"Navigator"

HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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Lake Erie, PMRF Sailors complete successful BMD intercept test

Photo courtesy of Missile Defense Agency

A Standard Missile – 3 (SM-3) Block 1B interceptor is launched from the USS Lake Erie (CG 70) during a Missile Defense Agency test in the mid-Pacific. The SM-3 Block 1B successfully intercepted a short-range ballistic missile target that had been launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawaii.

Missile Defense Agency Public Affairs

FORT BELVOIR, Va. (NNS) -- The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and U.S. Navy Sailors aboard USS Lake Erie (CG 70) successfully conducted a flight test of the Aegis ballistic missile defense (BMD) system May 9.

This test resulted in the first intercept of a short-range ballistic missile target over the Pacific Ocean by the Navy's newest missile defense interceptor, the Standard Missile - 3 (SM-3) Block 1B.

At 8:18 p.m. Hawaiian Standard Time (2:18 a.m. EDT May 10), the target missile was launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility, located on Kauai, Hawaii. The target flew on a northwesterly trajectory toward a broad ocean area of the Pacific Ocean. Following target launch, Lake Erie detected and tracked the missile with its onboard AN/SPY-1 radar. The ship, equipped with the second-generation Aegis BMD 4.0.1 weapon system, developed a fire control solution and launched the Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block IB interceptor.

Lake Erie continued to track the target and sent trajectory information to the SM-3 Block IB interceptor in-flight. The SM-3 maneuvered to a point in space, as designated by the fire control solution, and released its kinetic warhead. The kinetic warhead acquired the target, diverted into its path and, using only the force of a direct impact, engaged and destroyed the threat in a hit-to-kill intercept.

"Bravo zulu to the officers and crew of USS Lake Erie and the Pacific Missile Range Facility team for your outstanding performance in the BMD FTM-16 test event 2a," said Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

"Your meticulous planning and seamless sea/shore integration efforts helped set the stage for a flawless and extremely successful event. You can be justifiably proud of your performance with the first successful intercept using the certified 4.0.1 baseline and the SM-3 Block IB missile. Your detail-oriented mindset and steadfast focus during the entire evolution were key to the success of this live fire engagement," Ponds said.

The event, designated Flight Test Standard Missile-16 (FTM-16) Event 2a, was the first successful live-fire intercept test of its kind. Previous successful intercepts were conducted with the Aegis BMD 3.6.1 weapon system and the SM-3 Block IA interceptor, which are currently operational on U.S. Navy ships deployed across the globe.

"The Pacific Missile Range Facility and USS Lake Erie team of professionals continue to set a standard of excellence in the Aegis BMD community. Your shipmates on the waterfront and I are extremely impressed with your performance," Ponds said.

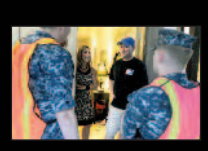
Aegis BMD 4.0.1 and the SM-3 Block IB interceptor improve the system's ability to engage increasingly longer range and more sophisticated ballistic missiles that may be launched in larger raid sizes. The SM-3 Block IB interceptor features a two-color infrared seeker, which improves sensitivity for longer-range target

See BMD TEST, A-6

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

A target missile lights up the night sky at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Kauai, Hawaii. The target missile was intercepted over a broad ocean area by a Standard Missile -3 (SM-3) Block 1B, during a flight test of the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense system conducted by the Missile Defense Agency and the USS Lake Erie (CG 70).

ALOHA, USS CARL VINSON



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'Wild' time planned May 19 at zoo to appreciate military
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USS Carl Vinson visits Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Story and photo by MC2 Tiarra Fulgham

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Detachment Hawaii

The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) and embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 17 arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled port visit May 15.

Vinson is currently in transition to its homeport of San Diego following a successful six-month deployment to the Pacific and Middle East areas of responsibility. Vinson supported maritime theatre security operations in the U.S. 5th and U.S. 7th Fleets.

Families and friends of Sailors aboard Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) observe the ship's arrival May 15 to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"The dedication demonstrated by every Sailor up and down the chain of command was the key factor in accomplishing every mission objective for our time in the 5th and 7th Fleets," said Capt. Kent D. Whalen, Vinson's commanding officer. "With our return to 3rd Fleet, our focus may have changed but our mission-ready mindset continues."

Vinson served as the flagship for Carrier Strike Group One, under command of Rear Adm. T. K. Shannon, which also consisted of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) One guided-missile destroyers USS Halsey (DDG 97), guided-missile destroyer USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) and CVW 17.

Carl Vinson was greeted at the pier by families and friends of Sailors on the ship. The family members prepared to embark for a traditional "tiger cruise," in which they will be allowed to accompany their Sailors for the trip back to their homeport of San Diego.

"As soon as I heard the ship was off island, I began to cry," said Jean Teo-Gibney, whose son was on Vinson. "It's just so wonderful having him back. I just want to thank all the men and women in the military and all the families that make sacrifices, so we can enjoy the things here in America."

The carriers and their air wings are never scheduled to operate alone, but are the center of a carrier battle group that consists of cruisers, destroyers, frigates and submarines which safeguard the carrier and each other.

Carrier Strike Group One arrives at Pearl Harbor

MCC (AW/SW) Monica R. Nelson

USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) Public Affairs

Sailors from Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 1 manned the rails in silent salute May 15, rendering honors to the fallen as they passed the USS Arizona Memorial en route to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), guided-missile cruiser USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), and guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97) arrived in port following five months of maritime theater security operations while deployed to the western Pacific and Middle East. This was their second deployment in 18 months, departing their homeport of San Diego most recently on Nov. 30.

