

Ceremony on board Missouri marks end of World War II

Story and photo by
MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i
Public Affairs

A ceremony commemorating the 63rd anniversary of the end of World War II was held Sept. 2 aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial on historic Ford Island.

Titled "The End of the War in the Pacific," the ceremony celebrated the day that Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz, Japanese Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and other leaders from around the world signed the Japanese Instrument of Surrender on the Missouri, ending the most destructive war of the modern era.

"The true end of World War II happened here," said Hawaii Sen. Daniel Akaka, keynote speaker for the event. "As we rest today upon this magnificent symbol of both war and peace, let us give thanks to the men and women who helped us win the war and the success of 63 years without another world war."

The ceremony began at 8:45 a.m., which coincided with the time representatives from 10 nations signed the formal "Instrument of Surrender" to officially end World War II.



Adm. Robert Willard, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, and Pearl Harbor survivors render honors for colors during a ceremony commemorating the 63rd anniversary of the end of World War II held aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial. The ceremony celebrated the day that Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz, Japanese Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and other leaders from around the world signed the Japanese Instrument of Surrender aboard USS Missouri (BB-63) on Sept. 2, 1945, ending the most destructive war of the modern era.

A key highlight for the event was a standing ovation in recognition of World War II veterans in attendance. Three veterans in attendance were onboard the USS Missouri (BB-63) at the time of surrender on Sept. 2, 1945.

Akaka also provided those in attendance with his personal story of the Dec. 7, 1941 attacks.

"My classmates and I heard much commotion on Dec. 7, 1941 and then I watched as the planes attacked Pearl Harbor, sinking USS Arizona and other battleships," said Akaka. "At the time we didn't know what was happening until Japanese planes flew over the schools. That day, Hawai'i was placed under martial law and my classmates and I were told to look for enemy paratroopers throughout the evening."

Capt. Gregory Thomas, commanding officer of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility, served as guest speaker for the event. His comments centered on the importance of actions made by the military and civilians working at the shipyard during World War II.

"Immediately after the attack, military and civilian workers began the greatest salvage effort in history - the resurrection of U.S. Pacific Fleet from the bottom

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Walsh continues tradition...



Photo illustration / U.S. Navy photo by IT3 (SS) Derrick Kerr

Rear Adm. Joe Walsh, Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC), and wife Cindy, continue a Pearl Harbor tradition by leaving their handprints in wet cement on Aug. 27. The hardened prints will be displayed at the Lockwood Hall reception building at Naval Station Pearl Harbor in preparation for Walsh's upcoming change of command ceremony Sept. 12. Walsh is the latest in a long line of SUBPAC commanding officers to leave their prints on display after they've been relieved, beginning with Vice Adm. Charles A. Lockwood, who served as service as COMSUBPAC commanding officer during World War II.

Navy Region Hawai'i's FFD brings home top honors

Grace Hew Len

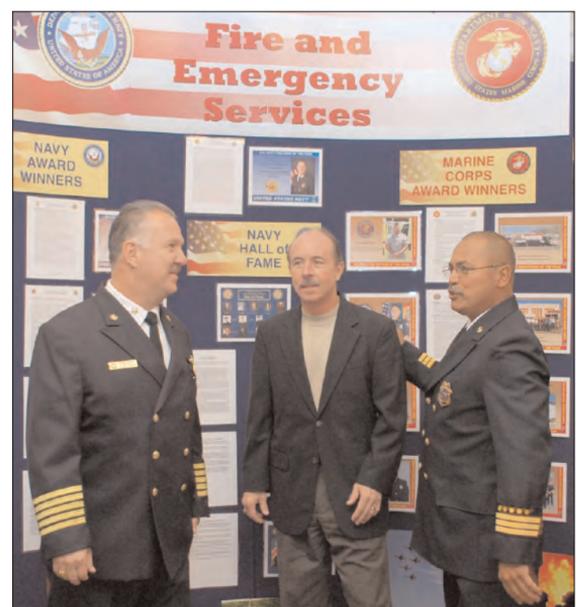
Commander Navy Region
Hawai'i Public Affairs

Navy Region Hawai'i's Federal Fire Department (FFD) brought home the gold last month, garnering three major awards at the annual Department of Defense Fire & Emergency Services Awards Banquet in Denver.

Fire Chief Glenn de Laura accepted the 2007 Navy Fire Chief of the Year honors, the first FFD Hawai'i fire chief to earn the title. FFD Hawai'i was also named 2007 Large Navy Fire Department of the Year and 2007 Navy Fire Prevention Program of the Year. The awards banquet was part of the week-long annual International Association of Fire Chiefs Conference and DoD Fire and Emergency Training Conference held in Denver last month.

