

Hawai'i governor proclaims Shipyard Centennial Week

MC1 Cynthia Clark

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard
Public Affairs

Hawai'i Gov. Linda Lingle proclaimed May 11-17 as "Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Centennial Week" in the state of Hawai'i during a ceremony in the executive chambers of the State Capitol on May 7.

Lingle, in her opening remarks, reinforced the importance of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard in serving the nation and the state of Hawai'i – past, present and future.

"From the early 1900s to World War II to Vietnam to the present day, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard has been there for us as Americans," she said. "The Asia-Pacific region is becoming more and more important every day and your shipyard, our shipyard, provides for security to our entire region and to the state of Hawai'i."

Lingle said the shipyard, as Hawai'i's largest industrial employer, "has been as vital to our state as it has been to our country's defense." The shipyard employs more than 4,000 Hawai'i residents and infuses about \$600 million into the state each year.

The shipyard has "invested heavily in the future of our state with its apprentice program, engineer co-op and other student-hire programs and through its generous mentorship and support of robotics education in our high schools, all of which help to prepare our youth for successful careers in Hawai'i and the global economy," she said.

"Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is teeming with advanced technology,



Office of the Governor photo by Ashley Cassel

Capt. Gregory Thomas, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard commander, and Hawai'i Gov. Linda Lingle, display the proclamation declaring May 11-17 as "Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Centennial Week" in the state of Hawai'i. The governor signed the document May 7 in the executive chamber of the state capital.

innovation and ingenuity," Lingle continued. "It's terrific to have a place where our residents are using technology and innovation every day and I appreciate very much the apprenticeship and the other programs which develop a highly

skilled workforce."

Capt. Gregory Thomas, shipyard commander, presented the governor with "Fit to Fight," the first book written exclusively about the history of the shipyard. More than 40 shipyard military and civilian per-

sonnel attended the ceremony, as well as representatives from the Navy League, Ship Repair Association, Metal Trades Council and the National Association of Superintendents.

The shipyard celebrated its 100th

birthday May 13. On that day in 1908, Congress approved legislation creating Navy Yard Pearl Harbor and authorized \$3 million for its construction.

During Centennial Week, the shipyard held many events, including a historical symposium on May 12. Distinguished academics, historians, military and political leaders shared papers and insights on the shipyard's history as well as its future.

The festivities continued with the All-Hands Birthday Bash, time capsule burial, unveiling of the centennial monument and dedication of the centennial tree May 13. The 84th apprentice class graduated May 13 followed by an employee family day May 17.

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is a full service naval shipyard and regional maintenance center for the Navy's surface ships and submarines. It is the Navy's largest ship repair facility beyond the West Coast. Ships deploying from the shipyard's strategic mid-Pacific location can reach key areas in the Far East a week faster than if they departed from the West Coast.

For more information on Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, visit <http://www.phnsy.navy.mil>.

(Editor's Note: Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann proclaimed May 13 as "Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard 100th Anniversary Day" in the City and County of Honolulu during a ceremony May 2 at Honolulu Hale. The mayor acknowledged the economic and strategic importance of the shipyard and recalled his personal efforts in 2005 to keep the shipyard off the base closure list.)



Maureen Murphy, the mother of Navy (SEAL) Lt. Michael Murphy, cuts the ribbon during a dedication ceremony for her son. Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), the Honorable Dr. Donald C. Winter, announced the name of the next guided-missile destroyer as USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) during the ceremony. Maureen Murphy will be the ship's sponsor.

Navy announces new ship, USS Michael Murphy

Story and photo by
MC2 (AW) Kevin S. O'Brien

Office of the Secretary of the Navy, Public Affairs

LAKE RONKONKOMA, N.Y. (NNS) -- Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter announced on May 7 at a ceremony in Lake Ronkonkoma, N.Y., the name of the newest Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer will be USS Michael Murphy. Designated as DDG 112, the name honors Lt. Michael Murphy who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during Operation Red Wing in Afghanistan on June 28, 2005.

"Michael Murphy's name which will be forever synonymous with astonishing courage under fire will now be associated with one of the U.S. Navy's most technologically advanced, most powerful and most capable warships," Winter said.

Michael Murphy's hometown of Patchogue, N.Y. held a dedication ceremony memorializing a park bearing Murphy's name. Michael P. Murphy Memorial Park contains a black granite wall dedicated to the men lost in Operation Red Wing with each member's name inscribed. In the center of the memorial, a black granite stone is embedded into the floor of the plaza bearing the picture of Murphy and his Medal of Honor.

A Navy SEAL, Murphy lead a four-man team tasked with finding a key Taliban leader in the mountainous terrain near Asadabad, Afghanistan when they came under fire from a much larger enemy force with superior tactical position.

Mortally wounded while exposing himself to enemy fire, Murphy knowingly left his position of cover to get a clear signal in order to communicate with his headquarters. While being shot at repeatedly, Murphy calmly provided his

See NEW DESTROYER, A-2

Sailor battles cancer with honor, courage, commitment

Story and photo by
MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

For Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class (AW/SW) David Eberhart, assigned to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 (MALS-24) at Marine Corps Base Kaneohe - Hawai'i, giving up a nearly six-year fight with cancer has never been an option.

"It's 90 percent mental, 10 percent physical. I've been told I have nine months, six months, nine months, and now I've been told five months," said Eberhart. "I always say, 'Don't give up the fight; you have to keep going. When that mission is completed, then it's time to go.'"

