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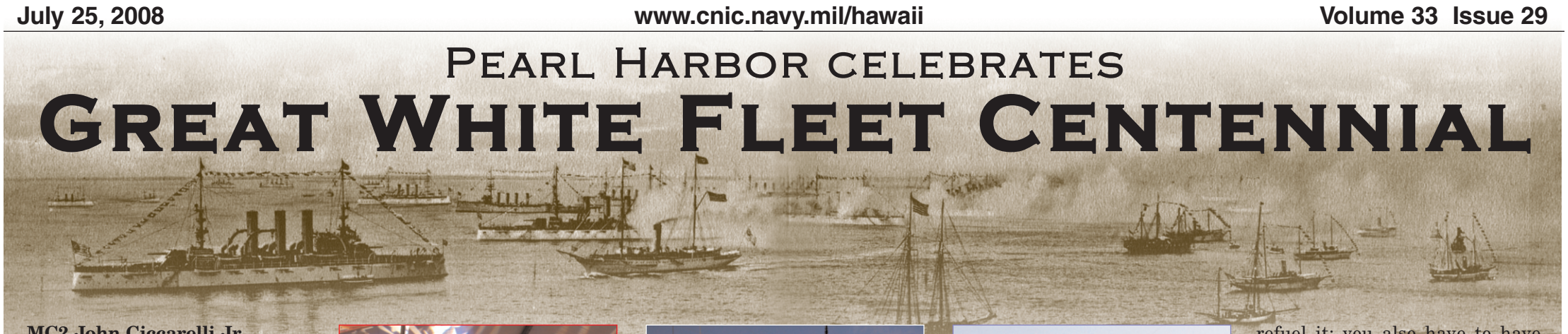
Pearl Harbor celebrates Great White Fleet Centennial



MC2 John Ciccarelli Jr.

Fleet Public Affairs Center Detachment Hawai'i

Naval Station Pearl Harbor commemorated the centennial of President Theodore Roosevelt's Great White Fleet aboard the USS Missouri Memorial on July 18.

Hundreds of Sailors, dignitaries, Navy officials and guests gathered on the memorial to celebrate the Great White Fleet's historic arrival in Hawai'i on July 16, 1908.

"President Roosevelt would be proud of the many long term positive effects his Great White Fleet has had on our Navy, the nation and the world," said Dr. Donald C. Winter, secretary of the Navy. "Today, let us all reflect on Theodore Roosevelt's vision and the lessons of the Great White Fleet world tour and let us celebrate the history of the United States and its great Navy."

Rear Adm. T. G. Alexander, commander of Navy Region Hawai'i and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, welcomed the guests to the 100th celebration of the Great White Fleet's arrival and described its impact on Hawai'i.

On July 16, 1908, 16 battleships painted white with gilded scrollwork on their bows and 14,000 men of the Atlantic Fleet passed by Molokai Island and rendered honors to Father Damian and those at the Hansen's disease (also known as leprosy) colony at Kalaupapa.

"During the Great White Fleet's visit here to Hawai'i, they sailed past the Hansen colony on Molokai in tribute to the caretakers and infirm located there." said Alexander.

Three divisions then proceeded directly to the island of Oahu and anchored off Diamond Head crater until July 22, 1908 when the fleet set sail for New Zealand.

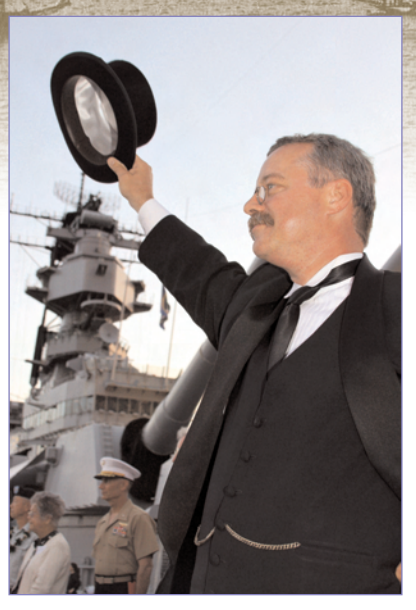
"The arrival of the Great White Fleet was really the arrival of American naval power to Hawai'i," said Daniel Martinez, USS Arizona Memorial historian for the National Park Service. "When you have a fleet of that size, you have to provision it, refuel it; you also have to have liberty for the Sailors aboard. At the time, they were very cramped vessels and for those reasons the importance of Pearl Harbor began."

After a presentation from President Theodore Roosevelt re-enactor Joe Wiegand, the guests witnessed the rendering of honors by the guided missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) and the guided missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) while four F/A-18 Super Hornet Fighters performed a fly-by.

For one observer, the ceremony and parade of ships was an appropriate way to celebrate the Great White Fleet Centennial.

"Today's event was very important to me because I have a strong interest in the Navy and to see this type of event in person and to be a part of it is truly amazing," said Elisabeth Wolf, a chief sea cadet with the United States Sea Cadet Corps.

The Great White Fleet's historic deployment from Dec. 16, 1907, to Feb. 22, 1909 sent a clear message to our allies and adversaries alike that America was now a global power, capable of deterring aggression, operating freely at sea, and able to provide assistance to those in need from whatever nation all over the world.



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

(Left) Sailors parade the colors for the Navy's Great White Fleet Centennial held onboard and pierside of the Battleship Missouri Memorial in Pearl Harbor. (Center) Red, white and blue lights illuminate the port side of the Battleship Missouri Memorial for the Navy's Great White Fleet Centennial held onboard and pierside of the historic ship in Pearl Harbor. (Right) President Theodore Roosevelt re-enactor Joe Wiegand waves his hat as the guided missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) renders honors during the opening ceremony for the Navy's Great White Fleet Centennial

Indonesian Marines take cover during a beach assault exercise at Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands as part of this year's Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008 exercise.

RIMPAC Combined Force storms Kauai

Story and photo by MC2 Paul D. Honnick

Fleet Public Affairs Center Detachment Hawai'i

Combined U.S., Australian, Indonesian and Canadian forces participated in a beach assault exercise July 14 and 15 at Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) Barking Sands, Hawai'i.

Indonesian Marines assigned to Jaguar Company and Canadian Army soldiers, assigned to A Company, 1st Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry, embarked on the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) and the Royal Australian Navy ship HMAS Tobruk (LSH 50) stormed two points at PRMF on the island of Kauai as part of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008 exercise.

