

Defense Secretary visits Battleship Missouri

Story and photo by
Chris Aguinaldo

During a stopover on Oahu on the way to Singapore, U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates toured the Battleship Missouri Memorial on May 31. "I particularly wanted to visit because my wife is the sponsor of the new est

U.S. warship named Missouri, a nuclear attack submarine, which was commissioned last year," he said. "One of the mementos she was given was one of the original planks of this ship," he said of the memorial where World War II ended with the Japanese surrender on its deck. Gates spent about an hour on the historic battleship, accompanied by

Michael Carr, president and chief operating officer, Battleship Missouri Memorial. The secretary spoke briefly to the media after disembarking from the memorial, from a site near the bow of the ship. From there, he faced the Arizona Memorial. "It seems to me visiting this ship and looking at the Arizona Memorial is fitting the day after Memorial Day. It serves as a reminder of all of those who serve and made the supreme sacrifice for our country," Gates said.

Gates acknowledged how the men and women of Hawaii continue to make contributions in service to the country. In particular, he spoke of his recent visit in Iraq to Soldiers from the U.S. Army 25th Infantry Division, based in Hawaii. "I just want to thank all the people of Hawaii for the support that you provide to the United States military and all the services," he said.

Singapore on Wednesday, where he will participate in the Shangri-La Dialogue. He is expected to outline continued U.S. commitment to the Asia-Pacific region and also meet a number of defense ministers. According to the Defense Department, this is the secretary's fifth and final trip to the Asia security summit, which is sponsored by the International Institute of Strategic Studies.

Gates was scheduled to depart to

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates speaks to the press after a one-hour tour of the Battleship Missouri Memorial on May 31.



Aloha, Capt. Kitchens

U.S. Navy photo by DC Smith

Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Duton Frantz from the Arizona Detachment presents Capt. Richard Kitchens, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), with a flag that was flown at historic landmarks at JBPHH. Kitchens was honored at a farewell dinner held May 20 at the Hickam Officers Club. Capt. Jeff James relieves Kitchens as joint base commander during a change of command ceremony held today at Kilo Pier at JBPHH. (See the June 10 edition of Ho'okele for complete coverage of the change of command.)



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jon Dasbach

Sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Chung Hoon (DDG 93) heave in mooring lines prior to getting underway from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The Chung Hoon departed for an independent deployment to the western Pacific.

USS Chung-Hoon Sailors deploy to western Pacific

MC2 (SW) Mark Logico
Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Family members and friends said goodbye as the guided-missile destroyer

USS Chung-Hoon departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on June 1 for an independent deployment to the western Pacific.

Chung-Hoon, commanded by Cmdr. Stephen S. Erb, is deploying under the Middle

Pacific Surface Combatant (MPSC) deployment concept in which Pearl Harbor-based ships deploy in support of operations primarily in the western Pacific. The crew of

See CHUNG-HOON, A-9

USS Charlotte 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 Charlotte (SSN 766) returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after a

scheduled six-month deployment to the western Pacific region on May 31.

"This was an extremely successful deployment for Charlotte," said Cmdr. Richard Young, USS Charlotte commanding officer. "It was a long six months, but with the many hours of hard work and training, we accomplished

all mission expectations during this deployment."

Charlotte departed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 1, 2010 on her western Pacific deployment. The crew experienced the dynamic operational environment of the western Pacific and returned with a wealth of submarine experi-

See CHARLOTTE, A-9



The Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Charlotte (SSN 766) returns to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on May 31 after a scheduled deployment to the western Pacific region.



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Recycling program earns millions to benefit JBPHH and environment
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ATG MIDPAC master chief makes historic advancement

MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

A Sailor from Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific (ATG MIDPAC) became the first female African-American master chief in the damage controlman (DC) rating May 9.

Master Chief Damage Controlman Terryl Brewster was frocked to the rank of master chief during a ceremony at the ATG MIDPAC headquarters building on Ford Island.

"This is a very humbling experience for me. I visualize myself as a valuable leader and mentor regardless of what my ethnicity is. With that said, I know that I was chosen because of my sustained superior performance and not because I'm a woman nor because I'm African-American," Brewster

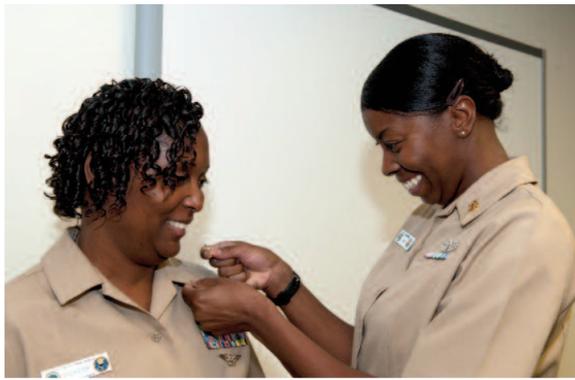


Photo by HMC Angela Hanzlik

Master Chief Damage Controlman Terryl Brewster has the master chief rank insignia pinned on her uniform by Chief Cryptologic Technician (Collections) Angela Fort during a promotion ceremony at the Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific headquarters building.

said. "Nevertheless, I'm honored to be selected and identified as the first African-American female in the DC rating. I know this is a major accomplishment and will be an inspiration to junior Sailors regardless of

their race, creed, color or gender, and I'm glad to share my experiences and challenging times, because it wasn't easy," she noted.

Brewster has been in the Navy for more than 24 years and said she has had some very important people help her get to where she is today.

"I've had some great mentors, but I must say that of them all, Kirk Roach, who became my mentor on 1997 when I was on board the USS Mahan and who is still an instrumental factor in guiding me today, has been the greatest of them all," Brewster said.

"Also, there is my older sister Temperance Jones. Whenever I felt things were overwhelming, she encouraged me to move on. She was that mother and confidant to me."

Capt. John Figuerres, commanding officer of ATG MID-

PAC, spoke about Brewster's accomplishments as a Sailor and as a person.

"Master Chief Brewster's accomplishments are outstanding and when taken in the context of all her life experiences, they are absolutely amazing," Figuerres said. "She is at the top of her rate at a time of immense competition in the Navy when retention is at its highest. She is a successful parent. She has a tremendous work ethic and inner strength that you do not find often enough," Figuerres added.

The damage controlman rating was established in 1948. Damage controlman is the Navy's maintenance and repair specialist and does the work necessary for damage control, ship stability, firefighting, fire prevention, and chemical, biological and radiological (CBR) warfare defense.

Federal Fire Department Hawaii pays tribute to America's fallen

Story and photo by DC Smith

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Personnel from Federal Fire Department (FFD) Hawaii held a wreath-laying ceremony at the Arizona Memorial on May 27 to coincide with Memorial Day commemorations.

The event was the first wreath ceremony that FFD has held at the memorial. "The ceremony allowed time to reflect on past and present sacrifices made and time for Americans to remember how our liberties were fought and won," said FFD Fire Chief Glenn T. DeLaura.

