

USS Ronald Reagan visits

Friends and family members of Sailors aboard Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) wave to the ship as it enters Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Aug. 31 during a scheduled port visit. Reagan recently returned from a seven-month deployment and aided in tsunami relief efforts in Japan.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker



Gen. North honored, inducted into Order of the Sword

Staff Sgt. Gustavo Gonzalez

Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

Enlisted Pacific Air Forces Airmen gathered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to induct Gen. Gary North, Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) commander, into the command's Order of the Sword on Aug. 26.

The Order of the Sword is the highest honor and tribute non-commissioned officers can bestow upon an individual. It is patterned after two orders of chivalry founded during the Middle Ages in Europe and still in existence today – the Royal Order of the Sword and the Swedish Military Order of the Sword.

In 1522, King Gustavus I of Sweden, enjoined the noblemen he commissioned to appoint officers to serve him – accountants, builders, craftsmen, teachers, scribes and others responsible for conducting the ordinary daily affairs of the kingdom. The system worked so well it was incorporated into the Swedish army as a way to establish and maintain a cohesive, disciplined, well-trained force to protect lives and property in the kingdom. These ancient NCOs honored their leader and pledged their loyalty by presenting him with a sword.

U.S. Air Force NCOs revised



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn

Gen. Gary North, Pacific Air Forces commander, stands at attention as the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team gives a special performance commemorating the night, during the Order of the Sword ceremony at the Tradewinds enlisted club at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Aug. 26.

and updated the Order of the Sword ceremony and adopted it in 1967. Since then, the rare honor of receiving it has only been accorded to leaders who are

recognized for taking great pride and showing great concern for the enlisted corps. North became the 15th person to receive the honor.

“It’s all about Airmen honoring Airmen,” North said. “It’s a humbling experience. It’s a privilege to serve among you and your family. To serve our Air Force and to

serve our nation in both peacetime and combat is one of the greatest privileges any American can have.”

The general distinguished himself by dedicating more than \$149.8 million to improve PACAF Airmen’s quality of life. He also stood up three joint bases in the Pacific including Joint Region Marianas, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. He also cultivated and fostered command-wide total force integration, partnering active duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian Airmen.

The ceremony’s attendees included the 16th Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy.

“It’s an honor to be here,” Roy said. “His concern for people and his ability to put people at ease is remarkable. We hope that all Airmen would care for people this way. On behalf of all Airmen, thank you for your leadership.”

According to North, he is just another Airman in a long line of Airmen – one who is thrilled with the honor to continue to serve.

“Your dedicated service, your trust, your faith and your confidence in me and the privileges I have had, specifically to be afforded to serve alongside of you, is the greatest privilege that an officer could ever have,” he said.

Vice President Biden visits Hickam flightline

Vice President Biden greets Gen. Gary North (middle), Pacific Air Forces commander, and Col. Sam Barrett (right), 15th Wing commander, as he prepares to depart Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Aug. 25. Biden made a brief stop on the island after returning from a visit overseas. See additional information on page A-2.

U.S. Air Force photo by Sr. Airman Lauren Main



CMSAF Roy visits Hawaii, talks about Air Force-wide issues
See page A-2



JPAC breaks ground on new multi-million dollar facility
See page A-2



Ice hockey game in Hawaii honors Wounded Warriors
See page B-1



Aloha to Esmeralda
See page A-2



Aegis Ashore Missile Defense Test Complex receives site dedication
See page A-4



Air Force Ball guest speaker goes from pilot to NFL
See page B-2

CMSAF Roy visits Hawaii, talks about Air Force-wide issues

Staff Sgt. Gustavo Gonzalez

Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

When Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy recently visited Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs had a chance to ask him questions on Air Force-wide issues. The following is a transcript of his interview:

Q. You were the senior enlisted leader and advisor at PACOM and 5th Air Force prior to becoming the 16th chief master sergeant of the Air Force. How does it feel to be back in the Pacific theater?

A. It's awesome. Ms. Paula and I were here last Christmas and New Years, and we were able to spend some time in Japan and Korea with our Airmen and their families and share with them how much we appreciate what they do and the sacrifice they endure. But it's great to be back. We have enjoyed every single day of nearly 29 years of service regardless of where we served. Obviously, the time we served in the Pacific is a highlight, whether it be to Osan or Kunsan Air Bases in Korea, Japan, Guam, or here at U.S. PACOM. We have a lot of fun memories.

It's especially good to see that our Airmen are completely focused, bringing the full power of America's Air Force to promote peace



Chief Master Sgt. James Roy

and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Q. PACAF contributed heavily to Operation Tomodachi and is involved in ongoing humanitarian missions through its Pacific Angel exercise series. How do you feel humanitarian and military-to-military engagements in the Pacific contribute to the mission?

A. When I worked at Camp Smith, Hawaii, home of U.S. Pacific Command, you could not overemphasize the importance of humanitarian assistance and what it does for a nation, what it does in the hearts and minds of people across the Pacific.

