



ARRIVES AT JBPHH

The first Hawaii-based F-22 Raptor, the U.S. Air Force’s most advanced fighter jet, soars over the Pacific Ocean on July 2 en route to its new home at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), Hawaii. The joint base community is invited to witness the arrival of the

Raptors, the first two aircraft of a squadron that will eventually include 20 F-22 Raptors, at 9 a.m. today during a Pacific Air Forces ceremony at the base operations center at Hickam on JBPHH. The ceremony will mark the begin-

ning of the partnership between the Hawaii Air National Guard and the

active duty Air Force flying and maintaining the “fifth generation” fighter at Hickam. The F-22 Raptors will be flown by pilots from the 199th Fighter Squadron, 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard and active duty Air Force pilots from the 19th Fighter Squadron, 15th Wing. Due

to limited parking during the 9 a.m.

ceremony, a shuttle bus will be continuously running from the base exchange and Burger King park-

ing lot to the ceremony location.

Also, as part of the celebration marking the arrival of F-22A Raptor aircraft to Hawaii, the public is invited to view a brief aerial demonstration this evening between 6:45 and 7 p.m. off the Waianae coast. The F-22A demonstration involving two aircraft will showcase some of the capabilities of the U.S. Air Force’s most advanced jet fighter.

The 15-minute demo will be entirely



over water, but residents will be able to view the aircraft from coastal areas from Honokai Hale to Waianae.

U.S. Air Force photo by SRA Gustavo Gonzalez

Group sail sets stage for RIMPAC 2010

Rim of the Pacific Public Affairs

USS Chosin (CG 65) pulled into Lualualei, Hawaii on July 1, marking the end to a group sail that has brought ships representing Canada, France, Australia, Japan and the United States from the International Fleet Review in Victoria, British Columbia to the Hawaii operating area in preparation for Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2010.

“The International Group Sail from Victoria, B.C. to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was a great opportunity to work closely with our sister navies of the Pacific Rim. All of the RIMPAC partner nations rely on the maritime domain for prosperity, and the security of that domain is vital to individual national interests,” said Capt. James Autrey, commodore, Destroyer Squadron 23. “Over the course of 11 days, we learned from each other and operated with unity of effort while preparing for the RIM of the Pacific Exercise 2010.”

Since departing Victoria on June 14, ships participating in the group sail have coordinated together on exercises and training operations ranging from anti-surface warfare to group maneuvering as a means of establishing bonds and lines of communication.

“Developing relationships with and among the Sailors of the world leads to developing and building relationships with the peoples of the world,” said Lt. Cmdr. Michael Gala, operations officer aboard Chosin. “Firsthand relationships with the representatives from each of these countries only deepens an understanding of the seagoing and warfighting tradition, and more recently the peacekeeping tradition.”

It is these bonds and lines of communication that will carry over into RIMPAC 2010.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 N. Brett Morton

Leading Seaman Richard Glasbergen, from Grimsby, Ontario, raises the Canadian flag aboard the Royal Canadian Navy destroyer HMCS Algonquin (DDG 283) during the morning colors ceremony for Canada Day. Algonquin is in port at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to participate in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercises. USS Chosin (CG 65) homeported at Pearl Harbor, pulled into Lualualei, Hawaii on July 1, marking the end to a group sail that brought ships representing Australia, Canada, France, Japan and the United States from the International Fleet Review in Victoria, British Columbia to the Hawaii operating area in preparation for Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2010.

“Working up to a running speed with any other group of motivated and gifted individuals requires at least a little practice. Sharing something like a centennial celebration with the Canadian navy and then sharing time at sea provides the nesting time required before such a robust event,” Gala said.

This sense of cooperation and building toward the future is what makes the group sail a success.

“Opportunities to go on a foreign warship at-sea are rare. I had such an opportunity and won’t soon forget it,” said Ensign Daron Weber, food service officer aboard

Chosin. Weber visited the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force ship JS Akebono (DD 108) as part of a personnel exchange conducted between Chosin and Akebono.

“One thing I’ve experienced in the Navy is that it is small. The same could be said for an international navy. We very well might never cross paths again, but our experience in the personnel transfer will help sailors on both sides in the future,” Weber said.

Now in Hawaii, Chosin and her partnering ships switch focus from the group sail to RIMPAC.



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Ed Early

Linehandlers aboard the littoral combat ship USS Freedom (LCS 1) pull in mooring lines as the ship gets underway from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for the at-sea phase of Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2010, the world’s largest international maritime exercise on July 6.

Ships depart Pearl Harbor for RIMPAC 2010 Exercise

MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

A total of 32 ships and five submarines from seven nations departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on July 6-7 to participate in Rim of the Pacific

(RIMPAC) 2010 Exercise in the Pacific Ocean.

As the ships departed JBPHH, the exercise kicked off operational phase II of the three-phase event.

Phase II began July 6 and continues until July 24. This portion includes live fire gunnery and missile exercises, maritime inter-

diction and vessel boardings, anti-surface warfare, undersea warfare, naval maneuvers and air defense exercises.

Participants will collaborate in explosive ordnance disposal, diving and salvage operations, mine clearance

See RIMPAC, A-9

DoD solicits inputs on ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’

OSD PA

With the release of the 2010 Department of Defense (DoD) Comprehensive Review

Survey of the Uniformed Forces and the establishment of a confidential communication dialogue, service members now have two additional means to provide inputs on issues associated with repeal of the law commonly known as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” The survey

and confidential dialogue provide an outlet to supplement installation visits around the world and the online inbox.

The survey was randomly sent out electronically to approximately 400,000 service members, active duty and National Guard/Reserve component on July 7. They must complete and return the survey no later than Aug. 15. E-mail addresses for service members were randomly

selected by using addresses listed in the DEERS database system. It is important that each service member take the time to complete the survey. Family members should expect to see their surveys arriving through the regular mail system in early August.

