

Global Maritime Senior Enlisted Symposium gets underway

SMCC (SW/AW) Bill Houlihan

MCPON Public Affairs

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr. and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard (MCPOCG) Charles "Skip" Bowen opened the second Global Maritime Senior Enlisted Symposium on Sept. 22 at the Waikiki Hyatt Regency in Honolulu.

Senior enlisted leaders from 40 nations are in attendance. Topics of discussion over the course of the symposium will include multinational interoperability, interpersonal relations between international partners and nations, with a significant focus on enlisted development.

"As the senior enlisted leaders of our respective services, we help our organizations to succeed through deckplate leadership," said Bowen. "There is no better place to start building a better tomorrow than here."

Campa and Bowen attended the first Senior Enlisted Symposium last year in New Zealand and said this year's will be the next step in strengthening relationships. In his opening remarks, Campa said the key to the symposium's success will be the level of conversation between all the leaders.

"In the U.S. Navy and the United States Coast Guard every chief in the mess has a voice," said Campa. "I view this symposium much the same way. Like a chief's mess, candor is valued and each point of view carries equal weight. All of you have a voice as we create a global community of senior enlisted leaders."



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron
Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, speaks to FLTCM Tom Howard of U.S. Pacific Fleet and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr. at the second Global Maritime Senior Enlisted Symposium at the Waikiki Hyatt Regency in Honolulu. Senior enlisted leaders representing 41 nations attended the three-day symposium from Sept. 22-24, discussing topics such as multi-national interoperability and interpersonal relations between international partners and nations, focusing on the impact of the global maritime strategy on Sailors around the world and enlisted development.

ries equal weight. All of you have a voice as we create a global community of senior enlisted leaders."

The international attendees will spend much of the week in small-group seminars discussing challenges and opportunities common to specific regions. Many of the seminars and panel discussions will be moderated by professors on loan for the event from the United States Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

Campa said the next three days have great potential to positively affect the level of cooperation between countries and between the men and women who serve each of the services represented here.

"What we have here is a great opportunity to establish friendships grounded in trust, common goals and shared responsibilities. As we learn from one another this week, I believe we take a step in developing the citizens who serve our nations at sea."

Bowen made specific mention of the momentum built by Warrant Officer of the New Zealand Navy Neil Roberts as it was his initiative to hold the first symposium last November in Auckland. Bowen said he hoped this year's conference would build on the foundation Roberts laid last winter.

"It has been said that, 'all men of the sea are brothers.' I believe those words to be true," said Bowen. "I also believe that the cross-pollinated experiences and connections made this week will pay huge dividends for future peaceful and beneficial interactions between our services and countries."

Pearl Harbor honors National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Story and photo by MC2 John Ciccarelli Jr.

Fleet Public Affairs Center Detachment Hawaii

Naval Station Pearl Harbor commemorated Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) veterans during a recognition day ceremony at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel on Sept. 19.

More than 275 Sailors and civilians packed the chapel for the event and to hear one of the longest-held Vietnam War POWs, retired Capt. Gerald Coffee, speak about his experience during captivity.

"It's important to commemorate POW/MIA day because these individual lives leave a legacy to us, just as we are inspired when we visit any historic military area where these people lost their lives," he said.

In early 1966, Coffee was shot down while flying a combat mission over North Vietnam. For the next seven years, he was held captive by enemy forces in various prisons in Hanoi. He was repatriated with the first group of American POWs on Feb. 12, 1973.

Coffee shared his message of the challenges of being a POW and the essentials of honoring them.

"Today is a day to remember those individuals who served time in captivity, who are still missing and to let them and their families know that we have not forgotten about the sacrifices they made for this country," he added.

For Fireman Joshua Lancaster, assigned to Naval Station Pearl Harbor, it was his first time meeting a POW.

"Meeting a POW made me feel proud to be an American," he said. "It is very important to honor these military members and to let everybody know that there are still individuals out there missing."

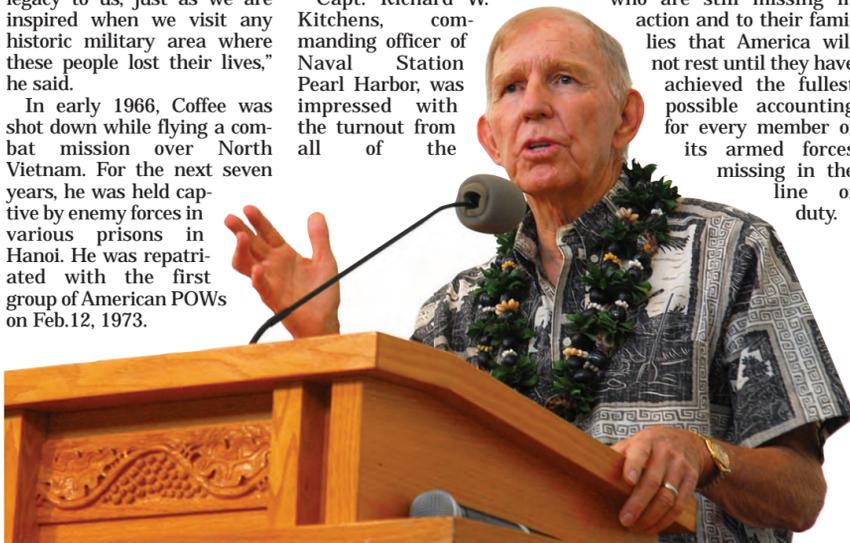
Capt. Richard W. Kitchens, commanding officer of Naval Station Pearl Harbor, was impressed with the turnout from all of the

junior Sailors.

