

## USS Crommelin returns to Pearl Harbor

MC2 John Ciccarelli Jr.

Fleet Public Affairs Center  
Detachment Hawai'i

The Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) returned to her homeport of Naval Station Pearl Harbor (NAVSTA PH) on June 8, after a deployment to Latin America and the Eastern Pacific.

The ship and her crew of approximately 200 Sailors deployed Nov. 27, 2007 to the Naval Forces Southern Command area of operations via the Panama Canal to engage in monitoring, detecting counter-narcotics activities and community relations projects.

"The crew was superb in every aspect of the deployment. I would take this crew anywhere," said Cmdr. Patrick Huete, commanding officer of Crommelin. "It's very professionally rewarding to take a ship on deployment and to be gone for six-and-a-half months, be able to go through all the events that we did on the other side of the world, and bring the crew back safely to Pearl Harbor."

Huete noted the ship confiscated approximately \$71 million dollars worth of cocaine.

"The deployment went very well in helping to deter the flow of illegal narcotics into the United States," said Huete.

While in port at Cartagena, Colombia, some of the crew volunteered their liberty time to work at a local school and off-loaded nearly 1,200 pounds of charitable goods from Project Handclasp for donation. Donated items included toys and medical supplies.

"The performance of the crew helping these countries we visited was outstanding and a true show to our commitment as goodwill



Photo illustration. U.S. Navy photo by MCC (SW/AW) David Rush and MC2 Paul D. Honnick

ambassadors," said Chief Hull Maintenance Technician (SW) Robert Thompson, repair division leading chief petty officer. "Anything that arose, the crew came together and handled it professionally."

During the deployment, the crew visited numerous ports in Latin America, including Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Panama City, Panama; Cartagena, Columbia; and Trujillo, Peru.

Also returning from operations were the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) and the Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57).

O'Kane and Reuben James departed NAVSTA PH on April 18 to join the Nimitz Expeditionary Strike Group as part of the Pacific Fleet's new Mid-Pacific Surface Combatant Operational Employment.

For some of the Sailors, it was their first deployment and the first time visiting another country.

"It was really exciting, I didn't know what to expect and now that it is all over, it was more than I could have hoped for in a deployment," said Hull Maintenance Technician Fireman David O'Brian. "It really feels great to be back

home and to see my wife after such a long time."

As the ship approached the pier, families and friends of the crew lined up waving "welcome home" signs.

"It feels great that he's coming home after such a long time. We have missed him greatly," said Michelle Pease, Crommelin command ombudsmen. "We have coped with many deployments by reminding ourselves that every day that passes is just one more day closer

till he gets home."

After the ships moored and the "first kiss" ceremony and Sailors were released to greet their loved ones waiting on the pier.

"This was his first time being on a deployment of this length and it is so amazing to be able to not only see him again, but to be the first to give their loved one a kiss," said the wife of a Crommelin Sailor.

Crommelin is a versatile, multi-mission warship, able to execute a variety of war fighting tasks for the nation. Frigates fulfill a protection of shipping mission as anti-submarine warfare combatants for amphibious expeditionary forces, underway replenishment groups and merchant convoys.

Guided-missile destroyers provide multi-mission offensive and defensive capabilities and can operate independently or as part of carrier strike groups, surface action groups, expeditionary strike groups and underway replenishment groups.

## Russell assists vessel in distress

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/5th Fleet Public Affairs

USS Russell (DDG 59), homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, responded to a vessel in distress between Bossasso, Somalia and the Yemeni coast in the Gulf of Aden on June 8.

A Combined Task Force (CTF) 150 air asset notified Russell of the small boat's

distress call. Russell, operating nearby, proceeded at maximum speed and arrived on-scene to assist the vessel. The 45-foot small boat experienced serious engine problems, leaving it unable to operate at sea, and had been adrift for two days.

There were approximately 70 personnel on board the vessel, some of whom were in need of immediate medical attention. Seven personnel were transferred to Russell

and treated for severe dehydration and malnutrition. The vessel was also re-provisioned for the night and Russell towed it toward Somalia where the small boat and patients will be turned over to Somali authorities.

Coalition forces have a longstanding tradition of helping mariners in distress by providing medical assistance and engineering assistance as well as search and rescue.



Interior Communications Electrician 3rd Class Nicholas Mason, left, takes vital signs of a patient brought aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) as Ensign Melanie Chambers, Ensign Lisa Bydairk and Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Matthew Thompson assist. Russell responded to a vessel in distress June 8 between Bossasso, Somalia and the Yemeni coast in the Gulf of Aden. The 45-foot small boat had serious engine problems, leaving it adrift for two days.



HONORARY CHIEF AVIATION ORDNANCEMAN (AW/SW) DAVID EBERHART  
APRIL 19, 1973 - JUNE 7, 2008

## Farewell Shipmate...

Honorary Chief Aviation Ordnanceman David Eberhart, assigned to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron (MALS) 24 at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe Bay passed away on June 7 after a nearly six-year long battle with cancer. Eberhart, 35, was diagnosed with colon cancer on Sept. 2, 2002 and continued to serve on active duty with the goal of becoming a chief petty officer and then Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) someday. On May 15, Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class David Eberhart was appointed an honorary chief petty officer by MCPON Joe R. Campa Jr. Following the pinning ceremony at Tripler Army Medical Center, Eberhart received a personal phone call from the MCPON who congratulated him on his monumental achievement. "It is my privilege to welcome you to the chief's mess. You have exemplified the guiding principles of a chief petty officer. Your courage and commitment to our Sailors and our Navy has inspired all of us," said Campa. "Having the MCPON call me and tell me I'm a chief petty officer in the Navy is amazing and is something I will never forget," said Eberhart, shortly after receiving his anchors. The funeral service is scheduled for Saturday, June 21 at the Borthwick Mortuary in Honolulu. Viewing is at 10 a.m., the service is at 11 a.m. and both are open to the public. In lieu of flowers, donations will be accepted.

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



Lake Erie conducts successful BMD tracking mission See page A-2



Crommelin changes command at Pearl Harbor See page A-4



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Sailors' Homecoming See page B-1

# Lake Erie conducts successful BMD tracking mission

## Missile Defense Agency

Air Force Lt. Gen. Henry "Trey" Obering III, Missile Defense Agency (MDA) director, announced the successful completion of the latest flight test of the sea-based Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) element, conducted jointly with the U.S. Navy off the coast of Kauai, Hawai'i on June 5.

