

Pearl Harbor celebrates freedom

Fireworks illuminate the night sky aboard Naval Station Pearl Harbor during a 4th of July celebration. In observance of Independence Day, Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosted a fireworks display and block party featuring fun activities for children and adults. U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jason Swink



RIMPAC 2008 touted as largest maritime exercise

MC2 John Wallace Ciccarelli

Fleet Public Affairs
Center Detachment Hawaii

Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet and Combined Task Force RIMPAC, Vice Adm. Samuel J. Locklear met with media at Naval Station Pearl Harbor to inform the public and to answer questions about this year's Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise.

RIMPAC, hosted by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet every two years, demonstrates the Navy's dedication to working with global allies in the region, protecting maritime freedoms and ensuring stability throughout the Pacific Rim.

"RIMPAC is the largest maritime exercise in the world. This year we bring together 10 countries, more than 35 ships, six submarines, more than 150 aircraft and their crews and over 20,000 of the finest men and women the world can produce," said Locklear.

RIMPAC allows the U.S. Navy to remain a powerful component of combined and joint warfare and exhibits close cooperation with other services and international partners.

"The RIMPAC exercise is recognition of the global security environment we are in. It's a recognition that no one country can maintain the



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Michael Moriatis

Vice Adm. Samuel J. Locklear, commander of the U.S. 3rd Fleet and Combined Task Force Commander for Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008, conducts a press conference with Republic of Korea media at Hospital Point at Pearl Harbor. RIMPAC is the world's largest multi-national exercise and is scheduled biennially by the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Participants include the United States, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, the Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

See RIMPAC, A-6



Cmdr. Jeffrey W. James, commanding officer of the Pearl Harbor-based Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70); Capt. Donald Hodge, chief of staff for Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; and Capt. Bruce Stewart, deputy director for operations U.S. Pacific Fleet and former commodore of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31, salute as they render honors for colors during a pier side change of command ceremony for the Hopper at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. During the ceremony, James was relieved by Cmdr. Timothy J. Kott as commanding officer for the Hopper.

James bids farewell to 'Amazing Grace'

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

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii

Cmdr. Timothy J. Kott relieved Cmdr. Jeffrey W. James as commanding officer of the Pearl Harbor-based, Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) during a pier side change of command ceremony July 3

at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

"Commanding this great ship and awesome crew has been the most fun, enjoyable, satisfying and professional endeavor I've ever undertaken," said James. "You all cannot begin to imagine the immense pride and joy I've had being your captain."

James expressed his gratitude and respect for the outstanding support of his command master chief (CMC)

and executive officer, and thanked friends, families and crew for their steadfast dedication and support during his time as skipper for "Amazing Grace," nickname for the ship after her namesake rear Adm. Grace Murray Hooper.

"You are the greatest crew on the greatest warship in the world. Never forget it," he said.

Guest speaker for the

See CMDR. JAMES, A-2



Hawai'i artist Kim Taylor Reece embarks Kitty Hawk See page A-4



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Hawaii families celebrate 'great men, great SEALS' See page A-8



Navy families have fun on the Fourth See page B-1

Moore relieves Carter at FISC

Story and photo by
Jim Murray

Fleet and Industrial Supply
Center, Pearl Harbor

In a change of command held June 27, Capt. Randall Moore relieved Capt. Robert Carter as the commanding officer of Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Pearl Harbor.

Carter, who served as FISC Pearl's commanding officer since April 2006, left for Norfolk, Va. where he will retire on Sept. 1 with 28 years of distinguished naval service. His tour at FISC Pearl's helm was marked with an array of milestones, particularly in quality of life initiatives, such as family readiness nights, diversity events, an employee health fair, and the creation of a professional reading library.

In addition, FISC oversaw the establishment of a contractor-owned and operated automotive parts store at Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i and the ocean terminals department was awarded the coveted National Defense Transportation Award. The FISC command was selected as the winner of a variety of regional flagship awards for community service.

Moore reports from DLA Headquarters in Fort Belvoir, Va. where he was the chief of PEO operations for the program executive officer, information operations directorate. No stranger to Hawai'i, Moore served at COMPACFLT from 2000-2002.

