

Joint Japan-U.S. missile defense flight test successful

Missile Defense Agency

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) and the United States Missile Defense Agency (MDA) announced the successful completion of an Aegis ballistic missile defense (BMD) intercept flight test, in cooperation with the U.S. Navy, off the coast of Kauai in Hawaii.

The event marked the fourth time that a JMSDF ship has engaged a ballistic missile target, including three successful intercepts, with the sea-based midcourse engagement capability provided by Aegis BMD.

The JFTM-4 test event verified the newest engagement capability of the Japan Aegis BMD configuration of the recently upgraded Japanese destroyer, JS Kirishima. At approximately 5:06 p.m. (HST), 12:06 p.m. Tokyo time on Oct. 29, a separating 1,000 km class ballistic missile target was launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility at Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawaii.

JS Kirishima crew members detected and tracked the target. The Aegis weapon system then developed a fire control solution and launched a standard missile-3 (SM-3) block IA missile. Approximately three minutes later, the SM-3 successfully intercepted the target approximately 100 miles above the Pacific Ocean. JFTM-4 is a significant milestone in the growing cooperation between Japan and the U.S. in the area of missile defense.

Also participating in the test were Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam-based USS Lake Erie and USS Russell, Aegis ships which cooperated to detect, track and conduct a simulated intercept engagement against the same target.

A standard missile-3 (SM-3) is launched from the Japanese ship (JS) Kirishima (DDG-174) in a joint missile defense intercept test with the Missile Defense Agency, in the mid-Pacific on Oct. 28. The SM-3 successfully intercepted a separating 1,000 km class ballistic missile target that had been launched minutes earlier from the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawaii. The Kirishima's crew detected and tracked the target and its weapons system developed a fire control solution. The crew then launched the SM-3, with the intercept occurring three minutes later.

Photo courtesy of
Missile Defense Agency



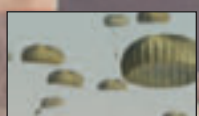
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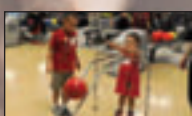
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Secretary of State Clinton completes Hawaii visit

Story and photo by
Tech Sgt. Cohen Young

Defense Media Activity
Hawaii

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton completed a two-day visit in Hawaii on Oct. 28 after meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara at the Kahala Hotel and Resort on Oct. 27. On Oct. 28, she addressed Hawaii-based Hawaii military and civilian leaders at the hotel.

Clinton was in Hawaii to begin her two-week trip through the Pacific Region, including visits to Guam, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Australia and America Samoa. During her visits, she will be discussing Asia-Pacific strategy with U.S. allies.

U.S. Pacific Commander Adm. Robert Willard and other Hawaii-based leaders greeted Clinton when she arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on the afternoon of Oct. 27. She made her way to the Kahala Resort where she and Maehara discussed the Japan/U.S. alliance, the role of U.S.



U. S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton addresses Hawaii-based military and civilian leaders as well as members of the East-West Center and students from the University of Hawaii and Hawaii Pacific University on Oct. 28 while at the Kahala Resort and Hotel in Hawaii.

forces in Japan and the secretary's overall Asia-Pacific strategy.

"We are working together for peace and prosperity of the region," Maehara said. "Our meeting was very fruitful," he added.

Clinton delivered a major policy speech at the Kahala Resort on Oct. 28, stating that she was looking forward to this trip for some time as she has seven diverse destinations to visit.

"This itinerary reflects Asia's diversity and dynamism," Clinton said. "It complements the route that President Obama will take in just a few weeks when he visits India, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea," she added.

According to Clinton, she and the president will cover a significant portion of this vital region at a pivotal moment after nearly two years of intensive engage-

ment. The U.S. goals in the Pacific are to sustain and strengthen America's leadership in the Asia Pacific Region, to improve security, to heighten prosperity, and promote our values, the secretary said.

The United States has been practicing forward-deployed diplomacy, which means they have adopted a proactive footing.

"We've sent the full range of our diplomatic assets including our highest ranking officials, our development experts, our teams from a wide range of pressing issues, into every corner and every capital of the Asia Pacific Region," Clinton explained.

"We know that much of the history of the 21st century will be written in Asia. This region will see the most transformative economic growth on the planet," she said.

Clinton also discussed how important America has been as Asia has moved forward into the future.

"The progress that we see today in Asia has not only been the hard work of leaders and citizens across the region, but the American Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and

Marines that protect borders and patrol the region's waters; the American diplomats that have settled conflicts and brought nations together in common causes; the American business leaders and entrepreneurs who invested in new markets and formed trans-Pacific partnerships; the American aid workers that have helped countries rebuild in the wake of disasters; and the American educators and students that have shared ideas and experiences with their counterparts across the ocean," Clinton noted.

The secretary spoke about underlying regional security and supporting stronger democratic institutions and the spread of universal human values. She also talked about how the bond with Japan, Korea, Australia, Thailand and the Philippines remains a foundation for U.S. strategic engagement.

"These alliances have safeguarded regional peace and security for the past half century and supported the region's remarkable growth," Clinton said.

Many of those who listened to Clinton's remarks, including some university

students, applauded and cheered as she addressed the group.

"Being from Thailand originally and being able to listen to the secretary of state's speech has broadened my will to understand the relationship that America has with Thailand and other countries," said Lalit (Cherie) Kanavivatchai, a communications major at Hawaii Pacific University.

"This has helped me as a communications major learn another way to present an important message as well," Kanavivatchai continued.

"I know how much Hawaii serves as that bridge to the Asia Pacific Region," Clinton said. "The very diversity and dynamism of Hawaii says so much about what is possible not only in our country, but in countries throughout the Pacific."

"It was inspirational to hear her speak in person of the different roles that Hawaii plays," said Kelly Sun Yong Park, a political science and economics major at the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus.