One of our most trusted allies is Japan, and having served in Japan and having numerous friends in Japan, it's our nature as Americans to help people. We have capabilities

beyond most militaries, and it is the willingness to use those capabilities that makes us who we are. Other people have similar capabilities, but they may not have the same intent or will. That's what makes us Americans.

Humanitarian assistance is so important. You can make a direct correlation between human assistance and national security, and you can draw that line in numerous ways. Building partner nation capacity is something that we have worked extensively in the PACOM area of operations. It's something that we call phase zero operations, and it takes place before we ever go to battle.

The fact that we can have relationships with partner nations, helping them build their capacity so that we can rely on them as they rely on us, is imperative and at the end of the day, it promotes peace and stability in the region. We've done a good job at it, and we will continue to do those things.

Q. Among other factors being considered to further the development of Airmen, can you explain what is currently on the table about going to a single training record or system – and what the impact or gain of such an initiative might be?

A. One of the things we started is this initiative of bringing back one training record system. Right now

we have multiple training record systems, whether it's electronic or hard copy. We need to have one electronic record system.

We did a call out to career field managers to find out their requirements, and it's time to press forward with it. We are working with the Air Education Training Command to make sure we do this in synchronization with their activities. We have some thoughts of when we would like to see it, but it's out there a little ways.

Q. Because of the nation's ongoing budgeting difficulties and our fiscally constrained environment, lawmakers are discussing options with regard to changing the future military retirement system. As the Air Force's top enlisted leader, can you tell us what is currently being discussed at the higher levels about military retirements and benefits?

A. Talk to Airmen and their families. It's one of their primary concerns. This is true across all services. Today I talked to joint partners, and they are concerned just like Airmen are concerned. The bottom line is a decision has not been made. Ultimately, it's a decision that will be made by Congress. There are a couple things I will challenge our folks with. We are all American citizens, which gives us certain liberties and freedoms. One of them is to vote.

The fact is that most of

our Congressmen and Senators have not served in a uniform like us. I believe it would be wise for them to understand what a typical service member endures every single day. It would be wise for them to understand that before they make that critical decision because we are not a civilian force, we are not a union.

The fact is our Airmen are very young and have a lot of responsibility – we are a highly educated force. If you want to sustain an all-volunteer force that has served this nation very well, sometimes you have to pay for that. We have to provide that information to the decision-makers so that they can make the right decision. We cannot afford to hollow our force.

Q. With the current force restructure, what does the Air Force of the future look like for young Airmen?

A. We have to look at force structure. We have about 332,000 active duty Airmen and about 698,000 total force, and we've stayed at that number for years. Secretary Donley and Gen. Schwartz have focused in on that number, not because it's a number, but because it's what our combatant commanders have asked of the U.S. Air Force. That number is not just pulled out of the sky.

As the nation goes through this fiscal constraint, it will tell us as an

Air Force what is required of us which may force a service restructure. Here is the bottom line: We are the finest Air Force in the world and part of the best military in the entire world. What makes us that are the people.

It's the people that make our Air Force and the Department of Defense strong. We have to make sure we don't hollow our force. There are ample and there will be ample positions for good, outstanding Airmen to serve today and in the future. What we need people to do is focus on the mission of today.

Q. Any final words?

A. Again it is good to be back in the Pacific [and have] the opportunity to share a bit about what's going on in D.C. and hopefully, we are able to put some people at ease about the things they read about. We still have a mission to do, and it requires both the member and the family. We continue to focus on family through different forums.

It is great to be back here, and I would just say to all the Airmen to focus on the mission and take care of each other. We have some challenges ahead of us, but it's much bigger than just taking care of yourself and wingman; it's about taking care of each of us. We need to expand that out a little bit and take care of all Airmen, not just those that we are familiar with.



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Sean Furey

The Chilean Navy training ship B.E. Esmeralda arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled port visit. The guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) is the host ship for the crew of the Esmeralda while the ship is in port. Esmeralda serves as a training vessel for naval officers and crew members who have recently graduated from their respective academies.



Photo courtesy of JPAC

Kahu Kekoa blesses the ground while several dignitaries prepare to shovel the first mound of dirt for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command's new state-of-the-art facility during a groundbreaking ceremony Aug. 30 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. When complete, the new building will optimize JPAC'S mission by consolidating many functional areas into a single, three-story structure. JPAC's mission is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of our nation's previous conflicts.

JPAC breaks ground on new multi-million dollar facility

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) celebrated the groundbreaking and blessing ceremony for the command's new multi-million dollar facility Aug. 30, near the Kuntz Gate on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Sen. Daniel Inouye, the keynote speaker, offered remarks on the importance of bringing home those who fought for

America's freedom and paid the ultimate sacrifice.

