

F-22 Raptors 'fly high' in first Red Flag deployment

Staff Sgt. Terri Barriere

15th Wing Public Affairs

A total force team comprised of F-22 Raptors, active duty and Hawaii Air National Guard personnel successfully completed the Hawaiian Raptors first over-water deployment when they returned Feb. 2 from Red Flag 13-2 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

"To the Hawaiian Raptors, this Red Flag deployment had significant meaning," said Lt. Col. Mark Ladtchow, 199th Fighter Squadron (FS) commander. "This was the first full-scale deployment from the state of Hawaii in the F-22 Raptor. It was a true testament to our total force initiative (TFI) as well as our maintenance, operations and support personnel."

Ladtchow said the mission substantiated the crew's ability to mobilize, generate and deploy eight F-22s with their associated equipment and personnel. The F-22s were employed in highly complex day and night operations in nearly all of their mission sets and demonstrated the ability to redeploy and reconstitute within the allotted time and fiscal constraints.

Red Flag, the largest full-scale exercise that depicts wartime conditions, provided the perfect opportunity for the Hawaii Raptors to validate their training pro-



grams, unit employment capability and overall combat capability.

"We have been working relentlessly over the past two years on our conversion from the F-15 to the F-22," Ladtchow said. "We have worked hard to make our TFI team one to be emulated throughout the Air Force."

In order to prepare for the two-week-long Red Flag exercise, Ladtchow said the 199th and 19th Fighter Squadrons worked continuously, both as individual entities and as a team. There were 40 active duty Airmen, 101 Air National Guard Airmen and 11 contractors that came together

to make Red Flag 13-2 a success.

According to Ladtchow,

the years of preparation and sending his folks to attend other exercises, while continuing to hone their skills in the Air Combat Simulator, paid off. The Hawaii Raptors were the only unit at Red Flag 13-2 to not lose a single sortie to maintenance or support issues.

Ladtchow said this proves they are ready to deploy and fight when called upon.

accomplishment to orchestrate each mission with more than 90 aircraft, over a dozen airframes and five different countries."

"While we had our fair share of learning points, there's some satisfaction in knowing that with those lessons learned, we are able to assemble a very formidable and lethal joint force product at the end of the day," he said.

After successfully completing Red Flag 13-2, the Hawaii Raptors are on the fast track for real world deployments to the area of responsibility in the not-so-distant future.

Red Flag
1 3 - 2

Flight; Tech. Sgt. Sonja Kahawaii, 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Staff Sgt. Greg Myers, 154th Maintenance Group; Staff Sgt. Logan Stelle, 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Senior Airman Sean Lum, 154th Wing; and Senior Airman Edward Siao, 199 FS.

Master Sgt. Carlos Diaz, 154th Operations Support Squadron received an honorable mention.

(Top) Col. John Roscoe, 15th Wing commander, along with Brig. Gen. Braden Sakai, 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard, commander and his wife, welcome Tech. Sgt. Jay Nishimura, 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron F-22 avionics systems specialist, back from Red Flag 13-2 on Feb. 2.

Air National Guard photo by Sr. Master Sgt. Kristen M. Stanley

(Left) A Hawaii Raptor assigned to the 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard, takes off from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., during Red Flag 13-2 on Jan. 23.

Courtesy Leading Edge Images photo by Glenn Bloore

(Below) Maintainers deployed from the 15th Wing and 154th Wing, Air National Guard, perform maintenance checks on F-22 Raptors at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Courtesy photo by Ervin Booker



Navy divers, Waipahu students 'walk tall' to promote drug prevention

Story and photo by MC2 Nardel Gervacio

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Navy divers from Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) One, accompanied by local firefighters and police officers, walked with teachers and students Feb. 6 to raise awareness about drug prevention.

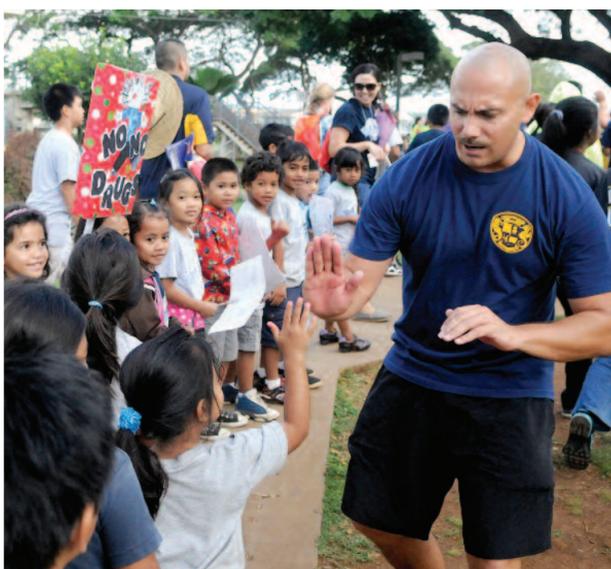
The Waipahu Elementary School Drug Free Walk is an annual event held within the Waipahu neighborhood to promote education, mentoring and healthy lifestyle choices with a focus on drug prevention awareness.

