

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR- HICKAM CELEBRATES  
**AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH**

“Navigator”

# HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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Volume 4 Issue 6

# Hawaii welcomes USS Halsey

Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific Public Affairs

The guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97) arrived Feb 14 at its new home port of Joint Base Pearl Harbor - Hickam after a successful “hull swap” with USS Russell (DDG 59) in San Diego in January.

Halsey joins 10 other surface ships of Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. Russell is now homeported at Naval Base San Diego.

Halsey and Russell turned over their respective administrative and maintenance responsibilities last month, then executed a hull swap and exchanged commands. Hull swaps, or ship rotations, are part of the Navy’s long-term plan to routinely continue upgrading the fleet.

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, welcomed Halsey and the return of the former Russell crew to Hawaii.

“I congratulate Cmdr. Gary Cave (CO of Halsey), Cmdr. Mike Weeldreyer (CO of Russell) and their crews on a smooth ship rotation—perfectly executed,” said Ponds. “We are glad to have Halsey home here in Hawaii, part of our MIDPAC waterfront team, ready to operate forward.”

Ponds said Halsey is expected to deploy in the future to provide maritime security and forward presence in the western Pacific.

“It is clear that we are committed to rebalancing forces to the Asia-Pacific. All U.S. Navy



USS Halsey (DDG 97) arrives at its new homeport at Pearl Harbor.

Photo courtesy of USS Halsey

ships in the Middle Pacific, including USS Halsey and her crew, protect strategic crossroads and are well positioned to work with, and reassure, regional partners and to bring advanced combat capabilities if

required,” Ponds said. Halsey joins Commander, Destroyer Squadron 31, led by Commodore Capt. Wallace Lovely.

“Hull swaps like this are the Navy’s way to innovatively and

efficiently upgrade capabilities of our older ships and at the same time optimize capabilities of platforms,” Lovely said.

“This is important in these lean fiscal times,” Lovely added. “Halsey brings strong warfight-

ing and theater security cooperation capabilities to our team.”

As a flight 2A destroyer, Halsey can embark helicopters to provide more robust response when it deploys.

Capt. Gary Cave, Halsey commanding officer, commended the men and women of Russell and Halsey for making the hull swap a success.

“Since January 25, when we concluded the hull swap, we have focused on getting to know the nuances of our new ship, especially during our time underway. This Halsey team has shown tremendous commitment, initiative and focus throughout the process,” Cave said.

“We are extremely grateful for the continued support and understanding of our Russell-Halsey families and friends throughout this process. We all look forward to getting back home to Hawaii and introducing Halsey to the Pearl Harbor waterfront,” he said.

Halsey was commissioned July 30, 2005 at Naval Station North Island and is named after U.S.

Naval Academy graduate Fleet Adm. William “Bull” Halsey Jr., who commanded the U.S. 3rd Fleet during much of the Pacific War against Imperial Japan.

USS Halsey provides deterrence, promotes peace and security, preserves freedom of the sea and assists in humanitarian/disaster responses in support of Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

## Canadian sailors ready for exercise

Canadian sailors aboard HMCS Algonquin (DDG 283) arrive at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to participate in the theater anti-submarine warfare (TASW) phase of the Submarine Commander’s Course (SCC) and a task group exercise (TGEX) with the U.S. Navy.

U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Daniel Barker



## Gate closures to occur Feb. 18 for Great Aloha Run

Gate closures will take place at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Presidents’ Day, Feb. 18, in support of the Great Aloha Run.

Borcher’s Gate will be closed during the race, and Luapele Gate will be open from 4 a.m. to noon.

In addition, Center Drive and

Radford Drive will not be accessible by Kamehameha Highway, including Makalapa Gate which will be closed from 4 to 9:45 a.m.

Several water aid stations will be available along the route, including a water aid station on Kamehameha Highway near Borcher’s Gate.

