

High winds fell tree at Bloch Arena



A military and civilian team responded to a downed *kiawe* tree at the Bloch Arena parking lot at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam earlier this week. The tree was toppled by high winds shortly after New Year's Day. Though parts of the lot remain closed for safety reasons, parking is still available at Bloch Arena.

U.S. Navy photos by Brandon Bosworth



HART utilities work on Kamehameha Highway begins, set for 18 months

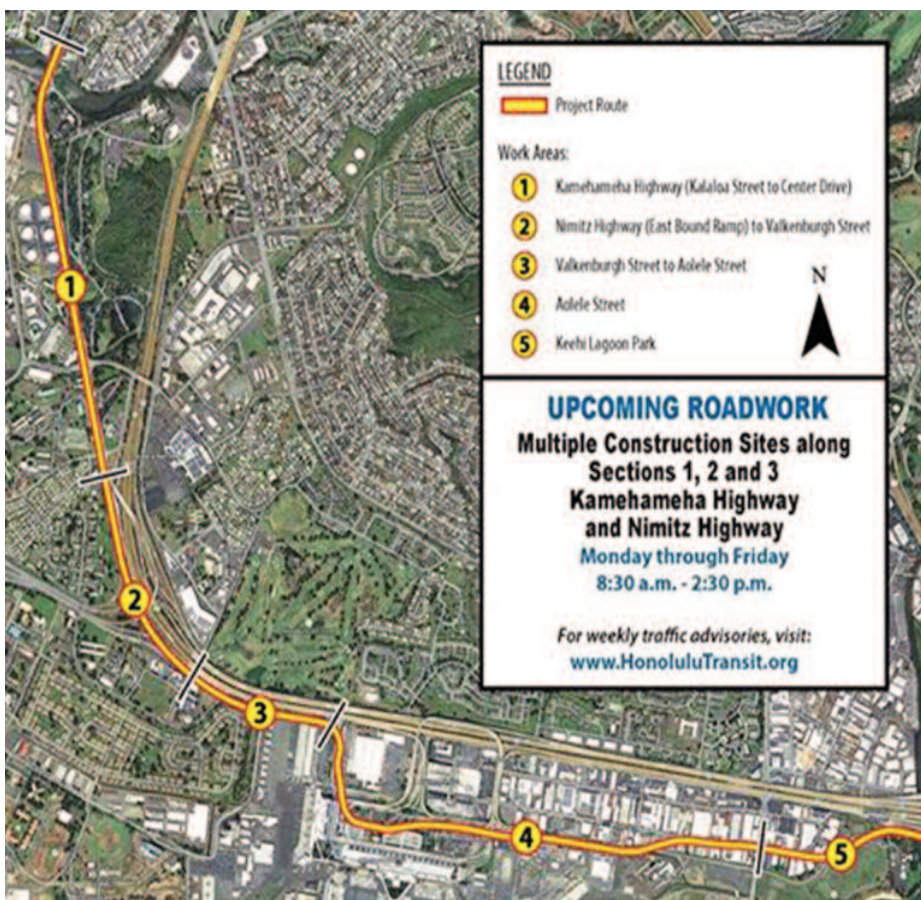
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

The Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) has begun roadwork on the Airport Section Utilities Project along Kamehameha Highway near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The work began Jan. 5.

Roadwork for this portion of the rail project is expected to last approximately 18 months. Traffic flow adjustments will be made to accommodate construction activities, to include areas along Center Drive,

Makalapa Gate/Radford Drive, Halawa Gate, Borchers Gate, and the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. Construction work will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Motorists should follow posted speed limits and other signs in the construction areas.

Contractor Nan Inc. will be working closely with HART to provide weekly traffic updates starting in January. Visit HART's website, www.honolulutransit.org, for more information and traffic updates for all impacted areas relating to rail.



First family departs JBPHH



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez

President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama wave as they board Air Force One Jan. 3 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to return with daughters Malia and Sasha to Washington, D.C. after their two-week vacation to Oahu.

Pearl Harbor Colors ceremony to begin Jan. 15

A Pearl Harbor Colors honors and heritage ceremony will be held monthly beginning at 7:30 a.m. Jan. 15 at Pearl Harbor Visitor Center.

The ceremony is to honor veterans, service members and military families. The theme next Thursday is "A Tribute to Military Families." The Pacific Fleet Band will perform. The public is invited.