"We must always keep our promise to these individuals and stay true to this code of honor," Inouye said.

The new 136,497 square-foot state-of-the-art facility will further enhance the Department of Defense's mission to account for its missing U.S. personnel.

Falling directly under the U.S. Pacific Command, JPAC is a

jointly manned organization of more than 400 military and civilian specialists that has, with its predecessor organizations, investigated and recovered missing Americans since the 1970's.

The ultimate goal of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, and of the agencies involved in returning America's heroes home, is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of Americans lost during the nation's past conflicts.

Vice President Joe Biden speaks to Marines, Sailors and families at MCBH

Cpl. Vanessa American Horse

Vice President Joe Biden speaks to Marines, Sailors and their families at Hangar 105 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii on Aug. 25. More than 1,000 spectators gathered to hear Biden speak. "I wish everyone's wives, sons and daughters were here, because America owes them," Biden said. "In all of history, no generation of families has had to deal with repeated deployments such as you have." After his remarks to the troops, Biden made time to shake hands and pose for photographs with each person who wanted to come forward. The vice president stopped in Hawaii after a nine-day trip to Asia where he met with key leaders to discuss bilateral, regional and international issues, according to the White House.



USS Russell underway

The guided-missile destroyer USS Russell (DDG 59) prepares to get underway from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a seven-month independent deployment. Russell will be conducting operations in the U.S. 7th and U.S. 5th Fleet areas of responsibility.



Fly-by tribute over Maui this Saturday will honor Navy's Kraig Vickers

Navy Region Hawaii

Two F/A-18 aircraft from the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) will conduct a fly-by tribute at approximately 1:45 p.m. Sept. 3 to honor Navy Senior Chief Kraig Vickers. The flyover will be held during a memorial ceremony near Haiku, Maui.

Senior Chief Vickers was one of the 30 U.S. service members lost Aug. 6 while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

The fly-by tribute will be conducted in a way that will minimize time over

populated areas. "In honoring Senior Chief Vickers, we want to ensure we are not alarming the local community," said Cmdr. David Hauth, of Commander, Third Fleet Air Operations.

Flyovers are sometimes conducted to pay special tribute to fallen service members.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Warfare Specialist Senior Chief Petty Officer (Expeditionary Warfare Specialist/Freefall Parachutist) Kraig M. Vickers, 36, was born on Oahu and grew up on Maui.

MCPON sends Labor Day message

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

WASHINGTON (NNS) – Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following Labor Day message to the fleet:

"Shipmates and Navy families, The symbolic end to summer is just around the corner ... Labor Day weekend. Have you started making plans yet? Do your plans involve drinking and driving or driving long distances while fatigued? Do they involve water sports after a long day of drinking alcohol? How about driving a motorcycle at excessive

speeds just to feel a rush?

Of course Sailors don't plan to do these things, but we continue to lose shipmates because of the bad choices they make. So far, we have lost 15 Sailors this summer: six in four-wheel motor vehicle mishaps, six on motorcycles and three during recreation mishaps. Last year we lost a total of 14 Sailors from Memorial Day to Labor Day and we have unfortunately exceeded that total with a few weeks left before Labor Day. The loss of one trained and ready Sailor is unacceptable, and in most cases preventable.

I encourage all of you to practice off-duty risk management while planning your activities, and avoid

cramming too many activities into a short period of time. Use caution when driving and think SAFE: no speeding, no alcohol before driving, no fatigue (get plenty of rest) and no ejections (wear your seatbelts). Also use caution when participating in water activities and, if drinking, always have a plan to get home.

Stay safe and let's close out summer and Labor Day weekend with zero fatalities or injuries. Enjoy your much-deserved time off with your family and friends and, as always, keep in mind our Sailors who are deployed and can't be with their loved ones.

Enjoy your Labor Day weekend and hooyah!"

Diverse Views



What are your plans for this long Labor Day weekend?



Bridget Juarez

"Well, we just moved here, so I really have no idea. But if we were back home in Georgia, we would be at our family reunion this weekend."

Danielle Moran

"Shopping. Everything's on sale this weekend."



Staff Sgt. Larry Harris
647th Security Forces

"I'm actually working this weekend. Security forces don't get holidays off. But on my days off, I usually just sleep and recover."



Yorvania Lightbourn
Gas Turbine Mechanic (SW) Seaman

"I'm supposed to be going to the (UH) football game on Saturday. Then I'm getting a facial on Sunday, and my mom and fiancé are visiting so I'm taking them around the island. Oh, and I'm barbecuing on Monday."



Lt. Col. Rob Swanson
HQ PACAF/A30W

"Since I've just returned to the island, house hunting tops the list!"



Nick Tovo
Defense Media Activity Hawaii

"To exercise, go to the beach, and have fun in the sun."



Master Sgt. Grace Devera-Montano
13th Air Force

"We are going to renovate our home and our apartment."