"We had a job to do on behalf of our nation, providing close air support for troops on the ground in Afghanistan and working with our coalition partners to deter criminal pirate activity" said Rear Adm. T. K. Shannon, commander of CSG-1. "We continue to demonstrate a global presence vital to international security and stability."

Sailors from Carl Vinson and the embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 17 conducted more than 6,600 flight hours in 24/7 support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), launching more than 1,085 airborne missions, including airborne electronic warfare and airborne command and control. Although the primary mission of CVW-17's F/A-18 Hornets was to drop bombs on target in support of U.S. and coalition ground troops under fire in Afghanistan, the roaring presence alone of these supersonic jets was often enough to get the job done.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Nicolas C. Lopez

Sailors aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) man the rails while passing the USS Arizona Memorial as the ship arrives at Pearl Harbor.

Throughout deployment, the strike group also conducted military exercises with coalition and other nations, including Britain, India and Australia. In a historic exercise with the Indian navy, Carl Vinson became the first ever U.S. aircraft carrier to connect to an Indian navy refueling ship.

While in Darwin, Sailors from the USS Halsey joined the Australian navy to commemorate the Battle of Coral Sea and ANZAC Day, an Australian national holiday similar to Memorial Day. More than 800 Sailors added a personal touch by volunteering for 37 community relations projects and professional exchanges, such as the international chef's exchange, while on port visits in Hong Kong, the United Arab Emirates, India and Australia.

To cap off the deployment, CSG-1 will embark 1,200 family members and friends on a "tiger cruise" for the return transit from Pearl Harbor to San Diego. "Tigers" will be able to participate in various shipboard exercises and witness up-close air and sea power demonstrations, experiencing firsthand life aboard a Navy ship, and getting a small taste of the adventure their Sailors have lived for the past five months.

Door-to-door operation targets on-base crime

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

In response to a number of crimes ranging from petty theft and vandalism to a vehicle theft on base, officials engaged residents in a door-to-door, anti-crime campaign May 9.

More than 100 members of the Joint Base Security Department teamed up with base residents and leaders for the campaign in housing areas, to remind everyone of basic security guidelines. Similar to a neighborhood watch program, Operation Enlighten II is an awareness program bringing together law enforcement, base officials and residents in a joint effort to provide protection for their homes, families and communities.

"Joint base leadership and base security personnel are committed to keeping the residents of the base safe and secure," said Lt. Col. Michael Gimbrone,

Master Sgt. Tony Karpenko, 647th Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels flight, and his wife Michele, speak to Petty Officer 2nd Class Tim Moss and Seaman Scott Meyer, Pearl Harbor harbor patrolmen, during Operation Enlighten II on May 9. Airmen and Sailors went to more than 2,000 homes to hand out information about safety and security.

647th Security Forces Squadron commander. "By working together with members of the base community, we feel confident they can make a difference in reducing or even eliminating inappropriate behavior on the base."

This is the second year in a row for an initiative of this type. The door-to-door campaign was dubbed Operation Enlighten II, to highlight the primary purpose of informing Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam residents of actions they can take to help from becoming victims of crime. This was also an opportunity to advise residents of actions base leadership and security forces personnel are taking to keep the base secure.

"With regard to the rest of the island, the incidents we've had on base represent a relatively low number, comparatively," Gimbrone said. "As far as leadership and base security are concerned, even one incident of theft or other criminal activity is one too many."

According to officials, from vehicle and several motorcycle thefts, many smaller items stolen, the illegal transport and use of drugs, leadership noticed a trend and decided to get in front of it before anything got out of hand.

"The base is relatively safe, and we want to keep it that way," Gimbrone said. "But with this recent spike in criminal activity, there are a number of initiatives that we as a security department and leadership have been taking to counter these incidents."

Operation Enlighten II is one such initiative to get the word out to base residents, reaching more than 2,600 people. Residents were made aware of new policies and reminded of standing guidelines with a knock on the door and a letter to read. The letter reaffirmed off limits areas on-base during the hours of darkness, reminded residents to secure vehicles at all times, and what numbers to call to report any illegal activity.

"There are things that you typically don't expect to happen while living on a military base," said Master Sgt. Tony Karpenko, 647th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels flight, a resident of the housing communities on base. "It kind of gives you a false sense of security when things like this happen here, around the corner from my house. I still enjoy living on base and the sense of community my family has here."

Karpenko also said he understands living on base is no different than living off base in regard to his family's responsibility to remain vigilant in the community.

"Leaving kids' toys laying out in the front yard or not locking your house and vehicle doors invites people to take what they want," said Michele Karpenko, wife of Master Sgt. Karpenko. "Having lived both on and off base in our careers does not give us a different sense of security one way or the other. We take responsibility of our things and do our part to report any criminal activity we see. I can say it's nice to see base leadership knocking on doors to let us know they are aware of the problems and are working to fix them with the communities' help."

As a result, base police have increased their patrols and enforcement efforts in the housing areas, including off-limit areas during the hours of darkness. Appropriate actions will be taken against any identified violators of base regulations and Hawaii state laws.

"By working together, we can make a difference in reducing or even eliminating inappropriate behavior on our base," Gimbrone said.

National Police Week proclamation issued

(Editor's note: The following proclamation was issued by Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, in recognition of National Police Week. National Police Week was observed May 13 through 19. Coverage of some of the police week events held at JBPHH will be featured in next week's Ho`okele.)

