

Sultan of Brunei visits Pearl Harbor

(Left to right): Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet; Cmdr. Jeff Weston, commanding officer of USS Russell (DDG 59); and Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith, commander of Navy Region Hawai'i, greet his majesty Bolkiah Hassanal, Sultan of Brunei, on the quarterdeck of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) during a visit Nov. 24. Hassanal is visiting various military installations around Hawai'i to enhance mutual interest in maritime security and stability and build upon mutual trust and understanding. The 29th Sultan of Brunei is heir to an unbroken 600-year-old Muslim dynasty. At its height, Brunei's sultans controlled an empire that stretched to the southern Philippines. Internal strife and piracy drove predecessors to seek British protection in 1888. Hassanal became sultan in 1967 and 17 years later, Brunei gained independence. Brunei—and the sultan—benefit from extensive petroleum and natural gas fields. Known for a lavish lifestyle, his personal wealth is estimated to be worth \$20 billion. His palace is said to have 1,788 rooms; has also built mosques with touches in gold and diamonds. Brunei is a country nestled on the northern shores of the island of Borneo.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Hight

Military spouses honored by Hawai'i Legislature, Navy League

Story and photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

Spouses of military personnel attached to commands in the Hawai'i region were recognized as the 2008 Hawai'i Outstanding Military Spouses by the state of Hawai'i and the Honolulu Council Navy League during

ceremonies Nov. 21 and 22.

On Nov. 21, the spouses received certificates from the Hawai'i State Legislature and Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann at Honolulu City Hall during an award ceremony. The following day, the spouses each received a \$1,000 check from the Honolulu Council Navy League on Military Appreciation Night at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu.

Recipients of this year's awards have functioned as the volunteer communication and organizational focal point for units that were or still are deployed in the theater of hostile operations during the calendar year of 2008.

"It means a lot to me to be recognized for all my hard work and be recognized by

See SPOUSES, A-10



Shilo Phelchat, U.S. Navy recipient of the 2008 Hawai'i Outstanding Military Spouse Award, receives an award of recognition from Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann during a ceremony at Honolulu City Hall on Nov. 21. Recipients of this year's awards have functioned as the volunteer communication and organizational focal point for units that were or still are deployed in the theater of hostile operations during the calendar year 2008.



Hawai'i-based service members salute the colors during the national anthem at Aloha Stadium. The Honolulu community honored the five Wounded Warriors during pre-game and halftime ceremonies at the University of Hawai'i vs. University of Idaho college football game on Nov. 22.

Warrior fans pay tribute to Navy 'Wounded Warriors'

Story and photo by MC2 Michael Hight

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Two Navy hospital corpsmen were honored by the Honolulu community Nov. 22 during the University of Hawai'i (UH) football game at Aloha Stadium.

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Cesar Munoz from Branch Medical Clinic, Pearl Harbor and Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Devin Kelly from Wounded Warrior Company, Kaneohe Bay participated in pre-game and halftime festivities during the Saturday night matchup between the UH Warriors and University of Idaho Vandals.

"It's a great opportunity to be out here and represent the Navy and the military as a whole," said Munoz, who was injured in an

improvised explosive device (IED) blast while supporting Afghan Regional Security Forces. "It is an honor to see the local community reach out to the military."

Munoz deployed as a Navy field medical corpsman on an individual augmentee mission from September 2007 to October 2008. He sustained shrapnel injuries to both his legs and his head from the blast, but still managed to provide medical care to five other seriously wounded personnel. For his service in action, Munoz was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

Munoz and Kelly joined three other Hawai'i-based 'wounded warriors' mid-field for halftime festivities. As their names were announced, Adm. Timothy Keating, commander, U.S. Pacific Command, presented

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Pearl Harbor Navy College honors Hawai'i Sailor college graduates See page A-2



USS Hopper welcomes home IA Sailor See page A-4



Sailors, students band together to 'say no to drugs' See page A-4



Single Sailor 12 Days of Christmas See page B-1

Pearl Harbor Navy College honors Hawai'i Sailor college graduates

Story and photo by
MC2 Michael A. Lantron

Navy Region Hawai'i Public Affairs

More than 70 Sailors and Coast Guardsmen were recognized during the 2008 Military Recognition Ceremony held at the Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor Chapel on Nov. 20.