Eberhart, a Philadelphia native, was diagnosed with stage four colon cancer on Sept. 2, 2002 while assigned to the Kitty Hawk-class aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63).

According to Dr. Pat Nishimoto, DNS, adult clinical nurse specialist at Tripler Army Medical Center, stage four colon cancer is the most serious form of the cancer.

"Stage four is the worst. Based on the size of his tumor, it's considered metastatic cancer," said Nishimoto. "His kind is of the large

intestine and considered incurable, but is more like a chronic disease. You try to treat it to control it and it's worked out well for him."

Throughout treatments, Eberhart has remained an example of leadership by keeping his morale high, rallying fellow cancer patients, and participating in every clinical trial available.

"He knows the reasons we're doing so well is because thousands of people in the past have participated in clinical trials," said Nishimoto. "He has volunteered with hopes it will help people in the future even if it will not help him."

Nishimoto also noted Eberhart is always willing to talk to others undergoing treatment, providing support and boosting their morale.

"He was available for the other patients and became somewhat of a sponsor," said Nishimoto.

From September 2002 to September 2003, Eberhart endured chemotherapy treatments at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. After test results showed the cancer was in remission, Eberhart was

See EBERHART, A-6



Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class (AW/SW) David Eberhart, assigned to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24 at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe, makes dinner with his wife Hiroko at their home. Eberhart, 35, was diagnosed with stage four colon cancer on Sept. 2, 2002 and continues his attempt to become a chief petty officer while fighting the disease.



Navy hosts Australian business leaders
See page A-2



'Xeriscaping' helps Navy conservation efforts
See page A-7



Chief of Navy Chaplain visits USS Chosin
See page A-4



Navy Nurse Corps celebrates 100th birthday
See page B-1

Navy hosts Australian business leaders

Ensign Theresa Donnelly

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet hosted a two-day visit for 30 members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Australia (AmCham) on May 9.

AmCham began their visit to the headquarters with a welcome brief given by Rear Adm. John Bird, U.S. Pacific Fleet deputy commander and chief of staff

"As a United States Sailor, like all U.S. Sailors, we love everything about Australia," said Bird. "You provide exceptional support and close cooperation. We are very close partners and very close allies."

The visit was designed for the delegates to gain a better understanding of the activities taking place in the Pacific Fleet area of responsibility.

After the welcoming remarks by Bird, the group was given a presentation by William Wesley, executive director plans and policy, senior executive service. The presentation covered a wide variety of topics, including the mission and myriad responsibilities of U.S. Pacific Fleet, guiding principals and the command's organizational structure.

Wesley also highlighted the Navy's maritime strategy, which focuses on strengthening and improving relationships with regional allies, friends and partners as well as emphasizing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief as one of the Navy's core competencies.

"It's important that we reach out to groups such as our Australian friends, along with other friends, allies and partner states to demonstrate our Navy's commitment to maritime security throughout the Asia-Pacific Rim," said Wesley.

"It is imperative that we share the concepts of the CNO's 'A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower' as it will permit us to have a road map that we can embark with those within the region. Our goal



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Seaman Byung K. Cho
Tom Mulcahy of the American Chamber of Commerce in Australia (AmCham) speaks with Engineman 2nd Class (SW/AW) Steven Davis following a tour of the USS Arizona Memorial on May 2. Davis served as the AmCham's guide for a historic harbor tour following the group's visit to U.S. Pacific Fleet headquarters, where they spoke with senior leaders about the Pacific Fleet area of responsibility and its role in the Navy's maritime strategy.

is to improve our confidence building measures among our friends, allies and partners as we look forward to ensuring we affect stronger partnerships in the future."

After the briefing, the group was provided a private harbor tour that included a visit to the USS Arizona Memorial as well as several spots along the waterfront that were impacted during the 1941 attacks on Pearl Harbor.

"The visit was fantastic," said Penelope Williamson, general manager of AmCham. "It was certainly the highlight of the delegates' visit to the United States."

The group's trip to Honolulu was a stop enroute to Houston for the Offshore Technology Conference, the world's largest conference for the offshore oil and gas industry.

Founded in 1961 with more than 1,700 members, AmCham is Australia's largest international chamber of commerce and provides information on business activities from the Australian point of view to the America business public. Additionally, the group lends assistance to Australian companies seeking business in U.S. markets.

The U.S. Navy has had a long standing relationship with Australia. U.S. Navy ships make regular port visits to the country, including a recent visit by amphibious assault ship USS Tarawa (LHA 1) on May 2.

Twice a year, the U.S. Navy participates in Talisman Saber, a combined military exercise that demonstrates and improves the Australia-U.S. military relationships and operational competencies. More than 12,000 Australians join with 20,000 U.S. military personnel and work together on crisis-action planning and contingency response events.

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet is the world's largest fleet command and is comprised of 100 million square miles. Adm. Robert Willard commands Pacific Fleet which encompasses about 178 ships, 1,500 aircraft and 200,000 Sailors, Marines and civilians.

Mercy departs Pearl Harbor for Pacific Partnership 2008

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

The Military Sealift Command (MSC) hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) departed Naval Station Pearl Harbor on May 10 in support of Pacific Partnership 2008.

