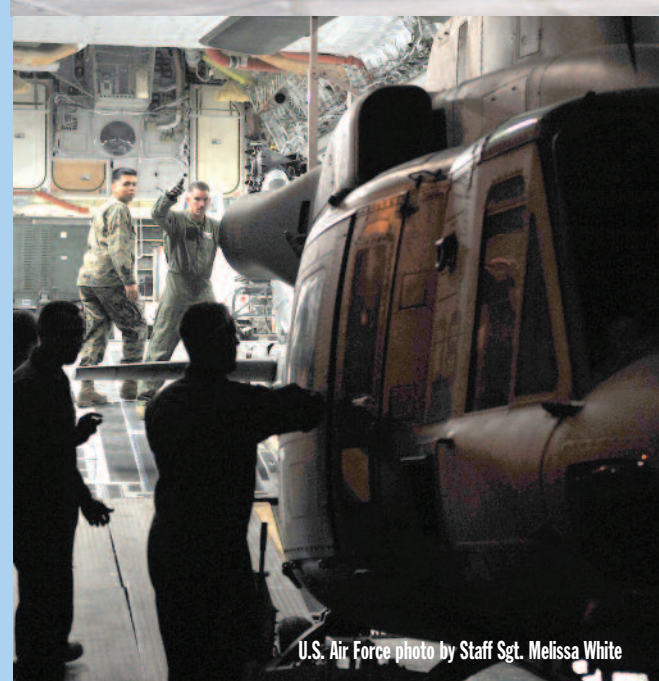


Hickam Airmen join Nepal earthquake operations



U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Ashley Conner



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Melissa White

(Above) Members of the 36th Contingency Response group including Airmen from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam board a C-17 Globemaster III, May 4, destined for Kathmandu, Nepal, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. The CRG will join U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development-led humanitarian and disaster relief operations in support of the government and armed forces of Nepal.

(Left) Airmen from the 36th Contingency Response Group and U.S. Marines unload a U.S. Marine UH-1Y Huey helicopter from a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III, at Tribhuvan International Airport, May 5.

(Right) Airmen from the 36th Contingency Response Group prepare to unload cargo from a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III, at Tribhuvan International Airport, Nepal, May 5.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Melissa White

Joint Base rescues sea turtle

Becky Hommon

Navy Region Hawaii, Environmental Counsel

Navy ohana (family) worked together on April 29 to save a honu (turtle) in distress.

A swimmer reported to the Hickam marina staff that a turtle was offshore and entangled in fishing gear. Gavin Doi, a marina staff member, knew to call the Joint Base "turtle phone" and reported a turtle in distress to Rebecca Smith and Cory Campora, natural resource managers for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam at Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii.

Smith and Doi along with Allen Sterling from the marina staff motored out into the marina area and after some time searching found the large turtle wrapped in ropes and gear mixed with plastic. Pulling alongside, the three managed to cut much of the growth-encrusted gear off the turtle.

However, some of the rope and line was so tightly wound around the animal's flipper, they decided the animal needed more help. Getting a heavy marine animal into a boat is no small feat.

"He was hanging onto the edge of the boat for dear life, wanting to stay in the water but we knew he would die if we weren't able to help him," Smith said.

Finally, the animal and attached gear was in the boat. Campora was on shore waiting with a truck to transport the animal to NOAA's (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Inouye Regional Center on Ford Island.

Devon Francke and Sarah Alessi, biologists with NOAA's turtle research program, determined the turtle was a 185-pound healthy male but in need of surgery. His flipper was severely damaged and was surgically removed. The animal is now rehabilitating in a pool and, with luck, will be returned to the wild.



Photo by Cory Campora

Sarah Alessi, a biologist with the NOAA Sea Turtle Research Program, along with Allen Sterling (crouching) and Gavin Doi (standing), Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Morale, Welfare and Recreation marina staff who rescued a sea turtle, assess the condition of a green sea turtle found entangled in fishing gear at Hickam marina.

"It was exciting to have a direct role in helping an animal. It's great to be working for an organization that takes its wildlife protection responsibilities so seriously. I'm so pleased our MWR staff watches out for the animals and called us so we could respond," Smith said.

Globally, green sea turtles are one of seven species of turtles that live in the sea. Hawaii's most abundant sea turtles are greens and the hawksbill turtle, found most often on Hawaii Island. While seemingly abundant because of their frequency in and around Pearl Harbor, as a species, green sea turtles are at risk of extinction globally. As a result, they are still considered

"threatened," according to the federal Endangered Species Act. Harming a threatened or endangered species is a serious federal offense.

Campora noted, however, that "if a turtle is in danger, anyone can try to help untangle them without fear of prosecution, but it's good to report them as well." Animals in peril in the Pearl Harbor vicinity should be reported to the base turtle phone at 722-7285.