A native of Los Angeles, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1977, serving as an electronics technician. He rose to the rank of sec-



(Left to right) Capt. Randall Moore, Rear Adm. Ray Berube, Commander, Fleet and Industrial Supply Centers (FISC), and Capt. Bob Carter join forces to cut the cake during the June 27 change of command ceremony at FISC. Moore relieved Carter as the commanding officer of FISC Pearl Harbor.

ond class prior to his commissioning as an ensign in 1984.

Moore holds a bachelor's degree in business marketing with a minor in computer programming from Jacksonville University in Florida. He also earned a master's degree with a specialization in information systems from San Diego State University.

While still in the enlisted

ranks, Moore served on the Gold crew aboard the ballistic missile submarine USS Sam Houston (SSBN 609), homeported at Pearl Harbor, and as the supply officer aboard a similar submarine, the USS Stonewall Jackson (SSBN 634 - Blue Crew), homeported at Charleston, S.C. Other sea tours have been as the assistant supply

officer aboard the submarine tender USS Dixon (AS 37) and as the supply officer aboard USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), an amphibious assault carrier.

Moore is a lifetime member of the National Eagle Scout Association.

In October of this year, FISC Pearl Harbor will celebrate its 66th year of providing unparalleled logistics support to the Pacific Fleet.

James hands over Hopper

Continued from A-1

event, Capt. Bruce Stewart, deputy director for operations U.S. Pacific Fleet and former commodore of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31, reflected on the importance of James' leadership as commanding officer and the ship's successes during his tenure.

"This squadron (Destroyer Squadron 31) has ships that deploy to support Third, Seventh, Fifth and Fourth Fleet commanders. It's a cornerstone to the fleet commander's initiative to enhance readiness in the western Pacific and leading that charge has always been the Hopper," said Stewart.

In January, James led the Hopper in brave and disciplined restraint when confronted with five Islamic

Republic of Iran Revolutionary Guards Navy (IRGCN) attack craft while transiting the Straits of Hormuz.

As Islamic Republic of Iran Revolutionary Guard Navy (IRGCN) maneuvered aggressively in close proximity of the Hopper, James and his crew issued warnings, attempted to establish communications, and conducted evasive maneuvering.

"He directly and positively affected the coalition's policy concerning interaction with the IRGCN and flawlessly exhibited de-escalatory rela-

tions in the face of intense pressure under unprecedented circumstances," read the master of ceremonies as James was presented the Meritorious Service Medal, gold star in lieu of his second award, for outstanding meritorious service and leadership as commanding officer of Hopper from February 2007 to July 2008.

As part of DESRON 31, Hopper received its first ever Battle "E," earned a flawless report from the Board of Inspection and Survey during recent inspections, and was the first unit to fully certify Unit Level Training Assessment, Certification and Engineering (ULTRA C & E) during his tour as commanding officer.

Stewart noted that, "Hopper clearly and easily rose to the very top. [Hopper] is always a superior performer. On time and on target, the first time and every time. No fuss, drama or extra oversight. Truly a commodore's dream."

James is scheduled to report for duty as Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Kott is reporting from Washington, D.C. where he most recently served on the joint staff (J-7), operational plans and joint force development directorate, as the joint exercise program manager.

STORY IDEAS?

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Hawaii Navy News

Got Questions?

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Hawaii Navy News Editorial

Navy earns corporate diversity recognition

Lt. Cmdr. Elizabeth Zimmermann

Chief of Naval Personnel-Diversity Directorate Public Affairs

Readers of Diversity/Careers in Engineering and Information Technology magazine helped the U.S. Navy earn honors as a Best Diversity Company for 2008.

The Navy was one of nine government agencies in a group of 100 honorees selected from a field of more than 600 companies, government agencies and other organizations that employ technical professionals. These groups were selected by readers of Diversity/Careers and visitors to its Web site: www.diversitycareers.com.

"I am committed to ensuring that we, as a Navy, are going to be one of the best places for a young person to start their career. We must all think and work as an organization to attract, recruit and retain our nation's best and brightest now and in the future," said Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Adm. Gary Roughead.

Readers listed the Navy as one of the best companies due to its support of minorities and women, attention to life-work balance and commitment to supplier diversity.



Sailors stand at attention during a "frocking" ceremony in the hangar bay of the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) in the Pacific Ocean on May 31.