Retired master chief brings veterans home to final resting place
 See page A-2



Suicide prevention presentations to be held this month
 See page A-3



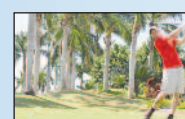
USS Hopper earns CSADD honorable mention
 See page A-4



USS Louisville visits Okinawa during western Pacific deployment port call
 See page A-4



Watching the gentle giants
 See page B-1



Military outreach activities planned for tournament
 See page B-3

Pearl Harbor survivor joins shipmates at USS Utah Memorial

Story and photos by
MC2 Johans Chavarro

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West,
Detachment Hawaii

An ash-scattering ceremony was held for Pearl Harbor survivor John "Spike" Wallin on Dec. 11 at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Sailors, friends and family members of Wallin, who passed away June 7 at the age of 92, attended the event which overlooked the sunken USS Utah.

Jim Taylor, Pearl Harbor survivors' liaison, who presided over the ceremony, gave an overview of Wallin's life and spoke about his experiences on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941.

Born on Jan. 26, 1921 in San Francisco, Wallin joined the Navy in 1940 and became an engineman.

On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, Wallin was serving aboard the destroyer USS Monaghan (DD 354).

According to Taylor, the Sailor was wearing his dress whites in preparation for liberty and it was then that he noticed the Japanese planes approaching.

"He didn't know what was going on, but when he saw the red circle on the side [of the plane], he immediately knew something was about to happen," said Taylor. "He said the planes were so low he could have thrown an orange and hit them."

According to Taylor, Wallin quickly went to his



battle station in the engine room of the Monaghan where he stayed until late

that night. "By that time, his dress whites had changed to



black," said Taylor. Fortunately for the crew aboard Monaghan, the ship

was able to get underway. But as it was finding its way out the channel, an en-

emy mini-submarine was spotted. With its engines at full speed, the order was passed to ram the sub. The crew aboard Monaghan also dropped two depth charges as the enemy submarine disappeared under the ship.

"He would probably say, 'I'm not a hero; I was just doing my job, doing what I was trained to do,'" said Taylor.

"In my opinion, he was and still is a hero. He and others from our 'Greatest Generation' created the mold that the Sailors out here are going by today."

Later Wallin left the surface community and joined the submarine force.

As a submariner, Wallin participated in six patrols in the western Pacific and after more than 21 years of service, he retired from the Navy.

At the end of the ceremony, Wallin received full military honors for his dedication and loyalty to service, including a rifle salute by the Joint Base Honors and Ceremonial Guard and the playing of Taps by a Navy bugler. Wallin's daughter, Joanne Smith, and son, Johnny W. Wallin, were presented with the national ensign.

"It's a pleasure to honor my dad's memory," said Joanne Smith. "I'm just truly happy because I know my dad wanted to be buried at sea, here in Pearl Harbor."

"Our whole family was military and this is what dad wanted," said Johnny W. Wallin. "I'm kind of emotional, but I'm happy that he's home."

Retired master chief brings veterans home to final resting place

Story and photos by
MC2 Tiarra Fulgham

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West
Detachment Hawaii

After 33 years of naval service, Retired Navy Master Chief Yeoman James "Jim" Taylor, 76, dedicates his retirement days to volunteering as the military liaison for the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, organizing each and every ash scattering and interment for military veterans at Pearl Harbor.

"I started conducting burials for Pearl Harbor survivors while I was still working at the Navy brig," said Taylor. "I became associated with the casualty people there and then started doing the burials. That was about 15 years ago."

According to Taylor, he volunteers for no other rewards than for the satisfaction of fulfilling the final wishes of the heroes of America's "Greatest Generation."

Taylor described the services he provides to the families and his duties as a liaison as well as Navy's involvement in the organization of ceremonies.

"I just coordinate. The United States Navy does everything for us. They provide full burial honors for Pearl Harbor survivors," he explained.

"It's a one-of-a-kind service that is only done here because there is only one Pearl Harbor and something the Navy takes pride in doing."

In a few words, Taylor described the burial, yet there is much more that goes into each event—the pride and gratitude for the service member being reunited with his shipmates.

"First—rifles with firing three-volley, then there is a bugler from our Pacific Fleet Band that sounds Taps, then the flag is folded and presented to the next of kin," Taylor said.

Taylor also coordinates with the Navy and divers from the National Park Service in order to provide



interment services for those survivors who served aboard USS Arizona and USS Utah during the Dec. 7, 1941 attacks on Pearl Harbor.

"The divers lower themselves into an area where there is an open port hole, approximately two feet in width," described Taylor.

"They lower the remains inside the bag and then they release them. They are all located inside of the ship, both the Arizona and the Utah, and only the Arizona and Utah crew members are allowed to have that service."