"It's an inspiration to be able to listen and to understand, especially for the junior Sailors, that this POW spent more time in a prisoner camp than some individuals have been in the Navy," said Kitchens.

Each year, on the third Friday in September, observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships, state capitols, schools and veterans facilities.

According to a proclamation by President George W. Bush, National POW/MIA Recognition Day is held to underscore the country's commitment and pledge to those who are still missing in action and to their families that America will not rest until they have achieved the fullest possible accounting for every member of its armed forces missing in the line of duty.



Naval Station Pearl Harbor commemorated Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) veterans during a recognition day ceremony at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel on Sept. 19. More than 275 Sailors and civilians packed the chapel for the event and to hear one of the longest-held Vietnam War POWs, retired Capt. Gerald Coffee, speak about his experience during captivity.



The son of a Sailor assigned to the Pearl Harbor-based, Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) sits next to two M-240B machine guns as the ship departs Naval Station Pearl Harbor during a friends and family day cruise.

Reuben James hosts family and friends day cruise

Story and photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawaii's Public Affairs

The Pearl Harbor-based, Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) hosted a family and friends day cruise off the Pearl Harbor coast Sept. 23.

More than 150 friends and family members went underway on Reuben James for the day cruise and observed a 25mm gun shoot, donning of fire-fighting equipment, a harbor tour of Pearl Harbor and a steel beach picnic.

"All of the family members I see around the ship are having an excellent time and are enjoying the experi-

ence," said Cmdr. Joseph Naman, commanding officer of Reuben James.

"We have a hard job when we're out to sea and since they stay home when we leave, this is a great chance to show them what we do every day," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW/FMF/PJ) Matthew Breske.

The cruise provided a chance for family and friends to witness a day in the life of Reuben James Sailors and to bring the Reuben James family together prior to the ship's upcoming departure.

"Events like this give families a chance to see what the Sailors do and also come together to meet different people so they have contacts to talk to when the ship

leaves," said Pam Borchert, Reuben James' ombudsman.

For most of the children, the day's highlight was the 25mm gun shoot and receiving an empty casing from the shoot upon departing the ship.

"Watching the guns fire and the loud noises was very interesting," said the child of a Reuben James Sailor.

The ship is a multi-mission platform designed to escort and protect carrier strike groups, expeditionary strike groups, underway replenishment groups and convoys, in addition to conducting anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare. The ship was named after Reuben James, a boatswain's mate who distinguished himself fighting the Barbary pirates.



Pearl Harbor Sailor returns to sea
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Riders' toolbox part 2
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Russell enjoys Thai culture, contributes to local school
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World War II pilot recalls 'days in the skies'
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Pearl Harbor Sailor

Pearl Harbor survivor Chief Carpenter's Mate Herbert B. Power was honored during a burial at sea ceremony at USS Utah Memorial on historic Ford Island on Sept. 23. Power, a diver and crewmember aboard USS Widgeon (AM 22/ASR 1) on Dec. 7, 1941, was credited with saving the lives of numerous Sailors trapped onboard USS Oklahoma (BB 37) during salvage operations.

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

JPAC remembers POW/MIA Day at Punchbowl

Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Chlosta

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Public Affairs

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command held a ceremony to commemorate POW/MIA Day at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) on Sept. 19.

After bright sunshine finally pushed away the dark grey clouds that had hovered over the Punchbowl, JPAC Commander Rear Adm. Donna Crisp began the event with her remarks.

"Today, we pause to reflect on the heroism of tens of thousands of Americans who endured the hardship of enemy confinement and those whose fate in time of war still remain unknown to this day," Crisp said.

"POW-MIA Recognition Day events are held all over our nation on this day to remind us of those Americans who have sacrificed so much for their country.

"I want to begin by noting that this is also a day to remember those brave men and women actively involved in the global war on terror who are currently in harm's way in Iraq, Afghanistan and other less known locations, especially those who are currently unaccounted for world-



Korean War Veterans Association members stand with their wreath in front of members of the Combat Veteran's Motorcycle Association Hawai'i Chapter during the JPAC POW/MIA Day Ceremony held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific on Sept. 19.

wide," Crisp said.

The overflow crowd included a patriotic mix of war veterans groups, active duty military members, civilians, tourists and members of the Combat Veteran's Motorcycle Association (CVMA) Hawai'i

Chapter, who rode to the ceremony on their motorcycles in tribute.

The dozen or so CVMA members in attendance wore jeans and leather vests with their distinctive "Combat Vets" crest emblazoned on the back.

One CVMA member, Army Staff

Sgt. Jamie Medinger, former member of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, said, POW/MIA Day means, "honoring those lost brothers, those that are no longer with us, those that are gone but not forgotten."

