

## USS Hawaii returns to Pearl Harbor

Story and photos by  
MC2 Steven Khor

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

Friends and families of the crew from USS Hawaii (SSN 776) gathered at the submarine piers Nov. 20 to welcome back the Virginia-class submarine as it returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after completing a six-month deployment to the western Pacific region.

"It was an honor and privilege to sail with these warriors, ambassadors and Sailors, taking the war canoe on her second western Pacific deployment," said Cmdr. Stephan G. Mack, USS Hawaii commanding officer. "We are very proud of them for their accomplishments."

During the deployment, Hawaii accomplished tasking in support of theatre and national interests and participated in two combined anti-submarine warfare exercises.

Hawaii also conducted several port visits that strengthened relationships with key regional allies, including Japan, South Korea and the Philippines throughout its six months away from Pearl Harbor. While in the foreign ports, the crew experienced different cultures and participated in social events with their host ships.

Mack said the crew of 137 performed flawlessly in all respects



Machinist's Mate 1st Class Darren Polston of the Virginia-class submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776) kisses his wife Kimberly following the return of the submarine and crew to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Photo illustration

during the six-month deployment. They were also highly successful in the area of professional development with 24 Sailors having earned their submarine qualification or "dolphins" and many returning to homeport advanced to the next higher pay grade.

"Deployment exposed all Hawaii Sailors to the dynamic operational environment of the western Pacific, enabling all hands to achieve more senior qualification

and gain valuable at sea experience," said Mack.

"The experience we gained operating Hawaii for six months forward-deployed, away from shore-based support, demonstrates our capability for extended operations, our commitment to distant friends, and the flexibility, endurance and mobility of these mighty warships," Mack said.

For 57 of the 137 Sailors on board, this was their first deploy-

ment experience, according to Mack.

Sonar Technician (Submarines) Seaman Craig Parazak described the deployment as eye opening and something for which he has a new found respect.

"It was the hardest work that I have ever had to do but very rewarding," said Parazak.

Mack said the submarine's return home from deployment back to families and friends was

made even better by their return to the beautiful state of Hawaii.

"There is nothing better than being on the Hawaii in Hawaii," said Mack.

Hawaii is the first commissioned vessel of its name. The submarine was named to recognize the support the Navy has enjoyed from the people and state of Hawaii and in honor of the rich heritage of submarines in the Pacific.

## Former USS Chafee CO wins Pacific Stockdale award

MC2 Alexandra Snyder

Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON (NNS) – The chief of naval operations (CNO) presented the Vice Adm. James B. Stockdale Leadership Award to two commanders at the Pentagon in the Hall of Heroes on Nov. 27.

Adm. Jonathan Greenert presented the annual award, which is given to two active duty commanding officers below the rank of captain, to Cmdr. Chase Patrick, former commanding officer of USS Chafee (DDG 90) and representing



the Pacific Fleet, and Cmdr. Brian Sittlow, representing the Atlantic Fleet.

Patrick and Sittlow received the award due to their leadership, personal initiative and exemplary performance and contribution to the overall success of the operational units they command.

"I talked to the [winners] today and they both said, 'It's not about me, it's about

the people I serve with,'" said Greenert.

"[But] what's really special about this award is that it encompasses performance, as well as character ... it is peer nominated. Someone had to sit down and write a one-page synopsis about why these men deserve this award ... They inspire and epitomize what

**See AWARDS, A-6**

Cmdr. Chase Patrick makes brief remarks at the Pentagon Hall of Heroes after officially being presented with the Vice Adm. James Bond Stockdale Leadership Award for his leadership while serving as the former commanding officer of the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90).

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Peter D. Lawlor

## 71st Pearl Harbor Day to honor heroes: 'Coming of Age - From Innocence To Valor'

National Park Service

The National Park Service and the U.S. Navy will host a joint memorial ceremony commemorating the 71st anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor from 7:45 to 9:30 a.m. Dec. 7 at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument (formerly known as the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center).

The ceremony will take place on the back lawn of the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, looking directly out to the USS Arizona Memorial.

More than 2,000 distinguished guests and the general public are expected to join current and former military personnel, including Pearl Harbor survivors and other WWII veterans, for the annual observance of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

The theme of this year's historic commemoration, "Coming of Age - From Innocence to Valor," honors those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces on that fateful day as a legacy of heroics. The attack represented more than a change in America's



Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet will be keynote speaker for the Dec. 7 ceremony.

status from peace to war. It was a sudden shift from youthful innocence to a searing awareness of the cost and consequences of war.

Heroically, these men and women did not back down. Also not forgotten are the thousands of civilians who witnessed the attack, including the 49 who lost their lives. Young lives and families were changed forever as the nation "came of age" on Dec. 7, 1941 and throughout the war.

Through innovation, courage and sacrifice,

Americans joined together – stronger, wiser and more committed to preserving democracy, freedom and peace.

This year's Dec. 7 ceremony will be co-hosted by Paul DePrey, superintendent, National Park Service, WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, and Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

Highlights of the ceremony will include music by the Navy's U.S. Pacific Fleet

### Ford Island Bridge closures announced

All lanes of the Ford Island (Adm. Clarey) Bridge will be closed in support of Dec. 7 events as follows: from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Dec. 6 for operational testing of the bridge and rehearsal of a ship transit and from 7 to 9:30 a.m. Dec. 7 for a pass-in-review during the Navy/National

Park Service Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration Ceremony.

Motorists and pedestrians are advised to plan accordingly. The small craft gate is to be closed during the bridge opening.

Boat traffic under the bridge will therefore be denied during the events.

### Hickam Field Dec. 7 remembrance ceremony to be held at Atterbury Memorial Park

The Hickam Field Dec. 7 remembrance ceremony will also be held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The ceremony will be held at 7:55 a.m. Dec. 7 at the Atterbury Memorial Park flag pole, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The 15th Wing will be hosting the ceremony titled "Our Service, born from

their Resolve" to honor the 189 killed and 303 wounded during the attacks.

Gen. Hawk Carlisle, Pacific Air Forces commander, will be the guest speaker.

The ceremony is open to all military identification card holders, veterans, survivors of the attack, and guests of attending survivors. Base access is required. Attendees must be in place by 7:15 a.m.

