

Battleship Missouri hosts commemoration for end of World War II

MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Service members assigned to various commands on Oahu, veterans and government leaders attended a ceremony commemorating the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial on historic Ford Island on Sept. 2.

On Sept. 2 1945, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz, Japanese Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and other leaders from around the world signed the Japanese Instrument of Surrender on Missouri, marking the end of the most destructive war of the modern era.

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for valor during World War II, served as the guest speaker for the ceremony and offered remarks to those in attendance.

"I remember the day when the Missouri pulled into a permanent berth here at Ford Island next to the USS Arizona in June of 1998," said Inouye. "These two magnificent ships are the bookends of World War II. The Arizona represents the sacrifice and resilient spirit of America, and the Missouri represents America's triumphant victory."

"We must support and honor all of our men and



Photo illustration | U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael Hight

Members of a Marine Corps ceremonial rifle team perform the ceremonial "rifle volley salute" during a 65th anniversary ceremony aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial marking the end of World War II. The ceremony included remarks by U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye and U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki, and was coordinated by the USS Missouri Memorial Association.

women who fought and died during the war," Inouye said. "We also must continue to support our servicemen and women who continue to currently stand the watch in Iraq and Afghanistan."

U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki offered his thoughts during the keynote address.

"I'm most honored to be here on the deck of the Missouri. This is a magnificent battleship," Shinseki said. "Today we are here to commemorate the end of the epic struggle that was World War II."

"It all began here on Dec. 7, 1941 and it ended here as well on the deck of the Missouri on Sept. 2, 1945 in the still waters of Tokyo Bay where the 'Mighty Mo' served as the stage for the signing of the instruments of surrender between the U.S. and Japan," Shinseki said. "The significance of this statement memorial lies not just within the strength of steel, but in the soul of a generation of ordinary Americans who came forward to serve their country in extraordinary ways," he said.

To conclude the ceremony, a U.S. Marine Corps honor guard fired a rifle volley, followed by the playing of echo "Taps" by the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, and a helicopter flyover by the "Easy Riders" of Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light 37 (HSL 37).

Osgood relieves Thomas as Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard commander

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

"I relieve you, sir."
"I stand relieved."

With those simple words, Capt. Brian Osgood relieved Rear Adm. (select) Gregory Thomas as commander of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard in a change of command ceremony Sept. 3 at Pearl Harbor.

Thomas assumed command of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard in June 2007. He has been reassigned to command Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Va.

Vice Adm. Kevin McCoy, commander of Naval Sea Systems Command



(NAVSEA), presented Thomas with a Legion of Merit Award for his exceptionally meritorious conduct in the three years he served as shipyard commander. He noted that Thomas led the most dramatic turnaround in the shipyard's overall performance in the past 20 years through resourceful leader-

Capt. David Osgood departs the change of command ceremony at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard on Sept. 3. He relieved Rear Adm. (Select) Gregory Thomas as commander of the naval shipyard.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) N. Brett Morton

ship and technical expertise, which resulted in unprecedented levels of productivity in accomplishing intermediate-level submarine maintenance.

Directing his remarks to the shipyard workforce, Thomas said, "Our shipyard's goal is to become the number-one naval shipyard in 2012. In partnership with Naval Sea Systems Command, our shipyard will achieve this goal."

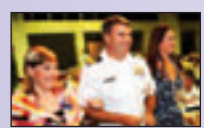
"To cap off your winning streak, last month, the Secretary of Defense recognized you as the top depot maintenance activity in all four military services of the Department of Defense," he

See SHIPYARD, A-6

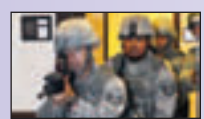
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam hosts town hall

Patricia Dray directs a question to the panel of joint base commanders during a Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) open house/town hall held at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club at Hickam on Sept. 8.

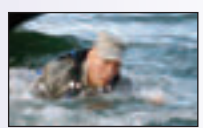
Photo by David D. Underwood Jr.



Commander, Navy Region Hawaii honors region ombudsmen See page A-2



High risk response course prepares Airmen for active shooter scenarios See page A-2



Professional military education crosses international borders See page A-4



Pacific Aviation Museum signs lease with Navy, plans to renovate Ford Island air tower See page A-9



Kaneohe Bay Airshow See page B-1



Yellow Jackets sting Hickam Tigers in title showdown See page B-2

Navy Region Hawaii honors region ombudsmen

Story and photo by
MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public
Affairs

The Warfighter and Family Services Center recognized more than 80 ombudsmen at an ombudsmen appreciation dinner at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Sept. 3.

Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, was the keynote speaker for the event, and expressed his gratitude for all the work the ombudsmen did during the year.

"You are 81 out of more than 5,000 ombudsmen throughout the Navy who support our families," Smith said. "You are our lifeline. We cannot do what we do and go forward without you. I personally thank you, and everybody in here thanks you. The reality is, while we thank you, we probably don't know half of what you do because you do it in stride."

Assemblies from CNRH; Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific; and Command Patrol Reconnaissance Wing Two, more than 220 military members and senior leaders, gathered at the Hickam Officers' Club to



Cmdr. Brian Grimm, assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 9, escorts command ombudsmen Annie Sirkin (left) and Lindsey Almond, as the two receive their certificates of appreciation during an ombudsmen appreciation dinner. The ombudsmen Appreciation Dinner was hosted by Warfighter and Family Services, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; Commander, Navy Region Hawaii; Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2; and Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet.

pay tribute to their command-specific ombudsman.

"This is about the commands showing appreciation to the ombudsman," said Teresa Espiritu, the event coordinator for the appreciation dinner. "The Warfighter and Family Services Center appreciate the ombudsmen, but we are only assisting each command to show their

own support and appreciation to their ombudsman."

Espiritu is the ombudsmen coordinator and one of the training instructors at the work and family life division of the Warfighter and Family Services Center.

"The ombudsman is not outside the command; they are part of the command," Espiritu said.

"When their command is deployed, they go through the same emotions, the same stressors. They experience all of that, and then they have hundreds of families under their care. They are amazing people because they are able to juggle their own lives, and then work, and then support other people's lives. It is very difficult, and these people are

volunteers," she said.

Holli Jo Corley, the ombudsman for USS Crommelin (FFG 37), said she volunteered to be an ombudsman because her first ombudsman was extremely helpful.

"When we were first married, my husband was a seaman apprentice and we were way away from home at our very first duty station," Corley said. "The

ombudsmen we had on our ship was unbelievably helpful. She guided me in the right direction. I was a little country girl far away from home. I never left home. I was lost in the big city of Norfolk. I swore that if I ever had enough knowledge and experience about this life, I will always be there for other spouses," Corley explained.