Angela Sanders, fire inspector with FFD, shared her thoughts of why it was important to hold the wreath laying at the memorial.

Explaining that she wanted people to remember the true meaning of Memorial Day and honor it as it should be, Sanders said, "Protecting those who defend America' is our motto at the Federal Fire Department and were also



Personnel from Federal Fire Department Hawaii salute the wreath placed at the Arizona Memorial on May 27. The ceremony marked the first year the firefighters assembled at the memorial, in conjunction with Memorial Day, to pay respects to military war casualties past and present.

the words written on the wreath."

"Because of those names listed on the wall, as well as many others, we are proud to display this on

our trucks and within our hearts," she continued.

"For those who lost their lives and served on the Arizona, you have truly given the ultimate sacri-

fice and for that you will never be forgotten," Sanders said.

"Memorial Day has been ignored by too many of us and we often do not

observe the day as it should be," DeLaura said. "The true meaning of Memorial Day is when we actively remember our ancestors, family mem-

bers, loved ones, neighbors and friends who have given the ultimate sacrifice," he continued.

Fire Inspector Keith Robello was one of those present who reflected on personal experiences. "We have to honor our brothers past, present and future, and this ceremony marked a special moment for me," said Robello, who knew a teacher and also had a family member who was struck by tragedy.

Although the memorial service was largely attended by federal fire fighters and staff, Gaylen Tang, volunteer for the National Park Service, Arizona Memorial Visitor Center, heard about the ceremony and said that he attended because of his respect for the Federal Fire Department, past and present war veterans and respect to all the men and woman who have served their country.

At the end of the ceremony, Tom Casserly, district chief for area two, noted the importance of the fire department's participation in the ceremony as, "Paying tribute to our fallen who paid the ultimate sacrifice."



Angelic angler

U.S. Navy photo by Chris Aguinaldo

The sun gleams upon Taijah Jones-Bissainthe and her colorful catch at the 12th annual Friends of Hickam Keiki Fishing Tournament June 1. The tournament was open to Air Force dependents and held at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden in Kaneohe. See more coverage in next week's Ho'okele.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Lt. j.g. Nicole Lobecker, assigned to USS Port Royal (CG 73), was named 2010 Shiphandler of the Year.

Port Royal Sailor is named Navy Shiphandler of the Year

MC1 (SW/AW) Elena Pence

Naval Surface Forces Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO (NNS) – Lt. j.g. Nicole Lobecker, stationed aboard USS Port Royal (CG 73) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, has been named this year's recipient of the Navy Shiphandler of the Year Award, according to Naval Surface Forces (SURFOR).

"One of the core competencies of shiphandling is safety and, professionally, that is how surface warfare officers build their reputation," said Vice Adm. D.C. Curtis, commander, Naval Surface Forces. "This is important, because we get the opportunity to recognize the best in the

fleet. The competition was exceptionally keen this year, but in the end, Lt. j.g. Lobecker excelled across the range of challenging shiphandling evolutions."

The two finalists, Lt. Matt Klock, USS Truxtun (DDG 103) navigation officer, and Lobecker, Port Royal's assistant combat system's officer, competed for the Surface Force Junior Officer Shiphandler of the Year at the Navigation, Seamanship, Shiphandling Training (NSST) Center in San Diego. They completed several evolutions including underway replenishment, man overboard, and mooring to and leaving a pier.

"It was surreal, and I didn't believe it at first when I found out I was the Shiphandler of the Year," said Lobecker. "I

was stressed and nervous when I showed up for the final competition. I stayed up late studying the rules of the road the night before, and I even brought briefs with me to study."

Each competitor was graded on "rules of the road" application, proper use of standard commands, coordination of engine and helm orders, development and execution of a plan and their ability to adapt their plan to unforeseen circumstances.

"It was clear that both of these officers understood their individual ship characteristics, the basic forces that affect a ship, and superbly demonstrated exceptional knowledge, confidence and mariner skills," said Curtis. "Congratulations to both of these fine officers."

Midway: America's turning point in the Pacific

Jim Neuman

Navy Region Hawaii Historian

(Today marks the 69th anniversary of the pivotal Battle of Midway, and all are invited, first come, first served, aboard a white boat at Pearl Harbor to commemorate the day. The white boat will leave at 12:45 p.m. from Merry Point. Seating is available for the first 150 people who arrive at Merry Point.)

Six months following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the forces of Imperial Japan seemed all but invincible and poised to continue the conquest of Southeast Asia and the former colonial empires of France, Britain and the Dutch East Indies.

Indeed, the destruction of the U.S. Pacific Fleet in Pearl was only an attempt to prevent the United States from standing in the way of the Japanese empire's seizure of the rich resources the former colonies would bring. Adm. Yamamoto, the mastermind of the Pearl Harbor attack, gambled that by destroying the bulk of America's naval power in the Pacific, Japan could buy itself six months to a year for the conquest of these valuable possessions.

America was still reeling from the blow that launched us into the war and was scrambling to prepare industrially and militarily to not only prevent Nazi Germany from conquering Europe, but also to strike back at Japan and bring what was largely viewed as a criminal regime to justice.

The American people were growing tired of defeat after defeat and wanted to see our armed forces on the offensive. The table would soon be turned at a point roughly midway between the west coast of the United States and the home islands of Japan.

Considering the large disparity in the forces available to the United States compared to those of the Japanese Empire, the chances were long that America would be able to

make much of a dent in that island nation's newly acquired fortress in Southeast Asia. In May of 1942, the U.S. had lost its forward presence in the Philippines and Guam, leaving only the aircraft carriers Enterprise, Yorktown, Lexington, Hornet and Saratoga as valid platforms from which to launch strikes at the Japanese. To make matters worse, Lexington would be lost at the Battle of the Coral Sea on May 8 and Saratoga, which was torpedoed in early January, was laid up on the west coast for repairs, leaving three of her air groups on Oahu.

But what America lacked in military assets, she made up for in crack communications intelligence and level-headed leadership. As early as May 15, Adm. Nimitz received solid intelligence from Station Hypo based out of building one at Pearl Harbor that the Japanese intended to occupy Midway atoll, located 1,300 miles northwest of Oahu. From there, the Japanese would be able to threaten Oahu and bring out the American carriers for what they hoped to be a final death blow to the Pacific Fleet. Little did the Japanese know that Nimitz had the knowledge that they were coming with four carriers, but also when and from what direction. In essence, he intended to ambush their ambush.

The admiral knew that our carriers were the most valuable military asset available to the United States, and he would not waste them on a guess. But he trusted his intelligence staff and the commanders, pilots and crews of the two task forces he sent to wait for the unsuspecting invaders. He knew that by concentrating his forces at the right place at the right time he could strike a counter blow to the Japanese that would even the score in the Pacific.