The event, designated as Flight Test Maritime-14 (FTM-14), marked the 14th overall successful intercept in 16 attempts for the Aegis BMD program and the second successful intercept of a terminal phase (last few seconds of flight) target by a modified Standard Missile - 2 Block IV (SM-2 Blk IV) interceptor. The mission was completed by the cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70), homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, using the tactically-certified Aegis BMD shipboard weapon system, modified for a terminal capability, and the modified SM-2 Blk

IV. This is the 35th successful terminal and mid-course defense intercept in 43 tests since 2001.

Aegis BMD is the sea-based mid-course component of the MDA's ballistic missile defense system (BMDS) and is designed to intercept and destroy short to intermediate-range ballistic missile threats. In 2006, the program's role was expanded to include a sea-based terminal defense effort, using a modified version of the SM-2 Blk IV.

Unlike other missile defense technologies now deployed or in development, the SM-2 Blk IV does not use "hit to kill" technology (directly colliding with the target) to destroy the target missile. Rather, it uses a blast fragmentation device that explodes in direct proximity to the target to complete the intercept and destroy the target.

At 8:13 a.m. Hawai'i Standard Time (2:13 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time), a short range target was launched from a mobile

launch platform 300 miles west of the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawai'i.

Moments later, Lake Erie's Aegis BMD weapon system detected and tracked the target and developed fire control solutions.

Approximately four minutes later, Lake Erie's crew fired two SM-2 Blk IV missiles and two minutes later, they successfully intercepted the target inside the earth's atmosphere, about 12 miles above the Pacific Ocean and about 100 miles west-northwest of Kauai.

FTM-14 test objectives included evaluation of the BMDS ability to intercept and kill a short range ballistic missile target with the Aegis BMD, modified with the terminal mission capability; the modified SM-2 Blk IV missile using SPY-1 cue; and system-level integration of the BMDS.

MDA and the U.S. Navy cooperatively manage the

Aegis BMD program. Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems and Sensors of Moorestown, N.J. is the combat system engineering agent and prime contractor for the Aegis BMD weapon system and vertical launch system installed in Aegis-equipped cruisers and destroyers.

Raytheon Missile Systems of Tucson, Ariz. is the prime contractor for the SM-2 and SM-3 missile and all previous variants of standard missile. The SM-2 program is managed by the Naval Sea Systems Command, Washington, D.C.

A modified Standard Missile-2 (SM-2) Block IV interceptor is launched June 5 from the guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) during a Missile Defense Agency test to intercept a short-range ballistic missile target.

U.S. Navy photo by Missile Defense Agency



## USS Kitty Hawk to participate in RIMPAC 2008

### Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet announced June 9 the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) will replace USS George Washington (GW) (CVN 73) in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008 Exercise scheduled to take place in the Hawai'i operating area from June 29-July 31.

A fire occurred onboard GW on May 22 while the ship was at sea. The ship is currently in port at Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, conducting repairs to spaces and equipment affected by the fire. The timeline for repairs to the ship has not yet been determined.



USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) will replace USS George Washington (GW) (CVN 73) in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008 Exercise scheduled to take place in the Hawai'i operating area from June 29-July 31.

Once repairs to the ship are complete, USS George Washington will replace Kitty Hawk as the United States Navy's forward-deployed air-

craft carrier in the Pacific.

RIMPAC, hosted by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, demonstrates the U.S. Navy's commitment to working with our global partners in protecting the maritime freedom as a basis for global prosperity and to ensure stability throughout the Pacific.

RIMPAC has been conducted since 1971. This year's exercise consists of 10 nations, 35 ships, six submarines, more than 150 aircraft and 20,000 Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Soldiers and Coast Guardsmen. Units from Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore, United Kingdom and the U.S. are scheduled to participate.

# Hawaii Navy News Editorial

## CNO commemorates Battle of Midway

MC2 (SW) Rebekah Blowers

Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Gary Roughead, spoke at the Battle of Midway commemoration dinner in Jacksonville on June 7.

The Battle of Midway was a turning point in the war in the Pacific during World War II from June 6-8, 1942. Each year, the Navy commemorates the battle by remembering the Sailors who fought so valiantly.

"The Battle of Midway is a story of daring, of brute willpower, of intellect, of sacrifice, of hope and maybe a little luck," said Roughead. "It is where the men before us today, the men who gave everything at that battle, and the men who have since passed, changed the course of the war in the Pacific."

More than 600 people, including 23 Midway veterans, were in attendance and listened as CNO thanked the veterans and their families for their courage and sacrifice. Roughead said that the legacy of the Battle of Midway for the U.S. Navy is one of naval dominance. "Against any adversary,



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jesse B. Awalt

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead and a survivor of the Battle of Midway render a salute during a wreath laying ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial on June 4 in honor of the 66th anniversary of the historic battle. Six veterans of the battle were recognized for their heroism and their fallen shipmates were honored.

at any place in the globe, and at any time that we are needed, our Navy continues to live up to the legacy of

naval power established at Midway," Roughead said. "We continue to provide

ty at sea that they need for the protection of our nation and our national prosperity."

## Remembering what our flag represents

Karen S. Spangler

Editor

Flag Day on June 14 – the patriotic holiday sandwiched between Memorial Day and Fourth of July – sometimes goes relatively unnoticed.

Here at Pearl Harbor, as well as across our great land and throughout the world, many of our service members have been killed or wounded while protecting our nation's flag and what it represents.

Hundreds of memorials – including those at Pearl Harbor – serve to remind us daily of the sacrifices of those who have fought to preserve our freedom.

The origins of Flag Day began in 1885 when students in Fredonia, Wisc. observed a "Flag Birthday" on June 14 which marked the official adoption of the Stars and Stripes. The idea grew as other cities and towns displayed the flag on that day. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson officially established Flag Day, but it wasn't until 1949 that President Harry Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14 as National Flag Day.

The flag has undergone many changes through the years, from the early days of the Revolutionary War when the 13 alternating red and white stripes and 13 white stars on a blue field represented the original 13 colonies. The last of these changes occurred July 4, 1960 when the flag received its 50th star representing the addition of our newest state – Hawaii.