"MDSU-1 has sponsored the drug free walk for the past five years," said Cmdr. Thomas Murphy, MDSU-1 commanding officer. "We have also continued our relationship with the school in weekly health activities through the Waipahu Elementary School keiki fitness program."

Before the start of the walk, Gary Chun, principal of Waipahu Elementary School, thanked sponsors as well as the Sailors assigned to MDSU-1.

"This walk sends a message that we care about their lives and to let them know that drugs is not the answer to living," said Chun.

"Drugs destroy so many lives. It is important that we teach children the dangers of drugs and help them to grow in the



Chief Navy Diver (DSW/SS/SW) Donald R. Acker of Waianae, assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) One, gives high fives to students at Waipahu Elementary School following the completion of their annual drug free walk.

right direction," said MDSU-1 Construction Mechanic 1st Class Christopher Thorp.

"That's why I am here every week leading the keiki fitness program, volunteering for the 'Kindergartners Are Most Precious' program at the beginning of each school year and the 'Read Aloud America' program every two years," Thorp said.

The approximately one-mile walk started along Waialeale Road, continuing through Pupupuhi Street and Pupukahi Street and Farrington Highway, as the students shouted "be drug free" along the route. Many drivers honked as they drove by to show their support.

See PARTICIPANTS, A-2

'Share'-ing the good news



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Chad Ruge

U.S. Naval Academy Midshipman 1st Class Ashleigh Share celebrates after choosing the guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), homeported in Hawaii, during ship selection night. Ship selection is an annual event at the Naval Academy when future surface warfare officers of the senior class of midshipmen select their next assignment following their graduation and commissioning.



PACAF C-17 demo team departs for Aero India See page A-2



Tothero relieves Seif during USS Buffalo change of command See page A-2



USS Cheyenne visits Subic Bay page A-3



PACAF's "Hana Hou" band performs at Vietnamese New Year celebration See page A-4



Celebrating Chinese New Year See page B-1



Sounds of Freedom to race in Great Aloha Run on Presidents' Day, Feb. 18 See page B-6

PACAF C-17 demo team departs for Aero India

Staff Sgt. Terri Barriere
15th Wing Public Affairs

The Pacific Air Forces C-17 demo team departed Jan. 31 from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, en route to Bangalore, India, to showcase the diverse capabilities of the C-17 Globemaster III at the bi-annual international tradeshow Aero India 2013.

The team is scheduled to perform for the more than 250,000 expected attendees Feb. 6-10.

Maj. Kenneth Kirkpatrick, 535th Airlift Squadron (AS) and PACAF demo team lead, said the airshow will provide a platform to display the C-17 to the international community while also giving the host country's

government an opportunity to see its latest aircraft purchase in action.

The largest tradeshow of its kind in India, Aero India is expected to draw more than 29 different countries and 675 companies to the multi-day event.

"Ultimately, we attend Aero India to show support for India ... that's our main purpose," Kirkpatrick said.

In addition to capitalizing on the opportunity to strengthen relations with India, participating in the airshow also provides an excellent training opportunity for the demo team.

"This is a big deal ... huge," said Lt. Col. William Berck, 535th AS director of operations.



"This is more than just an airshow. It's a theater engagement for PACOM and allows us a chance to engage nation to nation. It's a fantastic opportunity for us to demo our capability to our allies and for us to engage with our nation's partners and build relationships."

The U.S. has been participating in Aero India since 2005.

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

Staff Sgt. Robby Richardson, 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron C-17 Globemaster III crew chief, secures tow straps for a trailer aboard a C-17 Globemaster III on the flightline at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Jan. 31.

Tothero relieves Seif during USS Buffalo change of command

MC2 Steven Khor

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

Cmdr. Brian L. Tothero relieved Cmdr. Richard E. Seif as commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Buffalo (SSN 715) during a change of command ceremony held Feb. 1.

The event was held at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Rear Adm. James G. Foggo III., guest speaker, praised Seif for his exceptional performance while in command of Buffalo.

"Rick, in my humble opinion, there hasn't been a boat with a record of



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jon Dasbach
Cmdr. Richard E. Seif is piped ashore after being relieved by Cmdr. Brian L. Tothero as commanding officer of USS Buffalo (SSN 715).

achievement and performance like this in a long time. Well done," said Foggo.

During his speech, Foggo announced that Seif received the Legion of Merit award for his performance as the commanding officer of Buffalo from April 2010 to February 2013.

Seif said he is proud of having the opportunity to command Buffalo and working with some fantastic Sailors.

"Men of Buffalo, your performance over the past three years has been nothing less than spectacular," said Seif.

"It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve with you and command this warship. I'm grateful to all of you."

As Tothero assumed command of Buffalo, he thanked Seif for turning over a great ship and an even greater crew.

"I am able to serve with a crew that has amassed a series of successes over its time while forward-deployed in Guam. To the man, they are truly the best and brightest of our nation's youth and young adults. It is an honor to serve with them," said Tothero.

While under Seif's command, Buffalo completed numerous bilateral exercises, received a Meritorious Unit Commendation, won two Battle "E" awards, completed three six-month deployments, and won the Navy's prestigious Arleigh Burke fleet trophy.