On June 4, 1942, the hammer fell on the Japanese Navy. Dive bombers from the carriers Yorktown and Enterprise destroyed Japan's

frontline carriers Hiryu, Soryu, Akagi and Kaga. All four had participated in the attack on Pearl Harbor just six months before, and all four now lay at the bottom of the Pacific.

America had won a decisive battle against a seemingly invincible foe but not without scars, as surviving Japanese aircraft from Hiryu, the last Japanese carrier to be sunk that day, found Yorktown and inflicted damage that would eventually lead to her destruction.

Nonetheless, the Battle of Midway would be remembered as a turning point, if not the turning point in the Pacific Theater of World War Two. As a result of the battle, the United States had crippled Japan's ability to launch further large-scale mobile strikes against Allied forces, and American forces would soon take the offensive. The American people now had the decisive victory they had been longing for since December of 1941.



U.S. National Archive photo

USS Yorktown burning after hit by three Japanese bombs, June 4, 1942.

Battle of Midway took place in June 1942

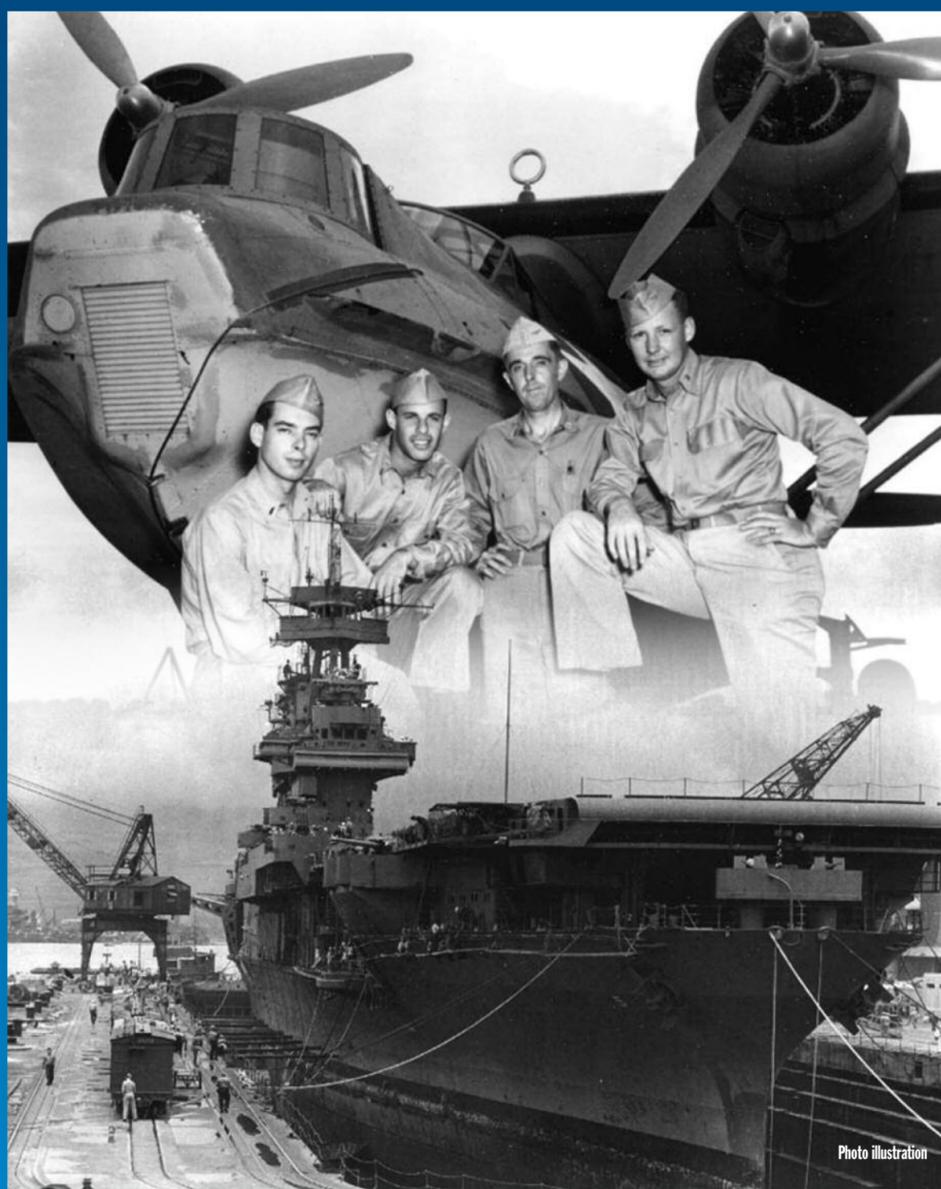


Photo illustration

U.S. Navy photographs, National Archives.

USS Yorktown (CV-5) is shown in dry dock # 1 at the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard on May 29, 1942, receiving urgent repairs for damage received in the Battle of Coral Sea. She left Pearl Harbor the next day to participate in the Battle of Midway. USS West Virginia (BB-48), sunk in the Dec. 7, 1941 Japanese air attack, is being salvaged in the left distance. Bomber pilots who flew the torpedo attack mission against the Japanese fleet's Midway Occupation Force during the night of June 3-4, 1942. Pictured are (left to right): Lt. j.g. Douglas C. Davis, of VP-24, Ensign Allan Rothenberg of VP-51, Lt. William L. Richards, executive officer of Patrol Squadron 44 (VP-44), who flew in a VP-24 aircraft on this mission, and Ensign Gaylord D. Propst of VP-24.

Diverse Views



June 4 is Military Appreciation Day at the Honolulu Zoo. What is your favorite zoo animal and why?



2nd Lt. Vickie Texada
747th Communications Squadron

"The big cats because they're sleek, massive and have a lot of strength."

Tech Sgt. Antonio Gomez
647th Security Forces Squadron



"The rhino because he is tough on the outside and soft on the inside."



Staff Sgt. Stephanie Menke
647th Air Base Group

"Giraffes because you can feed them and see their long tongue come out."

Air Force Staff Sgt. Eric Vaughn
701st Combat Operation Squadron



"Giraffes, I like their colors. They are majestic, peaceful and are very relaxing to watch."



Air Force Staff Sgt. Ashanti Cox
15th Maintenance Group

"I like the lion. It best fits my personality."

(Provided by David D. Underwood Jr. and by MCI Katherine Brooks)

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

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Contributing Writer
Chris Aguinaldo

Layout/Design
Antonio Verceluz

Layout/Design
Michael Villafuerte

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Hickam Honor Guard honors those who have served their country

Story and photos by David D. Underwood Jr.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

"To honor with dignity" is the motto on photographs displayed throughout the Hickam Honor Guard facility at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The honor guard is charged with representing the U.S. Air Force throughout the Hawaiian Islands as friends and families pay their final respects to loved ones who have faithfully and honorably served their country.