Flipping through various envelopes on his desk, Taylor looked through cards, letters and thank you notes from families and friends of the veter-

ans—each letter filled with gratitude for the services he and the Navy provides.

"I can show you a lot of thank you letters. I have never had one, in over 300 that I have done, that the family walked away with a negative feeling," shared Taylor.

"I could use words that would actually make you cry. I have had people that were just in shock because it's something way beyond their expectations."

"Most of them just think they are going to bring their loved one over here, and the ashes will be thrown in the water," he explained, describing typical expectations of the families.

"But instead they are

left in a trance because they just can't believe the way their loved ones are honored by the Navy in remembrance and thanks for their service."

During one of the most recent ash-scattering ceremonies held for Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Harry E. Smith at the USS Utah Memorial, Martin Smith, seventh of the nine Smith's children, expressed his gratitude for the honor his father received.

"Needless to say, without the Navy and Jim Taylor with his volunteer work, this would not have happened for us, and we are very grateful that it worked as well as it did," said Smith.

Smith added, "I would

like to give my heartfelt thanks to Jim Taylor, the U.S. Navy and the service members present here. I am grateful and honored to be here today on Dec. 7, 2014. My heart is full and my soul is satisfied."

With pride and gratitude, Taylor shared strong belief in heroism of the few remaining veterans and those who passed away, whose final wishes he had a privilege to fulfill.

"The survivors themselves will say they are not heroes but I differ with that; they are," said Taylor.

"They created the mold that was followed by [service members] in Korea, Vietnam and all the other things we have going on

today. The [men] of World War II set the standard for us today," he said.

Taylor emphasized the importance of remembering the veterans and how much the new generations owe them.

"It's just something that we do because I know it makes the families happy. We make the deceased happy—it's their wish," shared Taylor.

"The vast majority of the time it is their desire to return back to Pearl Harbor, to return and be with the shipmates they lost on Dec. 7, 1941, and I know that it brings closure to the families when they see that their beloved received the honors they so richly deserve."

Commentary

'Pearl Harbor Colors' will honor military and families

Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

As we begin the New Year I am focused on embracing innovation and new challenges while preserving the past. At the same time, it's our New Year's Resolution to continue to pay tribute to our rich military heritage—past, present and future.

In this first commentary of the first issue of Ho'okele for 2015 I want to tell you about a new initiative—Pearl Harbor Colors, an initiative that will help us achieve that goal of celebrating our heritage.

Here at Pearl Harbor, every day is Veterans Day. With so much history and pride, we have the perfect opportunity to broaden our

commemorations in a new and exciting way. Through Pearl Harbor Colors we will honor our history and heritage, build relationships with our partners and the surrounding community, and recognize the dedication and

hard work of our service members and their families in a more committed and sustainable way.

So, what exactly is Pearl Harbor Colors? It's a ceremony to be held at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, usually on the third Thursday of each month. There's a potential for expanding the ceremony to our partner museums like the Battleship Missouri Memorial, Bowfin Museum and Pacific Aviation Museum as well.

Each ceremony will be unique, tied to a theme for that month and will feature a military ceremony, honor guard and performance by a military band. And each Pearl Harbor Colors event will have a tie to a Hawaii-based unit, our veterans, and our community.

The very first Pearl Harbor

Colors next Thursday at 7:30 a.m. will be "A Tribute to Military Families." All veterans and military families are cordially invited to attend, with a special welcome to families of deployed Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Soldiers. I know of several families from USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) and USS Halsey (DDG 97) who plan to attend. Both ships are currently operating forward in support of Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Monthly, Pearl Harbor Colors will be a chance for residents of Hawaii and visitors from around the world to meet and greet service members and their families. More than 1.5 million visitors are expected to come through the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center in 2015.

Pearl Harbor Colors literally brings the surrounding

community closer to their military. And it provides an outreach opportunity for our military community to interact with the public we serve.

Next Thursday's event will include a morning flag-raising, an honor guard performance and a concert by the amazing U.S. Pacific Fleet Band. Upcoming Pearl Harbor Colors themes will include African American History, Women's History, Earth Day and Military Appreciation Month.

The name Pearl Harbor Colors, by the way, comes from the core element of our planned events—all involving the American flag. Some of the monthly events will involve "morning colors," while others will be a sunset ceremony.

The name also reflects the beauty of Hawaii from sun-

rise to sunset, from mountains to sea, where we are dedicated to environmental stewardship. And, finally, "colors" stands for the differences in our uniforms and services. The Navy in Hawaii is taking the lead in setting up and starting Pearl Harbor Colors, but other services will be invited to share their pride and heritage, too.