The annual ceremony, sponsored by the NAVSTA Pearl Harbor Navy College Office, was held to honor those who earned their college degree or completed the United States Military Apprenticeship Program journeyman certificate in the past year.

"The graduates here have worked hard to complete their degree while serving on active duty," said Susan Dezzani, project officer for the event. "Many cannot attend their own college's ceremony so we come here to recognize them for their accomplishments."

The honorees for the ceremony ranged in rank from junior petty officers to command master chiefs and commissioned officers. "This is one of the best experiences of my life," said Storekeeper 2nd Class (SW) Sammy Nganga, assigned to Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawai'i. "I want to encourage everyone to take some courses because this is possible for everyone in the Navy."

"This degree is a very big thing; this helped me get to being a chief," said Chief Culinary Specialist (SW)



Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (SW) Carolina Rodriguez-Hlynosky, assigned to Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific, receives a certificate of recognition from Capt. (Sel.) Larry Hill, executive officer of Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor, during the 2008 Military Recognition Ceremony held at the NAVSTA Pearl Harbor Chapel on Nov. 20.

Charles Dumadag, assigned to NAVSTA Pearl Harbor. "Having the degree is worth all the time, hard work and sacrifice spent studying for the courses."

The event's guest speaker, Capt. (Sel.) Larry Hill, executive officer of NAVSTA PH, spoke about how few people achieve a degree and the dedication it takes to accomplish this goal.

"Only about 30 percent of the general public have at

least an associate's degree," said Hill. "The time each graduate has spent has been time well-spent because you all are part of an elite group and should be very proud of yourself for your accomplishment."

During the past year, 2,196 Sailors have taken classes with tuition assistance through the NAVSTA Pearl Harbor Navy College Office, totaling more than \$3 million in saved cost to Sailors.

Naval Reserve U.S. Pacific Command Detachment 120 holds change of command ceremony

Lt. Ryan Ng

Naval Reserve U.S. Pacific Command Detachment 120

Capt. William A. Anderson, Jr. relieved Capt. Sandra E. Adams as commanding officer of Naval Reserve U.S. Pacific Command Detachment 120 (NR USPACOM DET 120) during a change of command ceremony held Nov. 8 at Camp Smith.

Adams assumed command of the unit in January 2007. As NR USPACOM DET 120 commanding officer, Adams oversaw a team of 60 reserve personnel who provided 4,995 man days of support to USPACOM across 10 joint directorates. She also successfully managed the administrative and medical reserve requirements of the unit.

"My vision has been to maximize operational support to USPACOM, while remaining ready for mobilization," said Adams. "The Sailors of this unit have executed."

As Adams leaves USPACOM following more than eight years of command experience at various units, she thanked the Sailors she commanded during her tour. "You have worked countless more hours than for what you are paid. I thank you for that dedication and leadership," said Adams.

Maj. Gen. Stephen Tom, chief of staff of USPACOM, was the guest speaker at the ceremony. The U.S. Marine Corps Pacific band members were also in attendance and performed at the ceremony.



U.S. Navy photo by Cmdr. Pete Madrigal

Capt. William Anderson Jr. (left) and Capt. Sandra Adams (right) cut the cake during a reception following the change of command ceremony. Anderson relieved Adams as commanding officer of Naval Reserve U.S. Pacific Command Detachment 120 onboard Camp H.M. Smith on Nov. 8.

During the ceremony, Tom presented Adams with the Defense Meritorious Service Medal for non-combat meritorious achievement or service.

Adams will be reporting to join U.S. Joint Forces Command as the senior Navy directorate liaison for J3.

After assuming command, Anderson discussed his vision and goals for the unit.

"Our success will be measured by our collective ability to grow further in our contributions to USPACOM and demonstrate the value of such a closely aligned reserve-active component team," said Anderson. "Some of the most devoted

Americans have chosen to serve their country in the Navy reserve."

Anderson previously served as deputy commander for Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 9. Prior, he was the operations and plans officer for Naval Coastal Warfare Squadron 33.

As commanding officer of NR USPACOM DET 120, Anderson will oversee a unit that provides year round operational support to USPACOM directorates. Such support includes operations, intelligence, joint planning, exercise and logistics support to the USPACOM staff onboard Marine Corps Base Camp H.M. Smith.

Wounded warriors

Continued from A-1

each 'wounded warrior' with a plaque from the University of Hawai'i and a local cable company.