These surveys will help DoD develop a contingency plan to support implemen-

See DON’T ASK, A-9



Wing reservists to participate in Navy fleet exercise
See page A-2



Freedom Sailors, Singapore Navy cross-train
See page A-2



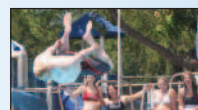
Polowczyk assumes command at FISC Pearl Harbor
See page A-4



735th Air Mobility Squadron serves Hawaii’s warfighter
See page A-4



Joint Base celebrates fun fourth
See page B-1



RIMPAC Sports
See page B-3

Wing reservists to participate in Navy fleet exercise

13th Air Force Public Affairs Office

Four 507th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft and more than 180 Air Force reservists will join forces with the U.S. Navy in July to support a U.S. Pacific Fleet exercise.

The main deployment headed for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) departed July 5. There will be a mid-July rotation to allow additional reservists to swap places and provide additional members to experience the joint operation. Most of the 507th ARW reservists and aircraft should return home by Aug. 1.

Held biennially by U.S. Pacific Fleet, the 2010 RIMPAC exercise is the 22nd time it has been held and the fifth time supported by Oklahoma Air Force reservists.

RIMPAC helps improve leadership at all levels, increases personnel proficiency, and aids leadership's ability to adapt to rapid changes. For the naval forces involved, the exercise offers the opportunity for forces to hone their skills - from disaster response to anti-piracy operations - in a complex and challenging multinational environment designed to improve cooperation and command and control operations.

The exercise is split into four distinct phases - harbor, schedule of events, force integration training (FIT) and tactical. During the harbor phase, participants will continue to build on the relationships developed during the planning conferences. Throughout this phase participants will



A group of KC-135 Stratotankers from the Iowa Air National Guard's 185th Air Refueling Wing taxi before leaving their home base Sept. 3, 2009, at Sioux City regional airport. The aircraft are departing for a local air refueling mission.

U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Vincent De Groo

finalize the plans developed over the last 12 months, compete in sporting events, and attend nation-themed social events.

During the schedule of events phase, maritime participants will work in smaller, multinational groups to rehearse and conduct gunnery, missile, anti-submarine, and air defense exercises, as well as maritime interdiction and vessel boarding, explosive ordnance disposal training, diving and salvage training, mine clearance activities, and support an

amphibious landing.

The land component will operate as a multinational force conducting amphibious landings, assaults and fire support coordination exercises. The Marine Corps war-fighting lab will test enhanced company operations. The air component will fly a variety of sorties involving attack aircraft, bombers, tankers, electronic warfare and airlift.

The force integration training (FIT) phase provides a forum for integrated training with air, land and maritime forces to rehearse

for the tactical phase. This phase also provides an opportunity for staff ashore to exercise operational level planning.

Finally, during the tactical phase, participants will transition into the execution of a warlike scenario consisting of unscheduled events where participants will have the opportunity to operate as they would during a real-world contingency or combat operation.

For the 507th Air Force reservists involved, RIMPAC offers a unique opportunity to directly integrate

into a joint environment complete with refueling operations involving naval aircraft not normally encountered.

According to Lt. Col. Gerald Malloy, now currently advance-deployed to JBPHH, "This will be the fifth time our wing has been requested by name to support this exercise."

The mission objective for the reservists is to establish operations and conduct air-refueling as tasked by the Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC). "We will receive our daily air tasking

orders from the Pacific Fleet. During previous exercises we found our aircraft heavily engaged and flying three to four missions daily, refueling a variety of aircraft," Malloy said. Most missions range from two to four hours in duration.

During RIMPAC 2008, 507th aircraft flew 64 sorties for 257 hours and offloaded more than 2.2 million pounds of fuel during the month-long exercise and wing officials believe 2010 looks to surpass the previous totals.

Freedom Sailors, Singapore Navy cross-train

Story and photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

U.S. and Singapore Sailors from USS Freedom (LCS 1) and RSS Supreme (70), respectively, exchanged professional knowledge on June 28 while both ships were moored at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Sailors from each ship visited the other as part of the 2010 Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise. One of the goals of RIMPAC is to build relationships and mutual understanding between partner nations and their navies.

Chief Damage Controlman (SW/FMF) Craig Cole, the damage control assistant aboard Freedom, along with eight other Freedom Sailors, visited Supreme in the morning to learn how the Singapore crew handles damage control.

"We've learned a lot from them," Cole said. Cole explained that the U.S. Navy is not used to managing small crews. "We are a big Navy with big crews on big ships whereas Singapore is a small Navy with small



Chief Damage Controlman Craig Cole, assigned to the littoral combat ship USS Freedom (LCS 1), gives a tour of the ship's bridge to a group of Singapore sailors from the Republic of Singapore Navy frigate RSS Supreme (70). Freedom and Supreme are two of the 34 surface ships participating in the 2010 Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) biennial exercise.

ships and small crews. They have learned how to manage with small crews whereas we really haven't."

Supreme is a multi-role stealth frigate which currently holds a crew of 71 sailors. Freedom, however, is the lead ship of the

Freedom-class of littoral combat ships and has a crew of about 40 personnel.

Freedom's crew is part of an innovative manning construct that reduces crew size, demanding each Sailor maintain high levels of proficiency in

multiple fields, and optimizes ship operability with multiple crews.

Though a typical Singapore patrol vessel carries a crew of 30 personnel, sailors aboard Supreme were nevertheless impressed by the size of Freedom's crew.

Senior Marine Engineer Wee Tiong Teo, the officer in charge of fire fighting, along with six other sailors, came aboard Freedom later in the afternoon to tour the ship.

"I'm really surprised on the size of the crew and the size of the ship," said

Teo referring to Freedom. "It's not any smaller than the size of my ship. I'm really quite impressed with the level of automation that the ship has."

Teo said he was interested in how the ship operates and how the leadership manages morale and fatigue among the crew.

"We are multi-tasked quite a bit," said Teo. "Judging by the size of the ship [Freedom] and the number of people that they have, I think their capacity to multi-task is amazing. It's definitely something for us to learn."

The 2010 RIMPAC exercise brings together units and personnel from Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and the United States.