The exercise was held to build trust and cooperation between services and partner nations in working to protect maritime freedom in the Pacific rim.

"It allows us to exercise our core competencies and that is building combat power from the flight deck and well deck and projecting it to shore," said Marine Col. Robert Coates, director of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force training and exercise group. "It also allows us to interoperate with our coalition partners, build those partnerships and habitual associations that allow us to do things in the future so we don't just show up as strangers in the night."

"The naval forces, including the Marines that are participating, are all just different pieces of the pie so everybody brings something to the table that makes us more effective," said Capt. Rod Clark, commander of Amphibious Squadron 7.

Thirty-five Indonesian Marines launched from Tobruk on July 14 in armored assault vehicles (AAV), assigned to Combat Assault Company (CAC), 3rd Marine Regiment, and assaulted a mock communication tower.

Approximately 20 Canadian Army soldiers were transported by MH-53 Sea Dragons, assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 (HMH 362), from the Bonhomme Richard on July 15 and fast roped down to PMRF's airfield and created a

See RIMPAC, A-7

Colman turns helm over to Moulton as MDSU-1 commanding officer

Story and photo by MCC (SW/AW) David Rush

Managing Editor, Hawai'i Navy News

Cmdr. John Moulton relieved Cmdr. Daniel M. Colman as commanding officer of the Pearl Harbor-based Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One (MDSU-1) in a change of command ceremony held July 23 at the USS Utah Memorial on historic Ford Island.

According to Colman, his Sailors have gone beyond the call of duty to complete their missions.

"Our mission requires special Sailors. I call them heavy lifters because it not only describes the mission they accomplish, but also their incredible work ethic and core values to get the job done. In the Navy, every Sailor lives by the core values of honor, courage and commitment. However, the heavy lifters have an additional set of core values: ingenuity, agility and perseverance. They are a part of the Navy diver ethos and it is these core values that are at the heart of a heavy lifter," said Colman.

Colman noted that his divers have had an extremely high operational tempo, yet have not missed a beat.

"Operationally, the heavy lifters completed an unprecedented volume of tasking and multiple deployments to [U.S.] 3rd Fleet, [U.S.] 5th Fleet and [U.S.] 7th Fleet. The last 12 months alone, the command successfully operated and engaged in countries like Kazakhstan, Iraq, Kuwait, Kenya, Vietnam, South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Australia and Japan, just to name a few. Today, heavy lifters are operating in Seychelles and Indonesia and participating in RIMPAC," said Colman.

A big role in their mission is the recovery of remains of their brethren and a myriad of other taskings. "Their worldwide missions included three highly successful JPAC [Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command] missions to Palau to recover the remains and return with honor service members lost since World War II; mixed gas dives in the Gulf of Thailand to confirm the identity of the USS Lagarto, a U.S. submarine missing since World War II; aircraft salvage off the coast of Oman; force protection diving missions in Jordan, Qatar,

See MOULTON, A-4

Cmdr. Daniel M. Colman salutes the sideboys following a change of command ceremony held July 23 at the USS Utah Memorial on historic Ford Island. Colman was relieved by Cmdr. John Moulton as commanding officer of the Pearl Harbor-based Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One (MDSU-1).

All in a day's work: USS Port Royal participates in RIMPAC See page A-2

The Great White Fleet in Hawai'i
See page A-3

Navy, Army perform mass casualty drill
See page A-9

Military kids learn life skills with Guardstart Lifeguard Program See page B-1

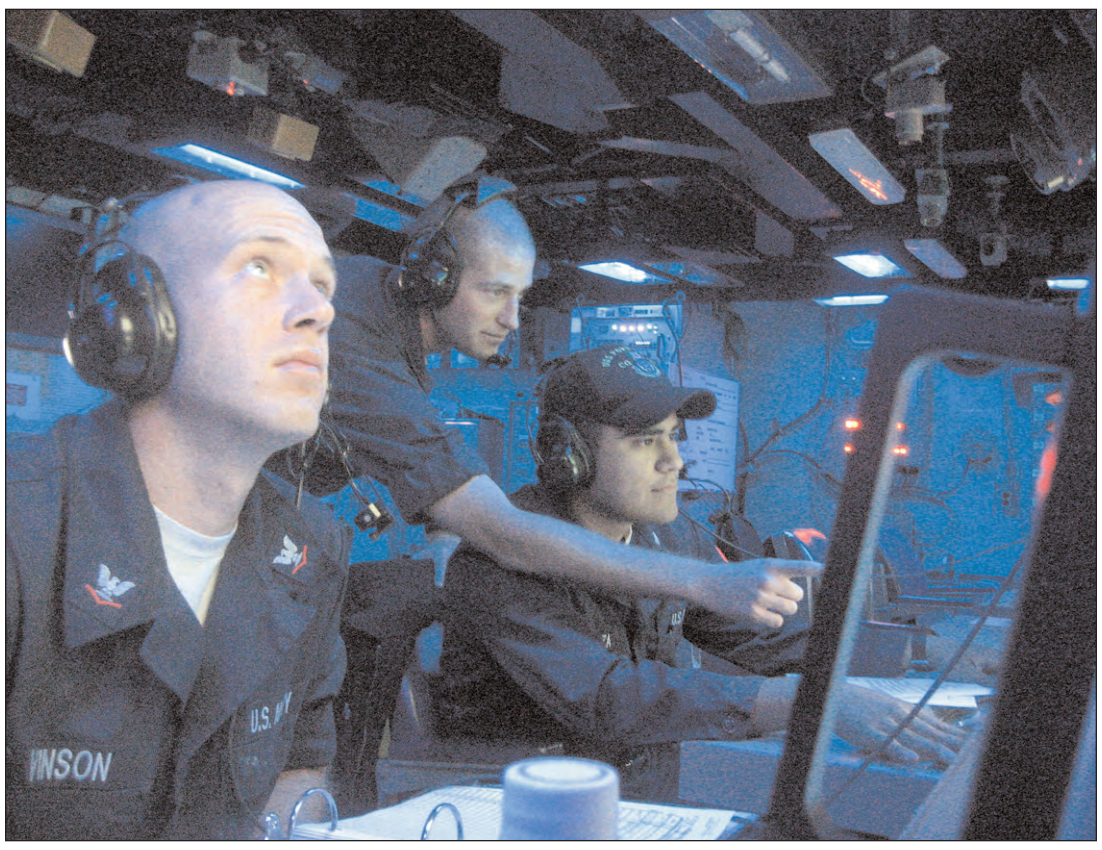
All in a day's work: USS Port Royal participates in RIMPAC

Story and photo by Ensign Cassidy Rasmussen

USS Port Royal (CG 73) Public Affairs

During Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008, the world's largest biennial maritime exercise, USS Port Royal (CG 73) fired nearly every weapon system on board and tested every sensor in operations with ships, submarines and aircraft from the U.S. and nine other countries. Combined and joint military exercises like RIMPAC demonstrate the Navy's commitment to working with global partners to protect the maritime freedom that is the basis for global prosperity.