Commanded by Capt. William A. Kearns III, commander of Destroyer Squadron 31, Pacific Partnership 2008 will serve as a humanitarian civic assistance (HCA) mission which brings together a multi-national military medical and construction team working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide medical, dental, construction and other HCA ashore and afloat in Southeast Asia and Oceania.

"We're poised for success

and we're ready to get started," said Kearns.

"Pacific Partnership 2008 has been in planning for many months. We've had our team onboard the Mercy in San Diego getting the ship and crew ready. At the same time we've had teams out in Southeast Asia, Oceania - visiting the countries doing the advance coordination and work that's needed so that we're successful when we arrive."

Throughout the 2008 Pacific Partnership mission, Mercy will serve as an enabling platform through which military and NGOs can coordinate and carry out HCA efforts.

"Much of our work will actually be done ashore. We'll do some work onboard, especially the surgeries and some of the more complex if our tasking changes."

medical procedures. We'll be running helicopters and boats back and forth to shore. In each country we'll be spending 10 to 14 days," added Kearns.

Mercy is scheduled to visit the Republic of the Philippines, Vietnam, the Federated States of Micronesia, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea.

"As of now we're still executing our plan to conduct Pacific Partnership 2008, as planned in five countries," he said. "If we were called upon to do a disaster relief mission, I think we could contribute in some way. The capabilities [of the ship] give the Pacific Fleet Commander and the Pacific Command Commander a great deal of operational capability and flexibility, so we'll be ready if our tasking changes."



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

A white boat assigned to USS Arizona Memorial detachment returns visitors to USS Arizona Memorial Visitors Center as Military Sealift Command (MSC) hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) navigates Pearl Harbor waters. Mercy is currently at NAVSTA Pearl Harbor enroute for a humanitarian mission to the western Pacific and Southeast Asia supporting Pacific Partnership 2008. Pacific Partnership 2008 is designed to strengthen the goodwill developed during previous humanitarian civic assistance missions. Mercy is scheduled to visit the Republic of Philippines, Vietnam, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Welcome aboard USS Bremerton



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (SW) Cynthia Clark
Cmdr. Howard Warner, commanding officer of USS Bremerton (SSN 698), welcomes members of the Japanese House of Representatives, Fumio Kyuma, Kousaburo Nishime and Hiroshi Imazu, on board the attack submarine during a visit to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on May 9.

USS Michael Murphy

Continued from A-1

unit's location and requested immediate support for his element. He returned to his cover position to continue the fight until finally succumbing to his wounds.

"Every Sailor who crosses the brow, every Sailor who hears the officer of the deck announce the arrival of the commanding officer, and every Sailor who enters a foreign land representing our great nation will do so as an honored member of USS Michael Murphy," Winter said.

USS Michael Murphy will be one of the U.S. Navy's most advanced, state-of-the-art warships in the fleet. With the combination of

Aegis, the vertical launching system, and advanced anti-submarine warfare system, advanced anti-aircraft missiles and Tomahawk cruise missiles, the Arleigh Burke-class continues the revolution at sea.

Utilizing a gas turbine propulsion system, USS Michael Murphy will be able to operate independently or as part of carrier strike groups, surface action groups, amphibious ready groups, and underway replenishment groups.

USS Michael Murphy will be the 62nd Arleigh Burke-class destroyer. She is 509.5 feet in length, has a waterline beam of 59 feet, displaces approximately 9,200 tons, has a crew size of 323 (23 officers and 300 enlisted) and she will make speed in excess of 30 knots.

Hawaii Navy News Editorial

Wounded Warriors visit Pearl Harbor

Fleet master chief gets underway

Lt. j.g. Kory Peterson

Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific Public Affairs

FLTCM (SW/AW) Tom Howard, Fleet Master Chief U.S. Pacific Fleet, recently called a wager with a local Sailor due. During the recent Sailor of the Year competition, coordinator Howard interviewed the Surface Forces Pacific Sailor of the Year, Master at Arms 1st Class (SW/AW/PJ) Chad V. Bearden.

As an anti-terrorism force protection assessor at Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific (ATG MID-PAC), Bearden talked about one of his duties at ATG MID-PAC – coxswain for small boat attacks that provide realistic real-world training to Pearl Harbor-based ships and submarines.

Bearden also stated that ATG's eight-meter rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) was the fastest on the

waterfront. As a prior boatswain's mate before he was selected for the command master chief program, Howard was intrigued.

Howard called Bearden on his boast and it was finally settled in Pearl Harbor on Monday.

The twin engine eight-meter RHIB delivers 250 horse power and can accelerate to well over 40 knots in no time. ATG MID-PAC obtained the RHIB after it was retired as a remotely controlled high-speed maneuverable surface track boat used in naval gunfire support training.

Howard had the chance to drive the boat and couldn't stop grinning as they toured Ford Island and Pearl Harbor. He conceded the RHIB held up its end of the bargain.

Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific's primary mission is to produce "warships ready for tasking" for operational commanders through a combination of innovative training practices and objective based assessment criteria.



Master-at-arms 1st Class (SW/AW/PJ) Chad Bearden radios Port Operations while Fleet Master Chief (SW/AW) Tom Howard pilots an eight-meter RHIB in the waters of Pearl Harbor.