The U.S. Navy established an ombudsman program in 1970, under the direction of Adm. Elmo Zumwalt. Through the Navy Ombudsman Program, communication between the spouses of active duty personnel and the command is kept open, thereby improving the quality of life for everyone involved.

The purpose of the program is to ensure the families of active duty personnel have a channel of resources for their needs and quality of life. The ombudsmen can offer guidance and assistance before, during or after a deployment. They meet with department heads aboard a naval installation to find out the latest news and pass it on, including news on ship deployments, cutting down on potentially harmful gossip, and helping to ensure operational security.

High-risk response course prepares Airmen for active shooter scenarios

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Carolyn Viss

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-
Hickam Public Affairs

Every military security forces member joins the service knowing they will probably deploy and use their skills in a wartime environment. But what happens when a state-side emergency arises and they are needed to protect innocent bystanders caught up in a hostage or active shooter scenario, such as what happened during Columbine, Virginia Tech and, most recently, the Fort Hood shootings?

In order to be fully prepared to respond quickly and save lives, Airmen from the 647th Security Forces Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, participated in a high-risk response course on Sept. 2.

"This is a result of several findings and reviews after the Ft. Hood, Texas, shootings," said Col. John McBrien, the PACAF AFS Security Forces division chief. "When someone is physically inside a building shooting and killing, it's a dynamic situation. You have to get in, find, and incapacitate the enemy as quickly as possible," he explained.

Conducted by Analytic Services, Inc. (ANSER) throughout the Pacific Air Forces, including Elmendorf and Eilson Air Force Bases and Kadana, Kunsan and Osan Air Bases, this course is designed to "aid law enforcement officers, specifically true first responders, in their ability to safely and effectively respond to, address, and stop an active shooter," according to John Knipe, a senior analyst for ANSER.

The course, which exceeds basic Department of Defense requirements, also included the Hawaii Air National Guard, Sailors and local immigration customs enforcement officers based out of Oahu.



"An active shooter scenario has far-reaching consequences," said McBrien, who has been a police officer for 32 years, including his last 28 years as an Air Force security forces member. Normally, in that kind of scenario, cops have to wait for the S.W.A.T. (special weapons and tactics) team to make entry to kill or negotiate.

"While they are doing that, people may be getting killed," McBrien said. "We don't have the luxury of time. Ultimately, this is about saving lives and making sure we're trained in case, God forbid, we have to use these skills."

With role players and plenty of lights and noise coursing through the empty building they used for training, the students had stimuli attacking all their senses as they practiced how they would respond to the scenario.

"We learned a lot of new tactics, techniques and procedures," said Staff Sgt. Brett Lafreniere, a 647th SFS unit trainer. "The most challenging thing was overcoming what we call 'training scars,' or the way we're used to doing things. We're trying to get the older techniques out of our heads as we learn additional options to ensure our safety and the safety of those we're rescuing," he added.

The next step will be to effectively coordinate with other agencies on base and let them know how security forces will respond in that sort of situation, Lafreniere said.

"A crisis is not the time to collect information," Knipe said. "It's a time to act."

647th Security Forces Squadron Airmen practice maneuvering through a building they are unfamiliar with during a high risk response course at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii on Sept. 2. The active shooter scenario they received is now necessary, in part because of the Fort Hood, Texas shootings which occurred in November 2009.

AF Sergeants Association to host POW/MIA events

The Air Force Sergeants Association is sponsoring two POW/MIA events. The first is a 24-hour remembrance run beginning at 6 a.m. on Sept. 16 at the Hickam base track. The second is a reveille ceremony at 7:20 a.m. at the PME Center flag pole. Squadron volunteers are needed to fill relay teams and other volunteer opportunities. Relay volunteers should contact Tech Sgt. Lillian Barnes at lillian.barnes@hickam.af.mil. For information about other volunteer opportunities, contact Tech Sgt. Michael Gomes at michael.gomes@hickam.af.mil or Senior Master Sgt. Tricia Benning at tricia.benning@hickam.af.mil.



Maintenance/lane closures scheduled for Ford Island Bridge

Maintenance on Ford Island Bridge will result in intermittent lane closures on Fridays and Saturdays through Oct. 2.

Lane closures will last 45 minutes to one hour to support cylinder removal or installation. When lanes are closed, flagmen will control the traffic to and from Ford Island and route it onto the lane that remains open.

The north lane (headed onto Ford Island) will close intermittently from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 24 and Oct. 1.

The south lane (departing Ford Island) will close intermittently from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 25 and Oct. 2.

Drivers and pedestrians should proceed with caution and obey signage and flagmen.



Commentary

Live up to Navy Core Values and Navy Ethos



**FLTCM (SW/AW)
John Minyard**

U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief

Hello shipmates, For 234 years, the men and women of the United States Navy have proudly defended our country. Sailors, both officer and enlisted, have upheld the highest of principles through the most difficult of times and trials. Their courage has been unwavering. Their honor was never tarnished and their commitment to the Navy and our country was never in question. As professional Sailors, we should embrace

and pass down the highest ideals, as we proudly proclaim in our Navy Ethos and Core Values – honor, courage and commitment.

The day we joined the Navy and took the oath was one of the proudest days of our lives. We joined an organization with a proud and honorable legacy of service in both peace and war. It was bigger than any individual, and we proudly served as those who came before us also served. Today, sadly, a small percentage have chosen to stray from the path of honor and are failing to live up to their oath and obligations.

Throughout this past year, we have seen far too many cases of misconduct by Sailors. I'm not talking about junior Sailors doing foolish things on liberty. I'm talking about Sailors, E-1 to E-9, as well as our officer corps, blatantly disregarding U.S. Navy regulations. Every single day, I see reports of fraternization, discrimination, harassment, alcohol and drug abuse, and, perhaps most sickening of all, physical or sexual assault

against a shipmate. A shipmate!

As your fleet master chief, I am disappointed by this. As a leader and a professional Sailor, I am angered that we let it happen and outraged that we continue to allow it within our organization.

This is a direct failure of leadership! The finger points at us all. Too long have we tolerated these actions and turned a

blind eye toward questionable behavior or made excuses for our shipmates. Honor: Where is the honor in sexual harassment, or worse – sexual assault? Courage: How brave do you have to be to take advantage of a shipmate? Commitment: Where is our commitment to our ideals and rules and regulations? Where is your sense of heritage and our commitment to honor the brave men and women who have served before us? Do we really honor their sacrifices and service when we do not live up to our ethos?