Our flag symbolizes the ideals upon which our nation was founded and the legacy of those who fought and died to defend those ideals – freedom, opportunity and our Navy core of values of honor, courage and commitment.

When you observe morning or evening colors or attend an event where the flag is exhibited or the national anthem is played, remember all that our flag represents.

Long may Old Glory wave "over the land of the free and the home of the brave."



## CPF podcast honors Battle of Midway

MC2 Sarah K. Murphy

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Adm. Robert F. Willard, spoke about the 66th commemoration of the Battle of Midway in a "Rat-Pac Report" podcast posted on the Pacific Fleet Web site, [www.cpf.navy.mil](http://www.cpf.navy.mil), on June 4.

The Battle of Midway was the turning point of the war in the Pacific, ending a period of Japanese initiative.

"As a pivotal battle in World War II, it probably ranks number one," said Willard. "It's when the war shifted in America's favor in a great many ways."

Ceremonies around the nation commemorate this historic event by honoring local Battle of Midway veterans and guest speakers to talk about the importance of remembering Midway.

"This year is the 66th commemoration of the Battle of Midway," said Willard. "Last year, I had the opportunity to participate in a commemoration on the island of Midway when we had survivors dating back 65 years in our history that were actually present on that day."

According to the Naval Historical Center, American forces, including USS Yorktown (CV 5), USS Hornet (CV 8) and USS Enterprise (CV 6) launched their torpedo squadrons on four of the Japanese carri-

ers on the morning of June 4, 1942. The destruction of the Japanese Carrier Strike Force compelled Commander in Chief, Combined Fleet Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, to abandon his Midway invasion plans and retire westward.

Until this day, the Imperial Japanese Navy dominated the Pacific with plans to cripple the remaining carrier forces of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and capture Midway to serve as a stepping stone for future attacks on U.S. homeland soil.

"It was a stark and wonderful day as a turning point in World War II and those Soldiers and Sailors and Marines that served on Midway Island and those Sailors, aviators and seamen that served on our aircraft carriers under Adm. Spruance in the actual event, should remain in our memory and our thoughts forevermore, as a Navy..." Willard said in the podcast.

A new "Rat-Pac Report" is available for download on [www.cpf.navy.mil](http://www.cpf.navy.mil) every Wednesday to communicate a variety of topics to the Pacific Fleet. These podcasts focus on the commander's vision, mission and guiding principles, as well as diversity, leadership, training and the environment.

For more on events leading up to and including the historic Battle of Midway, visit [www.navy.mil/midway](http://www.navy.mil/midway).



Official U.S. Navy photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives

## Nevada fires guns off Utah Beach

USS Nevada (BB-36) fires her forward 14-inch/45 guns on positions ashore during the landings on "Utah" Beach on June 6, 1944 during the Normandy Invasion.



## Hawaii Navy News

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# Crommelin changes command at Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by  
MC1 (AW/SW) James E. Foehl

Navy Region Hawai'i

Cmdr. Patrick N. Huete, commanding officer of the Pearl Harbor-based, Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37), was relieved by Cmdr. Kevin J. Parker during a change of command ceremony June 9 onboard Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

"I've thanked many people this morning, but to my crew I want you to know the great balance of my gratitude goes to you. It's been my great fortune to be your shipmate these last 18 months. Your effort, spirit, attitude, humor and accomplishments have inspired me," said Huete.

The crew was assembled on the pier for the ceremony one day following their return to Pearl Harbor from a six-month deployment to the Southern Command



Cmdr. Patrick N. Huete, commanding officer of the guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37), delivers his remarks during a change of command ceremony aboard Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Cmdr. Kevin J. Parker relieved Huete.

area of responsibility (SOUTHCOM AOR). "The crew of the [Crommelin] just completed a highly successful deployment to the Southern Command area of responsibility.

They were responsible for catching narcotic traffickers and confiscated over \$71 million worth of drugs that will never see the streets of the United States. The U.S. thanks you," said Capt. John T. Lauer, guest speaker for the event and currently assigned to Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Highlights of Huete's 18 months as commanding officer include the ship's successful completion of an INSURV [Board of Inspection and Survey] inspection just one month after leaving a substantial maintenance period in dry dock. Following the INSURV, the crew achieved a perfect score on engineering operations certification.

During their most recent deployment, the ship and crew seized more than 1.2 metric tons of cocaine valued at more than \$71 million in support of counter narco-terrorism operations in the SOUTHCOM AOR.

"I have never seen a harder working crew. I've never seen a

prouder ship. In an era of personnel reductions and reduced funding for logistics and maintenance, this crew with - purpose and pride - continues to execute their mission with no complaints and no excuses," said Huete.

Capt. Donald Hodge, chief of staff for Commander Navy Region Hawai'i and Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, awarded Huete the Meritorious Service Medal, gold star in lieu of his third award, for outstanding meritorious achievement while serving as commanding officer for Crommelin from December 2006 to June 2008.

Huete is scheduled to report for temporary duty to Destroyer Squadron 31.

Frigates fulfill a protection of shipping (POS) mission as anti-submarine warfare (ASW) combatants for amphibious expeditionary forces, underway replenishment groups and merchant convoys.

# Anding assumes command of NOSC Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by  
MC2 Raymond F. Flores

Navy Operational Support  
Center Pearl Harbor

Cmdr. Darren E. Anding assumed command of Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Pearl Harbor, relieving Cmdr. Philip D. Davis, at a change of command ceremony held June 6 at Camp Smith, Hawai'i.

Capt. Andrew J. Turnley, commander of Navy Region Southwest Reserve Component, was the ceremony's guest speaker.

Davis assumed command of the NOSC in July 2005 when it was located off base and was formerly known as Navy Reserve Center (NRC) Honolulu. Under his leadership, the command was relocated to Naval Station Pearl Harbor, where a staff of 22 continues to provide opera-

tional support to approximately 650 reservists who make up the 32 units that support the Navy and joint commands in Hawai'i. The NOSC Pearl Harbor manages more reservists than all but two of the 20 support centers in the southwest region.

Davis leaves a command of an exceptional group of Sailors. "NOSC Pearl Harbor is a great representation throughout the Navy Reserve under (Davis) leadership over the last three years," Anding said. "[He] has not only provided the foundation for that success, [but] it is a model for my tour as the commanding officer."