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

Forty-five "Wounded Warriors" and their family members from Brooke Army Medical Center located at San Antonio, Texas joined Capt. Taylor Skardon, commanding officer of Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor, on May 8 for a historic tour of Pearl Harbor and visits to USS Utah Memorial and USS Arizona Memorial. "It was a great honor to take these folks out. They are real American heroes. It's very humbling for me to see the spirit that these folks have," said Skardon. "This was one of the most important tours I've done and they are very brave people." The tour served as an opportunity to improve morale for the veterans and learn the history of Pearl Harbor first-hand. "It lets you know that there are fellow Americans out there who haven't forgotten," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Gary Ard, who medically retired from the Navy after 16 years of service. "It touches you because you feel like your fellow Americans appreciate what you did, even though you sometimes have to go through disabilities that completely change your life."

Click it or ticket



Karen S. Spangler

Editor

There are two important reasons to buckle your seatbelt. For one thing, it's the law. More importantly, buckling your seatbelt could save your life.

With the kickoff of this year's Click It or Ticket campaign in Hawaii and across the nation, law enforcement officials will be stepping up enforcement of the mandatory seat-belt law. Police officers will stop motorists on the move and in special roadblocks during the Click It or Ticket campaign, which began May 12 and runs through June 1 on all islands except Oahu. On Oahu, the campaign will be extended for two weeks until June 14 to cover the graduation season.

Police will set up roving patrols at key intersections around the state with checkpoints and message boards. Drivers who fail to follow the seat belt law can receive a \$92 ticket.

Hawaii leads the nation in seat-belt use, with a compliance rate of 97.6 percent last year. The national seat-belt use rate is 82 percent.

In 2007, police statewide issued 2,793 tickets for seat-belt violations and 170 tickets for child safety restraint infractions.

State law requires drivers, front-seat passengers and back-seat passengers younger than 18 to buckle up. Children under the age of four must ride in a child safety seat and a booster seat is required for children under eight years old. Violators of the child passenger restraint use law are required to pay a fine between \$100 and \$500 and attend a four-hour class. There were 161 fatalities as a result of automobile

crashes in Hawaii in 2006.

About 51 percent of those who were killed in accidents on Hawaii's highways would probably be alive today – if they had just clicked their seatbelts.

Statistics for traffic accidents within the Navy/Marine community show that during Fiscal Year '08 through May 6, 63 Sailors and Marines have died in traffic mishaps

According to information released by the Naval Safety Center, during fiscal years 2002-2007, there were 401 Navy personnel and 335 Marine service members killed in private motor vehicle (PMV) accidents. The Navy's PMV fatality rate between fiscal year 2002-2007 was 17.93 percent.

The outcome in many of those mishaps could have been different if seat belts had been used.

Signs posted at the gates of military installations advise drivers that safety belts are required. But it's not just an on base requirement – safety belts are required 100 percent of the time on base and off.

If the laws don't convince you and you aren't impressed with the grim statistics, consider the laws of physics:

- If you crash or slam on your brakes, your car comes to a sudden stop. But you keep moving until you, too, are stopped – by the windshield, dashboard or pavement.

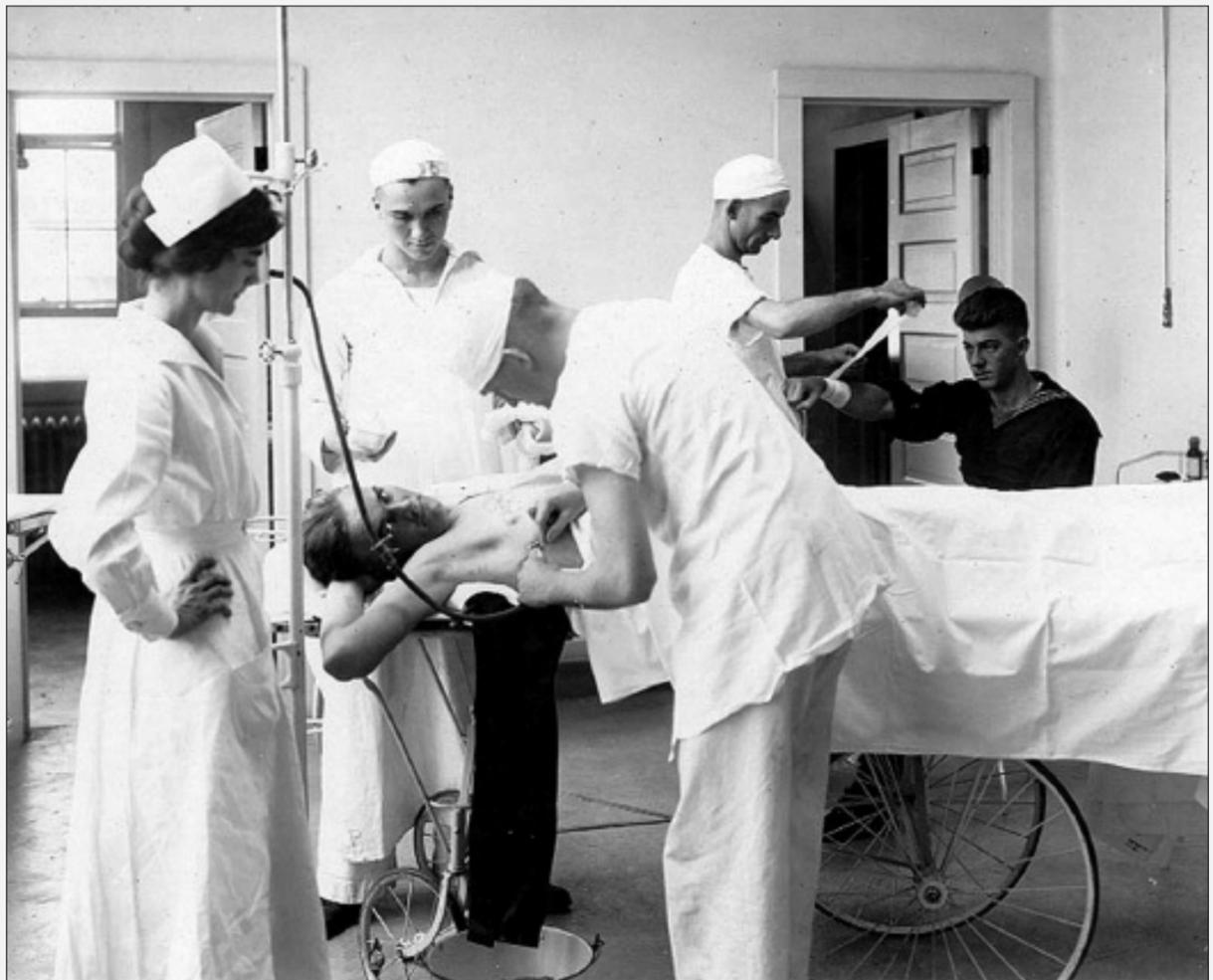
- Wearing a seatbelt stops your body from being thrown around inside or outside the car. Wearing a seatbelt decreases the chances that you will be hurt by keeping you firmly in place.