Navy Core Values and Navy Ethos should be - **MUST BE** - a part of our life, each and every day. They

must be regular topics for training and discussion within our workspaces, the chief's mess, FCPOAs, junior enlisted associations and any other venue we can think of to stem this pattern of misconduct.

Leadership by example is the foundation of our Navy Ethos. This ethos underscores and reinforces our core values while stressing the importance of a professional and disciplined Navy combat force.

This does not mean we follow them when it's convenient for us, or only when we're in uniform – they apply to us 24/7. Our personal

actions and conduct are an example to everyone we serve with, junior and senior alike. We must set an example that is beyond reproach.

Remember that we are now in a time of war. There are those who are actively plotting to harm our country. When shipmates violate principles of honor, courage and commitment, it detracts from our focus on the mission. Don't let the actions of a few bring us all down.

Someone once said, "If you fail to set the example, why should you expect group members to do any better? To help keep the group together and get the job done, everything you do and say should line up with the best possible examples of leadership. When you set the example, you help facilitate the results you want as a leader."

I have a challenge for all of you. Are you leading by example? What do you want your legacy to be?

Live up to our Navy Core Values and Navy Ethos.



Diverse Views



Why did you want to be an ombudsman?

(Navy ombudsmen)



Melissa Armes
*Naval Maritime Forecasting Center
Joint Typhoon Warning Center*

"I love it. I love being able to help the families. Being on a shore command, I really don't do much. The ship command has a lot more responsibility because the ship deploys. Our command does not deploy, so I get to do a lot of cool stuff like welcoming new babies, welcoming people to the command, and going to visit people in the hospital."

Jessielyn Victorino
Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet

"I like to interact with families and friends. I'm like more of the party kind of person so I figure as an ombudsman you can meet all these people and help out with the families. It was one way to really meet and greet people."



Lindsay Hearne
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

"I became an ombudsman because when I got married to my husband and he went off to Afghanistan, no one ever called me and we ended up having to PCS while he was gone. I didn't know what to do and I ended up calling Norfolk and Hawaii to figure out what I needed to do. I didn't know what an ombudsman is before I came here. So I decided that I was going to try and make a difference. I was going to try to be the best ombudsman that I can be. I'm working from scratch from absolutely knowing nothing. I do what I can to help."

Katrina Villareal
USS Texas (SSN 775)

"I enjoy helping people. When I came to Hawaii, I was not working so that allowed me to continue volunteering. I like to reach out and help some of the wives, mentor them, empower them and let them know that they can do stuff on their own and that they don't have to have their husbands or spouses there. I want to give them the resources that were given to me."



Rebecca Hyde
USS Port Royal (CG 73)

"I enjoy helping the families. I enjoy being connected with fellow spouses, basically just being there for my families. I like knowing that I am there for them and that they have somebody to go to if they need something. I like people. I'm a people person."

(Provided by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico)

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

WAVE air station control tower crew



At a naval air station in the Hawaiian islands, circa mid-1945, Specialist 2nd Class Mary E. Johnson uses a microphone to speak to an incoming plane as Specialist 2nd Class Lois Stoneburg operates a signal lamp.

Official U.S. Navy photograph,
National Archives collection

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Joint service units train in explosive ordnance disposal skills

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Carolyn Viss

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-
Hickam Public Affairs

The 647th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's (CES) explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) flight hosted a week-long joint-service training event at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) beginning Aug. 30.

The 40 hours of training focused on breaching and entering techniques and included Airmen, Sailors, Marines and Soldiers from EOD units all over the island.

"Here we're learning how to use the least amount of force necessary to breach and enter the target," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Yates of the 647th CES EOD flight. "It's a very refined technique using finite amounts of explosives."

Although their joint tech school for EOD training at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. is the foundation for all four services' knowledge base, training this week with John Mayer, director of training for tactical energetic entry systems and a 20-year Army Special Forces veteran, taught every military member present something new about this critical, life-or-death career field.

"Joint service training ensures interoperability," Yates said. "That drove the decision to make this a joint training event rather than Air Force specific. This is one of several joint training



John Mayer, director of training for tactical energetic entry systems and a 20-year Army Special Forces veteran, teaches Airmen, Sailors, Soldiers and Marines breaching and entering techniques during a joint-service training event at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Sept. 1. Airmen from the 647th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal flight hosted the week-long event.

opportunities the 647th has capitalized on this year. Each time the results reinforce we are going in the right direction," he explained.

For the Marines present, it was good refresher training on an EOD skill set they often employ.

"But it's good because we get to see a different perspective on the way we do things," said Marine Master Sgt. T.J. Manor, the Marine Corps Base Hawaii Headquarters Battalion staff NCO in charge.

The course content was a refresher for him, but for some other EOD techs, it was totally new information.

"This isn't something we normally train on," said Army Sgt. David Woolridge of 706th Ordnance Company EOD. "I've never breached a door before."

"We don't do a lot of breaches, like the Marine Corps does, unless we're attached to a SEAL (sea, air and land) team," agreed Explosive Ordnance Disposal 1st Class Larry Polendey, a senior EOD technician for the Navy. "This is good for me."

"They are now able to build on these skills and formulate other ideas on how to do things in the EOD career field," Woolridge said. "This is another tool in our toolbox."

"Sharing knowledge and standard operating procedures gives EOD teams of all branches the flexibility they need to fully integrate regardless of the tasking," Yates said. "The more we interact, the better we understand each other."

Navy announces updates to selective re-enlistment bonus

Chief of Naval Personnel
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) – Changes to selective re-enlistment bonus (SRB) award levels were announced in NAVADMIN 300/10 for active duty and Reserve full-time support Sailors, which are scheduled to take effect Oct. 1.

Approximately 17,000 Sailors working in 135 critical skills will be eligible to re-enlist with SRB awards up to

\$90,000 in 2011.

"While the SRB program continues to be the Navy's primary monetary incentive to encourage Sailors with critical skills and valuable experience to stay Navy, it is incumbent upon the Navy to remain within congressionally authorized funding limits," said Rear Adm. Tony Kurta, director of personnel plans and policy.

SRB is also a force-shaping tool to better manage critical skill retention goals.

"As re-enlistment goals for particular skills are achieved, SRB award levels for those skills will be removed from the plan," said Kurta.

The key for Sailors is to re-enlist early to take advantage of the SRB as soon as eligibility requirements are met. Enlisted ratings selected for SRB have been placed in one of three tiers. Varying award levels and early re-enlistment opportunities have been provided for each tier.

