

Happy Holidays

“Navigator”

WHO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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Static F-86 display dedicated to Korean War ace

1st Lt. Robert Howard

Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

Pacific Air Forces and 15th Wing leaders dedicated a newly repainted static F-86E Sabre fighter aircraft to a former PACAF vice commander during a ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Dec. 8.

U.S. Air Force Gen. Gary North re-dedicated the aircraft, located on O'Malley Boulevard, to retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Winton W. "Bones" Marshall, a combat commander, Korean War ace and former PACAF vice commander.

"It is a tremendous pleasure for us to honor the courage, professionalism, airmanship and the achievements of Lt. Gen. 'Bones' Marshall by dedicating this F-86E Sabre jet to him, renaming it 'Mr. Bones V,'" North said.

"As we just marked the historic 70th anniversary of the Dec 7, 1941 attacks on Oahu, this is the perfect



Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Winton W. "Bones" Marshall, a combat commander, Korean War ace and former PACAF vice commander, and wife, Millie, who served in WWII as one of the original Women Airforce Service Pilots, pose for a photo in front of the newly repainted static F-86E Sabre fighter aircraft at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on Dec. 8.

moment to continue to honor our heritage and recognize the sacrifice and service of those who came before us. Lt. Gen. Marshall exemplifies this proud tradition. It's Airmen like him who made our Air Force the best in the world."

While assigned as the 335th Fighter Squadron commander at Langley Air Force Base, Va., Marshall deployed to Korea and became the fifth U.S. jet ace of the Korean War. He is credited with 6 1/2 enemy aircraft destroyed, seven probable aircraft destroyed and six aircraft damaged.

Marshall's career spanned 35 years and included assignments as Allied Air Forces Southern Europe chief of staff, Seventh Air Force vice commander and U.S. Readiness Command deputy commander in chief. He permanently resides in Beverly Hills, Calif. with his wife, Millie, who served in WWII as one of the original women pilots, the WASPS.

USS Tucson leaves for western Pacific deployment

Story and photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

Friends and families of the crew from USS Tucson (SSN 770) gathered at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to say goodbye as the Los Angeles-class submarine departed for a scheduled western Pacific deployment Dec. 14.

"The Tucson crew is excited to get to sea and deploy to support the theater commander's tasking," said Cmdr. James O'Harrar, Tucson commanding officer. "We look forward to being superb ambassadors as we visit our allies in the region and hope to strengthen the critical partnerships that our country has there."

This is Tucson's second western Pacific deployment since undergoing a 23-month depot modernization period at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Va. The modernization included upgrades in all electronic systems, a complete overhaul of all machinery systems



Chief Machinist's Mate Juan Garcia, assigned to the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770), spends time with his family on the submarine pier before Tucson departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Dec. 14 for a six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

and a full external refurbishing. During that time, USS Tucson conducted numerous sea trials and a port visit in San Diego before conducting an inter-fleet transfer back

to Naval Station Pearl Harbor in 2008.

"Tucson is in fantastic condition thanks to the combined work of the Pearl Harbor team," O'Harrar said.

"I appreciate the support of Submarine Squadron Seven, Naval Submarine Support Center and the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Fleet Maintenance Activity-Submarine."

Culinary Specialist Seaman Jacob Foreman, who joined the Navy on May 4 and recently reported to Tucson on Dec. 1, described his feelings about his first deployment as "excited and apprehensive."

"I believe that this being my first deployment will truly show me what the Navy really is about," Foreman said. "With the small amount of time I have been on board Tucson, I am a little overwhelmed on how much there is to learn, but I have confidence that my fellow shipmates will assist me in starting my submarine training and gaining the experience of a deployment. I am also excited about visiting foreign ports and seeing the world."

Tucson is the second ship of the U.S. Navy to bear the name of the Arizona city. It is the 59th Los Angeles-class attack submarine and the 20th of the improved Los Angeles-class attack submarine to be built. Twelve vertical launch missile tubes for Tomahawk cruise missiles provide Tucson with great offensive capability. Retractable bow planes give the ship increased maneuverability and under ice surfacing potential.

Sea Service Awards ceremony honors service members

Story and photo by MC3 Dustin W. Sisco

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Det. Hawaii

HONOLULU – Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen were honored at the Navy League of the United States Honolulu Council 51st annual Sea Service Awards ceremony and luncheon, sponsored by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) at the Ala Moana Hotel on Dec. 9.

The ceremony was held to recognize military men and women who have provided exemplary service and performance of duty. Officiating with the Navy League were Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander, Navy Region Hawaii, and Capt. Larry Hill, deputy commander, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.



Rear Adm. Frank Ponds (right), commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, shakes hands with a Sailor at the 51st annual Sea Services Awards ceremony at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu.

After the parading of colors and opening remarks from Mel Ing, the president of the Honolulu Council,

the service members were treated to a sandwich lunch buffet. Rear Adm. Charles Ray, com-

mander of the 14th Coast Guard District and keynote speaker of the event, spoke about the service members before the recipients received their awards.

"Two days ago, we gathered at Pearl Harbor in remembrance of the sacrifices and contributions of what has come to be known as the greatest generation," Ray said. "As I participated in those remembrance ceremonies, I could not help but reflect on the contributions of the current generation—the very best of whom we will honor here today—and how you will be remembered 70 years from now. I'm not sure the name that history will give you and your generation, but I sincerely believe that you will be honored for the incredible sacrifices, courage and dedication in duty that you have demonstrated over the past decade and that you continue to

demonstrate on a daily basis."

After Ray's speech, Bob McDermott, the master of ceremonies of the event, also gave a few words about his appreciation for the service and sacrifices of service members.

"It's amazing that all of you young people, who knew well that when you got into this thing, you were going to go to war somewhere, still decided to re-enlist and do your duty," McDermott said.

"Hopefully, it won't be for too many more years," McDermott added. "It is very comforting to know that you are all out there, so thank you."

After the keynote speaker gave his speech and the master of ceremonies finished his personal anecdotes, Ing, Ray, Hill and Ponds gave the awards to the 38 recipients of the Sea Service awards.



Nevada Sailor finds final resting place in Pearl Harbor waters
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Author writes book about historic friendship
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Many ways are available to celebrate the holidays safely
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Annual Cookie Caper event brings in more than 17,000 cookies
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USS North Carolina leaves for maiden western Pacific deployment
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Big-League Marlins pay visit to JBPHH
See page B-3

Nevada Sailor finds final resting place in Pearl Harbor waters

Story and photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii

An ash-scattering ceremony was held for a 91-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor on Dec. 8 at the site where USS Nevada (BB 36) ran aground during the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Boyd W. Wilson, who passed away Nov. 3, 2010, was a radioman first class aboard Nevada during the Pearl Harbor attack.