(Provided by David D. Underwood Jr. and Jazzmin Williams)

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

WAVES learn to navigate in Puerto Rico



U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command photograph

WAVES from Puerto Rico learn navigation under the supervision of QM1 Walter M. Zubik of the U.S. Navy. This exercise took place when USS Corduba (AF-32) was in port at San Juan, Puerto Rico in November 1951.

HO'OKELE Online

<http://www.hookelenews.com> or <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii>

HO'OKELE

Commander,
Navy Region Hawaii
Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith

Chief of Staff
Capt. Melvin Lee

Director,
Public Affairs
Agnes Tauyan

Deputy Director,
Public Affairs
Bill Doughty

Leading Petty Officer
MC2 Mark Logico

Staff Writer
MC2 Robert Stirrup

Commander,
Joint Base
Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Capt. Jeffrey James

Deputy Commander
Col. Dann S. Carlson

Director, Public Affairs
Grace Hew Len

Managing Editor
Karen Spangler

Assistant Editor
Don Robbins

Sports Editor
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer
Jazzmin Williams

Layout/Design
Antonio Verceluz

Layout/Design
Michael Villafuerte

Ho'okele is a free unofficial paper published every Thursday by The Honolulu Star Advertiser 500 Ala Moana Boulevard Suite 7-500 Honolulu Hawaii 96813, a private firm in no way connected with DoD, the U. S. Navy or Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with Commander, Navy Region Hawaii. All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: editor@hookelenews.com World Wide Web address: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Hawaii/> or www.hookelenews.com.

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication primarily for members of the Navy and Marine Corps military services and their families in Hawaii. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U. S. Government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps and do not imply endorsement thereof.

The civilian publisher, The Honolulu Star Advertiser, is responsible for commercial advertising, which may be purchased by calling (808) 521-9111.

The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products and services advertised by the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii or The Honolulu Star Advertiser.

Everything advertised in this paper shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

A confirmed violation of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source.

Ho'okele is delivered weekly to Navy & Air Force housing units and Navy installations throughout Oahu. Housing residents may contact the publisher directly at (808) 690-8864 if they wish to discontinue home delivery.

USS Santa Fe returns from western Pacific deployment

Story and photo by
MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

The Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Aug. 24 after completing a scheduled six-month deployment to the western Pacific (WESTPAC) region. Cmdr. David Adams, commanding officer of Santa Fe, commented that there is nothing like a successful WESTPAC to unite a crew.

"Our crew truly did it all and got it done right," Adams said. "From their impeccable conduct ashore acting as terrific ambassadors of our great nation, to their extraordinary professionalism at accomplishing our operational com-



Sonar Technician 1st Class (SS) Christian More is greeted with a kiss by his girlfriend as he is the first to disembark when the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) returned home on Aug. 24.

mander's highest priority missions, this deployment was one for the record books."

The deployment was the first for the majority of the crew which, according to Adams, provided an outstanding opportunity for young Sailors to learn and experience life on a submarine in a real-world environment.

"From a training perspective, it was amazing," said Sonar Technician 3rd Class Channing Williams. "There is nothing like getting to do the real thing."

Santa Fe experienced the dynamic operational environment of the western Pacific and returned with a wealth of submarine experience and advanced qualifications with 18 who became submarine qualified and are now authorized to wear the submarine warfare insignia or "dolphins."

"The highlight during

this deployment was when you look into their eyes, it is easy to see Santa Fe's crew believes in the mission and each other," Adams said. "There is also nothing quite like coming home to share the success with our families who have worked so hard to keep it all together in our absence. Without them, we certainly couldn't have gotten it done."

Santa Fe is the second ship to be named in honor of the capital city of New Mexico. As an improved Los Angeles-class, she features retractable bow planes and 12 vertical launch tubes for cruise missile strikes.

Los Angeles-class submarines are ideally suited for covert missions. This stealth, when combined with the submarine's Tomahawk cruise missiles, mines and torpedoes, provide the operational commander with an unseen force multiplier.

Aegis Ashore Missile Defense Test Complex receives site dedication

Pacific Missile Range Facility
Public Affairs

The Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) at Barking Sands, Kauai conducted a cultural site dedication Aug. 29 for the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense Test Complex (AAMDTC) to be constructed at two locations on PMRF.

The Hawaiian blessing site dedication was conducted by noted Waimea kupuna Aletha Kaohi, with assistance from Sherri "Puni" Patrick. U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, Rear Adm. Joseph A. Horn, Missile Defense Agency's (MDA) program director for Aegis ballistic missile defense; Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; Capt. Nicholas Mongillo, commanding officer of Pacific Missile Range Facility; and other dignitaries were in attendance.

The AAMDTC will be a test and evaluation center in the development of the second phase of the phased adaptive approach (PAA). The PAA was announced by the president in September 2009

to provide flexible, adaptable ballistic missile defense for deployed troops, friends and allies.

