

Happy 4th of July!

"On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for giving your time and your talent in the service of our country. Happy Independence Day to you and your families."

- Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus
(Independence Day message to fleet)

Hawai'i **Navy News** Serving the "Best Homeport in the Navy"

July 03, 2009

www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii

Volume 34 Issue 26

Lake Erie takes Aegis BMD to the next level

Lt. (FMF) John A Carter

USS Lake Erie (CG 70)

Following a recent refitting at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, the USS Lake Erie (CG 70) now sports the latest evolution of the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) System. This new and upgraded version of the Aegis system includes a new BMD signal processor (BSP) which expands the Lake Erie's already formidable BMD capabilities. Shortly, the ship will go to sea and evaluate the new system, installed by Lockheed Martin (NYSE: LMT), and aim toward full certification of the system upgrade by the Navy and eventual rollout to the other 17 Aegis BMD ships in the fleet.

Capt. Ron Boxall, commanding officer of Lake Erie, said, "Once again, we are honored to be carrying the torch for the Navy's next generation of BMD technology. We are confident that this new capability, which is the integral stepping stone to the Navy's long-term BMD investment strategy, will continue to pace the rising threat of longer range ballistic missiles."

The Aegis BMD 4.0.1 system represents the next incremental capability upgrade that has been the hallmark of Aegis and its 'build a little, test a little, learn a lot' systems engineering philosophy. The upgrade's new Aegis BSP processor improves the system's ability to detect, track and target complex ballistic missiles and their associated countermeasures. The addition of BMD 4.0.1 also integrates the new Standard Missile-3 Block IB missile in

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See LAKE ERIE, A-4



MCPON sends Independence Day message to fleet

Special from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following Independence Day message to the fleet June 29.

"Shipmates and Navy families, As we celebrate this great nation's birthday, I'd like you to take a moment and consider your role in preserving the ideals the United States was founded upon.

No matter the platform on which you serve, the community to which you belong or the rating that identifies your skill set, you are all patriots in defense of liberty and protectors of our independence.

Not a day goes by that I'm not thankful for the honor to serve among you. It really hits home, though, during holidays like these when we are reminded of what this country stands for. Independence Day is a time to celebrate the freedoms we hold dear and to honor those who have protected them for 233 years.

For your part in that, I say thank you.

I also ask that while you celebrate our nation's birthday you keep in mind those who are deployed protecting what we are celebrating. Additionally, I ask you keep another item at the forefront and that is safety. Use common sense on our nation's freeways and take every possible precaution (including watching out for others) whether you're driving, riding a motorcycle, on the water or staying at home with fireworks and barbecue.

I expect safety to be a primary discussion point now and every day leading up to the holiday weekend. Awareness and caution should be the watchwords of every Sailor and Navy family member.

Enjoy your holiday, shipmates. No matter where you are, on or below the world's seas and oceans, in the air or boots on ground, I hope you get to spend at least a few moments celebrating the 4th of July. Stay safe and continue to take care of one another.

Thanks for what you do in defense of this incredible country of ours.

Stay focused; stay alert and stay safe, Hooyah!"

(Above) A modified Standard Missile 2 (SM-2) Block IV interceptor is launched, June 5, 2008 from the guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) during a Missile Defense Agency test to intercept a short-range ballistic missile target. The missile intercepted the target approximately 12 miles above the Pacific Ocean 100 miles west of Kauai, Hawai'i on the Pacific Missile Range Facility, approximately 100 miles from Kauai.

U.S. Navy photo



(Left) A Standard Missile - 3 (SM-3) is launched from the USS Lake Erie (CG 70) in a previous Missile Defense Agency, U.S. Navy test of its sea-based ballistic missile defense program. The SM-3 intercepted a short range ballistic missile target, launched minutes earlier from the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawai'i. The intercept, the fifth in the last six attempts, occurred approximately 100 miles from Kauai.

U.S. Navy photo



Family celebrates Pearl Harbor survivor's life See page A-2



Chicago returns to Pearl Harbor from western Pacific deployment See page A-4



COMPACFLT beats SEALS in soccer rematch See page A-6



Enjoy a fire-safe Independence Day See page B-1

Family celebrates Pearl Harbor survivor's life

Story and photos by
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer

Twenty-three close family members of the late Lt. Cmdr. Roger M. Wilsie gathered together to celebrate a lifetime of devotion to his family, God and country, as the retired officer's ashes were scattered during a burial at sea at the USS Utah Memorial at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on June 25.

Wilsie, who served in the U.S. Navy for 27 years, was a 19-year-old shipfitter aboard the USS Whitney (AD-4) at Pearl Harbor on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941 when Japanese forces struck the island of Oahu in the infamous surprise attack.

