

Skardon says aloha, Kitchens takes helm

Story and photos by MC1 James E. Foehl

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Capt. Taylor W. Skardon turned over command of Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor to Capt. Richard W. Kitchens during a change of command ceremony June 20 at the Kilo Piers on board NAVSTA Pearl Harbor.

As the ceremony kicked off, NAVSTA Sailors snapped to attention with the arrival of the official party and the parading of the colors.

"All of you have made this the very best tour I've ever had in the Navy," said Skardon. "I'm very grateful for all the work you've done to support our Sailors and their families here at Pearl Harbor."

An invocation was presented by NAVSTA chaplain, Cmdr. Steven Unger, and Skardon introduced guest speaker, Rear Adm. T.G. Alexander, commander of Navy Region Hawai'i and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

"I offer my sincerest congratulations for all that you've done while in command of Naval Station Pearl Harbor," said Alexander.



Photo Illustration

Capt. Taylor W. Skardon turned over command of Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor to Capt. Richard W. Kitchens during a change of command ceremony June 20 at the Kilo Piers on board NAVSTA Pearl Harbor.

"Your leadership and hard work, combined with the

untiring efforts of your superb staff, have made a significant and lasting con-

tribution to the combat readiness of every ship and Sailors whom you

have supported."

Following Alexander's remarks, Skardon was pre-

sented the Legion of Merit for his performance as commanding officer of NAVSTA Pearl Harbor and chief of staff for Navy Region Hawai'i from August 2005 to June 2008.

The award recognized Skardon for his superior leadership, service and support to 121 tenant commands and more than 21,000 military and civilian personnel.

Under Skardon's leadership, he ensured the movement and support of more than 15,100 visiting U.S. and foreign naval vessels and coordinated two Rim of the Pacific exercises.

Through Skardon's direct influence, the NAVSTA Pearl Harbor galley and barracks were awarded consecutive five-star accreditations and consecutive Zumwalt awards for bachelor housing excellence.

Following his tour as commanding officer for NAVSTA Pearl Harbor, Skardon is scheduled to report for staff duty to U.S. Pacific Command at Camp Smith, Hawai'i.

Kitchens is reporting from staff duty as director, operational support division for the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

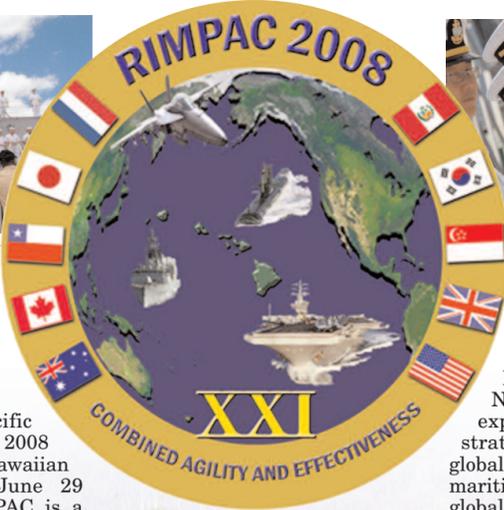
RIMPAC 2008 to unite 10 nations in joint exercise



Commander, Combined Task Force

Commander, U.S. Third Fleet Public Affairs

The Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise for 2008 will take place in the Hawaiian operating area from June 29 through July 31. RIMPAC is a multi-national exercise designed to prepare forces to be interoperable and ready for a wide range of



potential combined and joint operations and missions.

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

Commander, U.S. Third Fleet,

Vice Adm. Samuel J. Locklear, is the Combined Task Force commander responsible for overall exercise coordination.

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 Coastguardsmen. Units from Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore, United Kingdom and the U.S. are sched-

uled to participate.

RIMPAC allows the U.S. Navy to remain a powerful component of combined and joint warfare and exhibits our close cooperation with other services and our international partners. Engagements like RIMPAC support the maritime strategy by building trust. Trust enables partnerships and strong partnerships increase maritime security.

Visit www.c3f.navy.mil/rimpac_2008 for additional information on the exercise.

USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) will host tours at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. July 4 for Department of Defense, active duty, retired military personnel, family members and sponsored guests ages eight and older. Kitty Hawk will be at Pearl Harbor to participate in the 2008 Rim of the Pacific Exercise. Tours are limited and will be offered by reservation on a first-come, first-served basis. To make reservations the RIMPAC Ship Tour Hotline at 473-2880 or email Lt. Eric Krueger at eric.krueger@navy.mil.

(Above photos) Sailors from Naval Station Pearl Harbor dockmasters perform line handlers for Republic of Korea Ships at Pearl Harbor. Republic of Korea Ships Munmu the Great and Yang Manchoon (DDH 973) are currently in Pearl Harbor to participate in RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) Exercise 2008.

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



U.S. Navy photo



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Cooper relieves O'Hara as NMFC/JTWC head See page A-4



Pearl Harbor Shipyard wins Excellence in Safety Award See page A-6



July 4th Block Party and Fireworks Spectacular at Pearl Harbor See page B-1

Shipyard delivers USS Key West ahead of schedule

Marshall Fukuki

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard
Public Affairs

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard finished the docking selected restricted availability (DSRA) of USS Key West (SSN 722) one week early on June 16.

"Key West was the Pacific Fleet submarine force's number one priority and the project team delivered her ahead of schedule, providing additional mission-critical days to the fleet," said Capt. Gregory Thomas, shipyard commander. "This is a very significant victory for us. Everyone can be proud that Key West is once again 'fit to fight' and Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard made it happen."

The availability was the first of its kind in the shipyard in one and a half years. It is the yard's second consecutive early completion of a Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) submarine DSRA. Key West builds on the success of USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705), which finished six days early in December 2006.

"Our shipyard is improving its performance in returning ships back to the fleet," said Edward Han, Pearl Harbor chapter president of the National Association of Superintendents (NAS). "Congratulations to the project superintendent, Lt. Cmdr. Greg Rose, and his entire Key West project team. Management, trades people, engineers and support codes persevered



U.S. Navy photo by Michael Laley
USS Key West (SSN 722) enters dry dock at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard on Jan. 10. The shipyard completed a 50,000 man-day maintenance period of the ship a week early on June 16.

with impressive success through the challenges placed in front of them. The support from the ship, under the leadership and direction of commanding officer Bob Koonce, was phenomenal. From all the superintendents, well done," said Han.

Rose attributed the success on Key

West to teamwork. "Going into the availability, we decided that we either succeed or fail as a team," he said. "It was not 'one group succeeds and another group fails.'"

"We tried to create an environment of success ... (where) people could say, 'I want to come to work' and 'I

want to be on this project,'" according to Mark Chun, assistant project superintendent

Rose explained, "We had a hard-working project team. We set our goals ...and worked every day to meet them. We had a couple of early successes and we built on the

momentum. All but one milestone was on time or early and all key events were on time or ahead of schedule."

Rose noted that the work package was about 50,000 man-days, 30 percent larger than a typical DSRA, and with more than the usual amount of valve and tank work.

Learning organization disciplines were applied on three jobs - tank work, shaft alley restoration and a hull cut restoration. The principles were used to unite Pearl Harbor and Puget Sound Naval Shipyard personnel on the tank work team, which ended up finishing all of its work ahead of schedule.

The shaft alley and hull cut jobs required coordination between many trades. "Everybody got together, laid out a plan that all could see, worked out all the details, and executed the plan," Rose said.

"We had a real good group of guys," he said. "The goal from the beginning was to finish on time or early. As people came into the project, they picked up on (that goal) and they followed through. Everybody did their part. Everybody did their job."

"The ship made a real difference," he added. "They worked well with us. They were a definite part of the team."

Chun said, "This was a very large, technically difficult project. People knew the urgency of it and they worked so hard and so well. We have good people (at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard) and we proved it."

Hawaii Navy News Editorial

Let Freedom Ring on July 4

National Park Service, USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center

The public is invited to join in the national effort to Let Freedom Ring at the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center on July 4.