Participants in walk send message to 'be drug-free' to community, students

Continued from A-1

"This event is great for the community. It brings the military and the locals closer together," said Yeoman 2nd Class (EXW/SW) Andrew Linga of Los Angeles, Calif., assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One.

"By getting the students early with these events and the message it brings, the kids become aware that drugs are not a way to be, and we all see that with the flyers they're holding up this morning."

Thorp said all children

deserve a safe and nurturing environment and to have positive role models in their community. "After all, they are our country's future leaders," he said.

Murphy explained the goals of the drug free walk for the neighborhood, led by Thorp and other members of the MDSU-1 team.

"When the community sees the Sailors involved, they know that we're here and we care. It's a big impact to them," said Linga.

At the conclusion of the walk, Sailors served healthy snacks

to the students.

"We hope to have a positive impact on the community and the students at Waipahu Elementary School. It is also important that the community sees that our Sailors care about the local community, the elementary school and, most importantly, its young students," Murphy said.

"We're proud of who we are and what we do, and we're proud to be supporting the students and local community," he added.

"First off what we're doing is planting seeds into the hearts

and minds of the young," said Chief Navy Diver (DSW/SS/SW) Donald R. Acker of Waianae, who welcomed every student with high-fives when they completed the walk.

"Drugs and alcohol all have bad effects on people when done improperly. For the neighborhood, I believe in a tipping point by us walking around like we did today. It gives them motivation and for hope and for something positive, something bigger and better than what they are by themselves," Acker said.

Nelda Soosenuu, a parent

whose son is in kindergarten, said, "The Sailors have been very supportive, and I know that the kids look up to them. It's important to teach our kids while they're still young to be drug free and as they get older, they'll understand. I'm grateful that they're all here today."

MDSU-1 provides combat ready, expeditionary, rapidly deployable mobile diving and salvage detachments to conduct harbor clearance, salvage, underwater search and recovery, and underwater emergency repairs in any environment.

Diverse Views



"February is African American History Month. What African American (living or dead) do you most admire, and why?"



Capt. Austin Gruber
735th Air Mobility Squadron

"Gen. (ret) Colin Powell who was born of Jamaican immigrants in the Bronx, New York and rising through the military ranks, overcoming adversity and holding the highest position in the military."

Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Saranda Duckett
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam/Maintenance



"I would say Bill Cosby, because he is very supportive of African Americans, as long as they're supportive of themselves."



Tech. Sgt. LaTonya Robinson
647th Force Support Squadron

"My mom, because she sacrificed so much for me. I wouldn't be the person I am without her."

Gunner's Mate 1st Class Max Gassant
Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 1



"I would say Nelson Mandela because he spent a bunch of time in jail, and he fought against racism and still became president and is still doing things for his country."



Senior Master Sgt. David Satchell
515th Air Mobility Operations Wing

"I most admire Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. because of perseverance and character that was tested all the time. Dr. King showed the unique ability to remain calm and compassionate even when facing the toughest challenges."

Victor M. Flint
CPLO NAVFAC



"The one I most admire is Martin Luther King Jr. The reason is his statement 'Never judge a person by the color of their skin, but the content of their character,' and growing up here in Hawaii that is so true. For me, that is really important. I look at the person, not at their color."



Sharon Allen Thurston
Hickam Commissary

"My dad, Richard Allen, USN (ret) because he was a strong Navy SEAL instructor and a Navy boxing champion for seven consecutive years. He instilled a strong work ethic and a sense of country over self in me and my siblings."

Master Sgt. John Marquez
Binnicker PME Center



"The first name that came to mind when asked this question was Martin Luther King Jr. As we know throughout our history, he is best known for his role in the advancement of civil rights using non-violent civil disobedience. I admire his character, leadership and passion for creating awareness for social injustices. He not only inspired hope to the African American race, but also to all generations of every race, religion and gender to become leaders of the free world today. Martin Luther King Jr. once stated, 'Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.' Without his efforts, our diverse military would not have the character and identity needed to preserve our freedoms of today and tomorrow."

(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 or karen.spangler@navy.mil

USS Cheyenne visits Subic Bay, Philippines

Lt. Cmdr. Lara Bollinger

Submarine Group 7 Public Affairs

SUBIC BAY, Republic of the Philippines (NNS) -- The last of the improved Los Angeles-class submarines, USS Cheyenne (SSN 773), homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, arrived in Subic Bay on Feb. 1 as part of its western Pacific deployment.

With a crew of approximately 150 Sailors, Cheyenne will be conducting various military exercises for training.

"It is our pleasure to visit Subic Bay. My Sailors and crew have earned this much deserved rest in this great town," said Cmdr. Noel Gonzalez, Cheyenne's commanding officer.

"We have been out to sea for a while conducting lots of training, becoming proficient at our jobs, and employing the ship as she was designed to be used. My crew looks forward to building good relationships and reinforcing our partnerships in the Philippines," Gonzalez said.

"We enjoy our job and being out to sea, but every Sailor will tell you that visiting foreign ports is part of the reason many of us joined the Navy," Gonzalez said.