That memory, along with the recollections of the lieutenant commander's return visit to Pearl Harbor in August 2001, spurred his four children, Cassie and Richard Wilsie, and Carol Wood and Janet Hubka, to fulfill their dad's dream of making the watery cove his final resting place.

Wilsie died on Nov. 30, 2008 in San Diego, Calif. at the age of 87 after a



Photo illustration

seven-year battle with Alzheimer's disease.

"He really, really wanted to do this," said Wood, who was joined on the trip with her husband David and their children, Emily and Andy. "The memories of the time he spent with his family back in 2001 as well as his contributions to the Navy, that stayed with him as his Alzheimer's progressed. Even when he didn't know our names, that was one of the last things that he held onto."

Pearl Harbor was additionally special to Wilsie

due to the fact that he met his wife of 53 years, Marjorie, while he was on shore leave in Hawai'i.

A former resident of Minnesota, Marjorie was vacationing with her family when she met Wilsie who was a young lieutenant at the time of their chance encounter. She passed away in 2007.

"I feel that mom and dad would be so happy that everyone made the effort to be here for them," said daughter Cassie. "It's a little bittersweet that they're not in the condo next door

to us, but I feel that they are here with us today."

Like the steady-as-she-goes effort that sprung the United States from the devastation of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Wilsie was remembered for being the same kind and gentle man to his grandchildren as he was to his children.

Wood said that all of the grandchildren called Wilsie "Bumpa," which was a nickname that was once held by Marjorie's father, who died at a young age.

And while Wilsie was

always content to lend his support away from the spotlight, Wood's younger sibling Janet recalls that his presence always had a huge impact on the family.

"He wasn't the first one to be out there shouting, 'Hey,' but when he got there, everyone was very happy to see him," noted Janet, whose husband Mark and children Josh, Thomas, Kelsea and Marin also made the trip. "He was a very kind father to us. He was always gentle and never had a bad word to say about anyone."

Meanwhile, Kelsea agreed with her mom that although Bumpa didn't say much, he had a very special way of making everyone around him feel welcomed.

Prior to the family's visit to Pearl Harbor in 2001, Kelsea recalled that she spoke with Wilsie about what it felt like when he and fellow Sailors aboard the USS Whitney were surrounded by the Japanese reign of fire on Dec. 7.

"Anytime that you got personal time with Bumpa, you always got excited about it," said Kelsea. "Sometimes it would take awhile to get a response from him because there

was always so many people around him. So when he finally spoke, it was like I really wanted to hear what he had to say."

As Wilsie seemed to personify the term steadfast, his family appears to have adopted his outlook as they move on with their own life.

Cassie and her fiancé Taylor Wiley also used the trip to exchange wedding vows after being engaged for 10 years while Kelsea just graduated from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, Calif. with an engineering degree.

In addition to being a loving father and his service to the Navy, Wilsie was also a devout Roman Catholic who attended and served at St. Didacus Church, as a eucharistic minister and member of the Parent-Teacher's Guild and Parish Council.

Wood, who is Wilsie's oldest daughter, said that no matter how many years go by, the family will always keep fond memories of him in its heart and mind.

"We'll be celebrating Bumpa," admitted Wood. "We'll be telling stories about him and remembering."

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Fourth of July...steeped in history and tradition

Karen S. Spangler
Managing Editor

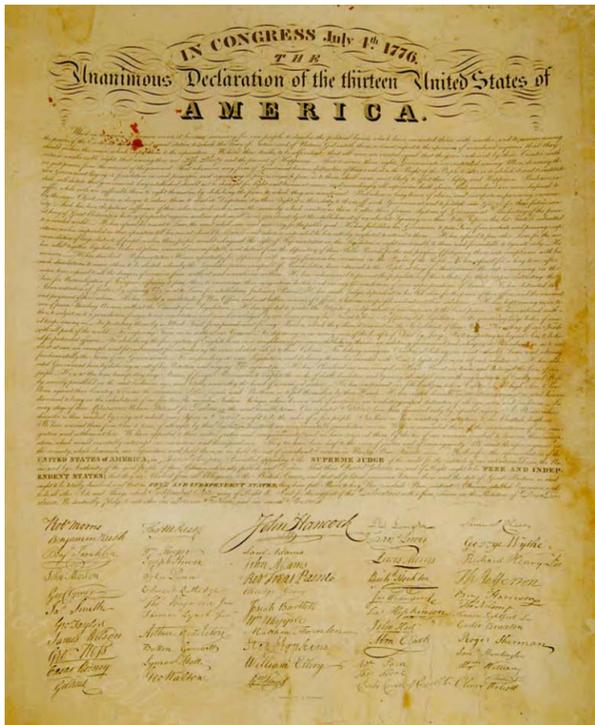
As we prepare to celebrate the Fourth of July holiday, with family picnics and events, patriotic parades and spectacular fireworks displays, we would be remiss if we didn't take a few minutes to remember the history and traditions of why we celebrate this glorious holiday.