This recognition comes on the heels of the Navy's receipt of the prestigious Work Life Legacy Award from the Families and Work Institute. In a ceremony in New York City June 9, the accomplishments of the

Navy's Task Force Life Work were lauded. The Navy joins an elite list of honorees such as Ernst & Young, Deloitte & Touche and Xerox, companies considered the best at addressing the social, personal and professional

needs of employees. "The United States Navy is an organization like no other in the world. We have opportunities and we give opportunities to young people in ways that no company, no other organization

will," said Roughead. "We operate the highest levels of technology. We give our young people more authority, more opportunities for them to exercise their leadership and their initiative, than any other organization

that I have ever seen."

The CNO expressed his desire to be considered on par with the top 50 companies to work for in the country and it seems the Navy is doing just that.

When compared to Fortune's 2008 list of the 100 Best Companies to Work For, the Navy's quality of life and compensation offerings were found to be extremely competitive.

"We are all about opportunity. We are at the heart a learning organization, built upon training and development, the best that money can buy, in both our enlisted and our officers," said Vice Adm. John Harvey, director of Navy staff.

"What we have to do is make people aware of these opportunities, the opportunity to serve, but also the opportunity to grow, and we bring that together [in the Navy]."

Other government agencies selected as Best Diversity Companies included the Defense Intelligence Agency, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, National Radio Astronomy Observatory, National Security Agency, Naval Research Laboratory, Office of Naval Research, Sandia National Laboratories, U.S. Coast Guard (civilian careers) and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

For the CNO's Diversity Policy, visit www.navy.mil.

Commentary

Welcome RIMPAC friends

Karen S. Spangler

Editor

Our friends from 10 participating nations – Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore and United Kingdom - are currently here in the Hawaiian Islands to participate in Rim of the Pacific exercises 2008 with the United States Navy. This is the 21st year since 1971 that the RIMPAC participants have converged on Hawai'i for "war games on a global scale."

Although the duration of time that the RIMPAC participants will spend here in the islands is brief – only about a month – the joint exercise will help them to hone their warfighting skills, test their capabilities and practice a variety of scenarios, including executing amphibious assaults, sinking decommissioned vessels and supporting humanitarian missions.

Through it all, the approximately 20,000 military personnel will have the opportunity to improve communication and teamwork, develop even better cooperation with other RIMPAC allies, and establish solid military relationships and friendships with other nations from the Rim of the Pacific.

The show of international presence integrates more than 33 ships and the might of the aircraft carrier, USS Kitty Hawk, along with six submarines and more than 150 aircraft. As they work side-by-side in littoral operations, the exercise takes on even more importance in an era of global terrorism.

Although RIMPAC is all about improving multi-nation-

al cooperation and inter-operability between allies on the high seas and in a combat scenario, it also affords numerous opportunities to build friendships and camaraderie among nations.

It offers the chance for some stiff, but friendly competition in sports and athletic events. It provides the chance for RIMPAC participants to learn about each other's countries and cultures. And, since it all takes place here in paradise, it gives those of us who live here the opportunity to extend to our visitors the spirit of aloha and ohana for which Hawai'i is well-known.

Hopefully, while they are here for RIMPAC, our visitors from many nations will have the chance to try a snorkeling or scuba diving adventure or just relax on a sunny beach overlooking the azure waters of the Pacific Ocean. Maybe they will enjoy a climb to a perch on Diamond Head - high above Waikiki. Perhaps they will take advantage of the varied music venues at the island's popular nightspots.

And certainly, they will have many chances to appease their taste buds with a plethora of foods from many cultures – our very untypical "local" cuisine.

But mostly, we hope that they will return to their native countries with pleasant memories of time spent in a paradise in the middle of the blue Pacific – and remember the welcoming spirit and hospitality from this land of aloha.

As we foster a spirit of cooperation and communication between our allied nations, we also extend our sincerest gratitude for a job well done.