"I'm excited and really looking forward to this cruise," said Midshipman 1st Class Samantha Greco from the Northwestern University ROTC unit in Illinois. Greco is underway with Port Royal for the four-week RIMPAC at-sea phase. "I want to be a surface warfare officer and this month is going to give me a snapshot of everything the surface Navy does," said Greco.



USS Port Royal (CG 73) sonar technicians search the water for the HMAS Waller, an ultra-quiet Australian Collins-class diesel submarine, in an anti-submarine warfare event which also included the Chilean frigate CS Riveros, a Korean P-3 aircraft and U.S. and Chilean helicopters.

The Port Royal crew gained valuable experience conducting both surface and anti-submarine warfare operations. During one training opportunity, the cruiser worked with units from Chile and the Republic of Korea to track an Australian diesel submarine. "It's really important for us to get real-world experience searching for and tracking diesel submarines," said Sonar Technician 2nd Class (SW) Tara Kerrin. "We have simulators, but nothing can simulate actually working in a realistic (operational) environment. The U.S. doesn't have diesel subs anymore, so exercises like RIMPAC give us a great training opportunity with other navies."

In another training evolution, the ship had the opportunity to fire an SM-2 Standard air-attack missile. "We have practiced it so much, but there's a point in the launch sequence where we can't simulate anymore – we only see it when it's the real thing," said Lt. j.g. Corry Lougee, the Port Royal's fire control officer. "We got to that point and it was intense."

"The training is invaluable," said Capt. David Adler, Port Royal commanding officer. "The opportunities we have during these few weeks to see our equipment and people operate in real-world environments can't be replicated in scenarios. It's also a chance for us to see how well we can integrate with our partner navies and try new methods and tactics. RIMPAC is an exciting event and I embrace this opportunity for Port Royal to represent the U.S."

This year's exercise began on June 29 and ends July 31. 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.

Vice Adm. Samuel J. Locklear, commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet, 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. Participants include Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore, United Kingdom and the United States.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

The Great White Fleet in Hawai'i

Excerpt from T.R. Joe aka "Teddy Roosevelt" blog

As I write this, I've just returned from Honolulu, Hawai'i, there for the U. S. Navy's celebration of the 1908 visit to Hawai'i of the Great White Fleet.

Coming in the wake of the tremendous Great White Fleet celebration in Seattle, Washington, it was an inspiring event. Adm. Robert Willard, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Rear Adm. Tim Alexander, Commander Navy Region Hawai'i and Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific were our hosts for this gala occasion and Secretary of the Navy Don Winter was our honored guest and speaker.

For me, it is always a very enjoyable undertaking to bring TR to life for an appreciative audience. To perform as Theodore Roosevelt for the men and women of the United States Navy and for their families is an honor, a privilege and an inspiration to be my best.

It's hard to summarize here how good it felt to be a part of the celebration, how inspired I felt as I brought T.R. to life beneath the mighty cannon on the foredeck [of the Battleship Missouri Memorial].

Earlier in the day, I had a chance to tour the USS Crommelin (FFG-37) [with] Cmdr. Kevin J. Parker, and to meet the sailors on board. Each and every one of those men are happy in their work and resolute to serve with the highest capacity.

As dusk approached on the Missouri, the Crommelin and the USS Chafee (DDG 90) passed in review, salutes were exchanged and four F-18s from the carrier Kitty Hawk (CV 63) flew over from starboard to port, their diamond formation adding a capping jewel to a ceremony that started with a rainbow bursting forth from the afternoon showers. We could not have asked for a more beautiful day or a more moving tribute to the world's greatest Navy and her sailors.

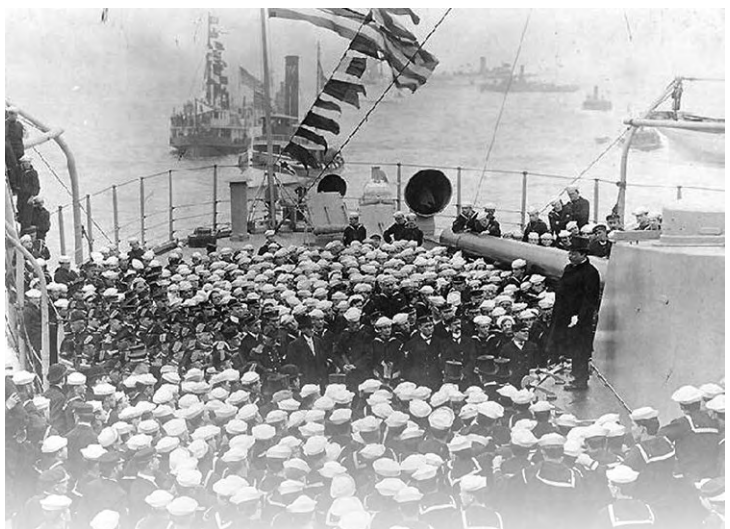
Back home in Illinois, I'm amazed at what the men and women of the United States Navy are doing so that you and I might be free and live in peace. To each and every sailor and marine, to every airman and soldier, we owe a deep and unquenchable debt of gratitude. Go, Navy!

(Joe Wiegand (a.k.a. T. R. Joe), is a Theodore Roosevelt reprisor. His blog can be found at http://teddyrooseveltshow.blogspot.com/.)