Pearl Harbor survivors from the Aloha Chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association will ring the ship's bell of the USS Arizona battleship. This historic bell is one of two bells removed from the USS Arizona and is preserved by the National Park Service. Its companion bell is housed at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Ariz.

Survivors will ring the bell 13 times for the 13 original states at exactly 8 a.m. Hawaii Time (2 p.m. Eastern Time). This event is synchronized with more than 10,000 bells nationwide, including the Liberty Bell.

Following the bell ringing event, survivors will speak of their own personal experiences of Dec. 7 and World War II. They will be available for pictures and book signings after the short formal presentation. A special exhibit donated by the



Photo by Ray Sandla, USS Arizona Memorial

Pearl Harbor Survivor Everett Hyland salutes during the national anthem.

National Pearl Harbor Survivors Association will also be on display at the center. This "license plate" exhibit displays special edition Pearl Harbor Survivor license plates from across the country. The event is free and open to the public.

The July 4 schedule is as follows:

8 a.m.: Pearl Harbor Survivors "Let Freedom Ring" Ceremony.

8:15 - 8:45 a.m. Pearl Harbor Survivor presentations moderated by Daniel

Martinez, USS Arizona Memorial historian, and Eileen Martinez, chief of interpretation.

9 -10 a.m. Meet and greet with Pearl Harbor Survivors and book signings.

National Pearl Harbor Survivor License Plates Exhibit open

In 1963, an act of Congress officially authorized the Let Freedom Ring National Bell Ringing Ceremony. For more information, call 1-800-330-1776 or visit www.let-freedom-ring.org.

U.S. Fleet Forces Command becomes IA executive agent

Commander U.S. Fleet Forces Command Public Affairs Office

U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF) has been designated as the executive agent (EA) for the individual augmentee (IA) continuum. NAVADMIN 160/08 announced the assignment of USFF as the executive agent and supported commander for individual augmentee (IA) and IA family support across the IA continuum.

This authority will ensure a streamlined, standardized oversight of all IA support programs and processes Navy-wide. USFF is also assigned responsibilities as the global force manager for IAs.

Navy leaders responded to the feedback received from Sailors and commands, signaling a need for a single overarching command responsible for coordinating and administering all aspects of the IA process. USFF will improve Sailor readiness by providing comprehensive, clear guidelines, in accordance with the policy set by Chief of Naval



Personnel (CNP).

"Sailors and their families will benefit from the IA continuum by having a better understanding of what's involved in the entire IA process, as well as where they can get support," said Adm. Jonathan Greenert, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command. "This single overarching authority will put predictability and stability into the process for our Sailors and their families."

Among the top concerns this continuum aims to address and streamline are the deployment health assess-

ment policy, individual readiness, 'parent command' responsibility and family support.

Families are an integral part of Navy mission success and family involvement with a Sailor's IA assignment is a key factor in their readiness. "We must ensure that IA Sailors are able to focus completely on their mission, while confident that family needs are being met," Greenert said. "The Navy will issue the same level of support for IA Sailors and their families as we do for families of deployed ships, squadrons or units - there will be no differentiation."

An individual augmentee OPNAV instruction, governing all IA procedures, readiness and training, is planned to be released within the next few months.

For more information on the individual augmentee (IA) continuum, go to www.cffc.navy.mil.

Commentary

Fireside Chat

Navy Region Federal Fire Dept.



Be careful with candles

Victor Flint

Battalion Chief, Federal Fire Department

Anything with an open flame or a glowing tip should be treated with care and caution. Candles and burning incense have been the cause of numerous fires in military housing and billets.

The individual's intentions of burning candles and incense are usually to create a mood, but the mood could rapidly change if the following precautions are not practiced:

- Nothing combustible/flammable should be left near the can-

dle and/or incense.

- Have a secure, non-combustible base for the candle and/or incense.
- Avoid tipping from pets, children, wind blown curtains.
- Do not allow children to light candles and/or incense. These are not toys.
- As with matches and lighters, keep candles out of the reach of children.
- Never, ever leave the burning candle and/or incense unattended.
- Call 911 if you discover that there is a fire.

For more information, call Victor M. Flint of the Federal Fire Department's prevention division at 471-3303, ext. 633.