"It was inspiring, the role and duties that the U.S. will fill in upcoming events," Park added.

535th Airlift Squadron crews drop Army paratroopers

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

15th Wing Public Affairs

Paratroopers sat side-by-side, both crushed and cozy from the weight of the massive parachute packs on their laps. Each jumper's eyes squinted from a combination of fatigue and flying dust kicked up by the ferocious winds whirling in from the C-17's side doors.

Loadmasters and jumpmasters alike systematically checked the doorways for something, anything, out of the ordinary. Anticipating the approaching drop zone, loadmasters, jumpmasters and paratroopers began furiously hand-signaling each other, skillfully and efficiently exchanging information in a way that would make any baseball manager proud.

The green light would be coming soon.

An aircrew from the 535th Airlift Squadron (AS) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii flew in a C-17 and made the long journey to Ft. Benning, Ga. to support the 507th Airborne School's paratrooper drop requirements Oct. 9-15.

After receiving a request from the school, the 535th AS decided to combine the mission with the transportation of officers to a logistics officers' association conference in Orlando, Fla.

The mission to Ft. Benning was unique for the 535th AS for several reasons. On a typical mission, an aircrew picks up cargo from one location and drops it off at another. On this mission, the crew trained in a single location and had "crew rest" at the same place every night. Additionally, an aircrew doesn't perform "multi-lift" sorties. At Ft. Benning, the crew was able to load more than 90 jumpers per lift, drop them off within five minutes of



Paratroopers from the 507th Airborne School (AS) fall from the sky over Ft. Benning, Ga. after jumping out of a C-17 Globemaster from the 535th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on Oct. 14. A C-17 from the 15th Wing made the long journey from Hawaii to Ft. Benning to support the student jump requirements of the 507th AS.

takeoff, and land to load more.

To say the crew was productive would be an understatement. In total, the plane and its seven-member aircrew dropped more than 2,300 paratroopers in four days.

"We were out there with the C-130s, dropping jumpers from the back every five to six minutes over the drop zone," said Capt. Mark Fischer, 535th AS pilot and aircraft commander for the mission. "On our own, we were able to drop almost 600 jumpers in multiple lifts in four hours without refueling."

"We airdropped over 200 percent

of what was expected of us when we arrived at Fort Benning," said 1st Lt. Wayne Moxley, 535th AS pilot. "Our numbers speak for themselves."

Fischer said the C-17's ability to support such a high number of paratrooper jumps says a lot about the airframe's performance in a joint environment.

"This exercise validates the C-17's role as a personnel airdrop vehicle for the Army," he said. "In total, we dropped 2,349 jumpers in four days."

Moxley said the ability to train alongside the Army in a real-world

scenario is a vital element of joint service operations. As such, the Air Force's role is vital in helping fulfill joint force training requirements.

"The Air Force plays a major role in the airborne parachutist mission," Fischer said. "Since we are two separate services, there are many differences in culture, but in the end we are fighting the same war. Training together on a regular basis enables us to efficiently get the mission completed in the wartime environment," he explained.

According to Fischer, the airborne school had to take measures

to keep up with the crew's drop tempo.

"We dropped almost double the amount of jumpers they were expecting to drop," he said. "When we arrived at Benning, the school was severely behind. They were expecting us to drop one-and-a-half classes the first day of the (mission) but we ended up dropping two-and-a-half full classes. It went so well that they had to get a post commander waiver to drop some of the students more than twice in the same day."

According to Fischer, the mission was a complete success due to the C-17 crew's outstanding support.

"The maintainers were out at the aircraft every day before the crew showed and took care of the jet after the crew left," Fischer said. "They were there to meet us every time we shut down engines, ready and willing to service the aircraft as quickly and safely as possible to keep the jumpers going out the back. Without their expertise, we couldn't have dropped any of those students," he explained.

Fischer said the aircrew's attitude and performance was equally impressive. "The aircrew was outstanding," he said. "They flew almost double the amount as the airborne school was expecting. Every day they stepped up to the challenge and far outperformed the school's expectations with smiles on their face," he added.

Fischer said the crew's performance, despite Hickam's distance to Ft. Benning, may lead to further teamwork in the future.

"This is the first time the 15th Operations Group has supported the 507th for one of their courses," he said. "So far this is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Judging from the 507th's reaction to how well the week went, it might happen more often."

USS Louisville returns to Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by
MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

The Los Angeles-class submarine USS Louisville (SSN 724) returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Oct. 29 after completing a scheduled deployment to the western Pacific region.

During the deployment, Louisville executed a wide range of operations in support of U.S. 7th Fleet and national tasking in addition to a high-profile bilateral exercise designed to strengthen operability of U.S. and Republic of Korea naval forces.

"Unquestionably this deployment was an amazing experience for the entire Louisville crew and especially rewarding for the supervisors to watch as this young crew performed missions vital to our national security and strengthened international relations with our allies throughout the western Pacific," said Cmdr. Lee Sisco, Louisville's commanding officer.

During the deployment, 24 Sailors on board earned their submarine warfare "dolphins" after completing a rigorous qualification process. It includ-

ed in-depth understanding of submarine construction and operations and also practical assessments of the Sailor's ability to combat a wide range of casualties that could be encountered on board the submarine. A majority of the crew also completed advanced qualifications, including engineering watch supervisor, diving officer of the watch and chief of the watch. These qualifications provide greater watch bill flexibility and help ensure that Louisville's performance will remain strong.

"I can't express how impressed I am with my crew's performance, motivation and attitude throughout this deployment. Their ability to overcome adversity and perform a wide range of submarine missions was a testament to the training they received as part of their pre-deployment training cycle and the deckplate leadership on board the submarine," Sisco said.