"It's a great honor for me. Yet, I represent the group that is truly deserving," said de Laura, who oversees the only multi-service organization to provide comprehensive fire and emergency services to the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard installations around Oahu with 13 fire stations and about 250 fire personnel.

De Laura was praised for his customer service, innovation, quality management principles and initiatives, and quality of life initiatives for his staff. Under his leadership, FFD Hawai'i was recog-



Federal Fire Department photo

(Left to right) Federal Fire Department (FFD) Chief Glenn De Laura, Claude "Buff" Shaw, Navy Region Hawai'i director of operations, and Chief Wallace Mason, FFD training chief, prepare to receive awards at the Department of Defense Fire and Emergency Awards ceremony on Aug. 14 in Denver, Colo.

nized as having a premier emergency medical response system, combining advanced life support, as well as DoD, nationally, and state certified fire firefighters and paramedics.

De Laura recognized the need to partner with emergency response agencies outside the military, and today, FFD works closely with the community, including the Honolulu Fire Department,

Hawai'i Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Dept. of Land and Natural Resources and U.S. Army Wildland Fire Program.

As the top large fire department of the year, FFD Hawai'i stood out from the other 12 Navy regions, touting impressive statistics for 2007: Dispatched 11,359 responses, inspected 3,300 different facil-

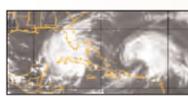
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Hawai'i based chief selects participate in beach cleanup
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Navy families urged to prep now for hurricane season
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Historical Chinatown offers exotic departure for military families
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Sky's the limit for Hawai'i naval officer

Story and photos by
MCI Michael A. Lantron

Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i
Public Affairs

Cmdr. Mel Yokoyama, a Hawai'i native and executive officer for Cruise Missile Support Activity, Pacific, celebrated his new appointment to commander on Sept. 2 during a ceremony at the Pacific Fleet Boathouse at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i.

During the ceremony, Yokoyama reflected on how working the Hawai'i sugar cane fields eventually led to a successful career as a naval flight officer (NFO).

"I was definitely fascinated by airplanes during my childhood," said Yokoyama. "The sugar plantation used a biplane to fertilize the sugar cane fields and I remember thinking how fun it would be to fly."

A native of Pahala, Hawai'i, Yokoyama attended school at Pahala Elementary and Ka'u High School. Living in a remote town where movie theaters and shopping malls were 50 miles away and local high school sports were considered major town events, Yokoyama spent his days fishing and swimming in the black sand beach of Punalu'u. He also hunted wild boars in the mountains of Ka'u and worked as a field laborer in the macadamia nut and sugar cane fields for minimum wage. The fields were the first place Yokoyama realized his love of flying.

"I can honestly say that I joined the Navy to 'see the world' and as a way to pay for college," said Yokoyama. "Shortly after high school graduation though, the Navy offered me the opportunity to attend the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training Program. I had no idea that capitalizing on this opportunity would lead to a bachelor's and a master's degrees, a commission as a naval officer and a career in naval aviation."

Yokoyama was designated as a NFO in September 1995. His training was for the carrier-based S-3B Viking and ES-3A Shadow, both carrier-based, subsonic, all-weather, long-range, electronic reconnaissance aircraft.

His NFO career includes more than 800 flight hours over Bosnia and Herzegovina in support of Operation Deliberate Guard and Operation Deliberate Forge, and in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in sup-

port of Operation Southern Watch.

"Earning my wings of gold was truly a proud accomplishment. It's something that every military aviator cherishes. I was now a member of an elite fraternity," said Yokoyama.

A resident of Hawai'i, Yokoyama takes Hawai'i's sayings of 'aloha' and 'ohana' to heart, providing a better atmosphere to all those around him with his actions.

In Hawai'i, 'aloha' is not only considered a greeting or farewell or salutation, but is also defined as a form of mutual respect and unconditional caring with no obligation in return, something Yokoyama continues to practice with his attitude toward others in his command.

"The spirit of 'aloha' was and still is an integral part of life in Pahala," said Yokoyama. "Having this cultural background, I always treat everyone with the mutual respect he or she deserves, regardless of rank. Everyone in the command is important. My goal has always been to establish the 'aloha spirit' in my department and work environment."

"I have a phrase on my desk that reads 'Things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least.' My family has and always will be my priority and is the priority of many personnel at my command," said Yokoyama. "Depending on the circumstance, I always make an effort to consider the impact on a service member's family before making a decision. Like so many military families, it's the spouse that is left with the responsibility of the household. I definitely would not have met my career goals if it was not for my wife, Becky. She truly is the cornerstone of our ohana."