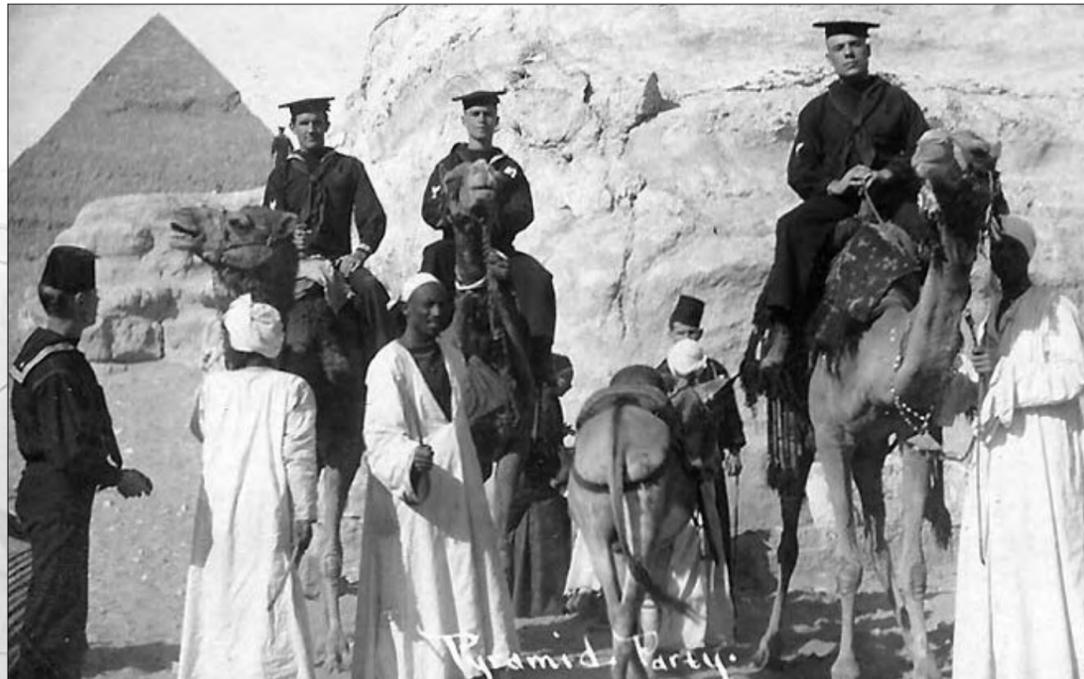
Have a fine Navy day!



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

Korean, Japanese and U.S. naval ships are moored at Naval Station Pearl Harbor preparing for exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008. RIMPAC is the world's largest multi-national exercise and is scheduled bi-ennially by the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Participants include the United States, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, the Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

Sailors of "Great White Fleet" on camels in Egypt



During the world cruise of the "Great White Fleet," three Sailors pose atop camels at the base of the Sphinx, during the U.S. Atlantic Fleet's visit to Egypt, circa Jan. 4, 1909. Note fezzes worn by two dismounted Sailors and the pyramid in the left distance. Photo from collection of Chief Quartermaster John Harold

U.S. Naval Historical Center Photograph

Hawaii Navy News

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Hawai'i artist Kim Taylor Reece embarks Kitty Hawk

MC1 Luke J. Perry

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

For Hawai'i artist and former U.S. Navy corpsman Kim Taylor Reece, a "distinguished visitors" tour aboard USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) hosted by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet on June 27, brought the past full circle.

Reece is known as one of Hawai'i's premier artists. He has successfully parlayed what was originally only meant to be a one-year visit into a nearly 25-year love affair with "hula kahiko," traditional hula dance performed with chants and instruments that depict Hawaiian legends and the islands' natural beauty. His photography of hula kahiko has brought him worldwide recognition and garnered him numerous awards as a person of influence in the community.

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet's distinguished visitor (DV) embarkation program gives influential members of the Hawai'i community the opportunity to experience life aboard a

U.S. Navy aircraft carrier. Guests experience everything from the jolting landing to the rollercoaster-like takeoff, while in-between touring the ship, meeting the crew and learning firsthand about the Navy's maritime strategy. For some, it's a chance to reconnect with the past.

"My dad was in the Navy and a Pearl Harbor survivor. He was radio gunner aboard the rescue planes and had all kinds of sea stories about the Navy and the South Pacific," said Reece. "He ended up being a professor at a college and kids could always get him off track if they got him started talking about the Navy."

Reece joined the U.S. Navy as a hospital corpsman. His travels took him from San Diego to Yokosuka, Japan and on to what was then called Naval Air Station Danang during the Vietnam War, eventually returning to southern California, where he began a search for new adventures.

His search was based on his father's stories of the South Pacific, leading him to follow in his father's



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Anthony Martinez

Hawai'i artist and former U.S. Navy corpsman Kim Taylor Reece embarked aboard USS Kitty Hawk for a "distinguished visitors" tour hosted by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet on June 27.

footsteps to Hawai'i.