We have the same overall mission—defense of our great nation.

Pearl Harbor Colors is a community outreach initiative that honors service and sacrifice. There's nowhere else in the world like Pearl Harbor, where the operational Navy is partnered with living monuments and memorials, tethered to a supportive community. This is another opportunity for us to share the aloha.

O'Malley VCC to close temporarily

Effective Jan. 15, the O'Malley Visitor Control Center (VCC) will close for approximately three months for renovation.

All sponsors (except those authorized call-in privilege sponsorship) will need to meet their guests at the Nimitz VCC, building 3455 (also known as Pass and ID), located outside Nimitz Gate for access onto the installation. During the renovation period, Nimitz VCC will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For more information, call 449-0865.

Suicide prevention presentations to be held this month

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Navy Region Hawaii will hold suicide prevention presentations this month.

Commands are invited to the following presentations:

- Today, 8 to 9:30 a.m. at Marine Corps Base Hawaii Chapel.
- Jan. 14, 8 to 9:30 a.m. and 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
- Jan. 16, 8 to 9:30 a.m. at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel, JBPHH.

The guest speaker will be Army Lt. Col. George Corbari, who fought his own personal battle against suicide.

Corbari is a leader and mentor who has successfully battled his private suicidal thoughts. After overcoming what he called a "crucible year," Corbari emerged with a new perspective and personal mission to prepare and assist military members and leaders in preventing suicides. He currently serves



U.S. Navy photo by Brandon B. Bosworth

Lt. Col. George Corbari speaks at a previous suicide prevention presentation at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Corbari will return to the base this month to discuss suicide prevention.

in the Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate, United States Army Pacific at Fort Shafter.

Through his 21-year ca-

reer, Corbari has held various leadership positions and served on a variety of staff positions, including as an Air and Missile Defense officer.

Corbari has come forward to share his experiences and insights in an effort to transform perspectives regarding suicide and to better prepare military members and leaders for prevention. His presentation focuses on strategies applicable across all levels of service and leadership.

All hands are encouraged to attend. Commands may count this for suicide prevention general military training. Commands are encouraged to RSVP.

For more information, call Lt. Rebecca Miranda, suicide prevention program manager for the Military and Family Support Center, at 474-0045 or email rebecca.miranda@navy.mil.

Diverse Views

What is your top personal or professional goal for the year 2015?



OS1 McGovern Thach
USS Hopper (DDG 70)

"To be a wonderful dad, a loving and caring father."

Master Sgt. Anthony Morgan
HQ PACAF



"I am in the process of retiring, and my plan for 2015 is to expand my real estate business and help as many people as possible."



CS3 Teresa Juarez
USS Chafee (DDG 90)

"To get accepted into college so I have something to do when I get out."

Senior Airman Paul Schackmuth
8th Intelligence Squadron



"Completing my CCAF (Community College of the Air Force), because I eventually would like to start my bachelor's program."



STS3 Brian Gough
USS Texas (SSN 775)

"Wisely save my money to set myself up for success in the civilian sector."

Maj. Amanda Evans
15th Comptroller Squadron



"Do a better job of balancing work and family. I want to give my husband and kids the attention they deserve while also running a busy finance squadron. Juggling skills are key."



MA3 Justin Gorder
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

"Make rank."

Staff Sgt. Kevin Choi
15th Medical Operations Squadron



"Progress toward meeting NECP (Nurse Enlisted Commissioning Program). I have to take care of prerequisite classes."



Senior Airman Cary Courtney
8th Intelligence Squadron

"To work on my master's degree."

Provided by Lt. j.g. Eric Galassi and David D. Underwood Jr.

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

Amelia Earhart arrives in Honolulu



Photo courtesy of the Hawaii Department of Transportation

Hula dancer Dorothy Leslie posed between George Putnam, publisher and husband of Amelia Earhart, right, on arrival in Honolulu, Dec. 27, 1934. A few weeks later, on Jan. 11, 1935 (80 years ago this month) Earhart flew from Hawaii to California, becoming the first person to fly that route solo.

HO'okele

Director, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs
Agnes Tauyan

Deputy Director, Public Affairs
Bill Doughty

Director, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs
Grace Hew Len

Managing Editor
Karen Spangler

Editor
Don Robbins

Assistant Editor
Brandon Bosworth

Sports Editor
Randy Dela Cruz

Sr. Graphic Artist
Antonio Verceluz

Graphic Artist
Zachary Pigott

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii
Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Chief of Staff
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Commander, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
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Ho'okele is delivered weekly to Navy & Air Force housing units and Navy and Air Force installations throughout Oahu.