Whereas, the Congress and president of the United States have designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which May 15 falls as National Police Week; and

Whereas, the members of the security department of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; and

Whereas, it is important that all citizens know and understand the duties, responsibilities, hazards, and sacrifices of their security department, and that members of our security department recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by protecting them against violence and disorder and by protecting the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression; and

Whereas, the men and women of the security department of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam unceasingly provide a vital public service;

Now, therefore, I, Capt. Jeffrey W. James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, call upon all citizens of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and upon all patriotic, civic and educational organizations to observe the week of May 13 through 19, as Police Week with appropriate ceremonies and observances in which all of our people may join in commemorating law enforcement officers, past and present, who, by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities, have rendered a dedicated service to their communities and, in so doing, have established for themselves an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens.

I further call upon all citizens of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to observe May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day in honor of those law enforcement officers who, through their courageous deeds, have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community or have become disabled in the performance of duty, and let us recognize and pay respect to the survivors of our fallen heroes.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to be affixed.

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

Fire departments sign mutual aid memorandum

Story and photo by Jazzmin Williams

Contributing Writer

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds (left), commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle (right) sign a memorandum of understanding May 16 at Honolulu Hale. The MOU supports mutual aid between Federal Fire Department Hawaii and Honolulu Fire Department.

In a reminder of the unique partnership between the U.S. Navy and the City and County of Honolulu, Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle signed a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) May 16 at Honolulu Hale.

The MOU supports mutual aid between Federal Fire Department (FFD) Hawaii and Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). It is a renewal of an existing agreement written originally in 2002 and includes changes made in each department's jurisdiction, such as the establishment of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) in 2010. Following the transition to JBPHH, a review of the MOU required updating and changes.

"This memorandum of understanding formalizes the cooperation and coordination between our two fire departments. It is the product of months of negotiations and revisions and establishes the framework for providing mutual aid in case of fires, emergency services or hazardous material incidents," Carlisle said.

Chiefs from both the Federal Fire Department and the Honolulu Fire Department were in attendance. Under the MOU, each fire department will decide when it can send equipment and personnel to assist the other department at an emergency but retain authority over their individual resources. Each fire chief will be allowed to pursue reimbursement for fire fighting costs that are above normal as a result of providing aid to the other department.

The MOU benefits both military and civilians since both fire departments agree to provide not only personnel but fire fighting apparatus and personnel when requested.

"This ceremony is a tangible example of the value that we place on the life, the safety and the protection of our most valuable resource—our people," Ponds said.

Ponds remarked that although the MOU has undergone changes and the places covered by the MOU have also changed, the mission has not. It is focused on the commitment to fighting fires, providing emergency services, and responding to hazardous materials incidents. In a time of strict funding constraints and budget cuts, cooperating with local fire departments ensures the best fire and emergency services to both military and civilian communities, Ponds said.

"The military is a vital part of our community and one of the most important pillars of our economy. We owe our freedom and liberty to their service and know that they will be there for us if we ever need help. We consider it a privilege to serve them if they ever need our assistance," Carlisle said.

VP-4 wins 2012 Anti-Submarine Warfare Fleet Challenge

Lt. j.g. Jenna Rose

Patrol Squadron Four Public Affairs Officer

Combat Aircrew One (CAC-1) of Patrol Squadron Four (VP-4) was recently named the winner of the 2012 Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Fleet Challenge, during the annual Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Force (MPRF) Symposium at NAS Jacksonville.

Nine CACs from across the fleet participated in the event including crews from CPRW-2 (Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two) at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, CPRW-10 at NAS Whidbey Island and CPRW-11 at NAS Jacksonville.

In addition, a Canadian CP-140 Aurora 405 from Squadron 14 Wing Greenwood and the P-8A Poseidon took part in the event. This was the first time the P-8A Poseidon, the replacement aircraft to the P-3C Orion, participated in the fleet challenge. Australian and Japanese riders observed the flights aboard the U.S. P-3C Orions.

The ASW Fleet Challenge consisted of two evaluations. The first took place in the P-3C Orion simulator, known as the tactical operational readiness trainer (TORT). In this realistic trainer, crews executed standardized tactics in order to prosecute a diesel submarine. After completing the simulator portion, the CACs performed a flight event where they detected, localized, tracked and conducted simulated attacks on a Los Angeles-class attack submarine off the northeast Florida coast.

Naval Air Crewman 2nd Class Sean Wawrzyniec, CAC-1 acoustic operator, said, "It was good to go back to Jacksonville and visit with everyone. It was a great experience to be able to compete with my peers in other squadrons."

During the competition, each aircrew position, consisting of a plane commander, tactical coordinator, two acoustic operators and a radar operator, was evaluated on performance. "The evaluators looked very hard at our planning, prosecution and crew resource management (CRM), which strengthens the fact that if a crew works well together, you get good results," said Senior Chief Naval Air Crewman Operator Stanley Lenover, CAC-1 radar operator.

"I was pleased to have a newly trained and qualified sensor one acoustic operator perform so well. It is a signature of our training plan when a brand-new sensor-one operator can compete with other seasoned operators. It is a privilege for us as senior operators and instructors to know how our training impacts our junior Sailors, ultimately paving the way for the future," Lenover said.

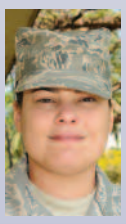
Rear Adm. Michael Hewitt, commander of Patrol and Reconnaissance Group, awarded the championship belt to CAC-1 at the MPRF Flight Suit Social.