During the exercise, participating countries will conduct gunnery, missile, anti-submarine and air defense exercises, as well as maritime interdiction and vessel boarding, explosive ordnance disposal, diving and salvage operations, mine clearance operations, and an amphibious landing.

RIMPAC 2010 USAF Airmen prepare for international maritime exercise

13th Air Force Public Affairs

The 613th Air and Space Operations Center (AOC) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam will serve as the central hub for data and voice communications during the biennial Rim of the Pacific exercise which began June 23 and continues through Aug. 1.

The state-of-the-art facility will enable a multinational team to provide command and control of air and space assets during RIMPAC, the world's largest international maritime exercise.

"The 613th AOC is

equipped to ensure the flow of information between all the exercise's players," said Brig. Gen. Thomas Harwood III, mobilization assistant to the commander, 13th Air Force, and the combined forces air component commander for RIMPAC 2010.

RIMPAC 2010 employs more than 20,000 personnel from 14 nations, more than 170 aircraft, 34 ships and five submarines. This year's exercise includes units or personnel from Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Peru, the

Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and the United States.

"The exercise is designed to increase tactical proficiency of participating units in a wide array of combined operations at sea to include our air component flying a variety of sorties involving fighter aircraft, bombers, tankers, electronic warfare, command and control and airlift," Harwood said.

U.S. Air Force aircraft participating in RIMPAC include B-52 Stratofortresses, C-17 Globemaster IIIs, E-3 Sentries, F-15 Eagles, F-16 Fighting Falcons, KC-

135 Stratotankers, HC-130 Hercules and HH-60 Pave Hawks.

Hosted by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, RIMPAC 2010 is the 22nd in a series of significant international multilateral combined and joint military exercises scheduled biennially and demonstrates a commitment to working with global partners in guarding the sea lanes of commerce and communication, protecting national interests abroad and ensuring freedom of navigation as a basis for global peace and prosperity.

"RIMPAC provides an excellent opportunity for

our Airmen to sharpen their warfighting skills while increasing interoperability with our joint and global partners. We are building relationships that will help promote security across the region," Harwood said.

Participating U.S. Air Force units include the 20th Bomb Squadron from Barksdale Air Force Base, La.; 194th Fighter Squadron from the California Air National Guard; 85th Test and Evaluation Squadron from Eglin AFB, Fla.; 13th Air Force, 25th Air Support Operations Squadron, 535th Airlift Squadron,

169th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron and 199th Fighter Squadron from the Hawaii Air National Guard, all from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii; 44th Fighter Squadron from Kadana Air Base, Japan; 964th Airborne Control Squadron, 970th Airborne Control Squadron, 513th Air Control Group, and 465th Air Refueling Squadron from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.; 422nd Test and Evaluation Squadron from Nellis AFB, Nev.; and 39th and 301st Rescue Squadrons from Patrick AFB, Fla.

SENIOR AIRMAN MARCOS MORALES



Hickam airman provides contracting support to commanders in Kuwait

SrA Gustavo Gonzalez

15th Wing, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Senior Airman Marcos Morales, a contract specialist with the 647th Contracting Squadron at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, is this week's Joint Base Warrior of the Week. "My responsibilities include administering contracts for different construction projects around base," explained Morales. "I currently administer an indefinite-delivery-indefinite-quantity contract that covers all significant paint projects on Hickam," he said. "On top of my contracting duties I am also a member of the Hickam Honor Guard," noted Morales.

According to Senior Master Sgt. Michael Sharpe, 647th Contracting

Squadron superintendent, Morales is a leader willing to step up to the challenges the Air Force and contracting face.

"He will excel as a contingency contracting officer at Ali Al Salem, Kuwait over the next six months, providing direct support to the combatant commanders," he said. "He will make us proud of his accomplishments in the (area of responsibility)."

Morales enjoys spending time with his wife and his one-year-old daughter Isabella.



Diverse Views



What goals do you want to achieve on your deployment?

(Sailors from USS O'Kane (DDG 77))



Cryptologic Technician Maintenance 3rd Class (SW) Tyler Fregine

"My goals for this deployment are to make E-5 this fall and get most of my associates degree done. I want to knock out at least six college credits this deployment."

Gas Turbine System Technician Mechanical Fireman (SW) Rachel Kuebler



"My goals are to make third, work on my engineering qualifications, and try to get work center supervisor qualified."



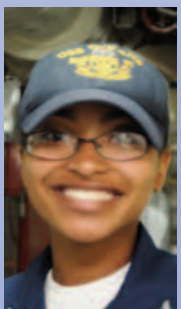
Fire Controlman 2nd Class (SW) Alexander Cruz

"Work on qualifications, lift a lot of weights and get big, and return home safely."

Command Master Chief (SW/AW) John Hall



"My personal goals are to save money and finish my last two classes for my degree."



Sonar Technician Surface 2nd Class (SW) Kira Story

"My goal is to save 10 thousand dollars."

Damage Controlman 2nd Class (SW) Dean Bonoan



"I want to learn to play the ukulele, learn to speak tagalog and work on engineering qualification."

(Provided by SN (SW) Rachel Swiatnicki)

Sound the reveille!



Official Air Force photograph from U.S. Air Force National Archives

Airman 2nd Class Frances E. Courtney furnishes the bugle calls of Taps and reveille for the 3452nd Student Squadron at Francis E. Warren Air Force (WAF) Base on June 23, 1953. According to Air Force National Archives, it is believed that Airman Courtney was the only WAF bugler in the Air Force at that time.

HO'OKELE

Commander,
Navy Region Hawaii
Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith

Chief of Staff
Capt. Melvin Lee

Director,
Public Affairs
Agnes Tauyan

Deputy Director,
Public Affairs
Bill Doughty

Leading Chief Petty Officer
MCC Bart Bauer

Leading Petty Officer
MC2 Mark Logico

Staff Writer
MC2 Robert Stirrup

Contributing Writer
Seaman Rachel Swiatnicki

Commander,
Joint Base
Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Capt. Richard Kitchens

Deputy Commander
Col. Charles Baumgardner

Director, Public Affairs
Dr. Philip Breeze

Managing Editor
Karen Spangler

Contributing Writer
Blair Martin

Contributing Writer
Randy Dela Cruz

Layout/Design
Antonio Verceluz

Ho'okele is a free unofficial paper published every Thursday by The Honolulu Star Advertiser 500 Ala Moana Boulevard Suite 7-500 Honolulu Hawaii 96813, a private firm in no way connected with DoD, the U. S. Navy or Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with Commander, Navy Region Hawaii. All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com World Wide Web address: https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Hawaii/.