Machinist's Mate 1st Class Steven Bear hugs his son during a homecoming celebration for the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Louisville (SSN 724) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Louisville returned to homeport after a scheduled deployment to the western Pacific region.



Joint Base to host makahiki Saturday

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

Kapuaikaula, perhaps better known today as Hickam Beach, will be the site of the makahiki festival from 9 a.m. to noon on Nov. 6. Organized by the Oahu Council of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the *makahiki* (festival) will feature *oli* (chants), exhibition games, and other cultural demonstrations. Military and civilian personnel with base access are invited to attend and take part in this unique cultural event.

As the *makahiki* begins, canoes will make a safe passage from Iroquois Point to Hickam Beach. A *huakai* (procession) from the landing site to the *makahiki* location will feature canoe paddlers and members of the Royal Order of Kamehameha, with numerous tall feather *kahili* (standards) announcing the arrival of the *ali'i*, or royalty, and the Hawaiian deity *Lono*, guardian of agriculture, rain, health and peace.

"The annual *makahiki* is an important celebration of the past that will help redefine our relationship as contemporary people of Hawaii for the future," said Shad Kane, the Ewa Moku representative for the Oahu Council of Hawaiian Civic Clubs.

"*Kapuaikaula Makahiki* will not only help to improve relationships between the military and the Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian community, but also establish an awareness of the rich pre-western Hawaiian traditions and history of this area of Oahu," Kane added.

Commentary

The enlisted perspective: even one suicide is too many

James A. Roy

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force

An alarming trend is happening in our Air Force, and we need your help.

We've had a drastic increase this year in the number of suicides among our total force Airmen - active duty, guard, reserve and civilians.

Last year we lost 84 Airmen by suicides; this year, we've nearly reached that number, and it is only

October. Even one suicide is too many!

We all take suicide awareness training, but that's just the first step - we must take immediate action and get involved. We need to look out for each other and understand that we're not alone. Be ready and willing to assist your wingman and ask for help when you need it. We must all take the time to care about those around us. That's what good wingmen do, and that's what our Air Force needs.

Supervisors at every level

must act now. Get to know your Airmen better and understand their personal and professional challenges. This is not a time to sit idle and think this won't happen in your unit. No one is immune. Suicides range the spectrum of ages, locations, MAJCOMs and career fields. The two most common factors we've seen are problems with relationships and finances.

We need to be good wingmen for others and also need to develop and maintain trusted relationships

and friendships where we can talk openly and honestly about things happening in our own lives. We need to feel comfortable exchanging ideas, views and experiences with those who are closest to us. There is always someone available for you.

So many people care about you - more than you may think - family, friends, co-workers, supervisors, first sergeants, commanders, chaplains, medical professionals and senior leaders are ready and will-

ing to listen and help. Just give them a chance. Don't ever think you are alone or that no one will understand. We will understand, and we will help you. It doesn't matter whether you write, call or e-mail; please reach out. We are an Air Force family and you mean a lot to all of us. If you feel you are at the end of your road, you are not - talk with someone. We care about you and will ensure you receive the help you need.

You should never be afraid of seeking help for

fear of reprisal. Our lives should be the priority. The Air Force also has many resources to help. Military and family life consultants, chaplains and medical professionals are all available. Also, Military One Source counselors are always available by calling 800-342-9647 or visiting their website by copying militaryonesource.com into your web browser.

With everyone's help, we can and must step up and reverse this devastating trend.

'Armor balls' make pilots, planes, birds safer

Story and photo by SrA Gustavo Gonzalez

15th Wing Public Affairs

Hickam pilots can now fly safer, thanks to a project six years in the making.

The bird hazard working group initiated the bird hazard abatement as part of the Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard, also known as the BASH program, when members of 647th Services Squadron, 647th Contracting Squadron, 15th Wing safety office and Mamala Bay Golf Course workers released "armor balls" into a reservoir at the Mamala Bay Golf Course at Hickam on Oct. 26.

"We are trying to prevent some of our endangered species from using this area as a watering hole or nesting habitat area," said Darrin Phelps, U.S. Department of Agriculture assistant district supervisor for wildlife services.

The black, softball-sized "armor balls" float on the



U.S. Air Force photo by SrA Gustavo Gonzalez

Members of 647th Services Squadron, 647th Contracting Squadron, 15th Wing safety office and Mamala Bay Golf Course workers help unload 70,000 "Armor Balls" here Oct. 26. Members of 647th Services Squadron, 647th Contracting Squadron, 15th Wing safety office and Mamala Bay Golf Course workers released the balls into a reservoir near runways.

surface of the reservoir, causing the birds to overlook the water and minimizing the chances of birds landing there. This in turn minimizes birds as a hazard

striking aircraft in mid-air.

"The worst case scenario is (the birds) can take out all the engines which would lead to an aircraft crashing," said Capt. Russell Foxworth,

15th Wing chief of flight safety. "They had an (Airborne Warning and Control System) aircraft that went down in (Elmendorf Air Force Base) Alaska in 1995

due to 31 Canadian geese that struck the plane. It was a real wakeup call for a lot of people."

The 23,560 square foot reservoir is geographically located on the edge of the Mamala Bay Golf Course which is a few hundred yards away from active runways belonging to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and the Honolulu International Airport, putting pilots at risk for accidents involving birds.

"As an operator now and commanding an operational flying squadron, it's great to see our base come together to support the safety of the flying operation because it helps people like me get more peace of mind when we send folks out to conduct flying operations," said Lt. Col. Brian Hill, 96th Air Refueling Squadron commander.

Since fiscal year 2007, 15th Wing aircraft have sustained more than \$261,740 in damages due to bird strikes. In October 2009, one bird strike at Barber's Point

caused more than \$194,078 in damage.

"It's great to see a project that is (six) years in the making really come through, representing not just military effort, but great partnership with our folks here on base," Hill said. "It's easy for folks to talk safety and preach safety, but when you actually see that resources and that commitment behind it, it really goes a long way toward solidifying the commitment."