Lt. Justin Jennings, tactical coordinator and mission commander, spoke about his team's performance.

"We were excited for our crew to represent VP-4 and Wing Two at fleet challenge. The competition was tough, and I'm proud of the job our crew did. It was an honor to be recognized as the fleet challenge champions."

Diverse Views

Filmed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, the movie 'Battleship' opens May 18. It was based on the game of the same name. If you could base a movie on any other board game, what game would that be and why?



Staff Sgt. Teranyeli Brooks
647th Force Support Squadron

"Risk. It shows how war planners develop strategies to defeat the enemy and/or invade a country."

ITC Ethan Engbino
Navy Reserves, Commander Navy Region Hawaii Regional Operations Center

"Monopoly. Certain businesses and organizations have the 'monopoly' in Hawaii-nei."

Staff Sgt. Benjamin Morgan
515th Air Mobility Operations Wing

"One board game I would like to see made into a movie would be Clue. Even though it was already made into a movie back in 1985. I think it would be a really good recreation with today's computer-generated imagery effects!"

QM1 Sean Vis
Navy Reserves, Commander Navy Region Hawaii Regional Operations Center

"Risk. It would be about world domination, using ideas and themes from failed leaders who tried to take over the world, from early Greek to Pinky and the Brain."

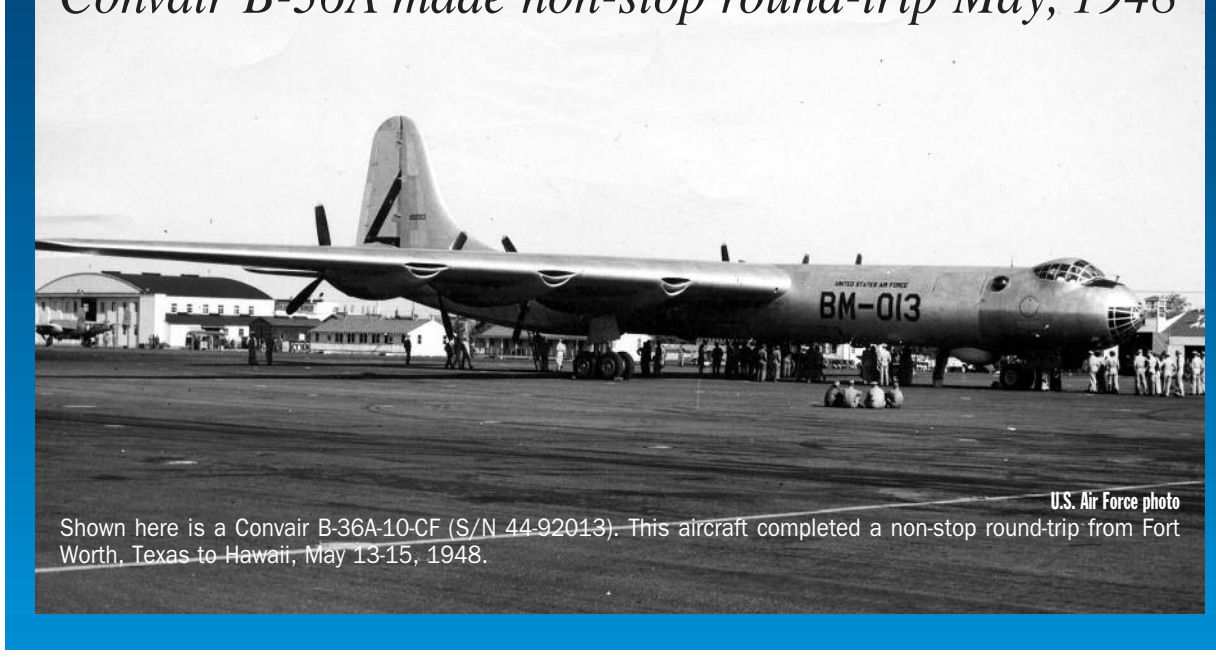
Lt. Michelle Westhoff
Navy Reserves, Commander Navy Region Hawaii Regional Operations Center

"Candy Land. I think the special effects and imagination would be great!"

(Provided by MC1 Donald W. Randall and David Underwood Jr.)

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

Convair B-36A made non-stop round-trip May, 1948



U.S. Air Force photo

Shown here is a Convair B-36A-10-CF (S/N 44-92013). This aircraft completed a non-stop round-trip from Fort Worth, Texas to Hawaii, May 13-15, 1948.

HO'OKELE
Pearl Harbor - Hickam News

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Cmdr. Gary Rogeness is piped ashore after being relieved as commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) by Cmdr. Noel Gonzalez at a change of command ceremony held May 11 at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Gonzalez relieves Rogeness as USS Cheyenne CO

Story and photo by
MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

Cmdr. Noel Gonzalez relieved Cmdr. Gary Rogeness as commanding officer of Los-Angeles-class submarine USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) during a time-honored change of command ceremony May 11 at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Retired Vice Adm. Jay Donnelly, guest speaker, praised Rogeness for his exceptional performance while commanding Cheyenne. He congratulated the crew on their accomplishments under Rogeness' leadership.

"Cmdr. Rogeness fostered a culture of high standards, individual empowerment and achievement. His steady strain on day-to-day performance resulted in a crew that was uniformly prepared for all missions. He put his Sailors first and, at the same time, achieved outstanding operational readiness," said Donnelly. "Commander, you have performed marvelously as Cheyenne's commanding officer, and you have made a positive difference."

Rogeness acknowledged that the majority of the submarine's success during his time as commanding officer could be attributed to the crew and their hard work.