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication primarily for members of the Navy and Marine Corps military services and their families in Hawaii. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U. S. Government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps and do not imply endorsement thereof. The civilian publisher, The Honolulu

Star Advertiser, is responsible for commercial advertising, which may be purchased by calling (808) 521-9111. The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products and services advertised by the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii or The Honolulu Star Advertiser.

Everything advertised in this paper shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source. Ho'okele is delivered weekly to Navy & Air Force housing units and Navy installations throughout Oahu. Housing residents may contact the publisher directly at (808) 538-NEWS (538-6397) if they wish to discontinue home delivery.

Polowczyk assumes command at FISC Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by
Jim Murray

Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, JBPHH

In a change of command ceremony held July 1 aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), Capt. John Polowczyk relieved Capt. Randy Moore as commanding officer of the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Pearl Harbor at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Rear Adm. Mark Heinrich, commander of Fleet and Industrial Supply Centers, presided over the event.

Moore took FISC's helm in June 2008, and the following two years brought some of the greatest changes in FISC Pearl's history. Prominent among them was the onset of joint basing as Moore presided over the integration of Air Force Logistics Readiness Support into FISC Pearl's organizational structure.

"Capt. Moore's work in support of joint basing is pioneering," said Heinrich, who added that the work of Moore and Hickam personnel "will create opportunities for the joint Pearl and Hickam team to show the rest of the Department of Defense how joint basing is really done."

During the ceremony,



Saluting during the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Pearl Harbor change of command ceremony on July 1 aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) are (left to right): Capt. John Polowczyk, Capt. Randy Moore, Rear Adm. Mark Heinrich and Chaplain Douglas Waite. During the ceremony, Polowczyk relieved Moore as the commanding officer of FISC Pearl Harbor. Heinrich, commander of Fleet and Industrial Supply Centers (COMFISCS), presided over the ceremony.

Heinrich awarded the Legion of Merit to Moore, but the captain was quick to give credit to the FISC team. "You took my ideas and you molded them and shaped them and built upon them . . . and you made them better, far better than I had ever dreamed. Because of your

work, we have built a stronger Navy and cemented FISC Pearl Harbor's 68-year reputation for being the best supply center on the face of the earth," Moore said.

Moore has been assigned to the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command,

Scott AFB, Ill., where he will serve as the chief information officer.

Polowczyk's most recent assignment was as business management officer at U.S. Joint Forces Command, Norfolk, Va. where he had oversight of all of the command's government contracting, tech-

nology transfer activities and industry/academia engagement.

"Capt. Polowczyk brings a wealth of knowledge from three sea tours, including assignments aboard an attack submarine, a destroyer and an amphibious assault ship," said Heinrich. "Capt.

Polowczyk's expertise in acquisition and operational fleet logistics, as well as his joint logistics experience, make him the logical and absolute best choice to serve as FISC Pearl Harbor's next commanding officer."

A native of Manhasset, Long Island, N.Y., Polowczyk was commissioned in the Navy Supply Corps following his 1987 graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy, where he earned a bachelor's degree in engineering. He also has a master's degree in contract and acquisition management from the Naval Postgraduate School.

No stranger to Hawaii, Polowczyk was assigned to Pearl Harbor after he was commissioned and served as the supply officer aboard the attack submarine USS Queenfish (SSN 651). In 1988, with Polowczyk aboard, the Queenfish deployed on a polar crossing that included a surfacing at the North Pole. Polowczyk has also done supply officer tours aboard the destroyer USS Peterson (DD 969) and the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5).

He is a graduate of Manhasset High School where he played football and lacrosse. He also played lacrosse at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Pacific Rim nations participate in 'ultimate' exercise in Hawaii

Lt. Cmdr. Fenn Kemp

Exercise Rim of the Pacific 2010, Australian Navy Public Affairs

The commander of Australia's contingent to exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2010 said RIMPAC will be among the largest and most important exercises Australia has participated in for many years.

Commodore Stuart Mayer said the biennial exercise will provide a unique challenge to all involved.

"RIMPAC is the ultimate test of how we operate with our Pacific partners," Mayer said. "Whether you are a member of the flight crew on an RAAF Orion, an Australian soldier operating with the U.S. Marine Corps or a sailor on one of our Navy's three ships attending this year, RIMPAC throws up challenges rarely encountered on other exercises."

More than 1,200 Australian Defense Force (ADF) personnel arrived in Hawaii to participate in RIMPAC, which is designed to test their interoperability with 14 Pacific rim nations, including the United States, South Korea, Indonesia and Canada.

Three Australian Navy ships, HMAS Kanimbla (L 51), HMAS Newcastle (FFG 60) and HMAS Warramunga (FFH 152), are participating in RIMPAC 2010. They are being joined by members of the 2nd Battalion, Royal

Australian Regiment, two RAAF AP-3C Orions from RAAF Base Edinburgh in South Australia and Navy clearance divers.

This RIMPAC will also give both Navy and Army the chance to exercise in an amphibious space.

"The first of two new Australian amphibious ships (LHDs) are due to be complete in 2014 so we continue to exercise our developing amphibious capability in this environment," said Mayer. "The ADF continues to develop and refine its amphibious capability and knowledge in preparation for the capability increase presented by the arrival of the LHD. The information sharing opportunities presented by RIMPAC directly contribute to our preparations for the LHD. This is an exciting new capability we are taking on and all three services will have a role to play," he explained.

RIMPAC 2010 will be the last for the Australian Navy's 817 Sea King Squadron which is due to be de-commissioned in 2011.

