

Green sea turtles nest at PMRF, three years and counting

*U.S. Navy Photos and Story by
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For the third consecutive year green sea turtles have nested at the protected beaches of Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF).

The night of July 23, green sea turtle hatchlings emerged from the underground nest and made their journey to the ocean. Don Heacock, Kauai District Fisheries Biologist, arrived at PMRF on July 26 to excavate the nest that hatched three nights prior. John Burger and Dennis Rowley, Range Complex Sustainment Coordinators at PMRF, assisted in the search for hatched turtle eggs.

Heacock began to dig in the area where the nest was believed to be located. After 30 minutes of digging Rowley saw a live hatchling emerge from under the sand right behind Heacock's foot. Heacock placed the tiny turtle into a bucket then continued to dig and locate remaining turtle eggs.

In addition to the live hatchling Heacock recovered fragments of over 60 turtle eggs.

"No dead hatchlings were found on the morning of the 24th, so we can all presume that, minus the live turtle we uncovered, the ones that hatched exited the nest and reached the ocean," said Burger.

Rowley said, "The eggs are collected to check for emerging and hatching success. Some of the shells are also sent off for DNA analysis."



Don Heacock, right, excavates a turtle nest to count hatched green sea turtle eggs at PMRF Barking Sands.

After removing all of the fragmented egg shells from the nest, the two young daughters of PMRF Executive Officer, Cmdr. Garron Morris, were allowed the once in a lifetime opportunity to release the live hatchling into the ocean.

According to "Sea Turtles", An Ecological Guide," written by David Gulko and Karen Eckert, most green turtle nests are laid in an open sandy beach habitat, with the female digging a pit 2 to 3 feet in width and depth. Females will lay a typical clutch of 75 to 150 eggs. Throughout the breeding season they will lay up to six clutches. Individual females do not breed every year, but return faithfully to their nesting grounds every two to five years.

Heacock gave a few tips to keep the turtles coming back to Kauai

to nest and help the population flourish.

"Make sure people report any nesting activity so the nests can be protected. We can also look at the things that are negatively impacting the turtles like marine debris such as fishing lines and nets. If a fisherman catches a turtle on their fishing line they should try to reel the turtle in and remove the hook. If the turtle swallowed the hook, the fisherman needs to cut the line as close to the mouth as possible," said Heacock.

When it comes to vessel strikes, speed kills on the water just like it kills on land.

"Turtles are close to shore, they feed on the seaweed that

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Commanding Officer's Hot Line: Ext. 4435

You can call the Captain with your question/concern too. Dial 335-4435 any time, seven days a week! The purpose of the hotline (record-a-phone) is to provide all PMRF military members, families, civil service and contractor employees the opportunity to communicate directly with the CO. Some suggestions are:

- Safety suggestions/violations/unsafe practices, ideas to improve safety and promote safety awareness.
- Ways to improve morale, working or living conditions.
- Suggestions on how to save taxpayer dollars, cut costs, save energy, reduce labor manhours, etc.
- Security violations and/or recommendations for strengthening physical security and safeguarding classified information.
- Any positive things (events, programs, policies, benefits, etc.) that you feel are particularly good.
- Any negative things you feel should have the CO's attention.
- Suggestions for improving disaster preparedness (tsunamis, hurricanes, fires, etc.)

You need not identify yourself to leave a message, but if you would like a staffed response, please do so. If reporting a problem, please try to recommend a workable solution. Some of the questions or problems reported will be answered in the Within Range.

A good point of contact for issues involving Navy families is the PMRF Ombudsman, Jeanine Clemmo who can be reached at: Cell 635-5364 or email at pmrfoambudsman@yahoo.com.



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"No Captain Mongillo, its Barking Sea Lions not Barking Sands."

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grows on boulders and the reef, and they are not a quarter of a mile off shore. So boats that are 'pedal to the metal' going to Na Pali should try to stay away from the reef. Where it's an all sand bottom you're not going to find turtles," said Heacock.

Heacock also said the [young] turtles' instinct after reaching the surface of the sand is to go straight to the first light source they see. Sometimes that can be fatal to the turtles if they see artificial lights from street lights, a car's headlights, or even bon fires.