Ashes of Pearl Harbor survivor Bodenlos scattered at USS Utah Memorial

Story and photos by MC2 Laurie Dexter

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West, Det. Hawaii

The ashes of Bugler Master Tech. Sgt. Allen Bodenlos, Pearl Harbor survivor, were scattered in the waters at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, during a Jan. 6 ceremony.

Jim Taylor, Navy Region Hawaii Pearl Harbor survivors liaison, provided remarks. Gary Roehm, a friend of Bodenlos, told stories and Chaplain Maj. Kurt Mueller delivered the benediction.

"Al was known as a story-teller," said Taylor. "He loved to tell students in San Diego schools and tourists here at the Arizona Memorial Center his memory of the attack on Pearl Harbor."

Military honors included a gun salute and the presentation of the burial flag to the family by the Hawaii National Guard Military Honors Team.

"Al was a 'Bugler Mas-



U.S. Navy photo
(Above) Allen Bodenlos salutes during the National Anthem at the Nevada Memorial at Hospital Point, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, in 2010, commemorating of the attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

ter,' a title given to a chosen few," said Taylor. "It was because of his expertise with the trumpet; he enjoyed teaching his subordinates."

Taylor and Roehm re-

galed the audience with personal anecdotes of Bodenlos.

"It was truly an honor and a pleasure to know him," said Roehm.

Bodenlos was born in

Cleveland, Ohio on Aug. 13, 1920. He enlisted in the Army on July 9, 1940. He was assigned to the 804th Engineer Aviation Battalion at Schofield Barracks during the 1941 attack on

Pearl Harbor.

The day before the attack, Bodenlos went shopping for instruments in Honolulu for the 804th New Drum and Bugle Corps with a friend from

the USS Arizona Band.

The next morning, on Dec. 7, he witnessed the skies fill with enemy planes and black smoke rising from burning ships in the harbor. He boarded a shuttle and returned to Schofield Barracks.

Bodenlos was the company courier and delivered messages from the command post via a motorcycle to the airfields for the next two days.

"Al came to Hawaii at least two times a year and every time he was here he paid his respects at both the USS Arizona and USS Utah Memorials. This is why I thought it would be appropriate to have his service here at the Utah — he loved her and her crew and always made it a point to spend time here during his stay," Taylor said.

"Tech Sgt. Bodenlos wanted to return to Pearl Harbor on a final voyage and be reunited with his fellow servicemen who lost their lives during the attack on Pearl Harbor," said Taylor. "This morning, thanks to his friends and their families, his wish will come true."

USS Fort Worth joins USS Sampson assisting with AirAsia search

U.S. 7th Fleet Public Affairs

YOKOSUKA, Japan (NNS) — On Jan. 3, USS Fort Worth joined USS Sampson (DDG 102), which has been on station since Dec. 29, as the second U.S. Navy ship assisting with AirAsia QZ8501 search efforts.

Fort Worth is a littoral combat ship (LCS) on a rotational deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet and brings maneuverability, speed and a shallow draft, which allows it to conduct expeditious visual and radar

searches in a congested, shallow water environment. Fort Worth is also outfitted with a MH-60R helicopter as well as two 11-meter rigid hull inflatable boats (RHIB) to further maximize efforts.

"We offer our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of those affected by this terrible tragedy," said Cmdr. Kendall Bridgewater, USS Fort Worth Crew 104 commanding officer. "Having just left Jakarta, Indonesia last week, the USS Fort Worth will assist the Indonesian government in



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jay C. Pugh
Sailors assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) 1 carry a towfish side scan sonar system aboard the littoral combat ship USS Fort Worth (LCS 3) at Changi Naval Base, Singapore Jan. 1. Fort Worth deployed the system in support of Indonesian-led efforts to locate missing AirAsia Flight QZ8501.

any way possible."

USS Sampson has assisted with searches since it arrived on station Dec. 29. The crew recovered several bodies Jan. 1 and Jan. 2. The remains were treated with all respects to religious customs and sensitivities and all 12 bodies were transferred via the ship's MH-60R helicopters to Indonesian authorities at Iskander Air Base in Pangkalan Bun, Indonesia.

Both ships will remain on station as long as their assistance is helpful to the Indonesian-led multinational search effort.



U.S. Navy file photo
USS Louisville (SSN 724), recently arrived at Fleet Activities Okinawa.