Being stationed in Hawai'i also provided an opportunity for Yokoyama to return home and speak with high school students about his experiences.

"I usually get the most attention of the students while I speak about my life experiences and emphasize the importance of hard work and capitalizing on opportunities," said Yokoyama. "My hope and goal is to make a positive impression on them during a critical stage in their lives."

The native son of Hawai'i may still use his roots to keep his feet on the ground, yet achieved his dream of soaring with the Navy.



Hawai'i native Cmdr. Mel Yokoyama, executive officer of Cruise Missile Support Activity, Pacific, listens to the oath of appointment during his promotion ceremony at the U.S. Pacific Fleet boathouse Sept. 3. Following his promotion ceremony, Yokoyama plays his ukulele.

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Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

All hands to quarters for muster, inspection, and instruction



U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief Tom Howard

Welcome back, shipmates, to our continuing series addressing Navy pride, professionalism and the basics of being a U.S. Navy Sailor.

This week, I want to ask each of you just how many of you hold quarters on a regular basis. Even on shore duty?

As I travel throughout the

fleet, I ask about quarters and I am getting the distinct feeling that the majority of commands are in fact conducting morning quarters. For those in the minority, who may not, and in our continuing effort to get back to the basics, I have to tell you that getting back into the routine of holding quarters may just be the place to start.

Quarters for muster, instruction and inspection, as it is officially known, is at the root of our heritage as well as a pillar of deckplate leadership.

Holding quarters simply means taking the time to communicate face-to-face in a daily meeting to ensure all Sailors are where they are supposed to be, to impart information, to recognize good performance, and to conduct routine inspections.

Such inspections ensure Sailors are in squared-away uniforms and personal hygiene is up to standards -

to include haircuts and shaves if applicable.

Leaders, keeping Sailors informed and educated on all matters breeds trust and respect. And, as the old cliché says, a Sailor who knows what's going on is a better Sailor. If it's true that we fight the way we train, the same can be true to say we'll lead like we've been led. The chiefs' and LPOs' presence at quarters is something that will be duplicated as Sailors move up in rank. Now that we know what quarters is, let's break it down into its three parts - muster, instruction and inspection.

The most basic of the three items is muster. Since mustering is the first part, it's important that we bring our division to attention. I would like to know that every division is starting quarters with all hands reciting "The Sailor's Creed." As for the actual muster, sure, your Sailors can phone in, stop by the chief's desk to say hello,

or drop an e-mail to their leading petty officer, but that is as far from deckplate leadership if I ever saw it. Shipmates, mustering equates to personal accountability for all. Importantly, we must practice on shore duty what we are required to do at sea. Train the way we fight, remember. At sea, the muster report is the single document used to ensure the entire crew is aboard the ship. There is no guessing.

The second element of quarters is instruction. Are we really in so much of a hurry every day that we cannot spend five to 10 minutes communicating the plan of the day, the responsibilities or hot items of the day, important deadlines, command-related events and more? How about recognizing jobs well done by the Sailors who make great things happen every day? Instruction equates to guidance and mentoring

lead to strong divisions, strong commands and a strong fleet.

Last, but certainly not least, is inspection. Every day we put on the cloth of our nation should be a proud day. And we should be more than willing to stand in front of our peers, our Sailors, our leaders and be so proud. When we stand up and say, "I am a United States Sailor," we should do so in a uniform that personifies the very words of the creed. Conducting inspections at every quarters ensures uniforms are squared away as well as haircuts, shoe shines, etc. If we take pride in our appearance and understand that a Sailor's appearance affects how the world sees the U.S. Navy, conducting regular inspections should be a welcomed tasking. Inspections are not a punishment, but a daily way for leadership to ensure their Sailors are ready for the day. So, there you have it, ship-

mates - another step back to the basics of being a Sailor, a step forward to ensuring all Sailors are accountable, informed and ready.

If you are in a command or department that holds quarters, BZ [bravo zulu] to you. You're more informed than your counterparts at commands or departments that do not. If you don't have quarters, ask your chief why not. Given that so much good comes from having quarters, I can't imagine many good arguments being waged as to why someone would not conduct quarters. Quarters are not an inconvenience. We must do everything we can to ensure each of us begins our day on time, looking our best, and armed with the most up-to-date information we can possibly get.

Until next time, shipmates, keep up the great work! If you have any questions or comments, drop me a line at cpf.fleetfeedback@navy.mil. Sail safe and sail together!