"To see and know there are new turtles out there," Rowley said "it's a magic feeling. Makes you really appreciate how spe-

cial this place is. It's a blessing to work here."

PMRF Barking Sands has been recognized by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) many times as one of the best installations in the Navy for environmental and cultural stewardship.

In 2008 PMRF won the CNO Environmental Award for Cultural Resources Management, and in 2009 PMRF was recognized for the Natural Resources Conservation.

In February of 2012 it was announced that PMRF was again a winner in two categories for 2011, Natural Resources Conservation – Small Installation, and for Natural Resources Conservation – Team.

The annual CNO Environmental Awards program is designed to

recognize Navy Ships, installations, and individuals or teams for exceptional environmental stewardship.



(TOP RIGHT) The daughters of Cmdr. Garron Morris, PMRF XO, release a green sea turtle hatchling found in an excavated nest.

Aloha!

Welcome to:

A hui hou!

Farewell to:



Welcome to MA1 Pamela Veillon who joins us from Sigonella, Sicily security department and will serve in security here at PMRF. MA2 Nicholas Miller, who joins us from Naval

Base Kitsap in Bangor, Wash., and will serve in security. Welcome to John McCulloch who joins us from NAVFAC Marianas on the island of Guam and will serve as a civil engineer.

Farewell to Joseph Santmyer who has been onboard for three years and will be reporting to Hill Air Force Base in Ogden, Utah.

Placing Sailors in Critical Sea Billets

From Chief of Naval Personnel
Public Affairs

The Navy is aggressively addressing gaps at sea and working to place Sailors with the right experience levels and skill sets into high-priority Fleet billets via several new and expanded initiatives announced, July 26.

“The Navy is built on three tenets: Warfighting First, Operate Forward and Be Ready. These three tenets rely upon the Navy having people in warfighting billets,” said Vice Adm. Scott R. Van Buskirk, Chief of Naval Personnel. “We have worked to stabilize the size of the Force over the past few years and ensure the right paygrade mix of Sailors in each individual rating, but currently nearly one third of our enlisted ratings remain undermanned due to perennial retention challenges. Combined with our normal numbers of Sailors on limited duty, operational deferment, in training and transit, we have critical gaps at sea that need to be immediately addressed.”

“As our Navy is in ever-increasing demand around the world, filling these gap billets at sea has become more critical,” continued Van Buskirk. “The gapped billets at sea that affect our operational readiness often require our most senior Sailors, E5 and above, in our undermanned critical skills ratings. Although we have significantly improved our balance, we must distribute the available Sailors to our top-priority billets at sea.”

Navy’s efforts to ensure high-priority billets at sea are manned are a continual focus. Over the past six months, Navy introduced several voluntary and structural measures to improve at-sea man-



U.S. Navy Photo by MC2 Dominique Pineiro

SAN DIEGO (June 22, 2012) Sailors man the rails aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) as the ship returns to San Diego following a seven-month maiden deployment. The ship’s unique hybrid propulsion system led to a fuel savings of more than \$15 million dollars over the course of deployment.

ning, including the Voluntary Sea Duty Program (VSDP), expanded Sea Duty Incentive Pay (SDIP), adding additional sea duty billets in future years, and increasing accessions. While these actions gain traction, Navy determined additional measures were necessary to reduce gaps in critical skills and needed deckplate leadership on units about to deploy.

To address these sea duty manning challenges, and to match the right Sailors who have the right skills with the priority jobs at sea, the Navy is utilizing several short- and long-term initiatives, including:

Changes to Career Management System Interactive Detailing or CMS/ID, announced in NAVADMIN 226/12. Beginning with the August 2012 CMS/ID cycle, a single set of sea and shore billets, prioritized by U.S. Fleet Forces Command, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Navy Personnel Command to reflect the highest-priority Fleet billets, will be advertised.

Detailers will fill all advertised billets each cycle, and Fleet readiness will be the ultimate factor in filling assignments and this change ensures the highest-priority requirements are filled.