More than 200 years ago, on July 4, 1776, members of the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia and adopted the final draft of the Declaration of Independence. This was the formal document that announced the colonies' separation from Great Britain.

Although there were celebrations of the Fourth of July with speeches, parades, military observances and fireworks displays beginning in 1777, it wasn't until 1941 that Congress declared the Fourth of July, also known as Independence Day, a federal holiday.

The Declaration of Independence was written by Thomas Jefferson and was revised by Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Jefferson. The Declaration affirms that since all people are creatures of God, or nature, they have certain natural rights, or liberties, that cannot be violated.

The wisdom of our founding fathers has been handed down



Declaration of Independence was adopted and finalized on July 4, 1776 by members of the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. It wasn't until 1941 that Congress declared the Fourth of July, also known as Independence Day, a federal holiday.

through generations. The words of Jefferson are well-known and frequently quoted. "We hold these

certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety," admonished Benjamin Franklin.

John Adams, the second president of the United States, advocated recognition of the Fourth of July, and wrote to his wife Abigail, "I believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be celebrated by pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other..."

Adams' words hold true as much today as they did more than 200 years ago. "I am well aware of the toil and blood and treasure it will cost us to maintain this declaration, and support and defend these states. Yet through all the gloom I see the rays of ravishing light and glory. I can see that the end is worth all the means. This is our day of deliverance," he remarked.

Fireworks have played a primary role in the celebration of the July 4 holiday, but fireworks have actually been manufactured since the 1400s. Initially enjoyed more for the "big bang," the multi-colored fireworks displays began in the 1830s when traces of various metals were added to create a variety of colors.

Picnics, barbecues and get-

togethers are also part of the Fourth of July celebration. The July 4 weekend is the biggest hot dog holiday of the year; it is estimated that Americans will eat more than 155 million hot dogs over that weekend. According to research, mustard is the condiment of choice by hot dog-eating adults, but ketchup is the condiment preferred by children.

The Fourth of July is all about what our flag represents – our patriotism, our belief in our country, our appreciation for the freedoms that we enjoy and that so many have fought for. It's an expression of unity between the military and the government and the people in the community. It's a hurrah for the red, white and blue shouted and expressed everywhere we go. It's a way to give our thanks to the men and women in uniform who serve every day – here and in far away places – to protect and defend not only our freedoms and our way of life, but our very lives. And it is a message that we send to all who would even consider doing harm to our people, that we are all Americans – our patriotism and love of country uniting our hearts, our souls and our ideals.

Have a safe and happy Fourth of July! But as you observe the holiday, please take a few minutes to think about what it all represents and shout your own hurrahs. Hurrah for the red, white and blue!



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Tiffini Jones Vanderwest
Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead is interviewed by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Rebekah Blowers during a podcast to discuss summer safety.

CNO places summer safety at forefront

MC2 (SW) Rebekah Blowers
Chief of Naval Operations
Public Affairs

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) released a podcast June 26 about the importance of summer safety.