## Former Chief Master Sgt. of Air Force McCoy checks progress of 15th Wing

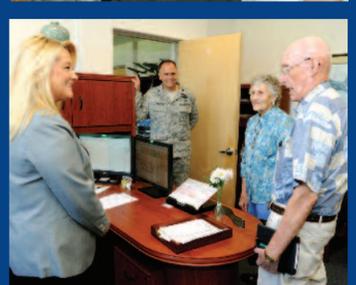


(Above) Kathy McCoy and her spouse, retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James McCoy, meet Feb. 7 for an office call with Col. John Roscoe, 15th Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Leslie Bramlett, 15th Wing command chief at the 15th Wing headquarters building, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. McCoy took the opportunity to share personal stories, past military experiences and words of wisdom. McCoy also spoke with the Noncommissioned Officer Academy students at the Binnicker Professional Military Education Center at JBPHH during his visit. McCoy served as the sixth chief master sergeant of the Air Force from 1979-1981.

(Right top) Staff Sgt. Tara Sherry, 15th Wing knowledge operations manager, shakes hands with retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James McCoy.

(Right) Penny M. Snelgrow, 15th Wing commander’s support staff, and Col. John Roscoe, 15th Wing commander, welcome retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James McCoy and his spouse Kathy.

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



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Pilot For a Day  
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Special events planned for African American History Month in February  
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# Lake Erie and MDA conduct successful missile intercept test

## Missile Defense Agency

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and U.S. Navy Sailors aboard the USS Lake Erie (CG 70), homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, successfully conducted a flight test of the Aegis ballistic missile defense (BMD) system on Feb. 12, resulting in the intercept of a medium-range ballistic missile target over the Pacific Ocean by a Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block IA guided missile.

At 11:10 p.m. HST, (4:10 a.m. EST) a unitary medium-range ballistic missile target was launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai, Hawaii. The target flew northwest toward a broad ocean area of the Pacific Ocean.

The in-orbit space tracking and surveillance system-demonstrators (STSS-D) detected and tracked the target and forwarded track data to the USS Lake Erie. The ship, equipped with the second-generation Aegis BMD weapon system, used launch on remote doctrine to engage the target.

The ship developed a fire control solution from the STSS-D track and launched the SM-3 Block IA guided missile approximately five minutes after target launch. The SM-3 maneuvered to a point in space and released its kinetic warhead. The kinetic warhead acquired the target reentry vehicle, diverted into its path, and, using only the force of a direct impact, engaged and destroyed the target.

Initial indications are that all components performed as designed. Program officials will assess and evaluate system performance based upon telemetry and other data obtained during the test.

The event, designated Flight Test Standard Missile-20 (FTM-20), was a demonstration of the ability of space-based assets to provide mid-course fire control



U.S. Navy photo

A Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block 1A interceptor is launched from the guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) during a Missile Defense Agency and U.S. Navy test in the Pacific Ocean.

vide mid-course fire control quality data to an Aegis BMD ship, extending the battlespace, providing the ability for longer range intercepts and defense of larger areas.

FTM-20 is the 24th successful intercept in 30 flight test attempts for the Aegis BMD program since flight testing began in 2002. Across all ballistic missile defense system programs, this is the 58th successful hit-to-kill intercept in 73 flight tests since 2001.

Aegis BMD is the sea-based component of the MDA's ballistic missile defense system. The Aegis BMD engagement capability defeats short- to intermediate-range, unitary and separating, midcourse phase ballistic missile threats with the SM-3 as well as short-range ballistic missiles in the terminal phase with the SM-2 Block IV missile. The MDA and the U.S. Navy cooperatively manage the Aegis BMD program.



Master Sgt. Jamie Munkelt (left), operations superintendent, and Sara Volle (right), project manager, cut the ribbon during a ceremony for the grand opening of the new 690th Network Support Squadron Det 3 Operations Facility held Feb. 7 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

# 690th NSS holds grand opening for new facility

Story and photo by David D. Underwood Jr.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

The 690th Network Support Squadron (NSS), Detachment 3 at joint base celebrated the grand opening of its newest facility Feb. 7 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house.