For the ceremony last week, Boyd's family and friends boarded the Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) admiral's barge for a tour that traced Nevada's journey from the mooring quay to where the ship ran aground during the attack.

"I think it completes the circle with my dad's life," said Robert Wilson, Boyd's son. "It pretty much outlined what he did for the rest of his life based on what happened here. It's a proper place for him to be. It's the right thing to do."

The ceremony included a short religious service, the scattering of ashes and a three-volley rifle salute, provided by the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Navy Detachment Honor Guard.



Robert Wilson, the son of Pearl Harbor survivor Chief Warrant Officer 3 Boyd Wilson, scatter his father's ashes at the site where USS Nevada (BB 36) ran aground during the attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941. Boyd, who passed away Nov. 3, 2010, was a Radioman 1st Class aboard Nevada during the Pearl Harbor attack.

A Navy bugler assigned to U.S. Pacific Fleet Band was also on hand to sound Taps. Capt. Melvin Lee, chief of staff for Navy Region Hawaii, presented the American flag to Richard.

"My dad was an extraordinary man," Richard said. "I was fortunate to have him as a father. All that I am, I contribute to him. May he rest in peace, and may he never forget the gratitude of his

family and that of a nation he so proudly served."

Boyd was born June 8, 1919 in Richfield, Wash. When the country was on the brink of war, Boyd decided to join the Navy.

His decision to join spanned a career of more than 30 years.

Richard said Boyd did not talk much about what happened when Imperial Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

Richard would sometimes find his father out of bed in his sleep trying to jump overboard to safety or to rescue a shipmate. It was many years later that Boyd decided to confide with his son the events that happened that fateful day.

Richard said Boyd could see Japanese pilots grinning and yelling as the decks were being strafed by enemy fire. After the attack on USS Arizona, Nevada attempted to get underway. It succeeded despite the damage to the hull caused by a torpedo hit. Boyd said the hole in the damaged hull was so big that two cement trucks side-by-side could go through. Nevada sailed past Battleship Row and later beached itself on Hospital Point where the Nevada Memorial is located today.

Boyd served honorably throughout World War II and was also involved in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. He retired on June 1962 as a chief warrant officer. Later, Boyd was active with the Pearl Harbor Survivor Association in Santa Clara Valley where over the years he served as treasurer, vice president and president. He was also very active with the USS Nevada Association and traveled all over the country.

New lounge opens at joint base passenger terminal

Story and photo by David D. Underwood Jr.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

A new family lounge was dedicated at the passenger terminal at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during a grand opening on Dec. 12. The lounge will accommodate Department of Defense passengers who are waiting to catch a flight during their travels.

The new lounge offers a safe and child friendly space that has an upgraded kitchenette, dining area, entertainment area, crib room, children activity area and a family size restroom.

The renovation project cost approximately \$500,000 and is a part of

Air Mobility Command's goal of improving the travel experience for passengers, said Lt. Joseph P. Sillaman, passenger and fleet service officer in charge.

Col. Dann Carlson, commander of 647th Air Base Group, 13th Air Force, and deputy commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), Hawaii, cuts a ribbon with Col. William Murphey, commander of 715th Air Mobility Operations Group, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska; Lt. Col. Robert Nance, commander of 735th Air Mobility Squadron, JBPHH; and 1st Lt. Joseph Sillaman, passenger and fleet service officer in charge, JBPHH; during the grand opening for the renovated family lounge at the passenger terminal at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Dec. 12.



Annual Cookie Caper event brings in more than 17,000 cookies

U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Lauren Main
Senior Airman Samantha Stregge, emergency management journeyman with the 647th Civil Engineering Squadron, packs boxes full of bags of cookies for first sergeants to give out to single Airmen in the dorms at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, for the annual Cookie Caper on Dec. 8. Friends of Hickam, as well as Hickam Federal Credit Union, made large donations of different types of cookies.

(Below) Volunteers bring in cookie donations for the annual Cookie Caper event and sort through the different types of cookies to fill bags for single Airmen at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Dec. 8. The number of donations exceeded 17,000 cookies.



A volunteer for the annual Cookie Caper event grabs a bag of cookies to put in a colorfully decorated bag for single Airmen in the dorms at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Dec. 8. The extra cookies left over from the event will be given to the 24-hour agencies on base, such as Security Forces and the gate guards.

Author writes book about historic friendship

Story and photo by IT2 Cicely Wiggins

Dorinda Nicholson, author of "Pearl Harbor Child and Pearl Harbor Warriors," held a book signing at the Pearl Harbor Visitor's Center bookstore on Dec. 7. After the 70th commemoration ceremonies remembering the Japanese attack on Oahu military installations, Nicholson talked with veterans, onlookers and customers about the experiences shared in her books. Both books tell compelling stories about lives touched by the Pearl Harbor attacks.

"Pearl Harbor Child," first published in 1993, shares Nicholson's personal story about the day Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. At the time, Nicholson, born and raised in Hawaii, was 6 years old and living on the Pearl Harbor Peninsula with her parents. In her book, she recounts vivid details of panic and despair.

In 2001, Nicholson penned the story of Richard Fiske, a Marine bugler aboard the USS West Virginia, and Zenji Abe, a Japanese dive bomber pilot, in a children's book called "Pearl Harbor Warriors." This book shares the powerful story of a divide between men being bridged by forgiveness and hate transforming into a lifelong friendship.

Dec. 7 left a scar on many lives, and moving past anger and hatred was difficult for many that lived



(From left) Naomi Shin, Don Goff and Wayne Squire talk about a book signing on Dec. 7. They gathered to discuss their families' historic friendship.

through it. Fiske had a very hard time making peace with the events that he witnessed. He had a deep-seated anger that was debilitating. It wasn't until 1991

when Fiske and Abe met and Abe offered a public apology to Pearl Harbor veterans that Fiske could find the peace he needed. Through Abe's humility the

two men were able to form a long lasting friendship.

The year Abe apologized and every month after, he would send money to Fiske to take roses to the memori-

al where Fiske would lay flowers in honor of the fallen servicemen and play both the American and Japanese Taps.