Ponder this and think about how you want to stop if you are involved in an accident.

Air bags provide an addi-

See BUCKLE UP, A-4

Navy nursing in its early years



Hospital corpsmen irrigate and dress wounds under a nurse's supervision, circa 1918, at the U.S. Naval Hospital, New Orleans, La.

Hawaii Navy News

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Chief of Navy Chaplains visits USS Chosin

Story and photo by
MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Robert Burt, Chief of Navy Chaplains, visited the Pearl Harbor-based, Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) on May 7 while in the region for the Chaplain Corps' Professional Development Training Conference that took place onboard Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

While onboard the ship, Burt spoke with Sailors, ate lunch with the crew, and was given a tour of the ship's spaces.

"It was great to be on the Chosin. The crew was very hospitable and I enjoyed meeting and greeting the Sailors," said Burt.

Lt. Corey Thornton, command chaplain onboard Chosin, thought that Burt's visit improved the morale of the crew.

"It's a great opportunity to have the head of the Chaplain Corps take a look at the ship

and I think the crew was really encouraged by it," said Thornton. "When he spent time with the crew, you could tell they were thrilled that someone like him was proud of them."

As he departed the ship, Burt commented on the superb time he had while onboard the Chosin.

"They are a top-notch professional crew," said Burt. "I wish they'd offer me a rack and let me sail with them because they are a great ship."

Burt became the 24th Chief of Navy Chaplains on June 23, 2006. Navy chaplains serve on ships and at foreign and domestic bases throughout various Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard commands. Responsibilities of Navy chaplains include conducting worship services in a variety of settings, overseeing religious education programs, such as Sunday school and youth groups and providing spiritual guidance and care to hospitalized personnel and/or their family members.



Rear Adm. Robert Burt, Chief of Navy Chaplains, speaks to Sailors at the afternoon meal onboard the Pearl Harbor-based, Ticonderoga-class, guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) during a visit to the ship May 7. While onboard, Burt also received a tour of the ship's spaces. Burt was in Pearl Harbor for the Chaplain Corps' Professional Development Training Conference taking place at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

All enlisted watch team brings USS Port Royal home



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Cassidy Rasmussen

An all-enlisted watch team brought USS Port Royal (CG 73) safely in on the final leg of her homecoming journey to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on May 2. Quartermaster Chief (SW) William Gleason (right) led the team as officer of the deck, while Operations Specialist Chief (SW) Matthew Blanton (with binoculars) drove Port Royal as the conning officer. The Pearl Harbor-based, Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser returned after a six-month deployment to the western Pacific Ocean as part of the Tarawa Expeditionary Strike Group supporting the global war on terrorism.

Buckle up and save your life

Continued from A-3

tional safety factor. But they are designed to be used with seatbelts. When used by themselves, they are only 12 percent effective at reducing deaths due to traffic accidents.

Despite all of the alarming statistics, warnings and information that have been publicized about the importance of using seatbelts, many people are still not using the safety devices. Why do people ignore the numbers and refuse to fasten

their safety belts?

Many people have their reasons – these are some of the more common "excuses."

- It takes too much time (your life isn't worth the few seconds it takes to fasten your seatbelt?).

- My seatbelts are broken or missing (isn't saving your life or saving you from serious injury worth the time and expense to have them repaired/replaced?).

- It's too uncomfortable (ever picture yourself in a full body cast lying in a hos-

pital bed...or worse?).

- It's inconvenient (consider how "inconvenient" it could be for your family and friends if you are killed in a traffic accident?).

But the real crime is that so many lives could be saved, by just taking a couple seconds to "click it."

If you aren't already a committed safety belt user, it's a good time to start.

Not only will it save you from getting a ticket, a fine and points on your driving record, but it could save your life.