"The enterprise service desk is one of four help desks that provide one virtual environment delivering a single IT service desk for the Air Force Network," said Lt. Col. Harriet Campbell, commander, 690th NSS Det 3.

The others are located at Ramstein Air Base, Germany; Lackland AFB, Texas; and Maxwell AFB, Gunter Annex, Ala.

"What makes this one unique is if the cable underneath the Pacific gets cut, this is the only support to the Pacific Region, and this has been the case in many occasions," said Campbell.

"This was truly a 'joint' effort. The 690th NSS Det 3's operations facility was the first reconstruction project to go through the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam joint base process. The completion of this building established full operational capability. The Airmen, Sailors, Soldiers, civilians and contractors of JBPHH all worked together to make this building a success," she said.

The ribbon was cut by Master Sgt. Jamie Munkelt, operations superintendent, and Sara Volle, project manager. After the ceremony, a tour was given of the facility with briefings from the network technicians.

## STORY IDEAS?

Contact the Ho'okele editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements

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Commentary

# Hull Swap: Ingenuity, Innovation, Improvement

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

(Yesterday USS Halsey (DDG 97) joined the waterfront in Hawaii after a ship rotation, or hull swap, with USS Russell (DDG 59) in San Diego.)

This week the guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey arrived to become part of our team at Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific at Pearl Harbor. The arrival is another signal of Navy's commitment to upgrade platforms, conserve resources and rebalance assets strategically to the Pacific.

The commanding officers and crews of USS Halsey and USS Russell executed a



Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

smooth ship rotation perfectly last month in San Diego. While the ship USS Halsey is new to the Pearl Harbor

waterfront, many of the crew members formerly served aboard USS Russell. Their families are welcoming them home this week, and we are all welcoming about two dozen new crew members and families to Hawaii and our ohana.

Here in Hawaii we are actively pursuing ways to significantly reduce and defer costs due to the fiscal challenges our Navy currently faces. Swapping the ship but not the Sailors, an initiative begun more than a year ago, is an innovative means of saving taxpayers approximately \$35 million. Savings were achieved through economy-of-scale repairs through mid-life upgrades. Simultaneously, the hull swap provided stability to our Sailors and

their families by allowing them to remain in the same hometown.

USS Halsey brings different, and in some areas improved, capabilities to the middle Pacific. Halsey is capable of embarking helicopters, as one example, and has improved air defense capabilities. While we honor the service and achievements of USS Russell, we look forward to the capability improvements USS Halsey represents.

USS Halsey's namesake is Fleet Adm. William "Bull" Halsey Jr., who was commander of the U.S. 3rd Fleet in the Pacific War against Imperial Japan. The ship belongs in historic Pearl Harbor, where Admirals Halsey, Spruance and Nimitz once served.

USS Halsey is expected to deploy to U.S. 3rd, 7th and 5th Fleet areas of operation in support of Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. All of our ships in the middle Pacific are positioned to protect strategic crossroads, to work with and reassure regional partners, to support humanitarian assistance missions, and to bring advanced combat capabilities if required.

From our strategic base here in Hawaii - center point for rebalancing to the Pacific - we are committed to maintaining warfighting readiness, operating forward and preserving freedom of the maritime domain.

(Editor's note: The 11 surface ships of MIDPAC include three guided-missile cruisers: USS Chosin (CG

65), USS Lake Erie (CG 70) and USS Port Royal (CG 73); seven guided-missile destroyers: USS Chafee (DDG 90), USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), USS Halsey (DDG 97), USS Hopper (DDG 70), USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112), USS O'Kane (DDG 77) and USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60); and one guided-missile frigate: USS Reuben James (FFG 57). They are homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on Oahu, and train at Pacific Missile Range Facility at Barking Sands, Kauai.

Read a recent commentary by Rear Adm. Ponds about the Continuing Resolution and its potential impact - "Region, MIDPAC: Opportunities Amidst Fiscal Challenges." at <http://bit.ly/Vj2esJ>.