"Sailors of Cheyenne, you have built a culture of getting it right the first time. It happens because you are committed to being brilliant at the basics, putting shipmate before self, and having integrity always. Continue to put those into practice, and you will never go wrong." said Rogeness. "I am proud to have served you as your commanding officer. I will always treasure our time and experiences we shared as we 'rode the legend' together.

Following his remarks, Rogeness was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his exceptional performance as commanding officer from December 2009 to May 2012.

As Gonzalez assumed command of Cheyenne, he addressed the crew about the future.

"To the crew of USS Cheyenne, I stand here today, not as the best man that I can be, but one that will always be open to inputs to make myself a better man, a better Sailor and a better leader." said Gonzalez. "I look forward to serving with you, and I am honored to command this great warship in protection of our nation."

Rogeness' personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy Commendation Medal (four awards) and Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal (five awards).

He will report for duty as commander, Pacific Fleet (N2B) deputy for battlespace awareness and special programs.

Mattingly takes command of Patrol Squadron Nine

Lt. j.g. Ryan Jones

Patrol Squadron Nine Public Affairs

U.S. Navy photo by AWF2 Amanda De Welles

Cmdr. Craig Mattingly, Patrol Squadron Nine's new commanding officer, departs the change of command ceremony with side boys posted. Cmdr. Richard Prest, outgoing commanding officer, renders his respects in the background.

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii – Cmdr. Craig T. Mattingly took command of Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9) from Cmdr. Richard W. Prest during a ceremony May 3 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Capt. Christopher P. Ramsden, commander of Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two (CPRW-2), presided over the ceremony. He welcomed Mattingly and praised Prest for his leadership during his tenure as the Golden Eagles' commanding officer.

"Cmdr. Prest, I think I can speak for all us here. We are indeed impressed," Ramsden said. "Rich, you can leave this squadron with your head held high, knowing you have fulfilled your stewardship in an outstanding fashion."

VP-9 has logged more than 191,200 mishap-free flight hours since call-sign AF-586's high seas ditch off the Russian Kamchatka Peninsula in 1978. One of the pilots who assisted in the rescue of AF-586, Bill Porter, was in attendance for the change of command.

"Bill Porter was a pilot aboard a US Coast Guard C-130 that flew a 17-hour search-and-rescue mission in support of AF-586," Prest said. "Bill and his crew led a Russian trawler to pick up the surviving crew members. Bill, thanks for what you did for the Golden Eagles that day."

"VP-9 is special to me. My crew was instrumental in saving 10 men's lives. Everything worked out just right for the guys in the rafts. We were just a part of the total effort," porter said.

"I have had a chance to meet the sons and daughters of those survivors. They would not be here today if not for this rescue. That makes it so important to me and being at your change of command reminds me of this event," he said.

Prest, who is reporting to Commander, Naval Air Forces Atlantic, leaves confident that Patrol Squadron Nine is in good hands.

"I have not served with a finer naval officer than Cmdr. Craig Mattingly. He is the consummate professional and possesses an energy level and drive that is unmatched.

He genuinely cares about people. [Craig], it's your turn to lead VP-9, and there's no question that you're ready and that you'll do it with vision, passion and class," he said.

Mattingly became the 63rd VP-9 skipper since the squadron's establishment in 1951.

"My navigation plan for the command is simple. Continue to do what you are doing. Remain focused, go slow to go fast and always by the book. Take care of your family. Our mission afar is better served when the needs of families are fulfilled at home."

8th Intel Squadron changes command

(Far right) Lt. Col. James Weaver takes the guidon from Col. Eva Jenkins, commander of Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency (AFISRA), 692nd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group (ISRG), and assumes command of the 8th Intelligence Squadron (IS) May 9 at the Missing Man Formation at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

(Right) Lt. Col. James Weaver assumes command of the 8th Intelligence Squadron.

Photo illustration | U.S. Navy photos by David D. Underwood Jr.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) pulls into port at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH). The Carl Vinson is making its final port visit in Hawaii before returning to its home port in San Diego following a six-month deployment to the western Pacific and Middle East areas supporting maritime theatre security operations in the U.S. 7th and U.S. 5th Fleets.

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

Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Arthur Petry (right), Medal of Honor recipient, explains to Pearl Harbor survivor, Sterling Cale (left) how his prosthetic hand works as they trade their stories during a tour of Pearl Harbor and the USS Arizona Memorial. They were the guests of Capt. Lawrence Scruggs, chief of staff for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, who narriated the tour. Petry was presented the award July 12, 2011 for his actions during a firefight in Afghanistan. He is the second living recipient of the award for actions occurring since the Vietnam War and is the only one still on active duty.

U.S. Navy photo by ATAN Sarah Burke

(Right) Don J. Jenkins and Kenneth E. Stumpf, retired U.S. Army Soldiers and Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, listen to Airman 1st Class Aleksandar Joga, 535th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, on C-17 Globemaster III load capabilities May 14 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the armed services of the United States. It is generally presented to its recipient by the president of the United States of America in the name of Congress.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

Culinary Specialist 1st Class Lakia Davidson, assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, receives one of seven awards for outstanding service members in community service. The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii hosted the 27th annual Military Recognition Luncheon at the Hilton Hawaiian Village to honor Hawaii's military.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Donald W. Randall

City transfers buses to Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange

Story and photo by Jazzmin Williams

Contributing writer

Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle met May 11 to exchange a symbolic bus wheel adorned with eight oversized keys. The keys symbolized the no-cost transfer of eight city buses to the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) shuttle bus program.