For off-base sighting of marine species in need of assistance, call NOAA during business hours at 725-5730 or after hours at 288-5685.

JBPHH Safety to host summer standdowns

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Safety Department

The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Safety Department will host safety standdowns for "101 Days of Summer" from May 19 through 21.

The standdowns will be from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. during each of those days at Sharkey Theater. There will be vendor's tables from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The JBPHH Safety Department is also offering an opportunity for base personnel to submit safety slogans. The slogans should offer a way to put an emphasis on good safety practices.

Slogans should be entered to the JBPHH Safety Office no later than May 15. First, second and third place winners will be announced during the safety standdowns.

For a chance to be a winner, describe in 12 words or less a "Hawaiian Safe Summer" to: cni_h_jbphh_safety@navy.mil.

The JBPHH Safety Department is located at 1260 Pierce St., building 679, suite 112 and can be contacted at 473-1169.

Visit their website at <http://ow.ly/MCyTB>.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day to be held Saturday

A Military Spouse Appreciation Day will be held from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday at Hickam Memorial Theater.

The event is free and open to members of all services and their families. The event is to honor all military spouses.

It will include a music video premiere by military spouse Latoya Adams. Attire is casual/relaxed.

The event will include cake, punch, photos and giveaways.

(For more information, visit www.sheroanthem.com.)



Wahiawa SATCOM Facility commissions first MET
See page A-2



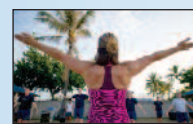
Ship christening honors MOH John Finn
See page A-2



Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month 2015
See page A-3



Combined Military Band Appreciation Concert scheduled for May 16
See page A-7



Rising above sexual assault: Yoga at dawn
See page B-1



National Police Week events planned
See page B-3

Ship christening honors MOH John Finn

MC1 Stuart B. Phillips

Office of the MCPON

PASCAGOULA, Miss. (NNS) — Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens spoke at the christening ceremony held May 2 for the future guided-missile destroyer USS John Finn (DDG 113) at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Miss.

John Finn, who retired as a lieutenant in 1956, was a chief ordnanceman stationed in Hawaii the morning of the Dec. 7, 1941 surprise attack by Japanese forces.

Stevens told the audience Finn distinguished himself that day by manning a .50-caliber machine gun for two hours, with no cover, as the enemy aircraft continued



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Martin L. Carey

Ship sponsor Laura Stavridis ceremoniously breaks a bottle of champagne on the bow during the christening ceremony for the future guided missile destroyer USS John Finn (DDG 113).

their attack. Although wounded 21 separate times, Finn continued to fight the

incoming enemy aircraft without regard for his personal safety. Almost a year

later, Finn received the Medal of Honor from Adm. Chester Nimitz aboard USS

Enterprise (CV 6) for his actions.

After speaking about Finn's heroism in the face of overwhelming odds, Stevens shared with the audience his vision of the ideal leader—a quiet, humble, servant leader.

"By quiet, I mean we let our actions speak for themselves," said Stevens. "Humble means we do not think less of ourselves but think more about others. And being a servant leader means you recognize that the more senior you become, the more people you serve."

"I believe with all my heart that John Finn exemplified all of these traits through his heroic actions on that day, 'a date which will live in infamy,'" said Stevens.

"I would be hard-pressed to come up with a better example of a Sailor, or a chief petty officer, who, under such extraordinary circumstances, rose to the occasion in such an amazing way," he said.

The ship's sponsor, Laura Stavridis, also addressed the audience before completing the christening ceremony.

"John Finn was brave, resourceful, determined and above all, a patriot of the United States of America," said Stavridis. "His spirit and courage will always in this warship when christened shortly."

The christening ceremony was attended by a number of special guests, including John Finn's son, Joseph Finn, and five Pearl Harbor survivors.

Wahiawa Satellite Communications Facility commissions first modernized enterprise terminal

Story and photo by Ensign Denise Baumeister

Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific Public Affairs

History was made April 16 when Wahiawa Satellite Communications (SATCOM) Facility Hawaii held a ribbon-cutting ceremony commissioning the first operational AN/GSC-52B(V5) modernized enterprise terminal (MET).

The ceremony's official party consisted of Capt. William A. Dodge Jr., commander, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific (NCTAMS PAC), and Douglas K. Wilstie, Army program executive officer (PEO) for enterprise information systems (EIS).

Dodge opened the ceremony by paying homage to Wahiawa's long history of providing satellite communications, beginning a full

three years before the Soviet Union launched Sputnik in 1957 through a program called Moon Relay.