"This visit to Subic Bay is well deserved," said Chief of the Boat, Master Chief Electronic Technician Michael Hinkle.

Cheyenne is one of the most capable submarines in the U.S. Navy. Its enhanced capabilities include



U.S. Navy file photo by MC2 Steven Khor

The Los Angeles class fast attack submarine USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a six-month deployment to the western Pacific region in Dec. 2012.

advanced sonar systems and a state of the art engine room. Its sophisticated design and highly trained crew enable Cheyenne to operate globally, ready for any mission.

"We are looking forward to exploring the area and taking part in some community service projects during our time here."

For crew members like Culinary Specialist Seaman Sheldon Alvarez, this is their first time visiting the Philippines.

"I am looking forward to exploring the area," said Alvarez. "This is my first port visit ever, and I am happy to be here and have the ability to contribute in an area of the world I have never visited before."

Some of Cheyenne's Filipino-American Sailors,

like Electronics Technician Seaman Teodorico-Dante Tapia, will have an opportunity to connect with their heritage.

"I am really looking forward to finding the food I grew up eating as well as dishes I've never tasted before," said Tapia. "I can't wait for some liberty to explore the place my elders still call home. I am an American, but I am a descendant of the Philippines, and this is my first chance to see a place I've only dreamed of visiting," Tapia explained.

"I am looking forward to exploring the area," said Alvarez. "This is my first port visit ever, and I am happy to be here and have the ability to contribute in an area of the world I have never visited before."

Some of Cheyenne's Filipino-American Sailors,

Pearl Harbor survivor energetically embraces new technology

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Holding his iPhone with confidence, George Bennett can describe the evolution of modern communication technology in the United States as if he was there from the beginning—because he was.

Bennett, a retired chief aviation radioman, was 17 when he witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. He returned for a visit to Pearl Harbor and the Battleship Missouri Memorial from Feb. 1-4.

Bennett, born 24 years before the invention of the transistor and six decades before the start of the digital revolution, described how communication changed during his lifetime.

"I learned Morse code when I was a Boy Scout. In the Navy I had to learn international code, which was



U.S. Navy photo by Brandon Bosworth

Using his iPhone, retired Chief Aviation Radioman George Bennett, a Pearl Harbor survivor, discusses advances in technology with Navy Region Hawaii historian Jim Neuman and public affairs officer Agnes Tauyan.

much easier to learn. I still remember it," Bennett said.

"When I left the Navy I went to work for the railroad and they used Morse code. Then I moved to Oregon where 'Telegraphone' and telephone technology was

taking over. With that equipment, you had to crank it so many times. It would ring, and people would answer it if it was their ring."

Bennett saw communication technology improve quickly at Union

Pacific Railroad.

"They converted to two wires and different frequencies, then to a computerized telephone system and automation. It was really something," he said.

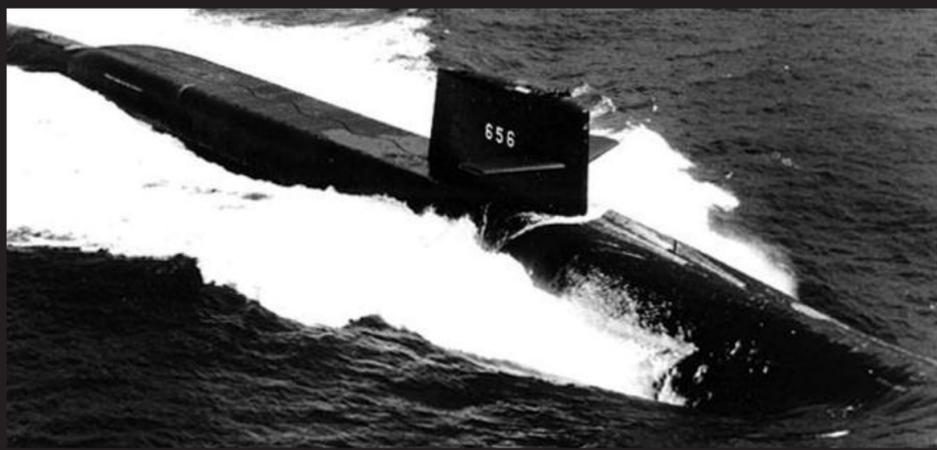
Bennett has seen similar advances in other areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and energy.

He is a proponent of photovoltaic (solar) arrays as an alternative to foreign oil and other fossil fuels, including at Ford Island and other locations at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"I think it's a good idea," said Bennett. "We have solar panels in Washington and in Hillsboro, Ore. It pays. It's quite a job security for people," he added.

He said he believes in the benefits of new energy technologies, and he can show you the evidence on his iPhone.

Submarine named in honor of African American scientist



Official Navy photograph | Courtesy of Naval History and Heritage Command

The USS George Washington Carver (SSBN-656) is shown here underway at sea in June 1966. George Washington Carver carried out 73 patrols in the Atlantic before being transferred to the Pacific for final operations in mid-1991. The ballistic-missile submarine was named in honor of the African American scientist George Washington Carver. February commemorates African American History Month.