## Reuben James Sailors celebrate African American Heritage Month

Lt. j.g. Damon A.D. Goodrich-Houska

USS Reuben James (FFG 57)

The Sailors aboard USS Reuben James (FFG 57) celebrated African American History Month during an observance held Feb. 1 on the ship.

Lt. Jordan White, Reuben

James' navigator, described the event as "a celebration of the accomplishments of Americans throughout history who have championed freedom and equality for all."

White stressed the importance of recognizing those whose altruism and dedication have led to great advances for both their cultures and the United States.

"We are all grateful for their hard work, and this month is in honor of them," he said.

Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Mechanical) 1st Class (SW) Neil Walker spoke about the importance of diversity as well as the accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "I am amazed at how far we have come as a country and as a service in the U.S. Navy," said Walker.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be able to call each and every one of my shipmates brother, regardless of skin color, ethnicity, religion, gender or whatever," he said.

The celebration of African American Heritage Month was topped off with a cake-cutting ceremony.

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



U.S. Navy photo by LSI (SW) Froiland Poblete

Lt. Jordan White (left) and Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Mechanical) 1st Class (SW) Neil Walker (right) cut a cake during the observance of African American Historic Month held on USS Reuben James (FFG 57).

### Diverse Views



"What do you like best about your job with the military and why?"

Tech. Sgt. Donald Jones  
647th Civil Engineer Squadron



"I like a good challenge. Working within the joint base has opened my eyes to different ways of doing things and has made me a more versatile NCO, ready to tackle challenges of the 21st century.."



1st Lt. Chris Fosburg  
HQ PACAF

"The constant flow of new challenges. The Air Force keeps me on my toes. I am constantly learning new things, and I am provided unique opportunities."

Culinary Specialist 3rd Class  
Melvin Sibal  
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam



"As a cook in the Navy, I enjoy doing fruit carvings because I love art. It's all about the presentation in culinary arts. I also like the teamwork."



Maj. John Glass  
HQ PACAF

"Constant variety. I never come to work and have the same day twice. There is always a new challenge and new people to keep the military interesting."

Spc. Melissa Vasquez  
25th Infantry Division,  
Schofield Barracks



"I'm a food service specialist in the Army, and I like my job because I'm a people person and I get to interact with all types of people, race and ranks and it's great for social skills."



Senior Airman Erica Hollier  
17th Operational Weather Squadron

"I love the people and challenges of my job. I have not been in the military long, but I have made some amazing friends. I have always wanted to be a weather girl and the Air Force gave me that opportunity."

Andrea Favor  
Tailor Shop, Joint Base  
Pearl Harbor-Hickam



"I like my job with the military because I enjoy sewing and fixing uniforms, I've been doing this type of work now for 23 years."



Constante Jurado  
647th Force Support Squadron

"Working with people. The Air Force takes very good care of Airmen and their families. I am proud to have served both as an Airman and now as a civilian."

(Provided by David Underwood Jr. and MC2 Nardel Gervacio)

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)

## Tuskegee Airmen became elite group of pilots



U.S. Air Force photo

Advanced instruction turned these student pilots into fighter pilots at Tuskegee Army Airfield, Ala. The Tuskegee Airmen were an elite group of African American pilots in the 1940s. The term Tuskegee Airmen also refers to all who were involved in the Army Air Corps program to train African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft. February is African American History Month.

### HO'OKELE

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## JMSDF visits Pearl Harbor

Capt. James Childs (right), commander of Submarine Squadron One, shakes hands with Cmdr. Kaoru Yoshida, commanding officer of the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) submarine Hakuryu (SS 503), after the submarine moored pierside at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled port visit Feb. 6. While in port, the submarine crew will conduct various training evolutions and have the opportunity to enjoy the sights and culture of Hawaii.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Steven Khor

Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) submarine Hakuryu (SS 503) arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled port visit Feb. 6.



U.S. Navy photo by Cmdr. Christy Hagen

## STORY IDEAS?

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Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SW) Marc Batoon repairs an electronics component. Batoon is assigned to USS O'Kane and received a Sea Warrior salute for his efforts in saving the Navy money.