Sailors may request to re-

enlist early for an SRB, as long as their end of active obligated service is within the current fiscal year and is not later than 90 days from the requested date of re-enlistment.

Sailors serving in tier-one skills may re-enlist any time within the fiscal year that their enlistment contract ends. Sailors receiving "early promote" in their most recent periodic evaluation report and Sailors with nuclear skills are given greater re-enlistment flexibility.

"With the policy changes, it is critical that Navy counselors and command leaders read and understand the governing instructions and NAVADMINs," said Kurta. "The required paperwork must be completed correctly and in a timely manner to be processed so Sailors can take advantage of the bonus."

To read the complete NAVADMIN, visit www.npc.navy.mil.

For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnp/.

Professional military education crosses international borders

Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

15th Wing Public Affairs

Master Sgt. Clete Toensing, 15th Wing Professional Military Education (PME) Center director of operations, received a unique professional development opportunity when he was selected as part of the 13th Air Force's professional development initiative to forge relationships with partner nations and build professional development opportunities for Airmen.

As both a student and evaluator of the Royal New Zealand Air Force's Flight Sergeant Promotion (FSP) course, Toensing solidified his professional educational relationship and laid the groundwork for recognizing the FSP course as a deliberate professional development opportunity for Airmen. No other exchange of this kind has ever been made between the U.S. and New Zealand militaries.

As PME director of operations, Toensing said he found the experience to be extremely valuable and benefited greatly from their teaching methods.

"Their leadership model revolves around what they call 'emotional intelligence,'" he said. "You can't lead others until you can lead yourself. It's about figuring out yourself, and then having 'relationship leadership' with your subordinates."

"Their instructor staff is so passionate about it and their students really believe in being able to change their air force," Toensing said. "It's the most I've ever learned from PME."

As someone who is very



Master Sgt. Clete Toensing (in the Airman battle uniform), 15th Wing Professional Military Education Center director of operations at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, participates in the Royal New Zealand Air Force's Warrant Officer school. The school is 19 days long and is currently under evaluation as potential alternative to the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy.

familiar with PME, Toensing said the relaxed nature of the Royal New Zealand's Air Force as well as having multiple instructors in each classroom helped create an effective learning environment.

"They do things the same way, but it's a much more relaxed learning environment so I think it's easier to learn, plus they have multiple instructors [in each class]," he said, "in comparison to having four individual flight chiefs in the U.S. Air Force PME system. The students are going to get the same information, but they will get four different examples. [In New Zealand] there wasn't as much of a separa-

tion between staff and students," Toensing explained.

Toensing said the opportunity to learn and train alongside the "kiwis," a nickname members of the New Zealand military have given themselves in honor of their national bird, is extremely valuable. The friendships made and the information gained from one another can be useful as allied forces work together in missions all around the world.

"Whether it was LOAC or anything else, the question was always 'how would the U.S. do it,'" he said. "Some of them have been deployed with us. Just being able to learn and appreciate the missions that they're going

through and what they add to the defense of the world ... to be able to bridge that gap, whether I'm going back to my shop or going to deploy I would find it easy to work with the 'kiwis' in the future," he explained.

Toensing suspected he might be required to perform the Royal New Zealand Air Force's operational fitness test during the course which consists of push-ups and a timed 5K march with 45-pound rucksack containing a helmet, flak jacket, 120 rounds of ammunition, webbing, 1.5 liters of water and a first aid kit, among other things. To prepare, his nine-year-old son Jack played the role of physical training

leader (PTL). Jack made Toensing ride a bike with a back pack full of bricks and perform push-ups and sit-ups.

"[Jack] was quite a good PTL," he said. "I tried to get somewhat ready for it in case I had to perform it during class with a couple marches here and there to get used to it, but I did not have to as they do not administer it."

Outside the classroom, Toensing identified his participation in a "loyal toast," a tradition they perform in honor of Queen Elizabeth II, at a dining-in as one of his most memorable experiences.

"The chief of the mess at the end of the evening toast-

ed the president of the United States and had me toast the queen," Toensing said. "Everybody was so respectful and friendly toward me."

Chief Master Sgt. David Williamson, 13th AF command chief, said that Toensing's involvement in the course is a positive step toward interoperability.

"It's a great professional development opportunity for one of our SNCOs," he said. "The value in fostering enduring relationships, building capacity, and promoting interoperability in today's uncertain environment and on tomorrow's battlefields cannot be understated," he said.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



(Left) Members of the Hawaii Public Schools Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps post the colors during the ninth annual Joint Venture Education Forum at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Aug. 26.

Photo by Vanessa Lynch

(Below) The canoe team from Fleet and Industrial Supply Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam paddles its way to the finish line during the All Forces 2010 Hawaii Wounded Warrior Canoe Regatta at Rainbow Bay Marina on Sept. 6.

U.S. Navy photo by Jim Murray

(Below) Airmen, Sailors, Soldiers and Marines practice breaching and entering techniques during a 40-hour training event at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Sept. 1. Airmen from the 647th Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal flight hosted the training sessions, taught by an experienced civilian contractor.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn Viss



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Carolyn Viss

Senior Airman Marc Rowand-Donohue, a 647th Civil Engineer Squadron explosive ordnance disposal technician, safely bunkers an electric blasting cap during a joint-service training event at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Sept. 1.



(Above) Master Sgt. Clete Toensing (in the Airman battle uniform), 15th Wing Professional Military Education Center director of operations at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, participates in the Royal New Zealand Air Force's Warrant Officer school. The school is 19 days long and is currently under evaluation as a potential alternative to the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy.

Courtesy photo

The color guard parades the colors at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard change of command on Sept. 3. On the stage are (from left): Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle, keynote speaker; Vice Adm. Kevin McCoy, commander of the Naval Sea Systems Command; Rear Adm. (Select) Gregory Thomas, outgoing shipyard commander; Capt. David Osgood, incoming shipyard commander; and Gregory "Kaipo" Crowell, shipyard nuclear production manager.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) N. Brett Morton



USS Hawaii arrives in Yokosuka, Japan

Story and photo by
Lt. Lara Bollinger

Commander Submarine
Group 7 Public Affairs

YOKOSUKA, Japan (NNS) -- Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776), homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, arrived at Yokosuka Naval Station in Yokosuka, Japan on Sept. 3, marking the first time in U.S. 7th Fleet's history that a Virginia-class submarine visited the region.

With a crew of approximately 130, Hawaii is on its first western Pacific deployment.