BASH is an Air Force-wide program responsible for developing research programs to reduce bird strike potential around airfields and during low-level flight operations. The "armor balls" project is expected to be completed at the end of November after a total of more than 236,000 balls are released.

The balls rise and fall with changing water levels and can easily maneuver around objects such as floating pumps. They have a life span of more than 10 years.

Diverse Views



Who do you think will win the Nov. 6 Western Athletic Conference football showdown between the University of Hawaii Warriors and the Boise St. Broncos?



Airman 1st Class
Adam Reichold
613th Air and Space Operations Center (613 AOC)

"Boise State. is having a pretty good season, but I'm hoping it's Hawaii. I think if Hawaii pulls together, they can pull it off and get the win. I can see it being Hawaii 27-21."

Chief Master Sgt.
Pat Flieg
17th Operational Weather Squadron (17 OWS)



"Who I want to win and who I think is going to win are different. I think Boise is going to be like 45 and UH 27. But if Hawaii can win the turnover battle, they got a shot."



Staff Sgt.
1st Class (SW)
Hendrick Perry
747th Communication Squadron (747 CS)

"That's a big game. If Hawaii wins, it's going to be a big deal for them, but honestly, I think Boise is going to be too much for them. It's going to be Boise 28-7."

Navy Lt.
Mike Harris
17th Operational Weather Squadron (17 OWS)



"I think Hawaii is going to play them well. I think if they (Broncos) were playing in Hawaii, they (Hawaii) could probably beat them. They got a chance. Maybe they'll keep it close and get it in the end."



Staff Sgt.
Paul Mahuka
154th Logistics Readiness Squadron (154 LRS)

"I don't think Hawaii is going to get spanked, but they are going to lose. It won't be a blowout. I'd say, 36-27, Boise."

(Provided by Randy Dela Cruz)

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

Lt. Col. Horace Hickam

Hickam Field in Hawaii was named after Lt. Col. Horace Meek Hickam who died 75 years ago on Nov. 5, 1934 while practicing night landings on an unlit runway at Fort Crockett at Galveston, Texas. Hickam was killed when his Curtiss A-12 Shrike hit an embankment and flipped over. Hickam was born in 1885, graduated from West Point in 1908 and began his career in the cavalry before he transferred to the Army Air Service. As a pioneer advocate of air power, Hickam was pivotal in establishing the Air Force as a branch of the armed forces.

Courtesy of Headquarters Pacific Air Forces History Office



HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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Pearl Harbor culinary specialists compete in Iron CS cook-off

Story and photo by
MC1 (AW) Jason Swink

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West Det.
Hawaii

Culinary specialists from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam surface ships showed off their talents and skills in a cook-off at Ward Field on Oct. 22.

More than 30 contestants competed in barbecue, cake decorating and garnishment displays.

"Today is a chance to show off the culinary skills of those who feed us every day," said Capt. Dell Epperson, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific chief of staff and one of the judges for the event. "We have really talented folks here on the waterfront, but they never get a chance to show off their skills."

Each ship's galley drew upon the talent and creativity of their crew members to produce the entries for each category.

"It was quite challenging to figure out which one edges out which one. You could see that all of them put a lot of effort into it," said Capt. Ricks Polk, commanding officer of Afloat Training Group, Middle Pacific, on his experience judging the entries. "It was challenging. We have some great cooks and some very talented designers for the cakes and centerpieces."

In the barbecue category,



Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Monica Rodriguez, stationed aboard the guided missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73), explains the theme of her cake decoration, "The Sea of Dreams," to judges during the Iron CS cooking competition held Oct. 22 at Ward Field at Pearl Harbor. The competition was held between the surface ships on the Pearl Harbor waterfront and featured categories for best barbecue, cake decorating and garnishments.

Sailors produced sauces, marinades and glazes, ranging from family recipes to their own culinary creations.

"The one I made is the only barbecue recipe I have ever seen that has jalapeño juice in it," said Culinary Specialist Seaman Apprentice Zachary Bachand, assigned to USS Hopper (DDG 70), while sharing what made his barbecue ribs special. "It's not too hot, but it's definitely got

a little kick to it. You can definitely feel a tingle."

Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Vernon Roberson, assigned to USS Chosin (CG 65), took home first place in the barbecue category.

"Last time I was here I placed third and I felt like I could do a lot better so I put a lot of thought into it," Roberson said. "What the judges were tasting was essentially greatness, what can I say."

When the judges pried Roberson for the ingredients to his secret recipe he responded, "I can't tell you that."

For the garnishing and centerpiece category, Culinary Specialist 1st Class Clyde Abrigo, assigned to USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), won first place.

"It's not just me, it's the Paul Hamilton crew that did it," Abrigo said. "I couldn't have done it

without my shipmates."

Culinary Specialist 1st Class Octavio Hernandez from USS Paul Hamilton won the award for best cake decoration. His design title "Seabag Inspection" featured a cake made to look like a seabag with uniform articles and dog tags.

Sailors from local area commands joined in the tasting as well, enjoying hot dogs, hamburgers and other barbecue fare.

"It was a really good display of hard work and what they really go through to make us all happy. It's a good deal," said Damage Controlman Fireman Chris Nelson, assigned to Hopper.

Observing the artistic cakes, Nelson said, "It's a good break from the stress and all the maintenance. It reminds you that there is some fun out there and the Navy does care about their people."

"I think they enjoyed it, but it's all about having fun. I don't really mind if I win or not too much. I just like being outside and being on the grill," Bachand said.

The Iron CS Competition is part of a larger surface line competition held every year between the 11 surface ships homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The competition features other categories, including ships handling, navigation quiz bowl, damage control olympics and other competitive events.