## USS O'Kane Sailor receives Sea Warrior salute

Story and photos by Lt. j.g. Kate Kazimer

USS O'Kane Public Affairs

Electronics Technician 2nd Class (Surface Warfare) Marc Batoon of USS O'Kane (DDG 77) continues to impress as the premier miniature/microminiature module test and repair (2M/MTR) technician in the surface fleet (Atlantic and Pacific).

He has earned previous recognition as a leading 2M technician on three previous occasions. His record of sustained excellence in electronics repair dates to October 2011 when he took over the electronics repair shop on USS O'Kane (DDG 77).

Since then, his repairs have saved thousands of dollars, with a total still being tallied. In the last quarter alone, he completed 18 major repairs.

"He's a terrific Sailor," said Lt. Michael Arnold,



ET2 (Surface Warfare) Marc Batoon

the ship's electronics material officer. His entire chain of command had high praise for Batoon, who has been tinkering with electronics ever since his grandfather presented him with a build-your-own radio kit in the fifth grade.

"Much of the credit goes to the other technicians throughout the ship. For example, the fire controlmen can usually isolate a fault down to the specific circuit card assembly, and that saves me a lot of

time," Batoon said.

Training is also a major factor. "I think one of the best schools I went to was the advanced technology class we went to before A School. It was really hands-on and engaging," Batoon said.

The Navy's 2M/MTR program teaches how to repair circuit cards for all kinds of equipment, from engine control panels and sensor monitoring equipment to some of the most advanced radars and weapons systems in the Navy. Many circuit cards cost thousands of dollars each to replace, making Batoon's efforts even more important as the Navy faces a fiscally constrained environment for ship operation and maintenance.

In addition, Batoon's repair work has provided a significant boost to O'Kane's material self sufficiency, enabling her to make critical repairs underway and maintain mission readiness.

# Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

(Right) The guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73) passes by USS Arizona Memorial and Battleship Missouri Memorial as it departs from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to participate in the theater anti-submarine warfare (TASW) phase of the Submarine Commander's Course (SCC) and task group exercise (TGEX).

U.S. Navy photo by MC3s Diana Quinlan



(Left) Builder 2nd Class Raynoldo Castro from Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Self Help, Hawaii, sands a wall at Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One. The command has a workforce of approximately 1,353 highly-skilled civilian and 219 Navy and Air Force military personnel distributed throughout the Pearl Harbor area as well as leeward and windward parts of Oahu. A small number of employees work at Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Sean Furey

(Right) Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Dustin Wayne Sisco from Navy Public Affairs Support Element (NPASE) West, Detachment Hawaii, shoots video while Builder 2nd Class Raynoldo Castro from Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Self Help, Hawaii, sands a wall at Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Sean Furey



(Left) Senior Chief Cryptologic Technician (Networks) J.T. Piwonski, assigned to the U.S. Pacific Fleet headquarters staff, trains first class petty officers (FCPOs) on evaluation writing. The training is part of CPO 365, a year-long program separated into two phases. It is designed to guide prospective FCPOs physically, mentally and professionally to meet the expectations and responsibilities of a chief petty officer.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jerine Lee

(Right) More than 168 members of the 3rd Marine Regiment participate in a Feb. 6 six-mile motivational conditioning hike around Ford Island. See additional photo on page A-6.

U.S. Marines photo by Lance Cpl. Roberto Villa



## 2nd Lt. Janet Hudson puts heart and soul into creating Yellow Ribbon program

**Master Sgt. Daniel H. Nathaniel**

*624th Regional Support Group*

When she accepted the job as family support specialist with the 624th Regional Support Group's (RSG) Airman and Family Readiness Program, 2nd Lt. Janet Hudson faced a major challenge: The program she was hired to build it from scratch.

And build it she did. Three years, and countless hours of hard work later, Hudson has established a program that is meeting the needs of Airmen and their families in Hawaii and Guam who are dealing with the multitude of issues resulting from long-term deployments. As a result, she gained recognition throughout Air Force Reserve Command.