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HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM NEWS

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'SPIDERS' complete phase one at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

U.S. Pacific Command J81 – Energy Office

Denise Emsley
Naval Facilities Engineering
Command Hawaii

Guests were invited to attend an operational energy security demonstration effort Jan. 25, co-sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Northern Command, that is underway at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH). The effort is called Smart Power Infrastructure Demonstration for Energy Reliability and Security (SPIDERS) Joint Capability Technology Demonstration (JCTD).

"We're extremely pleased with recent demonstrations of the SPIDERS cyber-secure microgrid at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam," said Ross Roley, U.S. Pacific Command J81 energy office lead and SPIDERS operational manager.

"It's the culmination of nearly

four years of effort by two combatant commands, five national labs, the Departments of Defense, Energy and Homeland Security, and the Office of Naval Research with tremendous cooperation from Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii and the contractor team," Roley said.

The purpose of the demonstration is to gather operational data on the protection of cyber-secure smart microgrids with demand side management and integration of renewable energy and energy storage on military installations for enhanced mission assurance during prolonged outages of commercial power.

"We have completed phase one at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam," said Ross. "The technical demonstration conducted in December 2012 exceeded expectations."

In one test, the microgrid was synchronized to the Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) power



grid and "pushed" 1.2 MW of electricity to the utility, in essence slowing the meter down and acting as demand response. At another point in the testing, 90 percent of the required electricity

came from renewable energy sources.

The deployment of cyber-secure smart microgrids on military installations will not replace commercial power as a primary source,

U.S. Navy photo by Denise Emsley
Rear Adm. Frank Ponds (center), commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, learns about the Smart Power Infrastructure Demonstration for Energy Reliability and Security (SPIDERS) Joint Capability Technology Demonstration (JCTD) from Dave Barr (left), the integration contractor from Burns and McDonnell, and Dr. George Ka'iiliwai III (right), PACOM director of resources and assessment (J8), Jan. 25 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

but will enable secure and sustainable backup power for critical missions with enhanced reliability and endurance at installation scale.

In addition to providing enhanced energy security, the microgrid at JBPHH is expected to save \$43,000 per year while a subsequent SPIDERS microgrid planned for Camp Smith could save up to \$950,000 per year.

PACAF's 'Hana Hou' band performs at Vietnamese New Year celebration

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

HONOLULU, Hawaii – Members of the U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific's "Hana Hou" ensemble performed at the Vietnamese New Year celebration festival Feb. 3 to welcome in the Lunar New Year for Vietnamese-Americans on Oahu.

The 11-member band played several genres of music including disco, pop, rock, rhythm and blues, and old school Motown sounds as part of the celebration. Master Sgt. Gary Noel, Air Force Band of the Pacific director of operations, worked with Paul Nguyen, Secretary General of the Free Vietnamese Organization, to plan the band's performance during the celebration.

"This year we felt we needed some Air Force involvement, and we heard (the Hana Hou band) was the best - they have the best reputation," Nguyen said. "We wanted our celebration to be more entertaining to both locals and tourists. We felt the band was the right choice."

Known to Vietnamese speakers by its shortened name, "Tet Nguyen Dan," the celebration marks the first day of the Lunar



(From left) Senior Airman Devin Rivas-Martin, Master Sgt. Lara Murdzia, and Tech. Sgt. Tamiko Boone, vocalists from the Pacific Air Forces Band of the Pacific's "Hana Hou" ensemble perform Feb. 3 on the bandstand at Kapiolani Park in Honolulu, Hawaii, during the Vietnamese New Year celebration.

New Year, which officially begins Feb. 10. Many calendars, including the Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese calendars, are all based on the 12 lunar phases of the moon.

Many Vietnamese use this celebration as an opportunity to worship ancestors, be with family, and

forget the troubles of the past year, while hoping for a better new year. Nguyen said he could not think of a better way to bring together Oahu residents of all nationalities to join in the celebration.

According to Noel, Nguyen added the band to the celebration's line-up based on its reputation and

ability to connect people bilaterally and generationally with music.

"A lot of (the band's opportunities) are based on the reputation we have. We're out in the public a lot and they know our product - they know we're all professional musicians," he said. "(Nguyen) wanted us because he wanted a mix of different kinds of acts to celebrate the fact that they're not only Vietnamese, they're American as well."

Staff Sgt. Troy Griffin, a percussionist with the band, said that while locals who know of the band already think of them as "rock stars," increasing financial restraints will likely cause the band to focus even more on expanding engagements through local outreach opportunities.

"With limited (temporary duties in the Asia-Pacific region) now, we're really going to take advantage of playing out in the (Hawaii) community and making sure people know that we're here," he said. "We've noticed that when we go to other islands like Maui and Molokai, we see people fly-in to see us play because they are not aware we play here in Oahu."

Concert attendee Lien Pham, a 16-year-old Vietnamese-American, said the performance was certainly one worthy of remembrance.

"They were super - really, really, really good. They were the best (band) I've heard all day," she said. "It's really cool to see them perform here integrating their culture with ours, celebrating with everyone. I'm videotaping it so I can watch it again later."