USS Louisville visits Okinawa during western Pacific deployment port call

Lt. Hobart Kistler

USS Louisville Public Affairs Officer

WHITE BEACH, Okinawa, Japan (NNS) — The Los Angeles class fast-attack submarine USS Louisville (SSN 724) arrived in Okinawa Jan. 6, for a port call as part of a deployment to the western Pacific.

Louisville is homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

With a complement of more than 140 officers and Sailors, Louisville showcased the latest capabilities of the submarine fleet in its latest mission.

"Louisville brings to the theater a very capable multi-mission platform with nearly unlimited endurance for independent operations," said Cmdr. Bob Figgs, Louisville's commanding officer. "My highly trained crew is proficient in all core mission capabilities, from open ocean anti-submarine and anti-surface ship warfare; to intelli-

gence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, and precision land strike."

"They have worked tirelessly to prepare for and execute the first three months of our six-month deployment, and I could not be prouder of their accomplishments. I know that my officers and crew are looking forward to some well-deserved liberty here in Okinawa," said Figgs.

Measuring more than 360 feet long and weighing more than 6,000 tons when submerged, Louisville is one of the stealthiest, most modern attack submarines in the world.

Louisville's stealth, mobility, endurance, and firepower allow this covert, multi-mission platform to operate independently or in conjunction with a Carrier Strike Group or joint forces to support the interests of the United States wherever and whenever needed.

"Each and every member of our crew has devoted a lot of time, hard work,

and energy towards preparing themselves and Louisville for this deployment," said Chief of the Boat, Master Chief Fire Control Technician Larry Williams. "It is only because of the crew members that we are successful as a team. I am excited for the crew to be able to do what a lot of them have joined the Navy to do: see overseas countries and represent the U.S. Navy well. This port call is definitely well deserved by the crew, and each and every one of them has been looking forward to the visit."

For some of Louisville's crew, a visit to Okinawa means more than time at the beach.

"My family and I have studied Okinawa's Shuri-ryu martial arts for more than ten years," said Culinary Specialist Seaman Jarritte Bryant, of Columbia, S.C.. "After so much hard work, I plan to take advantage of this great opportunity to visit a real-life dojo and meet one of the order's masters!"

USS Hopper earns CSADD honorable mention

Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The USS Hopper (DDG 70), homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, has been awarded an honorable mention in the Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) Sea and Shore chapters of the year (COY). The awards were announced by the Chief of Naval Personnel Jan. 6.

CSADD is a peer influence social group meant to encourage Sailors 18 to 25 years old to combat destructive behavior through a culture of "shipmates helping shipmates." CSADD also serves to build leadership skills in young Sailors.

USS George Washington (CVN 73) was named CSADD Large Sea COY, and Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light Four Nine (HSL 49) was named Small Sea COY.

The Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan was selected as CSADD Shore COY, and the Navy Air Training Technical Center, Pensacola, Fla., was selected as the Shore Training COY.

Beside Hopper, honorable mentions were also awarded to USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), Naval Hospital, Naples, Italy and Navy Medicine Training Support Center, Navy Enlisted Training Element, San Diego.

The best practices that made the winning chapters to stand out included integrating CSADD into their command indoctrination courses, organizing life skills workshops, making effective use of social media and networking resources with other organizations and chapters.

Since 2007 when CSADD was established, the group set out to inspire peer-to-peer mentoring to positively influence young Sailors' behavior through resources and tools that promote good decision making.

This marks the final official award presented by OPNAV(N1). Governing authorities have been turned over to commanding officers as of Oct. 1, 2014.

Leaders continues to support and encourage command participation in the more than 250 CSADD Chapters throughout the fleet.

DeCA working to fix product shortages for overseas stores

Defense Commissary Agency

The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) is working to overcome challenges that have impacted the timely delivery of products to stores in the Pacific and Europe, the agency director and CEO said.

In some instances commissary patrons experienced critical shortages in perishable products such as chilled juices, produce and dairy products.

"Several factors have caused our overseas stores to fall short of what's required to serve our patrons there," said Joseph H. Jeu, DeCA director and CEO. "We are

doing everything possible — increasing our product reorders, looking for additional approved local sources and examining alternative shipping methods — to find solutions to these problems and ensure that products are available for our customers wherever they shop."

DeCA's supply chain has many moving parts. U.S. products bound for commissaries in Europe and the Pacific are first transported from the United States by ocean vessels to overseas docks and then trucked to central distribution centers. From the CDCs, the products are further transported by truck to individual stores. This

process is also supplemented by local purchase contracts for certain items such as bread and dairy products.