"It was amazing to be out there in front of all the fans," said Kelly. "Today made me feel really appreciated for serving in the military."

Kelly was deployed as a Navy field medical corpsman supporting the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq. While conducting combat operations with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, Kelly was wounded by an IED in the Al Anbar Province. For his actions, Kelly was awarded a Purple Heart.

The crowd honored the 'wounded warriors' with a standing ovation as they walked off the field.

"The support the state of Hawai'i has shown these service members today is an inspiration for all," said Keating. "It shows that all of us here in Hawai'i are one big family."

In his Nov. 12 Rat-Pac Report podcast, Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, echoed Keating's tribute to the nation's 'wounded warriors.'

"We all owe a great debt to our young service members who have been injured in this war and God bless them, wish them a complete and full recovery to the extent they can," Willard said. "I would say to all 'wounded warriors' we owe you not only our thanks, but certainly our support and our continued association to see that you recover your life as much as possible."

November is Wounded Warrior Care Month and the Department of Navy has created a care coordination system working with federal and non-federal agencies and members of the health care team to improve the delivery of services to wounded, ill and injured service members and their families.

For more information and education about the Navy's efforts in Warrior Care, visit www.navy.mil/navydata/woundedwarrior.html.

Hawai'i Navy News Online www.cniday.mil/hawii

Hawaii Navy News Editorial

Shoppers are advised to take precautions

Karen S. Spangler

Editor

It's the holiday shopping season – and today, the day after Thanksgiving, is not only the busiest shopping day of the year, but it ushers in a busy holiday shopping season.

As the Navy Exchange at Pearl Harbor plans for "Black Friday," a day-long sales extravaganza, there are security precautions that shoppers should heed.

Security officials and police advise shoppers not to leave their parcels or other possessions in their cars, unsecured or in plain view. Items that are left unsecured and where they are easily visible are not only tempting to thieves, but also provide criminals with easier opportunities.

Don't leave your \$2,000 laptop in plain sight on the front seat of your car, for example. If it's in plain sight, it's valuable and it's easy to carry, it might not be there when you return to your car.

Another popular practice frequently used by shop-



Photo illustration

pers, especially during the holiday shopping season, is to lock packages in the trunk of the car, then leave the car to continue shopping. However, this could easily become a window of opportunity for an observant thief. Thieves will

observe shopping center parking lots and wait for unsuspecting shoppers to put their packages in their vehicle's trunk. Thinking that their packages are safe, the shoppers leave and continue shopping. After the shopper leaves

his vehicle, the thieves will open the trunk, steal the packages and make their getaway – all in about 30 seconds.

Here are some additional safety pointers to help protect consumers as they head out to the NEX and

the shopping malls:

- Lock your car doors.
- Roll up your windows and secure your car as much as possible.
- Secure your vehicle, even if you're only going to be away for a few seconds.
- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member. Be sure to park in a well-lighted area.
- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- Always carry your driver license or identification card along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your

credit card is lost, stolen or misused.

- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- Always keep your keys in your hand when you approach your car. Avoid having to stop and fumble in your purse to find your keys.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, 'con-artists' may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

If you see anything suspicious, call 911. When in doubt, call a policeman or security official.

Pacific Fleet commander salutes Navy's medical community

MC2 Patrick C. Murray

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

In his latest edition of the "Rat-Pac Report" podcast, posted Nov. 19, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Adm. Robert F. Willard salutes the men and women of Navy Medicine.

"We've achieved remarkable advances in Navy Medicine, in military medicine across the board," said Willard. "Our corpsmen are serving forward and are a community that has given a great deal of themselves in support of the Marine Corps and just in general terms in support of the ongoing war fight. And, our hospital facilities have been busier than ever, as is true anytime that we're at war."

In the previous week's Rat-pac Report, which focused on caring for wounded warriors, Willard talked about his visit to Bethesda Naval Hospital where he met with patients who were wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also

spoke about his visit to the American Heroes event in Monterey, Calif.

"We all owe a great debt to our young service members who have been injured in this war and God bless them, wish them a complete and full recovery to the extent they can. I would comment that in the paralympics in Beijing, we had several of our wounded warriors participating at a world-class athletic level, having recovered sufficiently from their wounds and now engaged in as normal a life as they possibly can," said Willard.