Davis guided the NOSC Pearl Harbor through a critical period of ever-increasing operational support, resulting in a three-year average of individual medical readiness level of 88 percent. During



Cmdr. Philip D. Davis salutes the sideboys at the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Pearl Harbor change of command ceremony held June 6 at Camp Smith, Hawai'i.

his tenure, 175 reservists and five full-time support (FTS) personnel were successfully mobilized in support of the global war on terrorism.

Part of the NOSC's goal to improve services to Navy

families, Davis pioneered a support program for deployed Sailors that included a retreat for returning Sailors and their families. Additionally, he led a partnership program with Salt Lake Elementary School,

which resulted in thousands of volunteer hours.

The change-of-command ceremony was followed by Davis' retirement ceremony. Davis, from Daytona Beach, Fla., retired after 20 years of honorable and dedicated service.

Anding, a native of southern California, takes over the command of Hawai'i's Navy reserves at a time when reserve integration into the active-duty components plays a vital role in today's Navy operational support.

"Since the founding of our nation and officially since 1915, citizen Sailors of our Navy's reserve component have been a critical element of that force, assuring manpower and expertise shortfall whenever and wherever needed," Anding said.

"To the men and women of NOSC Pearl Harbor, know that it is with distinct pleas-

ure and great honor that I take command," Anding said.

Anding's prior tours include VF-101 (Grim Reapers), VF-103 (Jolly Rogers), VFC-13 (Saints) at Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev. as an adversary instructor pilot and as an officer in charge on his second tour, and CVWR-20 NAS Atlanta, GA.

He flew missions over Bosnia and Iraq in support of Operations Southern Watch, Deliberate Forge and Decisive Endeavor, as one of only three forward air controllers (airborne) in Carrier Wing 17 (CVW-17).

He has also accumulated more than 2,670 mishap-free flight hours in numerous jet aircraft, logged 327 arrested landings on four different carrier decks, and is a graduate of the U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN) Adversary Course.

# Pearl Harbor Highlights

Rear Adm. Tom Copeman, deputy chief of staff for Operations, Training And Readiness, receives his rear admiral shoulder boards from his mother, Eileen, during a promotion ceremony at Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Boathouse.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Night



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Luke Perry

Culinary Specialists Senior Chief Arturo Luna, 1st Class Jonathan Villanueva and 1st Class Shenan Pacheco assigned to 37 Makalapa Drive, otherwise known as the "Nimitz House" in Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, volunteers his cooking skills for the Myanmar Association of Hawai'i's fund raiser for the victims of Cyclone Nargis in Burma.



(Above) Friends and families of Submarine Squadron One submarine Sailors gathered for the 2008 Commodore's Cup on June 6 at Richardson Field to enjoy food and games, including a rock-climbing wall and dunking booth. Events also included a four-mile relay, a chili cook-off and a volleyball game.

(Below) Teams from each of the Squadron One submarines competed in several events, including a tug-of-war, during the 2008 Commodore's Cup on June 6 at Richardson Field, each hoping to take home the trophy and the bragging rights. Events also included a four-mile relay, a chili cook-off and a volleyball game.

U.S. Navy photos by MC3A Luciano Marano



Two modified Standard Missile-2 (SM-2) Block IV interceptors are launched June 5 from the guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) during a Missile Defense Agency test to intercept a short-range ballistic missile target. The missiles intercepted the target approximately 12 miles above the Pacific Ocean 100 miles west of Kauai, Hawaii on the Pacific Missile Range Facility. This was the second successful intercept in two attempts of the sea-based terminal capability and the fourteenth overall successful test of the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense Program.

U.S. Navy photo by the Missile Defense Agency



# It's hurricane season

## Hurricane Categories

### Tropical Storm

Winds 39-73 mph

### Category 1 Hurricane — winds 74-95 mph (64-82 kt)

No real damage to buildings. Damage to unanchored mobile homes. Some damage to poorly constructed signs. Also, some coastal flooding and minor pier damage.

### Category 2 Hurricane — winds 96-110 mph (83-95 kt)

Some damage to building roofs, doors and windows. Considerable damage to mobile homes. Flooding damages piers and small craft in unprotected moorings may break their moorings. Some trees blown down.

### Category 3 Hurricane — winds 111-130 mph (96-113 kt)

Some structural damage to small residences and utility buildings. Large trees blown down. Mobile homes and poorly built signs destroyed. Flooding near the coast destroys smaller structures with larger structures damaged by floating debris. Terrain may be flooded well inland.

### Category 4 Hurricane — winds 131-155 mph (114-135 kt)

More extensive curtainwall failures with some complete roof structure failure on small residences. Major erosion of beach areas. Terrain may be flooded well inland.

### Category 5 Hurricane — winds 156 mph and up (135+ kt)

Complete roof failure on many residences and industrial buildings. Some complete building failures with small utility buildings blown over or away. Flooding causes major damage to lower floors of all structures near the shoreline. Massive evacuation of residential areas may be required.



Photo courtesy of Hawai'i State Civil Defense Office

The island of Kauai bore the brunt of Hurricane Iniki which hit Hawai'i in September 1992. Iniki, the most destructive hurricane to hit Hawai'i in recorded history, bore down on the islands with winds of 145 mph. Damages across the state exceeded \$2.2 billion. Island residents were not prepared for the vicious storm and stores on the islands quickly ran out of supplies.

## Important Telephone Numbers:

Emergency police, fire, ambulance - 911

Department of Emergency Management (DEM) – 723-8960

State Civil Defense – 733-4300

National Weather Service (weather advisories) - 973-5286

American Red Cross – 734-2101

HECO Service Center – 548-7961

(to report power outages, downed power lines, trees on power lines)

Board of Water supply troubleline

normal hours – 748-5000  
after hours - 748-5010

Hawaiian Telecom telephone repair service – 611

The Gas Company emergency service – 526-0066

Streetlights out City - 768-5300  
State - 831-6714

## Where to find hurricane preparedness information

Hawaii Navy News archives: <http://www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii/index.html>  
(Under "news room") Ongoing hurricane articles will be included.

Navy TV Hawaii (Channel 2): Hurricane information on Navy TV Hawaii will be aired about five minutes before the hour seven days a week.