"He was the inspiration... telling us about the hula girls and the beautiful weather. He really, really loved Hawai'i," Reece said.

With the backdrop of the Hawaiian Islands, Reece

has lived a dream - studying, capturing and preserving the ancient hula kahiko dance. His photos, sculptures and calendars are prominently displayed in hotels and homes throughout Hawai'i.

Recently Reece came face to face with the United States Navy once again.

"When an aircraft carrier left San Diego a couple of months ago, I was sailing around in San Diego Bay on the America's Cup Yacht

the Stars & Stripes," Reece said. "Well, we had to kinda get out of the way ..."

In a complete coincidence, Reece received a phone call from the Pacific Fleet Public Affairs Office in June. It was an invitation on behalf of Adm. Robert F. Willard, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, to fly out and visit Kitty Hawk.

"They called me up out of the blue and asked if I want to go out on the ship and it was like 'oh my God, thanks' - just unbelievable!" said Reece

For Reece, the opportunity represented something quite personal.

"My father passed away five years ago and it really reminded me of him. It was kinda one of those things where you wish you could call him up and go, 'Guess what I did,' because he would have loved to be able to do something like this today."

To learn more about Kim Taylor Reece and hula kahiko, visit <http://www.kimtaylorreece.com/home.htm>.

For more information about U.S. Pacific Fleet, visit www.cpf.navy.mil.

HRSOC project completing new concrete bridge

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i

The \$318 million Hawai'i Regional Security Operations Center (HRSOC) project on Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific (NCTAMS PAC) Wahiawa is well underway.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held in August 2007. The project consists of

a two-story operations facility and the construction of various other structures and road improvements including a concrete bridge for the access road.

Bridge work started Dec. 28, 2007 and the concrete was poured in mid-May. Although not complete, the 150-foot long bridge that is approximately 36 feet high can be used by vehicles and is important in construction of the operations building's exterior 40-foot high con-

crete precast walls. It still needs concrete railings and approach slabs, but is expected to be completed by the end of July.

The 8,000-foot access roadway, which is two lanes wide from Whitmore Avenue to the new base entry point into NCTAMS PAC, is approximately 85 percent complete with paving and drain work remaining.

The HRSOC project is expected to be completed in late 2010.

Jim Nicholson, engineering technician, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i, drives a government truck across the new concrete bridge at the Hawai'i Regional Security Operations Center (HRSOC) project on Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific (NCTAMS PAC) Wahiawa on June 19.

U.S. Navy photo by Walter McCracken



Pearl Harbor Highlights



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jason Swink

Sailors involved with Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008 along with their families and friends watch fireworks during a 4th of July celebration on board Naval Station, Pearl Harbor. RIMPAC is the world's largest multi-national exercise and is scheduled bi-ennially by the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Participants include the United States, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, the Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore, and the United Kingdom. RIMPAC is designed to enhance the tactical capabilities and cooperation of participating nations in various aspects of maritime operations at sea.



China's Lt. Gen. Zhang Qingsheng, commander Guangzhou Military Region, People's Liberation Army, signs the U.S. Pacific Fleet guest book atop a desk once belonging to Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, during a visit COMPACFLT headquarters July 8. Zhang is visiting various military installations around Hawai'i to enhance mutual interest in maritime security and stability and build upon mutual trust and understanding.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Hight



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

Members of the Royal Australian Navy Band perform with U.S. Pacific Fleet Band during a pier side change of command ceremony for the Pearl Harbor-based Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) at Naval Station Pearl Harbor.



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

Crew of the Pearl Harbor-based Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) stand in formation as Hopper Sailors parade the colors during a change of command ceremony at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. Cmdr Jeffrey W. James was relieved by Cmdr. Timothy J. Kott as commanding officer for the Hopper during the ceremony.

(Below) A rainbow arches near the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) while moored at Pearl Harbor. Kitty Hawk made its first U.S. port call in more than 10 years. The ship participated in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008 with units from the United States, Australia, Chile, Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, Peru, South Korea, Singapore and the United Kingdom.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 John J. Mike



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Derek J. Hurder

Ensign Daryl Dawson of the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Chung Hoon (DDG 93) catches a wave during a surfing tournament at White Plains Beach, Hawai'i. She took part in one of the many sporting events arranged by Naval Station Pearl Harbor's Morale, Welfare and Recreation department for Sailors participating in this year's 'Rim of the Pacific' exercise.