In the Pacific, shipments destined for commissaries in Hawaii, Guam, Korea, mainland Japan and Okinawa have been delayed up to 10 days due to ongoing West Coast port delays related to negotiations between the Pacific Maritime Association and labor unions representing West Coast dock workers. Mediators from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service recently joined these negotiations.

The West Coast port delays have impacted the ability of com-

missaries in the Pacific to keep shelves fully stocked with sensitive chill products, such as yogurts, luncheon meats, butter, fresh bone-in meat and fresh pork. Frozen and dry grocery products were not affected by the West Coast port delays because a 30-day supply of those products is maintained in DeCA's central distribution centers. DeCA cannot maintain a warehouse supply of sensitive chill items because of their shorter shelf life.

DeCA officials said they will continue to focus on finding solutions to work around ongoing West Coast port delays that continue to affect the transportation of prod-

ucts to the Pacific. Commissary personnel there are standing ready to receive incoming shipments immediately upon arrival and stock them to the shelves.

With shipments scheduled to arrive weekly, management is keeping customers informed with signs in the stores.

"However, if a customer doesn't see the product they want to purchase on the shelf, he or she can check with their local store management to find out when it will be received," said David Carey, DeCA's Pacific Area director. "We apologize for the inconvenience this has caused our shoppers during the holiday season."

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Johans Chavarro

U.S. Navy ships homeported in Hawaii participate in the annual Pearl Harbor Holiday Festival of Lights in December.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan

(Above) From left, Command Master Chief Matthew Logsdon, Cmdr. Jeffrey Heames, his children and Cmdr. Robert Bryans Jr. cut the cake celebrating a change of command ceremony held aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Preble (DDG 88) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

(Right) Cmdr. Robert Bryans Jr., commanding officer of the guided-missile destroyer USS Preble (DDG 88), arrives at a change of command ceremony held aboard the ship at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. During the ceremony, Cmdr. Jeffrey Heames relieved Bryans as the new commanding officer of Preble.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan

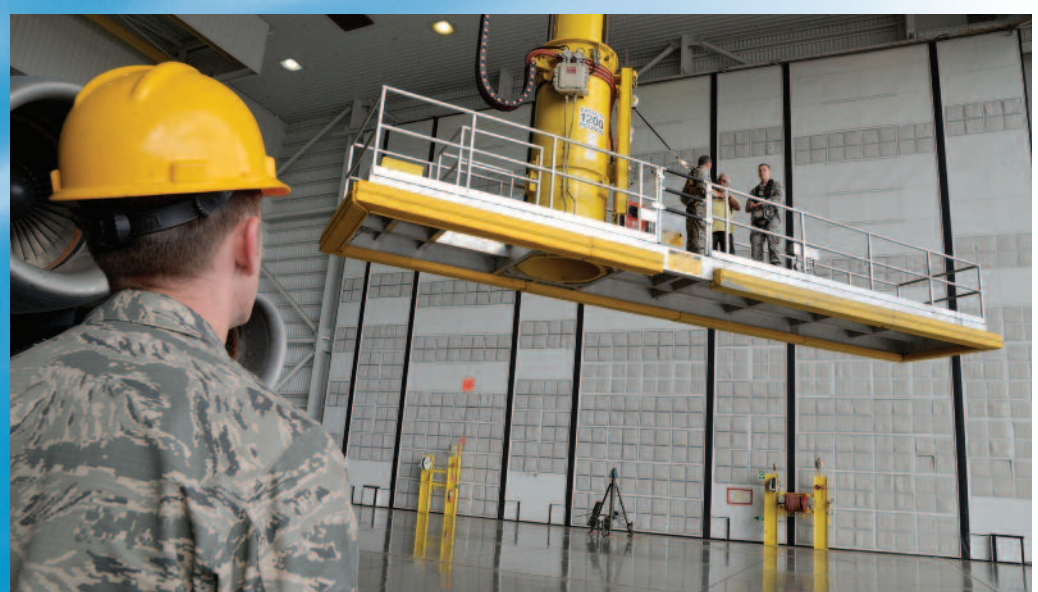


Senior Master Sgt. Dejneki Peyton, 15th Medical Group Education and Training flight chief, teaches St. Louis School Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets portion control techniques during a lesson on nutrition Dec. 17 in Honolulu. Peyton and other 15th MDG education and training flight members visit the JROTC cadets at least once a month to provide them basic medical and health training.