"The Sea Kings have a long history with the RAN (Royal Australian Navy) and have provided excellent support throughout their operational service," said Mayer. "The flexibility provided by this capable aircraft will be put to good use, particularly during the amphibious phase of this exercise."



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Paul D. Honnick

The Royal Australian Navy Adelaide-class guided-missile frigate HMAS Newcastle (FFG 06) arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2010.



U.S. Air Force photo

Soldiers from the 311th Signal Brigade board an Air Mobility Command-contracted Boeing 767 aircraft headed for the area of responsibility where they will be serving on a year-long deployment.

735th Air Mobility Squadron serves Hawaii's warfighter

2nd Lt. Joe Sillaman

735th Air Mobility Squadron, JBPHH

Around the clock, 24/7, 365 days a year the 735th Air Mobility Squadron (AMS) extends Department of Defense and Air Mobility Command's (AMC) global reach capability by providing air transportation, maintenance and command and control for aircraft transiting the Pacific. Part of a global en route structure, the 735 AMS is one of six Pacific AMSs under the 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing, accelerating global mobility for the warfighter.

The 735th AMS serves Hawaii's warfighter, moving more than 40,000 combat forces and 10,000 tons of vehicles and support equipment annually to combat training, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Recently, the 735th AMS processed and loaded 175 Soldiers and 353.1 tons of cargo from

the 311th Signal Brigade, departing on a year-long deployment where they will be providing barebones communication in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Responding to the call, the 311th Signal Brigade quickly trained, prepared equipment, and deployed within only three months, expediting communications support to the frontlines. Paralleling the brigade's efforts, AMC and 735th AMS supported the unit's air transportation requirements.

Lt. Col. Jacquelyn Brown, commander of 311th Signal Brigade, commended the effort. "At the end of the day, we can say we did this in 90 days. We know and have the feeling like we can do anything," she said.

Brown praised the effort of her unit and the 735th AMS. "Without AMC and the 735th efforts, we wouldn't have been able to get the training we need to get the job done. Once there, we'll be able to start operations immediately," Brown said.

The partnership between the 735th AMS and Hawaii's joint warfighters is further highlighted by the coordination with the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Stryker Brigade combat team to deploy more than 4,000 Soldiers in support of the overseas contingency operation later this summer. This partnership is an example of the support that the 735th AMS provides to each of the armed services.

Lt. Col. Jeff Pierce, commander of 735th AMS, added, "In addition to deploying our own Airmen, we stand ready to provide the 24/7 support needed to expedite the warfighter anywhere in the world they are needed. We are proud to be part of these efforts daily, excited to showcase our capability, and glad to be part of the Hawaii military team on JBPHH [Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam]."

The nearly 400 civilian and military warriors of the 735th AMS work enable global mobility 24/7 year-round.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



P-3C Orion aircraft Patrol Squadron (VP) 4, VP-5, VP-8, VP-40, VP-47, VP-62 and VP-69 line the Rainbow Fleet tarmac of Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay during the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2010 exercise. RIMPAC is a biennial, multinational exercise designed to strengthen regional partnerships and improve interoperability.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Meagan E. Klein

(Below) A rainbow over the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) falls onto the USS Arizona Memorial at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Reagan is at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to participate in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2010 exercises.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 N. Brett Morton



U.S. Air Force photo by David D. Underwood Jr.

Col. Robert J. Dague, vice commander of 15th Wing, and Chief Master Sgt. Louis D. Orrie, 15th Operations Group command chief, talk with Technical Sgts. Olivia and Brett Bennett at the Hale Aina Enlisted Dining Facility at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on July 2. Dague and Orrie visited with Airmen and provided a safety briefing.



(Left) Vice Adm. Richard W. Hunt, commander of U.S. 3rd Fleet, speaks to U.S., Japanese, Australian, Republic of Korea and Canadian Sailors of the maritime patrol and reconnaissance community during an all-hands call about the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2010 exercise on July 7.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Meagan E. Klein

(Right) Capt. Christopher Kaiser, commodore of Submarine Squadron 7, presents the 2009 Damage Control "Red DC" award to Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SS) Martin Abel, USS Columbus (SSN 762) damage control petty officer, on June 30. This is the third year in a row that Columbus has earned this award.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW/AW/SCW) Ronald Guttridge



"Kahu" Kekoa Kordel explains the purpose of the maile lei as (left to right) Capt Richard Kitchens, commander Joint Base Pearl Harbor- Hickam, (JBPHH); Jeffery Gardner, Hickam Base Exchange main store manager; and Col. Charles 'Rusty' Baumgardner, deputy commander of JBPHH and commander, 647th Air Base Group, untie the maile lei before the Hickam Main Exchange grand re-opening on July 2.

U.S. Air Force photo by Ed Foster



Indonesian Marines prepare for RIMPAC

Air Force Tech Sgt. Cohen A. Young

Defense Media Activity - Hawaii

Indonesian Marines participated with United States Marines in water survival techniques here July 2 in preparation for Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) 2010.

RIMPAC is a biennial exercise that tests the interoperability of partner nations.

In total there are 14 nations, 32 ships, five submarines, more than 170 aircraft and 20,000 personnel participating.

As personnel will be traveling between various ships and the islands of Hawaii, it is necessary for personnel to complete shallow water egress training (SWET), which is taught at Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

"Today we are training U.S. Marines and Indonesian Marines on how to use an underwater breathing device in case the helicopter they are in crashes into the sea," said James Grumbling, the chief instructor at Survival Systems.

More than 40 Indonesian Marines had the opportunity to receive the training alongside U.S. Marines. There were some challenges due to language differences, but thanks to translators and universal hand gestures, the training went smoothly.

"Even though I don't speak Indonesian, between their translators, our hand signals and use of body language, we were able to communicate effectively enough for the Indonesian Marines

to understand us," Grumbling said.

Grumbling added that the training is important because it ensures everyone is ready in case of an emergency. "This training is extremely important because you never know who will need it, so it's better if everyone is prepared," he said.

The Indonesian Marine Corps personnel participating in the training are from the 3rd Battalion, 1st and 2nd Divisions and are happy to be in class.