Survivor Recalls Memories of Pentagon Attack

John J. Kruzel

American Forces Press Service

The emotional trauma caused by memories of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the Pentagon have dulled some for survivor Patrick Smith, but the pain will never leave him.

"It's an image that haunted [me] repeatedly for at least the first couple of years," he said. "I guess the trauma of it subsides over the years, but it never goes away."

Smith, an information management specialist for the Army's deputy chief of staff for personnel, spoke to the Pentagon Channel last week before the seven-year anniversary of the morning hijackers drove American Airlines Flight 77 into a section of the Pentagon next to Smith's office.

His desk sat in a second-floor office on the western side of the building, in the middle of the Pentagon's five concentric rings. A nearby coworker watching television informed Smith and his colleagues that an airplane had struck one of the World Trade Center towers in New York City.

The initial confusion crystallized into clear and present danger, as footage appeared showing another plane barreling into the second tower.

"Certainly when the second plane hit, all of us knew this was a terrorist action going on," he recalled.

Smith, like other coworkers, intermittently checked back at the TV for updates. Around 9:40 a.m., as he approached the TV, he heard a loud crash.

"I could see the top of the wall coming inward," he recalled. "At the same time, the ceiling tiles started falling from the ceiling, wires were starting to fall. Of course, this seemed like a long period of time. Actually, it was probably fractions of seconds."

The power shorted. The office fell black. Then a burst of fire ripped through the ceiling toward Smith.

"I could basically hear the hairs on my head, the hairs on my arms, crackling from the intense heat -- prior to any flame ever touching me," he recalled.

"The fireball starting advancing towards me, and momentarily I was frozen until I really got the sense of what was going on," he said. "I started to turn and get away, and I noticed one of my coworkers basically inside the fireball, waving her arms."

"I stood there hoping she could keep on coming. I was at a standstill. Do I go in to try and get her? Do I wait for her to come out?" he said. "Unfortunately, she basically went down, and I just couldn't find her again."

Smith crawled along the floor until he could feel the sprinkler system spraying him. He evacuated the building and received medical treatment shortly after.

Though Smith survived, the attack would claim the lives of 184 victims, to whom the Pentagon Memorial -- a two-acre park near the point of impact with an illuminated sculptural element and lighted reflecting pool in memory of each person lost -- will be dedicated next week.

Smith, who received the Defense of Freedom Medal, the civilian equivalent of the military's Purple Heart, said the interview was the first time he'd spoken out about his experience.

"It wasn't until just this past anniversary last year that I did go out to Arlington [National Cemetery] with one of my coworkers who was injured as a result," he said. "And it was a good feeling to pay tribute to those resting in Arlington right now."

Beginning of the 'end'



View of the surrender ceremonies, looking forward from USS Missouri's superstructure, as Adm. Conrad E.L. Helfrich signs the Instrument of Surrender on behalf of The Netherlands. General of the Army Douglas MacArthur is standing beside him.

Hawai'i Navy News

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FFD takes top honors

Continued from A-1

ities in 345 geographical locations for a total of about 48.5 million square feet, issued 3,430 hot work permits, hosted 760 public education seminars reaching more than 59,000 people, and participated in more than 25 different special events across services and installations.

"For the department, FFD has redefined 'teamwork,'" said de Laura. "A tremendous amount of time is spent on individual self improvement, enhancing their future and professional response capabilities."

In 2006, FFD Hawai'i consolidated its facilities into a 5.25-acre, 22,000 square-foot facility for use as its headquarters and training center, consolidating all administration and training functions into one facility and eliminating occupancy of nine geographically separated facilities. The new facility saved the region an estimated \$5 million a year.

In keeping with Commander, Navy Installation Command's emphasis on public education, FFD Hawai'i excelled in its fire prevention program. Among its numerous innovative programs, FFD conducted 421 public education training events, partnered with DARE programs, conducted "Home Alone" training programs for children ages seven-13 and teenage babysitters, and supported Military Child Appreciation Day at surrounding schools with Sparky the Dog, Freddie the Fire Truck, Smokey the Bear and the House of Hazards.

And unique to Hawai'i, a group of musically talented firefighters developed, directed and choreographed song lyrics and a hula with help from students titled, "What You Gonna Do when the Fire Comes

Through," which was performed at Pearl Harbor Elementary School.

FFD Hawai'i revamped the whole organizational structure by modernizing fire stations, enhancing an aggressive safety program, and improving the quality of life of its firefighters.

"FFD has one of the most aggressive and progressive fire prevention programs of any fire department anywhere," said Battalion Chief Victor Flint. "We have done everything from composing songs and dancing hula, to taking our house of hazards and live fire demos around the island. FFD is partnering with other agencies to bring fire safety and awareness to all communities, military and civilian. By working together, we all can make Hawai'i a safer place to live and grow."