The burly but soft spoken Medinger, who served one tour in Afghanistan and two in Iraq, is currently in a Warrior Transition Brigade at Schofield Barracks. He is in rehabilitation and treatment for injuries he received from an IED [improvised explosive device] attack in Iraq.

"I came out to honor those fallen brothers and honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice," Medinger said.

Once Crisp finished, retired Navy Capt. James Hickerson, a former Vietnam War POW, recounted several stories and memories about his five month captivity in Hanoi, during his keynote speech. After his plane was shot down over Vietnam and he had ejected, Hickerson said, "As I was floating down in my parachute, I thought maybe I've got a problem here."

Hickerson said after being tortured and sleeping on concrete for five years, he appreciates something as simple as the softness of a pillow.

"My wife didn't know if I was dead or alive. How did I get through [my ordeal]? God, country and my mates [fellow POWs]," Hickerson said. "The 'Hanoi Hilton' taught me so much what my country means to me. There was no doubt in my mind that you'd come get me. What a great country we belong to and we have a great country because of all the names on the walls around us here."

"You're looking at a very, very lucky man," Hickerson said, "lucky because I am alive today."

Hickerson spoke to an attentive audience that was full of veteran groups. They were easy to distinguish by their distinctive Hawaiian shirts and military style flight caps.

One group, the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), stood out with their distinctive purple hats, lavender flowered print garments and their exclusive membership criteria.

"You can only be a member if you've received the Purple Heart," said Thomas Tanaka, a Korean War veteran and MOPH member.

"Today is the day that I remember some of my buddies that are still back there," Tanaka said. "It means a lot, a day we should remember all the veterans. Hopefully they'll come back one day."

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Riders' Toolbox Part 2

Story and photos by James E. Foehl

Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) Rider Coach

A skilled motorcycle rider can never have enough of the right tools in their "rider's toolbox." The split second reaction you make on your motorcycle in traffic may very well be the deciding factor whether you make it to your destination or meet your destiny.

As many of us already know, we rarely get second chances on motor-

cycles. So, how does one prepare to use the right tool when there's only a split second to react?

Proper technique and muscle memory - Your muscle memory or brain-muscle memory is developed through the continuous repetition of a motor skill over time.

Practicing proper techniques smoothly and precisely will give us the basic motor skills needed as a solid foundation for building more advanced motor-cycling skills.

One of the most important tools skilled riders will continually practice is braking well, using both brakes.

The front brake of your motorcycle accounts for approximately 70 percent of your total stopping power while the rear brake

accounts for only 30 percent.

One reason for this is the shift in weight load from the rear suspension to the front suspension

during braking.

To stop effectively in the shortest possible distance, square your handlebars and progressively apply both brakes fully without locking up either wheel.

If the rear tire skids, maintain control and keep the rear brake fully applied until coming to a complete stop.

Releasing the rear brake when the rear wheel is out of align-

ment with the front tire could cause a "high-side" crash, which is very likely to result in serious injury.

If the front wheel skids, immediately release the front brake and progressively re-apply properly. Front tire skids will commonly occur as a result of grabbing the front brake instead of progressively squeezing it smoothly and precisely.

Maximum braking requires maximum traction. When stopping in a curve, a portion of the total traction is used for turning and therefore reduces the amount of traction needed for



on your brakes.

Braking well, using both brakes can be practiced virtually anywhere while riding your motorcycle. To practice braking in the shortest distance possible, be sure to choose a safe area away from traffic.

Constant practice of proper technique strengthens our muscle memory and helps to kick bad habits that would otherwise lead us to our destiny instead of our destination.

These are just a few more of the basic tools every skilled rider should have in their toolbox. Each day we ride, we gain experience and refine our ability to ride smoothly with precision. The more experience and ability we gain the higher level of skill we attain. Ride well.



National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2008

A proclamation by the President of the United States of America

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we recognize the many Americans of Hispanic descent who have made outstanding contributions to our nation.

The rich cultural traditions of the Hispanic-American community have made a remarkable impact on American society. The diverse backgrounds of Hispanic Americans and their dedication to family have become an integral part of America.

With a deep commitment to faith and a strong desire to live the American dream, these citizens are realizing the full blessings of liberty. Educational opportunities are helping a new generation work toward success, and many Hispanic Americans operate thriving small businesses.

We also honor Hispanic Americans for their strong tradition of service in the Armed Forces. These proud patriots have fought in every war since our founding, and many have earned the Medal of Honor for their courage. Hispanic service men and women have shown their love for the United States by answering the call to serve, and we owe them and their

families a tremendous debt of gratitude. Their patriotism and valor have added to the character of our nation.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to celebrate the spirit and accomplishments of Hispanic Americans everywhere. To honor those achievements, the Congress, by Public Law 100-402, as amended, has authorized and requested the president to issue annually a proclamation designating Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 as "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

Now, therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, 2008, as National Hispanic Heritage Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

-George W. Bush

Purple Heart medals given to Sailors during Korean War



Rear Adm. Bertram J. Rodgers presents Purple Heart medals to Sailors, Marines and Soldiers wounded in action during the first months of the Korean War.