One member of the honor guard, A1C Daniel Hernandez of the 647th Civil Engineer Squadron, noted the pride displayed by the honor guard when he was still in basic training. "I joined because of a picture I saw in basic training," he said. "I liked the way the uniform looked and the pride that the individual displayed."

The primary mission of the Hickam Honor Guard is to provide professional military honors during funerals for active duty, retired members and veterans of the U.S. Air Force. Other activities supported include memorial services, firing parties, rifle cordons for VIPs and distinguished visitors, color guards for change of command ceremonies, retirements, community events, and saber cordons for award ceremonies and weddings.

The honor guard is a highly visible activity, and to be a ceremonial guardsman takes strong motivation and the ability to exemplify the highest standards of conduct, customs and courtesies, and dress and appearance. A ceremonial guardsman represents every member of the Air Force, both past and present, and is required to attend a mandatory one-week initial training class to be conditioned to perfect all



Photo illustration

movements throughout every drill and ceremony. "I joined the honor guard because my dad is a veteran of the Air Force and he told me about the role the honor guard does to bring closure to the

families of deceased Air Force members," said A1C Jessica Patton of 17th Operational Weather Squadron. "I've been in the Hickam Honor Guard since September 2010. I think everyone

should do a year in the honor guard. It's character building and will challenge you in ways you wouldn't believe," Patton explained. The installation commander is responsible for

the honor guard program, which is a mandatory Air Force program, and volunteers are usually selected from the ranks of airman basic to technical sergeant. Volunteers also need to have their super-

visor's and commander's approval, be available for a one-year commitment, able to complete the one-week initial training course, and have a current passing score on their physical fitness test. There are four flights on the honor guard and they rotate duty schedules on a weekly basis, one flight each week.

According to those who serve as part of the Hickam Honor Guard, there are many benefits to being a ceremonial guardsman besides the pride one feels. Members also receive a free ceremonial uniform, consideration for an achievement medal, the opportunity to compete in quarterly and annual awards against other guardsmen, the opportunity to represent all Airmen both past and present, and free travel throughout the Hawaiian Islands and American Samoa to perform ceremonies. Airman in ranks of basic through airman first class have a better chance of earning senior airman below-the-zone.

The guard helps build self-confidence and leadership skills, and affords the opportunity to get involved in community activities. A1C Charles Fletcher from 647th Security Forces Squadron joined the team to break the cycle of work and to try something different. He said he wants to honor those who have served and thank them for doing their part. "It's a great opportunity for self-improvement," he said.

Staff Sgt. Jacquelyn Gausemel is the NCOIC of the Hickam Honor Guard and started in September 2010. The honor guard is currently seeking volunteers to join. The team is below half the normal manning level. Those who are interested in becoming a ceremonial guardsman may contact Gausemel at 448-0108.



Electronics Specialist 2nd Class Misha Opena, assigned to the USS O'Kane (DDG 77), poses for a photo on the flight deck of the O'Kane with her family after receiving an award from Operation Makeover. Operation Makeover, a program that rewards deserving Sailors who were nominated for the award, was conceived by Paul Brown, a stylist and entrepreneur who wanted to show appreciation for service members and their spouses.

USS O'Kane Sailor is latest Operation Makeover honoree

Story and photo by MCSN Dustin W. Sisco

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West Det Hawaii

A Sailor assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) is the latest winner of an award from Operation Makeover.

Electronics Technician 2nd Class Misha Opena was selected to win free services at a Paul Brown salon, two nights at the Waikiki Marriot Resort and Spa in an ocean view room

and dinner for two at Roy's Waikiki, a prize valued at \$1,000.

Opena explained that she has put in a lot of hard work both on the ship and at home and is excited to receive a makeover.

"It feels great. I can't wait for my makeover," said Opena. "It is much needed."

Operation Makeover is a program conceived by stylist and entrepreneur Paul Brown of Paul Brown Salons and Day Spas to show appreciation for service members and their spouses.

The Armed Services

YMCA handles nominations and selections.

"It recognizes people who are head and shoulders above the rest, who are dedicated to the course and mission of protecting our country," said Stanley Lum, the executive director of the Armed Services YMCA of Honolulu. "This is what the Armed Services YMCA is all about."

The awards are open to service members in all branches of the military in Hawaii and recognizes those who have been on recent deployments to combat areas.

POW/MIA recovery and investigation teams search for missing Americans

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command

Several archeological recovery teams and investigation teams from the U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam recently deployed to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam searching for MIAs from the Vietnam War.

About 60 JPAC team members deployed to account for Americans that have been missing for more than 40 years.

Recovery teams will search for human remains, life support items, and other material evidence (personal and military issued items) that may further the identification of Americans missing from past U.S. conflicts.

Investigation teams will authenticate leads from eyewitnesses, conduct field research, and gather information throughout the various provinces to determine whether or not there will be a return visit for excavation at a later date.

Socialist Republic of Vietnam: Five JPAC teams will investigate and excavate multiple sites associated with Vietnam War losses. Three recovery teams will search in the Hue, Quang Tri, Quang Binh and Thanh Hoa provinces at burial and underwater sites where 13 Americans may have perished.

Two investigation teams will research 27 unsolved cases, both on land and underwater. The teams will authenticate eyewitness leads and conduct field

research, searching for information on 43 missing individuals. The approximately 40-day long undertaking marks the 103rd Joint Field Activity in Vietnam.

Falling directly under the U.S. Pacific Command, JPAC is a jointly-manned organization of more than 400 military and civilian specialists that has investigated and recovered missing Americans since the 1970's. To date, more than 83,000 individuals are listed as missing in action dating back to World War II.

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.

June 4 will be free zoo day for military

Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle and the City and County of Honolulu, in gratitude to the military for their dedication to serving and protecting the country, invites Hawaii's active-duty military, National Guard, Reserves, retirees and their family members to enjoy a free day at the Honolulu Zoo. The free day will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 4.

"For those military fam-

ilies who might not regularly venture into Waikiki, this day offers an opportunity to explore the area and enjoy this beautiful Hawaiian setting," said Manuel Mollinedo, director of the Honolulu Zoo. "Come and experience over 1,000 rare and exotic animals and plants from around the world."

The event features free admission for all those with valid military ID. There is limited parking

at the Honolulu Zoo metered parking lot with additional public parking at the Waikiki Shell and around Kapiolani Park. Special military entry will be through the original zoo entrance.

In addition to the City and County of Honolulu, the event is co-sponsored by BAE Systems, the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce and the Honolulu Zoological Society.



Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



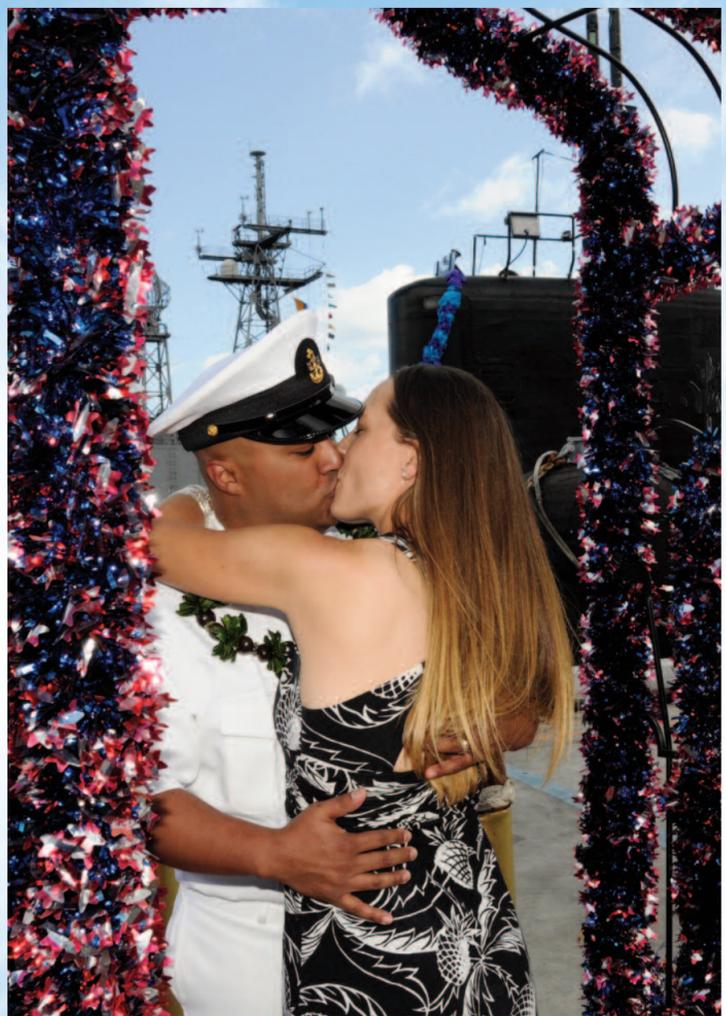
Family members wave goodbye to Sailors manning the rails of guided-missile destroyer USS Chung Hoon (DDG 93) as it departs from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The Chung Hoon departed for an independent deployment to the western Pacific.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jon Dasbach



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jessica Bidwell

Lt. j.g. Chris Wilkins, assigned to the guided-missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57), entertains children with a magnifying glass at a community service project at SDN-1 Elementary School for Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Indonesia 2011. CARAT 2011 is a series of bilateral exercises held annually in Southeast Asia to strengthen relationships and enhance force readiness.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW/AW/SCW) Ronald Guttridge

Chief Electronics Technician (SS) Daniel Villarreal is greeted with a kiss by his wife as he is the first to disembark when the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Charlotte (SSN 766) returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on May 31 after completing a six-month deployment to the western Pacific region. Charlotte departed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 1, 2010 on her western Pacific deployment.



U.S. Navy photo by DC Smith

Personnel from Federal Fire Department Hawaii gather around Arizona Memorial's viewing well located above the USS Arizona.



U.S. Navy photo by DC Smith

Federal Fire Department (FFD) Hawaii Chief Glenn T. DeLaura, gives the ceremonial speech to local firefighters and staff on May 27 at the Arizona Memorial. The ceremony was the first that FFD has held at the Arizona in conjunction with Memorial Day activities. "To those who lost their lives and served on the Arizona, you have truly given the ultimate sacrifice and for that you will never be forgotten," DeLaura said.

HURREX prepares JBPHH, PMRF for hurricane season

MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) conducted a hurricane-preparedness exercise (HURREX) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) from May 25 to June 2 in preparation for hurricane season.

"HURREX is an exercise that we conduct on the base every year to help us prepare for and educate personnel on natural disasters such as hurricanes," said Dr. Michael Smith, director of training and readiness for CNRH. "It's really important that we have this training because each year we can have four to five cyclones that appear in the central Pacific."

CNRH also exercised post-landfall actions during Makani-Pahili, the Hawaii State Civil Defense post-landfall hurricane exercise. During the exercise, JBPHH will simulate the landfall of a major hurricane in the Hawaiian Islands.

"We will simulate preparing our base for this by making sure ships and aircraft are ready to be moved out of the area, and also by cleaning up areas of the base where there is loose debris that may become airborne during the event of a hurricane," Smith said.

On May 26, JBPHH personnel, in coordination with the Military and Family Support Center, the



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Fire Control Technician 1st Class (SS/SW) Brian Louderback, assigned to Commander Submarine Forces U.S. Pacific Fleet, role-plays as a family man seeking safe haven during a mock hurricane as he registers with Senior Chief Culinary Specialist (SW) Brad Lemeur, assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH). Commander Navy Region Hawaii conducted a hurricane exercise (HURREX) with JBPHH and Pacific Missile Range Facility from May 25 to June 2 in preparation for hurricane season.

American Red Cross and Navy Federal Credit Union, conducted a Safe Haven registration drill to simulate the influx of service members and families seeking safe haven during a mock hurricane event. Volunteer Sailors and family members

gathered at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange to role-play different scenarios and test the capabilities of the Safe Haven process.

Dan DuBois, emergency management officer for JBPHH, spoke about what personnel should do in the

event of a hurricane.

"Commands and personnel on Hawaii need to be self sufficient for a minimum of seven days. Ninety-five percent of all material comes into Hawaii by ship through the container port at Sand Island and that port is only

14 feet above sea level," said DuBois. "There is great potential for serious damage to the port with an 18-foot storm surge."

DuBois also said that since Hawaii is a chain of islands, personnel need to be knowledgeable about hurri-

canes through training and be more prepared than people living on the U.S. mainland.

Operation Prepare, a fleet-wide education and awareness campaign on emergency preparedness, provides military family members with valuable tools and resources to help them be more prepared in the event of natural disasters.

Personal preparation is the driving force behind the recent JBPHH emergency management open houses and other recent training efforts," DuBois said. "This is not like a hurricane on the mainland. You cannot drive 300 miles inland and be out of the destruction. People need to be prepared with an emergency plan and kit to take care of them selves and their family after the hurricane passes."

Also during the exercise, personnel assigned to JBPHH provided information on hurricanes in Hawaii and information on items for disaster kits at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange and JBPHH Army and Air Force Exchange Services.

Operation Prepare provides emergency preparedness tools and resources online at www.enic.navy.mil. All materials are tailored for the Navy and are consistent with information from several sources, such as the American Red Cross, Centers for Disease Control, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Department of Homeland Security.

Initial exterior facelift for JBPHH Pass and ID building completed

Story and photo by
Denise Emsley

Naval Facilities
Engineering Command
Hawaii

The exterior of the main pass and ID office, building 3455, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam's (JBPHH) received a quick painting facelift by Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii as part of phase one renovations.