The test complex at PMRF is critical to the development of the Aegis ashore

design capability. It is essential for verifying requirements and validating



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

(Above) Aunty Aletha Kaohi hands Capt. Nicholas Mongillo, commanding officer, Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), an umeke bowl during a dedication ceremony Aug. 29 for the Aegis Ashore Missile Defense Test Complex to be constructed at two sites at PMRF. The umeke held soil from both sites. The Hawaiian blessing site dedication was conducted by noted Waimea kupuna Kaohi, with assistance from Sherri "Puni" Patrick. - (Left) Kaulana Finn performs a hula to 'Nohili E'.

design capability prior to deployment at the first of two planned sites in Europe in 2015.

After initial certification, the AAMDTC will remain at PMRF as a Missile Defense Agency test asset and will be operated by the Missile Defense Agency.

Deployment of Aegis ashore to Europe will greatly enhance coverage of defense of Europe as part of the overall ballistic missile defense system.

Call CNIC Support Center for telephone issues

Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs

Personnel at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam can call CNIC Support Center at 1-888-CNI-4ALL (1-888-264-4255) if they are experiencing any telephone issues. The caller will then be prompted by an automated message.

Press "4" for telecom support and "4" again to select Hawaii as the location. The caller will be connected to a

live operator who will begin initial troubleshooting steps with the caller.

After troubleshooting, if the caller is still experiencing telephone issues, the operator will connect the caller to the specific help desk and stay on the line to make sure the caller is assisted.

Personnel can call this hotline for any telephone-related issue such as static on the line, no dial-tone, etc.

My Favorite Photo...

In a photo taken last weekend on the Big Island, Lt. Erik N. Molina snapped this scene of Halemaumau Crater from the lookout at Jagger Museum.

Photo by Lt. Erik N. Molina,
Navy Region Hawaii

See submission guidelines on page A-8.



Pearl Harbor-Hickam Highlights

Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) returns to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Aug. 24 after completing a six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ronald Cutridge



(Left) Aircrew Survival Equipmentman 3rd Class Josimar Hall of Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9) discusses aircrew survival equipment with Vietnamese general officers and delegation during the group's visit Aug. 16 to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe. The military delegation visited VP-9 to learn about the P-3C's search and rescue capabilities in preparation for an exercise next summer.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Scott A. Buchholz



U.S. Navy photo by STSN Michelle Gallo

(Above) Telephone-and-distance line handlers stand by on the foc'sle of guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73) as she commences her approach Aug. 17 with Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS Laramie (T-AO 203) in the Arabian Gulf in preparation for a replenishment-at-sea. Port Royal is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime security operations and missions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

(Above) Friends and family members of Sailors aboard Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) wave as the ship enters Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during a scheduled port visit. Reagan recently returned from a seven-month deployment and aided in tsunami relief efforts in Japan.



Photo by David D. Underwood, Jr.

Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey D. Helm, Senior Enlisted Leader to the Commanding General, Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), headquartered in Dallas, Texas, talks with Tech. Sgt. Eugene Powell, 15th Wing, during his visit to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on Aug. 29. Terence Maynard, Hickam main store manager (second right) and David Swenson, retail business manager look on. Sgt Maj. James Pigford, senior enlisted advisor, Pacific Region, Okinawa was also visiting the Hickam BXtra.



Gen. Gary North, Pacific Air Forces commander, speaks to PACAF Airmen during his Order of the Sword induction ceremony at the Tradewinds enlisted club at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Aug. 26. The ceremony is conducted by noncommissioned officers to honor leaders who have made significant contributions to the enlisted corps. This ceremony reflects the highest recognition the enlisted corps can bestow on anyone.

U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn

Records and reports sections combine operations

Story and photo by
DC Smith

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

The 647th Security Forces Squadron reports and records section at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam has combined operations with the Pearl Harbor-Hickam Security Department reports and records section.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam security personnel provide support to the entire JBPHH geographical area. The security office, located in building 278, closed at noon Sept. 1. However, all



Tracy Pulice, security assistant, Security Department Records and Reports Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), checks files for a customer as part of the consolidation of records and reports maintained at building 1012, 505 Hanger Ave. on the Hickam side of JBPHH.

services previously available will resume on Sept. 6 at building 1012 located on the Hickam side of the Joint Base.

According to Reginald Brunner, reports and records manager of 647th Security Forces Squadron. "Currently members of the JBPHH community may have to stop at two different offices to get the necessary information regarding criminal, traffic and mishap incidents for which the Joint Base Security Department has responsibility on the base."

Brunner added, "The consolidation will provide one-stop shopping for our

reports and records customers."

Brunner said joint handling of numerous mishaps in a single location will provide for an improved, more efficient, and increased timeliness of delivery in support services to customers.

Senior Master Sgt. Jessica Dellarosa, superintendent of 647th Security Force Squadron, said, "Our process improvement and the efficiencies gained through the consolidation of offices solidify the effectiveness of joint basing."