"This is good training that we are getting," said 1st Lt. Amin Laga, the executive officer of Falcon Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Division and a native of the Java Island of Indonesia.

"We've completed the obstacle course, group physical training, the firing range and water egress training, so it has been a great experience here even though it may have been a little difficult at times," he added.

RIMPAC fosters cohesiveness between nations and prepares them to be interoperable and ready for a wide range of potential operations. The exercise's theme is "Combined Agility, Synergy and Support."

"We've had the chance to interact with the Malaysians, the Americans, the Tongans and other countries and because of it, we've exchanged cultures and my Marines have learned new things," Laga said.

"It's been nice especially working with the United States Marine Corps because they have given us knowledge and new experiences," he added.

JPAC teams return from Vietnam

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command

Teams from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam returned to Hawaii on June 22 after spending more than 40 days in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Teams successfully conducted recovery and investigative operations, searching for evidence and information associated with Americans missing from the Vietnam War.

Three recovery teams searched in the Quang Binh, Quang Tri and Thua Thien-Hue provinces for four missing individuals associated with aircraft losses. The fourth recovery team searched an underwater aircraft crash site in the northeastern Nghe An and southeastern Thanh Hoa provinces for two missing individuals. The teams searched for human remains, life support and material evidence used in the identification of unaccounted-for personnel. Possible human remains



JPAC photo by MCI Anderson Bomjardim

Navy Diver 2nd Class Jessie Trujillo, a member of Mobile Diving Salvage Unit 1 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, jumps off a barge for a surface supply dive in support of a Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command recovery mission in the Nghe An province, Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The mission of JPAC is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the nation's past conflicts.

were recovered and repatriated, and have been transported to the JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory for analysis and identification.

Two investigation teams

conducted interviews, research and fieldwork in seven provinces for 53 missing individuals associated with 28 cases. Investigation teams developed information to

advance the fate determination of last known alive cases and support the recommendation to excavate selected recovery sites. This was the 99th joint field activity in Vietnam.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

- July 15 – Force health protection and USCG - water safety
- July 22 – USS Chosin and cruiser modernization – Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard
- July 29 – RIMPAC wrap-up
- Aug. 5 – POW/MIA Patriots and Navy League
- Aug. 12 – Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard apprentice graduation

(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.

Pearl Harbor survivor, hero finds final resting place at Pearl Harbor

Story and photos by
Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

A memorial ceremony was held for 93-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor and former Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Michael Robert Sikora on July 6 at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island.

The ceremony included a short religious service, the scattering of ashes, and a three-volley rifle salute provided by the Navy Region Hawaii ceremonial guard. A Navy bugler was also on hand to sound "Taps," and a Sailor presented an American flag to three of Sikora's four children, twin daughters Yvette Thomas and Annette German and son Robert Sikora. Several of Sikora's grandchildren, great-grandchildren and family friends were also in attendance.

Sikora, who died Jan. 1, was a 24-year-old Sailor aboard the USS Maryland (BB-46) during the Dec. 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor attacks.

Sikora's daughter Yvette said the service was a touching tribute to her father, who had enjoyed his military service.

"The service was just wonderful," she said. "Pearl Harbor and the Navy meant everything to my dad. He was involved in the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association throughout his life, and while he was [stationed] in Pearl Harbor he had joined the Oahu Surf Club. It had always been his last wish to come back to Pearl Harbor, and I could feel him. He was right there with me throughout the whole ceremony," she added.

Sikora was born to Czechoslovakian immigrants in Barton, Ohio on Dec. 29, 1916. He was the seventh child in a family of 15, the first generation in his family to be born in America. Growing up, he earned the



Photo illustration

reputation of a "hard worker" because of the long hours he spent working in the coal mines around his hometown in Ohio.

Wanting a fresh start in life, Sikora enlisted in the U.S. Navy on Sept. 25, 1940 and was assigned to USS Maryland, stationed at Pearl Harbor.

On Dec. 7, 1941, Sikora's ship was moored on Battleship Row, alongside USS Oklahoma (BB-37).

Because the USS Maryland was moored inboard of the Oklahoma, which sustained the brunt of enemy fire leading it to eventually capsize, the ship suf-

fered only four fatalities. This was far fewer than the catastrophic 429 deaths aboard the USS Oklahoma, just a few feet away.

According to his family members, Sikora was instrumental in saving the lives of many Sailors aboard the USS Maryland and USS Oklahoma, thrown from their ship by heavy torpedo and enemy fire.

His daughter, Yvette, said that during the attacks, Sikora leaped from his ship and into the burning waters, trying to save any Sailor he could reach.

"He jumped into the water and rescued people who

were thrown overboard or those who couldn't swim," she said. "He never liked to talk about it, but he only touched on it later in his life. He later told me he had saved about 100 people that day while sustaining injuries himself."

Due to his heroic efforts in 1941, Sikora was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Purple Heart.

Sikora's son, Robert, said the Pearl Harbor attacks had a significant impact in his father's life. "I think he became a different man after that day," his son reflected.

"From some of the stories he told me before and after that

day, I could tell that he became a kinder and more thoughtful man - a person who valued life and put his family first."

While in the Navy, he met and married his wife, Dorothy, and they had four children. Although Sikora eventually separated from the Navy on Nov. 23, 1946, he was able to parlay the electrician skills he had learned as a Sailor into a 30-year career at Universal Studios in California where he worked as an electrician and as the air conditioning and refrigeration manager.

Sikora's daughter Annette said that later in his life her

father, forever touched by the tragedy of Dec. 7, 1941, visited numerous local high schools and colleges and talked about his personal experiences at Pearl Harbor.

"Until he started [compiling] his notes for his lectures, we really didn't know what he had gone through," she said. "Dad even came back once to Pearl Harbor for the 60th anniversary of Dec. 7 attacks. He never forgot that day."

Annette said she plans on continuing her father's lectures in hopes of sharing her father's story with a younger generation not familiar with Pearl Harbor.