Located next to Nimitz Gate, the 1941 one-story concrete structure was designed by the local architectural firm of Hart Wood and Arthur Russell and is classified as a historic category II structure. It originally served as the Pearl Harbor branch Bank of Hawaii.

A three-man painting crew from NAVFAC Hawaii began their work on April 16, using approximately 60 gallons of paint colored to match the building's previous color.

Phase two work will be executed at a later date by a contractor and will con-



A painter works on one of the two entrance ways into Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam pass and ID office, building 3455, making sure to fully cover the exterior underside of the roof area to seal it well, preventing future roof leaks.

sist of both exterior and interior renovations. Exterior work may include

reroofing the entire building, replacing copper gutters, polishing and repair-

ing all stainless steel window frames, overhang fascia and door frames,

repairing the three entrance overhangs, replacing main and side

entry doors and screen fabric for screen vents located under the roof's eave, removing/replacing all damaged window vents and glass window panes, etc.

Interior work may include renovating two restrooms, relocating a break room and creating a vending machine room, reconfiguring customer service, administration and waiting areas, repairing walls and repainting interior walls, replacing ceiling and light fixtures, etc.

The contracted work is to be added to JBPHH's FY12 list of projects and will need to be awarded before a start date is available.

Personnel at the pass and ID office processes active duty or civilian employee long-term vehicle stickers. The building is open from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and can be reached at 471-2131 or 471-3627. In addition, sponsored non-military visitors and visitors with authorizing entry letters must check in at building.

GOT SPORTS Phone: (808)473-2888
 Contact the Ho'okele editor for guidelines
edit@hookelenews.com and story/photo submission requirements

Automated system cuts calibration costs at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

Story and photo by
Marshall Fukuki

Pearl Harbor Naval
Shipyard Public Affairs

A new calibration management system increased productivity at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard's calibration lab, resulting in cost reductions of nearly \$335,000 in fiscal 2010 and a projected increase of 1,500 calibrations in fiscal 2011.

The METBENCH Calibration Management System (MCMS) is a browser-based, automated metrology system that manages overall Navy calibration processes, assets, assignments, reporting and results. The use of MCMS at the calibration laboratory or cal lab as it is called by most shipyard workers generated productivity gains of more than \$154,000 from paperless calibrations and another \$180,000 due to cost reductions from automated calibrations.

The automated calibrations of equipment are done with the metrology bench-top (METBENCH) component of MCMS. "It speeds up the process," said Larry Higa, cal lab engineer. "It's helped us a lot. It helped clear up a backlog you couldn't see daylight through."



Belinda Rivera, electronic measurement equipment mechanic at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, hooks up test equipment so she can calibrate a ship's radar. She is using the metrology bench-top (METBENCH) system, an automated calibration program with asset management capabilities, to do the job in one day versus the all-manual method which took more than 40 hours.

According to Kenny Kawamoto, calibration director, the cal lab calibrated more than 13,649 pieces of electronic, mechanical and physical-dimensional equipment in fiscal 2010. He projected an additional 1,500 items can be calibrated in fiscal 2011 due to the efficiencies of METBENCH implementation.

Belinda Rivera, electronic

measurement equipment mechanic, pointed out an identify, friend or foe (IFF) radar as an example of the difference using METBENCH.

"Every surface ship has (an IFF radar) and it has to be calibrated once a year," she said. "It's complicated to calibrate manually."

Under the old process, the job would take more

than a week. With METBENCH, calibration can be done in one day. "It saves the customer time and money, with less errors," she said.

Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Corona Division in Corona, Calif. began developing METBENCH in 2006 to replace calibration systems that were being phased out. Kawamoto saw this as an

opportunity to help shape METBENCH into something that truly met the cal lab's needs rather than having a system imposed based on someone else's input. He volunteered the shipyard cal lab as a test bed.

NSWC Corona installed a stand-alone version of METBENCH in the cal lab in October 2008. "We were the guinea pig," Rivera said. "Any new system you put in place, you're going to get bugs and growing pains. As time goes on, it gets better. We had good support from Corona."

A year and many changes later, the cal lab transitioned completely "live" to MCMS. This made the Pearl Harbor facility the first naval shipyard and regional calibration center to have the system.

"Our lab personnel played an integral role to develop revisions, upgrades and ideas to NSWC," Kawamoto said.

Brett Currier, NSWC Corona technician, said, "Pearl Harbor did an excellent job. They've given us feedback to improve the product. Many of the changes have been based on

input from Pearl Harbor."

According to Richard Schumacher, NSWC Corona METBENCH program manager, the system can now run more than 136 automated calibration procedures for 835 models of equipment. It is installed aboard 144 surface ships, with submarines to follow.

Use of METBENCH at shore facilities has improved efficiency by \$1.2 million. It is projected to save the Navy \$65 million by 2017.

Rivera said an experienced mechanic can learn how to use METBENCH in less than a week. "It tells you the equipment required, what equipment is available, shows diagrams how to hook up equipment, and take measurements," she said. "It does (calibration procedures) automatically. It just makes life easier."

Other features of METBENCH also ensure technical authority by allowing only the latest approved procedures to run, standardizing the service level across centers, and collecting full parametric data on all automated calibrations which will lead to more accurate calibration intervals.

Cryptonites participate in 20th annual Honolulu AIDS Walk

CTI3 Michael Mullen

Navy Information
Operations Command
Hawaii

Sailors from Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Hawaii recently participated in the 20th annual Honolulu AIDS Walk at Kapiolani Park on April 17.

According to the Life Foundation, who hosts the event each year, the

Honolulu AIDS Walk has never been rained out, and has enjoyed clear, beautiful Hawaiian skies for two decades running.

The Life Foundation's stated goal this year was to raise \$200,000. The NIOC Cryptonites were led by Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) 1st Class Theresa Buitron. "As a team, we were able to raise \$810. I think it is great that we have an opportunity to help in such a big way," explained

Butiron. "The team plans on returning next year, hoping to raise even more money," she said.

This year the Honolulu AIDS Walk and the Life Foundation helped raise over \$197,000 for scientific research, the support and relief of those affected by HIV and AIDS, and to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. According to materials from the Life Foundation, an estimated 3,000 people who live in Hawaii have AIDS or HIV.

Aside from colorful costumes, Chinese lion dancing, massive exercise warm-ups and other festivities, the event also featured on-site HIV testing which highlighted the importance of regular testing and disease prevention.

If you, or anyone you know, would like information on how to be tested, donate money, or participate in future events, contact Kandice Johns at kandice@lifefoundation.org or 521-2437.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

June 9 – NAMRU/NEPMU -
Dengue prevention

June 16 – Hospital Corps

June 23 – ATG MIDPAC

June 30 – Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

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

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.

MDSU-1 participates in Boy Scouts 100th makahiki celebration

Story and photos by
Lt. Anna Y. Choe

Mobile Diving and Salvage
Unit One Public Affairs

Sailors from Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One (MDSU-1) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam were among the military units that recently participated in a makahiki celebration of the Boy Scouts. The event was held at Ala Moana Beach Park and marked the 100th birthday of the oldest organized event of the Boy Scouts, the makahiki.

