

Education is the passport to the future,  
for tomorrow belongs to those  
who prepare for it today. - Malcolm X

"Navigator"

# HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

February 22, 2013

www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii www2.hickam.af.mil

Volume 4 Issue 7

## Leaders confront challenge of possible DoD furloughs

Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

On Feb. 20, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta notified Congress that the Department of Defense (DOD) is prepared to implement furloughs for civilian personnel in response to the threat of sequestration.

If Congress cannot reach a budget deal before March 1, across-the-board spending cuts will kick in and the Pentagon will be forced to furlough nearly 800,000 civilian Defense Department employees.

The Pentagon is required to notify Congress at least 45 days before furloughing employees. Furloughed employees would be forced to take one day of unpaid leave per week, beginning in the last week of April and going through the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30. Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter said that civilian employees could lose 20 percent of their normal income through September.

In a memo to Defense Department employees, Panetta addressed the difficult times ahead.

"I can assure you that, if we have to implement furloughs, all affected employees will be provided at least 30 days' notice prior to executing a furlough, and your



Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, speaks about furloughs during an all-hands meeting held at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel, Feb. 21.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Nardel Cervacio

benefits will be protected to the maximum extent possible," Panetta wrote.

In his memo, Panetta also vowed to continue working with Congress to avoid sequestration.

Jessica L. Wright, the acting undersecretary of

defense for personnel and readiness, expressed concern that the effect of sequestration on civilian employees could be "catastrophic."

"Everything is going to be affected, should sequestration go in effect," she said.

"That's a guarantee. I think that everybody will be impacted by this action. And I think it's incumbent upon us to try to ease that where we can."

Under Secretary of Defense and Chief Financial Officer Robert F. Hale

stressed that active duty personnel would be affected by the cuts as well.

"Most Air Force units that aren't deployed would be at below acceptable readiness levels by the end of the year," he told Congress. "You'd see cutbacks in Navy

and Marine Corps readiness and deployments."

Other consequences of sequestration include possible changes to hours at exchanges and commissaries, and family programs could be reduced or cut.

The spending cuts will affect military health care, as some 40 percent of the personnel working in the system are civilians.

Rear Adm. Frank L. Ponds, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, conducted an all hands meeting Feb. 21 to discuss the effects of the ongoing continuing resolution and potential sequestration. He discussed the possibility of proposed furloughs, acknowledging the significant negative impact they would have on the civilian workforce if they are instituted.

"I want to first thank you for your patience as we work through these challenging budget times to keep our workforce and warfighting force whole," Ponds said. "It will challenge us. It will create doubt and uncertainty. But it will not break us."

Ponds asked everyone to become familiar with the issues of the continuing resolution and sequestration.

The Defense Department maintains a website about the issue at <http://1.usa.gov/XPm1kj>.

## Korean War Veterans Memorial Stone is dedicated at Punchbowl Cemetery

Story and photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Detachment Hawaii

A granite memorial stone was dedicated in a ceremony Feb. 16 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). The event was in tribute to Korean War veterans for the sacrifices and dedication they made 63 years ago as well as the 60th anniversary of the Armistice of the Korean War.

Distinguished guests from the Republic of Korea were in attendance at the dedication ceremony that included performances of both American and Korean national anthems and traditional songs by the U.S. Marine Forces Pacific Band, a rifle salute by the U.S. Navy Honors and Ceremonies Detachment, echo Taps and a Joint Service Color Guard.

The two-foot tall memorial stone with engraved brass plaque honors the more than 35,000 Americans who are recognized to have lost their lives in support of the Korean War.

It was designed to complement previously approved and installed memorial stones along the memorial walk.

The plaque inscription reads: "In memory of all Korean War veterans. Dedicated during the 60th

anniversary commemoration of the Korean War Armistice with deepest gratitude by the people of the Republic of Korea to the brave sons and daughters of the United States of America who made the ultimate sacrifice defending freedom and democracy in the Korean War (25 June 1950 - 27 July 1953). You will never be forgotten."

"It was an agreement between our two nations to defend each other from outside aggression," said Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III, commander of U.S. Pacific Command. "Our alliance is what's achievable when nations work together to advance their common interests and their common values."

"This alliance is the key and will remain the key in the future as we face regional and global challenges. We dedicate it in honor of all those interred here, who gave their lives in service of the core freedoms and ideals that both our countries hold so dear," Locklear said.

The dedication of the memorial stone kicks off other commemorative ceremonies to be held in the U.S. by the Korean government to mark the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice in 1953. This event was the first commemorative stone dedicated by the South Korean government for Korean War Veterans in the cemetery.



Distinguished guests (left to right) Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veteran Affairs, Neil Abercrombie, governor of Hawaii, Sung Choon Park, Minister of Veteran Affairs of the Republic of Korea, and Youngkil Suh, Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Honolulu, unveil the Korean War Veterans commemorative stone during the dedication ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

During his speech at the event, Gene Castagnetti, director of the cemetery, emphasized the importance of remembering those who paid the ultimate price in war.

"A veteran is one who

gave a loan to the United States of America for an amount up to and including your life. That's courage, that's principle. Maybe not enough people remember in our country or understand that degree of commitment," Castagnetti said.

"So before you depart these hallowed grounds, I ask you to do something: step forward and thank every veteran for their service and sacrifice. Because when you show gratitude,

when you show gratitude, surviving family members.

our veterans respect it. The worst injury, the worst wound a veteran can experience is to be forgotten. Today, the Republic of Korea and the United States demonstrate we have not forgotten," he said.

Since its establishment in 1961, the Ministry of Patriot and Veterans Affairs and Consulate General of the Republic of Korea have been tasked with trying to honor and serve those who have dedicated their lives and sacrificed for Korea and to preserve and promote their patriotism.

American and South Korean government officials were present at the ceremony to represent persons of distinguished services to South Korea's independence, Soldiers and police officers who were killed or became disabled in action or on duty, public officials who died or became disabled on duty, service members and police officers who served in the Korean War, and service members and veterans of the Vietnam War and their surviving family members.

## Cable television cuts planned March 1

There will be major cuts to cable television service at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam beginning March 1.

Areas scheduled to lose cable TV service include common areas at Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities, gyms, galleys, bachelor enlisted quarters and

bachelor officer quarters.

Cable TV service will remain available at Command and Control, Emergency Operation Centers, and Public Affairs areas. More details we be available next week.



Family members, guests learn about life at sea  
See page A-2



Pearl Harbor Sailors receive SAPR-Fleet training  
See page A-2



Education  
See pages A-3 - A-8



Diverse Views  
See page A-3



Sounds of Freedom resonate in Great Aloha Run 2013  
See page B-1



Gary Sinise and Lt. Dan Band to perform at MCBH, Schofield Barracks  
See page B-8

# Family members, guests learn about life at sea

CTR3 Ryan Harris

USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112)

Kathy Fooshee has always been proud of her Sailor – Operations Specialist 2nd Class Christopher Malamatos. But she said that spending a day out to sea aboard the ship on which he serves really made her heart swell with pride.

Fooshee had that opportunity Feb. 15 when the guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) hosted its first family day cruise off the coast of Oahu.

"I've always respected his decision to serve in the Navy, but this makes me even more proud," said Fooshee, who traveled from Tampa, Fla. to sail with her son.

"You see the seriousness in the jobs people do on the ship. And no one job is more important than the others. To be here today really is the trip of a lifetime," Fooshee said.

The crew of Michael Murphy invited more than 150 family members, friends and special guests on the cruise. The guest list included several members of SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team One (SDVT-1), the command of the ship's namesake, Lt. (SEAL) Michael Murphy.

Murphy was killed in action during Operation Red Wings in 2005 in Afghanistan and was awarded the Medal of Honor for



his valorous actions in combat.

Guests were treated to numerous demonstrations while embarked on the Michael Murphy.

Damage control exercises gave family members a chance to try on firefighting gear and to spray a fire hose off the flight deck. The ship's arsenal of guns was fired in unison just before a steel beach picnic on the flight deck. A fly over by a P-3 Orion anti-submarine warfare aircraft also added to the day-long event.

The ship concluded the cruise with a trip past Diamond Head and Waikiki on its way back into port at Pearl Harbor.

"This has been a great time," said Sonar Technician (Surface) 1st Class Steven Polster, who brought his wife, parents and young nephew on the family day trip.

"This has been the first time out to sea for my nephew, and he really thinks it's awesome. I'm glad we were able to share a little of what we do every day with our family members," Polster said.

Damage Control Fireman Kyle Carrero instructs civilians in fire-hose handling techniques during a family cruise hosted Feb. 15 by USS Michael Murphy.

U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Joshua Flanagan

## Pearl Harbor Sailors receive SAPR-Fleet training

Story and photo by  
MC3 Diana Quinlan

Navy Public Affairs Support  
Element West, Det. Hawaii

Sailors from various commands stationed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) participated in Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Fleet (SAPR-F) training held Feb. 19 at Lockwood Hall.

The training is part of an effort to educate service members on the issues involved and to promote proper responses.

Capt. Douglas J. Holderman, chief staff officer at JBPHH, and Chief Culinary Specialist Evelyn White, assistant food service officer and command drug and alcohol program advisor, led the training.

"Back when I came in, there was no SAPR program," said Holderman. "It is very much needed and in its current iteration is a great program."

"To date, we have about 400 Sailors here that we helped train since we started last month," said White. "We have a maximum of 60 to 65 people per session, and we do two sessions per day."

The training offered some of the current statistics on the issues of sexual assault, harassment and rape in the armed services. The training included the subject of drugs and alcohol which are often involved in those cases.

"We educate our junior Sailors on how to be more aware and how to look out for each other," said White. "We

have Power Point presentations, videos and we also have discussions. Sailors discuss what is happening in a video and come up with solutions for the issue."

The video "Take the Helm" provides a realistic scenario of interaction in a military work environment displaying in stages different forms of sexual harassment leading to assault and rape. The video was designed not only to educate and provide a visual example of a problem, but to also encourage Sailors to be proactive, to avoid being bystanders in similar situations and to intervene.

"The video is realistic. Those are the kind of things that I have seen happen in the past," said White.

"It is very up-to-date. It is reaching out and making an impact on the people, it gets a reaction. People watch out how they do things now. Before, they liked to joke around in a certain way and say things that they thought are OK. Now they know that it is not OK."

"Be responsible," concluded White. "We are all adults, but at the same time have a plan. Don't overindulge yourself with alcohol, because everything could happen after you have had alcohol in your system. Have a plan. Make sure you have a liberty buddy who will have your back and who you trust."

Sailors in the Lockwood Hall conference room had face-to-face discussions about the issues presented in the scenarios. Sailors discussed potential problems and probable courses



Capt. Douglas J. Holderman, chief staff officer at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, addresses Sailors during Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Fleet (SAPR-F) training.

of action necessary in a given situation.

"The video goes into the most extreme side of sexual harassment – sexual assault and rape," said Master-At-Arms Seaman Christopher Rivera, assigned to Military Police Working Dog unit. "That's why we are all in the same class here, and we are also taking alcohol awareness classes. Guy or girl – I'm in the same statistic. I can be raped, too."

"I do not care what the circumstances are," said Holderman. "I don't care how the victim could have not set

themselves up to be in such an unsafe position. Nobody, nobody ever deserves that."

"It is not like being a civilian. Face it, when we deploy on a ship, Afghanistan, wherever we deploy, we are with each other 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We are dependent on each other," he continued.

"Those ships, the equipment, don't operate without you. Nothing in the Navy happens without the most important element – you. You are the most important asset the Navy has," Holderman said.

"You have to realize that it doesn't affect just that person.

It affects that division, that command."

SAPR-F complements the Navy's training continuum for sexual assault prevention and response, which begins when each Sailor enters the Navy. The wide-sweeping reach of this initiative ensures that all Sailors are empowered to intervene to stop sexual assault. SAPR is an important element of the readiness area of the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative, which builds resiliency to hone the most combat-effective force in the history of the Department of the Navy.

"The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change."

— Carl Rogers

Commentary

# Our children's education – a parent's priority

**Rear Adm. Frank Ponds**  
Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

During the past 14 months, Mrs. Ponds and I have had the honor of visiting the public schools that educate our most precious resource—our children—and we have been truly impressed. These children are smart, positive and eager to learn.

We have met many principals, teachers and other educators here in Hawaii who are committed to

ensuring that each child receives a quality education and can succeed inside and outside the classroom and school environment. We have also met dedicated parents who continually support their children in their educational endeavors and their dreams. This truly is the formula for success as a quality education requires a strong three-way partnership between the child, school and parents.

In a September 2012 interview with Education Nation, President Obama

said, "What I see is that, all across the country, people want (education) results. And I'm a strong believer that the way you get results is to get everybody involved. So it starts at home."

Parents are their child's first and best teachers. When we set the example by making education a top priority, our daughters and sons will also embrace the challenge, investment and rewards of discovery and make it a top priority, too.

I know that all parents want their children to get a good education. There are

many ways we can help our children maximize their learning success. Here are a few tips that education experts offer:

- Ensure your child attends school on time and minimize their absences.
- Stress the value of their education.
- Help your children set education goals.
- Talk to your child about what they are learning in school.
- Get to know your child's teacher.
- Volunteer to serve in your child's school (e.g., PTSA, read aloud, student

activities).

• Take advantage of parent training opportunities offered by the schools.

• Attend parent-teacher conferences.

• Work together as a community toward the common good for what is best for our schools.

Our children will soon be tomorrow's leaders of our communities, businesses, military and nation. Investing our time, talent, and treasure in their education will reap immeasurable dividends. It is definitely a "win-win" situation and the right thing to do!

## Diverse Views



### "What school teacher inspired you the most and why?"

**Master Sgt. Peter Rieta**  
48th Aerial Port Squadron



"Dr. Nededog, my business instructor at the University of Guam. His personality and teaching style brought out the bookwork and real world in a brighter perspective."



**Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Austin Gibbs**  
Naval Operational Support Center (NOSC) Pearl Harbor

"My school teacher Ms. Applebee. She taught me how to do my times table. I was really struggling and she took her time to really help me out a lot, and it gave me my passion for math."

**Bezina Griffith**  
15th Medical Group

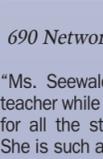


"My high school chemistry teacher Miss Catterson and later Mrs. Bucchus. As a teen in high school, she seemed to take a personal interest in each of her students. She was interested in more than us getting a good grade, but also wanted us to grow up to be good adults."



**Builder 2nd Class (SCW) Reynaldo A. Castro**  
Seabee NAVFAC Hawaii Self Help

"My school teacher, Mr. Duschmame. He was my construction and painting class instructor. He showed me how to work hard at a really young age. He also provided me with my first job. He also showed me the skills and requirements for the job I have now."



**Tech. Sgt. Connie Tuggle**  
690 Network Support Squadron, Det 3

"Ms. Seewald was definitely my favorite teacher while growing up. She showed love for all the students and the community. She is such an inspiration. I can only hope to become such an amazing role model as her."



**Musician 3rd Class Carmen H. Bockman**  
Pacific Fleet Band

"My school teacher, Ms. Lydia Edwards, she was my seventh grade English teacher. She took a personal interest in a literature I was reading. Dhe taught me how to put my thoughts in a clear format. She encouraged me to communicate with others because I was really shy. I owe my personal skills to her today."

**Tech. Sgt. Joaddie Gionson**  
154th Logistics Readiness Squadron



"The school teacher that inspired me the most was my 12th grade teacher, Jim Leahey at James Campbell High School in Ewa Beach. He taught a futuristic class and always encouraged us to try our best and don't give up, even when times are difficult. He made us memorize a poem about attitudes, and that has helped me get through difficult times."



**Maj. David Washer**  
613th Air and Space Operations Center

"High school 12th grade social science teacher, Mr. White, challenged us to always think for ourselves and not take explanations or views at face value. Always challenge and validate what others tell you."

(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)

## 15th Wing launches Facebook site

The 15th Wing Public Affairs office has launched its Facebook page.

The page is open for all to view, comment on photos, make posts and of

course, "like." Everyone who posts to the site are reminded to exercise judgment in the nature of the contributions made.

The page will be managed by

the 15th Wing Public Affairs office and can be accessed at [www.facebook.com/15thWing](http://www.facebook.com/15thWing).

Commentary

## 15th Wing Facebook page prioritizes communication among Airmen

15th Wing Public Affairs

A few months ago, the 15th Wing announced five priorities. These priorities are a way to articulate the mission, remind the family of the 15th Wing personnel and why they put in the long hours that they do, and what they are capable of and repeatedly do accomplish together.

The priorities are: execute the mission, ensure readiness, develop our Airmen, grow resilient Airmen and families, and strengthen partnerships.

Without communication, the priorities have the potential to become words lost on a piece of paper. The family and friends of the 15th deserve more than just another document to read. In order to communicate in a fashion that is more convenient for today's Airmen and

the entire 15th Wing family, the official 15th Wing Facebook page has gone live.

The page is open for all to view, comment on photos, make posts and of course, "like." With this in mind, we remind everyone to exercise judgment in the nature of the contributions made.

The 15th Wing Facebook page should be a place for everyone to enjoy and interact. Please avoid things that could be dangerous to the security of our base and Airmen, and remember that all are able to view your words, so speak accordingly.

Something to note, the genre of the Facebook page is business. This means that by "liking" the page, it does not provide the same ability to view your personal Facebook page as "friending." So, it's OK to take advantage of the

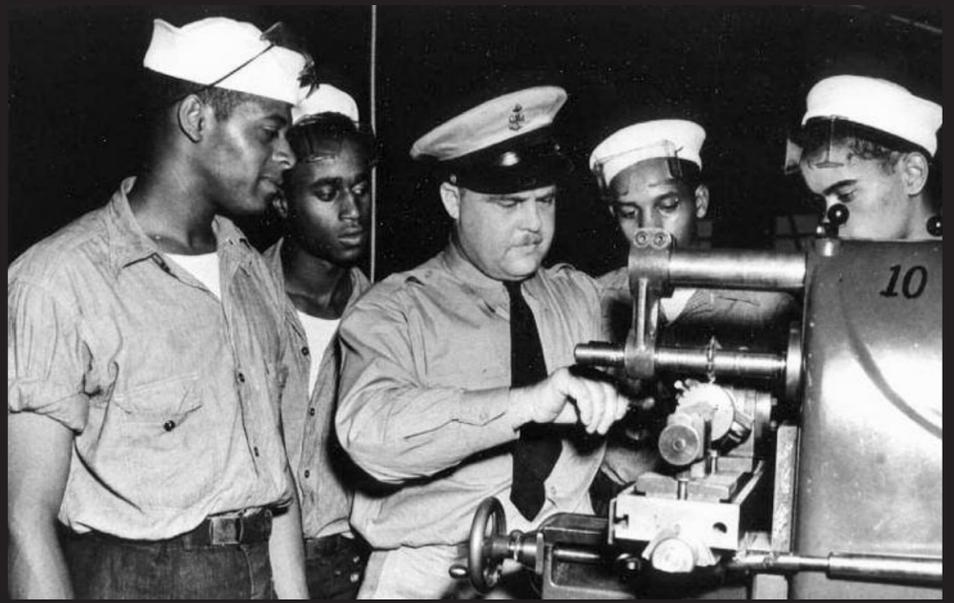
great photos, news updates and happenings that will be posted without the fear of colleagues being able to view every detail of your personal life.

Upcoming posts to watch for are posts that celebrate the rich history found in our installation, highlights of different functional areas and personnel, motivational pictures that remind us why we do what we do, and last but not least, an opportunity to answer "what's up" questions generated to allow each and every member of the 15th family to be heard.

The page will be managed by the 15th Wing Public Affairs office and can be accessed at [www.facebook.com/15thWing](http://www.facebook.com/15thWing).

Please help us celebrate the 15th Wing and join us in the unveiling by "liking" the 15th Wing's newest opportunity to interact.

## Sailors receive educational instruction



Official U.S. Navy photograph, National Archives

A chief petty officer instructs members of the first class to attend an African American Sailors service school for machinist's mates on July 30, 1943 at the Naval Training Station in Great Lakes, Ill. Plastic goggles were used for eye protection.

## HO'OKELE

Commander,  
Navy Region Hawaii  
**Rear Adm. Frank Ponds**

Chief of Staff  
**Capt. Mark Manfredi**

Director,  
Public Affairs  
**Agnes Tauyan**

Deputy Director,  
Public Affairs  
**Bill Doughty**

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

Deputy Commander  
**Col. Dann S. Carlson**

Director, Public Affairs  
**Grace Hew Len**

Managing Editor  
**Karen Spangler**

Assistant Editor  
**Don Robbins**

Sports Editor  
**Randy Dela Cruz**

Staff Writer  
**Brandon Bosworth**

Layout/Design  
**Antonio Verceluz**  
**Richard Onaha Hutter**

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

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

The civilian publisher, The Honolulu Star Advertiser, is responsible for commercial advertising, which may be purchased by calling (808) 521-9111. The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products and services advertised by the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii or The Honolulu Star Advertiser. Everything advertised in this paper shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source. Ho'okele is delivered weekly to Navy & Air Force housing units and Navy installations throughout Oahu. Housing residents may contact the publisher directly at (808) 690-8864 if they wish to discontinue home delivery.

# Navy College Office offers counseling, resources, services to Sailors

Story and photo by  
MC2 Nardel Gervacio

Navy Region Hawaii Public  
Affairs

Sailors who want to further their education can find out about the many options they have by talking to an education counselor at a Navy College office.

The local Navy College office, located in building 679 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), has advisors to help Sailors design a plan for their education during or beyond a Navy career.

"The Navy College main role is to help Sailors, service members and their dependents to reach their academics and training goals," said Gerald Gibbons, director of the joint base Navy College.

Whether a student is beginning an education or finishing one, there are many course options available for Sailors.

Gibbons said Sailors may already have credits from previous training, jobs and schooling, making it possible to choose a program or school to get them where they want to be and achieve their goals.

Education is becoming more important in today's Navy and can affect Sailors' advancements.

Though some Sailors use the opportunities Navy College provides to prepare for their life after the Navy, some use it to benefit their careers within the Navy.

For Electrician's Mate 1st Class (SS) Matthew



Musician 3rd Class Carmen H. Bockman assigned to Pacific Fleet Band at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam takes an exam for a Political Science class offered by Hawaii Pacific University at The Navy College Office.

Church of Show Low, Ariz., assigned to Naval Submarine Support Command (NSSC) Performance Monitoring Team (PMT) at JBPHH, taking classes at Navy College is "very important because it goes towards your advancement."

It also puts you one step ahead if you plan on staying in the military or getting out. I'm currently taking Calculus 2. I'm also working on getting my

Bachelor's of Science degree in applied science technologies for nuclear technologies," Church explained.

Like Church, many Sailors are enrolling using tuition assistance (TA).

The Navy Tuition Assistance (TA) policy currently affords service members the opportunity to complete up to 16 semester hours per fiscal year, according to Gibbons.

Gibbons said that while there is the G.I. Bill to con-

sider, "Active-duty members have their own tuition assistance program."

The program can pay for service members' classes taken while on active duty, saving members' G.I. Bill funds," he said.

The Navy College Office also provides testing services. Some of these include ACT or SAT college placement exams, credit by examination exams, and test proctoring services.

"I'm here this morning to

enroll in the ACT test, as well as get any information about any study guides that may help me do well in the test. I hope to get in the STA-21 or Seaman to Admiral Program someday," said Gunner's Mate 2nd Class (SW) Bryan Lopez of Palm Bay, Fla., assigned to USS Lake Erie (CG-70).

STA-21 or Seaman to Admiral-21 is the U.S. Navy's commissioning program designed to enable

active-duty Sailors to get a college degree and become commissioned officers.

Lawrence D. Blackmon, education specialist, said that aside from tuition assistance, "guidance and direction" are benefits sought out by Sailors.

"Sailors will come in here not knowing what direction or degree they want to get or schools that's offering those degrees," said Blackmon. "We help them in that process. I'm here to find the best school possible that will suit them."

Gibbons said for new or undecided students, advisors can help students map out their goals so they have an initial education or training plan to follow.

"I don't have that many college credits and I have been thinking about taking some classes as well as knowing my options," said Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Karl Lance Valdez Carbonec of San Diego, Calif., assigned to Naval Computer Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific (NCTAMS PAC).

"The counselors told me how many credits I have using my SMART transcript and what best course of action I should take. The counselors have been very helpful. After talking with them I have some sort of a direction to go now," Carbonec said.

Navy College supports the personal and professional growth of Sailors, helping them earn degrees which help make them invaluable assets to the Navy.

## School liaison officers assist with education issues

School Liason Office, Joint Base  
Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Education is one of Commander Navy Region Hawaii's top priorities.

Darren Dean and Dave Tom are school liaison officers (SLOs) for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam who serve as the subject matter experts for K-12 education issues from kindergarten through grade 12 in Hawaii.

Their office is located in building 3456 at 620 Main St. near Nimitz Elementary School. The SLOs are experienced in supporting military children and families.

Dean has been a SLO for 12 years, working as an Air Force SLO at Osan AB, Korea and the former Hickam Air Force Base, and now serving Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. He maintains close working relationships with school principals and superintendents, to better support military families and senior leaders.

"Every day is truly unique. Some days, I will receive a large number of calls from inbound PCS as well as currently assigned military parents with questions on topics such as registration for school, smooth education transitions, school attendance, etc.," Dean explained.

"Other days, I spend a lot of time on issues such as base access, JROTC base orientation visits, and military school partnerships. The schools are very committed to providing a quality education for all children and are sensitive to the

unique challenges of the military children (e.g., sponsor's deployments, changing school in the middle of the school year)," he explained. "Military students are very resilient, and it is heartwarming to see them succeeding in school and on their way to becoming contributing citizens," Dean said.

Tom, who has also worked on many education issues during his 27-year Air Force career, retired from active duty in 2006 from Headquarters Pacific Air Forces. He served as the military liaison to the Hawaii State Board of Education from 2000 to 2002 while assigned to U.S. Pacific Command and worked closely with the State Department of Education (DOE) from 2006 - 2012 for a non-profit early childhood policy and advocacy organization.

"I am really happy to be 'back in the mix' supporting military families and children. As a father, I remember the challenges for our son whenever we PCS'd, changing schools, leaving behind old friends and having to make new friends," Tom said.

"Our military kids are very resilient, and ensuring a quality education for all children depends on a solid three-way partnership between the parents, child and school. SLOs are here to support this partnership for our military children," he added.

The SLO office can be reached via phone at 422-3770. Additionally, the DOE has established a website for military families at <http://bit.ly/Yenm4o>.

## Hawaii Legislature considers education bills

David Tom

School Liaison Officer, Joint Base Pearl  
Harbor-Hickam

Do you know that 85 percent of human brain development happens before age 5 and that between the ages of 3 and 10, a child's brain is two and a half times more active than an adult's?

Do you also know that the average age of the nine public schools in the Radford High School Complex is 56 years (statewide average is 65 years) and that most schools in Hawaii, as well as in many parts of our country, were not built to support the evolving research on 21st century learning and technology?

The Hawaii State Legislature recognizes the significance and nexus of these facts, and it is considering several education bills to better support children's education.

Senate Bill (SB) 1095 and House Bill (HB) 864 seek to establish a State Early Childhood Education Program to help families build a solid foundation for success in school.

Significant research has shown that children who participate in early childhood education (e.g., preschool) are more likely to succeed in kindergarten and beyond and have a greater chance to grow into healthy, capable and contributing adults.

If either of these bills receive appropriations and pass into law, the state will provide subsidies, based on financial need, for 4-year-old children (including military children) to attend quality preschools in Hawaii.

In the elementary schools serving Joint

Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (Aliamanu, Hickam, Mokulele, Nimitz, Pearl Harbor, Pearl Harbor Kai and Lehua), 51 percent of the current kindergarten students previously attended preschool as compared to the statewide average of 57 percent.

SB237 and HB865 propose the establishment of a 21st Century Schools that will generate income from the lease of certain public school lands to upgrade existing schools or construct new schools. This concept is modeled after the highly successful Military Housing Privatization Initiative that built the military family housing communities on Oahu (e.g., Catlin Park, Hale Moku, Hickam).

The average age of public schools in Hawaii is 65 years and not made for 21st Century learning (e.g., advanced technology, energy efficiency). In the Radford High School Complex (Aliamanu Elementary, Hickam Elementary, Makalapa Elementary, Mokulele Elementary, Nimitz Elementary, Pearl Harbor Elementary, Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary, Aliamanu Middle and Radford High Schools), the average age is 56 years.

The State Department of Education supports the intent of these bills as it strives to align its facilities with 21st Century learning concepts. Information about the 21st Century Schools Initiative can be found at [http://www.hipaonline.com/project/21st\\_century\\_schools](http://www.hipaonline.com/project/21st_century_schools).

The above-mentioned bills have the potential of improving the quality of education for all children in Hawaii (including military). To learn more about these bills, go to <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov> and enter the applicable bill (e.g., SB1095, HB865) in the "bill status/measure status" box.

# Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



Sailors assigned to various commands at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam view the "Take the Helm" video during Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Fleet (SAPR-F) training Feb. 19. The training was conducted as part of the Navy efforts to eliminate sexual assaults and educate Sailors on their role in preventing such incidents.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan

(Below) Joint Service Color Guard and Korean War Veterans attend the Feb. 6 Korean War Veterans commemorative stone dedication ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. The dedication ceremony was a tribute to Korean War veterans for their sacrifices and dedication as well as the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Nardel Gervacio

Sailors assigned to guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG-97) raise the national ensign for the first time pier side at its new home port of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Feb. 14, following a successful hull swap with USS Russell (DDG-59) in San Diego in January. Halsey will provide deterrence, promote peace and security, preserve freedom of the sea and assist in humanitarian/disaster responses as one of 11 surface ships of Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Nicholas Zaricor (left) of Vancouver, Wash., assigned to U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) and Spc. Andrew Shurden of Tupelo, Miss., assigned to 45th Special Troops Battalion (STB), 8th Theater Sustainment Command (TSC) prepare a sauce that will be used for a main dish during a Joint-Team Hawaii Field Kitchen Practice. Joint-Team Hawaii will be competing in the 38th Annual Military Culinary Arts Competition in Fort Lee, Va., the competition held annually is the largest culinary competition in North America. This year's event will feature more than 250 military chefs from all five branches of the armed forces competing in a wide range of challenges that will test their culinary skills, techniques and abilities to work effectively in teams.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Nardel Gervacio



## Aliamanu Middle School media program teaches students hi-tech skills

Story and photos by  
Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

Students at Aliamanu Middle School are learning to move beyond merely consuming media. They are learning how to create it.

The school's media production program started in 2004. At first, it was part of the school's existing journalism program. Eventually, the media production aspects began to take precedence, and the program became what it is today.

Running the program comes naturally for teacher Chris Facuri, who has been interested in media and video since he was a kid. However, it wasn't the initial focus of his teaching career.

"I was a Hawaiian history teacher on Maui," he said. "I went on a sabbatical and studied media production at Leeward Community College.

When a teaching position opened up at Aliamanu, he jumped at the opportunity to help update the school's courses.

Facuri started integrating more multimedia content to the journalism program. For example, instead of newspaper articles, the students created televised news reports. In the last four or five years, the focus of the program has shifted almost exclusively to media production.

The multimedia program has proven to be a success. At any given time, there



(Above) Matthew Langford shows off his video project from NFL Play 60.

(Right) Lauren Galdeano, Olivia Oldham, Sophia DiPinto and Emeri Dingal plan their daily newscast in front of a green screen.



are about 20-25 students enrolled.

"They like creating media, not just watching it," said Facuri. "Some dabble with video at home trying to take their skills up a notch."

Some students see the class as a stepping-stone toward a future career.

"I want to be a newscaster

some day," said Lauren Galdeano, eighth grader. "I've been interested in news casting since fourth grade."

Others just thought the

class would be different than their usual coursework.

"This class is more interesting than my other classes," said Sophia DiPinto,

eighth grader.

Students are creating new content every school day.

"A big thing for us is our daily live news broadcast," said Facuri. "The students run it, writing their own copy and operating all the equipment."

The news program is broadcast throughout Aliamanu Middle School via closed-circuit television.

In addition to the daily live news broadcasts, students create mini video projects, such as documentaries, reports and public service announcements (PSAs). According to Facuri, these short videos run about two minutes in length and tend to deal with subjects relevant

largest issues-oriented statewide student video competition. Aliamanu has done well, producing three state winners.

Recently, students attended the NFL Play 60 event held at JBPHH's Bloch Arena in conjunction with the Pro Bowl. They went not just as participants, but also as reporters.

"I interviewed the cheerleaders," said Matthew Langford, eighth grader. "I thought it was cool."

Anywhere from 70 to 80 percent of the students participating in the Aliamanu Middle School media program have parents in the military, and some of their work reflects their experiences as members of military families. Facuri can relate.

"My father was in the Marines," he said. "He was a 30-year man."

The military also helps to support the program, which is largely funded by the Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF).

Looking to the future, Facuri sees the media program branching out into new areas.

"We are moving into digital signage," he said. "The kids are really getting into graphics."

One of the ultimate goals of the Aliamanu Middle School media program is to encourage the students to express themselves.

"I try to get them to be creative," said Facuri. "The emphasis is on getting them to be good storytellers."

## Hawaii State Department of Education school quality survey seeks parent feedback

The Hawaii State Department of Education (DOE) is encouraging parents to complete a survey to help schools set priorities for improving programs and services.

Survey results will also be used to measure strategic plan goals for the DOE. Parents whose children are enrolled in grades 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 11 will be asked to complete the survey and

return it in a prepaid envelope by Feb. 28.

"Parent feedback is critical for schools to evaluate their services and ensure students' needs are being met," said Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi.

"Their valuable input also plays a key role in our success and helps track progress of the strategic plan," she added.

Last year, about 25 percent of

participating parents statewide responded to the survey. The DOE has prepared public service announcements and partnered with grassroots organizations to raise awareness about the survey and increase return rates.

Survey results provide schools with data on everything ranging from parent satisfaction with course offerings, support services and availability to discuss their

child's progress to whether students feel safe and are meeting their goals. In addition to the parent survey, teachers and students from the selected grades will fill out separate surveys at school. Survey responses are confidential. Overall survey results should be available to schools by the end of the academic year.

The reports will also be posted on the Internet at

<http://arch.k12.hi.us>. An informational video about the survey is available online at <http://vimeo.com/57619187>.

Questions about the survey may be emailed to [sqs@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:sqs@notes.k12.hi.us). Parents may also call 808-733-4008 (Oahu) or 1-855-276-5801 (toll-free Neighbor Islands) from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

## Air Force libraries bridge the digital divide with popular programs

Gloria Kwizera

Air Force Personnel Center  
Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas (AFNS) – Need assistance setting up a budget, learning a new language or doing your homework? Look no further than your online Air Force library, where Air Force library staff work to meet customers' needs in an evolving digital world.

Worldwide, Air Force libraries offer online learning resources, digital magazines, music, movies and much more for Total Force Airmen, civilians, retirees and family members.

A host of popular programs are available, including Zinio Digital Magazines, MyiLibrary eBooks, Safari Books Online, OneClickdigital, OverDrive, CultureGrams, MorningStar,

Peterson's Education Resource Center, Transparent Language Online, Universal Class and more.

Zinio Digital Magazines has more than 650 popular news and special interest digital magazines online, or you can download them to your personal computer, app-enabled tablet or smartphone. To set up an account, please visit your local base library. Or visit the base library website, click on the Zinio link and use code "AFLIB." Then follow directions to set up your Zinio account. You will need a personal email account to register for your Air Force Zinio account.

Not interested in magazines? The libraries also offer MyiLibrary eBooks, OneClickdigital and OverDrive. MyiLibrary eBooks offer a range of eBooks from educational materials to the "For Dummies" series. If you're constantly on the go and don't have time to read that latest novel,

check out OneClickDigital, which enables users to listen to and transfer audio books to their portable devices. If you do have time to relax with a book, OverDrive is for you. It features nearly 10,000 electronic books, audio books, videos and music available for checkout to eligible customers.

In addition, the Air Force libraries offer opportunities for self-improvement and personal development through the Universal Class program. Any authorized Air Force library customer is eligible to register for more than 540 online classes in 30 different subject areas. To enroll, contact or visit your local library for the access code to create an account.

"If you take a Universal Program language class, like French, and later want to improve your grammar and pronunciation,

the Transparent Language Online program may be your next step," said Margie Buchanan, libraries branch chief.

In addition to grammar and pronunciation, the program includes speech, writing and vocabulary-building lessons for more than 80 foreign languages including English as a second language. Users must register in person at an Air Force library, joint base library or a downrange learning resource center but then will be able to use the program anywhere, anytime.

For 24/7 online homework and tutoring assistance, Buchanan suggests you visit Tutor.com. The program is available to dependent children of active duty Air Force personnel, deployed Reserve and Air National Guard personnel and Air Force Wounded Warriors. Inactive and part-time Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard personnel and their dependents

are also eligible for the program. To set up an account, visit <http://www.tutor.com/military>.

If you're doing a project on an unfamiliar country, you'll find everything you need on CultureGrams, which carries detailed cultural information on more than 200 countries.

Business and technology professionals can take advantage of Safari Books, an e-reference resource that offers more than 13,000 titles.