Department of Emergency Management (DEM): Information is available on the Oahu Civil Defense Web site at [www.oahudem.org](http://www.oahudem.org) or by calling 723-8960. Residents can also call the DEM office and request a free packet of hurricane readiness information.

Hawaiian Humane Society: For information on how to prepare for your pets in a disaster, contact the Hawaiian Humane Society at 946-2187.

Telephone directory: Disaster preparedness information is available at the beginning of the white pages section in your local telephone directory.

## Your Survival Kit

(If you remain at home)

- Flashlights
- Portable radios
- Extra batteries
- Extra cash
- Prescription drugs (10 days' to two weeks' supply)
- First aid kit
- Candles
- Matches
- Ice/coolers for medications that require refrigeration
- Fuel for camping stoves/lanterns
- Pet foods/supplies
- Non-perishable foods – five-day supply
- Bottled water for drinking
- Other water for flushing toilet, washing, etc.

## Hurricane Disaster Kit

(These items are not provided at evacuation shelters.)

- A three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and food that won't spoil.
- One change of clothing and footwear and one blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- A first aid kit that includes your family's prescription medicines.
- Emergency tools including a battery-powered, radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys and a credit card, cash or travelers' checks.
- Sanitation supplies.
- Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.
- An extra pair of glasses.
- Important family documents in a waterproof container.

## Hurricane Watches

### Weather/marine advisories:

Issued when storms are within 1,000 miles of Honolulu, Hawaii.

### Hurricane watch:

Issued when there is a strong possibility that the storm could threaten coastal or inland communities within 36 hours or less.

### Hurricane warning:

Issued when there is a high possibility that hurricane force winds will arrive within 24 hours or less.

## Hurricane Condition Readiness

### Condition Readiness IV

- Maintain areas around the house and keep them clear of debris and loose material.
- Prune dead branches from trees.
- Maintain storm shutters in good repair and keep them easily available.
- Determine location of official shelters.
- Stock and maintain your typhoon supply locker.

### Condition Readiness III

- Start monitoring the news.
- Review emergency plans with your family.
- Practice where to go in the house as the hurricane intensifies.
- Get needed supplies.
- Expectant mothers, beyond 37th week of pregnancy should make hospital arrangements.
- Knock down coconuts and secure outside potted plants.
- Ensure loose debris is picked up around the house.
- Refill any special medications.
- Ensure gas tanks is full and check your battery, water and oil.
- Move small boats to secure and safe havens.
- Check flashlight and radio batteries and make sure you have extras.
- Charge cellular phones.
- Get cash.
- Prepare to put up hurricane shutters.
- Put important documents in safe deposit box, a home safe, or another safe and dry place.

### Condition Readiness II

- Install typhoon shutters, siding or plywood on windows.
- Move vehicles out of flood-prone areas and away from trees.
- Move grills, patio furniture, potted plant and other loose objects inside.
- Tie down anything that you can't bring inside.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest setting and pack your freezer with newspaper to keep the food colder longer.
- Move furniture away from windows or cover with plastic.

### Condition Readiness I

- Fill your tub and bottles with water.
- Secure and brace external doors.
- Move as many valuables off the floor as possible.
- Continue to listen to the radio or television for weather advisories.
- Stay inside and off the roads.

### During the Storm

- Stay inside.
- Stay away from windows and doors.
- If the storm becomes intense, retreat to a designated interior safe room.

### After the Storm

- Don't leave your home or shelter until emergency officials tell you it's safe.
- Don't go out on the roads until you get the all-clear.
- Watch and listen for reports on flooding or other storm-related activities.
- Don't call the police or other officials unless there is a life-threatening situation or emergency.
- Watch for and don't touch downed power lines.
- Watch your step. There may be broken glass and other debris lying about.
- Report dangling or downed power lines, broken water or sewer lines or broken or downed telephone lines to the proper authorities.

### The Day After the Storm

- Don't sightsee. Authorities may be out repairing downed power poles, lines, sewer lines, etc.
- Use batteries and cell phones sparingly; you may not be able to replace them so easily



# Prepare and be aware



This photo shows destruction in the wake of Hurricane Iniki. The potential for property damage in Hawai'i is increased because of the numerous lightly constructed buildings and dwellings. Flying debris from these structures and airborne vegetation increase the potential for serious damage to neighboring properties and utility lines.

Photo by Charles Fletcher ([www.soest.hawaii.edu](http://www.soest.hawaii.edu))

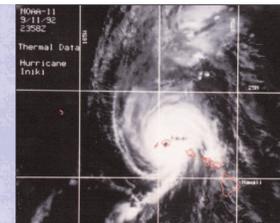


Photo courtesy of NOAA  
Hurricane Iniki over the Hawaiian Islands in 1992.

## Hurricane Shelters on Oahu

Shelters will be opened selectively depending on the severity of the incident.

Listen to radio and television for shelter designations and opening schedule.

If it is necessary to evacuate, emergency shelters may be located on military installations or in the civilian community. When shelters have been ordered to open in the Navy community, personnel who will be sheltered must report to the Navy Exchange Mall for assignment and transportation to a designated location. Evacuees to Navy shelters should not report directly to shelters.

### North Shore (Kaena Point - Kahuku)

- Kahuku High
- Kahuku Intermediate
- Waihau High
- Waihau Middle
- Waihau Uka Elementary
- Waihau Intermediate

### Leeward coast (Makua - Waipahu and vicinity)

- August Ahrens Elementary
- Campbell High
- Ewa Elementary
- Honowai Elementary

## Plan ahead to make arrangements for your pet

(1) Residence at local boarding facility.

- Check with veterinary clinics or the local humane society to locate boarding facilities. When selecting a facility, you should be sure that it is out of the hazard area and ask if the kennel has an emergency evacuation plan. Visit the facility to determine their requirements and make sure that it meets your standards.
- Be sure to keep your pet's vaccinations up-to-date. You should also keep a pet carrier on hand for each pet. The carrier should be large enough so that the animal can stand up and walk around inside it. Make sure that your pet has an opportunity to become familiar with the carrier ahead of time so that he feels comfortable when he has to be placed in it.
- Keep a current photo of your pet to help ensure identification if you are separated from him during the emergency.

(2) Stay with dependable friend or relative.

- Make advance arrangements for care of your pet. It

should be a safe place that is away from coastal or low-lying areas.