"We are here today to begin to retire the aging workhorse of Department of Defense satellite communications, the AN/FSC-78 terminals, and commission the new AN/GSC-52B(V5) modernization of enterprise terminal (MET). The AN/FSC-78 terminals operated in the X-band frequency range and were some of the first to provide the Department of Defense with a manmade satellite global communications capability," Dodge explained.

"Today, in partnership with the Army Enterprise Information Systems Program Office, this MET installation is the first of three to replace the 40-year-old AN/FSC-78s here in Wahiawa and will provide a significant increase in our ability to provide joint commanders in the Pacific with command and control of their forces," he said.



Douglas Wilstie, left, Army program executive officer for enterprise information systems, cuts the ceremonial lei commissioning the modernized enterprise terminal (MET-1) during a ribbon-cutting ceremony held April 16 at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific. Capt. William A. Dodge Jr., NCTAMS commander, looks on.

The MET program is intended to modernize fixed X-band enterprise terminals by eventually replacing all existing AN/FSC-78 X-band and AN/GSC-70 Ka STARS

(Ka-band) terminals.

"This project modernizes the existing AN/FSC-78 earth terminal by replacing it with a 12.2 meter large fixed antenna (LFA), a new

antenna group, and modernized fixed operating group. These upgrades will significantly reduce the operating space and improve the power and cooling bud-

get within the building. The modernization enterprise terminals will support Internet protocol and dedicated circuit connectivity within the Department of Defense Information Network (DoDIN), providing critical C5I reach-back capability."

Wilstie added that in addition to the state-of-the-art technology provided by the AN/GSC-52B(V5) MET terminal, the MET program provides project manager, Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems (PMDCATS) with an advanced, strategic terminal architecture that allows for equipment commonality lowering acquisition, logistics and life cycle costs.

The AN/GSC-52B(V5) MET will soon be installed at other teleport facilities including Camp Roberts, Calif.; Fort Buckner, Okinawa; Lago di Patria, Italy; Landstuhl and Ramstein, Germany; Northwest, Va.; and Bahrain.

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Presidential proclamation

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month 2015

President Barack Obama



President Barack Obama

The rich heritage of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders spans the world and the depths of America's history. Generation after generation, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have forged a proud legacy that reflects the spirit of our nation—a country that values the contributions of everyone who calls America home.

During Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, we honor the perseverance of those who courageously reached for their hopes and dreams in a new land, and we celebrate the important impact the AAPI community has made on our nation's progress.

From the more than one million immigrants who journeyed across the Pacific and arrived on Angel Island to the Chinese-American laborers who risked their lives to link our coasts by rail, the determination of this vibrant community represents the best of our national character. In each chapter of our country's story—in places

lands. And AAPI patriots have defended the beliefs for which we stand.

Seventy years ago, the United States and our allies secured a lasting peace throughout the Asia Pacific region and much of the world, a victory achieved in part by thousands of Filipino Americans who fought valiantly but were denied compensation and also by Japanese Americans who served this country even as the freedom of their loved ones was denied.

like Selma and the grape fields of Delano, during the moments where our nation's destiny has been decided—AAPIs of all backgrounds have set inspiring examples as leaders and trailblazers, united by a common hope for civil rights, equal treatment, and a better tomorrow for all Americans.

Through times of hardship and in the face of enduring prejudice, these women and men have persisted and forged ahead to help strengthen our union. Native Hawaiians have fought to protect their treasured traditions, language and

Fifty years ago, the United States opened new doors of opportunity to more Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants through the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, ending the arbitrary and outdated policies that unfairly limited the potential of entire regions. This year also marks the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, which brought new Vietnamese, Cambodian, Hmong and Laotian communities to this country.

But as we recognize the enormous progress America has made, we must also acknowledge the many struggles AAPIs continue to experience in the face of persistent inequality and bigotry, including barriers to equal access to education, employment and health care. South Asian Americans—especially those who are Muslim, Hindu, or Sikh—too often face senseless violence and harassment due only to the color of their skin or the tenets of their faith. And to this day, many AAPIs continue to live in the shadows and are separated from their families due to our broken immigration system.

My administration is committed to addressing these unmet needs and the ugly discrimination that still exists. I was proud to re-establish the White House Initiative on AAPIs soon after I took office, to foster opportunities for increased access to and involvement in federal programs. As part of that effort, my administration is expanding its regional network of federal leaders and hosting community meetings across the country to better understand the needs of the diverse AAPI community.

Last year, I announced my intent to take actions that would allow more high-skilled immigrants, graduates and entrepreneurs to

stay and contribute to our economy, and I continue to call on the Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform. To highlight the tremendous growth of the AAPI community and my administration's commitment to increasing opportunity for AAPIs everywhere, this month we will host the White House Summit on AAPIs—an unprecedented and historic all-day convening of senior federal officials and community leaders from across the country.