"We always like to get together every chance we can whether it's over a friendly competition like this or whether it's when we bond together to help one ship get ready for deployment. It's always a team effort," Epperson said. "This is just a chance for us to come together today and celebrate one more piece of why this is the Navy's best home port."

'Stop Loss' special pay application deadline approaches

Karen Parrish

American Forces Press
Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) - Defense Department officials are working to remind veterans and current service members, who were involuntarily retained in the military

under the so-called "Stop Loss" program, to apply for special pay before the Dec. 3 deadline.

Military members whose service was involuntarily extended or whose retirement was suspended between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2009 are entitled to a retroactive payment of \$500 for each

month of extension.

By law, service members who received a bonus for voluntarily re-enlisting or extending their service are not eligible for the special pay, officials said, but they added that they strongly urge people who even think they may be eligible to submit an application before the deadline.

Information on the special pay and links to the application are available at <http://www.defense.gov/sto-ploss>.

About 65,000 of 145,000 eligible claims have been paid, and \$243 million has been disbursed of the \$534 million appropriated, officials said.

President Barack Obama released a video message on Sept. 15 urging eligible service members and veterans to apply.

"You served with honor. You did your duty. And when your country called on you again, you did your duty again," said Obama, in the message. "Now, it's time to collect the special

pay that you deserve."

The services are promoting the retroactive pay through national and regional media, direct mail, veteran and service organizations, websites and phone lines.

Information about the special pay also has been included on civilian and retiree pay stubs.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

Capt. Mark Fischer, 535th Airlift Squadron pilot from Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, converts the floor of a C-17 to its rolling side Oct. 14 at Ft. Benning, Ga. A C-17 Globemaster III from the 15th Wing made the long journey from Hawaii to Ft. Benning to support the student jump requirements of the 507th Airborne School.

U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen



US Navy Photo by Ed Foster

District Chief Jack Lee, from the Hickam Federal Fire Department instructs personnel during a CNIC Emergency Operations Center Incident Management Team (EOC IMT) Course at Hickam Air force Base on October 29-29.

(Below) The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Seiji Maehara, signs the guest book at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl at the conclusion of a wreath-laying ceremony to honor the U.S. service members who have sacrificed their lives throughout the Pacific.

U.S. Navy Photo by MCC Keith W. DeVinney



(Below) Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Kenneth Crutchfield, stationed aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90), tends to the grill during the Iron CS cooking competition held Oct. 22 at Ward Field at Pearl Harbor. The competition was held between the surface ships on the Pearl Harbor waterfront and featured categories for best barbecue, cake decorating and garnishments.

U.S. Navy photo by MCI (AW) Jason Swink



(Below) Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Seiji Maehara bows to honor the U.S. service members who have sacrificed their lives throughout the Pacific during a wreath-laying ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl on Oct. 27. During the ceremony, the U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific Band played, the U.S. Pacific Command Joint Service Color Guard supported with a flag detail and the U.S. Pacific Air Forces Firing Squad rendered a three-volley gun salute. Maehara was in Hawaii in order to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. (Story on page A-2)

U.S. Navy photo by MCC Keith W. DeVinney



U.S., Australian military participate in Exercise Hamel in 'land down under'

Tech. Sgt. Aries D. Early

13th Air Force Public Affairs

U.S. Air Force B-52 Stratofortresses supporting U.S. Pacific Command's continuous bomber presence in the Asia-Pacific region flew from Andersen Air Force Base (AFB), Guam to the land 'down under' to demonstrate the capability and flexibility of the Stratofortress to Australian military partners as part of Exercise Hamel, held Oct. 8 through 18.

Participation in Hamel and similar exercises provide an opportunity for Airmen to engage with allies and regional partners, and ultimately contribute toward interoperability, regional stability and security.

"It's a great opportunity to interact with our coalition partners and sister services throughout the Pacific AOR (area of responsibility) [during exercise Hamel] to train together, learn from each other, and remain proficient



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Kevin J. Gruenwald

A B-52 Stratofortress from Minot Air Force Base, N.D., deployed to the 23rd Expeditionary Bomb Squadron lands at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. The 23rd, assigned to the 36th Wing at Andersen Air Force Base, flew a multitude of sorties in support of Exercise Hamel and U.S. Pacific command's continuous bomber presence in the Asia-Pacific region.

at our mission and show U.S. resolve within the region to protect and defend our allies from any potential

adversary," said Maj. James Greenfield, bomber liaison officer, 613th Air Operations Center, Joint Base Pearl

Harbor-Hickam.

The long-duration flights, normally lasting between 11 and 13 hours, allowed the

aircrews from the 23rd Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, assigned to the 36th Wing at Andersen

AFB, to team up with Australian joint terminal air controllers to conduct close air support training. During this year's exercise, 12 sorties were flown in direct support of the training.

"Such training provides a valuable opportunity for our forces to work together and hone their skills," said Wing Commander Ian Honey, Royal Australian Air Force, assigned to the 613th AOC's strategic guidance team.

This is the sixth time USPACOM bombers have participated in exercise Hamel. B-2 Spirit bombers completed the first Hamel exercise from Guam in July 2006, while the first group of B-52s completed their first Exercise Hamel sorties with the Australian military in October 2006.

Thirteenth Air Force is one of four numbered air forces in Pacific Air Forces. It is located at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, and provides oversight of two Air Force wings, one air support operations group and 12 additional units in Japan, Alaska and California.

JBPHH recognizes families of IA Sailors, remote tour Airmen

Story and photo by MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and the Warfighter and Family Services office held a Halloween party and bowling event at the JBPHH Bowling Center for the families of Sailors serving as individual augmentees (IA) and Airmen serving on remote tours. The event was held at the JBPHH Bowling Center on Oct. 29.

More than 100 family members participated in the base's first-of-its-kind event.

