mayport, Fla.; Georgia; Cuba; and South Carolina will stock the PT uniform beginning in June.

U.S. Navy photo

The new Navy physical training uniform consists of a gold t-shirt and blue shorts. The t-shirt will have the word "NAVY" in safety reflective letters on the back and on the front. The shorts will have the Navy seal on the left leg. The Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) will begin rolling out the new Navy PT uniforms through the Uniform Centers in spring.

The final wave, which begins in August, will include NEXs in Rhode Island; New York; Connecticut; Maine; New Jersey; Mississippi; Louisiana; Texas; and Pensacola (Whiting Field and Corry Station) and Panama City, Fla.

In August, Sailors will also be able to purchase the PT uniform through the Uniform Support Center's toll-free phone center or its Web site at www.navy-nex.com .

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Active duty and retired military, civil service and family members can advertise the sale of their personal property (including real estate) and services in HNN at no charge. The details are as follows: Classified items and services must represent an incidental exchange between the aforementioned personnel and not business operations. Requests for three-line free classified advertisements can be submitted via email, if from a ".mil" address (submit to lkaneshi@honolulu.gannett.com), by phone at 521-9111 or by visiting www.honoluluadvertiser.com and clicking on "classified ads." More lines of advertising can be purchased at an additional fee. Requesters should include their military ID number and a call-back phone number.

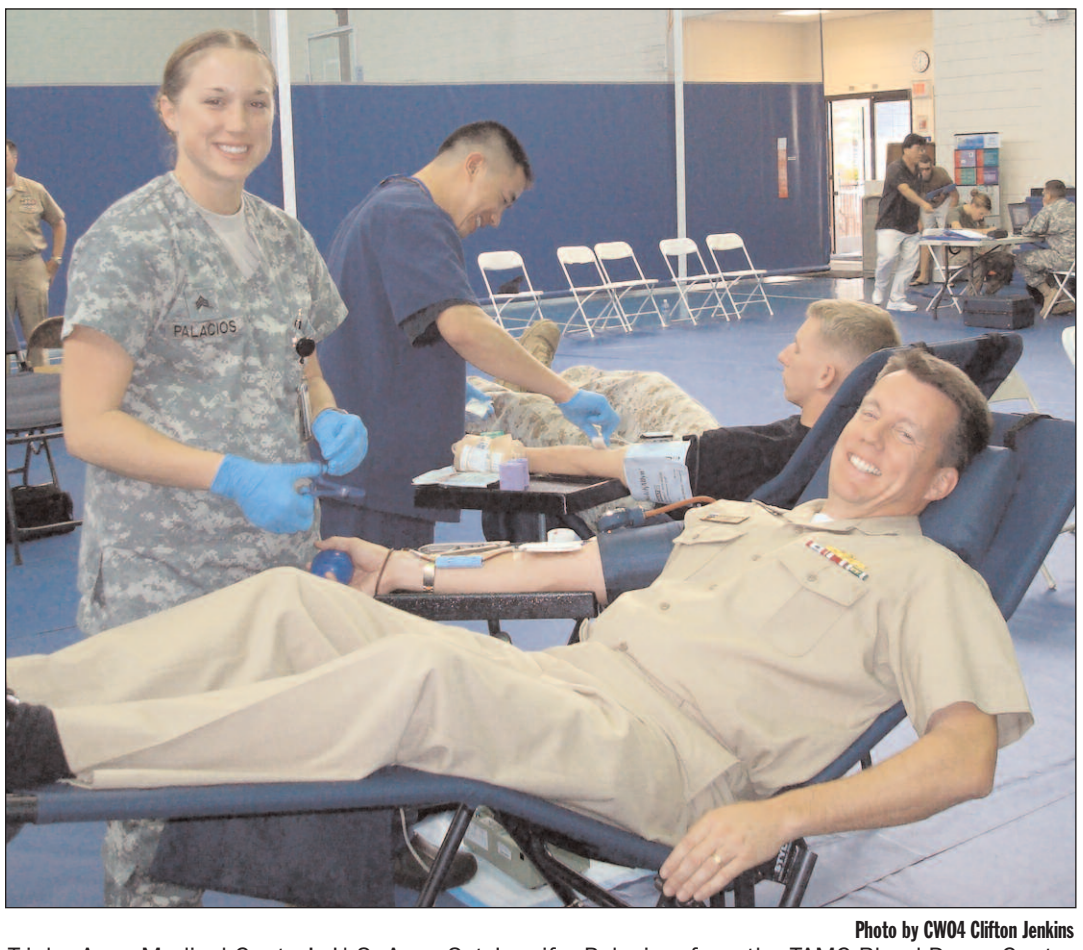

Photo by CWO4 Clifton Jenkins

Tripler Army Medical Center's U.S. Army Sgt Jennifer Palacios, from the TAMC Blood Donor Center prepares to receive a blood donation from NCTAMS PAC's Chief Staff Officer Capt. Robert Goodwin. The Blood Drive was hosted by NCTAMS PAC on March 21.