Pearl Harbor Highlights



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

Rear Adm. Robert Burt, Chief of Navy Chaplains, receives a command ballcap from Capt. Tim Smith, commanding officer of the Pearl Harbor-based Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65), during a visit to the ship May 7. While onboard, Burt ate lunch with the crew and received a tour of the ship's spaces. Burt was at Pearl Harbor for the Chaplain Corps' Professional Development Training Conference.



Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 3rd Class Allen Cameron and Aviation Support Equipment Technician 1st Class Juan Mejia lower the National Ensign aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) for the ship's departure from Pearl Harbor on May 12. Peleliu was at Pearl Harbor for a scheduled port visit.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3A Shannon K. Cassidy



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

The Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) maneuvers into Pearl Harbor. Mercy is enroute to a humanitarian mission to the western Pacific and Southeast Asia supporting Pacific Partnership 2008. Pacific Partnership 2008 is designed to strengthen the goodwill developed during previous humanitarian civic assistance missions. Mercy is scheduled to visit the Republic of Philippines, Vietnam, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Federated States of Micronesia.



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

Capt. Taylor Skardon, commanding officer of Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor, shows where oil still leaks on the USS Arizona Memorial to more than 45 wounded Sailors, Soldiers, Marines, family members and physical therapists from Operation Comfort. The May 8 tour of Pearl Harbor and the Pacific Aviation Museum provided Operation Comfort with an opportunity to visit a major part of military history. Operation Comfort provides support to service members who have been wounded in Afghanistan or Iraq and are receiving treatment at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.



Torpedoman's Mate 3rd Class Garrity Johnson stands lookout aboard the ballistic missile submarine USS Henry M. Jackson (SSBN 730) as she pulls out of Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i.

U.S. Navy photo by ST2 Will Blackshear

First class Sailor hopes his fight will help others

Continued from A-1

cleared for full-duty and quickly returned to the fleet.

Eberhart returned to the Kitty Hawk in December 2003 and served as shift supervisor and leading petty officer until May 2006.

However, during an annual checkup, doctors told Eberhart that the cancer had returned, stronger and faster than ever. Upon receiving the information, Eberhart then transferred to MALS-24 in order to undergo treatment at Tripler Army Medical Center.

More than two years later, the 35-year-old first class petty officer continues to fight his battle with cancer, while striving to become a chief petty officer (CPO) in the U.S. Navy.

"It's important to make chief because I will be able to mentor junior Sailors and lead them on the deckplates," said Eberhart.

Even when offered medical retirement, Eberhart instead opted to pursue limited duty extensions, providing him the chance to mentor junior Sailors.

"Even though he was sick at work, the attitude he brought showed you he really wanted to be here," said Chief Aviation Electronics Technician (AW) Robert Benton, assigned to MALS-24 and Eberhart's leading chief petty officer.

Eberhart has been eligible for advancement to CPO six times in his naval career and continues to lead and mentor junior Sailors at MALS-24 in the hope that he will one day become a chief.

"Even though studying is difficult, it's important to keep going," said Eberhart.

Unable to participate in any chemotherapy treatments due to the spread of the cancer, he continues to remain strong, taking a large number of pills twice a day and at all times, carries a pouch containing pain medication to fight what the cancer is doing to his body.

"He no longer receives chemo because of his liver. It is not safe for him to get any medicine that would



U.S. Navy photo by MCI 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. Eberhart was diagnosed with cancer in 2002 yet is still determined to make chief petty officer.

affect his liver," said Nishimoto.

Eberhart continues to remain strong at home as well, with the help of his wife Hiroko and his two children, Kuniyuki, 17, and Phoenix, 10.

"If it wasn't for her, I'd be dead three years ago," said Eberhart. "She keeps me solid, keeps me grounded. As some people say, men are the pillars, but without the wife's strong foundation, the pillar falls. My wife has been that for me."

Eberhart and his family wake up every morning not knowing what to expect when it comes to their husband and father's health. Good days can include a walk with his family and their dog or a loved hobby such as barbecuing on the grill. Bad days are known quickly, as Eberhart awakes with excruciating pain in the abdomen and tries to manage it

throughout the day.

"David is a very lucky man. He has friends and family and people in the Navy who love him very much and help him throughout the day to give him support," said Hiroko.

Eberhart's family has also embraced a "never give up" attitude, providing support at every opportunity.

"We have to work through it every single day," said Hiroko. "Sick people always try to think positive thoughts, but it's very difficult, so we help do it for him."

Eberhart began his naval career in 1993, going to basic training at the former Recruit Training Command in San Diego, Calif. Following that, he moved to Millington, Tenn. for Aviation Ordnanceman 'A'

School.

Eberhart's first duty station was onboard the Forrestal-class aircraft carrier USS Independence (CV 62) from 1993-1998, where he advanced to petty officer third class. While onboard Independence, Eberhart received a Navy and Marine Corps

Achievement Medal.

In October 1998, Eberhart was assigned as a recruiter at the Navy Recruiting Station in Abington, Pa. as one of the first third class recruiters in the fleet. While there, Eberhart advanced to the rank of petty officer first class.