The Hana Hou band supports the Pacific Air Forces Commander in expanding engagements through building partnerships and relationships throughout Asia-Pacific region by harnessing the universal power of music to inspire immediate, positive and long-lasting impressions of the U.S. Air Force and the United States of America in the hearts and minds of audiences worldwide.

The band has traveled throughout the Pacific supporting a number of airshows and exercises to enhance and lift the morale and esprit de corps of servicemembers and communities throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Some recent events the band has supported include the Singapore Airshow 2012, and the Chiefs of Defense Conference, where senior military leaders from 36 Asia-Pacific countries were in attendance. The band is scheduled to perform at the Australian International Airshow this year.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



(Left, below) Maintainers deployed from the 15th Wing and 154th Wing, Air National Guard, crew conduct pre-flight checks prior to launching an F-22 Raptor in support of Red Flag 13-2 from Jan. 21 through Feb 1.

Courtesy photo by Ervin Booker



U.S. Navy photo by Dennis Rowley

A Japanese buoy was found last week by Pacific Missile Range Facility's weapon recovery boat 102, two miles off the coast of Nohili Point, Kauai.



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Cmdr. Al Unger

Bound for Wheeler Army Airfield, a United States Army Chinook helicopter lifts off from a helo pad on Pearl Harbor. On January 16-17, Ocean Terminals personnel from NAVSUP [Naval Supply] Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor offloaded 67 Chinooks, Blackhawks and Kiowa helicopters from USNS Benavidez (T-AKR-306). The helicopters, which were being redeployed from Afghanistan, belong to the 25th Infantry Division's Combat Aviation Brigade. The 950-foot Benavidez is named for Medal of Honor recipient Master Sgt. Roy Benavidez.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Class Nardel Cervacio

Sailors assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) One and students from Waipahu Elementary School walk along Farrington Highway during the annual Waipahu Elementary School Drug Free Walk.



U.S. Navy photo courtesy of Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) hosted a visit from staff delegates who are seen preparing to depart from the ship via helo. Paul Hamilton is currently on a regularly scheduled deployment.

15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron personnel prepare a C-17 Globemaster III for departure Jan. 31 on the flightline at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The Pacific Air Forces C-17 Globemaster III demonstration team will perform during Aero India 2013, showcasing the C-17 capabilities at one of Asia's most premier air shows.

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



Sailor connects with his long-lost grandfather

Story and photo by
Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

Engineman 2nd Class Ronald Kaopuiki, Navy Reserve Recruiting Station Honolulu, never knew much about his father's side of the family.

Born and raised in Honolulu, Kaopuiki was just two years old when his parents divorced and his maternal great-aunt and uncle Kaopuiki adopted him. After the divorce, he had no real contact with his father.

Yet as he got older, he became more curious about his own roots and where he came from.

"I had no sense of identity, and I wondered where my interests came from," he said. "Why was I drawn to the military? Why was I drawn to the sea? No one in my adopted family shared these interests."

Kaopuiki did know a little bit about his father. For example, he knew his father was a highly decorated Marine who served multiple



(Above) EN2 Ronald Kaopuiki made contact with his long-lost grandfather for the first time recently. Since then, the two have spoken on the phone nearly every day. (Top right) Kaopuiki's grandfather, Leo Dean Clouse, is a former Marine living in Chico, Calif. (Above right) Kaopuiki's father, Larry Dean Clouse, was a decorated Marine who served two tours in Vietnam.

tours during the Vietnam War. It was this small bit of information, along with his position at Navy Reserve Recruiting Station Honolulu, that would eventually allow him to reconnect with members of his paternal family.

While accompanying a Navy applicant to a local veterans affairs office a few months ago, Kaopuiki decided to look up his father and grandfather in the organization's database.

Unfortunately, it turned out his father had passed away in 1985 at the age of 34. However, his grandfather, Leo Dean Clouse, was listed as living in Chico, Calif.

Kaopuiki was worried that the information about his grandfather was out of date. "I wasn't sure he was still alive at 88 years old," he said.

Kaopuiki took a chance and placed a phone call to Clouse.

"I called him and said I was a veteran looking for another veteran," said Kaopuiki. "After talking a

bit he said, 'Ronnie, is that you? I've been looking for you and your sister for my whole life!' He was ecstatic."

Kaopuiki has spent lots of time on the phone catching up on lost time, talking with his grandfather nearly every day. These conversations have helped Kaopuiki better understand why he is the person he is.

"It fills big holes," he said. "Now I have reasons why I am who I am. I was blessed to find my lineage. If I never found my grandfather, there would have always been gaps."

Now Kaopuiki has two new goals. One is visiting his grandfather in California. The other is finding his long-lost sister.

Ronald Kaopuiki credits his position in the Navy with helping him to reunite with his grandfather.

"I took the job as a recruiter in Honolulu hoping to change people's lives," said Kaopuiki. "But I never knew that it would be my own life that would change so dramatically because of this job."

Sailors prepare for advancement exams taking place in March

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Sailors should prepare now to have an opportunity to move up in rank and earn more money by excelling on their March advancement exams.

The exams take place every March and September for Sailors trying to achieve the ranks of petty officer third class through petty officer first class.