U.S. Navy photo by BM2 Anthony Alvarado

Vice Adm. Samuel Locklear, commander of the U.S. 3rd Fleet, cuts the first slice of cake with Gunner's Mate Seaman (SW) Michael Osborne at a 4th of July reception onboard USS Port Royal (CG 73).

MIDPAC hosts 4th of July reception on USS Port Royal

Lt. j.g. Cassidy Rasmussen

USS Port Royal (CG 73) Public Affairs

Approximately 140 guests attended a reception onboard USS Port Royal (CG 73) on July 4 as guests of Rear Adm. T.G. Alexander, commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and Capt David Adler, commanding officer, Port Royal.

Vice Adm. Samuel Locklear, commander of U.S. 3rd Fleet, was the guest of honor and

helped kick off the fireworks by cutting the 4th of July cake. Other guests included commanding officers from visiting Rim of the Pacific 2008 ships and leaders in the local community.

"This is the second year Port Royal has hosted the Fourth of July reception and it is an honor to welcome aboard Vice Adm. Locklear and Rear Adm. Alexander and their guests," said Adler. "Although it was a lot of work for my supply department and the duty section, I believe they took great pride in showing off their ship."

RIMPAC boasts 10 countries

Continued from A-1

global security environment, and it requires all of us to work together to acquire this goal," said Locklear.

This year's RIMPAC exercise kicked off June 29 and continues through July 31 in the Hawaiian Islands area of operations.

"I cannot thank the people of the great state of Hawaii enough on how they have opened their arms to us and making us feel welcome here," Locklear said.

This is the 21st in a series of RIMPAC exercises conducted periodically since 1971.

RIMPAC brings together maritime, air and land forces

from Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States. This multinational exercise aims to prepare forces to be ready for a wide range of potential combined and joint operations and missions.

Where will you be for this year's election?

Region Legal Service Office Hawai'i

Local election officials need to know the citizens' current address in order to send the absentee ballot. Although it is technically a citizens' responsibility to notify their local election official of changes in their mailing address (where the citizen needs their ballot mailed), it is too often forgotten until it is too late.

Because uniformed services members are highly mobile, your Region Voting Assistance Office recommends that the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) be completed in its entirety following the state instructions and submitted every year in January and whenever they move or are transferred. Voting assistance officers (VAOs) can help by announcing the following procedures.

Send a change of address

notification by submitting an FPCA. When completing the FPCA, indicate your "new address" and your "old address." Completion instructions for each state can be found in chapter three of the 2008-09 Voting Assistance Guide.

State-by-state instructions are also available online at www.fvap.gov or can be obtained by contacting your command's VAO.

In addition to informing the local election official of the citizen's current mailing address, submitting the FPCA will register or confirm the citizen's registration and acts as a request for absentee ballots for any elections to be held that year.

A second option to indicate a change in address is writing a letter to your local election official with your name, date of birth and both new and old addresses. The new address is where you would like to receive

your ballot.

When using any of these options, it is important to include a voter registration number or social security number, an email address, phone, fax number and any additional information that can help the local election official properly identify you and maintain current contact information.

Submit an address change early so that you have enough time to receive, vote your ballot, and return it to the local election official to meet state deadlines.

If you return to your state of legal voting residence or separate from military service, be sure to notify your local election official that you plan on voting at the polls in the next election.

Deploying National Guard and Reserve members, in addition to the above instructions, should contact their local election office for additional information.

Hurricane watches

Weather/marine advisories:

Issued when storms are within 1,000 miles of Honolulu, Hawai'i.

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.

Transportation Incentive Program can help with commuter costs

Karen S. Spangler

Editor

With the constantly rising cost of gas and bumper-to-bumper traffic, commuters are looking for ways to help alleviate the transportation headache.

A solution to your driving frustration is available – the federal government's Transportation Incentive Program (TIP).

The program, which has been in existence since July 2001, is intended to reduce federal employees' contribution to traffic congestion and air pollution as well as expand their commuting options.

Culinary Specialist 1st Class Fred Butts, the bachelor housing regional leading petty officer at Naval Station Pearl Harbor, has been a TIP participant since April and said that the program offers several advantages. "It's very beneficial to me, especially with the rise of [the cost of] gas, and I don't have to worry about driving in traffic. It's a less stressful trip home for me. I get to meet new people that I would not normally meet."