Another 'outside the box' FFD initiative

This summer, FFD Hawai'i donated its "turn out" gear, or used personal protection equipment, to Navy Region Korea's fire department, which sorely lacked the necessary equipment. Because Korea did not have the correct gear to fight interior fires, they fought fires from the exterior only. By coincidence, two days after they received the gear, Korea suffered a major condominium fire. Thanks to the donation from Hawai'i, the Korean firefighters were able to fight the fire internally, greatly enhancing their response capabilities and saving lives.



U.S. Navy photo by MCI Leah Stiles

A helicopter crew assigned to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 11 prepare to depart Naval Air Station Jacksonville supporting Hurricane Gustav relief efforts.

Mullen praises military response to Gustav

John J. Kruzel
American Forces Press Service

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff praised the U.S. military, in particular the National Guard, for its role in the government's response to Hurricane Gustav, which lashed the Louisiana coast earlier this week.

The National Guard has more than 14,000 citizen-soldiers and -airmen deployed to the Gulf Coast, according to the latest Defense Department statistics, with troops manning security positions and evacuation vehicles.

"They've been called out in several states; they were called out early," Navy Adm. Mike Mullen said of the Guardsmen in a Pentagon Channel podcast interview. "We made them

available earlier, we supported them from the federal standpoint very early, and I know that that made a difference."

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates authorized the call-up Aug. 31 for a period ending Sept. 15.

Mullen expressed gratitude for the Guard's effort so far, but stressed that assessments are ongoing to determine the effects of Gustav, which caused some two million people to evacuate their homes. He added that the military is now watching two other storms that potentially could strike the U.S. coast.

"We're very much in preparation for the next two hurricanes, and I'm confident we'll do all we can to prepare for those disasters," he said.

The armed forces' response to Gustav assisted the overall government effort, Mullen said.

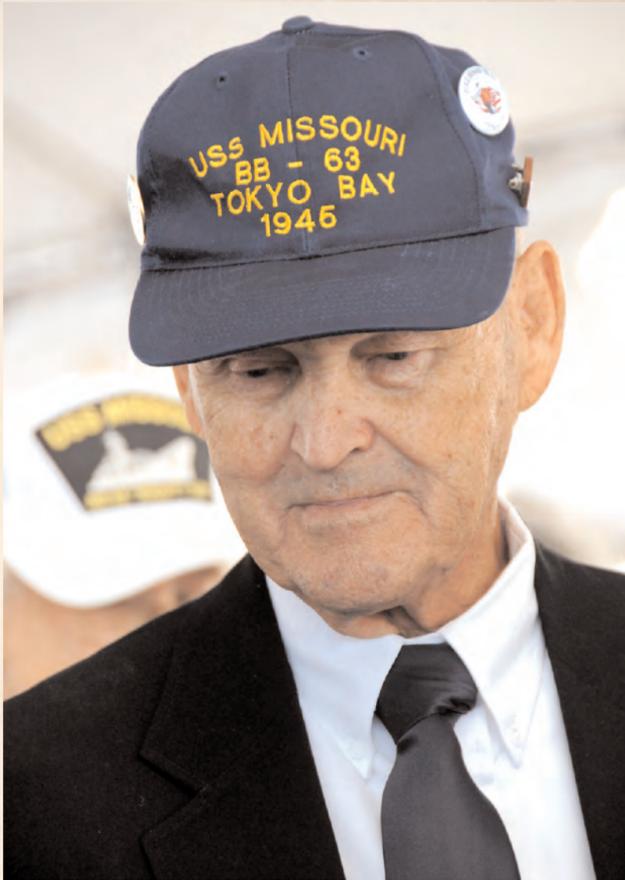
"We were able to plan for and prepare for this in a way that allowed us to, as a military, greatly assist the rest of government organizations, whether it was national, state or local governments," he said.

Mullen said the government learned lessons from Hurricane Katrina, which battered homes, flooded cities and led to widespread looting and death in 2005.

"We put those lessons into play, and done it in a way that ... [generated] a very positive outcome," he said, referring to the response to Gustav. "So I'm proud of our participation. The military has really made a difference here."

Pearl Harbor Highlights

END OF WWII



Art Albert listens to a recording of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's famous opening statement during a ceremony commemorating the 63rd anniversary of the end of World War II held aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial. Albert was one of three Sailors in attendance onboard USS Missouri (BB-63) when leaders from around the world signed the Japanese Instrument of Surrender on Sept. 2, 1945.