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

USS Little Rock at Suez Canal reopening

View on board the USS Little Rock (CLG-4) as she arrives at Port Said, Egypt, on June 5, 1975 for ceremonies reopening the Suez Canal after it had been closed for eight years. The ceremonies were held at the Canal Authority headquarters building, in the background. (Taken by Cmdr. J.P. Mathews)



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Pearl Harbor submariners practice life-saving escapes

Story and photo by
MCSN Luciano Marano

Commander Submarine
Force U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs

The crew of USS Charlotte (SSN 766) is ready for anything. During an emergency escape exercise conducted at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on June 17, Sailors were given the opportunity to test submarine escape immersion equipment (SEIE) suits in a real-world simulation. Sailors practiced moving about the submarine while wearing the suit and then

jumped into the water to test the gear.

The suits are designed to allow a submariner to safely escape a sinking vessel and provide protection once they are at the surface. Each suit also has a single-person raft that can be inflated automatically by the wearer to provide them with even more protection from the sea and elements as they await rescue.

Working in conjunction with several representatives of Naval Submarine Research Medical Laboratory (NSRML) and two instructors from the naval submarine escape

trainer in Groton, Conn., 20 Charlotte Sailors took the plunge and tested the gear under the supervision of two Charlotte-based divers.

"The experience the trainers brought from sub school was very beneficial to all the guys on the boat," said Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SS) Christopher Phares of Charlotte. "I feel very comfortable using all the gear and I think that if we ever were to need it underway, these suits would work very well."

"A lot of our guys had never even seen a SEIE suit out of the bag before today and now they got a chance to actually

use it in the real environment," said Phares.

Not only were the SEIE suits being tested that day, Charlotte also ran a test of the emergency distress signal which issues an alert during a crisis. The signal is received around the world to alert rescue personnel of the downed submarine's location, just as they would before actually evacuating the submarine.

Safety is a continual battle in the submarine community. Simulations are a critical aspect of personnel training designed to keep every Sailor up-to-date with the latest, potentially life-saving, technology.



Under the supervision of Navy divers, USS Charlotte Sailors took the plunge and familiarized themselves with the potentially life-saving gear.

Cooper relieves O'Hara as NMFC/JTWC head

Story and photo by
Lt. j.g. Casey Hughes

Naval Maritime Forecast
Center/Joint Typhoon
Warning Center

Capt. Grant Cooper relieved Capt. John O'Hara as commanding officer of Naval Maritime Forecast Center/Joint Typhoon Warning Center on June 17 at the Ford Island Conference Center on historic Ford Island.

O'Hara will move down the road to Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet where he will serve as the fleet oceanographer. Cooper previously served as the director of operations for aviation weather for the Naval Oceanography Operations Command.

Capt. Robert E. Kaiser, the commanding officer for Naval Oceanography Operations Command and a friend to both Cooper and O'Hara, praised both men and said, "John and Grant are both great mentors to me."

The ceremony's guest speaker was Capt. R. Bruce



Capt. John O'Hara relinquishes command of Naval Maritime Forecast Center/Joint Typhoon Warning Center on June 17 at the Ford Island Conference Center on historic Ford Island.

Stewart, the director of operations for Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. He spoke about the significance of NMFC/JTWC's forecasts and tropical warnings and how important their work is to the Navy's Pacific Fleet. He applauded the Sailors for their great work and congratulated O'Hara for a job well done.

The Navy treats a change of command with the utmost respect and honor for it is the

product of the rich heritage of naval tradition. The ceremony was held in front of the entire command as O'Hara passed total responsibility, authority and accountability to Cooper, and the command and their families were there to congratulate both men. Following the ceremony, O'Hara and his wife hosted a "traditional Hawaiian barbecue" for the command as everyone celebrated the success of NMFC/JTWC.

Navy Region Hawai'i awards energy winners

Krista Stehn

Naval Facilities Engineering
Command Hawai'i Energy
Program

Navy Region Hawai'i presented energy awards to five Navy Region Hawai'i individuals for their outstanding performance in energy conservation on June 10.