The exam to become a chief petty officer takes place every year in January. The amount of Sailors who advance to the next rank varies every cycle, and it also varies between the different rates.

The best way to prepare for an upcoming advancement exam is

by utilizing resources, effective time management skills and keeping a positive attitude.

"The first thing a Sailor should do when preparing for their exam is make sure their eligibility requirements have been met," said Senior Chief Navy Counselor Tyrone Jiles, Navy career counselor for Navy Region Hawaii. "If you don't take care of your eligibility requirements, then you won't have a chance to take the exam."

Once Sailors have met all of the eligibility requirements, they can start preparing for the exam. One of the best resources available is the Navy Advancement Center page.

"You can find bibliographies with information on what you

need to study for your exam six months prior to taking the exam on the Navy Advancement Center page," Jiles said. "The Navy Advancement Center page can be found on Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) and has a lot of valuable resources to help you succeed when taking the exam."

Once Sailors know what resources and study materials are available to them, they can begin using their time management skills to help them prepare for exams. One way to manage time to help prepare for an exam is to develop a study plan.

"Everybody learns in different ways," Jiles said. "Some people learn more when they study in groups and some people learn better by studying on their own. It is

important to know what types of study methods suit you the best before you develop a study plan."

Another way to manage time is to begin studying as soon as the bibliographies are available. It is also important to maintain a positive attitude when taking the exam.

"Studying for the Navy-wide advancement exam is important because it is one of the top factors in the Perform to Serve algorithm. Always prepare at least three to six months prior to the exam, and do not wait until the last minute."

"Remember the key things in studying: preview-read-summarize-review. Develop a plan and stick with it. Consult with your mentor, find a study group, or dedicate two hours a day. Trust me,

this will pay off in the long run," Jiles said.

Senior Chief Jiles said it is important for Sailors to keep a positive attitude because it helps keep them motivated to work hard and do well when the day of their exam arrives.

Sailors can give themselves a better chance to receive a higher score the next time they take an advancement exam by utilizing resources, using proper time management, and keeping a positive attitude. Getting a higher score on the exam can go a long way in helping a Sailor advance in rank and continue to progress in the Navy.

For more information on the Navy Advancement Center, visit <http://on.fb.me/11WVBf1>.

Shipyard Sailor of Year dedicates his time to shipmates

Story and photo by
David Tomiyama

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility Public Affairs

For Gunner's Mate 1st Class (SW) Aaron Savoie, it is all about the Sailor. Whether it is leading Sailors at work, volunteering his time in their career development, supporting individual augmentees (IA), or coordinating community programs, the 2012 Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility's Sailor of the Year is involved with anything and everything that involves Sailors.

"Petty Officer Savoie is the top notch Sailor and the epitome of inspirational leadership," said Master Chief Machinist's Mate Rommel Paulo, code 200 master chief. "He is the very definition of



GM1 (SW) Aaron Savoie

the phrase "sustained superior performance."

Savoie dedicates his time away from work to his shipmates. He voluntarily serves as the shipyard's First Class Petty Officer Association Secretary, chairs the Junior Sailor of the Quarter boards, runs the petty officer leadership course, conducts command development boards, and trains Sailors in their in-rate and basic military requirements continual training.

He is also the IA coordinator, communicating, training and tracking deployed shipyard Sailors and a member of the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam's (JBPHH) Sailors Against Drunk Driving program.

"I do this to support the Sailors," Savoie said. "It's important to me to help as many of them out as I can by setting a good example, challenging and pushing them to

advance in their careers and recognizing their achievements."

Savoie's spirit of service extends beyond the gates of the base. As the shipyard's volunteer coordinator, he has led 42 events that generated more than 2,000 man-hours of local community support.

"Petty Officer Savoie's selfless dedication in coordinating, organizing and participating in community and local school events had a positive, significant impact to the public and the people of Hawaii," Paulo said.

The code 210 fleet technical support division leading petty officer and weapons technician is responsible for the day-to-day activities of 18 Sailors.

"The only reason we're able to coordinate the work and inspect and maintain the surface ship's weapons systems is due to the hard work and dedication of my fellow

Sailors," Savoie said. "They're self-motivated in knocking out tasks and extremely knowledgeable about their work."

Savoie was born in Houston but moved to Dardanelle, Ark. at an early age. He enlisted in the Navy in 1998 to see the world and continue his education. His first assignments were USS O'Bannon (DD-987) in Naval Station Mayport, Fla., Shore Intermediate Maintenance Facility Norfolk and USS Anzio (CG-68) at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., before arriving at the shipyard in October 2010.

Of all the assignments, Savoie said his time at the shipyard has been the best.

"Being able to help out my fellow Sailors here has been so rewarding," he said. "Plus the mentorship I've received from so many senior Sailors has been priceless."

USS Olympia makes port visit in Singapore

Lt. Cmdr. Lara Bollinger

Submarine Group 7 Public Affairs

CHANGI, Republic of Singapore (NNS) – The Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Olympia (SSN 717) arrived at Changi Naval Station, Singapore for a visit Feb. 2 as part of its deployment to the western Pacific.

Olympia is homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

With a crew of approximately 140 Sailors, Olympia will conduct a multitude of missions and showcase the latest capabilities of the U.S. Submarine Force.