"I would definitely recommend it to others; in fact, it was recommended to me by one of my shipmates. I took his advice and I thanked him for it," he noted.

"I think it's a win-win for everyone because the way gas is rising, I can definitely see more people catching the bus in the near future," Butts added.

Engineman 1st Class Chris Capers, assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor, has made good use of the TIP program for about a year. "My use of the TIP has been great and with the price of gas, it sure comes in handy. Right now I only have one vehicle, so I have



The federal government's Transportation Incentive Program (TIP) has been in existence since July 2001. It is intended to reduce federal employees' contribution to traffic congestion and air pollution as well as expand their commuting options. Participants are eligible for reimbursement up to \$110 per month in qualified transportation costs.

to get up early in the morning and catch the number 73 bus which comes to Pearl City Peninsula and drops me off about a block from Kam Highway," he explained. "There I can catch three out of four buses which drops me off right in front of the base."

Capers has shared his experiences about the program with his shipmates. "As far as recommending it to other people, I sure have and they jump on it as soon as I sent them the application."

"I wish that Navy contractors could be eligible for this, but it does help the environment as being one less car burning gas. It helps with the economy that the Navy is helping people get to work with this alternative, and it helps me with my schedule and family with just one car," Capers offered.

Participants are eligible for reimbursement up to \$110 per month in qualified transportation costs. The monthly commuting cost is determined by calculating the daily commute cost and multiplying it times 21 average workdays per

month. Parking fees cannot be included in the amount claimed for reimbursement.

Transit vouchers and/or fare media are distributed on a monthly or quarterly basis. Vouchers are issued beginning the month following enrollment.

Peter Leng, a civilian employee at Naval Station Harbor and ID division, has utilized the program for more than three years and gave it high marks. "It benefits me because The Bus stop is very close to my residence and right by my work place. It benefits me a great deal because I get to relax on the bus on my way to work and I don't have to fight the traffic. Another advantage is the bus runs every 15 to 20 minutes; I don't have to wait for a long time," explained Leng.

He recommended TIP to other employees. "Definitely I would recommend it to people that have the bus route close to their area. It is a win-win for the Navy and employees because the bus will go inside the base during early hours in the morning and also pick up passengers on base after

working hours."

In order to qualify for the incentive, commuters must use recognized mass transportation systems, including commuter buses, commuter trains, subway/light rail and van pools.

Michael Benson, a civilian employee at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipbuilding, was enthusiastic about the benefits of the Transportation Incentive Program. A participant for three years, Benson is able to combine a dollar savings for transportation costs with the added benefit of a daily exercise regimen.

"The benefits are great for me because I take my bike and get a lot of bike riding in as well as transport to work every day. I am one less car on the road each day commuting to work so I feel like I am part of the solution for our current traffic woes. It is a win-win situation for employees and the Navy for the reasons that I mentioned," said Benson.

He detailed how his commute works. "It is a little more time consuming, but not too much. I work the

swing shift (2-11 p.m.) so I can't use the express bus, but my total travel time is still a little less than two hours from Hawaii Kai. The Bus keeps to the schedule really good and the drivers are helpful and friendly. At night after work, I ride my bike to the university [University of Hawaii] (50 minutes), and then catch the bus from there."

In addition to the personal benefits derived, Benson said that he is glad that the Navy is supporting a program that is working toward energy savings. "I am proud that my employer (the Navy) is involved in helping to solve one of the most pressing problems facing our community. You read about it every day and also it is an energy savings in helping cut down the dependency on foreign oil. I would recommend it to others," Benson explained.

"So, with the Navy's help I have gotten into great physical condition, saved money on gas, and become an active part of the solution to our oil dependency and traffic problems," he said.

Those who are eligible for TIP under the Department of the Navy (DON) program include:

- All Navy and Marine Corps military members and federal DON civilian employees, including non-appropriated fund (NAF) employees.
- Part-time federal employees and interns.
- Reservists on active duty for more than 30 days.
- Reservists who are performing active duty for 30 days or less are eligible under the SF 1164 reimbursement method.

Contractors, U.S. Coast Guard employees, retirees and military family members are not eligible for the benefit. ROTC students are not eligible unless they are listed in a military branch and considered active duty. The next deadline for TIP is July 29.