Band, morning colors, a Hawaiian blessing, a rifle salute by members of the U.S. Marine Corps, wreath presentations, echo Taps and recognition of the men and women who survived the attack of Dec. 7, 1941 and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

This year's keynote speak-

er for the Dec. 7 ceremony will be Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Haney is a native of Washington, D.C. and a 1978 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. His operational assignments include four submarines, a submarine tender and two submarine groups.

In 1998, as commanding officer of USS Honolulu (SSN 718), Haney earned the Vice Adm. James Bond Stockdale leadership award, which is presented annually to the Navy's top two COs in the Pacific and Atlantic fleets.

His shore duty tours

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Events scheduled to commemorate 71st anniversary of attack  
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Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam makes history with new app  
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Volunteers register for bone marrow drive at joint base  
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Ceremony at USS Utah Memorial honors Pearl Harbor survivor  
**See page A-4**



University of Hawaii pays special tribute to military  
**See page B-1**



Special Olympics to be held this weekend at JBPHH  
**See page B-2**

# Volunteers register for bone marrow drive at joint base

Story and photo by  
MC3 Dustin W. Sisco

Navy Public Affairs  
Support Element West Det  
Hawaii



Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jon Dasbach volunteers to be a bone marrow donor candidate during a bone marrow drive outside of Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange.

During the week of Nov. 26-30, units from across Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam participated in passing out and collecting swabbing kits to find potential bone marrow donor volunteers.

The bone marrow drive on Oahu included registration booths in front of the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) and commissary complex.

There was also a registration table at the Fleet Store and Hickam BX at the joint base.

"In the first 30 minutes, we had about 30 partici-

pants," said Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Douglas Flores, a volunteer who helped participants register to become a prospective donor.

"We try to get as many volunteers as possible. Anyone who is willing to donate is great."

"We're not forcing anyone. It's all voluntary," said

Flores. "We tell them a quick explanation of what will happen, the procedures they will have to go through, and basic information as well as possible patients they may be able

to help out."

During the last week of November, swabbing kits at JBPHH were used to put people in a database of potential bone marrow donors.

The kits were used to take swabs of the inside of your cheek. If you do swab your cheek, there is less than a two percent chance that you will be a match for someone, but if you are a match, you could save a life, bone marrow drive organizers explained.

To be eligible, you need to be between the ages of 18 to 60.

Ensign Robert Noble of Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii was notified by the National Marrow Donor Program in Kansas City of a possible donor/patient match

early this year.

"I signed up thinking I would probably never be called," said Noble. "In late spring of this year, I received a letter in the mail that I had a potential match and that I needed to provide additional info and blood samples."

"In July I went to a medical clinic downtown and donated five vials of blood so that further screenings could be done. I did not hear anything back for several months. On Nov. 1, I received a call from the National Marrow Donor Program in Kansas City," Noble explained.

For more information, call Senior Chief Quartermaster Anthony Bastidas at 780-7968 or email [Anthony.bastidas@navy.mil](mailto:Anthony.bastidas@navy.mil), or call Master Sgt. Mike Vonahnen at 448-6239.

## Events scheduled to commemorate 71st anniversary of attack

Events commemorating the 71st anniversary of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack by Imperial Japan on Oahu include:

- Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m., the Military Channel documentary world premier of "Pearl Harbor Declassified" will take place at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument Pearl Harbor Visitor Center movie theaters. The film is a dramatic frame-by-frame look at the first 15 minutes of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the devastating aftermath.

Admission is free, but seating is limited. Reservations can be made by calling 423-7300, ext. 7048.

- Dec. 2-8, discounted admission to the USS Bowfin, which will celebrate its 70th anniversary on Dec. 7. On Dec. 7, 1942, one year after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the USS Bowfin was launched into World War II.

- Dec. 4, 10 a.m., a scattering-of-ashes service for Pearl Harbor survivor James McDavid at the Utah Memorial, who was serving in the Navy aboard the USS Pennsylvania during the attack. A scattering-of-ashes service also took place Nov. 28 for Pearl Harbor survivor Fred H. Leighton, who

served aboard USS Ramsay during the attack.

- Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m., an "After Dark in the Park" discussion with Pearl Harbor survivors and witnesses at the WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument Pearl Harbor Visitor Center movie theaters.

Admission is free, but seating is limited. Reservations may be made by calling 423-7300, ext. 7048.

- Dec. 5, 8, 9 at 2 p.m. and Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., narrated one-hour historic Pearl Harbor boat tours. Free boat tours narrated by the National Park Service rangers will take visitors around historic Ford Island, allowing visitors to witness many of the notable sites of the 1941 air raid on Pearl Harbor.

All boats will depart the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center and the tour includes a stop at the USS Arizona Memorial. Donations are being accepted to help fund the restoration of the Arizona Memorial. Seating is limited and reservations can be made by calling 954-8721.

- Dec. 6, 5:30-9 p.m., Pacific Aviation Museum annual fundraising dinner, Hangar 37, Ford Island.

- Dec. 7, 7:55 a.m., Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony co-hosted by the Navy and National Park Service at the Pearl Harbor Visitors Center, followed by a Floral tribute on the USS Arizona Memorial.

Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, is scheduled to deliver the keynote address.

Pearl Harbor survivor and president emeritus of the National Chief Petty Officers Association Ray Emory, and a former WASP (Women Air Force Service Pilot) are scheduled to be recognized as special guests and representatives.

This year's theme for the commemoration is "Coming of Age - From Innocence to Valor." The ceremony is by invitation and open to the public.

- Dec. 7, 7:55 a.m., a Hickam remembrance ceremony at the Atterbury Memorial Park flag pole, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The 15th Wing will be hosting remembrance ceremony "Our Service, born from their Resolve" to honor the 189 killed and 303 wounded during the attacks. Gen. Hawk Carlisle, Pacific Air Forces commander, will be the guest speaker.

The ceremony is open to all

military identification card holders, veterans, survivors of the attack, and guests of attending survivors. Base access is required. Attendees must be in place by 7:15 a.m.