Col. Charles Baumgardner, deputy commander of JBPHH, thanked the family members for their support for their spouses who are deployed overseas. "This event is to recognize and to thank all of you

for what you do every day while your loved ones are deployed in different areas of the world," Baumgardner said. "This is the first JBPHH family readiness event that we've had, and we plan many more events in the near future."

Anna E. Flowers, chief of the Warfighter and Family Services office, spoke about the importance of holding community events for the family members of IA Sailors and remote tour Airmen.

"We organized this event to give the families of IA Sailors and remote tour Airmen a venue to get together to share common experiences. This gives our Navy and Air Force community an opportunity to recognize the sacrifices these families make while their spouses are away," Flowers said.

"Additionally, events like these provide leadership with an opportu-

nity to have direct contact with families, ensuring they know what resources are available to them, and provide additional support as needed," Flowers noted.

Family members had the opportunity to dress up in their favorite Halloween costumes while JBPHH provided free bowling, pizza and refreshments during the event.

"I think this event is really great. It shows that the command and leadership recognize the service members that are deployed overseas, as well as the families that are holding down the fort here at home while they are away," said the wife of an IA Sailor.

The families of Sailors serving as individual augmentees and Airmen serving on remote tours participate in a Halloween party and bowling event at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JPBHH) Bowling Center.



Military spouses have new resource in 'Military to Medicine'

Brister Thomas

Contributing Writer

Military spouses looking for jobs in healthcare have a new resource in the non-profit Military to Medicine program. Started by Inova Health System located in northern Virginia, Military to Medicine assists experienced healthcare workers with finding positions, as well as providing online healthcare training to spouses who are interested in starting their careers.

Angela Johnson, a spouse of a USS O'Kane Sailor, is currently completing her first Military to Medicine course.

"Going back to school was scary, but I've gotten my confidence back," Johnson said.

Her goal is to find work as a medical records and health information assistant following her online training.

"The classes have been challenging, but the program provides so many opportunities to test your understanding prior to taking the actual course exam that you know whether you're ready for the exam or if you need more help," she said.

As a spouse who works full time and is raising two children (ages two and four) she explained, "The program is doable and it is not overwhelming. They provide so



Photo by Lisa Klein

Rebecca Williams, an Army spouse at Schofield, is working on the medical terminology online training course from Military to Medicine. The sticky notes on the wall in front of her help her learn this new language. Williams begins the medical records and health information assistant course in November.

many resources and an instructor; there was never a moment when I felt alone."

Rebecca Williams, an Army spouse at Schofield, learned about the program from her command's ombudsman. "When I heard about Military to Medicine, I was looking at a different online program for the same career training. I called to compare programs and price and found Military to Medicine's program was

seven months shorter and they offered me a scholarship," she said.

Williams, a mother of two (a 14-year-old and a newborn) is also working toward a medical records and health information assistant position.

"Learning medical terminology is like learning another language. The program makes you work hard, but throughout the course I could tell I was learning it,"

Williams said.

Military to Medicine was started by Navy chaplain Daniel Nichols while he was stationed in Kuwait. He remembers a conversation with a young Marine who was terrified to return home without a job or a means to support his family.

Nichols, who is now the executive director of Military to Medicine and a Navy Reserve chaplain, recognized a need to stand for those who

cannot stand for themselves.

"Military to Medicine is not a business; it is a mission that makes good business sense," Nichols stated. "We have a powerful opportunity before us. The vast majority of the world does not have the healthcare it needs to face the challenges of today, let alone those of tomorrow," Nichols explained.

"Military to Medicine provides the answer for two problems facing communities," Nichols said. "The healthcare industry is facing a shortage of quality workers at all levels and I know firsthand from my duties as a Navy Reserve chaplain, our military families are full of quality people with strong work ethic and experiences, and they need jobs."

The program serves military spouses, wounded warriors and their caregivers, veterans,

National Guardsmen, Reservists and transitioning service members. Those with healthcare work experience are connected with hiring managers through Military to Medicine's national healthcare career network. Those starting a new healthcare career are connected to online training.

"Scholarships are available for Military to Medicine's training program on a case-by-case basis," said Lisa Klein, assistant director

of marketing for the program and a Navy spouse who is currently stationed in Hawaii.

"Funding for these scholarships is provided by philanthropic organizations including Newman's Own, who awarded Military to Medicine its highest grant amount in September in recognition of our innovative program helping military families," Klein said.

Military to Medicine is currently competing for a \$250,000 grant in the Pepsi Refresh Challenge. The grant would provide 400 scholarships to Military to Medicine's online training program. "The top two organizations with the most votes at midnight on Nov. 30 will each win \$250,000. We need our military community and all their friends and families to vote for us daily throughout November to give us a chance at winning," Klein stated. "Taking two minutes a day to vote is an easy way to support our fellow military families and help spouses find the work they are looking for and need," she added.

To vote, visit www.refresheverything.com/ or text Pepsi (73774) with the message 103247 (standard text message rates apply). To learn more about Military to Medicine, visit www.militarytomedicine.org.

STORY IDEAS?

Contact the HNN editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements

Phone:

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HO'OKOLE

Ford Island Bridge closed today from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

The Adm Clarey Bridge to Ford Island will be closed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic from 3 to 4:30 p.m. today to support maintenance and testing. Residents and personnel who work on Ford Island should adjust travel plans to avoid delays.

Traffic advisory near Halawa Gate

Motorists are advised that from Nov. 2 to Nov. 23 there will be increased traffic near the Halawa Gate and Kamehameha Highway, especially during the morning rush hours from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. The delays are due to a Navy construction project at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

All commercial vehicle inspections will continue at Halawa Gate.

Traffic access to buildings 550 and 1775 on base will be temporarily re-aligned to run within the Fleet Industrial Supply Center, Pearl Harbor paved staging area.