There were more than 7,000 participants including 70 Boy Scout troops and Cub Scout packs and 21 military units from all five services.

According to Cmdr. Richard Goodwin Jr, Commander Submarine Forces Pacific (COMSUB-PAC) force training officer and military liaison for Boy Scouts Aloha Council, there were three more military units than last year and approximately 130 active duty and five government civilian personnel present for this special event.

Navy Diver 1st Class (DSW) Eric Real of Company 1-5 at MDSU-1 was the lead petty officer and organized the personnel and demonstrations. Approximately a dozen divers represented MDSU-1 and answered questions from visitors. Real noted that many people do not know what Navy divers do and still think of the MK-V ("Mark Five") helmet used in the movie, "Men of Honor."



Photo illustration

His intent was to "pique the interest of civilians...[provide] entertainment for the kids, and hopefully recruit future Navy divers." There was a display of several helmets, including the MK-20 ("Mark Twenty"), KM-37 which is one of the current versions of the MK-V helmet. Some children even tried them on.

There were also diver displays and a dive school video showing the intense training Navy divers go through to become a Navy diver. A HMMV was parked nearby which the divers use during their pre-deployment training cycle. And of course, there was the dive tank.

The first diver in the dive tank was Navy Diver 3rd Class ND3 (DSW/SS/SW) William Sherman. Children approached the dive tank and were able to play tic-tac-toe with the Navy diver inside the tank. They were impressed that they could use the radio communication system to talk to him while he was underwater. But they were most surprised when they were splashed from the diver inside the dive tank.

Other military presentations included the United States Air Force Hickam bioenvironmental engineering emergency response trailer, Army combatives and the working canines.

Mary Bueche, volunteer makahiki co-chair, said she volunteers because she really enjoys it "especially because you guys [collectively] come out here."

Get ready for household goods peak moving season 2011

Commander Fleet and Industrial Supply Centers

(This is part 1 of an article on household goods moving. Part 2 will be in the June 10 edition of Ho'okele and will offer tips for personally procured moves.)

SAN DIEGO – The peak season for arranging household goods (HHG) moves is now in effect at Commander, Fleet and Industrial Supply Centers worldwide personal property shipping offices. The PPSOs handle approximately 25,400 inbound and outbound shipments during this time of year.

Personal property staff members emphasize the importance of planning early and thoroughly to ensure the stress-free

movement of personal property.

Tips for a successful move

- Set up your move date as soon as possible upon receipt of permanent change of station (PCS) orders. The earlier the application is submitted, the more likely you will obtain the requested packing, pickup and delivery dates. But keep in mind that the requested dates are not guaranteed.
- Do not cancel or enter into a rental agreement, or lease, buy or sell a home until you have verified with your transportation officer (TO) and the transportation service provider (TSP) that your requested HHG packing, pickup and delivery

dates are confirmed.

- Avoid pickup dates between June 1 and July 15, if possible. During this timeframe, TSP capacity is stretched to its limit. Short notice cancellations are common due to the lack of TSP personnel and equipment. An unexpected cancellation can put you in an untenable situation with other activities scheduled around your HHG move.
- Submit your application using the Defense Personal Property System (DPS). DPS allows you and your spouse to self counsel, request HHG packing, pickup delivery dates, and file necessary damage claims directly with the TSP.
- Orders are not needed to

register in DPS, so register now at www.move.mil. Once you are registered, go to the main page of www.move.mil and click on the 'before you move' link under DoD service members and civilians, and review all the information via the links on the left side of the screen. After you register, it could take up to 72 hours to receive a DPS user name and password to schedule your move.

- If you are on sea duty and DPS is not available, you may use SMARTWebMove (SWM) <https://www.smartwebmove.navy.mil/swm/>.
- When you receive your orders, review the "It's Your Move" pamphlet at http://www.transcom.mil/j5/pt/dtrpart4/dtr_part_i

v_app_k_1.pdf.

To avoid incurring debts for government-directed moves, here are some tips on staying with the authorized weight allowance.

- Be aware of authorized PCS weight allowances (see "It's Your Move" pamphlet). A weight estimating tool is available at www.move.mil. Remember, neither the weight estimating tool or an estimate provided by the TSP is binding.
- After your HHG have been picked up, contact the origin transportation officer to get your actual certified HHG weight. If your HHG weight exceeds your authorized weight allowance, request a witnessed reweigh and ask the origin transportation office for advice. Know the

weight of your shipment(s) before they are delivered.

- Dispose of unwanted articles. Shipping unnecessary articles is expensive.
- Claim professional books, papers, and equipment (PBP&E), also referred to as pro gear. PBP&E should always be declared even if you don't believe you will exceed your weight allowance. Ensure the estimated weight is reflected on your DD Form 1299 prior to pickup. Check your inventory form periodically to ensure the PBP&E is annotated. PBP&E that is not segregated, marked and weighed separately will not receive credit. Pro gear may not be claimed after the fact.

NOSC families learn about critical services

Story and photos by
MC1 Katherine Brooks

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West

Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Pearl Harbor hosted family day for approximately 350 Sailors and family members May 14.

The annual event provided information to members as part of deployment readiness with a day of fun, food and needed information on services for military children's programs, counseling services, mental health outreach and financial services.

Michael Joyner, NOSC commanding officer, shared his thoughts on the day's events. "The Reserve family readiness day event is a great opportunity to introduce our military families to the NOSC, our staff, and expose them to the many benefits and services available to them," he said. The guest speaker for the day was Rear Adm. Russell S. Penniman, reserve deputy commander and chief of staff for U.S. Pacific Fleet, who shared sentiments of support for the reservists, their families and returning individual augmentees.

Cmdr. Maria Moreno-Chow Navy Reservist, and Master at Arms 2nd Class Angelina Rivera were greeted by the admiral. Happy to be home from her recently deployment to Afghanistan, Moreno-Chow, a nurse practitioner, was delighted at the presentation. "Wow! It was a really nice surprise," said Moreno-Chow.

Following the admiral's introduction, Sailors were able to visit tables and participate in workshops on readiness issues.

Reservist Builder 3rd class Roy Lowe (AW)

checked into many of the programs offered by Operation Military Kids (OMK). Arthur Isaki, youth program specialist, provided information about various programs offered by OMK. "Excellent services, I like mobile tech lab the best," said Isaki, referring to a communication outreach program. "Children can make cards and letters to communicate with deployed service members," he said.

Chet Adessa, certified family life educator (CFLE) from Military Family Support Center (MFSC), commented on the importance of distributing information to reservists. "We have to take advantage of the situation when we can. We have to use any way to get the information out to as many people as possible. We have classes for new dads, stress management and deployment classes for spouses," said Adessa.