- Dec. 7, 7:30-8:15 a.m., a ceremony at Ewa Field hosted by the Aloha Chapter Marine Corps League and the Honolulu Council Navy League to observe the attack on the former Ewa Marine Corps Air Station to honor the four U.S. Marines who were killed during the opening moments of WWII. The ceremony will be held at the Ewa Field marker located at the Barbers Point Golf Course.

- Dec. 7, 9 a.m., a joint reenlistment ceremony at the Battleship Missouri Memorial. Gen. Herbert Carlisle, commander, Pacific Air Forces, will be the reenlisting officer.

- Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m. a scattering of ashes of Hickam Field survivor Master Sgt. Raymond Perry, at the Missing Man Memorial. After retiring from the Air Force, Perry retired as a Hickam fire inspector.

The Federal Fire Department is scheduled to participate in a procession, and 17 family members plan to attend.

- Dec. 7, 1:30 p.m., a USS

Oklahoma Memorial remembrance ceremony, Ford Island, hosted by National Park Service. Guest speakers include Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Commander Capt. Jeffrey James, Rear Adm. (retired) Greg Slavonic of the USS Oklahoma Memorial Committee, and USS Oklahoma survivor Ed Vezey. This is the fifth anniversary of the memorial.

Admission to the ceremony is free and open to the public. A free shuttle to Ford Island departs every 15 minutes from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. from the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park shuttle stop.

- Dec. 7, 6 p.m., a Pearl Harbor Day memorial parade scheduled from Ft. DeRussy to Kapiolani Park. The event is scheduled to include military support such as a joint services color guard, US Marine Corps Forces Pacific band and marching unit and marching units from the Army, Navy and Air Force.

For more information about the Pearl Harbor Day 71st Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony and special events, visit [www.pearlharboorevents.com](http://www.pearlharboorevents.com).

## Band on the run



Members of the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band practice a marching performance on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The Pacific Fleet Band is dedicated to providing quality entertainment for the military events and assists in building community relationships.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Diana Quinlan

# Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam makes history with new app

Story and photos by  
Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

The new Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Historic Sites app for iPhone and iPad was released officially today after two weeks of online evaluation.

The JBPHH Historic Sites app allows users to pull up information about various points of interest around the base, including vintage photographs, historical data and more. The launch of the new app is particularly timely with the commemoration of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor next week.

Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, is enthusiastic about the new app.

"This app is a way for anyone to learn more about our historic and strategic base," he said.

"As the Department of Defense rebalances to Asia-Pacific, we are the focal point here for the Navy and Air Force in Hawaii. I encourage everyone who can to learn more about Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The new history app is a great tool, and I invite you to give it a try," James said.

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, recently had the opportunity to try the new app.

Jim Neuman, Navy Region Hawaii historian, showed Adm. Ponds how



Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, tries out the new Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam Historic Sites app with Jim Neuman, Navy Region Hawaii historian. (Right) Screenshots of the JBPHH Historic Sites app.

the app worked and explained its potential.

"Commander Navy Region Hawaii is committed to preserving history through innovation and new technologies, and the new Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam history app will provide a guide to learn more about the rich history of the base," Neuman said. "This application will provide a guide to learn more about the rich history at Pearl Harbor-Hickam."

"Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam is one of the nation's most historically significant military bases," said Neuman. "Since its establishment in 1913, Pearl Harbor has been at the forefront of the United States naval operations in the Pacific while the flight line at

Hickam completed in 1938 has served as America's aerial hub in the region."

"In the century that has followed, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam has established its place as America's premier forward base for the United States prosecution of Pacific operations to ensure America's security in times of war and peace," Neuman added.

James talked about the importance of communication and its evolution in the military.

"From Morse code to cyber communication, cannonballs to cruise missiles, the military has found new and powerful ways to get the message out. Whether in energy, warfighting or communication—including communicating history—we are committed to being on the cutting edge of science and technology," he said.

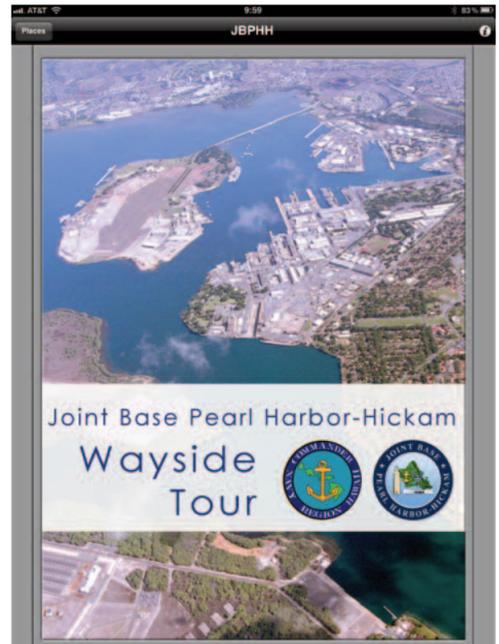
"As Rear Adm. Frank Ponds has said, 'Here in Hawaii, we embrace innovation while preserving history and maintaining force readiness.' This app is a good example of how we're moving forward in preserving and sharing history through innovation and new technologies," James continued.

Ponds was impressed with the new history app. "This helps move history forward," he said. "It will make our past readily available in the future."

The admiral was anxious to give the new app a try.

"I have an iPad in my office," he told Neuman at the end of their meeting. "I'm going to go load this app right now."

The Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam Historic Sites app for iPhone and iPad is available for free on iTunes. It is a 200 megabyte file.



A barrage balloon is flown during World War Two. Notice the water tower in the distance. Fort Kamehameha is the oldest military area of Hickam. Its five coastal batteries were built between 1911 and 1920 for the defense of Pearl Harbor and Oahu. Although the guns are gone, the concrete batteries remain. Battery Hawkins, the smallest, is most easily viewed. The Fort Kamehameha Historic District also retains some of the original Officers' Row of houses built in 1916 in the Craftsman Bungalow style of architecture. The Fort Kamehameha Chapel, built in 1940, can be seen across the street from Officers' Row.

## Letter to the Editor

### A reflection on Thanksgiving Day

So Thanksgiving Day has come and gone for this year. But its spirit should always live throughout each new day.

Thanksgiving! What a simple word it is. Yet what a big meaning it has had for generations.