The boat's scheduled deployment will give Hawaii's crew the opportunity to conduct a multitude of missions and showcase the latest capabilities of the submarine fleet.

"My crew has worked very hard to train in preparation for this important deployment," said Cmdr. Steve Mack, Hawaii's commanding officer. "I'm proud that my submarine is the first of its class to ever deploy to the western Pacific region, and I'm looking forward to completing all assigned tasking over the next few months."

For Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Andrew Myers, this is his



The Virginia-class attack submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776) transits Tokyo Bay on the way to Fleet Activities Yokosuka, marking the first time in the history of the U.S. 7th Fleet that a Virginia-class submarine visited the region. This is Hawaii's first scheduled deployment to the western Pacific Ocean.

first deployment.

"This is my first time to ever set foot in Japan, and I'm very excited to experience the culture and

sights of this beautiful country," Myers said.

Measuring 377 feet long and weighing 7,800 tons when submerged, Hawaii

is one of the Navy's newest and most technologically sophisticated submarines. The state-of-the-art submarine is capable of sup-

porting a multitude of missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike, naval special war-

fare involving special operations forces, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, irregular warfare and mine warfare.



Photo by David D. Underwood Jr.

Chief Master Sgt. Craig Recker, 15th Wing command chief, receives the seasonal influenza vaccine from a 15th Medical Group Airman on Sept. 1 at the 15th Wing Headquarters. The seasonal influenza vaccine is now available for deploying, active duty and high risk category Airmen at the immunizations clinic.

Hickam immunizations clinic receives seasonal flu vaccine

15th Medical Group

This year's first shipment of the seasonal influenza vaccine has arrived at Hickam.

There will not be a separate H1N1 vaccine as the medicine contains both flu and H1N1 vaccines as its constituents.

No shortage is expected and all vaccines will be available by the end of November.

The 15th Medical Group (MDG) will focus its initial immunization efforts on deployers, active duty and high risk categories. Other beneficiary categories

will be immunized as additional vaccines arrive, once the initial categories are complete.

For more information, contact the immunizations clinic at 448-6276. Hours are from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday (except Thursdays which are 8 a.m.-2 p.m.).

Shipyard changes command

Continued from A-1

said. "You won the Robert T. Mason award, the first NAVSEA activity to ever win this prestigious award. That kind of performance comes as a result of a shipyard workforce that has committed to excellence," Thomas noted.

He thanked many individuals, commands, government and private organizations for supporting the shipyard and him.

"The past three years under Greg Thomas' watch have been terrific," McCoy said. "The Navy does not select admirals based on their superb performance to date. The Navy selected you as an admiral, Greg, based on what we know you will do for our nation in the future, and we absolutely picked the right man. Thank you again for all you have done for our nation, our Navy, and this great shipyard."

Hawaii State Gov. Linda Lingle, keynote speaker, said, "Rear Adm. (Select) Thomas is an outstanding example of leadership to all of us who try to be leaders - whether in the military or civilian community. He is both a respected military commander and a personal friend to me and to the people of Hawaii."

"His leadership goes far beyond the boundaries of the shipyard into the hearts of our community," Lingle said. The governor also made a special proclamation on behalf of the people of Hawaii, signed by her and Lt. Gov. James "Duke" Aiona Jr., that declared Sept. 3, 2010 as Rear Adm. (Select) Greg R. Thomas Day in Hawaii as a mahalo for his service.

"To the men and women of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, I am thrilled to be back and ready to serve you as your commander," Osgood said. He was assigned to the shipyard

twice before, as a project superintendent from 2000 to 2003 and as nuclear production manager and then operations officer from 2006 to 2009. He most recently headed the fleet maritime readiness branch in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) at the Pentagon.

He returned to Pearl Harbor to become the 45th commander of the largest industrial employer in the state of Hawaii and the largest ship repair facility between the U.S. west coast and the Far East.

"I have full confidence that we've picked the right person for the job," McCoy said. "Brian's performance in all of his undertakings, including most recently having served as the waterfront operations officer right here at this shipyard and having served on the CNO's maintenance staff back in Washington, have marked him as a leader who knows how to get the job done," he said.

Parents urged to return federal census survey cards to help schools

MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs

With approximately 15,000 military dependent students in the Hawaii public school system, the importance of funding for schools will be in parents' hands when it comes to filling out the annual federal census survey cards.

On Sept. 7, Hawaii public schools issued the cards, and parents were asked to fill them out and return them this week.

Since 1950, the federal survey card program has helped replace lost tax revenues in public schools.

Hawaii has the highest number of military

dependent children per capita of any state in the nation, making the federal survey cards even more important in helping support the local communities.

Liz Gocong, school liaison officer for Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, noted the importance of making sure that parents do their part so the schools can receive the funds.

"Military parents and federally employed parents can add revenue to the public education system by simply taking a few moments to fill out and return the card," Gocong said. "The funds received are made available to help offset the lost tax revenue, and in today's economy of

funding shortfalls, the need is even greater to help the schools in this very simple way."

Gocong also said that the funds will have a direct effect on every school.

"The funds go directly into the Hawaii public education general fund, which in turn helps hire teachers and enrich school level programming," stated Gocong. "It also helps collect the population data to define and develop programs to support federal and military connected families."

Hawaii has 11 schools with more than 50 percent military-dependent student enrollment and more than 20 percent enrollment in 10 others.

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U.S., Philippines host Asia-Pacific military nursing symposium

Tech. Sgt.
Kerry Jackson

13th Air Force Public
Affairs

MANDALUYONG CITY, Philippines—The United States and the Republic of the Philippines co-hosted the 4th annual Asia-Pacific Military Nursing Symposium for more than 200 nurses from 13 countries in Mandaluyong City, Philippines, from Aug. 29 through Sep. 4.