To enroll in the program, complete the program application form and complete it electronically. No handwritten forms will be accepted. After you've completed it, you won't be able to save it, but you'll need to print it. Sign/date the form, obtain your supervisor's signature/date (reviewing official) and submit completed forms to Wendy Okada. You will be notified when your fare media (vouchers) come in via email. Vouchers are distributed quarterly per the IG office.

The local command installation point of contact for Navy Region Hawai'i and Naval Station Pearl Harbor is Wendy Okada. She can be reached at 473-1217 or wendy.okada@navy.mil.

More information about the Transportation Incentive Program is available at <http://www.fmo.navy.mil/services/tip/tip.htm>.

Hawaii families celebrate 'great men, great SEALs'

MC2 Terrence Siren and
MC2 John W. Ciccarelli

Naval Special Warfare Public
Affairs

Navy SEALs [sea, air, land], family members and friends of the Naval Special Warfare community gathered for food, fun and a little friendly competition at the third annual "Never Forget" Ho'olaukanaka on the island of Oahu on June 27.

The event honors the memory of team members of Pearl Harbor's Navy SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team one (SDVT-1) and SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team Two from Little Creek, Va. who lost their lives in a courageous battle in the Korangal Valley near Asadabad, Afghanistan on June 28, 2005 during the counterterrorism mission Operation Redwings.

The ho'olaukanaka - a Hawaiian term pronounced "ho-o-low-kanaka" which means surrounding oneself with people to dispel loneliness - marks the third anniversary of the battle. The battle marked the deadliest day for the SEALs during combat since their inception in 1962.

During their mission in the mountains of Afghanistan, a four-man SEAL ground element, including Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew G. Axelson and Lt. Michael P. Murphy from SDVT-1, and Petty Officer 2nd Class Danny P. Dietz from SDVT-2, were attacked by a number of Taliban fighters. A helicopter-borne quick reaction force responded to the SEALs' call for help, but was shot down, killing the eight SEALs and eight Army 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR) "Night Stalkers" aboard.



U.S. Navy photo

Friends and family of the fallen Sailors assigned to SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team One (SDVT-1) and the Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment gather at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) to pay tribute to their brothers, fathers, husbands, uncles and friends lost in support of the global war on terrorism. The SEALs were killed while conducting combat and counter-terrorism operations in Afghanistan.

Three of the SEALs aboard the helicopter, Senior Chief Petty Officer Daniel R. Healy, Petty Officer 2nd Class E. Shane Patton and Petty Officer 2nd Class James E. Suh, were members of SDVT-1.

"The event has a two-fold purpose," said Al Schafer, who organizes the event every year with his wife

and is a member of Suh's extended family. "We want to memorialize the folks that gave their lives on June 28, 2005... [and we want] to celebrate and thank the SEALs and the rest of the community who work so hard for us - every day - to keep us safe in this country."

The event included a hike up

Mariner's Ridge, a popular trail overlooking the Kalama Valley; new, competitive half-mile and one-mile swim races in Maunalua Bay; prizes for the race winners; a free drawing for donated prizes; and a barbecue picnic lunch provided by local restaurateurs.

Five trees - four trees indigenous

to Hawai'i (acacia koa, kukui nut, milo ohia, lehua) and one tree found growing throughout the Pacific and as distant as East Africa (kou) - were planted on Mariner's Ridge during the first ho'olaukanaka two years ago in memory of each of the fallen SEALs of SDVT-1. This year, an additional acacia koa tree sapling was planted in memory of Dietz. Each tree symbolizes a different aspect of the SEAL team members' lives.

The milo tree, for instance, was the favored wood of King Kamehameha, Hawai'i's greatest warrior; the kou tree grows in the same geographical region assigned to the SEALs of SDVT teams one and two.

"This event means a lot to me because the men were good friends of mine and were all great men and great SEALs," said SDVT-1 Command Master Chief (SEAL) Alan O'Dell.

The "Never Forget" Ho'olaukanaka is not only a great opportunity for SEALs and Navy service members, past and present, to gather in honor and remembrance of their fallen comrades, but it is also, according to Schafer, an opportunity for the Pearl Harbor community to reach out to the Navy community in a show of support and appreciation.

"We really want them to know that there are those who appreciate what they do every day," said Schafer.

And the outpouring of support - and memories - doesn't appear to be diminishing any time soon.

"The event grows every year, with this year being 30 percent larger than last year," said Schafer. "And [it's] only our third year ever doing this type of event."