U.S. Navy photo by M1 (AW/SW) James E. Foehl

President Theodore Roosevelt re-enactor, Joe Wiegand, poses for a portrait with the Battleship Missouri Memorial and USS Arizona Memorial during a visit to Pearl Harbor. On July 18, Wiegand acted as a guest speaker during Pearl Harbor's 100th anniversary of the Great White Fleet gala reception onboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial. The event served as a commemoration of the Great White Fleet's deployable forward presence and their July 16, 1908 visit to Honolulu.

Commentary



Pearl Harbor's observance of Great White Fleet Centennial

Karen S. Spangler

Editor

It was a momentous occasion at Pearl Harbor on July 18 – the celebration of the Great White Fleet Centennial.

I had an opportunity to shake the hand of President Theodore Roosevelt, portrayed superbly by Joe Wiegand, who is a Theodore Roosevelt reprisor. It was hard to believe that it wasn't actually Teddy "Rough Rider" Roosevelt standing in front of me.

Appropriately, TDR was here to speak at the Great White Fleet centennial celebration aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial. The event also included a pass in review by Pearl Harbor-based Navy ships, USS Chafee and USS Crommelin, a flyover by four F-18s from the carrier USS Kitty Hawk, and attendance by Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter and other high-ranking Navy officials and dignitaries.

The Great White Fleet left Hampton Roads, Va. on a cloudy morning on Dec. 16, 1907. President Roosevelt's vision for the around-the-world cruise was that the Great White Fleet would visit other nations on a diplomatic mission of peace to bolster U.S. presence.

Sixteen ships of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, all painted white with gilded bows, steamed out of Hampton Roads to embark on the first round-the-world cruise by a fleet of steam-powered, steel battleships.

Considered one of the greatest peacetime achievements of the U.S. Navy, the Great White Fleet was manned by 14,000 Sailors and Marines under the command of Rear Adm. Robley "Fighting Bob" Evans. The 43,000 mile, 14-month circumnavigation included 20 port calls on six continents.

One of the junior officers on the world cruise was Midshipmen William F. Halsey who sailed onboard the USS Kansas. He rose to become Vice Adm. Halsey, 3rd Fleet, at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor and later in 1945 became Fleet Adm. Halsey.

It was on July 16, 1908 that the fleet arrived in Hawai'i. During the six-day layover at Pearl Harbor, they were feted with luaus and sailing regattas. Some of the Sailors took the opportunity to try some surfing at Waikiki Beach.

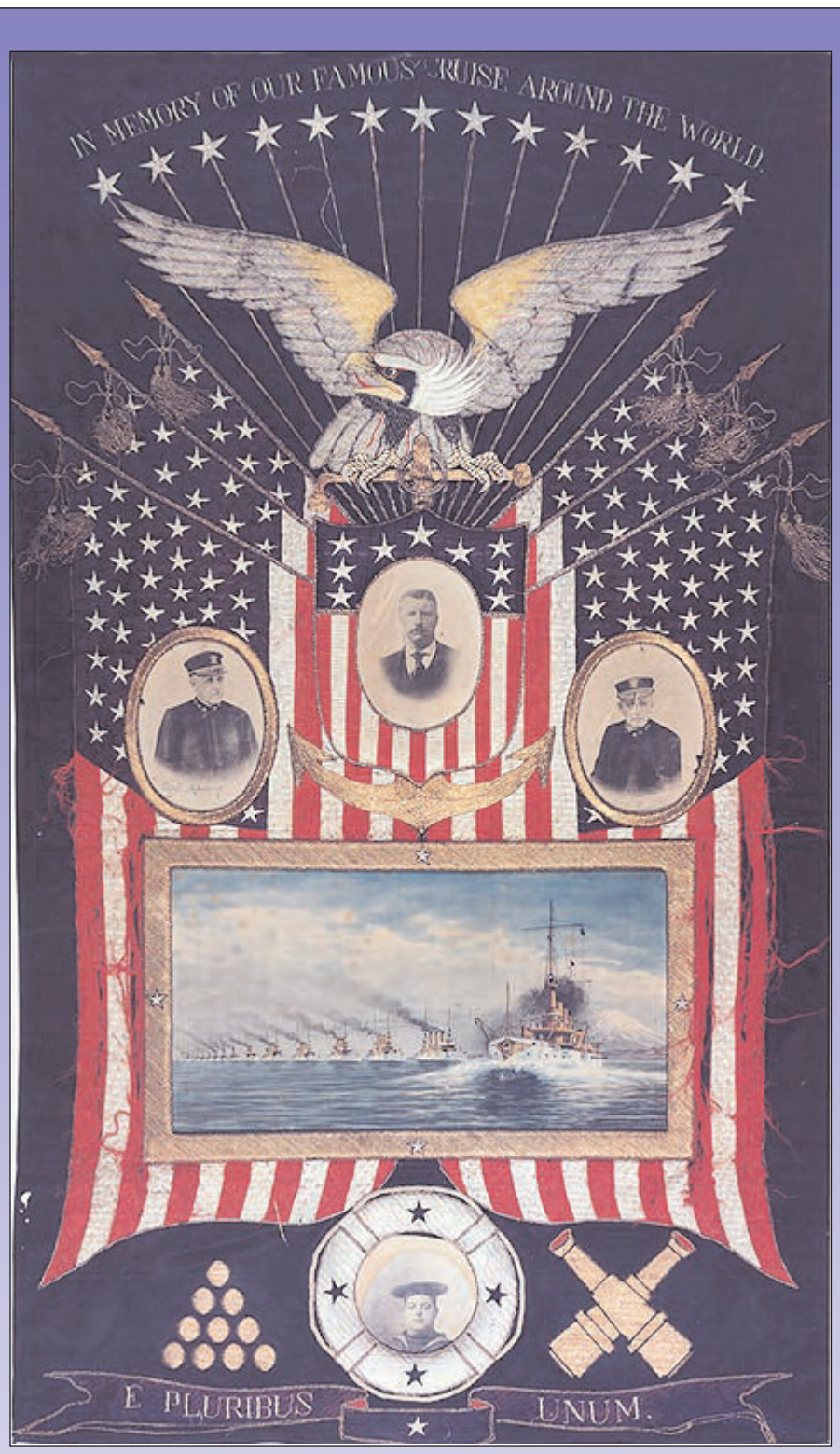
When the fleet returned home to Hampton Roads on Feb. 14, 1909 at the end of its odyssey, President Roosevelt greeted them from the presidential yacht Mayflower. At the time, he had just two weeks left in the White House before turning over the presidency to William Taft.

In later discussing the return of the Great White Fleet and the success of its mission, Roosevelt said that the cruise was "the most important service that I rendered for peace."

Although it has been 100 years since the Great White Fleet sailed, time has not lessened the importance of its accomplishments or changed President Roosevelt's message to the world.

It's a great story.

(For more information about the Great White Fleet, visit www.history.navy.mil.)



Banner of the Great White Fleet's cruise around the World

U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph

The souvenir banner was probably purchased while the fleet was visiting the Far East in 1908. Across its center are portraits of (from left to right) Rear Adm. Charles S. Sperry, who took command of the fleet after it arrived on the U.S. West Coast; President Theodore Roosevelt; and Rear Adm. Robley D. Evans, who commanded the fleet during its voyage from Virginia to California. Also featured is a depiction of the fleet steaming in column and a photograph of an unidentified Sailor. (Donation of Mrs. C.G. O'Fiel, 1972.)

Hawai'i Navy News

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NCTAMS PAC integrates new Mobile User Objective System

Story and photo by
MC2 John W Ciccarelli Jr.

Fleet Public Affairs Center
Detachment Hawai'i

Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific (NCTAMS PAC) completed installation of the first of three new state-of-the-art Mobile User Objective System (MUOS) satellite dishes.

The MUOS is a next-generation narrowband tactical satellite communications system that is intended to extensively improve ground communications for U.S. forces during operations on the move.

"MUOS is a Department of Defense (DOD) ultra high frequency satellite communications system(UHFSC) that provides the war fighter with modern worldwide mobile communication services," said James Cairns, NCTAMS PAC project manager. "MUOS adapts commercial cellular phone architecture for use in a military system using satellites in place of cell towers."

Technicians raised the 34-ton dish to a height of more than 80 feet to its permanent spot where it will point to one of the five highly sophisticated satellites scheduled to be deployed into space starting in 2012.

"The General Dynamics Satellite Communications (SATCOM) team doing the assembly of the MUOS antennas are true professionals," said Cairns. "There was lots of planning that went into this evolution behind the scenes, but once we got all the pieces in place everything went off like clock-work." said Cairns. "It couldn't have gone any smoother than it did today."

Construction on the site began July 5, 2007 and will change the way the Navy transmits information into the 21st century.

"MUOS will use technological innovations to provide service to more military users and offer a truly effective communication capability tool in accomplishing the Navy's maritime strategy mission," said Cairns. "The great thing about MUOS is that it's smart technology, but from the user's perspective it's simple and just plain works. The network is being designed to handle lots of users so units that don't have a SATCOM capability today will be able to have it in the near future with MUOS."

Lockheed Martin Space Systems of Sunnyvale, Calif. is the prime contractor and systems integrator for the MUOS program. On Sept. 24, 2004, the company was awarded a $2.1 billion contract to build the first two satellites and associated ground control elements for the MUOS system. The contract also provides for options on three additional spacecraft. With all options exercised, the contract for up to five satellites has a total potential value of $3.26 billion.

Capt. Janet Stewart, commanding officer of NCTAMS PAC, was thrilled about the installation of the MUOS system and all the hard work the Navy and its partners did.

"A lot of folks and a lot of parties have come together to be able to make this installation and this capability come to fruition," said Stewart. "We have folks around the world and around the United States that have worked together for years, and who will continue to work together for years until all the MUOS satellites are in fact launched and fully operational."

Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific (NCTAMS PAC) completed intallation of the first of three new state-of-the-art Mobile User Objective System (MUOS) satellite dishes. The MUOS is a next-generation narrowband tactical satellite communications system intended to significantly improve ground communications for U.S. forces on the move.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 John W Ciccarelli Jr.

Moulton takes on task as MDSU-1 commanding officer

Continued from A-1

Kuwait and other ports threatened by violent extremists; and engagements in countries like Kenya, Philippines and Mexico to develop foreign diving and salvage capabilities and promote interoperability," Colman said.

Colman thanked his Sailors and added he is ending his sting on a very high note. "The pinnacle operational achievement of my tour came recently when the heavy lifters accomplished a critical wartime task. With only three months preparation, the heavy lifters rapidly trained and surged a qualified command and control headquarters that was new to the EOD [explosive ordnance disposal] mission to deploy as the first rotational headquarters of Commander, Task Group 56.1. As a team they flawlessly planned and executed combined explosive ordnance disposal, diving and salvage, and force protection diving operations in ports threatened by violent extremists throughout the [U.S.] 5th Fleet AOR [area of responsibility]. This notable achievement was the first time in the command's history that the headquarters deployed since Vietnam."

Just before turning the reigns over to Moulton, Colman extended his appreciation to the family members of the MDSU-1 team. "The families, they are no less heavy lifters than any one of the Sailors at MDSU-1. None of our accomplishments would have been possible without the strength, love and support of our families. They are the true source of our war-fighting capability and the bedrock of our success," Colman concluded.

Colman will be transferring to JIEDDO (Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization) test office in Crystal City, Va., responsible for the test and evaluation of equipment to counter IEDs [improvised explosive devices].

Moulton, who is coming from the Naval War College, Newport, R.I., said he is looking forward to his new job. "It's humbling and a great challenge to lead such a great unit with such great Sailors. I'm really looking forward to it."

MDSU-1 was commissioned as Harbor Clearance Unit One in February 1966 in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. The command was immediately put to the test in Vietnam. During the conflict, salvage teams conducted numerous harbor clearance operations in Vietnamese rivers, harbors and coastal areas. The unit's professionalism resulted in the command being awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation and Presidential Unit Citation.

At the conclusion of the Vietnam conflict, the command was relocated to Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i. In 1979, the unit's mission was expanded to include responsibility for providing diving services to all Pearl Harbor-based surface ships. In January 1982, the unit's name was changed from Harbor Clearance Unit One to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One to better reflect the capabilities of the unit.

Today, the MDSU-1 mission is to provide combat ready, expeditionary, rapidly deployable mobile diving and salvage detachments (MDSD) to conduct harbor clearance, salvage, underwater search and recovery, and underwater emergency repairs in any environment.