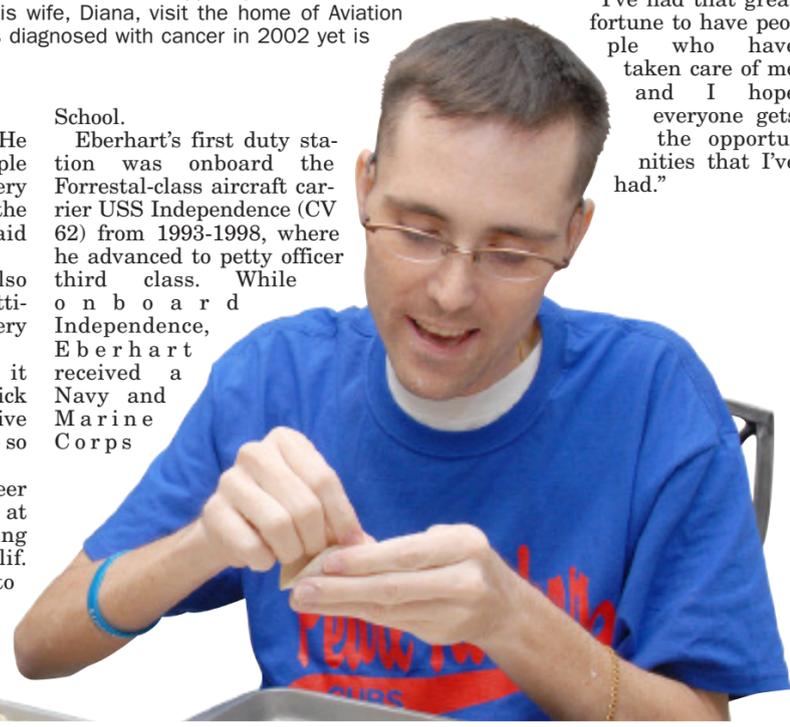
"I think the reason I was chosen as one of the first recruiters was that I was young, new in the Navy, married and had children," said Eberhart. "I could show the parent aspect and let the possible Sailors know it's not that bad out in the fleet."

Following his recruiting tour, Eberhart returned to sea aboard the Kitty Hawk in December 2001, where he was first diagnosed with the cancer.

Continuing to fight for a full recovery, Eberhart hopes, regardless of how it helps him, that his clinical trials and treatments will someday benefit others.

"Even if what I've gone through doesn't help me, hopefully it will inspire someone. It's all about helping your fellow man, your fellow Sailor," said Eberhart.

"I've had that great fortune to have people who have taken care of me and I hope everyone gets the opportunities that I've had."



Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange Mall is going green

Xeriscaping will help Navy conservation efforts

Denise Emsley
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If you've driven past the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) complex recently, you may have noticed some major landscaping changes underway. In a collaborative effort between Navy Region Hawaii, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Hawaii and the NEX, a practical landscape design using environmentally-friendly vegetation and xeriscaping is being implemented.

Many of the plants and shrubs that require significant irrigation and maintenance have been removed and will be replaced with xeriscape functionality instead. Xeriscape is an innovative concept used to conserve water through the choice of hardy, drought resistant plants and creative landscaping.

"Since water is such a valuable commodity, especially in Hawaii, it makes sense for Navy Region Hawaii to include xeriscape in current and future landscape designs," said Matt Flach, landscape architect at Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii. "The principles of xeriscaping serve as guidelines to best-use irrigation, ultimately assisting water conservation efforts," he explained.

Xeriscape is based on seven fundamental principles: planning and design, soil improvement, limited and separate turf areas, appropriate plants, efficient irrigation, use of mulch, and proper maintenance. These principles take advantage of natural climate conditions and soil type to improve water efficiency. The word xeriscaping was coined by combining xeros (Greek for "dry") with landscape.

Over the past several years, aggressive federal mandates have been issued requiring federal agencies to reduce energy

and water consumption. Beginning in fiscal year 2008, all federal agencies, including the Department of Navy, were required to reduce their water consumption by two percent annually through fiscal year 2015.

To meet these water reduction mandates, Navy Region Hawaii has been educating its facilities personnel on the benefits of xeriscaping. The region engineer is also the commanding officer of NAVFAC Hawaii and the synergy this brought to the project was apparent, as the NAVFAC Hawaii energy team hosted two seminars earlier this year for region military and civilian personnel.

Flach provided participants with useful information on xeriscaping, including the principles of xeriscape, the application of xeriscape in Hawaii, and the process of implementing xeriscape at Navy Region Hawaii facilities.

"A key to

improving water efficiency is to understand the tools available to help us with our efforts," said Greg Gebhardt, energy and utilities services manager at NAVFAC Hawaii. "Xeriscape landscaping is a practical water management tool that will assist the region attain federal water consumption goals," Gebhardt said.

Although Navy Region Hawaii has been incorporating the concept of xeriscape in some of its landscape designs for several years, its first major xeriscape project is now being executed at the Pearl Harbor NEX. Over the next year, a two-phased project, planned and designed by NAVFAC Hawaii, will transform the NEX main mall off Radford Drive into a shining "green" example of how xeriscape landscaping can make a huge visible and financial difference

Prior to launching phase one, a small test plot of ground was selected at the NEX parking lot and NAVFAC Hawaii shop personnel prepared and planted xeriscape vegetation, such as dwarf crown-of-thorns and the

Hawaiian akia shrub. The new plants quickly took hold without any losses and the result is a colorful and thriving example of what will be seen throughout the NEX complex in the near future.