- (3) Pet stays at home.
  - Be sure to stock up on pet food and cat litter for family pets.
  - If they require special diets or medications, make certain to have a two weeks' supply on hand.
  - You should also stock up on newspaper, plastic bags and cleaners/disinfectants to handle pet wastes.
  - Once storm conditions are approaching, make sure to bring your pets indoors well ahead of any disaster conditions. Never leave pets outside or tied up.
  - If you need to evacuate your home, you should prepare an indoor area where your pet can stay. Such an area should be a place that is safe for your pet and is easy to clean. Be certain that there is protection from breaking glass, wind and noise. Use an area that is easy to clean, such as a tiled area or garage. Be sure that your pet has access to a high place, such as a counter top, in the event that flooding occurs.

Follow safety guidelines if you have more than one pet that you must leave behind.

- Do not confine a dog and cat together, even if they are normally friendly.

### Aiea Elementary

- Aiea Intermediate
- Aiea High
- Aliamanu Intermediate
- Halawa District Park
- Highlands Elementary
- Lehua Elementary
- Makalapa Elementary
- Moanalua Elementary
- Moanalua Intermediate
- Moanalua High
- Palisades Elementary
- Pearl City District Park
- Pearl City High
- Pearl City Highlands Intermediate
- Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary

- Pearlridge Elementary
- Radford High
- Red Hill Elementary
- Salt Lake Elementary
- Waiuu Elementary

### Central Oahu (Wahiawa - Mililani and vicinity)

- Helemano Elementary
- Iliahi Elementary
- Kaala Elementary
- Kipapa Elementary
- Leilehua High
- Mililani High
- Mililani Mauka Elementary
- Mililani Middle
- Mililani-Uka Elementary
- Wahiawa Elementary
- Wahiawa Middle

### Salt Lake - Punchbowl (and vicinity)

- Dole Middle
- Farrington High
- Kaahumanu Elementary
- Kaewai Elementary
- Kaiulani Elementary
- Kalakaua Middle
- Kalihi-Kai Elementary
- Kalihi-Uka Elementary
- Kalihi Valley District Park
- Kalihi-Waialele Elementary
- Kapalama Elementary

### Pearl City - Salt Lake (and vicinity)

- Aiea District Park

### Kauluwela Elementary

- Kawanakoa Middle
- Lanakila District Park
- Lanakila Elementary
- Likelike Elementary
- Linapuni Elementary
- Maemae Elementary
- Makiki District Park
- Neal Blaisdell Center
- Nuuanu Elementary
- Pauoa Elementary
- Puuhale Elementary
- Roosevelt High
- Royal Elementary
- Stevenson Middle

### Punchbowl - Waialae (and vicinity)

- Aliiolani Elementary
- Anuenue Complex
- Hukulani Elementary
- Jefferson Elementary
- Kaahumanu Elementary
- Kaimuki High
- Kaimuki Middle
- Kuhio Elementary
- Lilihoi Elementary
- Liliuokalani Elementary
- Lunalilo Elementary
- Manoa Elementary
- McKinley High
- Neal Blaisdell Center
- Noelani Elementary
- Palolo Elementary
- Roosevelt High
- Stevenson Middle
- Waialae Elementary
- Waikiki Elementary

### Washington Middle

- Wilson Elementary

### Aina Haina - Hawaii Kai (and vicinity)

- Hahaione Elementary
- Kaiser High
- Kailani High
- Kailua Elementary
- Koko Head Elementary
- Niu Valley Middle

### Windward coast (Kahuku - Makapuu Point)

- Ahiimanu Elementary
- Castle High
- Enchanted Lake Elementary
- Heeia Elementary
- Kahaluu Elementary
- Kahuku High
- Kahuku Intermediate
- Kailua Elementary
- Kailua High
- Kailua Intermediate
- Kainalu Elementary
- Kalaeo High
- Kaneohe Elementary
- Kapunahala Elementary
- King Intermediate
- Lanika Elementary
- Maunawili Elementary
- Parker Elementary
- Pope Elementary
- Puuhala Elementary
- Waiahole Elementary
- Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate



Photo courtesy of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service  
Storm surge produced widespread flooding along the coastline.

and lost. If your pet should become lost, call and visit the Humane Society as soon as possible.

For more information on how to prepare for your pets in a disaster, contact the Hawaiian Humane Society at 946-2187 or the Oahu Civil Defense Agency at 523-4121.

Additional precautions: You should be sure that your pet has a properly fitted collar and an identification tag on at all times. This is particularly important during hurricane conditions. Also keep a leash on hand in order to maintain control of your pet in the event that you need to take the animal to another location.

**After returning home:**

After the hurricane is over and it is safe for you to return home, be careful when letting your pet loose outdoors and make sure that it is wearing an identification tag. Scents and landmarks that are familiar to your pet may have changed during the storm and could cause it to get confused

# USS Chafee Sailors return to Pearl Harbor

Story and photos by MCI (AW/SW) James E. Foehl

Navy Region Hawai'i

More than 350 Sailors from the Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) were reunited with friends and families on June 7 when the ship returned to Pearl Harbor from a four-month deployment to the Western Pacific.

After returning from a six-month deployment in September 2007, Chafee left Pearl Harbor on Jan. 30 assigned to USS Nimitz (CVN 68) Carrier Strike Group.

The ship deployed under the Navy's fleet response plan to support U.S. commitments to peace and stability in the Pacific region while USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) completed scheduled maintenance in Yokosuka, Japan.

"We're ready for them to stay put, stay home, and not move," said the spouse of a Chafee Sailor.

Excitement ran wild as the ship neared the pier and the Chafee's families and friends energetically shouted and waved signs to



Sailors man the rails aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) as she makes her way pier side to Naval Station Pearl Harbor after a four-month deployment.

their Sailors manning the rails.

One spouse added a surprise for her husband with a sign that indicated they were "having a girl!" "I'm going to surprise dad.

When he sees my sign, he'll see what [sex] it is," she said.

Dressed in their whites, the Chafee Sailors made short work of navigating Pearl Harbor, mooring up to the pier and coming ashore.

"I'm having a girl," said Information Systems Technician 2nd Class

Richard Delgado, assigned to Chafee. "It's great to be back. It's been a long deployment. I'm going to soak up the Hawaiian sun again and start living Hawai'i life like I'm supposed to."