Limited Directed Detailing, announced in NAVADMIN 227/12. Over the next few months, Navy will detail selected Sailors with critical skills back to operational sea duty early. Under the limited directed detailing initiative, Sailors who have completed a minimum of 24 months on shore duty may be contacted by their detailer and directed back to a sea duty assignment prior to their projected rotation date. This initiative will target between 200 and 400 Sailors who have the required critical skills, leadership and experience needed at sea now to improve manning on Navy’s imminent deployers.

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Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Early Return to Sea program, announced in NAVADMIN 230/12. Navy will curtail the shore duty of selected senior enlisted Sailors of ranks E7 to E9 and detail them back to sea to fill operational billets that cannot be filled by rotating Sailors. This program is an update to the previous CPO to Sea program, and is designed to ensure high-priority senior leadership positions at sea are manned for operational readiness.

Expansion of the Voluntary Sea Duty Program, announced in NAVADMIN 229/12. The Navy is extending the Voluntary Sea Duty Program for an additional year and adding High-Year Tenure

waiver consideration as an incentive for senior enlisted Sailors who volunteer. Originally announced in January 2012, and updated in NAVADMIN 205/12, VSDP encourages highly-trained and motivated Sailors to voluntarily extend their enlistment in their current sea duty billet beyond their prescribed sea tour, to terminate shore duty and accept new orders to a sea duty billet, or to accept back-to-back sea duty orders beyond their prescribed sea/shore flow. Other benefits of VSDP include; geographic choice and stability; PTS deferment; and Sea Duty Incentive Pay, when eligible.

“With programs like Limited Directed Detailing, CPO Early Return to Sea, Voluntary Sea Duty Program, and changes to CMS/ID, we’re

aiming to be more aggressive in the distribution process. These actions should reduce the short-notice actions to man high-priority billets, such as cross-decking and diverts,” said Van Buskirk. “I highly encourage Sailors to be proactive, speak with their chain of command, and consider all the voluntary measures Navy has in place to pursue sea duty. Professionally, volunteering may offer additional training opportunities, and sustained superior performance at sea is the hallmark for top evaluations and advancement opportunities.”

For more information contact the PMRF Career Counselor, EN1 Zachary Davenport at 335-4620.

PMRF Sailors serve chili at the Hanapepe Salvation Army Food Kitchen

(LEFT) (from front to back) Aviation Support Equipment Technician Airman Joshua Joiner, Aviation Support Equipment Technician 2nd Class Henry Seeger and Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Brandon Healy serve patrons of the Salvation Army Food Kitchen in Hanapepe, Hawaii. Sailors from the Pacific Missile Range Facility donated and served over 50 plates of homemade chili in support of the community service project. According to the Salvation Army’s website, their objectives include the relief of poverty and other charitable objects beneficial to society or the community of mankind as a whole.

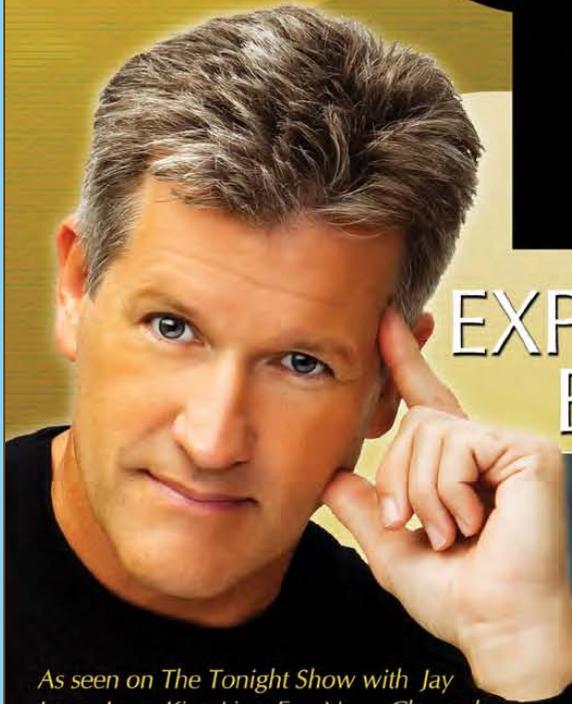
(BOTTOM) Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Brandon Healy, Aviation Support Equipment Technician 2nd Class Henry Seeger and Aviation Support Equipment Technician Airman Joshua Joiner serve patrons of the Salvation Army Food Kitchen in Hanapepe, Hawaii.