"I am going to compile [his notes] and continue that legacy," she said. "Before he died, he asked me what I wanted and I told him I wanted his lecture [notes]. Being a first generation American, he really believed in what America stood for and that fighting for his country was the price of our freedom. It was his great passion," she added.

Sikora's son Robert, who also served four years in the U.S. Navy, said although his father was never the "emotional type," he would have been humbled by the military honors given to him by his fellow Navy Sailors.

"He always wanted to return here because of the emotional bond he had with his Sailor buddies," his son said. "There would definitely be some tears running down his face if he were here to see all this. But then again, he probably would have been a little embarrassed, too, because although he was a hero in our eyes, he never called himself one. He always said he was just there doing his job."

After scattering their father's ashes in the harbor waters he once loved so much, his children all agree that those are words only a true hero would say.

Chung-Hoon rendezvous with squadron mate Chafee

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93)

SOUTH CHINA SEA-- Two Pearl Harbor-based destroyers from DESRON 31, USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) and USS Chafee (DDG 90), had the unique opportunity to rendezvous recently, near the Luzon Straights, off the coast of the Philippines. Both ships are deployed to the western Pacific. Chung-Hoon departed Pearl Harbor on June 1 and Chafee has been away from its homeport since March.

The two ships took the opportunity to conduct com-



U.S. Navy photo

Pearl Harbor-based destroyers from DESRON 31, USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) and USS Chafee (DDG 90), had the opportunity to rendezvous, near the Luzon Straights off the coast of the Philippines to conduct communications and maneuvering drills as well as flight operations.

munications and maneuvering drills as well as flight operations. The crews enjoyed the spectacle as they observed the quarter-

masters of each ship conduct the ancient mariner's skill of flag hoisting signals. Flag hoisting is a form of communication that goes back hundreds of years and is still in use today, even in

the age of electronics with satellite communication and radios which are now the primary means for ships to communicate.

The ships also practiced

the code of unalerted encounters at sea, known as CUES, which are international signals used between foreign military ships to communicate with each other. It is particularly useful when radio interference makes accents difficult to understand or if there is simply no common language for the ships to use to communicate.

Cmdr. Scott Erb, Chung-Hoon's commanding officer, hosted Chafee's CO, Cmdr. Chase Patrick, during the morning events. Patrick was also the former executive officer of Chung-Hoon and was

greeted warmly by his former shipmates as he walked about the ship.

After the COs' coffee, the ships conducted several at-sea replenishment approaches with Chafee's embarked helicopter overhead taking pictures of the event. The training was valuable to the ship's junior officers, who need to remain proficient in this critical ship-driving skill which is required to replenish ships at sea. Following the approach and breakaway drills, the ships and crews bid each other farewell and parted ways.

More than 800 items collected at Navy's first electronics recycling event in Hawaii

Story and photo by Thomas Obungen

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii

The Navy at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) held very successful government electronic device recycling event on June 30 at JBPHH, collecting a total of seven truckloads of items.

The items from more than 27 different commands ranged from old computers/printers to telephones/fax machines.

"This first-ever electronics recycling opportunity at [Joint Base] Pearl Harbor [Hickam] went really well," said Fran Pena, environmental project support/recycling program manager at Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii. "A lot of customers were very appreciative of this effort because they've been looking for ways to unload large amounts of broken electronic devices taking up much needed space throughout their commands," Pena explained.

Employees from Defense Reutilization & Marketing Service (DRMS), along with NAVFAC Hawaii environmental



A Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii forklift operator unloads one of two trucks that Joint Intelligence Center Pacific (JICPAC) drove to the Navy's electronic device recycling event on June 30 with dozens of Dell computers.

and recycling personnel, were on site to help during the event. The DRMS workers processed the required forms, allowing commands to transfer ownership of government items that were broken and could no longer be used,

to be recycled or resold for scrap. Personnel from various commands lined up at the event's location near Ward Field, behind Bloch Arena, before 8 a.m. and continued to bring items throughout the four-hour dura-

tion. Once their paperwork was reviewed and approved, they were able to drive or walk their materials to itemized boxes for transport to the Defense Reutilization & Marketing Office (DRMO) at Kalaeloa.

Seven large trucks were used to haul away 47 pallets, containing as many as 513 assorted computer components/monitors, 120 cellular/land line telephones, 138 printers, scanners and shredders, as well as 45 miscellaneous devices.

"We are looking at hosting our next electronics recycling event possibly around November," said Pena. "To improve the turn-in process, customers with large truckloads of items will have the ability to coordinate with NAVFAC Hawaii and DRMS prior to the event date so that all paperwork can be reviewed and pre-checked, which will help the event run smoother for everyone."

Commands that were unable to attend the June 30 event and have large amounts of broken or unserviceable electronic items to be disposed of prior to November are asked to call Pena at 474-2446 or Robert Dray at 474-9207, for assistance.

For any electronic equipment and/or other materials that are in working condition, but are no longer needed, command personnel should call DRMS employees, Diane Jarvi, 471-8870, and Jeanne Besas, 474-9207, for assistance in processing items.

Hurricane preparedness: Understanding basics of TCCOR

Dan DuBois

JBPHH Emergency Manager

(The Pacific hurricane season began in June and runs until the end of November. During this period, Ho'okele will run a series of articles on hurricane information and preparedness. This week's topic: TCCOR basics.)

You have probably seen the acronym, TCCOR, posted in various locations around the base, at building entrances, security gate stations and electronic signs. During hurricane season, TCCOR, or tropical cyclone conditions of readiness, will be used often so let TCCOR become a part of your vocabulary. Most important, know what the various TCCOR levels mean and how you can be prepared.

The Navy uses TCCOR to delineate actions for each level, one to five, which are based on the expected time of arrival of destructive winds.

"TCCOR triggers required checklist actions on the part of all Hawaii Navy commands to place personnel, equipment and classified infor-

mation in the most stable condition to sustain the onset of destructive winds, storm surge and flooding that is anticipated from a hurricane," explained Dennis Siler, regional emergency manager.