For one spouse, this would be the second deployment for her since her husband's assignment to the ship. She

said her husband's return will be "like being married again – in the honeymoon phase." "Although this was shorter than last deployment, it was a lot harder. I think it was because it was one right after the other and it puts more stress on the families and wives," she said.

On April 13 while in Osaka, Japan, Cmdr. Heedong Choi assumed command of Chafee from Cmdr. Robert P. Tortora. According to Choi, he immediately noticed the crew's high level of training, motivation and initiative. "Great crew, very proficient in training," noted Choi.

During their deployment, four children were born, the ship steamed 13,000 miles, 40 Sailors earned their enlisted surface warfare qualification, 33 Sailors were advanced, and two chiefs were promoted to senior chief.

The commanding officer issued 60 personal awards to the crew, qualified two enlisted Sailors as underway officer of the deck, qualified two engineering officers of the watch, and made five ports of call.

# Navy couple featured speakers at local alma mater

Story and photo by  
MCSA Luciano Marano

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

It can truly be said that life has come full circle for Cmdr. William R. Stevenson, commanding officer, Naval Submarine Support Command (NSSC), and his wife Lt. Cmdr. Majella Stevenson, public works officer, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. After long and rewarding naval careers, the two officers returned to their alma mater, Radford High School in Honolulu, Hawai'i, to speak before the senior class during a graduation ceremony held at Aloha Stadium on May 30.

Dispensing with the typical graduation speech material in favor of honest congratulations and sound personal advice, the Stevensons spoke together and received a resounding applause from the graduates as well as the audience, who all clearly appreciated the unrehearsed and conversational tone of the speech.

"Since my wife and I met at Radford High School and started dating my senior

year, it was neat to be associated again with the school," said Cmdr. Stevenson. "We hoped to focus the graduates on establishing challenging goals for themselves and then to work toward them."

Lt. Cmdr. Stevenson used the speech as an opportunity not only to encourage the graduates, but also to thank all the parents who supported the students this far. "The media is quick to blame school systems for problems with test scores, but it is those parents who read to their child, were enthused about a good spelling test, cheered about the As on the report card, and made time to go to academic awards programs that focus the mind of the child onto the importance of education," she said. "This focus is what allows and drives your child to succeed in school and in life."

Drive and focus are aspects of life that Lt. Cmdr. Stevenson is certainly qualified to speak about. She immigrated to the United States from the Philippines at the age of four and entered kindergarten without speaking English, only to rise above these challenges and graduate as the 1986 Radford

High School valedictorian.

"Shoot for the stars," she encouraged the graduates.

It has been Radford High School policy for some time to feature successful alumni as key note speakers at all graduations, but it was truly a unique moment in Radford history to have two such decorated graduates, in whose lives the school has made such a prominent impact, to take part in the ceremony.

Cmdr. William R. Stevenson, commanding officer, Naval Submarine Support Command, and his wife Lt. Cmdr. Majella Stevenson, public works officer, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, return to their alma mater, Radford High School in Honolulu, Hawai'i, as keynote speakers at the graduation ceremony at Aloha Stadium on May 30.



## STORY IDEAS?

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**Hawaii Navy News**

# USS Russell participates in Exercise Khunjar Haad

**Ensign Elizabeth Scheimer**

*USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) Strike Group Public Affairs*

Guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59), homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, participated in Exercise Khunjar Haad, a four-day multinational exercise conducted in the Gulf of Oman from May 17-21.

During the exercise, FS Surcouf (F 711), HMS Montrose (F 236), RFA Waveknight (A 389) and four other coalition ships conducted air defense, surface, visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) and joint gunnery exercises, which focused on joint interoperability training

and proficiency.

"Working with our coalition partners allows us to improve our tactical proficiency as well as encouraging friendship and cooperation in the region," said Cmdr. Jeff Weston, Russell's commanding officer.

Russell Sailors also engaged in personnel exchanges with coalition ships during Khunjar Haad. "Our Sailors had the chance to meet and interact with our coalition partners on a personal basis," said Weston. "I know from personal experience, no exercise can cement a bond like meeting and working with our maritime partners face to face. This exercise allowed us to do just that."

Electronics Technician 3rd Class Tyler Kirkland

spent time visiting two coalition ships.

"This was the best experience I've had in my naval career," he said. "I really enjoyed visiting these ships."

Russell was also honored to receive a visit from senior coalition military leaders, which underscored the importance of personal interaction.

"It was a great opportunity to participate first hand in exercising the concept of a 1,000 ship coalition navy," said Weston. "We made personal relationships that will last well into the future and make interactions between the participating nations that much easier in the future."

Russell is currently deployed as part of the USS Abraham Lincoln Strike

Group, which is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations to support maritime security operations (MSO). These operations help develop security in the maritime environment which promotes stability and global prosperity. These operations complement the counter-terrorism and security efforts of regional nations and seek to disrupt violent extremists' use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons or other material.

Guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59), homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, participated in Exercise Khunjar Haad, a four-day multinational exercise conducted in the Gulf of Oman from May 17-21.



U.S. navy photo

## Recruiting duty: A great option to help advance a Sailor's career

**MC2 (SW/AW) Gabriel Owens**

*Navy Recruiting Command  
Public Affairs*

Commander, Navy Recruiting Command (CNRC) is looking for high-quality Sailors to plus up its recruiting force.

Most Navy recruiters view recruiting duty as a very challenging, yet very rewarding assignment. Although the demands are tough, being prepared is the first step toward success. The ability to be flexible, work long hours, and talk openly and honestly to people are some of the characteristics that are needed to be a successful recruiter. Obstacles can range from working around school or work schedules in order to meet with students and their parents to traveling long distances to meet with prospective recruits on a daily basis.

Recruiting duty is not without its rewards. Recruiters can look forward to special duty assignment pay, meritorious promotions, the possibility of getting stationed in or near their hometown, and being able to select choice of coast on the followon tour. Additionally, successful recruiting tours can be viewed favorably in selection boards, particularly for those Sailors who want to make chief petty officer.

The rewards of recruiting extend beyond helping a naval career. "During a two- or three-year tour, a recruiter often sees a person he or she put into the Navy," said one recruiter in the Chicago area. "You realize that your interview might have been the motivation they needed to increase a grade point average or lose an extra 10 pounds to meet enlistment requirements and you witness their growth, both personally and professionally. The greatest reward of all is changing people's lives for the better through a Navy career."