Fiske passed away in

2004 and Abe passed in 2007. Since her father's passing, Naomi Shin, keeps the tradition by visiting the memorial every year. Shin speaks about the importance of her father's friendship with Fiske. She said, "His feelings and actions over the years made my family understand the importance of keeping this tradition. Every year I feel stronger convictions pushing me to come and pay respects."

Nicholson and Shin first met in 2002 when Nicholson visited Tokyo. They have kept in touch, and during the 70th commemoration events both visited Aina Haina Elementary School and Kamehameha Schools to share "Pearl Harbor Warriors" with students. When asked why she chose to write the story as a children's book, Nicholson said, "I wrote this book because there were no books written about this event from a child's point of view."

Shin shared her thoughts about visiting the schools and the impact her father's friendship can have on children. "My father always told me that it was important for people to learn from their mistakes and work to understand one another. Visiting and interacting with the students was a very good experience. It was my first time visiting a Hawaiian school but I would love to visit again in the future," she said.

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Diverse Views

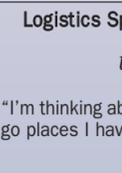


"What will your New Year's resolutions be for 2012 and why?"



Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SS) Christopher Hammond
USS Charlotte (SSN 766)

"I want to qualify for the chief of the watch aboard Charlotte."



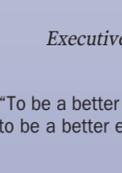
Logistics Specialist 3rd Class (SS) Bryan Horton
USS Charlotte (SSN 766)

"I'm thinking about traveling some more, go places I haven't been to yet."



Master-at-Arms 2nd Class (SW) Chris Ziser
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Security

"Quit smoking. It costs way too much and it's slowing me down a bit. It's not good for you, and I've been smoking for way too long."



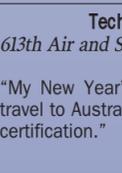
Lt. Cmdr. Erik Baker
Executive Transport Detachment
Pacific Operations

"To be a better husband and father, and to be a better example for my children."



Staff Sgt. Katrina Stone
647th Force Support Squadron

"To keep in touch with my family on the mainland better."



Tech. Sgt. Michael Hennessey
613th Air and Space Operations Center

"My New Year's resolutions will be to travel to Australia and finish my scuba certification."

(Provided by David D. Underwood Jr. and MC2 (SW) Mark Logico.)

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views? Got opinions to share?

Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

Poster urges, 'Remember Dec. 7th!'

Courtesy of the U.S. Navy Art Center, donation of Dr. Robert L. Scheina, 1970.

The photo depicts a poster designed by Allen Saalburg, issued by the Office of War Information, Washington, D.C., in 1942, in remembrance of the Japanese attack on Oahu military installations on Dec. 7, 1941. The poster also features a quotation from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address: "... we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain ...".



HO'OKELE

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Commentary MCPON holiday message

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

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following holiday message to the fleet on Dec. 12:

"Shipmates and Navy families,

Can you believe another year is almost over? It's amazing how quickly time passes when you're staying busy. It seems we were kicking off 2011 just yesterday and here we are, about to usher in 2012.

With the traditional festivities of December upon us, I want to wish you all the happiest possible holidays and to say thank you for the outstanding service and support you provide to our Navy and nation. I continue to be humbled by your selfless dedication and the outstanding job you do every day around the globe.

We faced some challenges this year and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future, but we will get through them together as we have done for the past 236 years. The Navy, after all, is a team sport and in 2011, we enjoyed many operational successes together that are worth celebrating. They are your legacy ... the deployments, the steady presence in difficult places, the helping hand when natural disasters left vulnerable people in their wake.

You and your shipmates worked hard and sacrificed often. As you visit with loved ones, scour the



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Nathan L. Guimont
Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick D. West talks with Sailors stationed at the Center for Information Dominance Unit Monterey and Naval Postgraduate School.

shopping malls, or hit the ski slopes during these joyous weeks, take a moment to reflect on the special appreciation America has for you and your family. Be proud of your accomplishments, and share sea stories with moms, dads, siblings, aunts, uncles and old buddies.

Most of all, be safe and enjoy the holiday season to its fullest. Celebrate responsibly: You are important to our Navy family and we need every one of you to return recharged for the next adventure. Don't let bad judgment ruin the new year or your life. Look out for each other, and keep an eye on your ship-

mates who may be having a difficult time.

It's also important that we remember the thousands of our shipmates who are deployed, on station around the world vigilantly keeping the watch, ready to answer our nation's call. They are there ensuring we have this chance to deck the halls, gather around family dinner tables, and belt out Auld Lang Syne in a storm of confetti.

Thank you again for serving our great Navy and preserving our nation's freedom. Sailors and families, you are truly among this country's greatest gifts.

Happy holidays, shipmates, and hooyah."

Commentary Holiday message from Rear Adm. Ponds

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii

This is a special time of year. It's a time to reconnect with our families. It's a time to reflect on our service and sacrifice and how we contribute to the freedoms our nation cherishes. Join me in thinking about those who cannot be with their families this holiday season, those on our team who are deployed aboard a ship or with a unit in overseas contingency operations.

This is also a time to reflect on our ability to be capable at all times to meet current challenges by remaining safe and ready. Join me in a commitment to ensuring a safe, happy and memorable time with family and shipmates.

Over the past year, despite the inherent risks of taking care of the fleet and flight lines, we have seen success in preventing

accidents and injuries in our region. On the joint base, at PMRF [Pacific Missile Range Facility], with the wing at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, and at each of our tenant commands in Hawaii, I know our leaders up and down the chain of command take safety seriously and are aligned with Navy leadership at all levels.

MCPON West encourages us in his message this week to celebrate our operational successes of the past year, but to do so responsibly. He reminds us to use good judgment and to take care of shipmates who may be having a difficult time. You can get the tools to help yourself and your shipmates have a safer holiday season at the Naval Safety Center website, <http://safetycenter.navy.mil/>, and Navy Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention website, <http://bit.ly/vAF09r>.

The Naval Safety Center's winter safety campaign 2011 is focusing on the "fatal four": speed, DUI, fatigue and no PPE [personal protective

equipment]. If you are planning a trip this holiday season, keep this advice in mind: slow down, don't drink and drive, get plenty of rest, and always use your seatbelt or wear your helmet when driving/riding. Always.

Let's mitigate risks on and off duty by paying attention, slowing down, and avoiding dangerous situations and places after hours. Let's use good critical thinking and decision-making skills.

I am proud of you and for all you do every day at sea or ashore.