On April 1, work officially began on phase one with the "construction" portion of the project, which is expected to take six months to complete. This work includes herbicide applications, the demolition of existing shrubs, weeds and ground cover, replacing and repairing the irrigation system heads, replacing a malfunctioning irrigation booster pump and rain sensing shut off devices, tree pruning, soil preparation and plant installation.

The project then calls for approximately 96,000 square feet to be covered with 59,000 drought-tolerant shrubs and groundcover, 50 percent of which will be native Hawaiian plants. This vegetation will blanket the ground around existing royal palms placed at the facility and other parking lot islands will be covered with a thick mat of tropical greens accented by red, purple, pink, white and yellow flowers. The lower growing plants will also provide a safer environment for drivers and pedestrians visiting the NEX than the previous landscaping.

"This \$500,000 project is more than cosmetic surgery," said Scott Bonn, facility manager at NAVFAC Hawaii. "Through the use of native plants accustomed to Hawaii's climate, the new landscaping will not only conserve water, but also reduce grounds maintenance costs. These annual savings will eventually pay for the entire project."

Currently in the planning stage is phase two work, which will consist of another 99,000 square feet of green improvements at the NEX, starting sometime this fall.

For more information on xeriscape and its benefits, contact the NAVFAC Hawaii Energy Team at 471-0440.

Matt Flach, a landscape architect with NAVFAC Hawaii, points out various native Hawaiian plants in the NEX parking lot test plot.

U.S. Navy photo by Denise Emsley





Aubrey Grimes, occupational safety and health specialist at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, inspects the intake of an air sampling monitor. Grimes was named by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists as the winner of the 2008 John J. Bloomfield Award on April 9.

Shipyarder wins national award

Story and photo by Marshall Fukuki

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) named Aubrey Grimes of Pearl City, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) specialist, as the winner of its 2008 John J. Bloomfield Award on April 9.

In an official letter of notification, Lawrence Gibbs, chairman of the national professional society, said the award is presented annually to "an up-and-coming industrial hygienist who has made significant contributions to the profession by pursuing occupational health hazards, primarily through fieldwork."

Industrial hygienists gather and analyze data that assists doctors in determining if a substance or condition at the workplace is of enough concern for the employee and employer to take action. They measure workplace contaminants, recommend controls to fix an identified problem, and help workers with the appropriate safety and health protective equipment.

As a Bloomfield Award winner, Grimes will be able to participate in ACGIH board meetings and conferences calls for one year, followed by another year as a guest with a technical committee of her choice.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to work with a wide variety of people in my profession," Grimes said.

Grimes' coworker, industrial hygienist Jerry Formisano Jr., nominated her for the award. He cited her outstanding scientific and professional skills, motivation and competence in a very challenging and often stressful work environment.

"The shipyard is one of the most dynamic places to be because things are always changing," he said. "It's not like an assembly line or a factory where you manufacture the same products every day.

"This is the place to be for worker safety and health because it's so busy and there's so many things going on," he added.

Formisano also praised Grimes for her people skills in interacting with the yard's multi-cultural and blue-collar workforce. "A big part of being an industrial hygienist is being able to relate with people," he said. "When you go into someone's workplace, there's a method to putting people at ease. Not everyone can do it."

As manager of the workplace monitoring program, Grimes enforced safety requirements aboard ships undergoing maintenance and repairs and evaluated waterfront and shop work areas. She described her approach as "I'm more 'Hey, can I help you' as opposed to 'You can't do this' and 'You can't do that.'"

"I try to work with people to solve the problem," she said. "I share my knowledge, explain the situation ... and help the production workers to get where they need to be."

Grimes has six years of experience in the health and safety profession. In June 2002, she became the first college student selected for an internship as an OSH specialist in the safety office at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, N.H. She was hired as a permanent full-time employee at the Portsmouth shipyard in 2004 and worked there until December 2006, when she left to transfer to Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

This summer, the ACGIH will fly Grimes to its conference in Minneapolis where she will be presented with her award at the annual meeting.

"She's the new blood as the present generation of health professionals begins to retire," Formisano said. "I believe she represents the future of the health and safety profession as we would like to see it."

Federal Fire Department 'scoops up' money

Story and photo by Navy Region Hawai'i Federal Fire Department

Navy Region Hawai'i Federal Fire Department (FFD) partnered with Baskin Robbins Corp. to support the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation at an event held April 30 at the Schofield Barracks Post Exchange food court.

Firefighters assisted the crew at the food court to 'scoop' the ice cream treats at 31 cents per scoop. The corporation will donate \$100,000 to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.

The event also featured a live performance of FFD's band, "Na Kinai Ahi,"

FFD's 'house of hazards,' Freddy the Robot Fire Truck, Sparky the Fire Dog, fire extinguisher and fire prevention demonstrations and exhibits, a fire truck display, free blood pressure screening, and fire prevention information packets, patches and helmets.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation was created by Congress to lead a nationwide effort to support research to prevent line-of-duty firefighter deaths as well as support of families of fallen fire-

fighters. The foundation also created a National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Md. to honor those who have given their lives in the line-of-duty.



Photo by Navy Region Hawai'i Federal Fire Department

Firefighters from Federal Fire Department provided demonstrations and information about fire safety during an event at Baskin-Robbins at the Schofield Barracks Exchange food court on April 30. It was held to help support the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation.