



“Navigator” HO'OKELE

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USS Lake Erie, Chinese ships conduct SAR training

MC3 Brennan D. Knaresboro
U.S. Pacific Command

As part of a broader advancement in cooperation between the United States and China, the guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) and the People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLA(N)) participated in training scenarios off the coast of Oahu, Hawaii on Sept. 9.

The three participating PLA(N) ships, a Fuqing-class fleet oiler

Hongzhu (AOR 881), a Luh-class destroyer Qingdao (DDG 113) and a Jiangkai-class frigate Linyi (FFG 547), had just completed a port visit at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Sept. 6-9. This was the first visit by PLA(N) ships to Pearl Harbor since 2006.

The at-sea training included search and rescue, military medicine, communications, pipe patching and firefighting.

Capt. John Banigan, commanding officer of Lake Erie, said the training helps establish clear

paths of communication, builds trust, and encourages multilateral cooperation to address common regional security challenges.

"With this opportunity, we demonstrated our ability to operate and communicate at sea with the PLA(N)," Banigan said.

"Having all Pacific nation navies working together on common maritime problems advances our goal of ensuring security, stability, peace and prosperity in the region," he said.

During the search and rescue

exercise, which Banigan highlighted as contributing to a core capability that the U.S. Navy practices regularly with navies throughout Pacific, one rigid-hulled inflatable boat from the Lake Erie and one rescue boat from the Qingdao responded to a distressed vessel that had a fire, a wounded sailor, and was taking on water.

Sailors from both of the nations worked together throughout the scenario to put out the fire, pipe and shore the leak, and

assist the wounded.

Damage Controlman Fireman Jacob Christopher Barr, a search and rescue swimmer aboard Lake Erie, said this is the first time he had worked with PLA(N). "The exercise went smoothly, thanks to the quick reactions to situations by both the U.S. Navy and PLA(N)," Barr said.

Information Technician 2nd Class Wenbin Wu, who was born in China but moved to New York City as a teenager in 1998, stood in as a translator aboard Lake Erie.

See SAR, A-8



(Above left): Sailors stationed aboard guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) participate in a search and rescue exercise (SAREX) with Chinese People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLA(N)) and U.S. Navy Sailors off the coast of Oahu. (Above right): Navy Sailors greet Chinese sailors at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Hickam Elementary School students remember 9/11

Story and photo by
MCSN Rose Forest

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West
Detachment Hawaii

Students and staff of Hickam Elementary School at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam were joined by firefighters from the Federal Fire Department, service members, Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, and the Radford High School Band in a march around the Freedom Tower in remembrance of the victims of the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

Before the parade, an assembly with the students took place on the front lawn of the school where guest

speakers explained the importance of remembering 9/11, followed by the National Anthem played by the Radford band.

"As we pause to remember those who went before us, in many generations throughout many conflicts, we take time to celebrate the great resiliency, the great spirit, and the great pride we have as a nation to never forget, to learn and to come together in times of adversity," said Col. David A. Kirkendall, deputy joint base commander.

Many of the students have active duty family members, and the message focused on how important the children and their family members are to the

United States.

"It's important we teach our children appropriate messages, and this one is about resiliency and our ability to work together when we are in times of great duress and how sometimes that pulls out the best in us," said Kirkendall.

Nearly 800 children marched down the street, waving flags and chanting messages of hope and support while parents, friends and service members cheered and supported them along the route.

"We just explained to them that it was a hard time for our country, and there was a lot of sadness and we made this into something that helps them appreciate what their parents do for our

country. And the children appreciate being a part of this country and having pride for the U.S.A.," said Alysha McKibben, a student teacher at Hickam Elementary School. "We turn it into a positive, remembering the past but

for their age it's better to focus on being glad to be a part of America."

Some of the older students carried art projects they had created which depicted the events of 9/11 and honored those who lost their lives and to help promote peace and

unity for the future.

"It's important to teach them from a young age how much they mean to their family and how big of a part they are in the school and in the community and in the United States," McKibben said.



Students and staff from Hickam Elementary School parade in front of Freedom Tower at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam as part of a remembrance ceremony of the attacks on 9/11. (See page A-5 for additional photos.)

Navy installations in Japan, Guam and Hawaii to participate in Citadel Pacific 2013

Commander, Navy Installations
Command Public Affairs

Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) will conduct Exercise Citadel Pacific 2013 (CP 13) at Navy installations in Joint Region Marianas (Guam) and Navy Region Japan on Sept. 10-12, and Navy Region Hawaii on Sept. 17-19.

This annual exercise is designed to enhance the training and readiness of

Navy security forces to respond to threats to installations and units. CP13 is not in response to any specific threat, but is a regularly scheduled exercise.

There is the possibility of increased patrols on and around Navy installations as a result of this planned exercise. Measures have been taken to minimize disruptions to normal base and station operations, but there may be times when the exercise causes

increased traffic around bases or delays in base access. Area residents may also see increased security activity associated with the exercise.

During the exercise, personnel and visitors traveling to and from Navy installations in these regions may adjust their schedules to accommodate any possible delays.

For more news from Commander, Navy Installations Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/cni/.

Chief selectees pinning ceremonies to be held today

More than 277 petty officer chief selectees will participate in chief pinning ceremonies today at various locations in Hawaii.

In offering congratulations to the active duty ashore and afloat first class petty officers who were selected, Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, said, "This is the time when Sailors have decided to make the Navy a career and that the life of a warrior is their true passion. Now is the moment when our Sailors turn into leaders, when it is no longer what they want from the Navy but what the Navy needs from them."

The admiral also quoted Adm. William "Bull" Halsey. "You see those battleships sitting there, and you think they float on the water, don't you? You are wrong. They are carried to sea on the backs of those chief petty officers!" Halsey said.

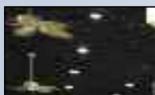
(See the admiral's full commentary in the Aug. 9 edition of Ho'okele, page A-3. Watch next week's Ho'okele for complete coverage of the chief pinning ceremonies.)

Save Energy

Turn off electronics you are not using. Don't leave electronics, such as televisions, stereos and computers, on if you don't need them – they produce heat. Extra heat requires more energy to power the air conditioner and increases cooling costs.



9/11 observances
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Hawaii commands honor ombudsmen for 'selfless contributions'
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Chinese navy gets aloha welcome
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Open house for Forest City residents set for Sept. 17 at Hokulani
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Official activation of Hickam took place 75 years ago this week
See page A-8



Flu shots coming to installations
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Hawaii service members and civilians remember 9/11 at Bowfin ceremony

Story and photo by
MC2 Nardel Gervacio

Sailors assigned to Navy Region Hawaii, USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112), Federal Fire Department and civilians gathered to commemorate the 12th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack with a memorial ceremony held at USS Bowfin (SS 287).

Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, who was assigned at the Pentagon during the attacks was guest speaker.

"Today is a special day of remembrance, reflection and resolve," Williams said, calling for vigilance and

readiness. Williams continued. "That vigilance and readiness is a debt we owe to those who sacrificed everything for us — first responders and warriors — on our homeland, at sea or on foreign soil. A breed apart, these heroes live by higher values, values they are willing to die for to protect. It takes skill and self-confidence to rush into danger where most others fear to tread. Our warriors, firefighters and other first responders here in Hawaii have those same qualities."

Williams closed the ceremony by talking about the importance of remembrance and the resilience of Americans.

"The attacks of 9/11 did not succeed at destroying

our way of life. We overcame those attacks just as we have other past challenges. We did so because of brave men and women with personal honor, courage and commitment," said Williams.

As the ceremony concluded, Sailors and civilians stood at attention as Taps was played.

Many who attended took the opportunity to reflect on what the anniversary of Sept. 11 meant to them and how it affected their lives.

"This day reminds me how much others have given before me and I'm honored to be in the same position and be able to possibly do the same for someone else someday," Pauline Halemanu, assigned to Federal Fire Department Hawaii.

"Hearing the admiral's remarks was emotional, remembering the stories of the people that lost their lives and their families. I have a family of my own, so it hits me personally. It could have been one of us—343 firefighters died that day. That's more that our entire department. I can't imagine a loss like that," Halemanu said.



Firefighters assigned to Federal Fire Department Hawaii listen to remarks from Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, during a 9/11 remembrance ceremony at the USS Bowfin Museum.

Fellow firefighter Gaylord Kam, agreed. "I think it's great to remember those who stepped for-

ward to the call of duty. The admiral's remarks were very inspirational, moving and emotional. I

could feel as he spoke the words. It almost brought tears to my eyes listening to him," he said.

Hawaii command participates in successful missile defense test

Missile Defense Agency

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA), Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) Operational Test Agency, Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, and U.S. Pacific Command, in conjunction with U.S. Army Soldiers from the Alpha Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, U.S. Navy Sailors aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Decatur (DDG-73), and U.S. Air Force Airmen from the 613th Air and Operations Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Hawaii, successfully conducted a complex missile defense flight test Sept. 9, resulting in the intercept of two medium-range ballistic missile targets.

The flight test was planned more than a year ago and is not in any way connected to events in the Middle East.

The test was conducted in the vicinity of the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site and surrounding areas in the western Pacific. The test stressed the ability of the Aegis ballistic missile defense (BMD) and terminal high altitude area defense (THAAD) weapon systems to function in a layered defense architecture and defeat a raid of ballistic missile targets.

The two medium-range ballistic missile targets were launched on operationally realistic trajectories toward a defended area near Kwajalein. Along with overhead space assets providing launch alerts, an Army-Navy/transportable radar surveillance and control (AN/TPY-2) radar in forward-based mode detected the targets and relayed track information to the command, control, battle management and communications (C2BMC) system for further transmission to defending BMDS assets.

The USS Decatur with its Aegis weapon system detected and tracked the first target with its onboard AN/SPY-1 radar. The Aegis BMD weapon system developed a fire control solution, launched a standard missile-3 (SM-3) Block IA missile, and successfully intercepted the target.

In a demonstration of BMDS layered defense capabilities, a second AN/TPY-2 radar in terminal mode, located with the THAAD weapon system, acquired and tracked the target missiles. THAAD developed a fire control solution, launched a THAAD interceptor missile, and successfully intercepted the second medium-range ballistic missile target.

THAAD was operated by Soldiers from the Alpha Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment. As a planned demonstration of THAAD's layered defense capabilities, a second THAAD interceptor was launched at the target destroyed by Aegis as a contingency in the event the SM-3 did not achieve an intercept.

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

The event, designated flight test operational-01 (FTO-01), demonstrated integrated, layered, regional missile defense capabilities to defeat a raid of two threat-representative, medium-range ballistic missiles in a combined live-fire operational test. Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen from multiple combatant commands operated the systems and were provided a unique opportunity to refine operational doctrine and tactics while increasing confidence in the execution of integrated air and missile defense plans.

U.S. Ballistic Missile Defense System programs have completed 62 successful hit-to-kill intercepts in 78 flight test attempts since 2001.

CPO selectees remember 9/11



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Nardel Gervacio

Navy chiefs and chief petty officer selectees assigned to various commands at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam stand at attention during the playing of Taps at a 9/11 remembrance ceremony at Missing Man Memorial. Chief petty officer selectees conducted the ceremony to commemorate the 12th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Former Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (former MCPON) Rick West was on hand during the ceremony.

USS Paul Hamilton honors colors on 9/11



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Apprentice Rose Forest

Seaman Andrew Kashian and Gunner's Mate Seaman Apprentice Krystal Bocanegra conduct morning colors aboard Pearl Harbor-based guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) in this photo. The national ensign is flown at half-staff in commemoration of the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

Commentary

Personal reflections of 9/11 from Pearl Harbor

Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

Sept. 11, 2001 is personal to me.

I was at the Pentagon on 9/11. It was a surreal moment watching flight 77 impact the Pentagon — a sight that is etched in my soul as 184 innocent people died.

I saw firefighters, police and EMTs rush into the damaged Pentagon. I saw brave men and women risk their lives to help others.

Hundreds of firefighters were among those lost when the twin towers collapsed in New York City.

The experience steeled my resolve as a naval officer and, like thousands of other



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Nardel Cervacio

Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, delivers remarks during a 9/11 remembrance ceremony at the USS Bowfin (287) Museum. The ceremony commemorates the 12th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

Every Sept. 11 we commemorate the lives lost aboard four airliners, at the Twin Towers, aboard flight 93, and at the Pentagon in 2001 — men, women and children.

We are committed to ensuring the next generation never forgets.

Among the lessons of Sept. 11 and Dec. 7 is that on this day and at all times we must be trained, ready and able to respond when called upon.

I can imagine the shock and terrible destruction here in Pearl Harbor just as I witnessed the devastation caused by terrorists on 9/11.

But then, I can picture the thousands of ships that have sailed back into Pearl Harbor over the past seven decades — Sailors manning the rails — paying respects to fallen shipmates. In Afghanistan I witnessed the bravery of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and our Marines. We all remember the photos of weary firefighters holding battered children in their arms.

Today, along with you, I feel the depth of appreciation Americans have for their civilian and military first responders. That vigilance and readiness is a debt we owe to those who sacrificed everything for us — first responders and warriors — on our homeland, at sea or on foreign soil.

A breed apart, these heroes live by higher values, values they are willing to die for to protect. It takes skill and self-confidence to rush into danger where most others fear to tread. Our warriors, firefighters and other first responders here in Hawaii have those same qualities.

We will never forget Pearl Harbor, and we will never forget 9/11. We all take it personally!

Diverse Views



If you suspected that someone you knew was contemplating suicide, what action would you take?



1st Lt. Jessica Tait
PACAF

"I would take the time to listen. So often we are caught up in our own lives that we don't notice how others may be suffering. Once you have developed a level of trust and understanding, you can guide the person to the help they need."

Operations Specialist 2nd Class Eric Jackson
USS Lake Erie (CG-70)



"First thing first, every life is important. Every person is important to someone. You would comfort him or her and ask why. After asking, I would inform everyone I know because life is important. I would not let them throw their life away for something I can intervene in and support and help them."



Steve Diamond
PACAF historian

"I would sit down with them and ask them how things are going and share with them my concern and willingness to listen to anything they have to say, without judging them."

Seaman Apprentice Nathaniel Peryea
USS Lake Erie (CG-70)



"I would tell a chaplain because you don't want anyone of your shipmates taking their own life or doing harm to themselves."



Staff Sgt. Janett Kahalelio
154 Civil Engineers Squadron
HIANG

"I would take the time to listen and invite the person over to coffee or lunch, or even a barbecue. First of all, try to build some kind of relationship with the person so he/she will open up. Second, talk to someone else like a family member or friend and discuss with them and offer to help with anything just to show you care about the person and their doings. Hopefully, by then that person won't have suicidal tendencies."



Seaman Harris John B. Santos
USS Lake Erie (CG-70)

"The action I would take would be to tell him or her to think about their life, their family and the people that care about them. If it were someone I worked with, I would tell the chain of command. If it were someone I was close with, I would talk to them personally and convince them that life is important and that you need to move forward."

Airman 1st Class Baxter Popa
154 Civil Engineers Squadron
HIANG



"Start by listening and talking to the person about life. Maybe creating a distraction to get their mind clear of what's bothering them and slowly bring up the situation and solutions that best fit the person's needs."

(Provided by David D. Underwood 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 or karen.spangler@navy.mil

Americans, propelled me to seek assignments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Now, as commander of Navy Region Hawaii, Dec. 7, 1941 is personal to me, too.

I have met some of the heroes, the "living monuments" who survived that early day of infamy — survivors and warriors like Chief Ray Emory of USS Honolulu, who dedicates his life to full accounting, continued vigilance and unflinching readiness.

The veterans of World War II were the first, second and third responders in that war. They took the attack on Oahu personally. They hit back at Midway, in the Guadalcanal Campaign, and at Iwo Jima and Okinawa — island to island, beach to beach, rock to rock — across the Pacific.

They achieved victory against a totalitarian empire, an enemy threatened by freedom and democracy.

Today, American service

members serve in harm's way in a fight against violent extremists also opposed to freedom and democracy.

Our Navy's history is rich with examples of brave acts of courage in the name of freedom.

Here in Hawaii, the warships of our Naval Surface Group personify those qualities.

Our newest ships on the waterfront are USS Halsey (DDG 97) and USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112).

Halsey is named for Adm. William "Bull" Halsey, former Third Fleet commander and another hero of World War II who, like Fleet Adm. Nimitz, focused all his energy, skill and determination in defeating the enemy here in the Pacific. Their battle cry: "Remember Pearl Harbor."

USS Michael Murphy is our tie to 9/11.

This guided-missile destroyer is named for the courageous lieutenant — Navy SEAL — who lived

with honor and died for his fellow SEALs. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during Operation Red Wings in Afghanistan on June 28, 2005.

Lt. Michael Murphy was an ensign in BUD/S training on Sept. 11, 2001. A native of New York, Murphy had his unit wear the bright orange patch of Federal Fire Department of New York Engine Co. 54, Ladder Co. 43 on their uniforms. The patch was a constant reminder of the first responders of 9/11 and the reason SEALs were fighting extremists in Afghanistan.

In Operation Red Wings, he and two of his Navy SEALs were killed, along with a quick reaction force of eight SEALs and eight Army Night Stalkers when their MH-47 helicopter was shot down.

Like you, like firefighters and Navy SEALs everywhere, 9/11 is personal to me.

Entrance 'wings' flank the Hickam gatehouse



Photo courtesy of the Hawaii Department of Transportation

Wings at the entranceway flanking the gatehouse of Hickam Field were in place in 1937 but not yet painted and a perimeter fence had been installed. Official activation and completion of Hickam Field, as it was then known, took place on Sept. 15, 1938, 75 years ago this week.

HO'okele

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Navy Region Hawaii
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Layout/Design
Antonio Verceluz
Richard Onaha Hutter

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USS Tucson deploys

Story and photo by MC2 Steven Khor

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

Hugs and kisses from families and friends were seen on the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam as the Los Angeles-class, fast-attack submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) departed Sept. 5 for a deployment to the western Pacific region.

Cmdr. Ted O'Harrah, Tucson's commanding officer, said that the submarine and its crew are excited to get underway to have the opportunity to operate forward-deployed in support of national objectives.

"I am very proud of

Tucson's crew for the hard work and dedication they have shown in preparing for an overseas deployment," said O'Harrah.

O'Harrah said of the 133 Sailors who will be deploying, just over half of the Sailors will be on their first deployment.

He said that Tucson's goal is to safely and effectively conduct coordinated operations to help establish conditions for regional stability. Throughout the deployment, the crew will train to improve skills, knowledge and experience.

O'Harrah added that he is grateful to the crew's family and friends because without their support and sacrifice, Tucson could not be successful.

For Logistics Specialist

Seaman Cory Thuringer, a first deployment brings much enthusiasm and excitement.

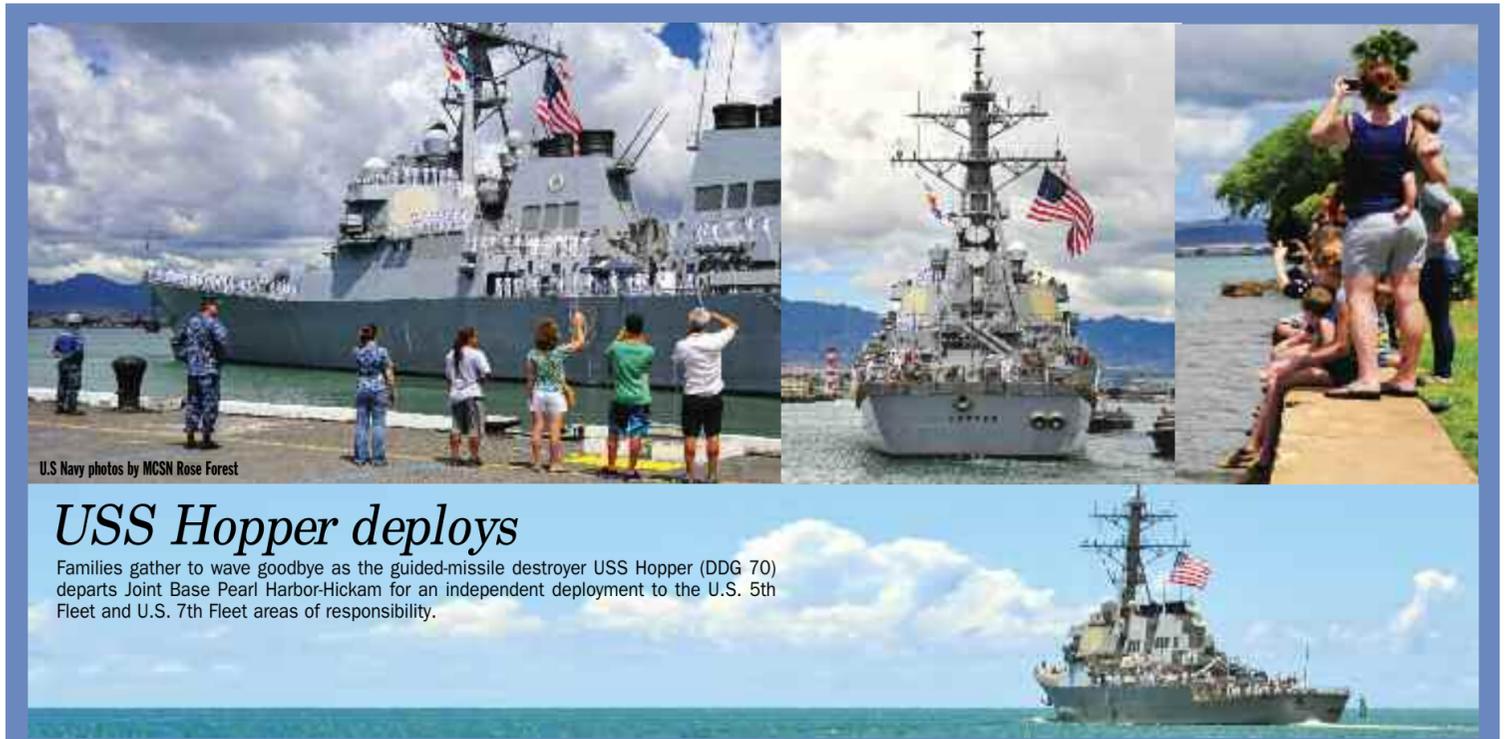
"Everyone always asks, are you ready for deployment? I said what is ready? I'll find out later!" joked Thuringer.

Tucson is the second ship of the United States Navy to bear the name of the Arizona city. It is the 59th Los Angeles-class attack submarine and the 20th of the improved Los Angeles-class attack submarine to be built.

Twelve vertical launch missile tubes for Tomahawk cruise missiles provide Tucson with great offensive capability. Retractable bow planes give the ship increased maneuverability and under ice surfacing potential.



Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Michael Dillinger of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) plays with his son Damon at a luncheon prior to the submarine's departure from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Sept. 5 for a deployment to the western Pacific region.



USS Hopper deploys

Families gather to wave goodbye as the guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for an independent deployment to the U.S. 5th Fleet and U.S. 7th Fleet areas of responsibility.

Open house for Forest City residents set for Sept. 17 at Hokulani

Darryl Nii

Navy Region Hawaii PPV Director

An open house for Forest City residents will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Sept. 17 at the Hokulani Community Center. It will be hosted by Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and Susan

Ridgeway, director of property management for Forest City.

The open house will provide residents with an opportunity to visit various information booths and meet with experts regarding various aspects of living in Forest City homes.

"This open house ensures any interested resident can have their individual ques-

tions and concerns addressed in a one-on-one forum," said James.

"For example, residents can learn how the increased electricity rate effective Oct. 1 impacts Forest City's existing services, how to conserve energy, or how to reduce crimes of opportunity in their neighborhood," he added.

Agencies that will provide information booths will

include Forest City's resident services and maintenance offices, Honolulu Police Department, Federal Fire Department, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society and the Navy's energy team from Naval Facilities Engineering command representatives from Navy Region Hawaii will include the resident energy conservation program (RECP) program manager,

housing liaison, personal finances counselor and ombudsman.

Questions regarding the open house can be addressed to Tatiana Quong, Forest City West Community manager, at 839-8640 or Todd Thom, Navy Region Hawaii housing liaison, at 474-1804. Also, Forest City's website entitled <http://live.withthebuffer.com/> provides infor-

mation regarding the Resident Energy Conservation Program.

You can also visit the Navy Region Hawaii website at www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii or Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam website at www.cnic.navy.mil/pearl-harbor-hickam and click on the electricity rates FY14 graphic at the bottom of "popular links."

Ad

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

(From left to right) Rear. Adm. Wei Gang, chief of staff for North Sea Fleet; Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet; and China's ambassador to the United States Cui Tiankai, lay a wreath at the USS Arizona Memorial during a tour of Pearl Harbor historic sites. Haney hosted Ambassador Cui and his delegation in conjunction with the ongoing port visit to Pearl Harbor by three Chinese navy ships.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 David Kolmel



(From left to right) People's Republic of China's Consul-General Los Angeles Liu Jian; China's ambassador to the United States Cui Tiankai; Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet; and Rear. Adm. Wei Gang, chief of staff for North Sea Fleet; drop flowers into the well on board the USS Arizona Memorial during a tour of Pearl Harbor historic sites.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 David Kolmel



Chief Electronics Technician (Select) Miguel Galindo of the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) shows his dog tags to son Isaiah at a luncheon prior to the submarine's departure Sept. 5 from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a deployment to the western Pacific region.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Steven Khor



In remembrance of the lives lost during the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001, 36 military personnel from all branches of service participated in a joint reenlistment ceremony aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial under the historic gun turret one. The oath was administered by Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army chief of staff, U.S. Pacific Command (front).

Photo courtesy of Battleship Missouri Memorial



Students and staff from Hickam Elementary School parade in front of Freedom Tower at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam as part of a remembrance ceremony of the attacks on 9/11.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Rose Forest



Students and staff from Hickam Elementary School parade in front of Freedom Tower at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam as part of a remembrance ceremony of the attacks on 9/11.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Rose Forest

Hawaii commands honor ombudsmen for 'selfless contributions'

Story and photo by
MC2 Nardel Gervacio

Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) held an appreciation dinner Sept. 6 at the Hickam Officer's Club for command ombudsmen from Navy Region Hawaii, Commander Submarine Forces Pacific, and Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe.

More than 80 command ombudsmen and trainers received certificates for their volunteer work. "I want to take the time to tell you how important you are to the Region/MIDPAC/SUBPAC team," said Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

"It is a privilege to work side-by-side with this fine group of supporters. Sharing *aloha* this evening demonstrates our mutual commitment to our loved ones, our Sailors, our community, and our Navy," he said.

Ombudsmen play an important role in the morale and welfare of the service members, especially

while deployed.

"Through this recognition dinner, we aim to inspire, pay tribute to, and celebrate our ombudsmen with all our stakeholders and shipmates sharing the universal ombudsman values of duty, strength, sacrifice and resolve," said Williams.

"*Mahalo* for all of your selfless contributions and steadfast support. You are the connection in this changing world. You are the key to our readiness and the readiness of our families. And you are the reason we are the best homeport in the Navy."

As a liaison between family members and a command, an ombudsman's job is to keep the families informed about what is going on with the service members and to be there as a point of contact in case of an emergency.

"Command ombudsmen are instrumental in resolving family issues before the issues require extensive command attention," said Teresa Espiritu, MFSC ombudsmen coordinator and trainer.

"They are primarily a communication link between the command and the command families. They don't always resolve issues but they serve as excellent, well-trained



Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, gives opening remarks during a command ombudsmen appreciation dinner held at the Hickam Officer's Club.

POCs for families on various information and resources," she explained.

Through the years, the ombudsman program has advanced and become more efficient with technol-

ogy such as e-mail and social media, but they have also become well known by the service members and their families.

"Events like this are important because they make us stop for a

moment to recognize the efforts of volunteers that give freely of their time in order to help the Navy family," said April Nicosia, Navy Region Hawaii ombudsman assembly chairperson.

Commentary

Using history as a tool for understanding, 'study the past'

Jim Neuman

Navy Region
Hawaii Historian

All eyes were on Hawaii last weekend as the Qingdao (DDG 113), Linyi (FFG-547) and Hongzhe (AOR 881) from the Chinese People's Liberation Army-Navy visited Pearl Harbor, the first visit of its kind since 2006. For my part, I experienced the great pleasure of providing an early Saturday morning harbor tour to 150 junior officers from the three ships.

The first part of the tour was relatively typical as I touched upon the various points of history around the harbor from ancient Hawaiian beginnings, to the construction of a naval base a century ago, and the seminal attack of Dec. 7, 1941.

Condensing hundreds of years

of history down into small "digestible" nuggets can be challenging to begin with, and it becomes even more difficult when it is conveyed through a translator but the occasional nodding head and smile seemed to indicate growing interest and understanding.

A visit to the Arizona Memorial always inspires. As I stood in the shrine room with my Chinese visitors, I explained the memorial's design and its sense of ultimate victory in 1945 following crushing defeat in 1941. I also noted the sculptures of the biblical Tree of Life on either side of the names evoking peace and not vengeance.

I expressed to them the fact that these names represented real Sailors and Marines, many of them teenagers who had given their lives in service to their country—a reality that carries universal patriotic appeal. Lastly, I

shared with them how much I appreciated the fact that they took the time to visit the memorial and the interest that they had in our history.

As we waited to board the boat departing the memorial, I caught sight of one Chinese officer berating another younger shipmate for wearing his hat sideways. Apparently he'd turned his hat to take a photo. I appreciated the sense of reverence that the older officer held for this sacred American shrine.

On the trip back to Merry Point Landing, I opened the floor for questions. There were many, but the session was highlighted by a few very important and honest inquiries.

"Considering the fact that the Japanese brought so much destruction on Dec 7, why are the United States and Japan such close allies today?" I reinforced

the fact that the United States fought and defeated Imperial Japan in World War Two in much the same way that the U.S. fought and defeated Nazi Germany. It was the totalitarian system that sought to dominate their region that we fought to defeat, and not a personal war against the people of either country.

Another question was, "Why did General MacArthur allow the Japanese emperor to remain on his throne following the war?"

My response was that once again it was the Imperial Japanese military who was calling the shots in Japan. With the defeat of that system, the emperor could persuade the Japanese people to stop fighting a destructive war, making his policy and U.S. policy essentially the same. The emperor's role became a positive one of peace and reconciliation.

The most provocative question was saved for last, when I was asked if I was aware that Japanese textbooks "denied" Japan's role as the aggressor in the Pacific War, even excluded any mention of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. My answer was simply that I was not aware of the textbooks in question, but that it was a reminder to me of the importance of history being preserved, researched and taught freely, with the utmost care for accuracy, so that future generations will benefit from the lessons learned.

Ignorance or even a misunderstanding of history can have far-reaching effects on current relations between individuals and nations. The probing questions of our Chinese guests reminded me of the words of Confucius: "Study the past if you would define the future."

Chief selectees participate in Chief Petty Officer Pride Day

Story and photo by
MC1 Cynthia Clark

Defense Media
Activity, Hawaii

Naval Information Operations Command hosted the inaugural Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Pride Day Hawaii held Sept. 4 at the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Ford Island.

Similar events are held annually in San Diego, Great Lakes and Jacksonville. This started Hawaii CPOs brainstorming and the Hawaii CPO Pride Day was born. The event gives chiefs yet another chance to instill and promote CPO pride, mess cohesion and encourages cross-island CPO communication through competition into the newest generation of chiefs.

"We're hoping that this is the first of many," said Chief Cryptological



Chief selectees from around Hawaii prepare for the results of the inaugural Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Pride Day Hawaii Marching and Cadence Competition at the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Sept. 4.

Technician (Collection) Rasheem Wynn, event coordinator. "When we designed this, we want this to be a

legacy," Wynn said. According to Wynn, the idea of holding the inaugural CPO Pride Day at

the Battleship Missouri Memorial was part of the legacy they would like to carry on.

"[This is] one of the most historic parts that we have here in Hawaii," he continued. "It helps our selectees

understand what their place is, as new chief petty officers, and understand we can't forget those that have come before us. That's what we're here for."

"It's all about pride and heritage, for them as new chiefs," he said.

The importance of tradition, camaraderie and sense of pride was not lost on the selectees who participated in the event.

"It is such an honor. We worked very hard, tirelessly to put this together, to come together and show our pride and really represent Navy Region [Hawaii]," said Chief (select) Hospital Corpsman Ashley Aldeguer from U.S. Military Entrance Processing Station Hawaii.

"It's instilled a sense of pride in my obligation to my country and the honor and privilege that we have to be chosen to represent as chief petty officers," Aldeguer said.

Sailors get 'Shot of Reality' through interactive comedy show

Story and photo by
MC2 Nardel Gervacio

Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs

Sailors assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) recently attended a showing of "A Shot of Reality" at Sharkey Theater.

The show combines interactive comedy, audience role playing, facts and education to give the audiences a "shot of reality" about the dangers of alcohol.

On hand at the show were members of the JBPHH Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) who handed out shirts that read "Proud, Tough, Strong, Determined" to Sailors as well as information pamphlets on destructive behavior.

Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Abrel Smith of the security department, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

CSADD president, led the attendees with the Sailor's Creed and explained the role and upcoming events involving CSADD.

Actors Patrick McIntyre and Bruce Wissel presented the sketch comedy show for the Sailors in the audience.

"I liked that they were able to include comedy as well as be informative," said Information Systems 2nd Class (IDW) Carmen Hernandez, assigned to Regional Operations Center (ROC) Hawaii. "This made it different from all the typical trainings we have."

The program alternated between improvisations in which the audience participated and educational sketches that presented facts and statistics.

"The importance of these types of events is it talks about reality and what our young generations see and do," said Chief Culinary Specialist (SW/AW) Edwin M. Ebreo, alcohol and drug control officer at Navy Region Hawaii.

"This show makes Sailors get involved with the topics presented and have fun while learning," Ebreo said.

McIntyre and Wissel addressed such issues as binge drinking, health risks, alcohol misuse, drunk driving, assault, social mistakes and alcohol-related laws.

"The audience was very responsive, really paying attention to what the actors were going to say and do," said Ebreo. "The audience can also relate on every topic to their own experience."

According to the website, the comedy show has been nominated for dozens of awards and won the 2011 Comedy Act of the Year from Campus Activities Magazine.

"I thought the performance by Patrick and Bruce was brilliant," said Smith. "The idea of adding comedy elements to a serious topic lightens the mood and makes it more relatable to service members."

The company has performed



Sailors assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam participate in a game during a showing of "A Shot of Reality" at Sharkey Theater.

from Lollapalooza Rock Fest to Disney Cruise Lines to colleges and universities in nearly every state in the country.

"These events are important because they relate more to younger Sailors, and they put

information out in a way that a younger audience can relate to," said Hernandez.

"Overall, I have to say that this training is a good way to get a lot of great information out to Sailors."

Official activation of Hickam took place 75 years ago this week

(Editor's note: Information was provided by the 15th Wing website.)

The history of Hickam Field, now part of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, will reach a milestone this Sunday.

Official activation and completion of Hickam Field, as it was then known, took place on Sept. 15, 1938, 75 years ago this week.

While construction was still in progress, the first contingent of 12 men and four aircraft under the command of 1st Lt. Robert Warren moved from Luke Field on Ford Island to Hickam on Sept. 1, 1937.

Hickam was the principal army airfield in Hawaii and the only one large enough to accommodate the B-17 bomber.

The origin of Hickam dates as far back as 1934, when the Army Air Corps saw the need for another airfield in Hawaii and assigned the Quartermaster Corps the job of constructing a modern airdrome from tangled brush and sugar cane fields adjacent to Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu.

The site selected consisted of 2,200 acres of ancient coral reef, covered by a thin layer of soil, located between Oahu's Waianae and Koolau mountain ranges, with the Pearl Harbor channel and naval reservation marking its western and northern boundaries, John Rodgers Airport to the east, and Fort Kamehameha on the south.

The new airfield was dedicated on May 31, 1935 and named in honor of Lt. Col. Horace Meek Hickam, a distinguished aviation pioneer who was killed in an aircraft accident on Nov. 5 1934, at Fort Crockett in Galveston, Texas.

In connection with defense plans for the Pacific, aircraft were brought to Hawaii throughout 1941 to prepare for potential hostilities. The first mass flight of bombers (21 B-17Ds) from Hamilton Field, Calif., arrived at Hickam on May 14, 1941. By December 1941, the Hawaiian Air Force had been an integrated command for slightly more than one year and consisted of 754 officers and 6,706 enlisted men, with 233 aircraft assigned at its three primary bases on Oahu (Hickam, Wheeler and Bellows Fields).

When the Japanese attacked Oahu's military installations on Dec. 7, 1941, Hickam suffered extensive property damage, aircraft losses and personnel casualties totaling 139 killed and 303 wounded.

The bombing and strafing of Hickam Field was an important objective, because the success of the Japanese attack on the Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor was dependent on eliminating air opposition and precluding U.S. planes from following their aircraft back to their carriers and bombing the task force.

During the war years, the base played a major role in pilot training and aircraft assembly work, in addition to serving as a supply center for both air and ground troops. Hickam served as the hub of the Pacific aerial network, supporting transient aircraft ferrying troops and supplies to, and evacuating wounded from, the forward areas, not only during World War II but also during the Korean conflict and the Vietnam War.

After World War II, the Air Force in Hawaii was primarily comprised of the Air Transport Command and its



Photos courtesy of Hawaii Department of Transportation (Clockwise from top left): One of the concrete portals flanking Hickam Field's main gate, Feb. 21, 1938, prior to official activation. Lt. Col. Horace Hickam for whom Hickam Field, later Hickam Air Force Base was named. 1st Lt. Robert Warren moved from Luke Field with four aircraft and 12 men and became Hickam Field's first commanding officer on Aug. 27, 1937.



successor, the Military Air Transport Service, until July 1, 1957 when Headquarters Far East Air Forces completed its move from Japan to Hawaii and was redesignated the Pacific Air Forces.

The 6486th Air Base Wing (1957-1971) and the 15th Air Base Wing (later the 15th Airlift Wing as of 2003, then 15th Wing, the host units at the former Hickam Air Force Base (AFB), supported the Apollo astronauts in the 1960s and 1970s; Operation Homecoming (return of prisoners of war from Vietnam) in 1973; Operation Babylift/New Life (movement of nearly 94,000 orphans, refugees, and evacuees from Southeast Asia) in 1975; and NASA's space shuttle flights during the 1980s, continuing into the 1990s.

In October 1980, the Secretary of the Interior designated Hickam AFB as a National Historic Landmark, recognizing it as one of the nation's most significant historic resources

associated with World War II in the Pacific.

The former Hickam Air Force Base and Naval Base Pearl Harbor were realigned to form Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam (JBPHH), which became fully operational on Oct. 1, 2010.

A bronze plaque reflecting Hickam's "national significance in commemorating the history of the United States of America" took its place among other memorials surrounding the base flagpole. Dominating the area is a large bronze tablet engraved with the names of those who died as a result of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack.

Other reminders of the attack can be seen at Hickam today, including the tattered American flag that flew over the base that morning. It is encased and on display in the lobby of the Pacific Air Forces Headquarters building, where bullet-scarred walls have been carefully preserved as a constant reminder to never again be caught unprepared.

SAR exercise

Continued from A-1

"This is a great opportunity for our Navy and China's navy to build a relationship based on the training exercises today," Wu said.

A productive relationship with the PLA(N) is an essential part of the U.S. Navy's ongoing rebalance strategy, providing an opportunity to deal with common challenges that all Pacific nations face: the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, search and rescue, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, narco-trafficking, piracy, and protecting the free use of the seas and the global commons like space and cyberspace.

Adm. Cecil Haney, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, said activities this past week in Hawaii and

San Diego demonstrate the U.S. Navy's commitment to building a positive and constructive relationship with the Chinese navy, where they contribute to regional stability as a member of the community of nations.

"Our commitment to exploring closer cooperation with China must occur on the foundation of existing U.S. alliances and other partnerships in the region," said Haney.

"We want to work with China, our allies and partners to create a shared future that deals with security challenges faced by all Pacific nations. Port visits, senior leader dialogues, bilateral engagements and multilateral exercises will help the U.S. and China work toward common goals while also candidly addressing our differences," Haney said.

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