To register and access the online programs, go to the AF Portal and click on the word "library" on the navigation bar, or visit your local AF library or joint base library.

For more information about Air Force libraries and other quality of life programs, go to [www.usafservices.com](http://www.usafservices.com) or [www.myairforcelifeline.com](http://www.myairforcelifeline.com). For information about other personnel issues, go to <https://mypers.af.mil>.

# Military cooks prepare for competition using local ingredients

Story and photos by  
MC2 Nardel Gervacio

Navy Region Hawaii Public  
Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – Using local ingredients and cost-efficient techniques, culinary specialists representing branches of the Navy, Air Force, Army, Marines and Coast Guard had a chance to show their skills to military leaders during a Joint-Team Hawaii “field kitchen practice” held Feb. 14 at Schofield Barracks.

The event will prepare them for the 38th Annual Military Culinary Arts Competition which will be held March 6-13 at Fort Lee, Va.

The Military Culinary Arts Competition at Fort Lee, held annually, is the largest culinary competition in North America.

“This morning’s event showcases how far we’ve come in the beginning, from try-outs to where we are now,” said Sgt. Rena Adonis of New York, team manager assigned to the 25th Division at Schofield Barracks.

“Everyone here has a unique talent that fits (Team-Hawaii), and everything just meshes well. You have people that are skilled in certain areas, and when you combine them together, it’s just phenomenal,” he said.

This year’s culinary competition at Fort Lee will feature more than 250 military chefs with 25 different teams from all five branches of the armed forces. They will compete in a wide range of challenges that will test their culinary skills: serving, visual presentation, appearance of entries, techniques and abilities to work effectively in teams.

Adonis said that dining facility (DFAC) and line cooks working at mess halls often don’t get a chance to “showcase their skills and talents as a chef.”

The field kitchen menu, which will be one part of the competition, included an appetizer of seared sea scallops with island *kim chi* as well as a cucumber and ginger shooter followed by a main dish of *loco moco* (served in a fine dining style) and ending with a dessert of no bake Okinawa cheese with a lychee jelly.

Making the event more challenging for the cooks was the use of a mobile kitchen trailer (MKT), while serving more than 12 officers and noncommissioned officers and guests (the MKT will be one segment of the competition at Fort Lee).



(Above) Members of Joint-Team Hawaii prepare to serve a local dish, Loco Moco (served in a fine dining style) during a Joint-Team Hawaii Field Kitchen Practice. Joint-Team Hawaii will be competing in the 38th Annual Military Culinary Arts Competition in Fort Lee, Va. The competition, held annually, is the largest culinary competition in North America.

(Left) Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Melvin Sibal of Pearl City, Hawaii, assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, prepares a decorative garnish for a main dish during a Joint-Team Hawaii “field kitchen practice.”

“The challenge of this type of cooking compared to a regular galley is that we’re dealing with a much higher heat,” said Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Nichols Zaricor of Vancouver, Wash., assigned to U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM).

“You can’t control the heat very well. There are no individual burners like you would have in a regular kitchen. The electricity is also an issue. You never know if it’s going to last. You’re basically cooking off of a camper,” Zaricor said.

According to Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Patrick Parigi of Texas, assigned to U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM), the event also gave

the opportunity for the culinary chefs to say “thank you” to the military leaders who got behind them and believed in their skills and what they can accomplish.

Among the 60 guests in attendance were Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III, commander of U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM); as well as Capt. Jeffrey W. James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; and Command Master Chief (SW) Brian Ortega, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

“When you think about it, there are a lot of military members going to Fort Lee for this competition, and we’re the team that has to travel the farthest,” said Parigi.

“With all the budget cuts happening and everything, they thought enough of us to send us over there. This was our way of saying thank you to all of them and to show them that their belief and the funding haven’t gone unnoticed to us,” he added.

“Only the most junior enlisted were chosen to grow their skills and that they were advancing beyond all expectations,” said Master Sgt. Derek S. Rivers senior team advisor of Detroit, Mich.

The winning teams will receive executive chef certification recognized by the American Culinary Federation and World Association of Chef Societies.

“Today was outstanding. I have no doubt in my mind that Joint Team Hawaii will come back with the gold because they trained really hard,” said Rivers. “Senior Chief (Brandon) Parry is an amazing teacher, and they are above any team I’ve seen in the 24 years I’ve been doing this.”

Organizing the first Joint

Culinary Arts team Hawaii was done in part by experts throughout the military culinary community, a group interested in mentoring joint culinary specialists.

“I think the biggest story here is the joint service team of E-5s and below,” said Senior Chief Culinary Specialist (SW) Brandon Parry, senior team leader assigned to U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM).

“They’ve all come together to make this happen and the amount of growth that we’ve tracked with them over the three-month time has been incredible. They’ve come a long way,” Parry said.

According to the Joint Culinary Center of Excellence (JCCoE) website, the competition has been held each year since 1973 with the exception of 1991 and 2003 during Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The competition is sanctioned by the American Culinary Federation and showcases the talents of military chefs from around the globe in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

## Navy updates advancement exam eligibility requirements

Thomas Uptide

Naval Education and  
Training Professional  
Development and  
Technology Center Public  
Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) – A recent policy change allows Sailors with a PTS “intends to separate” status to participate in the upcoming March 2013 examination.

Naval Administrative Message (NAVADMIN) 023/13 provides updated guidance for the Cycle 219/March 2013 Navy-wide enlisted examinations for active duty,

active Reserve, full time support and canvasser recruiter advancement.

For the September 2012 advancement cycle 216, active duty Sailors who had an “intends to separate” Perform to Serve (PTS) status were ineligible for the Navy-wide advancement examination. NAVADMIN 023/13 explains that changes in retention behavior, and the Navy’s shifting posture from downsizing to stabilizing, have enabled candidates in a PTS “intends to separate” status to be eligible for advancement.

Sailors who have

received final PTS denial (denied final - active) on their December PTS application remain ineligible to participate in the March examination.

Another important change announced in NAVADMIN 023/13 concerns security clearance requirements for advancement. A favorable investigation adjudication issued by the Department of the Navy Central Adjudication Facility (DONCAF) remains as a requirement. However, the updated policy now allows a Sailor to take the advancement exam with

an interim clearance issued by the unit commanding officer while awaiting formal adjudication from DONCAF. That interim clearance must be granted prior to the first day of the month of the regularly scheduled examination date.

“The intent of this change is to minimize adverse impact to advancement opportunity for those Sailors who have properly applied for a security clearance and are awaiting a final determination,” said Cmdr. Renee Squier, enlisted plans and policy branch head.

“However, every effort

should be taken by the command and the individual to receive final determinations on all Sailors requiring a security clearance as soon as possible,” she said.

For certain ratings listed in the Cycle 219 NAVADMIN 342/12, as well as Sailors in the cryptologic technician (maintenance) (CTM) rating and all nuclear and submarine ratings who do not meet security clearance requirements, remain ineligible for advancement and should not participate in an advancement examination.

For additional informa-

tion on PTS eligibility requirements visit <http://bit.ly/Ibb2Nk>. For additional information regarding security clearance requirements visit <http://bit.ly/JzTHhw>.

Individual rating and paygrade bibliographies for the March 2013 enlisted examinations are posted on NAC’s NKO portal at <http://bit.ly/PPpx8I>.

For more information about the Navy Advancement Center and the Navy Enlisted Advancement System, visit <http://on.fb.me/157KV00>.

For more news from Naval Education and Training Command, visit [www.navy.mil/local/cnet/](http://www.navy.mil/local/cnet/).

# Radford High School Transition Center assists students

Story and photo by  
Don Robbins

Assistant Editor

Students at Radford High School said they appreciate having an effective transition center program at a school with a highly mobile military population, faced with having to move as their parents change duty stations. Radford is located near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and serves many families from the base.

The Radford High School Transition Center program serves the needs of all new students, military and civilian, who enroll at Radford High School and assists them throughout the school year. It also provides preparation and a safety net by offering new students the resources, information and support to ensure academic achievement.

Radford High School senior Madeline Skrocki's father serves in the Air Force. She said that Hawaii is the ninth different place she's lived in her life. Although she had already become accustomed to making quick transitions after all that travel, until now she had never previously experienced the benefits of a program like the one at the Radford transition center.

Skrocki's explained that the transition center is a four-part program partially taught by student "facilitators" to encourage peer-to-peer interaction.

The parts of the program include looking at Radford High's rules and activities, coping with stress, exploring the cultural diversity/uniqueeness of Hawaii, and developing a student's academic plan. Experienced student facilitators also volunteer to serve as "lunch buddies," sitting and talking with new students during break



From left, Radford High School students Madeline Skrocki, Cierra Hollington, Quentin Harris, Jeffrian Omar and Kaitlynn Gant are members of military families and facilitators for the Radford High School Transition Center.

times to ease their concerns about school. The program also includes a new-student orientation in the summer before school even begins.

"I loved it, and I decided to join as a facilitator to help new students. I was happy to finally give back and aid new students," Skrocki said. There are three aspects that make Radford's transition center unique, said Skrocki.

First, it provides personal development for student facilitators. Second, facilitating is not a class or credit, it is a volunteer effort by students who give up their school break times to help newcomers. The student-to-student interaction, including tours of the campus, is a third vital component of the program, Skrocki added.

"Why is this important to Radford? It's to fulfill a need. We're roughly 60 percent military. Over the summer, as people PCS, 30 percent of our student population changes out annually, and that's not including the senior class," Skrocki said.

She plans to attend a four-year university on an Air Force ROTC scholarship and eventually have a

career in political science and international relations.

David Tom, school liaison officer for Navy Region Hawaii, cited the challenges that military students face, always having to move to a new location and school with their parents as part of the Permanent Change of Station (PCS) process.

"School is such a vital part of their lives," said Tom, a retired member of the Air Force.

"This Radford High School Transition Center is such a unique and great experience for all students coming into the school. They are making new friends, and learning the ropes of what goes at the school campus. It will help them to succeed better academically, socially, personally and emotionally. There are just so many benefits," Tom added.

Cierra Hollington, a Navy family member and Radford High senior, entered the school as a sophomore and said she benefitted from the transition center program.

"I've been to several other schools and none of the schools had a program like this. Before, I had to adjust by myself, and hav-

ing a program like this was very helpful," she said.

Later, she decided to become a student facilitator herself to give back to others. Hollington plans to attend college to study elementary education and business in an effort to someday open her own daycare center.

Other members of the

Radford transition center's student facilitator team who sat down recently to describe the program are Navy family member Quentin Harris and Army family members Jeffrian Omar and Kaitlynn Gant.

Harris plans to obtain an ROTC scholarship and become a mechanical engineer. Omar is looking for

ward to a career in social services, while Gant's career goal is to become a nutritionist. There are a total of 17 student facilitators in the transition center program, which includes supervision from part-time teachers.

The program has been recognized through the military and the Department of Defense, and earned recognition by former First Lady Laura Bush in May 2007. It began at Radford in 2003 and was designed by a team of Radford administration, staff and students in partnership with local military supporters under the umbrella of the Joint Venture Education Forum.

The transition center continues to evolve to meet the needs of students and community, explained Cindy Mochida Schrock, career and technical education coordinator at Radford High School. In the Hawaiian language, the center's motto is "Malama I Na Haumana," or "Caring for the Students."

## Transition center makes moving easier

Courtney Ortega and  
Attiana Collins

Radford High School  
Newswriting students

The transition center at Radford has become a sanctuary for arriving students who are new and unfamiliar with the state of Hawaii. The transition center makes changing schools less nerve-wracking with the support of the center's advisers, student facilitators, and other new students.

"It [transition center] makes changing schools a lot easier and it helps you make friends," sophomore Greyson Haynes said. "I wouldn't know as

many people as I do now if it wasn't for the transition center. I don't think it's just a good thing for me, other students seem to really like it too. I've seen at least 25 students in the center and I've only been here for three weeks." Haynes is a military dependent, who recently moved from Virginia.

The transition center teaches its facilitators valuable skills, like public speaking, to make the new students feel safe, welcome, and comfortable. Junior Victoria Rigg said she was quite grateful that the school had a transition center because moving schools is such a stressful process that no

one should have to go through alone.

"When I first moved here," Rigg said, "I was so intimidated by the size of the school. Radford has over 1,000 students, so it's easy for anyone to get lost. Being new just makes it worse. I was so happy to have somewhere to go during recess and lunch and I know all the other new students were happy as well. We all made friends easier because we were going through the same thing."

Hawaii is such a unique place, and having a school program like the transition center that teaches new students about the island is very helpful.



## Navy College discusses obtaining a degree

Gerald Gibbons

Navy College Hawaii

There are many educational opportunities and financial aid resources to be taken advantage of here on Oahu, so let's examine some of these resources.

### Following a degree plan

Obviously, the traditional method to complete required courses is to take them either in person or online from an accredited institution. If pursuing an associate degree or vocational training program, be sure to compare that school's program with your local community college for quality but also price. For example, Hawaii community colleges charge \$101 per semester credit for in-state residents, so one three-credit class costs \$303. Additionally, if your long-term goal is to get a bachelor's degree and you don't already have your associate degree, you might consider getting your associate degree at a community college, or at least do some of your initial basic or general education classes (English, math, science, etc.) there.

Many students are unaware that they can obtain an associate degree while pursuing the bachelor's degree. Typically, it takes 120 semester hours to complete a bachelor's degree. Many associate degrees require 60 semester hours. Once you have decided which program of study and the school you are going to work with, be sure to get a detailed education or degree plan outlining all of the classes required to finish your program.

Most importantly, ask your school to do an official evaluation of all your credits indicating exactly what they are counting from your military training, tests and classes you have done at any other schools. The official evaluation also guarantees protection from changes in curriculum in the future.

### Funding a college education

How are you going to pay for your classes? While there is the G.I. Bill to consider, active-duty members have their own tuition assistance program. The program can pay for service members' classes taken while on active-duty,



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Nardel Cervacio

Lawrence D. Blackmon, education specialist at The Navy College Office at Joint Base Pearl Harbor advises Fire Controlman 3rd Class Michael Archibald of Guam, assigned to USS Lake Erie (CG-70) about the Tuition Assistance (TA) program offered by the Navy College.

thus, saving or preserving the member's G.I. Bill funds.

The Navy Tuition Assistance (TA) policy currently affords service members the opportunity to complete up to 16 semester hours per fiscal year. Many Sailors are using TA as evidenced in FY 2012 when \$3.9 million was provided to Hawaii Sailors, taking 6,500 classes.

Senior Chief Navy Counselor (SWAW) Tyrone Jiles stressed the importance of utilizing your available resources while on active-duty. "It was 17 years ago when I joined the U.S. Navy, and one of my goals was to get a bachelor's degree. I surpassed this goal with not only obtaining my bachelor's degree, but also completing my master's degree with the help from TA, CLEP and NCPACE (Navy College Program for Afloat Education) classes," he said.

Remember that these resources are only available while on active duty and don't "touch" your G.I. Bill funds. For more information on applying for TA to take advantage of this program, service members need to contact their respective education center.

Before using your G.I. Bill, talk with an education advisor at the Department of Veterans Affairs (1-888-442-4551) to thoroughly understand your benefits and plan accordingly.