Recipients of the Second Quarter 2008 Region Energy Award received a letter of commendation and accolades from Rear Adm. T.G. Alexander, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, for their efforts in promoting energy awareness and efficiency.

Recipients of the individual award were: Chief Information Systems Technician Patrick D. Adams and Boatswain's Mate 1st Class David A. Huntington, Naval Station Pearl Harbor; Chief Hospital Corpsman Michael L. Miller, Naval Submarine Support Command Pearl Harbor; Tony C. Ramos, Fleet and Family Readiness housing department; and Al A. Worley,



Capt. Donald D. Hodge, chief of Staff Navy Region Hawai'i, presents Tony C. Ramos, Fleet and Family Readiness housing department, with a Second Quarter 2008 Region Energy Award.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department.

The Region Energy Awards Program was established in August 2007 and recognizes individuals, small groups and activities who have taken steps to reduce energy use and improve energy efficiency.

With the increasing emphasis on energy conservation,

Navy Region Hawai'i and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i Energy Team encourage all personnel to reduce energy and water use. It is because of the significant contributions of personnel, such as the recipients of the Region Energy Award, that Navy Region Hawai'i is able to achieve energy reduction goals.

Pearl Harbor Highlights



U.S. Navy photo by MCC (SW/AW) David Rush
Yasmine Dar, host of the local TV show "Ohana Road," presents a plaque to Capt. David Adler, commanding officer of the Pearl Harbor-based guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73), during a taping of the show at Merry Point Landing onboard Naval Station Pearl Harbor on June 21.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (AW/SW) James E. Foehl
Reserve Capt. Dennis Hansen (SEAL) (front), assigned to Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Detachment 120, leads a group physical training (PT) session for prospective SEAL candidates at Quick Field on board Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The group's primary objective is to focus on physical training and conduct PT sessions on a monthly schedule to better prepare the candidates for their preliminary physical screening test (PST) and ultimately Basic Underwater Demolition / SEAL (BUD/S) training.



U.S. Navy photo by MCC (SW/AW) David Rush
Members of the Honolulu Hooters check out the bridge onboard the Pearl Harbor-based guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73) during a taping of the locally produced TV show "Ohana Road" at Merry Point Landing at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on June 21.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (AW/SW) James E. Foehl
Sailors shop for new Navy physical training uniforms at the uniform shop on board Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The new uniforms, which are being rolled out to the fleet in phases, are currently available for sale at Pearl Harbor.

(Below) The Pearl Harbor-based guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73) sits moored as a tugboat assigned to Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor assists Republic of Korea Ship (ROKS) Yang Manchoon (DDH 973) as she prepares to moor outboard of ROKS Munmu the Great (DDH 976) at NAVSTA Pearl Harbor. Republic of Korea Ships Yang Manchoon and Munmu the Great are currently in Pearl Harbor to participate in RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific) Exercise 2008.



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

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Luciano Marano

Machinist's Mate Seaman Apprentice Nicholas Eppler and Yeoman Seaman Danh Nguyen participate in the Naval Submarine Support Command (NSSC)/Commander Submarine Force Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC) blood drive held June 19. "We would like to have two of these drives a year," said Hospital Corpsman Senior Chief (SS) Michael Peck, the drive coordinator. "Of course, if somebody doesn't want to wait, or wants to give more often, there's always a drive going on somewhere nearby."



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 David Dexter

Capt. Steven Hampton, commanding officer for the Center for Surface Combat Systems (CSCS) in Dahlgren, Va., speaks with Sailors during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for CSCS Pearl Harbor at Destroyer Squadron 31 headquarters on board Naval Station Pearl Harbor. CSCS Pearl Harbor is an anti-submarine warfare trainer that simulates shipboard sonar equipment and will be used to train Sailors homeported at Pearl Harbor.



Pearl Harbor Shipyard wins Excellence in Safety Award

Marshall Fukuki

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard was honored with a Governor's Excellence in Safety Award by the Hawai'i chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) during the biennial Governor's Pacific Rim Safety and Health Conference at the Hawai'i Convention Center on May 20.