U. S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez

Lt. Gen. Russell Handy, 11th Air Force commander, receives a brief from 15th Maintenance Group members aboard a lift at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Dec. 12. Handy rode the lift above a C-17 Globemaster III. In addition to his tour, Handy also hosted a Wing all-call, addressing Air Force and Pacific-region topics of interest.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez





2014 was a year of visits and new arrivals at JBPHH

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

Ships from around the world visited Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in summer 2014 to take part in the world's largest international maritime exercise, Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC). Twenty-two nations, 49 surface ships, six submarines, more than 200 aircraft, and 25,000 personnel participated in the exercise, held in and around the Hawaiian Islands and southern California.

Last year's exercise included units and personnel from Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, People's Republic of China, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, Tonga, the United Kingdom and the United States.

For the first time, hospital ships participated in RIMPAC. The Chinese hospital

ship, Peace Ark, and USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) conducted personnel exchanges, military medicine exchanges and medical evacuation and mass casualty training, along with innovations and demonstrations by Commander, Navy Region Hawaii as Commander of Task Force Energy and Environment.

While RIMPAC is primarily thought of as a naval exercise, the U.S. Air Force also made significant contributions.

The 15th Maintenance Operations Center (MOC), which typically coordinates the C-17 Globemaster IIIs, provided maintenance servicing and job control for most of the aircraft involved in the exercise. The 747th Communications Squadron helped to maintain communication security during RIMPAC.

In October of 2014, the joint base welcomed Gen. Lori Robinson, who took command of Pacific Air Forces from Gen. Hawk Carlisle during a change of command ceremony at

JBPHH. Robinson is the first woman to lead a U.S. Air Force Component Major Command.

In November, military service members, civilians and families attended and participated in the annual *Kapuaikaula Makahiki* held at Hickam Harbor Beach, JBPHH.

The *makahiki*, known as a "Hawaiian Thanksgiving," provided an opportunity for military families to learn more about the culture and history of Hawaii.

Many dignitaries visited JBPHH in 2014. They included Lt. Gen. Russell Handy, 11th Air Force commander; Kathryn Miles, former Women Airforce Service Pilot (WASP); Vice Adm. Bill Moran, chief of naval personnel (CNP); Commodore Peter Yates, Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) general logistics director; and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens.

In July, Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus led a groundbreaking for the

Navy's largest solar project in Hawaii at JBPHH.

Less welcome visitors were Hurricanes Iselle and Julio. Iselle, which at one point was a Category 4 hurricane, weakened into a tropical storm before it made landfall on the Big Island on Aug. 8 while Hurricane Julio mostly spared the islands, moving north of Hawaii on Aug. 10. The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (WRS), better known as the Air Force Reserve's Hurricane Hunters, deployed to JBPHH and spent close to a week providing hurricane reconnaissance support as well as helping with rescue efforts and data research. The squadron flew eight missions into Iselle and five into Julio while in Hawaii.

2014 also marked the arrival of new ships to the JBPHH waterfront.

In August, two guided-missile destroyers—USS Preble (DDG 88) and USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53)—arrived at their new homeport of JBPHH.

John Paul Jones brought

updated advanced Aegis capabilities to the surface group and will replace Lake Erie in Hawaii as a rotational ballistic missile defense deployer and testing ship.

Preble arrived from San Diego, replacing USS Reuben James (FFG 57), which was de-commissioned in July 2013. As a Flight 2A destroyer, Preble can embark helicopters to provide more robust response when it deploys.

In November, the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Mississippi (SSN 782) arrived at the Pearl Harbor waterfront. Mississippi is the newest submarine permanently assigned to Submarine Squadron 1.

As 2014 drew to an end, JBPHH welcomed survivors of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor who were in Hawaii for ceremonies marking the event.

Several of the survivors, along with their friends and families, participated in a white boat tour of Pearl Har-

bor on Dec. 4. They learned about the history of the harbor as well as its current role as an active U.S. naval base. The tour concluded with a stop at the USS Arizona Memorial where guests took time to drop flower petals into the memorial well in honor of those who lost their lives during the attack.

On Dec. 7, four of the nine remaining Sailors who were serving aboard USS Arizona during the Pearl Harbor attack—John Anderson, Lauren Bruner, Louis Conter and Donald Stratton—arrived at the USS Arizona Memorial for their final official reunion. While at the memorial, the survivors poured a "final toast" to their shipmates, drinking from original champagne glasses from the USS Arizona. They shared a bottle of wine—a gift from President Gerald Ford to the association presented in 1975.

The "final pour" marked the last gathering of the USS Arizona Reunion Association, bringing a page of Pearl Harbor history to a close.