Sailors up for shore duty and in their window for transfer are encouraged to contact their detailers to discuss the possibility of helping to shape the Navy's future.

For more information contact your command career counselor and go to [www.cnrc.navy.mil/recruiter.htm](http://www.cnrc.navy.mil/recruiter.htm) to view the new "Recruit the Recruiter" video on the CNRC Web site.

Visit  
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Navy  
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[www.cnrc.navy.mil/hawaii](http://www.cnrc.navy.mil/hawaii)

## New military sport bike training unveiled

April Phillips

Naval Safety Center Public Affairs

A new course designed for sport bike motorcycle riders in the Navy and Marine Corps kicked off at Naval Station Norfolk on June 4 and at other fleet concentration areas. Every sport bike rider in the Navy and Marine Corps will be required to take the course.

There has been a rise in the number of sport bike riders in the fleet and the reason seems simple. They are sleek and colorful and built for speed. For Sailors and Marines, many of whom are naturally attracted to an adrenaline rush, this is a huge selling point. However, these same features make riding sport bikes much different than handling cruisers or touring bikes. Mishap statistics show it's important to take these differences into account.

The Naval Safety Center (NSC) partnered with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation to create the Military Sport Bike Rider Course (MSRC) specifically for sport bike riders.

"Sport bikes come with engines that are 600, 800, 900 cc or even higher, said Dale Wisnieski, a motorcycle safety specialist at NSC. He also explained that these bikes have engines tuned for racing, are made of advanced lightweight material, and are highly maneuverable.

While they may be more maneuverable, they do ride differently than cruisers or other types of motorcycles. That's why this new training is so crucial.

"This course will teach cornering, braking and swerving, and other things necessary to get the most out of your sport bike," Wisnieski said. "Also, it gives insight on rider behaviors and perceptions."

The course includes classroom time as well as practical experience out on the range. The aggressive approach is due to the fact that so many Sailors and Marines are buying these machines without much riding experience.

"It's common for someone who has never been on a motorcycle of any type to fall for peer pressure or advertising pitches and buy a very expensive, very powerful bike," Wisnieski said. "If you buy one, sign up for this course immediately."

Statistics show that the increased number of sport bikes on the road has had an affect on mishap rates. The rise in sport bike popularity corresponds to a rise in motorcycle fatalities. In 2007, a majority of fatalities involved sport bikes and of the 31 fatalities that have occurred in the Navy and Marine Corps in 2008, at least 28 involved sport bikes. This new course is designed to reverse this disturbing trend by giving riders valuable experience.

Don Borkoski, also a motorcycle safety specialist at NSC, said the course will help riders



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Eric J. Rowley

A new course designed for sport bike motorcycle riders in the Navy and Marine Corps kicked off at Naval Station Norfolk on June 4 and at other fleet concentration areas. Every sport bike rider in the Navy and Marine Corps will be required to take the course.

respect the capabilities of their high-performance machines.

"The typical racetrack bike is 600cc. The average Sailor is buying one that's 1000cc or above. These bikes are great and can be a lot of fun as long as you maintain awareness of the consequences of that kind of speed," he said.

Ultimately, speed comes from a rider's throttle hand. The responsibility lies with the rider, not the machine. NSC's motorcycle specialists emphasize that they do not want to discourage Sailors and Marines from riding these types of bikes as long as they are trained.

"This isn't your grandfather's motorcycle safety course," Wisnieski said. "This is exciting. The fleet asked for it because sport bikes are the bikes that they're buying and riding. We listened and designed the training specifically for them and their needs. We really believe this is going to go a long way toward improving the success rates for sport bike riders, keeping them on the road and out of the hospitals or morgues."

## Navy League, community leaders experience life aboard carrier

Lt. j.g. Theresa Donnelly

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Members of the Honolulu Navy League, along with other Hawai'i community leaders, experienced life at sea aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) while the aircraft carrier was off the coast of Oahu from May 29-31.

The civilian guests were part of Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet's distinguished visitor (DV) embarkation program, which enables prominent members of the local community the chance to witness first-hand the day-to-day operations that take place on a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier.

The embarks took place over the course of three days with two groups spending the night on the carrier.

Visitors observed day and night flight operations, viewed several shipboard spaces including the bridge and engineering, and interacted with Sailors.

"One of the best aspects of the shipboard experience was the opportunity to interact one-on-one with the crew who serve on board," said Tara Young, senior vice president of corporate development for Marathon Group.

"These conversations over meals or between formal presentations proved very insightful and real," Young added.

Several of the DVs hold important positions in the Hawai'i business community. More than 40 guests were in attendance, coming from a diverse array of career backgrounds including education, non-profit, Hawai'i Chamber of Commerce, Pacific Century Fellows and the Navy League.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Chelsea Kennedy

During a break in flight cycles Sailors prepare aircraft for night flight operations on the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). The Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group is on a scheduled deployment.

Eight of the DVs were members of the Honolulu Navy League. The Navy League is a worldwide organization that activity supports the U.S. Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Merchant Marines. They host public forums and educational events as well as organize ceremonies that honor exceptional service by active duty military members.

The embarkation program enables the members of the Navy League to communicate directly with the Sailors that they support through their program and learn more about the Navy's maritime strategy, designed to draw closer together the collective strengths of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

Bruce Smith, a Navy League board member and retired U.S. Navy captain, emphasized the significance of Navy League members visiting the carrier.

"Our members come back from these embarks with a true understanding of how the Navy operates. Our organization represents the

Navy to the American people and after the embark, they share these experiences and their perspective with family and friends."

Many of the DVs stated in a post-embark survey that their perceptions of the U.S. Navy have significantly changed as a result of the embark.

"The perception I had about carrier life from television or what I read did not measure up to what I now know. The U.S. Pacific Fleet holds an important strategic position in protecting our oceans and it gives me such pride knowing this," said Yvonne Kim, a clinical social worker with the organization Social Change.

"This was a first-class operation from start to finish. I can't put into words how impressed I was with the entire experience," said Jim Doyle, a restaurant owner.

USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group is currently operating in the U.S. Seventh Fleet area of operations on a routine scheduled deployment.

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