JBPHH security forces provide a range of security support not often realized

by all its customers. Brunner explained, "In addition to processing reports, the sections support Office of Personnel Management (OPM) background investigations for new hires and current employees. They provide the Joint Base commander statistical data on various incidents to include traffic accidents and criminal activity."

Brunner emphasized that the team effort involved in the security office move was an effort to better serve all of JBPHH security-related customers.

For more information, call Brunner at 449-9713.

Joint Venture Education Forum conference showcases accomplishments

Spc. Marcus Fichtl

8th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs, 8th Theater Sustainment Command

According to educator and philosopher John Dewey, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."

Educators and the armed services on Hawaii recognized nearly 400 military volunteers during the 10th Annual Joint Venture Education Forum, or JVEF, meeting at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Aug. 25.

JVEF is a partnership between the military, the Department of Education and the state of Hawaii

JVEF is designed to enhance the educational opportunities for students in Hawaii's public schools, ultimately serving as an integral building block for a positive relationship between the military and civilians in Hawaii.

"We're showing to the community what great things came about this past year — from the cre-

ation of a transition center that helps integrate students (and) the grants we won, to the constant mentorship and support service members provide each day," said Tamsin Keone, director of school support services for child, youth and school services, directorate of family and morale, welfare and recreation.

Even as the conference showcased past accomplishments and applauded military volunteers, a dark cloud loomed over the program's future. The JVEF, primarily funded through defense-appropriated earmarks, saw its funding cut when Congress banned earmarks earlier this year.

Sen. Daniel Inouye, chairman of Defense Appropriations and a Medal of Honor recipient, who was the primary proponent for the creation of JVEF, was the meeting's guest speaker.

"This gathering, the 10th Annual (JVEF), is bittersweet," he said. "Eleven years ago, this



Photo by Brian Kitaoka

U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye is the guest speaker at the 10th Annual Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) held Aug. 25 at Hawaii Okinawa Center in Waipio. Inouye was the primary proponent for the creation of JVEF.

program began with a \$6-million earmark. ... This small program has done much more than some of the huge programs that try to achieve friendly relations between the

public and the military."

Hawaii's military and civilian populations have a very intertwined relationship in education, as 15,000 military dependent children represent eight

percent of the total 176,000 students enrolled in Hawaii's public school system, affecting schools on Oahu, Kauai and the Big Island, where military facilities are also located.

"Unfortunately, a lot of the grants and funding won't be there, but JVEF will remain, and the goals of JVEF will remain," Keone said.

Keone explained that the direct contact between service members and students is what really brought the groups together.

"(The local schools) are very excited about our support. Many times, Soldiers fill the void of volunteers at their schools through read-along programs and mentorship programs," Keone said. "Where they once saw the military as a separate entity with only bad effects on the community, now they see the military as part of their community with positive effects."

Through partnership programs, many sponsored by JVEF, Soldiers

feel connected with the students, and students feel connected with individual Soldiers.

"These kids are our future," said Sgt. Elisha Hensley, 39th Military Police Detachment, 8th MP Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, and a volunteer at Haleiwa Elementary School. "I'm honored that they would recognize me, when I'm already more than honored to have a hand in their future."

This honor is something that Inouye hopes is a defining part of the relationship between military and civilians in Hawaii.

"It is important that the people and the military learn to love each other and get to work together," Inouye said. "These are men and women who have volunteered; they did not have to put on the uniform. They stand before the enemy in harm's way and risk their lives. I think the least we can do is embrace them as our friends."

Run will cause temporary bridge closure

The Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Run Pearl Harbor 5K run will start at 7 a.m. Sept. 11 at Richardson Field. The course will cross over the Ford Island Bridge, around the traffic circle, back over the bridge.

In support of the run, the Ford Island Bridge will be closed for approximately 45 minutes from 6:50 to 7:35 a.m. The runners will have full access to the bridge on the initial crossing and will be directed to the coned off breakdown lane on the return leg and finish at Richardson Field.

All drivers should plan accordingly, pass the area with caution and obey security and warning signs.

ASYMCA honors Seabee with Operation Makeover Award

Story and photo by
Thomas Obungen

Naval Facilities Engineering
Command Hawaii

The Armed Services Young Men's Christian Association Honolulu (ASYMCA) honored Utilitiesman 1st Class Sean Gosslin, a Seabee with Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii Self-Help, with its Operation Makeover award for August 2011 at a ceremony held before peers Aug. 19 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"The Armed Services YMCA is dedicated to serving those who serve America," said Stan Lum, executive director of ASYMCA Honolulu. "I want to thank Sean for leading by example, being dependable, having a professional attitude and maintaining an impeccable appearance, holding high personal and professional goals, preserving an attention to detail, and providing leadership and mentoring skills."