Pearl Harbor *Highlights*

(Left) President Theodore Roosevelt re-enactor Joe Wiegand shares a moment with Pearl Harbor survivor Herb Weatherwax following the opening ceremony for the Navy's Great White Fleet Centennial held onboard the Missouri Memorial in Pearl Harbor on July 18.

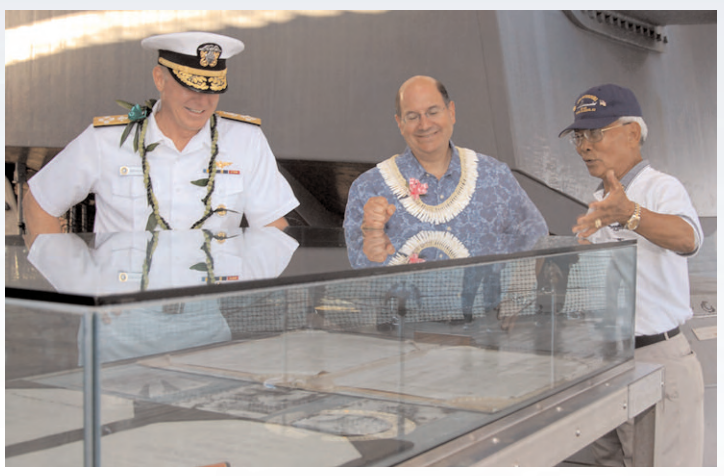
U.S. Navy photo by MCC (SW/AW) David Rush

(Above) Sailors from the USS Crommelin (FFG 37) render salutes as the ship passes the USS Missouri for the Great White Fleet Gala, on July 18. The formal ceremony, which marked the centennial anniversary of the Great White Fleet's arrival to Hawai'i, included a Theodore Roosevelt re-enactor, a pass and review by the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) and guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37), and a fly-by of four F/A18s Super Hornets from the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63).

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Byung K. Cho

U.S. Navy photo by IS1 Jason Snellings

The guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) hosted a steel beach picnic for JDS Haruna (DDH 141) and JDS Makinami (DD 112) during the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) maritime exercise. The visiting Japanese Sailors enjoyed a guided tour and flight deck picnic served by USS Lake Erie chief petty officers.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Paul Honnick

Tobias, Langcaon, a tour guide for the Battleship Missouri Memorial, explains various historical facts about the Battleship Missouri to Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Donald C. Winters and Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, during a tour prior to the Navy's Great White Fleet Gala on board the historical ship on July 18.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Walter Pels

Divers assigned to Mobile Underwater Diving Salvage Unit (MDSU) 1 and Australian Clearance Diving Team 4 (AUSCDT) 4 secure wreckage to a shipboard crane during an underwater salvage training evolution off the shores of Pearl Harbor during the Rim Of The Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Paul Honnick

Indonesian Marines storm the beach during a beach assault exercise at Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands as part of this year's Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008 exercise.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Paul Honnick

Service members and staff at Tripler Army Medical Center shield wounded Sailors assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) as an MH-53 Sea Dragon, assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 (HMH-362), lands during a mass casualty drill. More than 70 Sailors were flown to Tripler after a mock explosion onboard guided missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) as part of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008 exercise.

Shipyard receives recognition from U.S. House of Representatives

Jessalyn Lau

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution on July 27 congratulating Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard on its first century of service.

Sponsored by Hawai'i Reps. Neal Abercrombie and Mazie Hirono, House Resolution 1139 IH was passed by a unanimous vote. The resolution recognized and congratulated Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard for providing 100 years of exceptional service to our military and for keeping our Pacific Fleet 'fit to fight.'

Congress authorized establishment of "Navy Yard Pearl Harbor" on May 13, 1908. The shipyard has hosted centennial celebrations and activities throughout 2008 and the centennial has been the subject of state, national and international media coverage.

The house resolution recognizes highlights of the shipyard's first century of service in part as follows:

"Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and congratulating the men and women who provide exceptional service to our military and keep our Pacific Fleet `fit to fight'.

Whereas Congress established the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard on May 13, 1908, and it has grown from a `coaling and repair station' to being known as the `No Ka Oi Shipyard' and a national treasure that is strategically important to our Nation and equally vital to Hawaii;

Whereas during World War II, shipyard workers earned the motto, `We keep them fit to fight', by resurrecting the United States Pacific Fleet from the bottom of Pearl Harbor, helping turn the tide of the war at Midway, and maintaining the ships that would ultimately win victory at sea and sail triumphantly into Tokyo Bay;

Whereas the shipyard has demonstrated its diverse capabilities by supporting America's space exploration, Antarctic expeditions, and national missile defense;

Whereas it continues to support the United States Pacific Fleet as the largest ship repair facility between the western coast of the United States and the Far East, providing full-service maintenance for Pacific Fleet ships and submarines throughout the Asia-Pacific theater;

Whereas the shipyard has become the largest single industrial employer in Hawaii and is the largest fully integrated military-civilian workforce involved in full-service shipyard work in the United States;

Whereas the shipyard has earned multiple national awards for its dedicated environmental stewardship and excellent safety programs, such as the prestigious Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Star award in May 2007; and

Whereas the shipyard has a direct annual economic impact of more that $600,000,000 in Hawaii, and through its apprentice, engineer co-op, and other student hire programs, provides extraordinary training, employment, and career opportunities for residents: Now, therefore, be it Resolved that the House of Representatives recognizes the 100th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and congratulates the men and women who provide exceptional service to our military and keep our Pacific Fleet 'fit to fight'."

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

For the full text of this resolution, visit http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:H.RES.1139.

U.S., Indonesian navies begin naval engagement activity

MC1 Dan Meaney

Commander Destroyer Squadron one

The U.S. and Indonesian navies kicked off an annual bilateral Naval Engagement Activity (NEA) with an opening ceremony at Indonesia Eastern Fleet Command in Surabaya on July 21.

Rear Adm. Nora W. Tyson, commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific, and Capt. Mike Selby, commander, Destroyer Squadron 1, ushered in the NEA with Indonesian Navy Commodore Slamet Yulistiyono.

Yulistiyono said that while the focus of the planned events is training, the underlying theme of the NEA is relationship building.

"This event is one of the positive implementations of the bilateral relations between the two countries, based on a mutual respect and understanding," Yulistiyono said.

During the week-long series of training exercises, the two countries will seek to improve the professionalism of their naval forces and build relationships between the participating personnel.