The shipyard won first place in the category of large employers in general industry. The awards recognize Hawai'i businesses and organizations that demonstrate excellence in safety and health systems that protect their employees in the workplace.

The awards selection committee noted the shipyard's total case injury rate has declined 25 percent over the past four years, 14 percent in the past year and is 59 percent below the 2006 national average for the shipbuilding and repair industry.

"Safety is our number one priority at the shipyard so it's always gratifying to be honored in that respect," said Capt. Gregory Thomas, shipyard commander. "We've won safety awards from the military. What's unique about the governor's award is that

we're being recognized as part of the safety community of this state."

Lyrita Gochenouer, head of the shipyard's safety branch, said, "We were invited to submit a self-nomination by the American Society of Safety Engineers. Of interest to the group was how we adopted the voluntary protection programs and made them work at such a large industrial complex."

Voluntary protection programs (VPP) are a federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) program developed to reduce lost time injuries. Under VPP, management, union and workers partner and actively participate to improve worksite safety and health.

The shipyard implemented VPP in 2004. Last year, OSHA designated the shipyard as a "Star" site, the highest VPP rating attainable.

The selection committee for the governor's safety award noted that the VPP Star was achieved because shipyard workers were personally committed to work safely and look out for the safety of their coworkers.

According to the award citation, the shipyard "demonstrated excellence in safety and occupational

health throughout 2007, undertaking focused initiatives to improve safety performance. The command continues its commitment to instill a safety culture championed by employees and management, and maintains the proactive programs necessary to sustain the command as a VPP Star site."

One of the efforts made last year to improve compliance and awareness of safety requirements was to increase safety branch surveillance of submarine projects in dry docks from weekly to daily checks.

The shipyard also began a Safe Shop of the Month Award during 2007. The award recognizes the trade shop with the best record in injury prevention and program compliance. First-line supervisors and employees of the winning shop receive a coupon redeemable for merchandise at the Shipyard Rewards and Recognition Store.



Photo courtesy of Pearl Harbor Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs
Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard was honored with a Governor's Excellence in Safety Award by the Hawai'i chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) during the biennial Governor's Pacific Rim Safety and Health Conference at the Hawai'i Convention Center on May 20.

NEX Hawai'i unveils 'NEX On the Go!' shuttle

Scheherezade Roundtree

Navy Exchange Hawai'i Marketing

Navy Exchange (NEX) Hawai'i is taking customer service and satisfaction to the next level - or pier, that is - after unveiling its greatly anticipated "NEX on the Go!" shuttle at a ribbon-cutting ceremony held at Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) Headquarters on June 23. Adm. Robert F. Willard, Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet, helped launch the first of two "NEX on the Go!" shuttles.

Two NEX shuttle buses were converted into "mobile mini marts" to provide Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) and Pearl Harbor-homeported Sailors with the added convenience of readily accessible merchandise at select pier locations around Naval Station Pearl Harbor. The shuttles will also be used to support other retail activities in the future.

Led by Ron Matthews, district facilities manager, the Navy Exchange's facilities/maintenance team spearheaded the construction phase of the mobile mini marts.

Matthews explained, "In the desire to better support the fleet at the pier, a discussion was held with NEX management on how we could better support the pier when we have ship arrivals here at Pearl Harbor. NEX management came up with the idea that we can convert a bus into a mobile store." Matthews estimated that it took 160-200 man hours (approximately one month) to revamp each bus.

The "NEX on the Go!" shuttles were retrofitted to resemble an actual mini mart, complete with refrigerators for chilled beverages and snacks, cashier corner, and floor to ceiling shelving, containing all that a Sailor needs - from toiletries, work T-shirts and socks to beach towels and sunblock. Now patrons can obtain those essential items and much more with just a short walk from ship to shore.

Reconstructing the buses was a major undertaking that is perhaps comparable to one of several department renovations NEX Hawai'i executed over the years. Kevin Chambers, NEX visual merchandiser manager, has used his aesthetic expertise to many cosmetic, in-store makeovers and now has the shuttle bus overhaul to add to his repertoire.