Operation Makeover is one of 20 programs available through the ASYMCA for those who serve in the military. It was started in 2010 by



Utilitiesman 1st Class Sean Gosslin (left), a Seabee with Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii Self-Help, accepts an Operation Makeover Award package from Stan Lum, executive director of Armed Services Young Men's Christian Association's (ASYMCA), Honolulu Chapter.

local businessman Paul Brown, who wanted to express his gratitude in a tangible way to men and women in

uniform.

Recipients of the award are treated to a complete makeover at the

Paul Brown Salon and Day Spa, dinner for two at Roy's in Waikiki, and a two-night stay in an oceanfront room at the Marriott Waikiki. As many as three recipients can be awarded each month.

"I want to thank all of my troops," said Gosslin, who supervises 32 Seabees as the self-help leading petty officer. "I love every one of you individually and in many different ways. I love coming into work because of you, and I appreciate everything that you do."

Nominations are accepted through the ASYMCA Honolulu's website, www.asymcahi.org, and can be submitted by anyone – civilian or military.

"We have a lot of aloha for you and what you do," said Lum. "Sean is a superstar. Thank you for sharing him with us. I cannot thank you enough for the work you folks have done for the ASYMCA," Lum said.

The YMCA first served the military more than 150 years ago during the Civil War. Its armed services department developed into the Armed Services YMCA that still serves today. ASYMCA was established in Hawaii 94 years ago by businessmen in Honolulu.

Pacific Unity concludes in Ha Tinh, Vietnam

Pacific Unity Public Affairs

HA TINH, VIETNAM – In an effort to foster friendship and improved relationships between the United States and Vietnam, more than 60 military civil engineers, construction workers and volunteers from both countries have come together to renovate three medical clinics in Ha Tinh Province.

Pacific Unity is a U.S. Pacific Command funded Humanitarian Assistance mission, coordinated through the People's Committee of Ha Tinh Province. Pacific Unity is a bilateral (U.S. and Vietnam) and joint (U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy)



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. John Herrick

U.S. Air Force Reserve Tech. Sgt. Elmer Domingo, crew member of the 624th Civil Engineer Squadron, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, works with Vietnamese military members to make improvements to Thach Dong medical clinic in Ha Tinh Province, Vietnam on Aug. 18, in support of Engineering Civic Action Program (ENCAP) Pacific Unity 11-4.

Engineering Civic Action Program conducted in combination with People's Committee of Ha Tinh Province civil authorities and provincial military command.

U.S. Air Force Prime BEEF (624th Civil Engineer Squadron) and U.S. Navy Seabees (Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133) construction teams in combination with People's Committee of Ha Tinh civil and military teams and selected construction contractors continue to make major renovation of three medical clinics: Thach Dong Clinic, Thach Mon Clinic

and Ha Huy Tap Clinic.

The project began Aug. 9 and concluded Aug. 29.

As part of the planning process, the three medical clinics were evaluated by local contractors and military civil engineer planners to determine the needs for each. Now following the plan that was created, the construction team of Seabees, civil engineers, Vietnamese military and local contractors and volunteers work together to provide lasting improvements.

The team has laid tile, built incinerators, replaced plumbing, built bathrooms, showers and

water catchment systems, repaired roofs, upgraded electrical systems, repainted and landscaped.

They have also built lasting relationships with the Vietnamese military.

"I think our work here is a small piece of the bigger goal of building a relationship with the people of Vietnam. I think our work will leave a lasting impression on the community which could grow into a great friendship," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Jessica Hall, Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Gulfport, Miss., project supervisor for the Thach Dong Clinic.

Commentary

Please, hang up and drive: Tragedy only takes the blink of an eye

Don Branum

Air Force Academy Public Affairs

If you have been in the Air Force for a while, you might know the name Gary Kunich. He worked for European Stars and Stripes around the time I first entered the Air Force in 1999. He retired in 2006 as a master sergeant, but he has never put down the pen: today he writes for local publications in his adopted hometown of Kenosha, Wisc.

Today, he has a new message, one that he is asking everyone to help spread: "Don't drive distracted. Put away your electronic devices before you start your engine."

It's a message he can't spread by himself, but it's one that might

have saved his son.

Kunich shared tragic news with a group of military public affairs professionals via Facebook on Aug. 14. Devin Kunich, 21, had died a few days earlier when a car hit his bicycle along County Highway H in Pleasant Prairie, Wisc. in the early hours of Aug. 7.

According to Pleasant Prairie Police Department reports, visibility was poor. The stretch of County Highway H where the accident occurred has no street lights, and a fog blanketed the area. Devin was riding north on his way home from the Bristol, Wisc. Renaissance Faire where, according to his obituary, he was captain of the Black Swan swing ride.

At the same time, 18-year-old Quashae Taylor was driv-

ing along the same road. She was driving without her glasses and had been talking off and on to her boyfriend on her cell phone. She closed her eyes for what she described as a "long blink" as she answered her phone again at approximately 12:45 a.m.