Hawai'i Navy News

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Crommelin hosts friends, families on cruise to Maui

Story and photo by
MCCS (SW/AW) Melissa
Weatherspoon

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public
Affairs

The crew of USS Crommelin (FFG 37) welcomed more than 75 guests Sept. 12-15 for a friends and family cruise from Pearl Harbor to Lahaina, Maui.

During both underway portions, the crew demonstrated several shipboard evolutions, to include man-overboard drills, gun shoots, marlinspike seamanship training and damage control. The crew also hosted steel beach picnics and ship tours.

"I'm extremely proud of the Sailors on board America's Battle Frigate and hosting our friends and family allowed us to show off the talent and professionalism of this Crommelin crew," said Cmdr. Kevin Parker, Crommelin's commanding officer. "This friends and family cruise was a great success."

The guests were impressed by the proficiency and knowledge of the Sailors aboard. They were equally grateful by the crew's willingness to accommodate them while the ship was underway and in port.

"I think it was a great idea. As a civilian, it was great to see what goes on aboard the ship. The crew was extremely knowledgeable and helpful," said the spouse of Sonar Technician 3rd Class (SW) Aaron Vetter, who is a crew member on the ship. "I think it was also neat that the ship offered tours to the local



Sailors help a Navy family member don a fire-fighting ensemble during a friends and family cruise to Maui aboard the guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG-37). In addition to damage-control demonstrations, more than 75 guests also experienced marlinspike seamanship, gun shoots, a man-overboard drill and a steel-beach picnic.

community as well."

For the many children who took advantage of the opportunity, the highlight of their trip was the many demonstrations and the role-playing they were afforded throughout the two seven-hour journeys.

"I really liked the gun shoots and the firefighting stuff, especially the heat-sensor I got to use," said a 13-year old family member. "It was cool!"

Crommelin, homeported at Pearl Harbor, returned

in June from a six-month counter narco-terrorism deployment to the eastern Pacific and Caribbean where they conducted counter-drug operations off the coasts of Central and South America. This friends and family cruise gave Crommelin Sailors the opportunity to show their loved ones how they operated every day on deployment and also gave them the chance to relax on the beautiful island of Maui.

VP-47 Sailors help fix up 'Mighty Mo'



MC3 (AW) Eric J.
Cutright

Fleet Public Affairs Center
Detachment Hawai'i

Sailors assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 47, "The Golden Swordsmen," at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, Kaneohe Bay volunteered their time to refurbish and perform repairs on the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Ford Island on Sept. 19.

Thirty Sailors from the squadron got involved and showed they were committed to service in their community and to preserving naval history.

"We don't get a whole lot of chances to do volunteer work like this, but when the command is out there

doing it together, it feels really good," said Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Austin Amaro.

The volunteer work for the ship included running electrical wires through the ship's bulkheads, painting guard rails on the pier, and helping out with general tasks in the Victory Store warehouse where Missouri memorabilia is kept.

Les Lancaster, the memorial's director of operations, said the ship itself only keeps 16 staff members to conduct all of Missouri's maintenance so the Sailor's work was much appreciated.

"If we did not have the volunteers with the staff that we have, we would not be able to open up other spaces for tourists

to visit," said Lancaster. "We want to open as many spaces as possible so that people can come and see the ship as it was and the more we do, the better it is for our visitors."

The Sailors got involved in the project after one of their own, Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class (AW/NAC) Christopher Hirn, contacted Lancaster and asked if the ship could use any extra help.

"Les said he had some projects and I brought it up to my master chief about seeing if we could get over here as a squadron," said Hirn.

"Since we're aviators I thought it would be nice to come over and see the 'black-shoe side', or the other side of the Navy."

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Contact the HNN editor for guidelines
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Hawaii Navy News

Pearl Harbor Highlights



(Above) Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Joe R. Campa Jr. speaks with Marcos Corral-Zambrana of the Chilean navy during the second Global Maritime Senior Enlisted Sailor Symposium. Hosted by MCPON and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Skip Bowen, the symposium focused on enlisted development and international cooperation. Senior enlisted leaders representing 40 nations are in Honolulu for the symposium.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jennifer A. Villalovos

(Right) Sailors, friends and family members enjoy a steel beach picnic during a friends and family day cruise aboard the Pearl Harbor-based, Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57).

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron



Several Marines present a wreath to show their respect to our missing heroes at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Honolulu on Sept. 19 for National POW/MIA Recognition Day. JPA's mission is to conduct operations in support of achieving the fullest possible accounting of Americans missing as a result of our nations past conflicts.

U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt Arian C. Church



U.S. Navy photo by SMCC Melissa Weatherspoon

Damage Controlman Fireman Clint Dunn from Monticello, Ga. walks a Navy family members through a damage-control demonstration during a friends and family cruise to Maui aboard the guided-missile frigate USS Crommelin (FFG-37). In addition to damage-control demonstrations, more than 75 guests also experienced marlinspike seamanship, gun shoots, a man-overboard drill and a steel-beach picnic.