It is also a word, and concept, that transcends many diverse cultures and has been a cornerstone to an even wider audience before its present-day known American concept began more than three centuries ago.

Before early European explorers arrived in North America, Indians chanted and were thankful for the wide expanse of natural beauty and bountiful food among them. Hawaiians treasured and chanted to their gods and goddesses in thanks for the wealth of life in the midst of their remote island chains.

Eskimos continually passed down values and appreciation of their abundant surroundings to younger eyes with hopes for their future.

And yet the concept of "thanksgiving" has been alive in other lands as well.

Everyone around the world finds their own ways to express, throughout the year, similar concepts of "thanksgiving."

These other lands also strive to use its meaning in their own languages as a building block to keep alive the promise of a better life for themselves and future generations.

John Burns

Scan this QR code with your mobile device to get access to more information about the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Historic Sites app.



## Commentary

### Commander issues guidance on marijuana decriminalization

Col. Johnny Roscoe

15th Wing Commander

Recently, Colorado and Washington state decriminalized all uses of marijuana. However, as Airmen in the United States Air Force

and members of the 15th Wing, use of marijuana is incompatible with military service regardless of whether you are traveling through or on temporary duty in the states that have decriminalized its use. Furthermore, marijuana

use, possession, manufacture, distribution, introduction, importation and exportation are all still prohibited under Article 112a of the UCMJ and federal laws that criminalize marijuana offenses are still in effect.

In the coming days, we expect more information on this topic, but I want to ensure that you hear it from me first and are aware of the current state of military law on this issue.

Bottom line ... save your career, steer clear.

## A 'gateway' into the history of Hickam

The wings at the entranceway flanking the gatehouse of the former Hickam Field were in place in 1937 in this photo, but they had not yet been painted and a perimeter fence had not yet been installed.

Photo courtesy of  
www.hawaii.gov/hawaiiaviation



## Diverse Views

**What do you want 'Santa' to bring you this year?**

**Master Sgt. Tim Leviston**  
561 Network Operations Squadron

"Sleep. And a Canon 70-200L lens."

**Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Brian Schoffstall**  
Navy Region Hawaii

"I could use a new hunting rifle or bow."

**Tech. Sgt. Miranda Hendrix**  
HQ PACOM

"An all expenses paid trip to Europe."

**Information Technician 2nd Class Katherine Sourivong**  
Navy Region Hawaii

"I'd like a little cold weather. Hawaii is in the tropics. It would be nice to have a change of seasons."

(Provided by David Underwood Jr. and Brandon Bosworth).

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views? Got opinions to share? Drop us a line at [editor@hookelenews.com](mailto:editor@hookelenews.com) or [karen.spangler@navy.mil](mailto:karen.spangler@navy.mil)

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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# Ceremony at USS Utah Memorial honors Pearl Harbor survivor

**Brandon Bosworth**

*Staff Writer*

The ashes of Fred Leighton, a survivor of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, were scattered in the waters near the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island during a ceremony held Nov. 28.

"It was Fred's wish to return to Pearl Harbor after his death and have his ashes scattered here so he could be with his shipmates lost here in these hallowed waters," said Jim Taylor, Pearl Harbor survivor liaison.

"He has made his final voyage and, thanks to his loving family, his wish will come true this morning."

Fred H. Leighton was born June 12, 1921 in Healdsburg, Calif. Leighton joined the Navy in July 1939.

After completing boot camp, he was assigned to an old World War I-era destroyer, the USS Ramsay (DM 16). Ramsay was moored to Pearl Harbor the morning of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack. However, unlike so many other ships, Ramsay suffered little damage and was able to exit the harbor.

"The Ramsay was one of the few ships to get underway," said Capt. Larry Scruggs, deputy commander, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, who spoke at the ceremony. "Fighting its way out of the harbor, Ramsay took the fight to the Japanese, hunting for submarines threatening U.S. ships."

Leighton later served aboard Ramsay and other ships throughout the war in the Pacific. He took part in the invasion of Okinawa and was part of the armada that sailed into Yokohama Harbor for Japan's signing of surrender.

Leighton was discharged

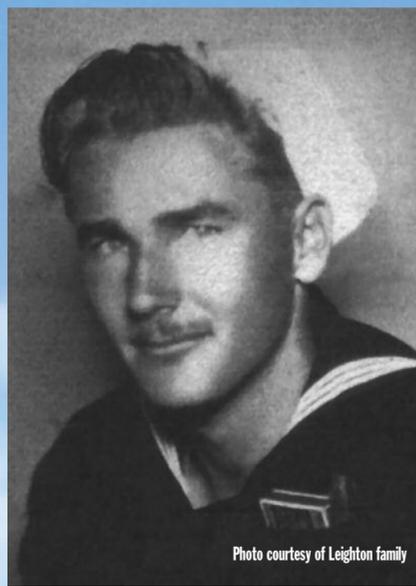


Photo courtesy of Leighton family



U.S. Navy photos by Brandon Bosworth

from the Navy in November 1945 after earning the position of boatswain's mate first class petty officer. He died March 7, 2008 in Sebastopol, Calif.

Chaplain Lt. James Ragain, assigned to Pearl

Harbor Memorial Chapel, presided over the services and described Leighton as "a hero, like all those who serve our nation."

The word "hero" also came up when Leighton's son, Mark, sang an original song he wrote about his

father. Many of the lyrics were from Fred Leighton's perspective, including the repeated line, "Son, don't call me a hero."

But the song also included lines from Mark's point of view, such as "My dad is a hero, at least in my eyes."

Leighton's widow, Vanya, was also in attendance. She talked about how much he seriously took being a Pearl Harbor survivor.

"He attended every survivor's event and meeting he could," she said. "We

even attended two Dec. 7 events here in Hawaii."

Vanya was very happy with the ceremony.

"It was beautiful and very moving," she said. "I'm very thankful to the Navy for doing this and offering this wonderful service."

# USS Reuben James Sailors celebrate Thanksgiving at sea

**Story and photo by Lt. j.g. Damon Goodrich-Houska**

*USS Reuben James (FFG 57) Public Affairs*

USS REUBEN JAMES, At Sea (NNS) – Sailors aboard guided-missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) celebrated Thanksgiving while underway in the western Pacific on Nov. 22.