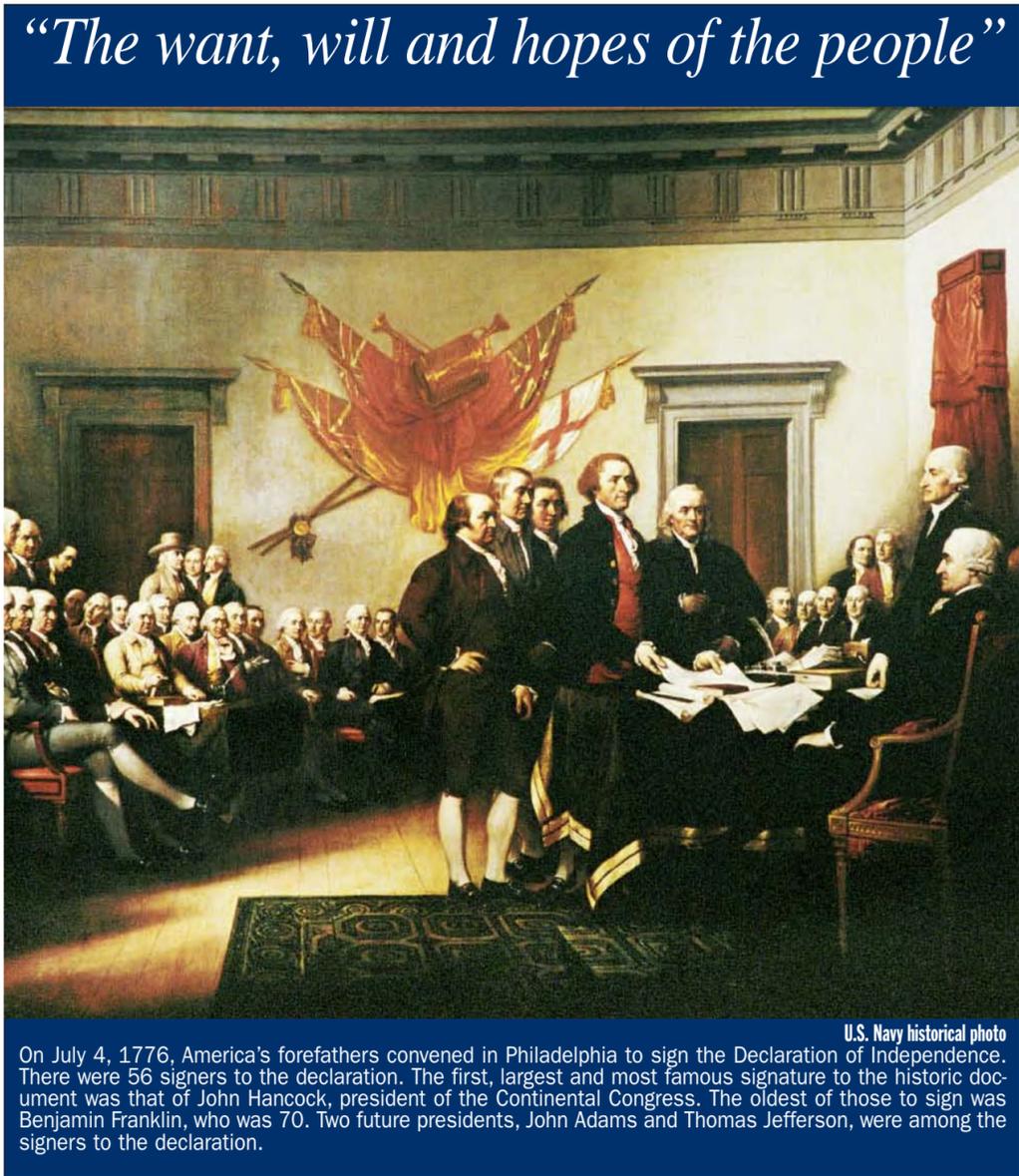
Adm. Gary Roughead, CNO, said that the summer is a busy time for Sailors and their families, as they make permanent change of duty stations or take summer vacations.

"It's important as all of this is going on - as we're moving, as we're enjoying our time with our families - that we keep safety in mind and that we think about the risks associated with what we're doing," Roughead said. CNO talked about being

safe in and around the water, on the road and about the hazards of drinking and operating any kind of motor vehicle – whether it be a car, a boat or a motorcycle. He emphasized that operational risk management should be at the forefront of every Sailor's mind.

"My goal, my desire is that when this summer is over, we can look back on it and have had the safest summer we have ever had, and that all of our shipmates that we started the summer with are still with us when we end it," CNO said.

To listen to the podcast, visit http://www.navy.mil/media/audiod/cno/6.25.09_CNO%20UMMER%20SAFETY%20podcastWEB.mp3.



U.S. Navy historical photo
On July 4, 1776, America's forefathers convened in Philadelphia to sign the Declaration of Independence. There were 56 signers to the declaration. The first, largest and most famous signature to the historic document was that of John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress. The oldest of those to sign was Benjamin Franklin, who was 70. Two future presidents, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, were among the signers to the declaration.

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All letters must be accompanied by the writer's name, E-mail address and daytime telephone number. Letters are subject to editing to meet space constraints.

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Hawai'i Navy News is a free newspaper published every Thursday by The Honolulu Advertiser, 605 Kapiolani Blvd., Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96813, a private firm in no way connected with DoD, the U. S. Navy or Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i.

All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com World Wide Web address: <https://www.cnicy.navy.mil/Hawaii/>

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Pearl Harbor Sailors cook for a cause at Fisher House

Story and photo by
MC3 Luciano Marano

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

Sailors from the Pearl Harbor-based commands, Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC) and Commander, Anti-Submarine Warfare Force U.S. 3rd Fleet (CTF-34), worked together to cook dinner for the residents of the local Tripler Army Medical Center Fisher House on June 26.