Photo courtesy of Navy Exchange Hawai'i Marketing
Adm. Robert F. Willard, Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet, helped launch the first of two "NEX on the Go!" shuttles at a ribbon-cutting ceremony held at Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) Headquarters on June 23.

Chambers and his visual team ensured that the overall interior and exterior look of the shuttles were visually appealing to customers by determining an appropriate floor plan for the space and supplying proper fixturing and shelving units to support mobile merchandise.

Once interior modifications were complete, Kenneth Nagamine, Mini Mart support analyst, helped oversee the merchandising of the mobile mini marts, choosing the appropriate categories (i.e., "drinks") and placement. Through a quantitative analysis, it was determined that the mobile mini mart would stock high velocity items, or bestselling products, such as beverages, snacks and so on, to accommodate patrons' needs.



Construction projects around Pearl Harbor

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i

Scheduled road work and parking closures

Ford Island:

- Parking areas and through traffic on the south side of building 39 will be closed for underground waterline installation crossing the area. The area will be secured from building 39 to the Pacific Warfighting Center construction site. No entry area will be demarked with barriers and signage. Work will result in no parking and closed until Aug. 1.

- One lane of Lexington Boulevard will be closed for underground waterline installation. The road will be secured at a location approximately midpoint between buildings 54 and 39. Through access will be provided via signs, barriers and flagmen directing traffic. Work will result in minimal traffic disruptions during working hours. Dates for this one lane closure are July 23-25.

Naval Station Pearl Harbor:

- The 4th of July 2008 Block Party will be held on the blacktop across from Bravo Piers 24-26 from 2-9:30 p.m. July 4. To support this event, the following parking areas and streets will be secured. All vehicles remaining in these areas during the secured times will be towed at the owner's expense.

The blacktop located

across from Bravo Piers 24 - 26 will be secured from 4 p.m. June 18 to July 8. The parking lot adjacent to the blacktop areas will be secured from 5 p.m. June 25 to 11:30 p.m. July 4.

The parking lot at Bravo Piers 24 and 25 will be secured from 4 p.m. July 1 to 11:30 p.m. July 4. Alternate parking for Bravo Piers 24 and 25 will be at Mike Piers parking lot from 4 p.m. July 1 to 11:30 p.m. July 4.

The parking lot on the north side of Navy Legal Service Office (NLSO) will be secured to the public from 4 p.m. July 3 to 11:30 p.m. on July 4.

The parking lot across from Bravo Piers 24 - 26 and next to Scott Pool will be open to vendors only and closed to the public from 5 p.m. July 2 to 11:30 p.m. on July 4.

Pearl Harbor Boulevard west of Popeye's fast food restaurant to the west side of Banyans parking lot will be secured from 8 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. July 4.

Willamette Street south of NLSO will be secured from 8 a.m.-11:30 p.m. July 4.

Parking will be available on Paul Hamilton Avenue, parking lot D, for event guests and visitors on July 4.

Military-affiliated personnel (including family members and federal employees) with appropriate Department of Defense decals or temporary stickers, may enter through Makalapa Gate and park at

Mike Pier or Club Pearl parking lot or enter through Nimitz Gate and park at Paul Hamilton Avenue parking lot or Bloch Arena parking lot on July 4.

Personnel requiring access to the Scott Pool, Banyans, Willamette Street parking lot etc., during the period of road closures should use Nimitz Gate, turn left onto South Avenue, right onto Paul Hamilton Avenue, right onto Safeguard Street and then right onto Pearl Harbor Boulevard.

All vendors and contractors will use Halawa Gate on July 4 from 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. No pets, glass containers, barbecue grills or personal tents are allowed anywhere in the event area.

Long-term road closures:

- Ford Island: Due to public-private venture housing construction, a new temporary road has been opened from Chafee Boulevard to provide access to the area near Wasp Boulevard, north of Chafee intersection. Construction is ongoing through June 30.

- Fleet and Industrial Supply Center: Construction will cause portions of Simms Street between wharf K-9 and building 1900 to be closed off through Sept. 30.

- Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard: Installation of a sewer main will cause the closure of one lane on Lake Erie Avenue during normal working hours through Aug. 15.