Adessa was also promoting a new program offered for fathers, All Pro Dad's Day. The program was developed to improve relationships for fathers and their children.

Another popular spot during the festivities was the financial services table hosted by Marti Henrickson, financial counselor. Henrickson advocates good financial planning and spent much of her day talking with service members about retirement and savings accounts.

"The reason I have such a passion, it is because I know it can be done," she said. Henrickson reminded Sailors, "How do you act without a plan? Planning for your retirement is a good thing," she said.

One of the Sailors listening to Henrickson's advice was Operations Specialist 3rd Class Tina Smith of

Commander, Anti-Submarine Warfare Force, U.S. Third Fleet (CTF-34).

"My initial goal is to try to save and not to spend. It's a matter of what is important, and putting our needs before our wants," said Smith.

Marti Henrickson, financial counselor, speaks with Operations Specialist 3rd Class Tina Smith of commander, Anti-Submarine Warfare Force, U.S. Third Fleet (CTF-34) about financial planning, savings and retirement during a family day celebration for approximately 350 Sailors and family members May 14 at Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Pearl Harbor.



Chung-Hoon deploys

Continued from A-1

about 280 Sailors will conduct integrated operations in conjunction with coalition partners deployed to the western Pacific.

"This is the Chung-Hoon. This is a phenomenal ship with phenomenal Sailors. They are doing wonderful things, and I don't see nothing but success for them," said Command Master Chief (SW) Patty Roebuck, the command master chief of Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific (CNSG MIDPAC). "I can't wait for them to get back safe."

Family members on the pier wished their Sailors a safe journey as they are scheduled to operate within the U.S. 3rd Fleet area of operations.

"I told him, 'Godspeed, my love,'" said Michelle Brazelton, wife of Chief Operations Specialist

Shayne Brazelton. "I wished them safe voyage. I hope they see some beautiful things and enjoy what they work so hard practicing for."

Michelle Bigley and her six-month-old son were also at the pier saying good bye to Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Jake Bigley.

"From your son: I'm gonna miss you," said Michelle. "Love you daddy. Be safe and come home to me and mommy."

Guided-missile destroyers are multi-mission anti-air warfare, anti-submarine warfare and anti-surface warfare surface combatants. They operate independently in support of carrier and expeditionary strike groups and surface strike groups.

Chung-Hoon provides deterrence, promotes peace and security, preserves freedom of the sea, and provides humanitarian/disaster response as part of CNSG MIDPAC.

Charlotte comes home

Continued from A-1

ence and advanced qualifications with 28 Sailors who became submarine-qualified and are now authorized to wear the submarine warfare insignia or "dolphins."

"I could not be more proud of my crew. They proved that we can take this submarine any place we need to go at any time" said Young.

Over the course of the deployment, Charlotte completed multiple missions in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility and numerous operations with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force.

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

The nuclear-powered attack submarine Charlotte is the fourth U.S. Navy ship to bear the name. She was

commissioned on Sept. 16, 1994 in Norfolk, Va. and arrived at her new homeport, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on Nov. 17, 1995.

Veterans compete in National Golden Age Games in Honolulu

Story and photos by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

For 25 years, military veterans age 55 and older have gathered at the National Veterans Golden Age Games to compete and demonstrate the warrior spirit never fades. This year, the competition took place in Honolulu, including at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, May 26 – 31. More than 900 veterans from across the country competed in 14 different categories for medals.

The games gave participants the opportunity to compete in ambulatory, visually-impaired and wheelchair divisions, according to their ages. Events included: air rifle, dominoes, table tennis, bicycling, nine-ball, golf, bowling, swimming, checkers, horseshoes, shuffleboard, croquet, discus and shot put.

Besides JBPHH, the competitive events for the Golden Age Games took place at venues throughout Honolulu including: Fort DeRussy, Hawaiian Brian's Billiards, Mamala Bay Golf Course, Ke'alohe Golf Course, Hawaii Convention Center, Ala Wai Park and the University of Hawaii.

"I can't think of a more suitable location than Honolulu to hold an event like this that celebrates the accomplishments of our military heroes," said Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA). "The National Veterans Golden Age Games encourages older veterans to continue leading active and rewarding lives, and serves as an example for all Americans that age doesn't have to slow you down." Shinseki was on hand to offer remarks during opening ceremonies at Kuroda



Jack Faust



Salvatore "Sal" Badolato

Field, Fort DeRussy, May 26.

Tammy Duckworth, McKinley High graduate and now assistant secretary in the Veteran's Affairs Department, was also on hand during the games this year.

The Golden Age Games is the world's largest sports and recreational competition for senior veterans.

Salvatore "Sal" Badolato, 87, is this year's recipient of the George Gangi Inspiration Award, a distinguished honor for the athlete recognized as the "most inspirational" of the National Veterans Golden Age Games.

People that know him describe him as happy go lucky. He said, "I am always happy. I think that's what keeps me going at my age." Badolato is a World War II Army veteran who landed with the Infantry on D-Day at

100-year-old Navy vet takes gold

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

An amazing athlete competing in this year's Golden Age Games is centenarian Jack Faust who took the gold. Jack Faust was born in 1911. That in itself is pretty amazing — but add to that his win of two gold medals at this year's Golden Age Games, and you begin to understand this centenarian.

"The games really keep me going," said Faust, a member of the VA Palo Alto (Calif.) Health Care System team. "I met a young guy at the air rifle competition who thought he was the oldest guy here — at 98. I told him that was pretty impressive, but I had him by two years! Then we had a great time just getting to know each other. When you are this old, getting to know someone takes a long time."

Faust served twice in the Navy, first in the Yangtze River Patrol (China) from 1928 until 1931, and then in the South Pacific during World War II. In addition to being a painter most his life, he stayed active as a volunteer at the Hayward, Calif. Police Department and VA and served the community as a Mason, an Elk and a veteran.

Jack's athletic career began in 2007 in Houston when he carried the California flag at the Golden Age Games opening ceremony and competed in bowling and checkers against veterans in the oldest category (80+) who were as much as 16 years younger. Since then, he has won medals in croquet, shuffleboard and air rifle at games in Indianapolis, Birmingham and Des Moines.

Games' officials believe that Faust is the only 100-year-old competitor in the games' 25-year history.

Through a partnership with the National Senior Games Association, a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee, the games also serve as a qualifier for the National Senior Games held every other year. It is co-sponsored by VA, Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV) and the Veterans Canteen Service (VCS). This year's event was hosted by the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System.

For more information on the Golden Age Games, visit the games Web site at www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov

Omaha Beach. In 1983, he suffered a devastating stroke that severely weakened his right side.

After the stroke, he

totally focused on his rehabilitation program, walking, swimming and golfing. He got frustrated, but didn't give up. "Today

I'm hard to beat in golf," said Badolato, who won a gold medal in golf at this year's games.

"Participating in the

Golden Age Games gives me a chance to compete in athletic events, and I am very competitive," said Badolato.