(Above) Chief Damage Controlman (SW) Donald Grother and Chief Damage Controlman (SW) Thomas Thompson help the son of a Sailor assigned to the Pearl Harbor-based, Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) don fire-fighting equipment during a friends and family day cruise. More than 150 friends and family members went underway on Reuben James for the day cruise, which included a harbor tour of Pearl Harbor, donning of fire-fighting equipment and a steel beach picnic.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron



(Above) Gunner's Mate 2nd Class (SW) Joshua Taft explains the capabilities of a 50-caliber machine gun to a friend of a Sailor assigned to the Pearl Harbor-based, Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) during a friends and family day cruise.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron

(Right) Sailors, friends and family members observe a 25mm gun shoot during a friends and family day cruise aboard the Pearl Harbor-based, Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57).

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron





U.S. Navy photo

Chief Culinary Specialist (SW) Hermelito Bacalla of USS Russell (DDG 59) hands out Project Handclasp materials to Thai school children during a community relations project at the Hua Yui School in Pattaya during the ship's port visit to Thailand on Sept. 13. Russell is part of the USS Abraham Lincoln Strike Group, which is currently on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

Russell enjoys Thai culture, contributes to local school

USS Russell (DDG 59) Public Affairs

LAEM CHABANG, Thailand - USS Russell (DDG 59) departed Laem Chabang, Thailand on Sept. 16, following a scheduled four-day port visit. During the visit, the ship's crew had a chance to participate in friendship-building activities, meet local citizens, and experience local customs and traditions.

A group of 25 Sailors conducted a community relations project Sept. 13 at the Hua Yui School in Pattaya. The Sailors painted part of the school and interacted with the teachers and students. The Sailors were also treated to a meal of shrimp fried rice prepared by the school's cooks.

"One of the most gratifying experiences is helping those who need the most," said Chief Gas Turbine Systems Technician (mechanical) (SW) Paul Chum.

A separate group of Sailors traveled to Chantaburi province Sept. 14 to the Sik Sar Soong Kroh School, where they distributed Project Handclasp material, which included toys, hygiene products and school supplies, to the students

All of the Russell Sailors commented on how great it felt to be able to contribute to such a worthy cause. After the project, the group stopped for a traditional Thai meal.

"In my 23 years of service, this is the best community relations project I have had the opportunity to participate in," said Master Chief Electronics Technician (SW) Randy Foust, Russell's command master chief. "I look forward to coming back and working with [U.S. Navy League Pattaya chapter president] Mr. Peter Thorand in the future."

The U.S. Navy League Pattaya chapter, especially its president Peter Thorand, was helpful in USS Russell's successful port call.

"Mr. Thorand is a great friend of ours and he always takes good care of Russell when she pulls into Pattaya," said Chief Culinary Specialist (SW) Hermelito Bacalla.

Russell, homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, is underway on a routine deployment in the [U.S.] 7th Fleet area of responsibility. The U.S. 7th Fleet is the largest of the forward-deployed U.S. fleets, with approximately 60-70 ships, 200-300 aircraft and 40,000 Sailors and Marines assigned at any given time.



Construction projects around Pearl Harbor

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i

Repair of Bravo dock three

In September 2007, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Hawai'i awarded a project to repair Bravo dock three to Nova Group Inc. for \$10.3 million. The job is to repair and upgrade the pier. The scope of work includes replacement of the timber piles with new concrete piles; repair of concrete spalls on the top deck, the under deck, and all structural support piles; repair of mooring devices; and to re-stripe the top deck.

Although awarded in September 2007, this project was expected to have a delayed start due to the 2008 Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercises held from

May - July 2008. Once RIMPAC was completed, NAVFAC and the contractor held a pre-construction meeting on Aug. 19 and the Nova Group Inc. began to mobilize their workforce on Sept. 8. Bravo dock three work is scheduled for completion in June 2010.

Areas affected by construction:

- Naval Station Pearl Harbor:
- Marine Barracks area's Russell Avenue by buildings 1572 and 397 will be affected by underground utility installation work for NEPMU-6's new building through Oct. 10
- The parking lot behind building 39A (used by building 159 (recycling) and 397 (BCO)) will be affected by tree trimming work from Sept. 29 - Oct. 3.

USS Nebraska Sailor killed in apparent accident aboard sub

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

Machinist's Mate 3rd Class (SS) Michael A. Gentile of Fairfield, Maine, attached to the USS Nebraska (Blue Crew), was killed Sept. 20 in an apparent accident on board the submarine.

Gentile, 21, joined the Navy in July 2005. He had been assigned to Nebraska since Nov. 15, 2006. Gentile had previously served on USS Alaska (SSBN 732).



MM3 (SS) Michael A. Gentile

Our sincerest condolences and prayers continue to go out to the family and friends of Petty Officer Gentile. Memorial service plans are pending.

Due to the ongoing nature of the investigation, no further details of the incident are available at this time.

Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific opens two new trainers

Story and photo by MCI (SW) Cynthia Clark

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

Rear Adm. Douglas McAneny, commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, formally opened two new training facilities at Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific, Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 18.

"This ribbon cutting makes a strong statement to the Navy's commitment to providing realistic training to our submarine crews," said McAneny. "This signals a new beginning here at Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific as we endeavor to provide our ... submarines with realistic training enroute to deployed operations in the Western Pacific."

Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific broke ground on the new, high tech submarine multi-mission team trainer (SMMTT) and Virginia-class ship control operator trainer (VSCOT) in March 2006 and April 2007, respectively. The training center removed their 28-year-old trainer and installed the new fire control and sonar systems with the supporting training emulation software.

These new, high-tech trainers will be vital to submarine training in Pearl Harbor. According to Lt. Cmdr. Richard Webb, executive officer of Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific, the



Rear Adm. Douglas McAneny is shown the new features of the Virginia-class ship control operator trainer by Chief Electronics Technician Scott Grier after a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the two new high-tech trainers at Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific, Naval Station Pearl Harbor Hawai'i on Sept. 18. These two trainers, the submarine multi-mission team trainer and Virginia-class ship control operator and team trainer, will provide state-of-the-art training for today's Pacific submariners.

trainers are critical to developing a submarine crew's forward deployed skills and the multiple mission assignment's of today's submarine force.

The SMMTT replicates an unlimited number of operating environments found with an underway submarine including sonar, combat control and navigation with a physics-based synthetic environment, equivalent to 480 desktop personal computers. This trainer allows the submarine team to practice vital underway scenarios and missions such as high fidelity underwater acoustic data, periscope simulation, torpedo and Tomahawk Cruise Missile models and simulations, and

electronic warfare emulations.

The VSCOT's new motion platform provides the most extensive and accurate submarine simulations available. This new trainer will simulate the entire range of Virginia-class submarine scenarios including vertical ascents and descents, maneuvering while submerged and making surfacing and submerging transitions.

"These trainers will benefit the fleet by developing team skills with equipment configurations just like they have on the boat," said Webb. "They allow (crews) to operate in littoral waters and to train their teams with the tools they need to be successful."

USNS Carl Brashear christened

MC3 Damien Horvath

Fleet Public Affairs Center, Pacific

USNS Carl Brashear (T-AKE 7), which will be the newest ship in the U.S. Navy's Lewis and Clark-class of dry cargo/ammunition ships owned and operated by Military Sealift Command when delivered, was christened and launched Sept. 18 at the General Dynamics NASSCO shipyard in San Diego.

The ship is named in honor of Master Chief Petty Officer Carl Brashear, the first African-American to qualify and serve as a master diver in the Navy.

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead attended the ceremony and addressed the importance of the ship's name.

"The naming of a ship is a very significant event. The Navy has practiced naming and christening for 211 years," said Roughead. "The USNS Carl Brashear embodies the spirit and character of this remarkable individual. This is a statement of our beliefs and an affirmation of our values and those of Carl Brashear. I could not be more pleased to have his spirit in this ship."

The keynote speaker of the christening ceremony was Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Joe Campa Jr. MCPON spoke about the American spirit epitomized by Carl Brashear and how his perseverance, devotion to the Navy and passion for diving serve as examples for every American.

"Carl Brashear's legacy may have been developed through his time in the Navy," said Campa. "But his story belongs to many more than just those of us who wear the uniform."

"His story is one of the American spirit, nurtured on a farm in Kentucky – and one that will live forever on the deckplates of this ship and in the heart of every Sailor. The character of our Navy changed the day Carl Brashear decided nothing was going to stop him from pursuing his dreams."

Campa, the Navy's 11th MCPON, told an audience that included several active and retired Navy divers, actor Robert De Niro and Sailors from all over the San Diego area, that when he meets Navy personnel around the world, he is constantly reminded that Brashear's spirit lives in each of them.

"I believe their spirit is a reflection of our Navy as a whole and when I look into

the eyes of those young Sailors, I see Carl's legacy staring back," said Campa.

Lauren Brashear, the master chief's eldest granddaughter, serves as the ship's sponsor. Campa told her and the rest of the Brashear family that, "Carl's honor is also yours. Just as you share his name, you share the immense respect of the entire United States Navy."

Brashear's story was the subject of the 2000 movie "Men of Honor" starring Cuba Gooding Jr. and Robert De Niro.

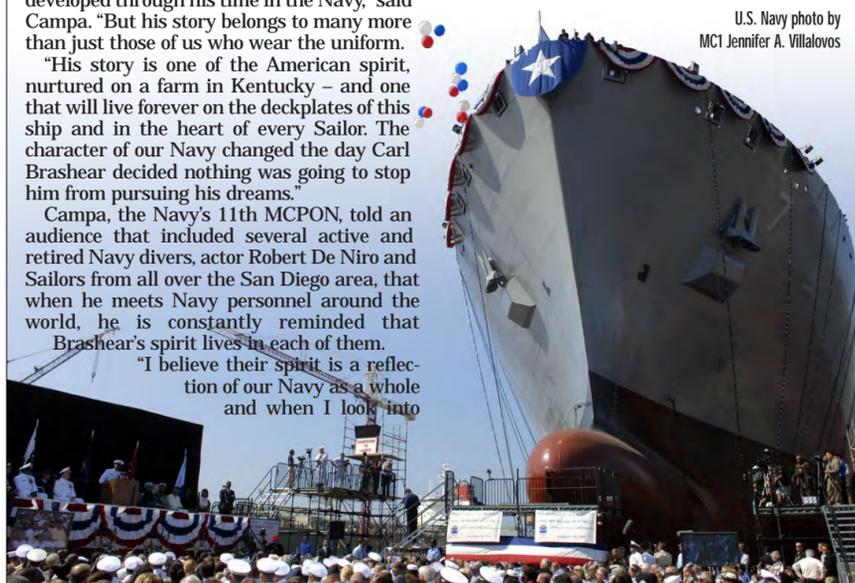
"I'm awestruck," said De Niro. "To have witnessed this launching and be even indirectly connected to this story of perseverance and selfless service is an amazing feeling. I am truly honored to be here."