Midshipmen train to fight fires onboard Lake Erie

Midshipman 1st Class
Andrew Long

Washington State University

Eighteen midshipmen onboard USS Lake Erie (CG 70) gained first hand training fighting shipboard fires on June 11.

The Pearl Harbor-based, Aegis cruiser Lake Erie continually trains to fight shipboard casualties. Fire is the most dangerous scenario any crew can encounter. The midshipmen from the United States Naval Academy and NROTC units from universities across the country embarked onboard Lake Erie for summer training cruises, and experienced the hard work it takes to fight fire.

The executive officer of Lake Erie, Cmdr. Richard Martel, decided to integrate the midshipmen into a firefighting training exercise. Each member of the crew who would normally be assigned to a firefighting team trained and aided a midshipman to take over his role during the exercise.

"You need to learn about firefighting to be on a ship," said Martel. "It's better (for the midshipmen) to do the training while they still ask lots of questions. Once they commission as officers, they won't ask as many." Martel's goal in the exercise was for the midshipmen to not only gain valuable firefighting skills, but also come away with an appreciation for how hard the crew trains to fight shipboard fires.

Midshipman 1st Class Kelly Lanham from the University of San Diego was the scene leader during the



U.S. Navy photo

Eighteen midshipmen onboard USS Lake Erie (CG 70) gained first hand training fighting shipboard fires on June 11.

firefighting drill. "The experience gave me a great appreciation for the crew who are given the awesome responsibility of defending the ship against fire," said Lanham. "My responsibility as the

scene leader was to supervise and direct the firefighting efforts and to take reports from the fire investigators."

"Sometimes we encounter something we're not expecting," said Midshipman Jacob

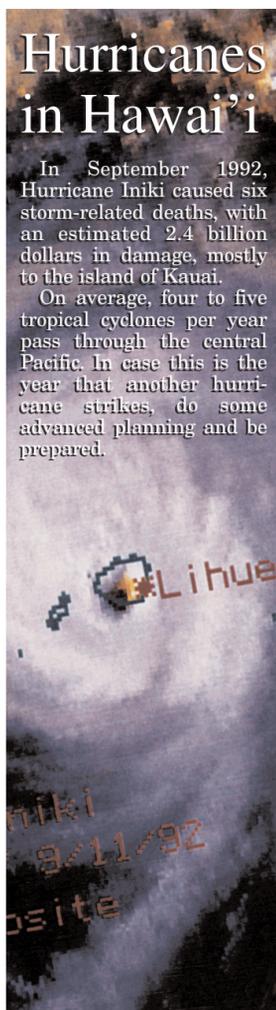
Stevens-Haas from the Naval Academy. Stevens-Haas was the hose-team leader during the drill. "We had an idea of what we were supposed to do, but not what we were supposed to hear so communication between team members was a constant struggle," said Stevens-Haas.

Damage Control Chief Darrick Hays led the midshipmen firefighting exercise and said, "When these midshipmen do go to a ship, they will understand how we train." Hays wanted the future officers to gain a basic understanding of firefighting tactics. The midshipmen learned where firefighting gear is located throughout the ship and how to operate that gear. "Hopefully, they got some good training and had a little fun, too," said Hays.

Hurricanes in Hawai'i

In September 1992, Hurricane Iniki caused six storm-related deaths, with an estimated 2.4 billion dollars in damage, mostly to the island of Kauai.

On average, four to five tropical cyclones per year pass through the central Pacific. In case this is the year that another hurricane strikes, do some advanced planning and be prepared.



Free Classified advertising for military in Hawaii Navy News

Active duty and retired military, civil service and family members can advertise the sale of their personal property (including real estate) and services in HNN at no charge. The details are as follows:

Classified items and services must represent an incidental exchange between the aforementioned personnel and not business operations. Requests for three-line free classified advertisements can be submitted via email, if from a ".mil" address (submit to lkaneshi@honolulu.gannett.com), by phone at 521-9111 or by visiting www.honoluluadvertiser.com and clicking on "classified ads." More lines of advertising can be purchased at an additional fee. Requesters should include their military ID number and a call-back phone number.