You should know that your safety is as important to me as it is to your loved ones and your shipmates. I want you to assist me in assuring your loved ones that we are doing everything we can to ensure our safety this holiday season. Please be responsible in taking care of yourself and your shipmates for all of us - and have a very happy holiday season.

Upcoming construction scheduled on South Avenue

The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Works Department will be installing traffic controls along South Avenue in order to mitigate traffic flow concerns and enhance safety from Dec. 27 to 31. The controls will focus on the Russell Avenue and Paul Hamilton intersections with South

Avenue and result in the following modifications:
• An outbound express lane in the far right lane to provide an unimpeded flow from Russell Avenue to the Nimitz Gate. As the road widens from two lanes to four lanes, traffic will be routed to the express lane via signage, traffic

islands, traffic arrows and new striping.

- No left turns from South Avenue to Paul Hamilton Avenue to prevent the backup of outbound traffic.
- Speed limit reduction from 30 mph to 25 mph at the Russell Avenue intersection to enhance safety at the express lane entrance.

USS North Carolina leaves for maiden western Pacific deployment

Story and photo by MC2 Ronald Guttridge

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

Families and friends of the crew from the USS North Carolina (SSN 777) gathered at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to say goodbye as the Virginia-class submarine departed for a scheduled western Pacific deployment Dec. 1.

"We have gone through an intense pre-deployment preparation period allowing us to deploy with some of the finest trained Sailors our nation has ever put to sea on board one of the most technologically advanced platforms," said Cmdr. Richard Rhinehart, USS North Carolina commanding officer. "We are truly privileged to sail the North Carolina on behalf of our country."

This is North Carolina's maiden western Pacific deployment since changing homeports to Pearl Harbor in November 2010, and the crew morale is that of excitement and pride. The ship has several new crew members who will participate in



Family members say good-bye as Virginia-class submarine USS North Carolina (SSN 777) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for its maiden western Pacific deployment Dec. 1.

their first deployment.

"The crew is excited to be part of North Carolina's first deployment. The hard work getting her to this point is now paying off as

these submariners are now heading west on her maiden deployment," Rhinehart said. "The North Carolina is an amazing submarine crewed by a talented group

of Sailors. I am proud of every one of them and what they have accomplished."

Sonar Technician Seaman Apprentice Nathan Hufford,

who reported in November 2010, described his feelings about his first deployment as "anxious and ready to go."

"I have been looking for-

ward to getting underway on my first deployment ever since I checked on board," Hufford said. "I am very eager to finally execute my submarine training and gain the experience of a deployment. I am also excited about being part of North Carolina's first deployment, visiting foreign ports and seeing the world."

North Carolina's keel was laid May 22, 2004, and the submarine's official commissioning ceremony was held May 3, 2008. Measuring 377 feet long, weighing 7,800 tons when submerged, and with a complement of more than 130 crew members, it is the fifth ship to be named in honor of the Tar Heel State. This state-of-the-art submarine is capable of supporting a multitude of missions including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike, special operations, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, irregular warfare and strike group operations.

North Carolina is the third Virginia-class submarine homeported at Pearl Harbor and is assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron Three.

SECNAV at Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus addresses Sailors and Marines at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay during an all-hands call Dec. 6. Mabus awarded the Purple Heart, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medals with combat distinction, and meritoriously promoted a Marine to corporal.



Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Mary C. Witkowski
 (Right) Rear Adm. Craig Faller, commander of the John C. Stennis Strike Group, visited USS Russell (DDG 59) in the Central Arabian Gulf on Dec. 2. Russell is homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Faller visited Russell to thank Sailors for their outstanding work as horizon reference unit duties and support of JCS during flight operations.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge
 (Left) Sailors of Virginia-class submarine USS North Carolina (SSN 777) depart Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for their maiden western Pacific deployment Dec.1.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge
 (Above) Los Angeles-class submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled six-month western Pacific deployment Dec.14.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mark Logico
 (Left) Students from the Pearl Harbor Elementary School performed a holiday concert for military families and friends. Master Chief Boatswain's Mate (SW) Todd Thom, from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), and Nancy Skardon, the JBPHH school liaison, were invited to the concert as special guests.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Lex T. Wenberg
 (Above) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) transits alongside as an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the Eightballers of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 8 comes in for a landing on the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74). John C. Stennis is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime security operations and support missions as part of Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Donald Randall
 (Above) Gas Turbine System Technician (Electrical) 3rd Class Miarina Weems, assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), rakes leaves in front of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel. JBPHH and all its tenant commands are taking part in a base-wide installation cleanup and maintenance of their respective areas.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jay C. Pugh
 Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) personnel and students from Leadership Kauai's Pi'ina Hoku class and students from Ke Kula Niihau O Kekaha remove verbecina, an invasive plant, from the landscape at PMRF. On Dec. 8, more than 30 volunteers eradicated over an acre of all verbecina. The collaborative effort emphasized team building and leadership skills to the students.

JBP HH Airman supports special forces in Philippines

Story and photo by
Capt. Darrick B. Lee

Joint Special Operations
Task Force Philippines
Public Affairs

Z A M B O A N G A , Philippines -- As U.S. forces continue their drawdown from Iraq, the military is continuing to support counter-terrorism efforts elsewhere around the globe. While Afghanistan remains the more widely-known theater of operations, there are other places where Airmen serve.

One such place is Zamboanga, located in the southern Philippines. Although the United States history in the Philippines dates back to more than a century, the emergence of terrorist groups in the southern part of the country placed renewed emphasis on the region since 2001. A lot has changed since Gen. John "Blackjack" Pershing served as governor-general here at the turn of the century. Still, the U.S. military presence, while temporary, is a fixture in Zamboanga.

Nestled in Camp Navarro, home of the Philippine military's Western Mindanao Command, is U.S. Joint Special Operations Task Force - Philippines. JSOTF-P is comprised of special operations forces from all four services, including U.S. Army Green Berets, Navy SEALs (sea, air, land), Marine Special Operations Forces and Air Force commandos.

Supported by a small staff, JSOTF-P's mission is focused on providing advice to the Philippine military and assisting them in their fight against terrorism. They are currently focused on pursuing the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and



U.S. Air Force Technical Sgt. Carrie Volpe, a weather forecaster deployed with Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines, remotely monitors the status of a TMQ-53 weather sensor 30 Nov. Through her computer, Volpe can provide real-time weather forecasting in support of special operations in the southern Philippines.

Jemaah Islamiah (JI), two terrorist groups operating in the islands of Mindanao, Basilan and Sulu.