In saluting the health-care professionals of Navy Medicine in this week's podcast, Willard acknowledged their work in helping Sailors, Marines and their families.

"To all of our doctors, nurses, corpsmen, administrators and researchers involved in Navy Medicine, I salute you wherever you serve," Willard said.

Both Rat-pac Report podcast are available for download on the Pacific Fleet Web site www.cpf.navy.mil.

Sailors make Christmas happy for needy children



Collection of Rear Adm. B.F. Hutchison, courtesy of Mrs. Worth Sprunt, 1974. U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph

A Christmas party for disadvantaged children is held on board the battleship USS California (BB 44) by her crew at San Pedro, Calif. on Dec. 1921.



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Sailors, students band together to 'say no to drugs'

MC2 Michael Hight

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Sailors from Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet staff celebrated Kalihi Elementary School's 4th Annual Red Ribbon Week with students and faculty Nov. 19 in Honolulu.

Red Ribbon Week is a week-long event, first organized in 1988 by the National Family Partnership, to educate children about the effects of drugs and alcohol abuse.

The red ribbon was adopted as a symbol for the movement in honor of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, a federal agent with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration who was kidnapped and killed in Mexico City while investigating drug traffickers in 1985.

"Band Together Against Drugs" was the theme for the day and included a performance by the U.S. Pacific Fleet Dixieland Band in the school's cafeteria. Musician 1st Class David Gentkowski, a saxophonist from Jacksonville, Fla., said he enjoyed playing for the students.

"This is one of the most rewarding shows that we do throughout the year," said Gentkowski. "It's very inspiring to see the appreciation on the faces of the kids and to know that we are helping to give back to the local community."

Following the performance, Natalie Mun-Takata, principal of Kalihi Elementary School, presented each band member with a school T-shirt.

"The Sailors have been instrumental in supporting



U.S. Navy Photo by MC2 Michael Hight

Sailors from the U.S. Pacific Fleet Dixieland Band perform for students and faculty during Kalihi Elementary School's 4th Annual Red Ribbon Week in Honolulu on Nov. 19. Red Ribbon Week is a week-long event where students all over the United States pledge to live a healthy, drug-free and alcohol-free lifestyle. Pacific Fleet has worked with Kalihi Elementary School as part of the national Adopt-a-School program since 2005.

the Red Ribbon Week program," said Mun-Takata. "The time and effort our Navy partners have given to the students is so important to the growth of the children's education."

Pacific Fleet selected Kalihi Elementary School as part of the Adopt-a-School program in 2005. As part of the program, Sailors mentor and tutor the students and

participate in events such as Red Ribbon Week.

"I think the show went really well; the students are always excited to see the band," said Cmdr. Ed White, commanding officer for enlisted personnel, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. "It is great to know that, through events such as this, we can make a difference in the students' lives."

USS Hopper welcomes home IA Sailor

Ensign Katherine Hobbs

USS Hopper (DDG 70)

Veteran's Day had special meaning on USS Hopper (DDG 70) this year as the crew welcomed home one of their own from a one-year individual augmentee (IA) tour to Iraq.

Seaman Luke Luchini left Hopper last October to serve on an IA assignment to Iraq. He left the ship just before she left on a routine deployment to U.S. 5th Fleet and U.S. 7th Fleet operating areas. The ship gave him an honorary farewell, ringing two bells to signify the importance of his deployment as he departed to serve the Navy in the Middle East.

After three months of preparation and training, Luccini arrived in Iraq on Jan. 26. Upon arrival, Luchini was involved in convoy operations traveling through and around Ramadi, Fallujah and Um-Qasr. These convoys provided supplies to the Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion (NPDB) command posts and checkpoints.

In the nine months Luccini spent in Iraq, his job changed based on the needs of the battalion. He shifted from convey operations to guard duty supporting a maximum security detainee holding unit (MSDHU). He and the rest of the guard force were in charge of feeding, escorting and providing religious necessities to all detainees, as well as maintaining the interior security of the unit.

Luchini returned to Pearl Harbor from his year-long tour in Iraq on Veterans' Day. He was greeted at the airport by his chain of command, from commanding officer to leading chief petty officer, who were



Seaman Luke Luchini shakes hands with Hopper Sailors as he is welcomed home from an Individual Augmentee assignment to Iraq on Nov. 12.

eagerly awaiting his arrival.