The Sailors were able to spend some time relaxing as well as enjoy a Thanksgiving feast.

Reuben James is currently a finalist for the Ney award for food excellence, and it was apparent

on Thanksgiving.

"Holiday meals are a huge boost for morale," said Operations Specialist 3rd Class Sean Powell. "This is my third Thanksgiving away from home, but a good meal and good company can make it a lot easier."

The crew expressed gratitude for the long hours the culinary specialists put in and the chief petty officer mess and wardroom, who helped set up and serve the meal.

"The food was amazing. It's all everyone is talking about," said Aviation Electronics Technician 3rd Class Keaton Lamaster.

"Even though it's tough at



times, I'm glad we're out here ensuring our families and friends can celebrate the holiday at home in safety," Lamaster said.

Reuben James is on a routine deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility and will decommission next year after 27 years of service.

Sailors on Reuben James enjoy Thanksgiving dinner.

# Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

Damage Controlman 1st Class William Huddleson, left, Machinist's Mate 1st Class Nickolas Miller, and Electronics Technician 1st Class Jesse Holland of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility man the grill for a benefit for the Combined Federal Campaign. The shipyard's First Class Petty Officer Association raised \$383 to donate to CFC.

U.S. Navy photo by Marshall Fukuki



Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (far left); Adm. Cecil D. Haney (center), commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet; and Rear Adm. Frank L. Ponds (far right), commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; cut the cake during the Thanksgiving Day luncheon provided to Sailors at the Silver Dolphin Bistro Galley. They also helped in serving the Thanksgiving meal.

U.S. Navy photo by CSI Alfredo Medina

Col. Dann Carlson, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam deputy commander and 647th Air Base Group commander, helps serve food for Airmen during a Thanksgiving meal Nov. 22 at a dining facility at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Air Force photo



Sailors and volunteers register to be bone marrow donor candidates during a bone marrow drive outside the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Dustin W. Sisco

## Navy Reads: Conversation with the Creator II

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In a world of Hulu, Halo, Facebook and Reddit, who has time to read a book ... and why bother?

The new-and-improved Navy reading program, now known as Chief of Naval Operations Professional Reading Program (CNO-PRP), shows why a commitment to literacy, education and critical thinking is still relevant, recognizing that a "book" today can be experienced not only on paper but also via Nook, Kindle or iPhone app.

The new reading program breathes online. Lists are no longer tied to rank, some titles are presented on the program's website "for further consideration," and Sailors can even check out books electronically for loan through Navy Knowledge Online.

U.S. Naval War College (NWC) professor John Jackson, creator of Navy's reading program, believes in promoting and encouraging reading as fun. The program's goal is to create a "culture of reading" on ships and at shore commands. We first interviewed Jackson in July 2009. In this October 2012 conversation, he speaks about how the program has evolved for the digital generation.

**Professor Jackson, the biggest change to the list is the alignment to Adm. Greenert's tenets -- "warfighting first, operate forward and be ready." How did the CNO's Sailing Directions guide the selection of books for the list?**

When CNO published his Sailing Directions, he was providing his vision for the thrust that all Navy activities and actions should take. They provided a shorthand list of priorities. Since the CNO-PRP is designed to help develop the professionalism of all Sailors, it was relatively easy to identify books which aligned with the three tenets.

**What was the CNO's direct role?**

The CNO personally reviewed and approved the titles recommended by the CNO-PRP Advisory Group (which includes U.S. Naval Academy, Naval Postgraduate School, Naval War College, Naval History and Heritage Command, and the Senior Enlisted Academy). He discussed the program at the all Navy Flag Officer and Senior Executive Service Conference in October 2011 and asked these Navy leaders to provide input on what they would like to see in the program. Seven of the 18 books on the "essential" list were recommended by Navy flags.

**With the new structure, will there no longer be collections based on rank or position (for example, no junior enlisted collection or division leaders collection)?**

The CNO-PRP Management office at NWC received some significant level of feedback that said that the rank-based book categories were considered too restrictive and may have left the impression that some books were too difficult for some Sailors to read. While the rank-based categories were always merely advisory in nature, and all books were always available to all Sailors, we decided to eliminate the rank designations and allow Sailors to make their own decisions on which books they will read.

**Does the list consider the skills and competencies in the previous list (for example, leadership, critical thinking and manage-**



Adm. Harold Stark and Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox in the U.K. in 1943.  
Photo courtesy of Navy www.reads.blogspot.com

**ment and strategic planning)?**

The skills identified in the previous program are still the key competencies we believe need to be mastered by 21st century Sailors. The CNO-PRP Advisory Group specifically looked at books which addressed these skills, but in order to simplify the program matrix, we have stepped back from listing them in each case.

**Was it difficult to limit the number of books on the essential list and recommended list, considering the many great books published on naval history, strategy, etc.?**

You are absolutely correct! There are literally thousands of great books out there, and it would be easy to identify 100 titles that are particularly valuable. Restricting the CNO-PRP to 42 titles allows the program to be more manageable. It should be remembered that the Navy is the only service that actually buys and distributes the books in its professional reading program. We don't want just a list, we want an accessible program.

**It must be personally rewarding to see the program you created and managed from the beginning continue to flourish. In our first interview you shared a few anecdotes about how CNO-PRP has been (literally) taken aboard by Sailors. Do you have any other examples to share about the impact the reading program has had?**

I am honored to still be in charge of this terrific program. I have seen it prosper under three CNOs, and Adm. Greenert's level of involvement has been remarkable. It is truly his program, and it has his full backing in every way. I am always pleased when we get emails from the fleet asking for more books, telling us how the program is used aboard ship for general military training, and telling us about shipboard essay contests based on CNO-PRP books. I also find it interesting that the Navy Exchange has sold nearly 100,000 books directly to Sailors who want to build their own personal libraries.

I have been associated with the Navy for over 43 years, as a student, a commissioned officer and now as a DON civilian employee, and I can tell you that I have gotten greater satisfaction from managing the CNO-PRP than I have from any other job I've had in the Navy. I think the program really makes a difference in the intellectual develop-

ment of our Sailors and hopefully contributes to the professionalism of our Navy. You can't do better than that.