The 689-foot USNS Carl Brashear is the seventh ship of the Lewis and Clark-class of dry cargo/ammunition ships for the Navy's Military Sealift Command. NASSCO began constructing the ship in May 2007 and is scheduled to deliver it to the Navy in the second quarter of 2009. When the Carl Brashear joins the fleet, its primary mission will be to deliver food, ammunition, fuel and other provisions to combat ships at sea.

For the entire text of MCPON Campa's remarks, visit <http://www.navy.mil/navydata/leadership/ldrDisplay.asp?m=346>.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Joe R. Campa Jr. addresses the crowd at the christening ceremony for USNS Carl Brashear (T-AKE 7) held at General Dynamics NASSCO.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jennifer A. Villalovos



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Joshua Valcarcel

Adm. Robert Willard, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, and his wife, Donna Willard, give a command coin to a patient during a visit aboard the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19). Mercy served a four-month deployment supporting Pacific Partnership to assist the governments of participating nations with medical, dental and civic assistance programs.

Pacific Fleet commander launches blog, recaps PP08

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, kicked off the second year of the Rat-Pac Report on Sept. 17 with a double podcast that seeks feedback on the issues discussed in the past 52 weeks and highlights the completion of Pacific Partnership 2008.

"My interest is in ensuring that the subject matter that we discuss, and the audience to whom we discuss it, meets the needs of our fleet," Adm. Robert F. Willard said. "And I'm very interested in ensuring that the subjects of the next year's podcasts meet your needs."

To provide a mechanism for feedback for the podcasts,

Willard launched a blog last week that will open discussion on topics already broadcast and on topics the audience selects for upcoming programs.

"As a means of trying to obtain feedback from you on whether you like the podcast, whether you don't, what subject matter you'd prefer to be covered, we're going to form a blog that will give you an opportunity to provide that feedback," he said.

For easy access to the U.S. Pacific Fleet commander's podcast, blog, biography and other information, visit www.cpf.navy.mil and click on "Admiral's Corner."

Following the discussion on the podcast anniversary, Willard recapped the third

consecutive Pacific Partnership humanitarian mission, emphasizing the success of partnership building with non-government organizations, partner nations and host nations.

"I think the success of this transcended even the successes of the previous years," Willard said. "In some ways because we're learning how to conduct humanitarian assistance better than we have in the past, we're in better association with the non-government organizations that participated."

"I was exceedingly pleased with Pacific Partnership this year. ... So, for all you that had anything to do with Pacific Partnership this year, congratulations on a great success."

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Hawaii Navy News

Agencies work behind scenes to bring home missing troops

Story and photo by Fred W. Baker III

American Forces Press Service

Since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have begun, thousands of American Soldiers have been welcomed home with elaborate parades, gymnasiums packed with tearful spouses and children, and commanders proclaiming from podiums great deeds done in battle.

Still others have had more tragic homecomings, instead returning in flag-draped coffins to grieving spouses and families; their ceremonies replaced with memorials held quietly in serene cemeteries across the country.

But 88,000 service members from wars past are buried on foreign shores and at sea, service members whose mothers and fathers, husbands, wives and children have had neither the pleasure nor the closure of any homecoming.

Quietly, behind the scenes of the current conflicts, hundreds of military troops and civilians have gone about the business of bringing them home, one by one.

"We're probably the first nation since the Roman Empire to have Soldiers in so many different places in the world," said Charles A. Ray, deputy assistant secretary of defense for prisoner of war and missing personnel affairs and a former U.S. ambassador to Cambodia.

Ray's office is charged with developing the policy and overseeing the efforts of the nearly 600 men and women in a handful of agencies across the country who work to research, recover and identify those who still are listed as missing from past wars.

Navy Rear Adm. Donna L. Crisp, who commands the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, or JPAC, in Hawai'i, called recent negotiations groundbreaking.

Crisp is working with the government of India to send recovery teams there, hopeful it will happen next year. And talks with China that were interrupted by the Olympics, she added, are going well to have recovery teams return there after five years.

"This mission, because it is so unique and so humanitarian, is accepted by nations for what we are doing," Crisp said. "Every nation that I have worked with has been very open and is willing to assist us."

The command's headquarters is based in the U.S. Pacific Command because that is where most of the service members are missing and where nearly 80 percent of the organization's efforts are concentrated. Recovery teams have worked in Laos for more than 25 years and in Vietnam for 20. Teams regularly are in Cambodia and are close to exhausting all leads there, Ray said.