Sante Campanile, Navy Exchange vice president for the Hawaii district, also participated in the ceremony.

"The city has a good working relationship, I think that's too mild, we have a wonderful working relationship with the military," said Carlisle while speaking to the crowd at the NEX Pearl Harbor. "I am pleased that the city can help and support transit service for members of Oahu's military community."

Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle (center) presents symbolic keys for eight buses to Sante Campanile (left), Navy Exchange vice president for the Hawaii district, and Capt. Jeffrey James (right), commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), during a ceremony May 11 at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange.

The eight buses first went into service in 1995 and can carry up to 45 seated and 20 standing passengers. The buses will replace an older fleet of five buses that were previously being used by the NEX and are updated models, which will mean better accommodations for riders with special needs.

The buses, retired from The Bus service in 2011, were obtained on the condition that the Navy takes over operating costs and maintenance. In a win-win situation, the Navy will benefit from the regularly scheduled shuttle bus service for military patrons, and the City and County of Honolulu will be saved the cost of disposing of the buses.

"These buses, although they probably don't have much utility for the city, provide a great utility for the base and the single Sailors and Airmen that live on base and don't have vehicles," James said.

NEX Pearl Harbor sales data has suggested that the shuttle bus service increased patronage at various NEX retail outlets, increasing sales and dividends paid to Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

The bus transfer is also timely. The biennial RIMPAC exercise will take place from June 29 to Aug. 3 and include 22 nations, 42 ships, six submarines, more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel.

"We, with much aloha, accept them [the eight buses]," James said.

POW/MIA teams search for unaccounted-for Americans in Laos, Guam

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command

Specialized investigative and archaeological recovery teams from the U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) based at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam are deployed to Laos searching for Americans who remain unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War.

Two recovery teams with more than 35 JPAC personnel are excavating two aircraft crash sites in the Savannakhet province. The team is searching for evidence of eight Americans unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War.

Additionally, an investigation team is searching for clues by canvassing local villages for information, researching archives and interviewing witnesses. The team will search in the Savannakhet and Khammouan provinces for information that relates to eight aircraft crash sites and 13 individuals.

The approximately 40-day deployment marks the 124th joint field activity in Laos.

Recovery teams search for human remains, life support items and other material evidence (personal and military issued items) that may lead to identification. Investigation teams authenticate leads from eyewitnesses, conduct field research and gather information throughout various locations to determine whether or not there will be a return visit for excavation at a later date.

Falling directly under the U.S. Pacific Command and employed by more than 400 joint military and civilian personnel, JPAC continues its search for the more than 83,000 Americans still missing from past conflicts. The ultimate goal of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and of the agencies involved in returning America's heroes home, is to conduct global search, recovery, and laboratory operations in order to support the Department of Defense's personnel accounting efforts.

Department of Defense photo by Tech. Sgt. Aaron Allmon

Local and U.S. team members with the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command screen dirt during an excavation in Madang, Papua New Guinea in March. POW/MIA teams are also searching for unaccounted-for Americans in Laos and Guam.

A specialized investigation team from JPAC also arrived in Guam last week to search for information pertaining to American heroes who remain unaccounted-for from World War II.

"A research and investigative team will be on Guam for about two weeks searching for evidence of approximately 70 U.S. service members who remain unaccounted-for from the second world war," said Dr. Rob Thompson, recovery leader for the Hawaii-based team.

Additionally, the seven-person team will develop and authenticate leads from eyewitnesses and conduct field research. JPAC personnel will attempt to locate wreckage, equipment or personal effects to specifically correlate sites to unaccounted-for Americans. This investigation will help set the groundwork for any future recovery teams by clearly defining the work that will be required to properly recover the site.

Warrior Run is 'moo-ving' experience

Story and photo by Jane West

Contributing Writer

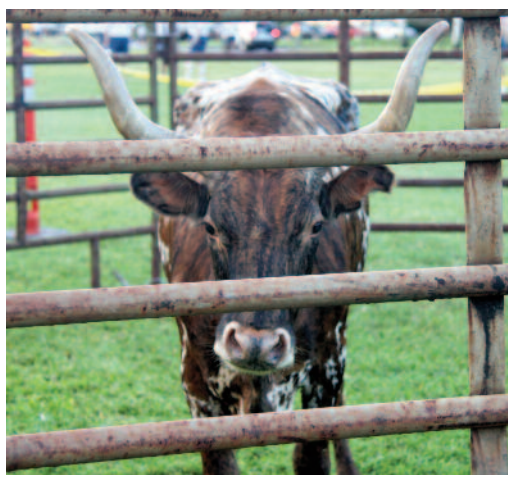
The monthly Warrior Run of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) took place recently, complete with a real-live Texas Longhorn cow as a mascot. The 647 Civil Engineering Squadron (CES), nicknamed "Prime Beef," hosted the first-Friday event on the Hickam side of JBPHH.

Betsy, a cow from the local Flying R Livestock ranch, was present and accounted for on the parade grounds to kick off the event. Contrary to popular belief, female cows of the Texas Longhorn variety can have horns, as did Betsy. Cattle from Flying R have been featured in movies filmed locally, such as "The Rundown," said J.D. Cherry, an animal wrangler and former Army staff sergeant Reservist.

Under command of Lt. Col Brad Waters, the monthly formation run also featured earth-moving equipment and explosive ordnance device (EOD) vehicles representing the varied duties of the squadron.