### Getting scholarships and grants

Don't take out a student loan to pay for college or vocational train-

ing without first considering other funding sources such as scholarships and grants and possibly talking with a financial aid advisor. Assistance on making an informed decision on paying for college can be found at: <http://1.usa.gov/RF5vTQ>.

Unlike loans, scholarships and grants don't have to be repaid. However, it does take time and patience to research programs and submit applications. One possibility is the Federal Pell Grant Program which is available to qualifying military members. Free applications may be completed online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.

Another program is the Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA) which provides tuition assistance grants to eligible spouses. For more information and to apply, call MyCAA at 1-800-342-9647 or visit <http://1.usa.gov/IOvZHF>. Information on other financial aid resources is available at your base education offices.

### Getting assistance

Need help getting started? Want to talk with a counselor about degree planning? Call or visit the Navy College Office in building 679 (808-473-5705), the Air Force Education Center at hangar 2 (808-448-0022), the Army Education Center at Schofield in building 560 (808-655-0800), or the Kaneohe Joint Education Center at MCBH in building 220 (808-257-2158).

## Navy College offers guidance with education, financial aid resources

Gerald Gibbons

Navy College Hawaii

Repeatedly, we have been told and have seen the value of more education and training. It's evident in the form of higher salaries and more advancement opportunities.

However, how does someone start the process? There are so many schools to choose from. How do you make an informed decision on which program is best for you? And, equally important, how do you pay for it? Luckily, there are many educational opportunities and financial aid resources to be taken advantage of here on Oahu, so let's dive in and examine some of these resources.

### Where to start

Your base education centers are great starting points for clear and unbiased information on a range of options available to you. In short, we're here to listen, show you what's possible, and tell you how you can get it done. Counselors will advise new or returning students regarding available programs of study suited to their goals and provide different choices to consider.

The aim is to ensure students are well informed, so they may choose the program that best suits their needs. For the new or undecided student, advisors can help students map out their goals so they have an initial education or training plan to follow which could include utilizing their work or military training experience and testing as well as taking classes.

### Earning college credits

Many colleges will accept credits from another school and/or non-traditional learning (i.e., work experience, job training and testing). Be sure to inform your school about all of your previous college, training/work experience and testing. Schools will need details from you in order to do an evaluation.

For service members, this is easily accomplished by providing the school with a copy of your military training transcript (SMART for the Navy or Marine Corps, CCAF transcript for Air Force and AARTs for Army), which shows recommended college credits for service members' military training, NEC/MOS, and rating in a user-friendly format. Schools then determine how

much, if any, they will accept. Accepted credits are then applied toward the student's requirements.

College credits don't "expire" and can possibly "move" or transfer to another school. Even if you might have had a bad semester or two prior to enlisting, don't assume all of those "old" classes are unusable. Lay all of your cards on the table, and let the school determine what credits and training they can use toward your program requirements. Even if it's only the equivalent of one class, that's one less class you need to complete.

### Taking the right test

Testing is another possible method to quickly and cheaply satisfy some program requirements. Many schools will allow students to "test out" of some of their introductory or general education requirements by accepting passing scores on the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST) examinations. If interested, find out from your school's advisor the school's test acceptance policy so you know which CLEP or DSST is accepted. There's no charge to active duty service members taking a test in each category the first time. Dependents, military retirees and Department of Defense (DoD) civilians are also eligible to take the exams at a cost of \$100 each for the CLEP or DSST exams. Retakes are permitted but cost \$100 per test.

When considering study resources, don't be fooled by costly test preparation programs promising results. Prep materials for most of the tests can be obtained at the base or public libraries for free and at Navy Knowledge Online. Another testing resource to consider is NavyCOOL ([WWW.COOL.NAVY.MIL](http://WWW.COOL.NAVY.MIL)). While everyone may not be interested in earning college credit, everyone is looking to be well qualified for their current or future job. NavyCOOL helps Sailors meet civilian certification and licensing requirements by providing study resources and vouchers to pay for certain certification tests related to the Sailor's rate.

For further information about taking the CLEP, DSST or certification tests, contact or visit the National Test Center (808-543-8056), which conducts testing on-base at JBPHH, MCBH, Schofield Barracks and AMC Tripler.

# U.S. Airmen strengthen partnerships during Asia's premier tradeshow

## Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

BANGALORE, India – American Airmen joined aviation exhibitors from 29 Asia-Pacific countries to develop relationships and to showcase U.S. air power during Aero India 2013, Asia's premier air and trade show, held here Feb. 6-10.

Airmen provided aviation spectators with a snapshot of the U.S. military's diverse inventory of aircraft and equipment through several static displays and through their participation in aerial demonstrations as part of Aero India. However, their primary reason for participating in the world-class airshow was to engage their foreign counterparts and ultimately contribute toward interoperability with other countries in the Asia-Pacific Region.

"We came to [Aero India] to demonstrate our continued support for the Indians as a partner and to build relationships with other countries in this region," said Capt. Chris Nations, F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot with Pacific Air Forces F-16 Demonstration Team, 13th Fighter Squadron, at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

"While we do show the latest advances of the Block-50 Viper (and other aircraft) to industry, the confirmation of the reach and presence of American airpower is important to our partners throughout the region," Nations said.

The aircraft on static display during Aero India included the U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III, F-16 Fighting Falcon and the KC-135 Stratotanker. Military members were available to explain the capabilities of these



U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Ben Sakrison

Lt. Gen. Stanley T. Kresge, Pacific Air Forces vice commander, greets Capt. Angela Kimler of the PACAF C-17 demonstration team at the Aero India 2013 air show Feb. 6 at Air Force Station Yelahanka, Bangalore, India.

aircraft, highlight and explain the diversity of U.S. military missions, and share their varying experiences with interested foreign military personnel and visitors at the airshow.

During a rare opportunity, seven members of a Chinese military delegation were given a tour of a U.S. C-17 static display and were happy about the opportunity to meet U.S. Airmen.

"I think they were a little surprised at first that we invited them on board," said Capt. Chris

Ross from the 535th Combat Readiness Flight Command at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and a member of the C-17 demo team.

"They were very polite and visibly excited for the opportunity. Likewise, it was very interesting for us to be able to talk to them for a few minutes as well," he said.

To further showcase U.S. airpower, service members from the Air Force demo teams participated in aerial demonstrations dur-

ing the airshow.

"We do airshows all throughout the Asia-Pacific to increase relations with our partners and allies as part of the U.S. refocus on the Asia-Pacific region," said Nations.

"The fact that we are here showcases our fighters not only to the local audience. Our presence is also observed by the countries we pass along our flight path to get here."

Organized by India's Ministry of Defense, Aero India boasted

participation from 29 visiting countries with approximately 675 exhibitions. The U.S. has participated in this bi-annual trade show since 2005.

U.S. military participation in trade shows furthers defense purchase and supply relationships with India and demonstrates U.S. commitment to India as a regional partner and directly supports U.S. Pacific Command's engagement goals and objectives and furthers relations with other countries.

**STORY IDEAS?**  
 Contact the Ho'okele editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements  
**Phone: (808) 473-2890/2895**  
**Email: editor@hookelenews.com**

*To report...*  
**Fraud, Waste or Abuse**  
 CONTACT COMMANDER, NAVY REGION HAWAII INSPECTOR GENERAL

- WE ARE HERE TO HELP
- YOU CAN REMAIN ANONYMOUS
- REMEMBER TO USE YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND FIRST

HOTLINE:  
**808-473-1782**  
 EMAIL:  
**PRLH-CNRHIG@NAVY.MIL**