**Should the CNO-PRP still be considered a springboard? Is Naval Institute Press a good option for getting other titles?**

The 42 books in the CNO-PRP are merely a starting point. They should be a springboard to greater study and reading. The Naval Institute Press has a huge number of good books available. I would also recommend that readers seek out the Naval War College Press, which publishes a quarterly journal, the Naval War College Review, and a number of books and monographs on maritime subjects.

**How are you progressing in the era of e-books, other audio versions and social media integration of the reading program?**

One of the primary directions we received from CNO was to embrace e-books as a growing format for reading books, magazines and articles of interest. The Navy General Library Program on Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) provides hundreds of books and magazines that they can download (on a loan basis) by authorized users. It must be recognized that not all books are available in electronic format, and some formats are not compatible with some reading devices. We are still in the early days in the electronic publishing industry, but the CNO-PRP will work hard to use electronic books as much as possible. We still value hard-copy, however, and that is why we have just purchased 22,000 books for distribution around the fleet.

**In our first interview, you responded passionately about the value of reading in giving Sailors the knowledge needed to sharpen their fighting spirit and giving us all a better perspective on history. You said, "Good books entertain, illustrate, and educate." How does reading make us better citizens of our nation and world?**

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "Learn from the mistakes of others ... You can't live long enough to make them all yourself!" I think this is the essence of why you want to read and learn from the successes (and mistakes) of others. Books are a treasure trove of knowledge, gathered across the eons, all waiting to be discovered by the curious Sailors of today. The CNO-PRP is committed to making great books available, wherever Sailors work and live.

## Parking lot to be repaved

From 7 a.m. Dec. 10 through 4 p.m. April 5, building 1557 Jagger's Café parking lot will be repaved and restriped.

Motorists and pedestrians are advised to heed caution and warning signs and avoid parking in the work area throughout the duration of construction.

Vehicles obstructing the worksite will be towed at the owner's expense.

Traffic from the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center through the parking lot will be closed throughout the duration of the project.

## Stockdale Awards

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Stockdale was about."

Greenert described the two successful commanding officers and credited their spouses who, like all military husbands and wives, bear much of the burden of military service.

Patrick took command of USS Chafee, homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in 2010. He has earned the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, five Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medals and three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

"It is humbling to be chosen for this award," said Patrick. "To be an effective leader you have to care about each individual Sailor. If you put your all into being a good leader for them, I have found that they'll put their all into giving you the best possible effort. It's a team effort, and a team award."

Sittlow reported aboard the USS Boise (SSN 764) in 2010. He has earned numerous awards for his service, but said he is most proud of the unit awards that the submarines he has served on have earned during deployed operations.

Both awardees were nominated by their peers and were recommended by their fleet commanders for consideration by a panel of senior officers. The Stockdale Leadership award is an annual award and is presented to two commissioned officers who are in command of a single ship, submarine, aviation squadron or operational warfare unit. I

It was established in honor of Vice Adm. James Bond Stockdale. His distinguished naval career symbolizes the highest standards of excellence in both personal example and leadership. Candidates must be nominated by peers who themselves must be eligible for the award.

Stockdale was a U.S. Naval Academy graduate and a pilot. In September 1965, he ejected out of his A-4E Skyhawk over North Vietnam and for eight years was held prisoner and frequently tortured. In 1976, he received the Medal of Honor. He served as president of the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. from October 1977 until August 1979. Stockdale died in 2005 and is buried at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

## Tripler blood drives

Tripler Army Medical Center Blood Donor Center has updated its schedule of upcoming blood drives as part of the Armed Services Blood Donor Program (ASBP).

- Dec. 3, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Hickam BX.
- Dec. 7, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, building 2.
- Dec. 17 and 19, 7 a.m. to 12 p.m., 3rd Radio Battalion, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

For more information, call 433-6699 or 433-6148 or email michelle.lele@amedd.army.mil.

## Military leaders, Hawaii government target joint sustainability issues

Story and photo by  
Jack Wiers

U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii  
Public Affairs

HONOLULU — Navy Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and Col. Daniel Whitney, commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, put pens to paper, along with other installation leaders from military bases around Oahu, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding pledging closer collaboration between the City and County of Honolulu. The signing took place Nov. 15 at Honolulu Hale, or city hall.

Hawaii's Army, Marine, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard leaders signed the MOU on sustainability and solid waste management issues.

Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle hosted the MOU signing by military and city leadership at his office before about two dozen witnesses and media members.



City and County of Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle (left) displays a signed copy of an Memorandum of Understanding pledging closer collaboration between the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard and city on sustainability and solid waste management issues. Capt. Jeffrey James (center), commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and Col. Daniel Whitney (right), commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii, participated in the signing ceremony at the mayors office Nov. 15.

The goal is to develop a comprehensive and integrated approach for solid waste management on Oahu that will assist the parties in their individual solid waste management programs and sup-

port mutual solid waste and sustainability objectives.

"This is a great example of multiple government branches coming together to improve efficiency and foster understanding that benefits

everyone," Carlisle said. "The city and military have mutual interests in protecting the environment and helping create more sustainable practices for a better future."

"The key message here

today is that we are all working together - our installations along with the City and County of Honolulu - to make us less dependent on foreign fossil fuels," said James.

"We recognize the need to do everything we can to conserve energy, convert waste to energy and promote energy security," James said.

The MOU pledges cooperation in many ways, including coordinating efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle wastes; considering economic benefits of new technologies for resource recovery; coordinating waste management programs; and working to contribute to the Oahu economy and quality of life for its citizens.

"The Army and our military partners believe that shared knowledge will lead to actions that benefit the entire community," said Whitney.

The agreement establishes a working group that includes the City and County of Honolulu, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii,

Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, and Coast Guard Base Honolulu.

While a comprehensive and integrated approach to solid waste management—for the benefit of the entire community—is the goal, the cooperative nature of the working partnership also charts an important course for the future, according to both military and civilian leaders.

"This agreement between Oahu's military installations and the City and County of Honolulu serves as a foundation for future collaborations," Whitney said.

"A lot of hard work has gone into this (MOU), and the signatures signify our commitment to work even harder to accomplish the mission," Carlisle said. "We all create waste, and we all have an obligation to ensure disposal of waste moves us towards a sustainable future."