A rifle squad performs a 21-gun salute during a ceremony commemorating the 63rd anniversary of the end of World War II held aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial. The ceremony celebrated the day that Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz, Japanese Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and other leaders from around the world signed the Japanese Instrument of Surrender.



World War II veterans receive a round of applause from active-duty service members, family, friends and special guests during a ceremony commemorating the 63rd anniversary of the end of World War II held aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial.



Art Albert, William Obitz and Walter Lassen share memories following the end of a ceremony commemorating the 63rd anniversary of the end of World War II held aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

Hawai'i-based chief selects participate in beach cleanup

Story and photo by
MC1 Jason Swink

Fleet Public Affairs Center
Detachment Hawai'i

Navy Region Hawai'i chief petty officer (CPO) selects volunteered with Sea Turtles International on Aug. 30, during their monthly beach clean-up on Oahu's northern shores.

Ten chief selects and four members of the chief community combed the shoreline and bushes near Chun's Reef, removing trash and debris which poses a threat to endangered green sea turtles, as part of the community service phase of CPO induction.

"We're out there helping to clean up the environment to avoid the endangerment of the sea turtles" said Chief (Sel.) Religious Program Specialist (SW) Tshombe Harris, one of the Navy volunteers. "It partly teaches you a sense of community involvement and community relations. It also helps a chief understand the good that the Navy can give back to the community. While we were out there we saw people who were driving by, strangers who just because

they saw us out there, they would honk and wave and give us little 'shakas'. That is part of what representing the Navy is and being ambassadors. As chiefs that is what we do."

The Sailors recorded all of the trash and debris collected as part of a National Marine Debris Monitoring Program, which is a scientific survey of debris found on United States coastlines.

"One of the main things is tracking cigarette butts. We probably must have picked up thousands of cigarette butts. I couldn't go three inches without picking up a cigarette butt," said Harris.

According to Save the Sea Turtles International, thousands of turtles and other sea life are injured or killed each year worldwide due to land and marine debris.

"We are changing that, one beach at a time, with Adopt-A-Beach Hawai'i," said Marlu West, president of the Save the Sea Turtles International.

The organization has sponsored beach clean-ups on the North Shore of Oahu every month for more than eight years to help preserve their natural habitat.



Chief petty officer selects help clean the trash out of a drainage ditch near Chun's Reef during a beach cleanup. Navy Region Hawai'i chief petty officers, new chief petty officer selects, students and tourists participated in the cleanup on Oahu's North Shore as part of the National Marine Debris Monitoring Program, a scientific survey of debris found on United States coastlines.

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Seabees, Sailors renovate Chuuk State Hospital

MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Pacific Partnership Public Affairs

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 and more than 15 volunteers from the naval hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) are in the process of renovating the Chuuk State Hospital at Weno Island.

Chuuk is one of four states in the Federated States of Micronesia. It is a large atoll composed of several mountainous islands and islets with Weno Island as its capital. As part of Pacific Partnership 2008, the renovations to the hospital, which cost more than \$80,000 and will benefit patients from every island in the Chuuk State, began Aug. 15 and are scheduled to be completed Sept. 11.

The renovations include repairing, painting and preserving several different facilities at the hospital including the female, pediatric and emergency rooms. It also involves the construction of intensive care units and family consul-

tation rooms in the female wards. The Seabees and volunteers also installed and repaired several lighting systems around the hospital.

"Basically we're trying to get everything as neat, as clean and bright as we can," said Construction Electrician 1st Class (SCW) Frank Higgins, the crew leader for the renovation. "We've already replaced 30 or 40 light bulbs, about 10 ceiling fans and painted; I can't even count how many square feet already."

"Hopefully the hospital maintenance guys will have a better hand at what is going here and be able to concentrate on some of the more troublesome areas that we are not able to get to over here."

According to Dr. Abram Ichin, deputy director for the Chuuk Department of Health Services, the hospital sees more than 100 patients daily, not counting patients from the emergency ward.

"They are doing a very tremendously good job here, especially the wards and our intensive care unit," said Ichin. "People are going

around saying, 'This is a new look!'"

Ichin said he appreciated the work done because the cost of supplies in his country can be very expensive.

During the 10-day visit in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Pacific Partnership 2008 mission also provided multiple humanitarian civic assistance in the form of medical, dental and engineering civic action programs. Micronesia is the last mission site in the Mercy's five-month humanitarian deployment.

Builder 2nd Class Gabriel Kelly, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, installs a roof on the Mwan Elementary School in Chuuk. NMCB-133 is deployed with the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH- 19) working with Pacific Partnership 2008 providing humanitarian construction projects throughout the Asia Pacific.