"It was great to see his face when he first caught sight of us," said Chief Boatswain's Mate James Maples, Luchini's leading CPO. "You could tell it meant a lot to him to see his Hopper family there to welcome him home."

Luchini even benefited from the kindness of one passenger on his return flight to Hawai'i. The mother of an OIF veteran offered her seat in first class to Luchini as a small token of her gratitude for his service.

The Hopper crew welcomed Luchini back onboard Amazing Grace the following day, Nov. 12. Luchini, dressed in desert utilities, walked across the brow into the sea of shipmates awaiting his arrival. The entire crew had gathered topside to welcome him home with handshakes, high fives and cheers.

"It's been a long time," said Luchini as he shook hands with the entire

receiving line. "It feels really great to be back." As a lei was placed around his neck, he was able to soak up the aloha spirit once again.

The fanfare from the crew showcased the pride the Hopper Sailors had for Luchini. "This young man has just completed a difficult task in support of our current war," said Cmdr. Timothy Kott, Hopper commanding officer. "He has made his family, both at home and in Hopper, very proud."

There could not have been a more fitting time for a devoted Sailor to return from his duty in Iraq. Veterans' Day is a time to remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for their country. "The servicemen and women who have been to Iraq and other war torn areas around the world and lost their lives...they deserve all of the respect today," said Luchini.

Luchini is originally from Lafayette, Calif. He serves in deck division on Hopper.

Pearl Harbor Highlights

U.S. Army Private 1st Class Scott Edge prepares Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Freeland, weapons officer from Commander, Submarine Squadron Three, for his blood donation during the Naval Submarine Support Command (NSSC) blood drive on Nov. 21. Hospital Corpsman Senior Chief (SS) Michael Peck, NSSC submarine medical technician and coordinator of the event, stressed the value of donating blood, especially here on Oahu. "It's very important to donate to the Tripler Army Medical Center Blood Bank, as some of it is utilized for our troops overseas and most of the donated blood is used for our service members and their families right here on island."

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Cynthia Clark



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Hight

Musician 2nd Class Robbie Taylor, a trumpet player with Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Dixieland Band, signs autographs for Kalihi Elementary School students following a performance for the school's 4th Annual Red Ribbon Week in Honolulu on Nov. 19. Red Ribbon Week is a week-long event where students all over the United States pledge to live a healthy, drug-free and alcohol-free lifestyle. Pacific Fleet has worked with Kalihi Elementary School as part of the national Adopt-a-School program since 2005.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Hight

Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, presents a command coin to Storekeeper 3rd Class Joshua C. Farmer from Mishawaka, Indiana, following a distinguished visitor's tour aboard the Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) by the Sultan of Brunei, his majesty Bolkiah Hassanal, on Nov. 24. Hassanal is visiting various military installations around Hawai'i to enhance mutual interest in maritime security and stability and build upon mutual trust and understanding.



Engineman 2nd Class Alfonzo Gomez, left, and Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Francisco Hernden, both assigned to the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Kauai, Hawai'i, talk about their Navy jobs during the Kekaha Elementary School Career Day on Nov. 19.

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



Ewa Elementary School fifth grade students celebrate their graduation from the Star Base Atlantis (SBA) outreach program, Nov. 24 by firing rockets they constructed as part of the curriculum from the grounds outside a naval training installation on Ford Island. SBA serves local community youth by offering fifth grade students and their teachers an opportunity to participate in a variety of learning experiences designed to increase knowledge and interest in science, technology engineering and math. Capt. Jim Ransom, Commander, Submarine Forces Pacific chief of staff, was the featured speaker at the ceremony.

U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Cmdr. Dave Benham

Chung-Hoon completes pre-deployment work-ups

Lt. j.g. Will Sauer

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93)
Public Affairs

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) returned to Pearl Harbor on Nov. 21 following two months in the southern California operating area.

Chung-Hoon's mission during that timeframe was to perform duties as the air defense commander for the USS Boxer Expeditionary Strike Group (BOXESG). In addition to leading the air defense efforts, Chung-Hoon performed in a wide range of mission areas to include maritime intercept operations, Tomahawk Strike tasking, naval surface fire support in support of the Marines, and working in support of the USS John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group with their exercise requirements.