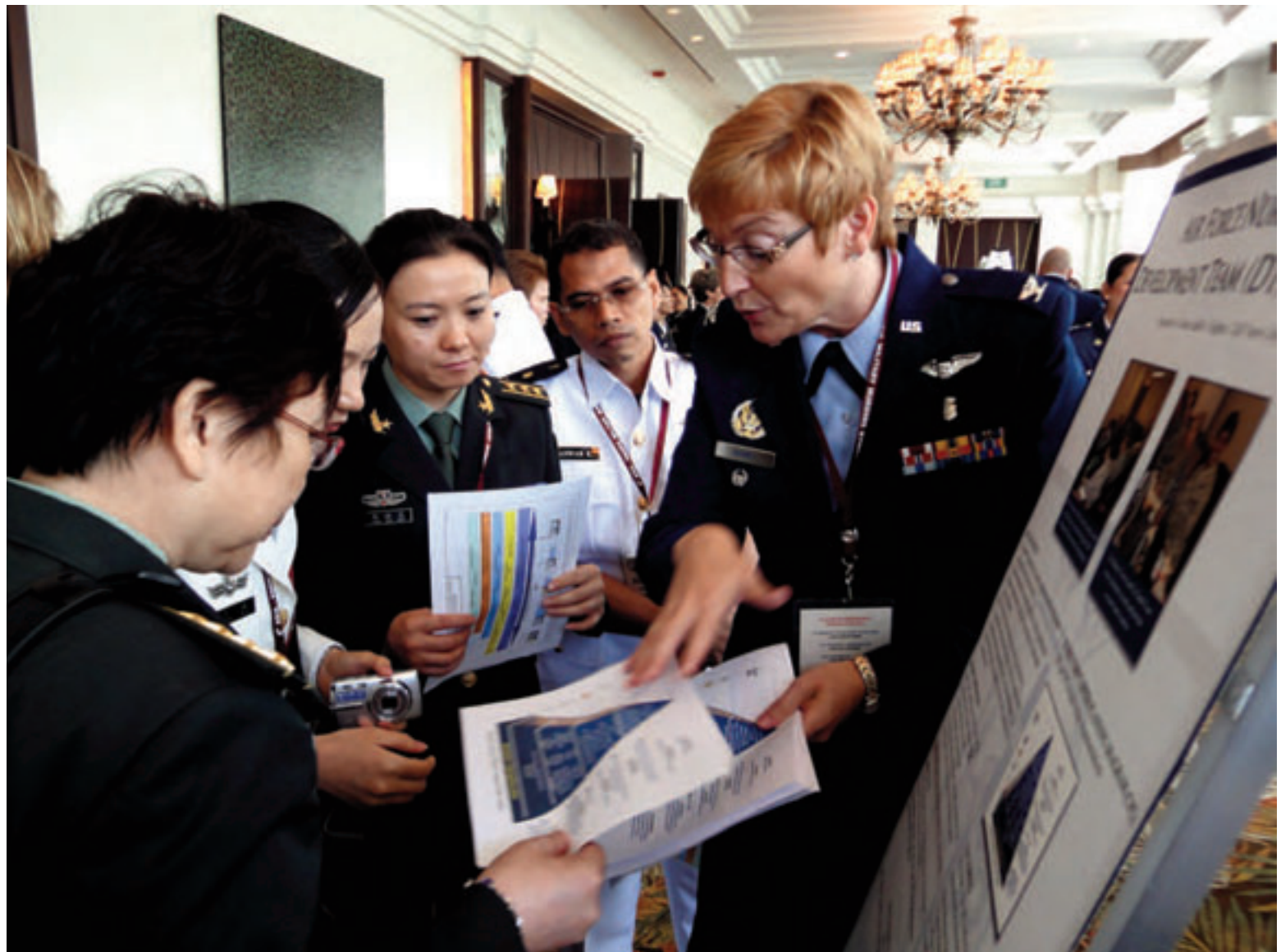
The seven-day conference, hosted by the Armed Forces of the Philippines Office of the Chief Nurse, in collaboration with U.S. Pacific Command and 13th Air Force at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, focused on nursing education, career development, global pandemic preparedness and disaster management. The symposium was designed to help nurses in senior leadership positions share ideas and practices in order to build relations between Asia-Pacific countries.

"Through this unique symposium, we have all learned a tremendous amount about each other's health care systems, infection control practices and nursing services," said Maj. Gen. Kimberly Siniscalchi, the assistant Air Force surgeon general, medical force development, and assistant Air Force surgeon general, nursing services, office of the surgeon general. "We are more alike than we are different. We share challenges: nursing shortages, the lack of standardized training and combating the effects and spread of infectious diseases, and we share a rich history and unique mission as military nurses: to serve and to care for those who serve beside us."

Siniscalchi added, "In order to provide quality care to the most people around the world, we must continue the spirit of collaboration ignited by this symposium."

During the symposium, which was centered around the theme "Strengthening Military Nursing Cooperation through Inquiry, Research and Action," the nurses were familiarized with the history of military nursing, and discussed various approaches to aeromedical evacuation and pandemic infectious diseases common to the Asia-Pacific region, among other topics.

"Everything was perfect during this year's nursing conference," said Col. Narbada Thapa, the head delegate from the Nepalese Armed Forces. "I acquired a great deal of knowledge on nursing from many armed forces from around the world, and had an opportunity to build relationships. It was really a memorable event for me."



(Above) Col. Judith Hughes, the Pacific Air Forces' chief nurse at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Hawaii, talks to delegates during the 4th annual Asia-Pacific Nursing Conference Symposium which concluded Sept. 4. More than 200 nurses from 13 countries were in attendance. The seven-day conference, hosted by the Armed Forces of the Philippines Office of the Chief Nurse, in collaboration with U.S. Pacific Command and 13th Air Force, focused on nursing education, career development, global pandemic preparedness and disaster management.

(Right) Maj. Gen. Kimberly Siniscalchi, the assistant Air Force Surgeon General, medical force development, and assistant Air Force Surgeon General, nursing services, Office of the Surgeon General, visits a patient in the orthopedic ward at the Armed Forces of the Philippines medical center in Manila, Philippines on Aug. 29 during the 4th annual Asia-Pacific Nursing Conference Symposium.

U.S. Air force photos by Tech Sgt. Carlos Limo



HSL 37 Detachment Four reaches halfway point

Lt. Robert A. Merin

Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37

Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37 (HSL-37) Detachment Four recently passed the halfway point on its 2010 deployment aboard USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93).

The detachment departed Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay on June 1 for deployment to the western Pacific Ocean. Shortly after getting underway, Detachment Four participated in multiple training exercises with the Joint Special Operations Forces-Philippines (JSOTF-P). These exercises included members of the U.S. Army Rangers, U.S. Navy SEALs (sea, air, land) and the Philippine Coast Guard.

Following JSOTF-P, Detachment Four participated in Cooperation and Readiness Afloat Training (CARAT) 2010, a yearly exercise held with the



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Mike Tuddenham
An HSL-37 Detachment 4 helicopter hovers over the USS Chung-Hoon during its western Pacific deployment.

Republic of Singapore Navy. Upon completion of CARAT 2010, the detachment

enjoyed a brief liberty stop in Singapore before joining the George Washington Strike Group.