U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Amy Yoon



Final Pacific Partnership mission renovates schools, treats more than 17,000

Lt. Arwen Chisholm

Pacific Partnership 2008 Public Affairs

The villagers of Fefen island gathered around their newly renovated elementary school Sept. 1 to recognize the hard work of Pacific Partnership 2008.

The engineers from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 of Gulfport, Miss.; Amphibious Construction Battalion 1 of San Diego; and Indian Engineers from the Indian Army Engineering Corps all took part in renovating the school and attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The ceremony recognized the engineers who were part of Pacific Partnership, a humanitarian civic assistance mission to Southeast Asia, as well as the medical teams that conducted medical, dental and veterinary civic action programs on 12 different islands in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

"I want to thank the men and women of USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) and the Seabee teams for your kindness and friendship to the people of Chuuk and to the entire nation, for that matter," said Emanuel Mori, president of FSM. "We are appreciative of your humanitarian mission. We are humble and we are



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Michael C. Barton

The Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) is anchored off the coast of Weno Island, supporting Pacific Partnership 2008. Pacific Partnership is in support of and in cooperation with the government of the Federated States of Micronesia, partner nations including representatives from India and Canada, and many non-governmental organizations.

indeed grateful."

The ceremony, conducted at Messa Elementary School, highlighted the friendships and partnerships between the people of FSM and the United States.

"Working with the people of Fefen was the most enjoyable experience," said Steelworker 2nd Class Raquel Miranda. "They wanted to be involved, to be able to rebuild their school."

While the people of Fefen wanted to work and learn from the U.S. Navy Seabees and Indian engineers, they

also wanted to share their culture.

"Every morning they brought us fresh fruits," said Miranda. "They wanted us to experience their culture."

The people of Fefen exemplified the impact that Pacific Partnership had on the people

of FSM.

"I've said that this mission will be appreciated for a long, long time by hundreds and hundreds of Chuukese citizen," said Welsey Simina, governor of Chuuk state. "At this time I say I was wrong. It will indeed be appreciated for a

long time by thousands and thousands of Chuukese people."

Not only were schools and clinics renovated, but medical assistance was also provided through treatment given at medical and dental civic action programs sites and aboard Mercy.

Since Aug. 17, the crew of the Mercy has treated more than 17,000 residents of FSM. A 26-member advance team of medical personnel arrived in FSM ahead of Mercy to provide medical assistance to the states of Yap and Pohnpei. During their 14-day visit, more than 3,400 residents received treatment.

The Mercy arrived off the coast of Weno Island in Chuuk state on Aug. 22. During her 10-day visit, more than 14,000 citizens were treated and more than 200 surgeries were conducted aboard the Mercy.

Although the medical assistance and engineering projects were the goal of Pacific Partnership, the interaction between the Mercy crew and the people of Micronesia was

at the heart of the mission.

"The bonds of friendship that's developed between the Americans, Indians, Canadians and the Chuukese will attest to the personalized part of this mission," said Simina. "It's probably one of the best measures of a successful mission."

Pacific Partnership is a humanitarian civic assistance mission considered to be at the core of the maritime strategy of the U.S. Navy.

"I think our Sailors and the docs and dentists and engineers that we employ in these partnership missions get certainly as much out of it and come away as immensely satisfied as do the nations that we serve," said Adm. Robert Willard, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

The Federated States of Micronesia was the final stop on the four-month humanitarian mission to the Western Pacific. The crew of the Mercy also provided assistance to the Republic of the Philippines, Vietnam, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea.

Navy families urged to prep now for hurricane season

Commander, Navy Installations Command Public Affairs

Hurricane Gustav spared the Gulf Coast region when it made landfall Sept. 1, but three more storms now threaten to hit the United States. To mitigate the impact these natural disasters could have, Navy personnel — including active duty, Reservists, civilians and family members — should make contingency plans now.

"Hurricane Gustav is a good reminder for all Navy personnel and their families to be prepared, not just through the hurricane season, but at all times," said Owen McIntyre, director of CNIC's N37 Emergency Management Program.

"We must also be ready for other tropical storms (Hanna, Ike and Josephine) currently brewing in the Atlantic Ocean. Now is not the time to take chances."

With the pending weather forecasts, personnel Navy personnel and their families may need to relocate to safe havens. Those who may be impacted by an emergency can update their contact information at the Navy Family Accountability & Assessment system (NFAAS) Web site: <https://navyfamily.navy.mil/>.

Navy Installations Command's Operation Prepare offers the following tips for Sailors, civilians and their families.