This is not an easy task in a country composed of more than 7,000 islands. Absent here are Hummers and mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles, as military airlift takes center stage. To ensure SOF are able to move freely in the area, JSOTF-P maintains a small fleet of PC-12 and C-12 fixed-wing aircraft, complemented by Bell 214 helicopters for use in the jungle areas where U.S. and Philippine forces are collocated.

JSOTF-P relies on their Joint Special Operations Air Detachment (JSOAD) to fly and maintain the aircraft. JSOAD operates much like Airmen do at any other flight line, scheduling flights and ensuring the safety of air operations that support special forces. The unit shares the airfield with

Zamboanga International Airport, which doubles as Edwin Andrews Air Base (EAAB), owned by the Philippine Air Force (PAF).

Sharing a runway means sharing the responsibility for flight safety. U.S. Airmen are embedded with the PAF, living and working near the flight line. Shouldering the responsibility for U.S. weather reporting and forecasting is Technical Sgt. Carrie Volpe, JSOAD's weather forecaster.

Volpe's home station is Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii where she serves as a forecast supervisor for 20 U.S. military bases in Korea and Japan. There, Volpe performed the same job she performs in JSOAD. She provides detailed weather reports to help mission planners conduct safe flying and ground operations.

In Hawaii, equipped with the latest meteorological

tools at the 17th Operational Weather Squadron, her biggest hurdle was simply keeping up with the workload. With multiple airfield forecasts and weather warnings across a 113 million square-mile area of responsibility, the need for up-to-date weather reporting is constant.

When Volpe arrived at Zamboanga in September, she found a similar need. However, as guests of a host-nation airport, with limited meteorological equipment and a separate operating schedule, providing timely and accurate weather forecasts became a challenge.

"We used to receive periodic weather observations from EAAB," said Volpe, who is originally from Epsom, N.H. "But sometimes, when EAAB reports weren't available or their schedule didn't synchronize up with our operations, we

had to give pilots the weather based on our best estimate."

That's what she used to do.

When an Air Force Special Operations Command Safety Team paid a visit to the JSOTF-P in October, Volpe saw it as a chance to let the brass know how to improve air operations in the southern Philippines. She recommended the purchase of a weather sensor, capable of providing electronic forecasts and sharing it with aviators worldwide. Not only would the sensor help the U.S. forces operating out of Zamboanga, but it could assist the Philippine Air Force and all aviators who need to know about local weather, as well.

AFSOC liked the idea. However, the Air Force has an almost never-ending list of good ideas and many of them remain unfunded. With the cost of an average weather sensor running more than \$150,000, the current financial picture cast a shadow over the prospect of adding one to Volpe's office.

Volpe's boss, U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Doug Carroll, in response to AFSOC's safety assessment, searched for solutions. Carroll serves as the JSOAD commander, but at his home station he leads the 353 Special Operations Support Squadron (SOSS) at Kadena Air Base, Japan. "I knew the 353 SOSS had the equipment and capability," Carroll said. "With approval from Special Operations Command Pacific, the 353rd was able to rapidly deploy the sensor to the Philippines."

Shortly after Carroll's call, a brand new TMQ-53

automated observation system (TMOS) weather sensor arrived, escorted by MSgt. Scott Williams, the 353rd weather flight's NCO in charge. Soon after he landed, the sensor was installed and working.

To Volpe, whose primary concern is providing the most accurate forecasts to pilots about to fly into austere conditions, it was the perfect gift, just in time for the holidays.

"The TMOS gives us a credible source of weather information," explained Volpe when describing the sensor. "We can generate our own weather observations, and we can do it independently."

The TMOS collects data on current wind conditions, cloud heights, lightning, temperature, precipitation and more. In a joint special operations environment, where weather can have a severe impact on success, Volpe is pleased to have a little help.

The Philippine Air Force will be able to use the new sensor as they pursue the ASG and JI. Whether it's a combat resupply mission, a request for close-air support, or a casualty evacuation, their operations will benefit from having the real-time forecasting Volpe provides.

"It feels good to know that I can confidently tell pilots and aircrew what to expect prior to take-off," Volpe added. "I hope it helps build their trust in our support to them."

U.S. government employees with a CAC-enabled computer can view current weather conditions in Zamboanga by surfing to https://afweather.afwa.af.mil/weather/met/met_home.html.

Commentary

Holiday greetings from PACAF leaders

Gen. Gary North

Pacific Air Forces
Commander

The holiday season is here again -- this past year really "flew by!" It's certainly fitting to pass a huge "thank you" to our PACAF [Pacific Air Forces] Airmen and their families. Thank you for all you do in the PACOM [Pacific Command] region and around the world.

The season always provides us the time to reflect on the truly amazing command achievements this year, achievements that would not have been possible without your professional commitment and personal dedication to our PACAF mission.

Central among these was the support levied by our Pacific team in Operation Tomodachi following the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami in northern Japan. Your phenomenal efforts and outstanding outreach and support during this tragic event provided humanitarian

assistance and disaster relief to the Japanese people, underscoring and deepening our commitment to the government and the citizens of Japan.

PACAF Airmen also participated in multiple combat operations, exercises and deployments throughout the theater and around the world, answering our nation's call to support and promote peace and stability. As always, wherever you are, please take some time to remember our warfighters who are in harm's way this holiday season. We offer our heartfelt appreciation and respect to them and their families and send our best wishes for a successful deployment and safe journey home.

The holiday season is an excellent and well-deserved chance to enjoy time with family and friends. That said, we are all aware it may also be a difficult time for others. Pay attention to your wingmen and their families. Be on the lookout for those who may

require some assistance. We are "all in" and as part of our PACAF family we should all take care of each other, please.

This particular year, we should also reflect that 70 years ago airmen worked together to respond to the call when Oahu came under attack and ushered in U.S. involvement in World War II. Today, the men and women of PACAF continue to promote security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and across the globe. We are all proud to call ourselves PACAF Airmen.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Brooke McLean and I, alongside our command leadership team, are humbled by the truly monumental work each of you does every day. As we look forward to 2012 and beyond, we wish you and your families the very best for the holiday season. Happy holidays.

PMRF removes invasive species

Tori Pezario, a Kapaa High School junior and a member of Leadership Kauai's Pi'ina Hoku class, and Kaleiui Kanahale, a student at Ke Kula Niihau O Kekaha remove verbena, an invasive plant, from the landscape at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF). On Dec. 8, more than 30 volunteers, which included these students and PMRF personnel, eradicated more than an acre of all verbena. The collaborative effort emphasized team building and leadership skills to the students.