11-year-old becomes 'Pilot for a Day'

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Carolyn Viss

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-
Hickam Public Affairs

When an 11-year-old becomes a pilot, it's a headline maker. When an 11-year-old survives potentially terminal brain cancer, it's a headline maker. And the heroes who made those things possible for 11-year-old Ryder Lum were the doctors and staff of Kapiolani Women's and Children's Hospital and the men and women of the 535th Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), Hawaii.

Ever since Ryder was unexpectedly diagnosed with a serious illness in March 2007, his parents, Richelle and David, and his best friend since preschool, Everett Fan, were by his side, helping him through. After multiple surgeries followed by chemotherapy and radiation, Ryder has accomplished what they thought might be impossible: he earned a clean bill of health. Then the four of them were able to visit JBPHH together and see him do something else that wouldn't otherwise be possible: "fly" a C-17 Globemaster III.

Ryder was able to fly Hickam's C-17 simulator as part of the 535th Airlift Squadron's 'Pilot for a Day' program on Oct. 29. His day-long agenda also included tours of the military working dog kennels at JBPHH, a personal tour of a static Hawaii Air National Guard KC-135, and the opportunity to talk to pilots and crew members.

"I wasn't expecting this place to be like this," Ryder said when the day was over. "I knew it would be cool, but I didn't realize they were going 'all out' like this."

Each stop they made showed Ryder, who is an only child, more and more about the men and women of the U.S. Air Force in Hawaii who care enough about youngsters like him to take the time every three months to invite a child to join them for a day. He became an honorary member of both the 535th AS and the 96th Air Refueling Squadron (ARS). They gave him his own flight suit, unit patches, challenge coins (to add to his growing collection), T-shirts and other mementos that will always remind him that his life is valued and celebrated.

"Doing this allows us to singularly focus on an individual and show how much we value their courage in fighting whatever condition it is they're battling," said Lt. Col. Brian Hill, 96th ARS commander. "We want to let that person know that, despite whatever ailment or disease they're fighting, they're not alone. They've got people in their corner who want to encour-



(Top) eleven-year-old Ryder Lum flies a C-17 simulator during his visit to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Oct. 29. Ryder was part of the 535th Airlift Squadron's quarterly Pilot for a Day program, which allows children with catastrophic disorders or illnesses to experience a day in the life of an Air Force pilot. (Bottom left) Lt. Col. Eric Brumskill, 96th Air Refueling Squadron chief pilot, explains the workings of a Hawaii Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker on the flight line at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (Bottom right) Capt. Jasmine McCann, a 96th Air Refueling Squadron KC-135 pilot, gives 11-year-old Ryder Lum and his best friend Everett Fan mementos from their tour of the Hawaii Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker during his visit to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Oct. 29.

age them, and they have a network of support that's bigger than they could ever imagine."

"This experience has put everything into perspective," his mother, Richelle, said. "What was important back then isn't as important now. We try not to take anything for granted, and make the most of and appreciate everything we do have," she said.

"Simply being in the community is reason enough for Hawaii's Airmen to support the 'Pilot for a Day' program," Hill said.

"Especially in ... such a fantastic community, any opportunity we have to get engaged and show what it is we do in their service is a positive," Hill continued. "A lot of people might look at

the gates [to the base] and wonder what's going on. This gives them a chance to get a peek at what their tax dollars are being used for and the kind of people who are serving."

"It's very important for us to be able to spread what we do and how we do it, and our ability to tell it to someone who has been through so much is very gratifying," said Tech. Sgt.

Joseph Royer, the 96th ARS boom operator who answered all Ryder's "non-standard, grownup questions" about the tanker. "It was a very special day," Royer said.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day
- Nov. 18 – Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard
"flyaway teams"
- Nov. 25 – Thanksgiving holiday
- Dec. 2 – Pearl Harbor survivors
- Dec. 9 – PACFLT Band

(The segments currently air between 6:15 and 6:45 a.m. each Thursday. Previous segments can be viewed at <http://www.bit.ly/KHONNavy>)

Got a story for KHON Hawaii Navy News? Email editor@hookelenews.com or call Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs at 473-2875. Stories must have a Navy tie and be of interest to the general public.

One month of construction means years of change for small island

Story and photo by
Master Sgt.
Victoria Meyer

13th Air Force Public
Affairs

YAP, Federated States of Micronesia – Eighteen Air Force civil engineers and Navy Seabees recently spent 41 days on the outer islands of Yap, Micronesia, remodeling and rebuilding a high school that needed their help as part of Operation Pacific Unity, a humanitarian civil engineering effort.

“The buildings needed a lot of work,” said Master Sgt. Marco Thresher, 13th Air Force A-7 lead planner at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. “They could have continued classes for only a couple more years before safety issues would have closed the doors.”

As part of the project, U.S. Air Force civil engineers and U.S. Navy Seabees, made up of 18 electricians, builders, plumbers and other specialists, replaced walls, doors, windows and otherwise remodeled the three main buildings of the school and rebuilt two bathroom buildings that were not able to be used prior to the team's arrival. A total of seven buildings were repaired, remodeled and repainted by the team.

“It was a complete overhaul,” Mario Sukulbech, a community leader, said about the humanitarian construction project. He said some volunteers had come in



Members of the Pacific Unity engineering team, made up of U.S. Air Force engineers from Yokota, Japan, and U.S. Navy Seabees from San Diego, Calif., are recognized during a dedication ceremony at the Outer Islands High School, in Falalop, Yap, Federated States of Micronesia, on Sept. 22. Pacific Unity is a humanitarian civil engineering effort in which 18 engineers completely rebuilt, remodeled and repainted a high school on a remote island in Micronesia.

the past to do small projects, but never anything on this scale. “This team did everything,” he said.

But they didn't do it alone. The community pulled together to make it happen.