*(Editor's note: The City and County of Honolulu and JBPHH Public Affairs also contributed to this article.)*

## Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard hosts RoK Naval Shipyard commander

Story and photo by  
David Tomiyama

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Intermediate  
Maintenance Facility Public Affairs

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY & IMF) officials hosted Republic of Korea (RoK) navy counterparts during a visit here Nov. 13.

Capt. Brian Osgood, commander of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, led a discussion on the organization and operations of the shipyard and gave a tour of dry dock four to Rear Adm. Seong-Back Kim, RoK Naval Shipyard commander, and his staff.

"This visit by the admiral and his staff provided an opportunity to develop a mutual understanding of how our shipyards do business," said Osgood. "With the U.S. Navy rebalancing our engagement in the Pacific, it's vital that we listen and share ideas with our strategic partners in the region regarding logistics and maintenance needed to keep our

fleets fit to fight."

Kim requested the meeting to re-establish friendly relations between the two countries' shipyards. He sought to benchmark the shipyard's maintenance support to the U.S. Navy fleet, skill development among its workforce and modernization of its facilities in comparison to his own. The last visit by a RoK Naval Shipyard commander to PHNSY & IMF was in 2006.

"I wanted to compare the availability timeframes of our surface ships and the types of maintenance we perform on our fleet as compared to the [Pearl Harbor Naval] shipyard," Kim said. "I was also interested as to how Pearl Harbor trains and integrates its civilian workforce with the active duty Sailors."

Kim and his staff ended their visit thoroughly impressed with the shipyard.

"I marveled at their facilities and organization," said Kim. "While some of the buildings might be a little old, they're maintained extremely well. The organization of the shipyard from people to operations is remarkable."



Cmdr. Kate Dolloff, deputy of Hawaii Regional Maintenance Center at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility, explains the status of repairs on the USS Hopper (DDG 70) in dry dock to Rear Adm. Seong-Back Kim (center), commander Republic of Korea Naval Shipyard, his staff, and Capt. Brian Osgood (far left), shipyard commander.

## Dec. 7 events will include flyover, pass-in review

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include, among others, Office of the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Strategic Command, and commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, where today he leads the world's largest and most powerful fleet.

For the first time, the National Park Service and Pacific Historic Parks will share the historical significance of Dec. 7 with 6,000-plus school-age children across Hawaii with a simultaneous reading aloud program. Children attending more than 130 elementary and intermediate schools who are enrolled in afterschool care programs will learn about the real life story of an unlikely friendship between the late Pearl Harbor survivor Richard Fiske and Japanese fighter pilot Zenji Abe.

The book titled, "Pearl Harbor Warriors: The Bugler, The Pilot, The Friendship," is a story of peace and forgiveness and how these men, who were once enemies of war, overcame their hatred and fear for one another. In 1991, as a symbol of peace and friendship,

Abe gave Fiske \$300 and asked him to lay two roses at the Arizona Memorial each month, one for him and one for Fiske. He also asked Fiske to sound Taps on his bugle after he did this.

Fiske honored this request every month until he died in 2004. Pacific Historic Parks has purchased 175 copies of the book to provide to each participating school.

Special recognition at the ceremony will also be given to:

- Former Navy Chief Ray Emory is a Pearl Harbor survivor and president emeritus of the National Chief Petty Officers Association. Today, Emory is a hero to many survivors and to the families of those killed, being personally involved in identifying remains of "unknowns" and ensuring graves are properly identified at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl).

- Former members of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), who during WWII, became the first women ever to get behind the controls of American

military aircraft and fly non-combat missions. The ceremony will recognize the tremendous contributions made by all women in uniform and women civilians who supported the war efforts on the home front through the building of ships, victory gardens and purchasing war bonds.

At 7:55 a.m., the exact moment the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor began 71 years ago, a moment of silence will be observed. USS Michael Murphy, the Navy's newest guided-missile destroyer at Pearl Harbor, will render honors to the USS Arizona. The Hawaii Air National Guard will fly over the memorial in a "missing man" formation. The ceremony will conclude with a "walk of honor" by Pearl Harbor survivors and other WWII veterans through an honor cordon of military and National Park Service men and women.

**Public access to the Pearl Harbor 71st Anniversary commemoration**

The commemoration is free of charge, and the public is invited to attend. Seats for the general pub-

lic are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. The visitor center will open early at 6 a.m. Seating for the public will begin at 7:15 a.m.

**Limited public parking for the ceremony at the visitor center**

Additional parking will be available at Richardson Field. The public is encouraged to arrive early to allow time for parking and going through security at the visitor center.

**Limited USS Arizona Memorial public tour schedule**

Public tours to the USS Arizona Memorial will be operating on a special schedule on Dec. 7 due to the morning ceremony. The first public tour will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the last tour beginning at 1:30 p.m. Tours will begin every 15 minutes and include a 23-minute movie presentation followed by a short boat ride and visit to the memorial. Tickets are free and distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Security**

Cameras are permitted; however, due to strict security measures, camera bags, purses, handbags and/or other items that offer concealment are not allowed. Complimentary bag storage is available at the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park. The normal storage fee is being waived by the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park for this one day.

**Dress code**

Military dress is summer whites or service equivalent. The civilian dress code for the commemoration is aloha business attire, long pants and collared shirts.

**Information**

For more information about the Pearl Harbor Day 71st Anniversary Commemoration ceremony and special events, visit [www.pearlharborevents.com](http://www.pearlharborevents.com)

A series of special events recognizing the 70th anniversary of the USS Bowfin and the 71st anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor will be open to the public Nov. 29 through Dec. 9.

*(Please see page A-2 for information on other Dec. 7-related events.)*

# Multinational team of wingmen rescues downed pilot from Pacific Ocean

## Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

*(Editor's note: Although the incident involving the F-16 happened on July 22, the Manukai crew, who played a vital role in the pilot's rescue, was presented with a plaque on Nov. 19 by the commanders of PACAF and 35th Fighter Wing.)*

On July 22, a U.S. Air Force pilot assigned to Misawa Air Base, Japan, had to eject from an F-16 Fighting Falcon over the turbulent and cold waters of the north Pacific.