"It's a good thing to be in the military and to give back to the community," said Intelligence Specialist 1st Class (SW) Marlainna Brown, secretary of the COMSUBPAC



Volunteers and residents gather in the kitchen at the Tripler Army Medical Center Fisher House to serve and enjoy the dinner they prepared on June 26.

First Class Petty Officers Fisher in 1990, the Fisher House program is a ly funded program that supports military families in times of need. Fisher Association. Founded by Zachary unique public and private-

House supplies them with temporary cost-free residence near the hospital so that they can be near loved ones during times of hospitalization. Today, there is at least one Fisher House at every major military medical center.

"I became acquainted with the program at my last duty station and never got the chance to volunteer so when I got here I decided to do it," said Brown, who coordinated the dinner.

Nearly a dozen volunteers, including several spouses and even children, turned out to prepare the meal.

"The lodging here is free of charge, but everything else is self-provided or donated by private citizens," said Diana Bear,

Fisher House resident. "People who come here are coming in crisis, most leaving their loved ones and support, and they might not be able to stay close by for any length of time if not for the Fisher House."

"Everyone here is so nice," said Operations Specialist 2nd Class (AW/SW) Kalani Dailey, CTF-34 staff member. "I really like volunteering with this charity."

"It's very good of them to supply free housing for people who need to be close, especially when hotels here can be so expensive," said Brown.

"I think there's not a person here who wouldn't say that they've been blessed by this place," said Bear.

Chicago returns to Pearl Harbor from western Pacific deployment

Story and photo by
MC3 Luciano Marano

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

Fast-attack submarine USS Chicago (SSN 721) returned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on June 29, following a six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

"Chicago performed well at the tip of the spear," said Capt. Edward Takesuye, Commander, Submarine Squadron Three (CSS-3). "They accomplished a host of theater engagements as well as exercises with foreign navies."

The submarine deployed in January after being awarded the 2008 Battle Efficiency (Battle "E") award for continual mission readiness during the year.

Battle "E" is an award of



Fast-attack submarine USS Chicago (SSN 721) returned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on June 29, following a six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

merit reserved for only the most proficient submarine crews and recognizes sustained superior performance in all areas of combat readiness.

"The crew's performance was outstanding this deployment," said Cmdr. Rick Stoner, Chicago commanding officer. "We really accomplished a lot."

This was Chicago's last deployment for some time as it is slated to go into a major overhaul here at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

USS Lake Erie ready for action

Continued from A-1

late 2010.

The signal processor is a major technical advance for Aegis BMD before it merges with the Navy's Aegis Modernization Program's fully open architecture, multi-mission combat system," said Orlando Carvalho, vice president and general manager of Lockheed Martin's surface/sea-based missile defense line of business. "The continued Aegis program emphasis on systems engineering excellence supports the Navy's desire to expand BMD capability to additional cruisers and destroyers and grow missile defense capability to pace the threat," he explained.

As this new system upgrade is put to the test with a view toward eventual certification, the Navy's other Aegis BMD-capable ships are now being serviced to employ the last system fully certified aboard the Lake Erie: BMD 3.6.1 which enables them to destroy short-range ballistic missiles in their terminal phase of flight. This project is part of an ongoing "develop, test, field" process that aims to continually improve the Navy's BMD capabilities through steady, step by step developments.

Given the current threats faced by our nation, the ability to engage ballistic missiles is becoming an increasingly important element of our overall national security strategy. The Navy, along with the Missile Defense Agency, sees Aegis BMD as vital for ensuring the peace, supporting our allies, and protecting the U.S. homeland.

Pearl Harbor Highlights



Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SS) Michael Allred is met on the pier by his mother when fast-attack submarine USS Chicago returned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor on June 29, following a regularly scheduled deployment to the western Pacific region.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Luciano Marano



(Above) Sailors assigned to guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) paint the front and back of baseball bleachers during a community service project on June 24 on the island of Pohnpei in the Federal States of Micronesia. Crommelin visited the island for a routine port visit while supporting U.S. Coast Guard fisheries enforcement in Oceania during a routine deployment through the western Pacific this month.

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



Aviation Support Equipment Technician 2nd Class Michael Sanchez presents his son, Gaelen Sanchez, to Wanda Colon, host of TLC's "Home Made Simple." Daphne Maxwell Reid, also known as "Aunt Viv" on The Fresh Prince of BelAir, and her husband, Tim Reid of "Sister Sister" and "WKRP," visited Sailors at the Pacific Missile Range Facility to begin their Hollywood Handshake Military Appreciation Tour on June 25.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jay C. Pugh.



(Left) Sailors assigned to guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37) paint the side of a baseball dugout during a community service project on the island of Pohnpei in the Federal States of Micronesia.