A recent Warrior Run of the 647 Civil Engineering Squadron, whose nickname is "Prime Beef," included a Texas Longhorn as a mascot.

Related photos on page B-4



Fishing tournament approaches

The deadline for registration for the 15th annual Friends of Hickam Keiki (children's) Fishing Tournament is May 23.

The tournament will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 30 at Hoomaluhia Park in Kaneohe.

Mandatory bus transportation will be provided. The event is for children ages 5 to 12 years old, Hickam dependents only. For more information, see the website www.15wing.af.mil.

BMD test successful

Continued from A-1

acquisition and high-speed processing for target discrimination. The SM-3 Block IB interceptor also features an upgraded onboard signal processor and a more flexible throttleable divert and attitude control system to maneuver the IB interceptor to intercept.

Initial indications are that all components performed as designed. Program officials will conduct an extensive assessment and evaluation of system performance based upon telemetry and other data obtained during the test.

FTM-16 Event 2a is the 22nd successful intercept in 27 flight test attempts for the Aegis BMD program. Across all ballistic missile defense system programs, this is the 53rd successful hit-to-kill intercept in 67 flight test attempts since 2001.

Aegis BMD is the sea-based midcourse component of the MDA's ballistic missile defense system and is designed to intercept and destroy short to intermediate-range ballistic missile threats. The MDA and the U.S. Navy cooperatively manage the Aegis BMD program.

Cmdr. Strong becomes new commanding officer of VP-4

Lt. j.g. Jenna Rose

Patrol Squadron Four Public Affairs Officer

U.S Navy photo by MC1 Nathan Laird

Cmdr. Brent M. Strong, incoming commanding officer of VP-4, relieves Cmdr. Kevin D. Long, outgoing commanding officer, as Commodore Christopher Ramsden looks on.

U.S Navy photo by MC1 Nathan Laird

Cmdr. Brent M. Strong, new commanding officer of VP-4, and his family witness his name for the first time on aircraft 775.

Cmdr. Brent M. Strong relieved Cmdr. Kevin D. Long as commanding officer of Patrol Squadron Four (VP-4) during a ceremony May 10 at hangar 104 on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe.

Long, originally from Eustis, Fla., reported to VP-4 as the executive officer. He became the squadron's 62nd commanding officer in May 2011. Under his command, the squadron completed a split-site deployment to the U.S. 5th and U.S. 7th Fleets.

On March 18, 2011, VP-4 forward-deployed to Misawa AB, Japan and in fewer than 24 hours re-established Commander Task Group 72.4 as an operational entity, flying the first U.S. humanitarian missions following the earthquake and subsequent tsunami in support of Operation Tomodachi. Under his command, the Skinny Dragons provided 254 hours of critical humanitarian and disaster relief support to the Japanese people.

The squadron was recognized for its success in numerous areas during Long's time as commanding officer, receiving the 2011 Jay Isbell Trophy for ASW Excellence, the Golden Anchor for retention excellence, the Golden Shutter award, the Medical Blue "M" for outstanding medical readiness, and the Battle Efficiency Award (Battle "E") for sustained superior performance in an operational environment.

"This has been one of the most rewarding tours in my entire 19-year career. The men and women of VP-4 are professional, hard-working Americans. I am very proud of each and every one of them," Long said.

His tours include assignments to VP-9, VP-30 and VP-46. He will continue his career in San Diego, Calif.

"I am thrilled for the opportunity to lead Patrol Squadron Four. This squadron has a long history of greatness, from fighting in every war since its commission in 1928 to being recognized with the Battle Efficiency Award 11 times in the past 50 years. The Skinny Dragons is a blue collar squadron which is not afraid to roll up its sleeves and get to work," Strong said.

Prior to reporting to VP-4, Strong's additional tours and schools included flag lieutenant to the commander for the Ronald Reagan Strike Group.

Commenting on the future of the Skinny Dragons, "We are anticipating a deployment in about six months, but before departing, we have a number of inspections and two major exercises, including Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) and Valiant Shield, to complete prior to obtaining our deployment certification," Strong said.

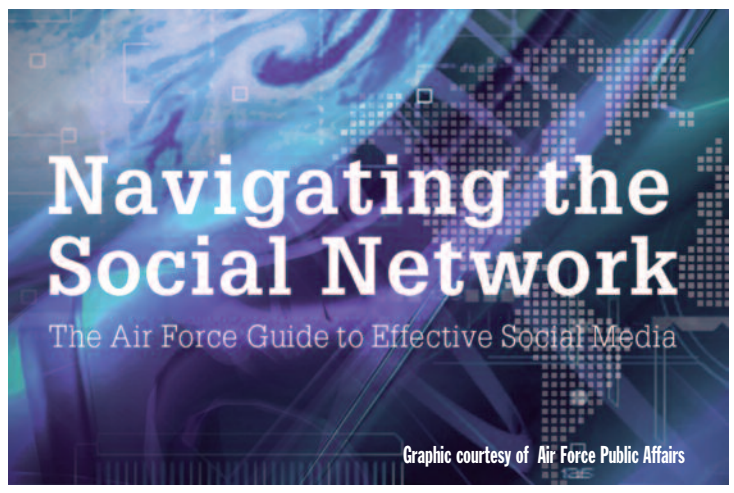
"I couldn't be more proud of the squadron having witnessed, as the executive officer, all it accomplished over the course of the past year, and I truly believe it has earned its motto, 'Hawaii's Best,'" he said.

Cmdr. Jason C. Stapleton, who replaced Strong as executive officer, reported to VP-4 with more than 3,000 flying hours in the P-3C Orion.