Over the next six hours, the pilot, JEST 73, focused on surviving in his small life raft, constantly using his helmet to bail water out to keep afloat.

While ejecting from an aircraft and landing in the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean would probably not qualify as the man's best day, the pilot was fortunate in that an improbable, varied mix of different people and agencies were seamlessly partnering up to help out.

The traditional military definition of a "wingman" refers to the flight pattern in which there is a lead aircraft and another which flies off the wing of and behind the lead. This second pilot is called the wingman because he or she primarily watches the lead's back. It turned out there were a lot of wingmen watching the downed Airman's back.

"While bailing water from my life raft, I was in constant communication with airborne rescue forces which helped ease my mind, but with each passing hour, I was growing more concerned that I would end up spending the night in my life raft," said JEST 73.

A KC-135 Stratotanker belonging to the 22nd Air Refueling Wing at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, and two others



U.S. Coast Guard courtesy photo

An Air Force pilot climbs down the Jacobs ladder of the cargo vessel Manukai to the Coast Guard Cutter Munro's small boat crew in the North Pacific Ocean. The pilot, who was forced to eject from his aircraft for unknown reasons, transited with the Munro to Dutch Harbor, Alaska, where he met an awaiting Air Force airplane for transit back to Japan.

belonging to the 18th Wing at Kadena Air Base, Japan were among the first on scene in the wake of the late morning incident. The aircraft's pilots relayed news to the 618th Air and Space Operations Center (Tanker Airlift Control Center [TACC]), Air Mobility Command's operational nerve center.

"When the call first came in from one of the KC-135 commanders, we only knew that we had an F-16 pilot who had just ejected, thankfully wasn't injured, and was busy bailing out his raft," said Col. David Smith, TACC

director of operations during the incident.

"We told the aircraft to stay in radio contact and let the pilot know that help was on the way and that we were immediately commencing rescue operations. Our commitment was not to let him down," Smith explained.

That call put into motion the race to quickly recover the pilot. TACC immediately provided air traffic controllers at Fukuoka, Japan and Anchorage, Alaska with the incident's location. Those controllers quickly passed the information to the Japanese Rescue

Coordination Center to begin search and rescue operations. Those efforts were bolstered by the rapid passing of information to the rescue coordination center in Alameda, Calif., which shared it with ships in the area.

"We were about a day out of Japan, and I was on watch when a call came in from the Coast Guard on the satellite phone," said Jim Dowling, 2nd Mate and navigation officer for the Matson commercial container ship Manukai, which was on the return leg of a long journey from Long Beach, Calif. to China, Japan and points between.

"The call said a military aircraft went down about 100 miles behind (west of) our position," Dowling added.

Dowling called up the ship's captain, who confirmed the position. Then they called the Manukai's engine room to get more power (RPMs), turned the ship around, and headed back to help. The Manukai's crew maintained a constant dialogue with the air crews overhead as they raced to help.

As the minutes passed, TACC officials ensured regular communication with the pilot, with the KC-135 crews closely monitoring his condition and continuing to provide him reassurance that help was enroute.

A Japanese fishing vessel, the Hokko Maru, also responded to the call for help and was heading toward the pilot's position. As the Manukai and Hokku Maru approached at nearly the same time, the U.S. and Japanese crews worked together to develop a plan.

"As we talked to the Japanese fishing boat, we determined they had a more ideal life boat so they agreed to pick him up," Dowling explained.

"Then they brought him

alongside us, and we were lucky in that there was some light remaining and fairly calm seas at that time. We lowered the gangway to the life boat and he was able to climb up. It was an all-hands event, with all 21 of our crew lining the rails," Dowling said.

Perhaps one of the biggest highlights of a day full of ups and downs was waiting for the pilot as soon as he was safely on the Manukai. "They had patched his wife through to him by phone on our ship," Dowling said.

For approximately the next two days, the pilot was a guest of the Manukai's crew. Dowling said he was a "shipboard celebrity" to the sailors. The ship swung north of its normal intended course to meet up with the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Munro, which transported the pilot to Alaska, where he was eventually taken to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, near Anchorage.

"The entire shipboard combat information center was instrumental in coordinating the rendezvous, from over 800 nautical miles, to occur exactly on schedule," wrote U.S. Coast Guard Ensign Jacob Hauser, underway as the Munro's public affairs officer. Hauser also served as ship's deck and conning officer for the rendezvous.

"Both ships were able to find one another in thick fog and maneuver safely to within 500 yards aboard. The (pilot) had to climb down a 20-30 foot ladder (from the Manukai) to reach the small boat, which was expertly maneuvered for a safe passenger transfer," Hauser said.

Hauser explained that the entire crew was piped topside as the pilot approached in the small boat, in order to render appropriate honors—a way of welcoming him home. Once aboard, the pilot

was received by applause before debriefing with the commanding officer and department heads.

"While the circumstances of losing an aircraft are certainly not ideal, we were absolutely thrilled to successfully recover our Airman, our most important asset," said Gen. Herbert "Hawk" Carlisle, Pacific Air Forces commander.

"Additionally, it was truly heartwarming to see the dedicated teamwork and vigorous coordination between elements of the U.S. and Japanese military, search and rescue teams, and Japanese and U.S. civilian mariners, whose willingness to help was instrumental in our pilot eventually returning home to his family. We deeply appreciate this incredible partnership," Carlisle said.

On Nov. 19, Carlisle and Col. Stephen Williams, 35th Fighter Wing (FW) commander, presented a plaque shaped like an F-16's tail section to the Manukai crew on behalf of the men and women of PACAF and the 35th FW.

The pilot also expressed his gratitude to the multiple rescue crews as his written thank-you note was read during the presentation.

"Had it not been for the selfless efforts of the Manukai crew, this story may have had a much different ending," said JEST 73.

"My wife and two daughters join me in my heartfelt thanks to everyone who assisted in my rescue and subsequently reunited me with my family. Getting to hold my wife in my arms again and getting to read bedtime stories to my girls were made possible thanks to [their] heroic actions."

The cause of the incident remains under investigation. (Air Mobility Command Public Affairs contributed to this report.)