Sailors give gift of life

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 Friday March 21st, 2008. The drive started with donations provided by Capt. Janet Stewart, Commanding Officer, NCTAMS PAC and CMDCM(SW/AW) Michael Dollen, Command Master Chief of NCTAMS PAC. According to Master Chief Dollen "the goal was to surpass the number of blood donations provided during our last drive in November 2007". Tripler Army Medical Center, Blood Donor Center personnel were excited at the steady flow of sailors lined up most of the morning and early afternoon in order to support their life saving mission.

The base gym was used as the staging area to prequalify members for this lifesaving gift. Sailors were interviewed through various stages to ensure that they were fully qualified. Tripler Army Medical Center, Blood Donor Center's, Sgt Marcia Thompson (interim recruiter) indicated that this one drive was one of the best command supported efforts ever.

Mr. Guy Harrigan the out going blood donor recruiter, (leaving the Tripler Blood Center soon for a new assignment in Georgia) said that "the blood donations from NCTAMS PAC have 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 collected 56 units from NCTAMS PAC personnel in this drive. This amounts to a 12 percent increase from the previous drive conducted in the fall. The blood collected will be used to help the warfighters in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Chafee Sailor goes overboard for Battle 'E'

Ensign Matthew Bennett

Pearl Harbor based guided missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) was recently awarded her first Navy Battle Effectiveness Ribbon (Battle "E"). The award recognizes USS Chafee for operational excellence in Destroyer Squadron 23 during 2007.

Painting the prestigious big white E and other effectiveness awards from 2007 on the bridge wing was no trivial task, as Chafee is underway in the Western Pacific. With no option but to put a Sailor safely over the side at sea, Quarter Master Third Class Lindsey Dahlin suited up in a harness and float coat to be warily and bravely lowered from the bridge wing by her shipmates. This painting project was all part of the Navy Adventure for Petty Officer Dahlin. "I never thought I would be dangling 55 ft from the waterline, over the side of a warship in a wooden chair painting some "E's"" said Dahlin. Her hard careful work paid off and USS Chafee now proudly displays the results.

Chafee is currently deployed as part of the Nimitz Carrier Strike Group in the Western Pacific Ocean as part of the U.S. Seventh Fleet. She is commanded by Commander Robert Tortora and is based out of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

U.S. Navy photo

USS Chafee Sailor, Quarter Master 3rd Class Lindsey Dahlin hangs 55 feet above the water line to paint Battle "E's" on USS Chafee's bridge wing. Chafee won its first ever Battle Effectiveness Award this year.

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Barbara Goodno

Special to American Forces Press Service

The Department of Defense, military services and communities around the world once again are set to recognize the importance of military children whose parents serve their country.

The month-long recognition, first celebrated in 1986, is especially important today as resilient families manage long separations, said Leslye A. Arsht, deputy under secretary for military community and family policy.

"Our military children are proud of their moms and dads for their brave defense of our great country," Arsht said. "Th e Month of the Military Child events and activities let us show the youngest members of our military family – the children – how proud we are of their contributions, too. Our military children are unsung heroes. This is our chance to thank them for being so supportive of their parents."

Growing up in a military family offers some challenges, but it also provides some special rewards and pride for their parents' service, she said. About half of military children, or 1.2 million, have had a parent deploy.

"It's essential to recognize that military children make significant contributions for the country while their parents are away on long deployments," Arsht said. "Despite multiple moves throughout their school years, military children are resilient and self-confident. They have strengths admired by many – especially their parents."

Kick-off ceremonies and special activities will be held across the world at many military installations, schools and local communities throughout the April Month of the Military Child. Arsht encourages families to participate.

"We are grateful to our many community partners who join in this salute," she says. "Families also serve – including the children."

Wharf contract improves safety

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific Public Affairs

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific awarded IBC/TOA Corporation Joint Venture, Barrigada, Guam a $40 million, firm-fixed price contract today for construction of a new ammunition wharf for Commander, Naval Forces Marianas.

An additional $43.8 million will be funded upon the passage of the fiscal year 2009 military construction appropriations bill. The contract also contains one option for $171,000, which may be exercised within twelve months of the contract award, bringing the total cumulative value of the contract to a little more than $84 million.

The project will provide for a new 400-foot extension to the existing Kilo wharf, and the company will perform all necessary dredging within the harbor to enable the construction. The project will also provide for reinforced concrete crane girders and supports at the existing wharf and the new wharf extension.

"This project will provide over 50,000 additional square feet of wharf area, and it improves the Navy's ability to safely and efficiently unload and re-supply modern ordnance ships by increasing the area for receipt and handling of munitions, said Lt. Cmdr. Eric Hawn, Assistant Regional Engineer, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas. "This results in an economized handling process, and a reduced on-station time."

Construction work will strengthen the existing wharf, and will upgrade roads, electrical, water, and sewer services that support wharf operations. A reinforced concrete deck for the existing Kilo wharf and wharf extension is also included in the project's scope.

The contract was competitively procured with 60 solicitation packages distributed and five proposals received. Work is expected to be completed by March 2010.

"Ultimately, the project will deliver a significant strategic enhancement to Department of Defense units assigned to Guam, while also optimizing the safety of ordnance handling at Guam's only designated munitions wharf," said Hawn.

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