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

Debra Patterson, tools and parts attendant checks on the inventory of pneumatic sanders at a ships issue tool room at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

U.S. Navy photo by Marshall Fukuki



COMPACFLT beats SEALS in soccer rematch

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer

In its most challenging game to date, the Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) soccer team managed to increase its undefeated mark to 10-0 after edging SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team-One (SDVT-1), 2-1, at Ward Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on June 27.

With the loss, SDVT-1 saw its record drop to 10-2, which is good for third place in the Morale, Welfare and Recreation intramural league standings.

The game was a rematch from the previous week's cancellation, which was called by referees in the first half after heated tempers nearly erupted into a melee at midfield.

This time around, both teams kept their cool as they engaged in a spirited affair that saw the SEALS go out in front, but eventually fall to the still unbeaten COMPACFLT.

"We were on edge after what happened last week," said Air Force Capt. Kyle Takamura of COMPACFLT. "But I guess we really wanted to win."

In the first half, SDVT-1 got the first break of the game when a COMPACFLT player was flagged with a handball violation as the SEALS converged upon

their opponent's goal.

The infraction set up a penalty kick for Navy Diver 1st Class Cody Adams of SDVT-1, who calmly stepped up and booted it in to give his team a 1-0 lead that stood up until half-time.



Early into the second half, COMPACFLT evened the score, when Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Antonio Martinez got out in front of the pack and delivered a game-tying goal on a breakaway.

Once out into the clear, Martinez said that there was no way that he was going to let the opportunity slip out of his hands.

"I think they (SEALS) were just slacking back there," noted Martinez. "I just took my time, looked back and saw that there was nobody around. So right there, I knew I was going to get it."

Meanwhile, Navy Diver 2nd Class Sean Cross of SDVT-1 offered an explanation as to why he believes Martinez was able to isolate himself from the rest of the field.

"The breakaway was the result of the referees missing a clear offside (violation)," pointed out Cross. "The refs backfired on us.



Players battle for the ball during the intramural soccer match between Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) and SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team-One (SDVT-1) at Ward Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on June 27. COMPACFLT preserved its undefeated record by coming back to edge SDVT-1, 2-1. With the win, COMPACFLT improved its mark to 10-0, while SDVT-1 saw its mark fall to 10-2.

There is nothing you can do about that."

However, Martinez, who did not participate in the

June 20 cancellation, scored the winning goal on another clear shot at the net.

On his second score of the

day, Martinez freed himself of two SDVT-1 defenders before moving in for the kill at around midway through

the second half.

From there, the COMPACFLT defense stepped up and held the SDVT-1 offensive attack in check for the rest of the game.

"We just played conservative," said Takamura. "We tried to keep it tight, not cheat up on the ball too much and just controlled the middle."

Although losing to COMPACFLT didn't sit well with the SEALS, Cross stated that even in defeat, he feels that the loss did nothing to diminish his team's confidence as it focuses on the upcoming playoffs.

He said that while COMPACFLT came out on top, he still believes that SDVT-1 is still capable of dominating play if the two teams square off in the post-season.

"We're not going to change anything," said Cross. "Last week, we were clearly the dominant team. We'll see them in the playoffs."

If the teams do meet again, Martinez admitted that the win over SDVT-1 has given his teammates the self-assurance that they can defeat the SEALS once more.

"This was definitely a confidence booster – especially with all the controversy from last week," said Martinez. "We're looking good, I think, for the future."

SSLA Symposium emphasizes importance of mentorship

Lt. j.g. Theresa Donnelly

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

More than 600 women – and quite a few men – from the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard gained networking opportunities, made new friendships, and came together to honor women in the sea services in Washington, D.C. at the 22nd annual Sea Services Leadership Association Symposium (SSLA) on June 18-19.

The SSLA conference is one of many opportunities the Navy sponsors to encourage Sailors with common interests to gain leadership knowledge and experience.

Officers and enlisted service members from three branches of the military discussed issues affecting women, such as work-life balance, childcare and expanding operational positions for women in the sea services.

Attendees were able to meet with several of the Navy's senior female flag officers and command master chiefs, including the Navy's second highest ranking female, Vice Adm. Nancy Brown, director for command, control, communications and computer (C4) systems, the Joint Staff. Brown gave the opening remarks



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Kristine Volk
Rear Adm. Wendi Carpenter congratulates Lt. j.g. Carolyn Bloomfield for earning her carrier qualifications during the Women in Aviation Conference. More than 2,500 women attended the conference.

and presented the Capt. Joy Bright Hancock award which honors women who provided inspirational leadership in the integration of women in the Navy.