Scheduled NEA events include ship tours for students, combined military operations symposia, a medical symposium, an aviation seminar, a military law enforcement symposium and force protection training.

Additionally, several teams will pair up for joint specialty training. Divers from both countries will conduct a diving and salvage exercise in Surabaya Harbor. Naval Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 will team with Indonesian counterparts on a joint construction project and U.S and Indonesian Marines will engage in a joint amphibious exercise.

USS Tortuga, (LSD 46), USS Ford (FFG 54), USS Jarrett (FFG 33) and USNS Safeguard (T-ARS 50) are in Indonesia to participate in the NEA exercises.

The NEA is part of an annual series of bilateral maritime training exercises between the United States and several Southeast Asian nations designed to build relationships and enhance the operational readiness of the participating forces.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Kim McLendon

Members of the Indonesian navy stand pierside as the amphibious dock landing ship USS Tortuga (LSD 46) pulls into port at the Tanjung Perak commercial pier in Surabaya on July 20. Tortuga is one of four U.S. ships participating in Naval Engagement Activity (NEA) Indonesia. NEA is part of an annual series of bilateral maritime training exercises between the United States and several Southeast Asian nations designed to build relationships and enhance the operational readiness of the participating forces.

Toll-free fax numbers announced for voting assistance program

Region Legal Services Office

The Federal Voting Assistance Program's Electronic Transmission (Faxing) Service (ETS) allows citizens and state and local government officials to fax and email election materials. This includes requests for registration and/or ballots, blank ballots sent to the voter by the local election official, voted ballots returned to the local election official, and other election materials when conditions do not allow for timely receipt and return of these materials as allowed by state law.

Electronic Transmission of Election Materials, Appendix B to the Federal Voting Assistance Guide, provides step-by-step instructions on faxing and emailing of election materials. This appendix can be downloaded at www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag/appendix_b.pdf.

After faxing or emailing any election material, always mail the original to the appropriate state or local election official in your state or territory. Generally, all election-related materials may be mailed postage-paid in the U.S. mails, including APO/FPO facilities and all U.S. embassies and consulates. You must pay postage if the materials are mailed from a non-U.S. postal facility.

If emailing, it is recommended that a citizen email the local election official directly. If unable to access a local election official's email address, they should include a FVAP transmittal sheet - which can be obtained at the voting assistance Web site - in the attachment along with the voting materials and email to ets@fvap.ncr.gov.

The toll-free telephone numbers to the FVAP and the toll-free fax numbers to the Electronic Transmission Service are available in Adobe Acrobat format: www.fvap.gov/pubs/tollfree.pdf . More information on how you can easily cast your ballot this year can be obtained at www.fvap.gov. Be smart, do your part and vote.

RIMPAC

Continued from A-1

defensive perimeter.

The interoperability between the nations participating in the exercise provided an opportunity for the units to learn from one another.

"The Australians are looking at buying a ship similar to the Bonhomme Richard, so they're learning a great deal about the operations of the Bonhomme Richard. It's a good opportunity as well for our AAV drivers to be able to embark a ship like Tobruk, which is dissimilar to anything that we have in the U.S. Navy," said Clark. "It's that kind of exchange of information that will make operations in the future where we come together for humanitarian operations or any other type of operation to be able to cross deck and feel confident that can operate safely and effectively."

RIMPAC is the world's largest multi-national exercise and is scheduled biennially by U.S. Pacific Fleet. The exercise is held in the Hawaiian Islands operating area from June 29 to July 31. Participants include Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore, United Kingdom and the U.S.

BHR helps certify Tripler Army Medical Center

MC2 (SW/AW) Jennifer Hudson

USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) Public Affairs

USS Bonhomme Richard's (LHD 6) (BHR) medical crew worked in conjunction with the crew of USS O'Kane (DDG 77) for the first time during a U.S. 3rd Fleet mass casualty drill aboard BHR to help certify Tripler Army Medical Center in Oahu, Hawai'i on July 21.

More than 30 Sailors from BHR's medical department and embarked corpsmen tested their skills and capabilities. The drill simulated 75 personnel with injuries, including broken bones, burns, compound fractures and sucking chest wounds.

"It is a requirement for every hospital to do a mass casualty exercise every year," said Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/AW/FMF) Brad Kowitz, head coordinator for the evolution.

"This is the first time we've done this on this scale using fleet assets and then transporting them to the hospital. This was a new way for us to test our system and see how well it works and at the same time help Tripler become certified."

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Paul D. Honnick

A medical doctor at Tripler Army Medical Center takes notes on Ensign Stacy Rinas, assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), during a mass casualty drill on July 21. More than 70 Sailors were flown to Tripler after a mock explosion aboard the guided missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) as part of Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008.

The mass casualty drill aboard BHR simulated 25 injuries sustained from a rigid-hull inflatable boat that overturned in the hangar bay. BHR Sailors were flown out to Tripler Army Medical Center via helicopter.

"I think this evolution went very well. Everyone showed a lot of enthusiasm which made the drill realistic for our motivated medical personnel," said Kowitz.

Fifty Sailors from O'Kane flew out to BHR's medical center with various injuries from a simulated explosion aboard the ship. They were flown to BHR and assessed by BHR's medical team prior to being flown out to Tripler Army Medical Center.

"We saw a variety of injuries, including patients [dead on arrival], post traumatic stress, some arriving in agony and others with severe burns," said Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/AW/FMF) Patrick Updegraff.

"The drill tested our [corpsmen's] skills set. All the corpsmen are specialized in a particular area of medicine, but during a mass casualty, everyone gets involved."

For Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Dustin Bullerdick, attached to 3rd Marine Regiment stationed at Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay Hawai'i, the learning environment aboard a ship is different from what they normally deal with out in the field.

"We do this on the Marine Corps side, but you are usually working by yourself whereas here everyone is using and sharing their different knowledge skill-sets and working together as a team which is incredible," he said. "I'm just grateful to be a part of this evolution; it's a great learning experience."

Like most drills, according to Kowitz, there are lessons learned and there is always room for improvement.

"I'm very happy with the way the corpsmen performed," said Kowitz. "They received the training needed to handle such a situation, if it were to occur. Real life scenarios can be chaotic so it is important to expect the unexpected and improve in areas that need improvement. I am sure that the corpsmen will be ready to respond at any given time."