Stay Informed

- Become familiar with the full spectrum of hazards in your area and how you will be notified about them.

- Give special consideration to hazards that affect your local area, such as severe winter weather, hurricanes or earthquakes.

- Be prepared to take appropriate actions: evacuate, move to a civilian shelter, move to a designated safe haven or temporarily shelter in place.

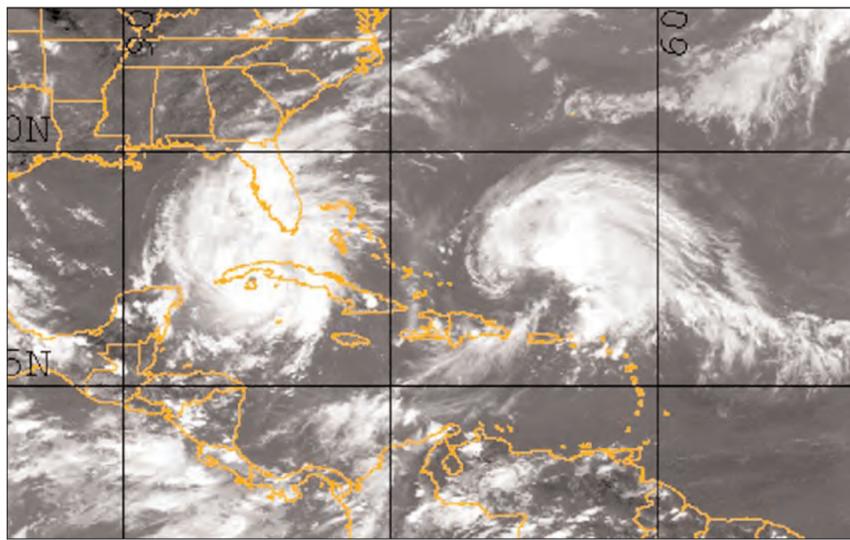
- Know your command's established procedures for reporting and mustering.

Develop and Practice a Family Emergency Plan

- The surest way to be prepared for an emergency is to develop and practice a family emergency plan.

- Discuss in advance what you will do during various types of emergencies, pick places to meet and have contact information for everyone.

- Formalize your preparations in a written family plan so everyone knows what to do in an emergency. Incorporate special concerns such as caring for very young and very old family members, protect-



U.S. Navy photo

A GOES-12 infrared satellite image provided by the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Monterey, Calif., shows Hurricane Gustav as its track took it across the western tip of Cuba and into the Gulf of Mexico. Gustav made landfall on Monday near New Orleans.

ing your property, retaining critical financial or insurance records and caring for your pets.

- Practice your emergency plan at least once a year. Choose a disaster that would be most likely to affect your family. Describe a hypothetical event and instruct family members to follow the family emergency plan. Practice

gathering your emergency kit, communicating with one another and meeting at designated places.

Make a Preparedness Kit

- Community emergency responders focus on the most critical needs when disaster strikes. It's your responsibility to ensure your family's well-being during times of crisis. Emergency preparedness kits

are an essential tool for meeting that challenge.

- Gather supplies for every family member for at least three days. Main items to include are water, food, first aid supplies and critical family documents.

- Emergency preparedness kits can be bought, but the most effective kits are those you assemble yourself to suit

your family's particular needs.

- Depending on your family, you may need special items for babies, medications and supplies for pets.

- Make your kit portable in case you go to a shelter or evacuate. Make smaller emergency kits to keep at work and in your car.

- Evaluate emergency kits regularly and update them as medications and food expire.

Visit the Operation Prepare Web Site

Operation Prepare offers a wealth of resources such as:

- Information - Nearly 40 fact sheets on a variety of hazards and emergency preparedness steps, derived from several reputable sources such as the Department of Homeland Security and the Centers for Disease Control and tailored especially for the Navy community.

- Plans - Planning checklists and printable forms for emergency contact and communications cards, including space for your command's muster information.

- Kits - Printable checklists for basic emergency supply kits that you can tailor to your own family needs.

"Be informed, make a kit and have a plan," said McIntyre in summary.

End of World War II

Continued from A-1

of Pearl Harbor," said Thomas. "By Sept. 2, 1945, the shipyard held more than 7,000 major ship repairs as a major staging area. The work done here helped take the war to Japan and sustain the drive to victory."

During his speech 63 years ago, McArthur opened the 23-minute surrender ceremony by stating, "It is my earnest hope—indeed the hope of all mankind—that from the blood and carnage of the past, a world founded upon faith and understanding, a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish for freedom, tolerance, and justice."

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