"I am so grateful to have the opportunity to be with you here this morning. To see so many accomplished women in one room is...I just can't hardly put it into words," said Brown.

For the Navy's flag officers, mentoring is a critical piece to helping Sailors achieve

their potential.

"Leaders need to mentor women and men alike and help them understand their capacity for growth, help them understand - don't be afraid to stretch, don't be afraid to reach because that will be the only way you will truly test your limits," said Rear Adm. Ann DeBaets Gilbride, director, National Marine Intelligence Center.

"I believe every Sailor, from seaman recruit to admiral, bene-

fits from having a mentor. And if someone does not have a mentor, the first step is to ask about mentoring programs within your command," said Gilbride. "Another step is to think about this: Who inspires me? Who is a leader I would like to emulate? Then simply ask that person if they would consider being your mentor."

Many who attended the two-day event engaged in dialogue with others who shared similar experiences.

"The opportunity to have frank, open discussions with other women who may have the same experiences and answer questions in a safe environment, the networking piece, is key and critical," said Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Jacqueline DiRosa, director, Command Master Chief Management Office.

Many women have gained support from the informal networks of mentorship already taking place, even without a formalized program.

"To be honest, until last year, I had not heard of the term 'mentor,' but I never really had to seek out a mentor because people have always had an interest in me and my career. I feel very blessed in that regard," said Electronics Technician 1st Class (SW/AW) Melanie Speakman, assigned to

USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77). "Coming to this conference has been an invaluable experience."

Mentorship programs throughout the fleet have grown significantly, and social media has greatly aided in helping individuals connect with each other. Tools such as the NavyWomen eMentor; Surface Warfare eMentor; Facebook communication with fellow Navy female officers; and Leading Edge, a google group started by female naval aviators, have become a way for like-minded individuals to communicate, even if they are geographically separated.

The conference also gave attendees the opportunity to listen to women discuss what obstacles they faced throughout their careers and what steps they took to overcome them.

Guest speakers included the first female White House press secretary, Dee Dee Myers, and the Marine Corps' first African-American pilot, Vernice Armour, who gave an animated performance of her "Zero to Breakthrough" message, which detailed strategies that helped her overcome setbacks in her life.

To find out more about the Navy's mentoring programs, visit www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/Diversity/Mentoring.

SSLA Symposium provides leadership and growth

Lt. j.g. Theresa Donnelly

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

More than 600 people gathered June 18-19 in Washington, D.C. for the 22nd annual Sea Services Leadership Association (SSLA) Women's Symposium to learn about professional development for women in the sea services.

The theme of this year's symposium was "Success strategies for the week, the year and your career." Guest speakers included Dee Dee Myers, the first female White House press secre-

tary, and Vernice Armour, the Marine Corps' first African-American female pilot.

Many of the Navy's most senior ranking women were in attendance, including Rear Adm. Carol Pottenger, commander, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command; Rear Adm. Wendi Carpenter, commander, Navy Warfare Development Command, Norfolk; Rear Adm. Ann DeBaets Gilbride, director, National Marine Intelligence Center; and various other female flag officers, command master chiefs and diversity direc-

torate leaders.

Sponsored by the Navy's Office of Women's Policy, SSLA is one of many conferences that the Navy encourages service members to attend.

"I think that all of these kinds of opportunities should be capitalized upon by people at all rank structures," said Carpenter, who emphasized that these conferences are beneficial to men as well as women.

"We talk about things that are not only of concern to women, but for the men who come to these events as well," she said.

The conference began

with the presentation of the Capt. Joy Bright Hancock awards, designed to honor women who provide visionary leadership and work to further integrate women in the Navy and Marine Corps.

"This gives us an opportunity to celebrate each other's accomplishments, especially our younger women, and can motivate others to be out there making an impact, making a difference," said Carpenter.

SSLA, originally established in 1978 and formally known as the Women's Officer Professional Association, has expanded to include enlisted service

members and brings together people from the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. SSLA also provides a forum for discussion of issues of interest affecting women in the sea services such as work-life balance, childcare and on-going recruitment efforts.

Membership in SSLA is open to men and women and gives opportunities for mentoring, networking and access to educational resources.

"This experience has been absolutely phenomenal, just to hear from these senior women who started at the bottom and aspired to a

higher rank, and listening to how they dealt with discrimination and now they are a hero for every junior Sailor, Coast Guardsmen and Marine," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Dana Williams Cochran, assigned to Naval Hospital Jacksonville.

As diversity is a top priority for the Chief of Naval Operations, the Navy sponsors many professional development events such as this one. For more information about diversity in the Navy and other affinity groups, visit www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/Diversity.