The end state for the two months of operations is an expeditionary strike group that is ready to deploy and proficient in executing all mission tasking.

Chung-Hoon was specifically commended for the performance of the visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team in six advanced training exercises that included detainee operations for high-value persons of interest. According to Ensign Mark Howell, VBSS team leader, "It was a tremendous learning experience. There were many challenges that were put out in front of us and I feel that we conquered them all."

Chung-Hoon also completed 20 naval surface fire support missions conducted on ranges located on San Clemente Island and involving calls for fire from actual



U.S. Navy photo

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) returned to Pearl Harbor on Nov. 21 following two months in the southern California operating area. Chung-Hoon's mission during that timeframe was to perform duties as the air defense commander for the USS Boxer Expeditionary Strike Group (BOXESG). The end state for the two months of operations is an expeditionary strike group that is ready to deploy and proficient in executing all mission tasking.

Marine spotters camped on the island. A combined total of 89 rounds were fired.

Other training events were designed to replicate real world conditions and adversaries ranging from air defense threats to enemy submarines. Chung-Hoon's primary role was defense of the high value unit, either USS Boxer (LHD-4) or USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), against an assortment of conventional threats that included aircraft, nuclear and diesel fast attack submarines, and surface combat-

ants. These "enemy" forces were represented by U.S., Canadian and other allied units, resulting in exciting and useful training opportunities for all players.

Chung-Hoon's crew was positively challenged to perform at a high level during the duration of the underway period and simultaneously completed an impressive range of training opportunities and requirements during the multi-ship operations. Thrilled to be home at Pearl Harbor again, Ensign Sarah Welsch stated it best: "I am

very glad that I had the opportunity to be aboard Chung-Hoon while it operated with the Boxer Escort Strike Group for workups. I feel that I have gained an incredible amount of technical and tactical knowledge. However, right now I am very happy to be able to see my family and friends in Hawai'i again."

Chung-Hoon is scheduled to leave for a six-month deployment in January 2009 as a member of the USS Boxer Expeditionary Strike Group.



BAE President Roger Kubischta and Capt. John Carroll, Port Royal commanding officer, stand on either side of this week's Craftsman of the Week, Pedro Rasay.

Drydocked ship recognizes hard working contractors

Story and photo by
Ensign Alicia Steger

USS Port Royal (CG 73)
Public Affairs Officer

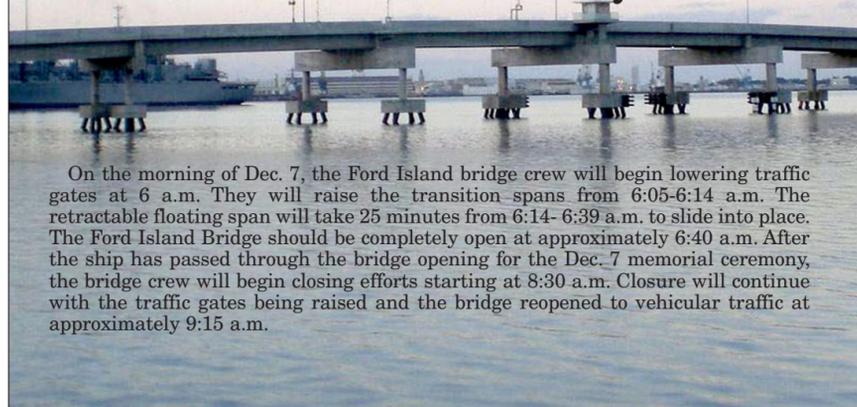
Drydock is a challenging period for any ship: Sailors retain ownership, but they must rely on the expertise of contractors to safely complete extensive work required to keep her battle-ready. It is a working relationship that demands dedication and professionalism from both sides.

In an effort to foster a strong working relationship between ship's force and contractors, USS Port Royal (CG-73) presented a "Craftsman of the Week" award. Capt. John B. Carroll, Port Royal's commanding officer, recognizes

a shipyard craftsman with a photo and certificate in the presence of BAE-Hawai'i president Roger Kubischta, senior officers from Port Royal, and senior government representatives at the weekly production meeting in the shipyard.

"Any step - no matter how seemingly small - a crew can take that engenders a team spirit between them and the contractor will only lead to huge dividends in the end," explained Lt. Cmdr. Jason Fox, Port Royal's dry dock selected restricted availability (DSRA) coordinator. Port Royal awarded craftsman of the Week to Pedro Rasay for his positive and energetic attitude in completing his repair duties.