“The local leaders put a call out to all able-bodied men on the outer islands,” said Capt. Michael Pluger, team captain from the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron, Yokota Air Base, Japan. “They came from all over to help us unload the supplies. And practically everyone else on the island came to watch. It was a big event for them.”

Accomplishing the mission proved to be a challenge because the location was a remote island 415 nautical miles from Guam. Unlike many of the outer islands, Falalop has the advantage of having a runway. However, it is only 3,000 feet long, which isn't long enough to land a C-130 Hercules.

Since almost all of the building materials had to be purchased in Yap, the challenge was in transporting the material 122 nautical miles from Yap to Falalop. To transport everything to the small island, the team used

every means available, including a barge, a small propeller aircraft, and even fishing and dive boats.

The barge transported the most, but it took more than 22 hours to get to the outer island. The small nine-passenger propeller plane also carried supplies when they could, but the most unique and challenging method used was fishing and diving boats to transport sheets of plywood and other building materials.

“It is a small island where everyone knows what everyone else is doing, and the

community really wanted to help. The owners of the fishing and dive boats came to me and told me they would haul supplies to the outer islands,” Thresher said. “It was a real challenge to load these boats because they were not made for this stuff. So it was our priority to make it safe for the crew.”

Even with the logistical issues they encountered, the team still managed to push through and complete the project on time.

At the closing ceremony, U.S. Ambassador Peter A. Praha challenged the community to see this as a fresh start and to take pride in the new school.

“This project brought the community back to how it used to be,” said John Rulmal Jr., a graduate of the high school and now owner of a small hotel on the island that housed the CE and SeaBee team while they completed the project.

Everyone in the community helped with the project and people from the outer islands came together for the dedication ceremony. “This is how the islands used to be in the old days,” Rulmal said.

But rebuilding the high school wasn't the only impact the team had on this close-knit community. The young Airmen and Sailors made quite an impression on the local residents.

By the end of the first week, the local men were taking the team out fishing and treating them like family—even inviting them into

their homes. The leaders of the community said they were very impressed with the young engineers and hoped the local students would look to them as role models.

“They were very welcoming. They were also very appreciative that they were included in the project,” said Staff Sgt. Phillip Jacob, 374th CES engineer. “We also had movie night once a week for the kids. One of the guys set up a projector in the local church and played movies for the kids on the island.”

Col. Mark Bednar, director of installations and mission support for 13th Air Force, said, “This was an extraordinary effort for our CE and Seabees and the Yap locals who were involved in this engineering effort.”

“These efforts will allow more than 150 Falalop students each year to be educated in a much better classroom environment, and I couldn't be more proud of these efforts,” he added.

“We are hoping everyone views this as a fresh start and shows a new commitment towards education on the islands,” Sukulbech said.

Thirteenth Air Force, headquartered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, conducts various civil engineering and medical humanitarian efforts throughout the Asia-Pacific region to help cultivate common bonds and foster goodwill in support of the U.S. Pacific Command's engagement efforts.

Diamond Tips *The most important minutes*

(Diamond Tips are provided by Air Force first sergeants to address concerns in the Air Force community and provide guidance to Airmen.)

Chief Master Sgt. Robert Webb, First Sergeant

Headquarters, Pacific Air Forces

As a first sergeant/wingman/parent, my role is to, “to know my people/family.” Have you ever said to someone, “How are you doing?” or “How have you been?” When you asked, did you really want to know how that person felt?

Maybe you just said hello because it is polite and normal practice when you approach others.

Tragically, the individual might have had something they really needed to talk about and only needed someone to stop and take a minute to listen.

If you are a leader of a section, getting to know your people means you need to be where they are. This means you might have to work on a swing or grave shift to meet with those individuals that work while you sleep. You might have to lose a little of your lunch break to sit down and be there for someone. The interest you show someone goes a long way.

This is true for the parent as well. Parents can be so wrapped up in the hustle-and-bustle of life that their children are asking questions and

they do not even hear the underlying message. Take a break and look them in the eyes and talk.

People will more than likely open up if they feel you genuinely want to understand. Take the quote by Steven Covey, for example, “Seek to understand, then to be understood.” This is followed by, “The key to understanding is listening with the eyes and the heart.” This quote sums up what my role as a first sergeant/wingman is. I must be able to understand the needs, wants or situations in my organization and as I attempt to address them, I must make sure my attempts are being correctly interpreted. If I do not listen or am not accessible, how will I know?

My role as a parent is the same. I have to do all of the above in relation to my children. If I do not know what their needs and wants are, I will be doing them no good. I cannot assume they want or need the things that I wanted as a child because the world is a different place with different requirements. I should make myself available to come to where they are by stopping and attending to their conversation. Once I have established that I understand, I can hopefully respond in a way they will understand, and we can work from there.

So what is the difference between listening and hearing? Listening is trying to understand what someone is saying. Hearing is simply that,

hearing. True listening is looking the person in the eyes and giving them your full attention.

Once you have shown that you have started listening to the individual, the conversation can take on a completely new dimension.

Military life is full of separations and activities. These life situations bring with them stress and uncertainty. As leaders, supervisors, wingman and parents, I feel it is very important to know how people are reacting to them. That means being where they are and talking to them. If you are not listening, how can you help? It means taking a little time out of your busy schedule to look the Airman/child in the eyes

and attend to their issues completely.

I realize that in the military time is normally not on our side and taking time to try to understand someone is not on everyone's agenda. It is hard enough worrying about the issues that confront us on a daily basis.

However, the next time you ask, “How are you doing?” to someone and you get a negative non-verbal or response, try to stop and give a little attention. If you only stop for a minute, you could brighten their day. More importantly, you could be that voice of concern they needed to hear before they do something that negatively impacts their wallet, time or health. “You got a minute?”