Siler said the Navy sets TCCOR changes to maximize the workforce in getting the expected affected area stabilized and the workforce released so they can safely return to their homes and evacuate to area shelters if required. The TCCOR is usually set or changed to take advantage of daylight hours for required actions. Navy TCCOR may or may not be synchronized with the state of Hawaii or the City and County of Honolulu.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam is currently on TCCOR-5, the setting for hurricane season. TCCOR-5 is implemented from June to November to prompt commands to verify and update their installation's hurricane preparedness plans. TCCORs 4 through 1 are the preparation phases that commands undergo when a hurricane is threatening.

Changes to TCCOR levels are communicated through various avenues, including the Wide Area

Alert Network and desktop notification system, and via the Navy Region Hawaii website and Facebook/Twitter, Joint Base Pearl Harbor TV-2, and base electronic marquees.

In addition to TCCOR requirements for commands, Navy and Air Force families should also have a plan and be ready to execute their plan at a moment's notice during hurricane season. The following are guidelines for families to follow for the different TCCOR settings:

TCCOR 5 – This setting is in place during hurricane season, from June 1 to Nov. 30.

TCCOR 4 – Destructive winds will arrive within 72 hours.

- Prepare your home by securing all exterior furniture and loose objects.
- Pick up any last minute material for your hurricane kit.
- Fill the gas tank of your vehicle and keep it above ¾ full as you complete your preparations. The closer the hurricane is, the longer the lines.
- Go to the state of Hawaii State Civil Defense website at <http://www.scd.state.hi.us/> and review closest shelter locations.

- Review emergency public information on the Navy Region Hawaii Facebook site or recorded messages on the Straight Talk Line (808) 421-4000 or Joint Base Television Channel 2 on base.

TCCOR 3 – Destructive winds will arrive within 48 hours.

- Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) will sortie all ships from the harbor and aircraft will begin departures.
- Complete your personal storm preparations.

- Refill any prescriptions that will not last you at least 30 days.
- Review your family hurricane plan.

TCCOR 2 – Destructive winds will arrive within 24 hours.

- At this point JBPHH will make an announcement via the ombudsman network, Facebook and Straight Talk line when we will open our safe havens.
- If you decide to come to a JBPHH safe haven, bring your kit and water with you.
- The state of Hawaii will announce what shelters will be opened and what you need to do

to register.

TCCOR 1 – Destructive winds will arrive within 12 hours.

- At some time during this period before the arrival of destructive winds, JBPHH will close all gates and access to Ford Island.
- Fill your bathtub and several lined trash cans with water to flush toilets.

TCCOR 1E – Destructive winds have made landfall.

Remain indoors and shelter in place. Do not go outside, even during the calm period, if the eye of the hurricane passes over head. This is deceptive and you can be seriously injured or killed if you are caught outside when the back side of the hurricane eye wall moves over.

TCCOR R – Recovery period.

This period begins after the "all clear" is sounded. During the recovery period, be mindful of broken glass, downed power lines and other hazards. Rescue and recovery efforts will be started by emergency personnel.

Next month: Understanding Navy safe havens and shelters.

Ships depart

Continued from A-1

operations, and an amphibious during the operational phase.

"This is the largest RIMPAC that we've had," said Vice Adm. Richard Hunt, commander, Combined Task Force. "This exercise clearly focuses on maritime domain awareness dealing with expanded military operations across the complete spectrum of warfare."

The RIMPAC exercises will test the participating nations' capabilities to work together and strengthen their ability to communicate and operate in simulated maritime scenarios.

RIMPAC will continue July 25 with tactical phase III, involving scenario-driven exercises designed to further strengthen maritime skills and capabilities.

RIMPAC is the world's largest multinational maritime exercise, with more than 20,000 personnel participating in this year's event in the waters around the Hawaiian Islands. The exercise is themed "Combined Agility, Synergy and Support," and marks the 22nd exercise in the series that originated in 1971.

'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' group plans information exchange here next week

Continued from A-1

tation should repeal occur and assess impacts, if any, on military readiness, military effectiveness and unit cohesion, recruiting/retention and family readiness.

A confidential communication mechanism has also been established to allow gay and lesbian military service members and those troops not comfortable giving their complete, candid feedback publicly the option to submit comments through a confidential dialogue – using a non-traceable pin number. Service members can take that pin number to any computer and submit their comments to a third party contractor, without their information being linked to their identification. The confidential communication mechanism is available only to service members and can be accessed two ways – through a link at the end

of the survey or through a link on the Comprehensive Review Working Group Online Inbox Website.

Service members will receive information on the survey and confidential communication mechanism at the upcoming information exchange forum when members from the DoD Comprehensive Review Working Group visit Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on July 11-13.

Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, Chief of Naval Personnel; Karl F. Schneider, deputy assistant secretary of the Army (manpower and reserve affairs); and Master Chief Scott Benning, fleet master chief of manpower, personnel, training and education, will host an information exchange forum for family members from 5:30-6:30 p.m. July 12 at the Moanalua Family Services Center, building 4827 in room 294.

For the last few months, the

Comprehensive Review Working Group has been conducting information exchange forums (IEF) at military installations around the world to obtain the input of service members and their families on issues associated with repeal of the law, including impacts, if any, on military readiness, military effectiveness and unit cohesion, recruiting/retention and family readiness.

The forums include 250-300 randomly selected service members. Service members who are randomly selected will receive notification to attend the IEF through their command.

Following the IEFs, working group members will conduct small focus groups with service members to focus on specific questions.

The working group encourages participants to engage in an open and honest discussion. Participants should understand that the law commonly known

as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" remains in effect, and service members should not disclose confidential information at these events.

A plan of action to address the issues involved with implementation of repeal of the law will be submitted to the Secretary of Defense no later than Dec. 1.

The working group's mission is not to engage in debate about whether to repeal the law. The mission is to gain a better understanding of how repeal might affect service members and their families should repeal occur.

Service members and their families can continue to provide comments to the working group by using the online inbox at <http://www.defense.gov/dadt>. This website is common access card (CAC)-enabled and is another way to communicate with the working group on issues associated with the repeal.