Her journey began when her

fiancé received orders to Hawaii. Hudson, who was then a technical sergeant, decided to follow her future husband to Hawaii and started looking for a Reserve job.

Although she worked in the maintenance world, when she saw the job opening for a family support position with the 624th RSG, she jumped at the opportunity.

The Jacksonville, Fla. native had first become familiar with the work family support people do when she was put on active-duty orders for four years at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.

Because she was single, the base's family support center kept her mother back in Florida informed of events going on in the area where her daughter was stationed. Hudson said her mother really appreciated the office staying in touch with her.

Hudson said she was determined to build her Yellow Ribbon Program on maintaining that kind of personal touch with Airmen and their families.

"The early stages were kind of

hit or miss," said Senior Master Sgt. Corinna Seitz, 624th RSG directorate of personnel superintendent.

"With no guidance at that time other than, 'Go forth and create a Yellow Ribbon program,' Janet did all the grunt work."

Despite encountering some obstacles along the way, Seitz said Hudson persevered and succeeded in giving the organization a first-class Yellow Ribbon Program that serves the needs of Airmen and their families.

Hudson's first official foray into Yellow Ribbon was a mid-deployment event in 2009 for the spouses and children of deployed members. The event made quite an impression on one of the guest speakers, Army wife Michelle Cuthrell, who is the author of the book "Behind the Blue-Star Banner: A Memoir from the Homefront."

"My time with her was absolutely amazing," Cuthrell said. "I have spoken at multiple Yellow Ribbon conferences throughout the country, and she put on one of the most intimate, smoothest running, most information-packed conferences of them all. The spouses who attended her conference left with so much

valuable information that was both practical and relevant to their lives."

Being in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, far away from the mainland resources and logistics, forced Hudson to be extremely efficient and streamline many processes to fit her local venues.

One of her innovations was preparing a three-ring binder with all the pamphlets and information tied to the various speakers with room for notes. The usual practice at mainland events is for participants to visit booths in between sessions to pick up pamphlets and information. With the binder, participants would always have a ready guide available should they need it in the future.

"She is a very organized, very dedicated professional," said Maj. Christopher Castaneda, Yellow Ribbon representative for the 477th Fighter Group at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

"When it comes down to making sure things are done, she knows exactly what she needs to do. We started working on a lot of projects based on her experiences out in Hawaii where she was literally doing it

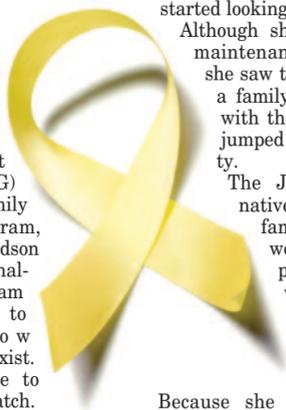
all by herself."

As she gets ready to bow out of the Yellow Ribbon Program to pursue a master's degree in aeronautical science, Hudson reflected on the importance of the program and why it is necessary to repeat essential information from finance to resiliency over and over again.

"As Reservists, we are always doing training, training and more training, and then we are making up training, so there is not really time on a drill weekend to get all of this. And when we do, a lot of the time because we heard it before, we kind of dismiss it," said Hudson.

"But now if you have your spouse, or family member or whoever your support system is, hears it for the first time they are going to say, 'Did you know that? Why didn't I know that? Have you done this?' They are going to get on you and move forward with this," Hudson explained.

Recognizing the importance of the Yellow Ribbon Program, the 624th RSG is in the process of selecting someone to replace Hudson, who is scheduled to oversee at least one more big Yellow Ribbon event in March.



## Manning the rails at Missouri

Members of the 3rd Marine Regiment manned the rails of the historic Battleship Missouri Memorial Feb. 6 after a six-mile motivational conditioning hike by more than 168 Marines around Ford Island. The trip served as a morale/team building exercise as well as giving the Marines a chance to learn of the Missouri's history. They also visited the Pacific Aviation museum.

U.S. Marines photo by Lance Cpl. Roberto Villa