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For more information, call 335-4346.

Safety Corner

Distracted Driving



Distracted driving can kill. Every time someone takes their focus off the road – even if just for a moment – they risk their lives and the lives of others.

In 2009, nearly 5,500 Americans were killed in distracted-driving crashes, and 450,000 were injured.

When you're driving, don't use your cell phone. In 2009, there were 995 fatal car wrecks involving a cell phone as a distraction.

Drivers who use hand-held devices are four times as likely to get in injury-producing crashes.

Learn to avoid the three kinds of distractions while driving: visual (taking your eyes off the road), manual (taking your hands off the wheel), and cognitive (taking your mind off what you're doing).

The under-20 age group has the greatest proportion of distracted drivers. 16 percent of all drivers younger than 20 involved in fatal crashes were reported to have been distracted while driving.

Fight distracted driving. Stop multi-tasking when you're behind the wheel.

Fight distracted driving. Just "Put It Down" and concentrate on the road.

Fight distracted driving. Be a good example for your peers and your children.

Fight distracted driving. When you're a passenger, make the driver pay attention.

Avoiding Distracted Driving Tip #1: Turn it off. Turn your phone off or switch to silent



mode before you get in the car.

Avoiding Distracted Driving Tip #2: Spread the word. Set up a special message to tell callers that you are driving and you'll get back to them as soon as possible, or sign up for a service that offers this.

Avoiding Distracted Driving Tip #3: Pull over. If you need to make a call, pull over to a safe area first.

Avoiding Distracted Driving Tip #4: Use your passengers. Ask a passenger to make the call for you.

Avoiding Distracted Driving Tip #5: X the Text. Don't ever text and drive, surf the web or read your email while driving. It is dangerous and against the law in most states.

Avoiding Distracted Driving Tip #6: Know the law. Familiarize yourself with state and local laws before you get in the car. Some states and localities prohibit the use of hand held cell phones. GHSA offers a handy chart of state laws on its website: www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/

www.ghsa.org/html/cellphone_laws.html.

Avoiding Distracted Driving Tip #7: Prepare. Review maps and directions before you start to drive. If you need help when you are on the road, ask a passenger to help or pull over to a safe location to review the map/directions again.

Avoiding Distracted Driving Tip #8: Secure your pets. Pets can be a big distraction in the car. Always secure your pets properly before you start to drive.

Avoiding Distracted Driving Tip #9: Keep the kids safe. Pull over to a safe location to address situations with your children in the car.

Avoiding Distracted Driving Tip #10: Focus on the task at hand. Refrain from smoking, eating, drinking, reading and any other activity that takes your mind and eyes off the road.

Wish you were here - Photos from the Fleet

(RIGHT) ARABIAN SEA (July 25, 2012) Sailors assigned to the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) signal that an F/A-18C Hornet from the Rampagers of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 83 is ready to launch. Dwight D. Eisenhower is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility conducting maritime security operations theater security cooperation efforts and support missions as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Julia A. Casper



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Class Jumar T. Balacy

(Left) JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM (July 6, 2012) A Republic of Korea navy sailor competes in the belly-flop contest during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise. Twenty-two nations, more than 40 ships and submarines, more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel are participating in RIMPAC exercise from June 29 to Aug. 3, in and around the Hawaiian Islands. The world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC provides a unique training opportunity that helps participants foster and sustain the cooperative relationships that are critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans. RIMPAC 2012 is the 23rd exercise in the series that began in 1971.

(BOTTOM) ATLANTIC OCEAN (July 8, 2012) The aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) performs a full power run and rudder swing checks during sea trials. Truman is conducting sea trials in collaboration with Norfolk Naval Shipyard to train Sailors and ensure operability of equipment and systems while at sea.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Kristina Young