Crisp recently met with South Korean officials to begin a mutual effort to look for each other's lost service members there. South Korea has 130,000 Soldiers missing from the Korean War. The two agencies are exchanging scientists and information to aid the search.

No other country invests as heavily in service member recovery efforts as the United States, Ray and Crisp agreed. This has propelled DoD [Department of Defense] recovery technologies to the forefront internationally, leaving many countries eager to learn from their work.

On any given day, investigative and recovery teams are deployed in some of the most remote regions around the world. Their work takes the teams deep into jungles and to mountain tops. They work with local people for up to two months at a time taking on inhospitable living conditions, rough weather, poisonous snakes and insects and unexploded ordnance. Nine Americans have died in those missions.



Navy Rear Adm. Donna L. Crisp, who commands the JPAC, talks about emerging technologies that are boosting efforts to recover and identify missing servicemembers.

"Nothing replaces digging," Crisp said. "We haven't found any magic to replace good old American know-how and hard work."

One of DoD's biggest challenges in recovering missing service members is the fact that it is fighting the clock in many of the recoveries.

Nearly 78,000 still are missing from World War II and JPAC's teams are working possible crash and burial sites that are more than 60 years old. Remains continue to deteriorate. Fields have grown over. Eyewitnesses and immediate family members have moved or died.

The JPAC lab identifies about two Americans per week and each case can take years to complete. Historians there work on as many as 800 cases at a time, piecing information together like a puzzle.

To date, the JPAC has identified nearly 1,500 formerly missing service members. They have recovered 913 from the Vietnam War, 107 from the Korean War, 17 from the Cold War, 456 from World War II and four from World War I.

But for all of the DoD's

efforts, the process is still painstakingly slow for those waiting for an identification of a missing family member, Crisp said.

"It is never as fast as it can be. Because if it is your husband or brother, you want to know immediately," Crisp said. "It's never fast enough. It's not fast enough for us, and it's not fast enough for the families."

Even second- or third-generation family members feel the impact of a missing service member, Ray said.

"As they get older, sometimes the emotion gets stronger, because they are facing leaving the world with unfinished business," he said.

While the DNA rarely is the singular piece of evidence to identify a service member, when combined with other evidence, it can be the one piece that puts the puzzle together, Crisp said.

"The most frustrating part is to have gone through all of this and then get to the point where you can't find the one piece of information that lets you identify the hero," Crisp said.

Sailors paying bills even in lean times

Story and photo by MC2 (AW) LaTunya Howard

Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

Navy Personnel Command released the results of the 2008 Navy Financial Health Quick Poll on Sept. 24.

The poll was directed by the Secretary of the Navy and administered by Navy Personnel Research, Studies and Technology online on May 13-27. Data was compiled from 3,761 Navy personnel who responded.

The objective of the quick poll was to measure the level of financial stress recent economic changes, e.g., increased gas prices, insurance rates and higher housing costs are having on Sailors Navy-wide. The areas of focus included overall financial comfort, living expenses, and how permanent change of station moves impact Sailors financially.

Eleven percent of enlisted personnel describe their financial condition as "keeping my head above water" or "in over my head." This is slightly lower than the 15 percent responding in the 2006 Quality of Life Survey. The top financial problems for Sailors this past year related to housing costs, increased utilities expenses, insurance costs, property taxes, mortgage or rent.

Of those polled, 22 percent of enlisted and 43 percent of officers are home owners, most of whom have fixed-rate loans. A small percentage of Sailors have adjustable or interest-only loans.

The quick poll also inquired about a Sailor's ability to save. Sixty-four percent of enlisted and 82 percent of officers who participated in the poll report contributing to some type of savings account. Fifty-seven percent of enlisted personnel and 58 percent of officers polled contribute to the Thrift Savings Program.

Most Sailors agreed that



they are able to pay the bills and meet their financial obligations.

Financial health is important in the Navy because poor finances can impact readiness.

Financial problems can contribute to loss of security clearance, loss of job assignment, inability to pass overseas screening or other special duty screenings, increase in alcohol consumption, increase in domestic violence, increase in stress causing negative effects on health and could result in an unaccompanied tour.

The top four solutions Sailors recommended to combat financial stress were: subsidize transportation cost, stabilize work schedule for second job, offer spouse employment opportunities, and make child-care readily available and more affordable.

Sailors experiencing financial stress should consult their chain of command or contact the Fleet and Family Service Center.

Navy Personnel Command's Web site offers tips promoting

financial fitness.

The Navy regularly surveys Sailors and their families. Some of the initiatives the Navy and Department of Defense DoD have taken that were influenced by the results of past surveys:

- Largest pay increase in the past 10 years
- Raising the housing allowance to 100 percent coverage
- Design changes in ship-board berthing compartments
- Increased funding for needed parts and supplies
- Expanded career sea pay to include junior officers and junior enlisted
- Changes in detailing to focus on Sailors' career needs and desires
- Determining the correct level of SRBs and continuation pay in various communities/ratings, and
- Increased information on career development in the Navy provided to Sailors, career counselors, supervisors and families