New guide helps Airmen, families navigate social media

Tech. Sgt. Karen Tomasik

Air Force Public Affairs Agency



Graphic courtesy of Air Force Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO — LACKLAND, Texas (AFNS) — Airmen and families have a new resource at their fingertips with the recent release of an updated and revised social media guide by the Air Force Public Affairs Agency in San Antonio, Texas.

The guide features sections geared toward all Total Force members and their families as well as Air Force leaders. It highlights topics including using social media effectively, security awareness, social media platforms, public affairs programs and social media policy among others.

"Our social media team has made great strides in updating this guide," said Larry Clavette, Air Force Public Affairs Agency director. "Airmen and families will see a lot of information they can apply to their social networking practices, whether they've been using social media for years or are just coming onboard with the technology."

While information on social media has been around for several years, the types of platforms people use evolve and new ones start up nearly every day. No matter which social media platform you use, and whether you use social media personally or professionally, many basic principles apply.

Operations security ranks first and foremost in the minds of many military members, but the casual nature of social media can easily lead to inadvertent sharing of sensitive personal information via personal profiles and accounts. Everyone should make sure they share personal information only with people they trust and understand that no matter how secure they set up their own accounts friends can unintentionally share details about their lives with people who may have malicious intentions.

Though the desire to protect personal information is one reason people may not join social media platforms, unfamiliarity with the platforms is another commonly cited reason for staying out of the social media arena.

"By now, many people are already using social media so this guide doesn't focus on how to set up new personal accounts," said Capt. Amber Millerchip, the deputy director of public communications at AFPAA. "Instead, we focused on how to communicate more effectively on some of the most commonly used social media platforms. We hope everyone finds something in the guide they can use in their personal or professional communications on these platforms."

For most Airmen and family members, the first half of the guide, along with the social media policy references, frequently asked questions and glossary at the end, cover the basics they need to successfully navigate social networks. Unit leaders and public affairs Airmen will benefit from all those sections plus the sections addressing social media and a public affairs program and social media and AFPAA.

"Social media is another tool in a public affairs toolkit," said Tanya Schusler, the chief of social media at AFPAA. "The new guide will help any Air Force public affairs office start or improve their social media program. The two most important things to remember are to have a communication plan and to engage with followers. Social media is supposed to be fun but that doesn't mean it shouldn't be a deliberate process."

As units share their Airmen's stories locally, they might also consider sending stories, photographs and videos with wider Air Force appeal to AFPAA so they can be featured on the main official United States Air Force social media properties. The section in the guide discussing social media and AFPAA outlines how to submit those products and also touches on a growing area in Air Force emerging technology use, the development of mobile applications.

"We understand how mobile applications can help Airmen and families in the Air Force, and we encourage folks to leverage technology in accomplishing their jobs more efficiently," said Clavette.

"What we ask everyone to do is be smart about developing applications for official use. There are many things to consider from impact on mission completion and potential risks to a variety of costs in development and maintenance of an app. AFPAA is the focal point for mobile applications development, so we need folks to contact us for guidance before jumping into this area."

Airmen can download a copy of the guide from the social media tab at www.af.mil, the official website of the U.S. Air Force. Questions and comments about the guide can be directed to the AFPAA Social Media Division via the contact information on the guide's back cover.

Safety is focus area for 21st Century Sailor, Marine initiative

James E. Brooks

U.S. Naval War College Public Affairs

NEWPORT, R.I. (NNS) -- With 17 Navy off-duty deaths this year and the Memorial Day weekend commencing Navy Safety Center's 101 Days of Summer campaign, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (ASN) for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Juan Garcia emphasized safety with Sailors at an all hands call in Newport, R.I.

Garcia toured Naval Station Newport and the U.S. Naval War College to learn more about the training and education facilities there and raise awareness of the Navy's recent initiative to maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness: the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative.

"We've made great strides in motorcycle safety by requiring all riders to take the Basic Riders Course," said Garcia. "But last year, of the 12 Sailors killed in motorcycle accidents, nine completed the Basic Rider Course but did not complete either the sport bike or advanced rider course. There was no requirement for them to take the second course. We've closed that loophole, and those are now requirements for active duty Sailors who ride motorcycles."

Safety is one of five focus areas of the 21st century and Sailor Marine initiative designed to ensure every Sailor and Marine and their families have the tools they need to succeed and excel in their Navy career.

U.S. Navy photo illustration by MC1 Jason Graham

Before the all hands call held in Spruance Auditorium on the campus of the U.S. Naval War College, Garcia took advantage of his stop at Naval Station Newport to have breakfast with Sailors and Marines in Ney Hall Galley. There, Yeoman 1st Class Demont Michell, assigned to Naval Academy Prep School, asked about the availability of 100 percent tuition assistance for Sailors, E-6 and below, who want to pursue a master's degree.

"Tuition is funded by DoD [Department of Defense], and we are trying to stretch tuition assistance as far as possible," Garcia said. He also said approximately 8,000 Sailors graduated with degrees in 2011.

Garcia answered questions about the enlisted review board, Perform to Serve, high year tenure, Marine Corps manning, Helmets-to-Hard Hats and DDG ship manning.

"I hadn't heard of the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative before today, said U.S. Naval War College's Operations Specialist 2nd Class Steven Damsa. "I think it's a good initiative because my wife follows me around and she's part of my Navy career. What happens to me certainly affects her. It's good to see the initiative consider her as well."

For more information about the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative, visit http://www.21stcentury.navy.mil.