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



USS Chung-Hoon hosts memorable tiger cruise

Lt. j.g. Carly Adler

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) Public Affairs Officer

The forward-deployed guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) recently hosted 13 family members for a six-day "tiger cruise." The ship's "tigers" embarked in Papeete, Tahiti and sailed to the ship's homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for Chung-Hoon's homecoming after six months on a western Pacific deployment.

Tiger cruises are a time-honored tradition on ships throughout the fleet, offering family members and friends a taste of life at sea. This year's cruise aboard Chung-Hoon was no exception, providing guests with an opportunity to see their Sailors at work, as well as a chance to take part in a variety of recreational activities around the ship.

Throughout the cruise, friends and family members watched movies on the flight deck, observed weapons demonstrations, socialized during a steel beach luau on the flight deck, handled damage control equipment and witnessed firsthand the emotion of returning from a six-month deployment.

Command Master Chief Chris Detje, who hosted his father Anthony Detje on the cruise, stated that the primary objective of the tiger cruise was to help bridge the gap between the



Dan Griebel looks on as his daughter, Lt. J.G. Lauren Griebel prepares to navigate USS Chung-Hoon out of Papeete, Tahiti.

life that Sailors lead while underway and the life their families lead while they're away.

"I was so happy to be able to see my daughter Lt. j.g. Lauren Griebel in action this week. I had no idea of the day-to-day life she leads on board until I could see it firsthand. The Chung-Hoon really is a wonderful ship with exceptional Sailors,"

said Dan Griebel.

At the conclusion of the cruise, tiger cruise participants who completed their honorary surface warrior personnel qualification standard (PQS) were recognized during an awards ceremony on the mess decks. Awardees received certificates and a photo of themselves on the cruise in remembrance of their visit aboard Chung-Hoon.

Free holiday festival of lights Pearl Harbor boat tours offered



Photo courtesy of Pacific Historic Parks

Pacific Historic Parks

Free holiday festival of lights Pearl Harbor evening boat tours will be offered to the public on Dec. 16, 17 and 18, by the Pearl City Lions Club in cooperation with the National Park Service and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The 30-minute boat tours will depart from the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center (formerly known as the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center) each evening from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at 15-minute intervals.

Special tours will be available for active duty service members and their dependents on Monday,

Dec. 19 from Merry Point Landing from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at 20-minute intervals.

Boat tours are free, but canned good donations for Hawaii's food charities are appreciated. Seats are limited and tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the visitor center, on each day of the tour.

The tours will feature Christmas music and harbor-side views of the many Pearl Harbor ships and submarines decked out with holiday decorations and lights.

Due to enhanced security measures in effect at Pearl Harbor, no backpacks, fanny packs, lug-

gage, diaper bags, camera bags, purses, large cameras or other items which may provide concealment, are allowed in the visitor center or aboard the boats.

Do not leave valuables in your car. Please note that cameras, videos, cell phones and small wallets are allowed on board for photos of the decorated ships. However, photographing security personnel is prohibited. Since it can become chilly, a light jacket or sweater is recommended.

Be sure to arrive early to allow time for parking and going through the security check.

For more information, call Pacific Historic Parks at 954-8721.

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Ho'okele will break for holidays

This week is our last edition of Ho'okele for 2011. Our first edition in 2012 will be on Jan. 13.

Meanwhile, our publisher, Honolulu Star-Advertiser, will publish a joint

military issue which will include Ho'okele, Hawaii Marine and Hawaii Army Weekly.

Mahalo for your support! Mele Kalikimaka and Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

Ride to Remember honors fallen Sailor and promotes awareness

IT2 Cicely Wiggins

Contributing writer

Rain didn't stop a group of determined motorcyclists who held the Ride to Remember on Nov. 20, honoring a devoted Sailor whose life was tragically cut short earlier this year.

The ride took place to honor the life of Command Master Chief David Tyner, who was killed in a multi-vehicle accident the night of March 31. Simultaneously, it also raised money to cover the remaining \$8,000 needed to endow the Hawaii Pacific University David Tyner Memorial Scholarship.

Prior to setting off, all registered bikers gathered in a circle to brief traffic precautions and safety measures for the ride. The group was a mix of riders: experienced, newbies, sport bikers, cruisers, men and women. A total of 44 riders prepared to set out from Moanalua Gardens Park along H-1 to Sandy Beach, winding to Waimanalo and Ko'olau mountains to Keaiwa Heiau State Park in Aiea, and ending at South Seas Motorcycles in Waipahu. It was a 75-mile ride that hit all of Tyner's favorite riding spots.

The day ended with a raffle for small door prizes and \$100 cash prize donated to the scholarship fund.



U.S. Navy photo by CT12 Jamie Freshman

(From left) Mary Tyner and Justin Vance, history professor at Hawaii Pacific University, take part in the Ride to Remember on Nov. 20.

Along with the 44 riders present at the event, there were 49 virtual riders, who supported the cause but were not able to participate. Five donors also contributed, including two bike clubs: The Pacific Knights and The CIA.

Ride to Remember came about to honor the two things that Tyner loved most, riding his motorcycle and education.

His wife, Mary Tyner, said she was "overwhelmed with gratitude" for all the support that she and her family have received. She rode on her maroon Harley Davidson cruiser during the event.

She said the Ride to

Remember was an amazing opportunity for friends, family, and me to honor my husband's memory. While riding, I felt a wide range of emotions, but mainly I found the experience bitter-sweet. I rode with my back (passenger) pegs down as a gesture of my belief that David is always with me. I am incredibly grateful to the riders, virtual riders, donors and sponsors who helped us meet our goal to endow the David Tyner Memorial Scholarship.

Susan Hoskins, a close friend of the Tyner family and a victim's advocate, said the ride served as a great opportunity to raise awareness. "This is an awesome

way to show support and raise awareness, especially for the military who have a high number of motorcycle fatalities," Hoskins said.

Bob Lauder, who met Tyner once through a mutual friend, said he has great respect for those men and women who devote their life to military. "I wanted to do something to show support and this ride is a good way to contribute," Lauder said.

Glenda Devera, a close friend of the Tyner family, spoke about the turnout and the effect that the ride has had. "I am happy to see that this ride acknowledges the life he led," Devera said.

The idea for Ride to Remember started back in

August. The NIOC Hawaii Chief Petty Officer's Association sponsored the ride and Cryptologic Technician Interpretive 1st class (CTI1) (EXW) Anjela Jurich, NIOC Hawaii, Jason Hoffman, an IT consultant, and Gil Valverdes, general store manager at South Seas Motorcycles, coordinated the details.