BHR is participating in RIMPAC 2008. 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.

Hurricane condition readiness III

When a hurricane is headed for the Hawaiian Islands, you should take the following precautions in Condition Readiness III:

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 tank 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.

Navy, Army perform mass casualty drill

MC2 Paul D. Honnick

Fleet Public Affairs Center Detachment Hawai'i

Navy service members along with medical personnel at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu treated 75 Sailors acting as casualties during a mass casualty (masscal) drill July 21.

The drill was held as part of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008 exercise to train ship and shore medical personnel to respond to joint and combined emergency situations.

The main point of it is to test our interoperability with the combined forces that are involved in RIMPAC," said Cmdr. Paul C. Miller, deputy surgeon for U.S. 3rd Fleet. "We're going to be operating together in real world situations so it's imperative we train together and have exercises such as this."

Early that day, a mock explosion occurred due to a mishap onboard the guided missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) in Hawaiian waters, simulating 50 casualties.

"Because the explosion onboard the O'Kane took place below decks and in combined closed quarters, we had a lot of large explosive type injuries, a lot of amputations and a lot of blunt force trauma to the face and to the extremities," said Miller. "As far as we know, it was a fuel explosion or an ordnance that exploded, but it was not an incoming missile or anything."

On the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), a rigid-hull inflatable boat (RHIB) overturned in the hanger simulating 25 injuries.

The two most serious casualties from O'Kane were flown directly to Tripler. All others were transferred to Bonhomme Richard for first aid.

All of O'Kane and Bonhomme Richard's casualties were then transported together to Tripler for medical treatment in MH-53 Sea Dragons assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 (HMH-362).

"When [the casualties] landed, the most difficult part was actually getting them off the helicopters in a safe fashion. Once we were able to get them off and away from the prop wash, they were immediately re-triaged by Tripler's Army medics and once they were triaged, information was relayed to their emergency room and they were brought down in order of priority," said Miller.

When Tripler received the call that helicopters were inbound, personnel immediately set up triage and decontamination sites outside the emergency room and at the landing pad.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Paul D. Honnick

Soldiers assigned to Tripler Army Medical Center carry wounded Sailors assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) away from the landing pad to the triage area during a mass casualty drill. More than 70 Sailors were flown to Tripler after a mock explosion onboard guided missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) as part of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2008 exercise. RIMPAC is the world's largest multinational exercise and is scheduled biennially by U.S. Pacific Fleet. Participants include Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore, United Kingdom and the U.S.

"The hospital has an emergency preparedness plan that we enacted. It can be anywhere from a simple overflow of patients to a full blown masscal, where in this situation we had more than we could handle. We decided to stand up our EPP, which meant recalling our own staff that were off-post or on duty at the time, brought in our own equipment, vehicles, de-con trailer and came up with a plan for the helo pad," said Sgt. 1st Class Cory R. Montague, emergency room non-commissioned officer in charge at Tripler.

Medical personnel treated the casualties for a wide range of blast-related injuries, ranging from minor cuts and burns to serious lacerations, burns, shrapnel and repertory distress from smoke inhalation.

Sailors with minor injuries were treated on site. Those with serious injuries were placed on stretchers and transported to the emergency room for examination and treatment.

"It was a big success overall. We treated people I think faster then we anticipated and we got a lot of support from the Navy and the Army," said Montague.

RIMPAC is the world's largest multi-national exercise and is scheduled biennially by U.S. Pacific Fleet. The exercise is held in the Hawaiian Islands operating area from June 29 to July 31. Participants include Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore, United Kingdom and the U.S.

GOT SPORTS
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Contact the HNN editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements

Pacific Partnership helps build future in Timor-Leste

MC3 (SW/AW) Joshua Valcarcel

Pacific Partnership 200B Public Affairs

Dili, East Timor - Australian Army engineers, Indian Army engineers, U.S. Navy Seabees from USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) and other volunteers began renovation of the Bario Pite elementary school in Dili on July 21 as part of a Pacific Partnership 2008 engineering civic action program (ENCAP).

This 13-day ENCAP is an effort to transform the entire school by installing new plumbing for running water, restoring the infrastructure of seven buildings, painting and refinishing the walls and window frames, pouring concrete for new sidewalks, and cleaning up the landscape.

Donna Willard, left, wife of U.S. Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Robert Willard, plays with children during a visit to a Pacific Partnership engineering civic action program at the Bario Pite Elementary School in Dili, East Timor on July 15.

"Pacific Partnership shows the countries we're visiting that people really do care about them," said Australian Army Cpl. Glenn Fox, of the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment based in Darwin, currently attached to Mercy. "We're excited to get in, do the work and really make some people happy."

Bario Pite, like most Pacific Partnership mission sites, is a team endeavor. The Seabees, along with partner nations, embarked non-governmental organizations and volunteers from Mercy's various departments, have worked 10 hours a day. The renovations will affect more than 500 children who attend the school, providing them with a clean, safe learning environment.

"Everyone's brought so much knowledge to the table and different ways of doing things," said Steelworker 2nd Class Raquel Miranda, a San Diego native and a Seabee from Amphibious Construction Battalion 1. "And the fact that we're building a school should make everyone proud. What's better than to give children that don't have much, a chance for a better education?"

In addition to the diverse group of contributors already working the ENCAP, Australians from the International Stabilization Force, currently deployed to Timor-Leste, brought in some extra hands and earth moving heavy equipment to help speed up the process.

"It's not our first time working with Americans," said Kris Eyles, a sapper (private) with the Australian Army's 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment. "They're great lads; we're glad to help out."

Pacific Partnership is a humanitarian and civic assistance mission aimed at building international relationships with partner and host nations in Southeast Asia and Oceania. The U.S. Navy is working together with non-governmental organizations, joint services and other allies to coordinate medical, dental, and engineering assistance.

So far, Mercy's mission includes visits to the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam and will make stops in Papua New Guinea, and the Federated States of Micronesia following the Timor-Leste.

"The best way to get an incredible experience on this deployment is to volunteer your service," added Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Brendan Moaratty, originally from Ellsworth, Maine and a Mercy ENCAP volunteer. "It's 'humanitarian' after all, something you can look back on in your Navy career and be proud of."

For more news from Pacific Partnership 2008, visit www.cpf.navy.mil and click on Pacific Partnership.