"The crew of Olympia is excited to enjoy the sights and culture of Singapore," said Cmdr. Michael

Boone, Olympia's commanding officer.

"They each look forward to enjoying the great shopping, food and hospitality that Singapore offers."

For Olympia crew members like Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Michael V. Atkinson, this is their first time visiting Singapore.

"I am looking forward to exploring the culture, people and food in this wonderful country," said Atkinson. "My friends who have been here before always talk about the great times they had while here."

"I'm very excited to finally have a chance to see Singapore," added Yeoman 2nd Class Victor Diaz-Incle. "I've heard so many great stories about this country."



U.S. Navy file photo by MC1 Ronald Gutridge

The Los Angeles-class submarine USS Olympia (SSN 717) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled western Pacific deployment in August 2012.

STORY IDEAS?

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

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HO'OKELE

Half-day tours will focus on Pearl Harbor historic sites

Provided by McNeil-Wilson

Three new half-day tours have been launched at Pearl Harbor Historic Sites. Starting at \$15 for adults (\$11 for children 4 to 12), these packages allow visitors to experience the USS Arizona Memorial Audio Tour along with a tour of the Battleship Missouri Memorial, USS Bowfin Submarine or the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor.

From the sinking of the USS Arizona (BB-39) to Imperial Japan's surrender aboard the USS Missouri (BB-63), Pearl Harbor brings the story of America's involvement in World War II full circle. Guests can experience the solemn reality of war at the USS Arizona Memorial, explore the USS Bowfin Submarine – nicknamed the Pearl Harbor Avenger, discover how the



Photos courtesy of McNeil-Wilson

air war was won in the Pacific Aviation Museum or stand in the spot where World War II ended aboard

the Battleship Missouri.

Tour options include:

USS Arizona Memorial Audio Tour/USS Bowfin

Submarine Tour, \$15 for adults and \$11 for children (4-12)

USS Arizona Memorial

Audio Tour/Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor Tour, \$24 for adults and \$17 for children (4 to 12)

USS Arizona Memorial Audio Tour / Battleship Missouri Memorial Tour, \$27.50 for adults and \$17 for children (4 to 12)

The Pearl Harbor half-day tours provide more flexibility for guests. For those looking for the complete Pearl Harbor experience, the passport to Pearl Harbor offers one-day access to all four historic sites for \$55 per adult and \$30 per child.

For those who need a little more time, two-day passports are also available for \$10 more. Two-day passport holders can return to Pearl Harbor within seven days of their initial visit at no additional charge.

For more information about these packages or to book reservations, visit the website PearlHarborHistoricSites.org, visit recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777.

Navy increases alcohol education, awareness efforts across fleet

U.S. Fleet Forces Command Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) – The Navy announced plans Jan. 23 to promote safety and provide education and awareness on the dangers of irresponsible alcohol use and the negative impact it has on mission accomplishment by introducing the use of alcohol detection devices (ADD) across the fleet.

As part of the Secretary of the Navy's (SECNAV) 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative, SECNAV approved the use of ADDs as another tool available for

commanders to deter irresponsible use of alcohol and assist in identifying service members who may require support and assistance with alcohol use decisions.

U.S. Fleet Forces conducted a "pilot test" on ADDs with 13 sea and shore commands during the 100 days of summer from May 24 through Sept. 30, 2012. The data collected fleet-wide was used to develop the processes and policy for how best to implement a program Navy-wide.

The office of the Chief of Naval Operations approved OPNAV Instruction 5350.8 Jan. 22, which established

policies and procedures for the use of the hand-held devices Navy-wide.

"Fleet feedback was instrumental in the development of this policy," said Adm. Bill Gortney, commander of U.S. Fleet Forces. "The test verified that the majority of our service members, who choose to drink alcohol, do so responsibly. It also verified that our commanding officers need a flexible program that serves to increase the Navy's awareness about the impacts of alcohol."

Gortney and Adm. Cecil Haney, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, in a joint mes-

sage to commanders, said the new program will complement current command efforts to educate service members on the responsible use of alcohol.

The program also promotes standards of safety, education and training, and awareness.

According to the instruction, the objective of ADD is to promote safety and education on the effects of alcohol use decisions and enhances leadership awareness and understanding of their unit's alcohol use culture.

"Deterring irresponsible use of alcohol is essential to

the readiness of our fleet and ensuring the health and safety of our service members and units," said Gortney.

"Fleet Forces, in partnership with Pacific Fleet, will remain engaged in providing service members the tools and resources to make these responsible choices. The ADD is one of many tools commanders have to educate service members," Gortney said.

Focused on those in a duty status and during normal working hours, the device is not intended to test those in an authorized leave or liberty status.

Commanding officers may also use ADD results as a basis to further evaluate a service member's fitness for duty through use of a competence for duty examination.

The instruction applies to all active duty, reserve and personnel from other services assigned to Navy units in any capacity.

Alcohol detection devices will begin arriving to commands in February.

A copy of OPNAVINST 5350.8 is available at www.npc.navy.mil.

For more news from U.S. Fleet Forces Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/clff/.