Jurich spoke about how adamant she had become about motorcycle safety since Tyner's death. "Too many people don't pay attention on the road, and it's the motorcyclists that pay the price," Jurich said.

Tyner's daughter Malia greeted the riders as they arrived at Keaiwa Heiau

State Park. She displayed artwork that she created in memory of her father. She built three pieces of art that represented the tragedy, pain and hard reality that is now a part of her every day.

"These pieces were a part of my healing. It was a way for me to express and share what happened with others," Malia said.

As the last group arrived at South Seas Motorcycles, riders dodged the rain and ate lunch prepared by Waipahu Hawaii Country Chapter Harley Owners Group (HOGS).

Steve Mellinger, the HOGS chapter director, said the chapter enthusiastically participated. "We were glad to help out. It was no problem to give support however we could," Mellinger said.

According to Margi Ulveling, the associate vice president of alumni and university relations at Hawaii Pacific University (HPU), the scholarship will be available in the spring of 2013 to graduate students pursuing a masters of arts degree in military and diplomacy studies at HPU.

"The establishment of the David Tyner Memorial Scholarship is a wonderful tribute to Dave who was two classes short of completing his degree, which was conferred posthumously at HPU's May 2011 graduation," Ulveling said.

PMRF shows unbridled support of roadside cleanup

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jay C. Pugh

Aviation Support Equipment Technician 2nd Class Ryan Snay picks up trash along Kaunualii Highway during a roadside cleanup. Sailors from the Pacific Missile Range Facility adopted four miles of highway adjacent to the base in support of the state of Hawaii Department of Transportation's adopt-a-highway program.



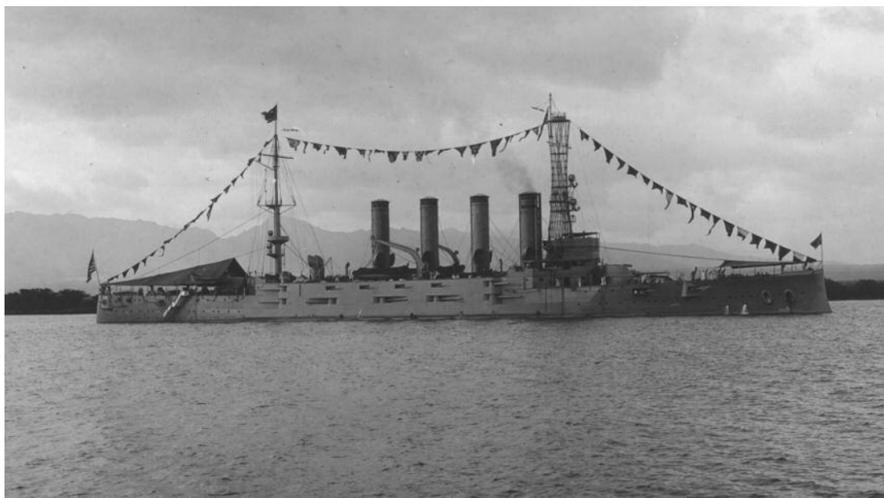
A centennial remembered, tied to 'day of infamy'

Jim Neuman

Navy Region Hawaii Historian

Last week thousands of people gathered on the lawn of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument at the Pearl Harbor visitor Center to honor those who lost their lives and those who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor. Seventy years have passed since that seminal event which changed America and the world forever.

This week marks another anniversary less well known, but inexorably tied to the "day of infamy." One hundred years ago, the U.S.S. California transited the channel entrance to Pearl Harbor and effectively opened the historic port to the world. The ship that took center stage on that morning should not be confused with the battleship California, or BB-44, which found herself on Battleship Row in 1941. This California was an armored-cruiser weighing in at about 14,000 tons and laden with eight, six and three-inch guns. Her entrance into Pearl Harbor was historic because she was the



USS California

first large warship to enter the harbor following extensive dredging of the channel.

Aboard the California on Dec. 14, 1911 was Sanford Dole, the first and last president of the Republic of Hawaii, and Queen Liliuokalani, the last monarch of

the kingdom of Hawaii.

Also along for the ride was the son of Sun Yat-Sen, whose father eventually led the revolution in China which ended 2,000 years of imperial rule. Sun Yat-Sen was elected the first president of the Republic of China two weeks

later on Dec. 29.

All of this resulted in an incredible juxtaposition of history in this famed haven on Oahu's idyllic south shore. Hawaii had undergone a great deal of turmoil in the years following Queen Liliuokalani's ascension in 1891

and her subsequent attempts to restore control of the kingdom to the monarchy. The queen was overthrown in 1893, and in 1898 the new Republic of Hawaii was formally annexed as a territory of the United States.

The events that were occurring in the Far East, including the European colonization of coastal enclaves in China and Southeast Asia and the ascendancy of the Japanese Empire, were important drivers that led to the United States' growing interest in the Pacific region and recognition of the need for military facilities to provide American influence in the area.

On the decks of the California that afternoon, all of those streams of history came together to open Pearl Harbor to the world. None would fathom the importance of Hawaii's place in the events that would soon set the world on fire.

Later, in September 1912 President Taft closed the harbor to all but American military traffic, and Pearl Harbor's long legacy as America's central Pacific bastion began.

Service members compete in Iron Chef to be best in armed forces

Cpl. Vanessa American Horse

Hawaii Marine

Celebrity chefs fired up grills and left spectators drooling during a special military taping of Iron Chef at Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), Kaneohe for The Food Network.

Hangar 101 was transformed into Kitchen Stadium as the popular food series "Iron Chef America" taped a special armed services episode at MCBH on Dec. 4.

Three teams were assembled consisting of Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto with Lance Cpl. Eva Castillo, food specialist, Headquarters Battalion; Iron Chef Cat Cora with Culinary



Specialist 1st Class Michael Downey from Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; and Iron Chef Michael Symon with Specialist Oscar Alvarado, food service specialist, Headquarters Support Company, 209th Aviation Support Battalion, US Army 25th Infantry Division.

Each military chef was chosen by their commands as

the most qualified in Hawaii to represent their branch of service.

"I had no idea I was going to be picked for this," Castillo said. "I won the Chef of the Quarter competition here, and they asked me if I wanted to do it. I was honored to be considered, and I'm thankful that my superiors let me represent the Marine Corps."