Pearl Harbor Shipyard's 'flight line' tackles high workload

Cmdr. Timothy Spicer

*Fleet Maintenance
Submarine Project
Assistant Operations
Officer, Pearl Harbor Naval
Shipyard*

Vincent Chong, assistant project superintendent, greets newcomers to Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard's Fleet Maintenance Submarine Project (FMB) by saying, "Welcome to the flight line, friend." The implication is that FMB is like a busy airport where a lot of fast-paced work has to be done within short turn-

around times.

That's certainly been the case at FMB during the first six months of 2009. The project was tasked with an unusually high workload and completed more than 3,100 jobs during that time, including seven simultaneous availabilities that surged FMB's workforce to 550-plus workers per day.

"The amount of work the entire shipyard team pulled together to accomplish was phenomenal," said Cmdr. Timothy Sparks, FMB project management assistant (PMA). "The schedule the customer gave us was chal-

lenging and we met that challenge."

Thirteen consecutive availabilities were completed on or ahead of schedule. The availabilities included both continuous maintenance availabilities (CMAVs) and pre-overseas movements (POMs), both of which are typically scheduled for 35 days and contain roughly 250 jobs.

Three of the 13 availabilities included battery replacements and all included significant repairs to components such as main seawater (MSW) and auxiliary seawater (ASW)

pumps, three-inch launcher hull valves, a fuel oil tank and main shaft stave bearings.

In addition to the 13 formal availabilities, FMB completed five load-out periods (LOPs) which allowed five submarines to deploy on time.

The recent LOP on USS Pasadena (SSN 752) included an emergent trim pump replacement which was completed in only four days.

FMB fly-away teams also went to Guam to conduct propulsion shaft seal and generator repairs on USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN

705) and replace a shore power cable on USS Houston (SSN 713), as well as support two preservation periods.

FMB also supported numerous emergent repair contracts on Houston, City of Corpus Christi, USS Frank Cable (AS 40) and USS Seawolf (SSN 21).

In addition, FMB successfully completed a dry deck shelter (DDS) installation on USS Michigan (SSGN 727) in Guam and a DDS removal on USS Ohio (SSGN 726) in Pearl Harbor, making the shipyard the center of excellence

in the Pacific for DDS installation on SSGN guided-missile submarines.

While completing this work, FMB tallied 70 consecutive days without an injury and 157 consecutive days without a work control violation.

When asked what significant lesson the team learned and what improvement can be made before the next go-around, Sparks said, "We must increase our focus on ship safety and always ensure we are thoroughly planning and briefing each job. We cannot lose our focus on ship safety."

NAVFAC awards Recovery Act funds for photovoltaic system design contract

James Johnson

*Naval Facilities
Engineering Command
Hawaii Public Affairs*

Using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, a \$403,633 architect/engineer contract has been awarded by Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii to SSFM International, Inc.

SSFM International, Inc., headquartered in Honolulu, will perform various pre-construction actions that include Request for Proposal (RFP) development for a grid-tied building integrated photovoltaic power system at Navy facilities in Hawaii. They will be mounted on the roofs of five large buildings at Pearl Harbor and 10 small

buildings at Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Kauai. Contract completion is scheduled for Sept. 30.

"We are excited about this photovoltaic project for a number of reasons," said Greg Gebhardt, Navy Region Hawaii/NAVFAC Hawaii energy program manager. "It will help stimulate the economy and provide jobs and opportunity, moves us closer to Hawaii's vision of clean energy for the state by displacing our dependence on fossil fuels, and adds to the energy security of our national defense mission in the Pacific and the state of Hawaii."

The design documents are required to create plans for photovoltaic systems that will produce a combined 2.2 mega-watts of continuous power during peak daylight hours in

its first year. That is comparable to the energy required to power approximately 1,000 homes, and is equal to approximately five percent of the Navy's energy consumption on Oahu. During its 20-year service life, the system is expected to retain at least 80 percent of its first year output.

The Department of Defense received \$7.4 billion from the ARRA, which is less than one percent of the \$787 billion total amount. The Navy in Hawaii received \$124 million to modernize Navy and Marine Corps shore infrastructure, enhance America's energy independence, and sustain a steady and robust maritime force for decades. In order to help put local contractors to work, ARRA funds will be spent as quickly as possible.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawai'i Navy News upcoming segments:

July 10 - Fire Safety with Federal Fire Department Hawaii
July 17 - Niihau School archaeological dig with Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai

(The segments air at about 6:25a.m. each Friday.)

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Fraud, Waste or Abuse
Contact Commander, Navy Region Hawaii's Inspector General
We are here to help
You can remain anonymous
Remember to use your chain of command first
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EMAIL: prlh-cnrhig@navy.mil