Taylor probably never saw Devin before she hit his bicycle from behind. The impact flipped him onto her car, where he lay for almost six seconds before falling off. Police would later find his backpack, personal belongings and bicycle seat strewn in a 300-foot trail from the impact site.

Taylor slowed down, called 911 and stopped at the intersection of County Highway H and State Highway 165, a mile north of the accident scene. The paramedics who responded pronounced Devin

dead at the scene.

As tragically as the events unfolded, one thing stuck out at me: the police reported that Devin was wearing dark clothing at the time of the accident and was not wearing a helmet. They later found a light which may have been on his bicycle at the time of impact.

I talked with one of my co-workers about the situation on Aug. 15. At the time, police had reported not finding any lights or rear reflectors on Devin's bike. I asked my co-worker, a fellow bicyclist, how I could write a story without mentioning that it might have been impossible for anyone to see Devin until the last second. Neither of us had a good answer.

That answer came a couple of days later, on the

evening of Aug. 17. I was talking to my wife as we walked through Garden of the Gods Park, and as I posed the same question to her, I recalled a similar event about a year ago.

I was driving north along Chelton Road, just north of Fountain Boulevard in Colorado Springs, about an hour after dark. A bicyclist, dressed in dark clothing and with no lights on his bicycle, seemingly appeared out of nowhere. I had maybe half a second to swerve just enough to avoid him – and I probably missed him by less than a foot.

Half a second. The blink of an eye.

What if I had been trying to answer my phone instead of paying attention to the road?

Quashae Taylor has no

prior record, no criminal history, not even a traffic ticket. Prosecutors have charged her with negligent homicide. She faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine. The blink of an eye changed her life.

Devin Kunich is dead. The blink of an eye ended his.

Gary and Ruth Kunich must live the rest of their lives without their son. Gary told me he doesn't want her to face extensive jail time but does want "some jail time and accountability."

"The hard part is struggling with the forgiveness (balanced with) the accountability," he said.

But more importantly, Gary and Ruth want people to put the phone away before turning the ignition.

So please, hang up and drive.

IG complaint system provides opportunity to air grievances

Lt. Col. Heath Shelburn
15th Wing/IG

Readiness of 15th Wing units depends heavily on the morale and welfare of our Airmen. Every member of the Air Force team deserves competent leadership, as well as a work environment free of corruption, abuse, prejudice, sexual harassment, favoritism and reprisal.

The IG complaint system is a forum available to Airmen, Department of Defense civilians, family members and retirees to air grievances, point out injustices, and alert the Air Force to potential fraud, waste and abuse.

The IG concept dates back over 380 years, and

the responsibilities of today's IG mirror those of the past - "to be alert for and inform the commander of matters indicative of systemic, morale, or other problems impeding efficiency and mission effectiveness."

If you have questions or concerns, the IG is there to help. The 15th Wing/IG is Lt. Col. Heath Shelburn, and he can be reached at 449-1584.

The 15th Wing/IG served as the installation IG prior to joint basing on Oct. 1, 2010. It still serves all Airmen assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) unless assigned to Pacific Command, 13th AF or Pacific Air Forces Headquarters.



ENERGYguideR helps consumers compare

Krista Stehn

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Energy Program

MYTH

The yellow and black ENERGYguideR cost label attached to a variety of new appliances, such as refrigerators, freezers, water heaters and clothes washers, tells you exactly how much you will spend each year to operate the appliance to which it is attached.

REALITY

The yellow and black

ENERGYguideR cost label estimates how much an appliance will cost to operate, based on a certain national average electricity rate published by the Department of Energy. Actual costs may vary, depending on electricity rate and usage of the appliance. The ENERGYguideR labels allow consumers to compare one appliance to similar models. They also provide a basis to help decide whether a more efficient, more expensive appliance is a better value than a less expensive model that is less efficient.

My favorite photo...

Do you enjoy taking pictures and have a favorite photo? Would you like to see it featured in Ho'okele? Here is your opportunity. Submissions must be from people affiliated with the military services, including active duty, family members, Reserve, retired and Department of Defense civilians, etc.

Your favorite photo can be just about anything, but keep in mind that it should be in good taste. We aren't looking for posed family shots or group shots. But if you have a photo that you think is interesting and

creative, here is your chance to see it published.

Photo submissions will be reviewed by Ho'okele editors who will determine if/when they will run in the newspaper. Along with your photo, please send a little bit of information about the photo, such as where it was taken or any interesting details. Also include the name of the photographer and contact information.

Please send your photos to editor@hookelenews.com and "cc" Karen Spangler, managing editor, at karen.spangler@navy.mil and Don Robbins, assistant editor, at drob@hookelenews.com.

Brush up on your photography skills. Ready, set, shoot!