The pairs battled against

each other in a 60-minute competition to claim the title for the best military chef position. Beaming sunlight, pressure to be the best and a crowd full of supporters challenged the contestants' dexterity and stamina.

"The intensity of the culinary battle was my favorite part," Downey said. "Being able to work with world-renowned chefs and their high level of talent made it exciting."

Honolulu native Mark Dacascos, also known as "The Chairman" on the series, was present throughout the ceremony and provided the essential opening statement: "So now America, with an open heart and an empty stomach, I say unto you in the words of my uncle:

"Allez cuisine!"

Dacascos spent his early childhood visiting Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay with his grandparents. Each Sunday they would come aboard base to fish, and Dacascos would look forward to his ritual each week.

"My fondest memories of visiting this base was to put on my Marine Corps fatigues and an Army helmet covered in netting and camouflaged leaves," Dacascos said. "We'd go through the security gate, and I would eagerly salute the guards and they would salute back."

Dacascos also works together on the set of the latest edition of the TV series "Hawaii 5-0" with one of the competition's celebrity judges, Daniel Dae Kim.

Kim, who resides in Honolulu with his family, weighed in with his opinion of the elaborate dishes prepared by each duo. Kim was once the co-owner of the Kahala Mall restaurant, "The Counter."

Hangar 101 was once again transformed for a special tailgating show featuring chefs Morimoto and Symon. The University of Hawaii Marching Band and the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band participated in the taping and spectators came to watch all the action.

Both shows are scheduled to air on The Food Network early next year.

For more information on "Iron Chef America," visit <http://www.foodnetwork.com/iron-chef-america>.

Hawaii-based Navy counselors host CCC Conference

Story and photo by
MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public
Affairs

More than 50 Hawaii-based Navy counselors (NCs) gathered at the U.S. Pacific Fleet boathouse Dec. 14 to discuss command career counselor (CCC) issues.

Fleet Master Chief (SW/AW) John Minyard from U.S. Pacific Fleet attended the conference to open talks among NCs regarding Navywide concerns such as perform-to-serve (PTS) and enlisted retention board (ERB) that have had a major impact to Sailors and their families in the past year.

"We got pressure to reduce our manning," Minyard said. "It's a tough time for all of you, but we'll get through it. I think, collectively, I hope that you'll share information, share the best practices with each other because we are all in this together. The more we talk about these issues and share information, the bet-



Fleet Master Chief (SW/AW) John Minyard from U.S. Pacific Fleet speaks at the Hawaii Command Career Counselor conference to open talks among Navy counselors regarding Navywide concerns such as perform-to-serve (PTS) and enlisted retention board (ERB) that have had a major impact to Sailors and their families in the past year.

ter off we will be."

Minyard urged NCs to continue to educate their Sailors, including their respective command leaders on the Brilliant on the Basics (career development boards, sponsorship, mentorship, Sailor recognition, command

indoctrination and command ombudsmen support) and other Navy programs that would benefit the Sailors.

During the conference, USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) Command Master Chief Robert Tyo talked about how the ERB

board members selected Sailors for retention.

Tyo, who was one of several ERB board members, said Sailors need to meet the gold standard in today's Navy. "Not just the fully qualified, but the best qualified Sailors that showed potential for further naval service, that's the standard we applied during the ERB," Tyo said.

"Coming to work and doing your job at the end of the day is not good enough anymore," Tyo said. "You need to be looking at what else can you give to the Navy. I tell my Sailors, 'Ship, shipmate, self.' What are you doing for your ship? What are you doing for your shipmates? What are you doing for yourself? You got to look at ways to break out."

Recently the economy has prompted the Navy with record high retention and low attrition among active duty Sailors. As a result, the ERB was required to meet current and future planned end strength controls. ERB focused on 31 specific Navy rat-

ings that are more than 103 percent manned.

In Dec. 2, the Navy announced a total of 12,261 Sailors reviewed by the ERB were selected for retention.

Also during the conference, Melanie D'Andrea, a representative from Military and Family Support Center (MFSC), talked about the transition assistance program (TAP) and other benefits made available at the MFSC.

Sailors who are separating prior to their end of active obligated service (EAOS) are required to attend TAP workshops as part of their transition out of the Navy.

D'Andrea said it is recommended for service members to take the TAP class as early as possible to better prepare for their future.

Navy Region Hawaii Command Master Chief Marc Sibal, who recently attended a TAP class, said he was overwhelmed with the amount of information he received. He encouraged his Sailors to take the class twice, if possible.

New active duty appointment program to begin at Hickam Family Health Clinic

15th Medical Group

Beginning Jan. 1, 2012, the 15th Medical Group at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam will institute a new active duty appointment program, replacing the walk-in system known as sick call.

Walk-in services will cease in the family health clinic as the new year begins. All active duty sick call in the family health clinic will be by appointment only. Please call 448-6000 between the hours of 7:15 and 8 a.m. to schedule a sick call appointment. Closure of walk-in sick call ensures that active duty members will no longer have to wait in the clinic to

receive an appointment.

Service members who feel they are too sick to call for an appointment or feel their illness is an emergency can seek medical attention at Tripler Army Medical Center's emergency department.

Active duty supervisors are advised that prior to having Airmen seek medical attention, they can exercise the option of allowing personnel to stay home for up to 24 hours. In accordance with AFI 41-210, Patient Administrative Functions, paragraph 3.6.4 states that, 'Unit commanders and supervisors have the authority to grant up to 24 hours of sick status at their discretion if a mem-

ber's illness/injury does not require medical treatment facility intervention. If the illness/injury persists beyond 24 hours, then the commander or supervisor must refer the member to the MTF for treatment and subsequent quarters authorization.' Some examples of non-emergent illnesses for adults are colds, cough, stomach ache, or nausea and vomiting for less than 24 hours.

The 15th Medical Group at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam is committed to delivering the ultimate health care experience. Please partner with us to manage your health care needs.

For more information, visit <http://on.fb.me/u3NFDs>.

Inter-harbor boat shuttle changes announced

The inter-harbor boat shuttle will not run on Dec. 23, 26, 30 and Jan. 2 due to the holiday work schedule.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

Dec. 22 – Boot Camp for New Dads
Jan. 5 – Cirque Dreams World Tour-MWR

(The segments currently air between 6:20 and 6:30 a.m. each Thursday. Previous segments can be viewed at <http://www.bit.ly/KHONavy>)

Got a story for KHON Hawaii Navy News?

Email editor@hookelenews.com or call Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs at 473-2875. Stories must have a Navy tie and be of interest to the general public.

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