Since joining the USS George Washington (CVN

73), the Detachment Four Easy Riders have provided critical support to the strike group as it transited the western Pacific Ocean and participated in multiple exercises with South Korean armed forces, including Exercise Invincible Spirit.

To date, Detachment Four has flown more than 165 mishap-free flight hours in support of Chung-Hoon and George Washington, as well as with multiple coalition warships and merchant vessels from around the globe.

JPAC to host POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) will commemorate National POW/MIA Recognition Day with a ceremony at 10 a.m. on Sept. 17 at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). The ceremony will honor prisoners of war and fallen U.S. personnel whose identities remain unknown.

Highlights this year will include a wreath laying ceremony, speeches and Taps, played to the nation's prisoners of war and those Americans who are still missing in action.

This year's program will be led by Johnnie Webb, JPAC's deputy to the commander for public relations and legislative affairs. The keynote speaker, Carole Hickerson, is a POW/MIA advocate who helped



design the POW/MIA flag—an iconic symbol of the efforts America's men and women have given to their nation while serving in America's armed forces.

The ceremony is free and open to the public. At the conclusion of the ceremony the audience will be invited to tour the cemetery and/or lay wreaths at the monument. Appropriate attire for the event is

military class B or service equivalent, or civilian casual attire.

Organizations that would like to participate in the wreath laying ceremony must R.S.V.P. Elizabeth Feeney no later than noon on Sept. 10.

Falling directly under the U.S. Pacific Command, the jointly-manned organization of more than 400 military and civilian specialists has investigated and recovered missing Americans since the 1970s. To date, there are approximately 84,000 unaccounted-for Americans from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Cold War.

The ultimate goal of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, and of the agencies involved in returning America's heroes home, is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of Americans lost during the nation's past conflicts.

Hurricane preparedness: Taking care of your family

(Compiled from Operation Prepare)

September is National Preparedness Month, a time to reaffirm a commitment to readiness and the necessity of preparedness. It is still in the peak months of hurricane season, so take this time to perform simple steps to prepare for emergencies in your homes, work places and communities. This week's article will focus on taking care of your family.

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to plan in advance: how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations.

Family emergency plan

Identify an out-of town contact. It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.

Be sure every member of your family knows the phone number and has a cell phone, coins or a prepaid phone card to call the emergency contact. If you have a cell phone, program that person(s) as "ICE" (in case of emergency) in your phone. If you are in an accident, emergency personnel will often check your ICE listings in order to get in touch with someone you know. Make sure to tell your family and friends that you have listed them as emergency contacts.

Teach family members how to use text messaging (also known as SMS or short message service). Text messages can often get around network disruptions when a phone call might not be able to get through.

Subscribe to alert services.

Hawaii residents can subscribe to Nixle, a free service that will send instant text alerts or emails to let you know about bad weather, road closings, local emergencies. Sign up on www.nixle.com under "for residents" for a quick, easy and secure service. A link can also be found on the City & County of Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management website at www.honolulu.gov/dem.

Planning to stay or go

Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the emergency, the first important decision is whether you stay where you are or evacuate. You should understand and plan for both possibilities. Use common sense and available information, including what you are learning here, to determine if there is an immediate danger.

In any emergency, local authorities may or may not immediately be able to provide information on what is happening and what you should do. However, you should watch TV, listen to the radio, or check the Internet often for information or official instruction as it becomes available.

Finally, meet with your family to discuss why you need to prepare for a disaster, and practice your family emergency plan. Working with neighbors can also save lives and property. Meet with your neighbors to plan how to work together after a disaster. Know your neighbors' special skills and consider how you could help neighbors who have special needs, such as disabled and elderly persons.

Preparedness is your duty and responsibility. Be informed, have a plan, and make a kit.

Pacific Aviation Museum signs lease with Navy, plans to renovate Ford Island air tower

Story and photo by
MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public
Affairs

Leaders from the Pacific Aviation Museum (PAM) and Commander, Navy Region Hawaii signed a lease for the Ford Island air control tower and observation deck during a ceremony on historic Ford Island on Sept. 2.

The signing of the lease will allow PAM to start a \$7.5 million restoration and stabilization project on the tower and observation deck.

The tower played a historic role when a radioman issued the first radio broadcast of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor at 8:05 a.m. on Dec. 7, 1941. Exploding bombs shattered lower-



Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, speaks with Pearl Harbor survivor George Bennett during a lease-signing ceremony for the Ford Island air control tower and observation deck at the Pacific Aviation Museum (PAM) on historic Ford Island. The signing of the lease will allow PAM to start a \$7.5 million restoration and stabilization project on the tower and observation deck.

level windows during the assault.

"The tower is part of the Navy's history and our country's history, and it is important that we continue to preserve this historic site," said Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. "As the history of Pearl Harbor continues with current and future generations to come, we need to have memorials and reminders of all the important history that happened here more than 65 years ago."

The first phase of the project will include clearing the tower and building of hazardous materials, repairing the steel structures around the water tower and observation level, and painting

the exterior.

The second phase will include renovating the interior two stories of the operations building, from the garage to the observation level.

Kenneth DeHoff, executive director for PAM, explained the importance of renovating the tower.

"Keeping the tower from deterioration is one of our highest priorities and most important projects right now," DeHoff said. "We are extremely grateful to have this opportunity and we're anxious to get started on preserving this important beacon of history."

The 158-foot tall tower is seen by more than two million people a year during their visits to the National Park Service's World War II Valor in the Pacific Monument.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

Sept. 16 – Education: STEP

Sept. 23 – Blue Angels air show

Sept. 30 – Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

Oct. 7 – Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Oct. 14 – Navy birthday

Oct. 21 – Diver diversity

Oct. 28 – USS Lake Erie

(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 hnn@honoluluadvertiser.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.

Designer drug 'spice' is illegal in Hawaii

(The following information was released in an ALL NAVACTS Hawaii message, dated Aug. 26.)

Beginning Aug. 1, the state of Hawaii has categorized the designer drug spice as schedule one, making it illegal to be sold over the counter in Hawaii.

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH) and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific (CNSGMP) has implemented COMNAVREGHINST 5300.28a and COMNAVSURFGRUMID-PAC 5300.28a, which prohibit the use and possession of spice to all military personnel, Department of Defense personnel, contractors, retirees, family members and sponsored guests within the NRH and NSGMP areas of responsibility.

Spice is dangerous due its unknown contents. Those who have experimented with the drug have encountered many adverse effects, including blacking out and having no recollection of events while they were intoxicated. It is vital that we educate our Sailors on the health risks and legal consequences of experimenting with spice.