Ford Island Bridge special closure for Dec. 7 ceremony



On the morning of Dec. 7, the Ford Island bridge crew will begin lowering traffic gates at 6 a.m. They will raise the transition spans from 6:05-6:14 a.m. The retractable floating span will take 25 minutes from 6:14-6:39 a.m. to slide into place. The Ford Island Bridge should be completely open at approximately 6:40 a.m. After the ship has passed through the bridge opening for the Dec. 7 memorial ceremony, the bridge crew will begin closing efforts starting at 8:30 a.m. Closure will continue with the traffic gates being raised and the bridge reopened to vehicular traffic at approximately 9:15 a.m.



U.S. Navy photo

Port Royal and Crommelin officers simulate a roasting of the Army mule while Port Royal commanding officer, Capt. John Carroll, says, "Hele' Oihana moku, make Kauga," which means "Go Navy, beat Army" in Hawaiian.

Port Royal and Crommelin officers show spirit for Navy football

Ensign Alicia Steger

*USS Port Royal (CG 73)
Public Affairs Officer*

Few sports competitions fuse spirit for a college team and spirit for a professional calling the way the Army/Navy football game does. The game itself may be between United States Military Academy and the United States Naval

Academy, but the rivalry extends to the entire Army and Navy.

Officers from USS Port Royal (CG-73) and USS Crommelin (FFG-37) are getting involved by filming a "spirit spot" which they hope will be selected to play in the Philadelphia Eagles' Lincoln Financial Stadium during the game. A spirit spot is a 30-second video with this simple message:

"Go Navy, Beat Army."

Lt. j.g. Brandon Carter (USNA 2006) of Port Royal and Ensign Ben Allen (USNA 2007) of Crommelin arranged to have a camera crew film the ships' officers roasting an Army mule at the Hale Koa Hotel Luau Garden on Nov. 19.

Amidst hula dancers and drummers, officers from the two ships cheered "Go Navy! Beat Army!" in both

English and Hawaiian. "We wanted to bring some Hawaiian flavor to the game and show that military members who are doing their jobs around the world are still inspired by a good football game," explained Carter. If this spirit spot is selected, it will air internationally during the CBS coverage of the Army/Navy football game on Dec. 6.

Military spouses contributions are recognized, appreciated

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the State of Hawai'i and Mayor Hannemann," said Shilo Phelchat, U.S. Navy recipient for the award.

Phelchat also added that the most important thing a spouse can do is to help others in their time of need.

"This is a very hard thing to do, but I do it because of others in the past before me who have helped others," said Phelchat. "For some spouses, dealing with a deployment is harder than for others. I just

do what I can to help everyone and just lead by example."

While presenting the certificates, Hannemann spoke on his happiness of having the spouses and the military as members of the Hawaiian community.

"This is just a small way to show our appreciation for the spouses," said Hannemann. "People like them help families and others who need support and we're happy they're part of our 'ohana.'"

Other Hawai'i leaders dis-

cussed what a dedicated spouse brings to the unit and to other families in the community.

"It's great to honor people who go that extra mile," said Don Morrison, Honolulu Council Navy League president. "It's people like you who hold families and their units together in times of need."

"Those in the military really appreciate you for helping hold families together," said Maj. Gen. Robert G. F. Lee, adjutant general, Hawai'i National Guard. "We can't do

our job well unless we know our home is secure. Your job is immensely tough and we appreciate all the extra effort you give."

Along with Phelchat, others honored during the festivities were Susan Panaro, Air Force; Lisa McCaffrey, Army; Cereto Bean, Coast Guard; Lancia Stewart, Marine Corps; Florrenda Adona-Duropan, Hawai'i Air Guard; Caroline Tumpap, Hawai'i Army Guard and Gayle Hammerstrom, Special Operations Command.

USS Key West awarded Navy Unit Commendation

The crew of fast-attack submarine USS Key West (SSN 722) was awarded a Navy Unit Commendation Medal (NUC) on Nov. 21, for their outstanding performance during a six-month deployment last year. "This crew is an excellent team that is prepared for the challenges ahead," said Cmdr. R. A. Koontz, Key West commanding officer.