For best practices and helpful tools in drug prevention, visit the Navy Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (nadap) website at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/nadap>.

GOT SPORTS

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editor@hookelenews.com

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



Military, community work together in JVEF partnership

Story and photo by Vanessa Lynch

Hawaii Army Weekly News Editor

Educators and distinguished volunteers gathered with high-ranking military personnel at the Hawaii Okinawa Center in Waipahu on Aug. 26 for the ninth annual Joint Venture Education Forum, or JVEF.

The JVEF is a celebration of the ongoing partnership between Hawaii's military community, the state's Department of Education, public schools, businesses and the state legislature, who all met with the goal of facilitating communication and improving results for schooling in Hawaii.

"Hawaii-based forces have been a large contributor to the warfighting missions of the last decade ... (and) absentee parents, often deployed in harm's way, create circumstances that affect the children they leave behind in a variety of ways," said Col. Michael Davino, U.S. Pacific Command and JVEF executive co-chair. "Schools provide the anchor, the stable force, in these unsettling times when our families are experiencing deployment after deployment, and challenge after challenge," he said.

This year's theme was "Partnerships Committed to



Attendees at the ninth annual Joint Venture Education Forum, Hawaii Okinawa Center, in Waipahu on Aug. 26, recognized more than 140 Soldiers, Airmen, Coastguardsmen, Marines and Sailors who were honored for their volunteer efforts at school partnerships statewide.

Excellence," and the past 12 years have demonstrated that this cooperative venture has already had a positive impact on the Hawaii community at large.

"I funded this effort out of concern that our community was being divided — the military commands and military parents on one side, and state educators and policymakers on the other," said Sen. Daniel Inouye during his keynote speech. "Once divided, the healing would be long and difficult. JVEF's goal is to focus on the commonality, which is the successful education of Hawaii's children, whether mili-

tary or civilian," Inouye said.

Chris Blanchard, event co-emcee and chief of staff at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, said Hawaii's public school system is the 11th largest school district in the nation with more than 177,000 students enrolled in grades K-12 at 258 public schools and 31 public charter schools.

Since its inception in 1998, the goal of JVEF has been to assist military students and their families through outreach programs and partnerships in Hawaii. Today, the program continues to meet the needs and transition issues of

approximately 15,000 military children by funding school repair and maintenance projects and providing textbooks and technology upgrades.

"Since 2000, through the generosity of Sen. Inouye, the JVEF has received an annual appropriation from the Department of Defense to support its initiatives," said Fay Toyama, principal at Lehua Elementary School and event co-emcee. "Through these funds, totaling nearly \$45 million, the JVEF has made a positive impact on schools and students.

"The partnership has provided new playgrounds, textbooks and curricular supports in the areas of math, science, fine arts and robotics," Toyama continued.

"These funds are but a small means to accomplish a much larger goal," Inouye said. "There is a Hawaiian word called *laulima*, which means 'many hands working together.' That is JVEF. That must be our collective mission," Inouye said.

During the forum, guests received updates on several initiatives, including transition, technology and a project update of a Tripler Army Medical Center program that receives funds to help special needs students enrolled in public schools — Special Needs Services and Information for Students and Teachers, or ASSIST.

Attendees also recognized more than 140 Soldiers, Airmen, Coastguardsmen, Marines and Sailors who were honored for their volunteer efforts at school partnerships statewide.

Mokulele Elementary, Solomon Elementary and Wheeler Elementary School received the JVEF Norbert Commendation Award from State Sen. Norman Sakamoto; State Rep. Mark Takai; Rear Adm. Robin Watters, chief of staff, U.S. Pacific Command; Davino; and Kathryn Matayoshi, interim superintendent.

This year's outstanding JVEF military contributor was Blanchard. Curtis Chang, co-chair of the textbook and technology strategy group, was awarded the JVEF civilian contributor award.

In her closing remarks, Matayoshi announced that Hawaii came in third place in the "Race to the Top," a competitive federal education grant. Hawaii will receive \$75 million in federal funding for education reforms statewide.

"Education is so very important for the future of our state," Matayoshi said. "We are all in this canoe together. Even though the current may try and take us in a different direction, we must paddle together to get to the same destination — and that is to have all of our students graduate."

Pacific region militaries join humanitarian community workshop for Pacific Endeavor

Lt. Theresa Donnelly

Pacific Command Public Affairs

CHANGI NAVAL BASE, Singapore — Military representatives from Singapore and U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) recently hosted a humanitarian communication workshop for 16 Asia-Pacific nations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as part of Pacific Endeavor at Changi Command and Control Center at Changi Naval Base, Singapore.

Established in 2003, Pacific Endeavor tests the

processes participating nations, non-governmental organizations and other entities would likely deploy in support of a major natural disaster.

For the first time since the program's establishment, members of the humanitarian community played a key role in the workshop. The United Nations, Salvation Army and the Singapore Red Cross representatives participated to further the interoperability between non-governmental organizations and the military.

"I think it is really important to have the humanitarian community here this

year," said New Zealand Army Lt. Dan Swale. "The military is just one component of the whole-of-government approach. There are so many partners with whom we work when a disaster occurs."

More than 250 communication experts from the military, humanitarian community and private industry took part in the scenario, which simulated an earthquake in the Philippines. Teams from the various countries also tested routers and radio frequencies as well as received training on how to protect personal information stored on com-

puter databases.

"This year, we were able to bring a scenario in and perform the functions of a C6 combined forces information team," said U.S. Navy Chief Warrant Officer 4 Vincent Street, Pacific Endeavor future operations planner. "This can fully support the communication needs of a multinational force during a major disaster."

Pacific Endeavor also lays the groundwork for enhanced relations among the humanitarian community, military forces and private industry. By putting the humanitarian community together in a workshop

venue, they can quickly team up when a crisis hits and call upon their newly established contacts for assistance and advice.

"If we can't communicate, we can't operate," said U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Brett Williams, director for command, control, communications, computer systems directorate (J6). "We are so fortunate to have the non-governmental organizations with us this year. This provides a terrific laboratory to refine our skills that is most needed in times of disaster," Williams said.

The workshop also explored emerging uses of

social networking tools and highlighted the role of social networking sites, such as PACOM's All Partner Access Network used during Haiti relief efforts earlier this year. Operators received training on these resources so they will understand how to deploy these technologies in a disaster.

"It is so important for all the nations to be able to work together, help each other and find ways to improve our processes," said Bangladesh Navy Cmdr. Afzal Hossain. "This is a win-win situation for us. We have a lot to gain and share with others."