As we commemorate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we pay tribute to all those in the AAPI community who have striven for a brighter future for the next generation. To-

gether, let us recommit to embracing the diversity that enriches our nation and to ensuring all our people have an equal chance to succeed in the country we love.

Now, therefore, I, Barack Obama, president of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2015 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to visit www.WhiteHouse.gov/AAPI to learn more about our efforts on behalf of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.



May AAPI Heritage Month events scheduled

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month.

Upcoming events have been scheduled at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to celebrate the heritage month.

- A proclamation signing and 5K fun run/walk and food drive will begin at 7:30 a.m. today at the Missing Man Formation Memorial on the Hickam side of the base. Participants are asked to bring canned and/or nonperishable food items. All donations will go to the Hawaii Foodbank.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. James Lewis at james.lewis.16@us.af.mil or 448-3048.

- A golf tournament will begin at 1 p.m. May 15 at Ke'alohe Par 3 at Hickam. The cost is \$25.

For more information, contact Lewis or Tech Sgt. Cody Ray at <mailto:cody.ray@us.af.mil> or 449-0737.

- A cultural showcase will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. May 29 at Sharkey Theater on the Pearl Harbor side of the base, followed by lunch at the Silver Dolphin Bistro galley. The cost of the lunch is \$5.55 per person.

For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Kon Lee at kon.lee@us.af.mil or 449-3639.

For the 2015 commemoration, the Federal Asian Pacific American Council has chosen the theme "Many Cultures, One Voice: Promote Equality and Inclusion."

For more information, visit <http://asianpacificheritage.gov/about.html>.

Diverse Views



What is the most important thing your mother taught you while growing up?



DC1 Honolulu Mika JBPHH 1st Lt. Division

"Always respect your elders because of their wisdom and their knowledge. Happy Mother's Day to my wonderful mom and my beautiful wife. I love you both very much!"

Tech. Sgt. Mary Witherow 692d Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group



"One day everything in your life will make perfect sense. For now, laugh at the confusion, smile through the tears, and remind yourself that everything happens for a reason."



HM2 Jerome Loresco Naval Health Clinic Hawaii

"If you want something, you have to work hard for it. Nothing is given for free."

Maj. Greg Durham Special Operations Command Pacific



"She's shown me that hard work and dedication in whatever you do will lead to a successful life."



STS2 Robert Sayles Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

"Be respectful. Treat everyone the way you would like to be treated."

Master Sgt. Tyler Allan 15th Maintenance Squadron



"Anything in life worthwhile takes effort and life is what we make of it."



YN2 Stephon Allen SSO Pearl Harbor

"Take responsibility for your actions. Be the best person you can be."

Airman 1st Class Kalen Smith-Kamakeeaina 154th Maintenance Squadron, HIANG



"Take every opportunity in your hands and finish what you started."

Provided by Lt. Damall Martin 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

Kihune sits in Hawkeye cockpit



U.S. Navy file photo

Rear Adm. Robert E. U. Kihune, commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group 5, sits in the cockpit of an Airborne Early Warning Squadron 112 (VAW-112) E-2C Hawkeye aircraft on April 23, 1987. The aircraft is parked on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63). A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Kihune became the first vice admiral of Hawaiian descent and retired in 1994 after serving 35 years. May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

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JBP HH Airmen put storybook character on trial for Law Day

Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Public Affairs

Taking care of Airmen and their families is a priority that can require a bit of creativity when it comes to including military children, but the Airmen in the legal profession proved they were up to the challenge on Law Day, May 1, at Aliamanu Elementary School.

Law Day, officially recognized nationally on May 1 as a time to reflect on the role of law in the foundation of the country, provides an opportunity for 15th Wing and Pacific Air Forces Judge Advocate (PACAF JA) members to come together to do something meaningful in the local community.

For this year's event, the Airmen and students from Aliamanu Elementary School helped Jack, of Jack and the Beanstalk, finally get his day in court.

During the hour long event, the Airmen entertained the crowd of third through sixth graders with a brief re-telling of Jack and the Beanstalk as written by a group of fifth graders, followed by a



Lt. Col. David Cunningham, Pacific Air Forces Judge Advocate office chief of administrative law, makes his case to students from Aliamanu Elementary School during a mock trial held May 1 for Law Day. Law Day is a time to reflect on the role of law in the foundation of the country. (See additional photo on page A-5.)

mock trial to determine if any crimes had been committed during Jack's journey up and down

the beanstalk. "This event hopefully helps the children gain more understand-

ing about the law and shows them how modern day law would be applied to some of their fa-

vorite make believe stories," said Master Sgt. Jeremiah Kelly from the PACAF JA office and NCO in charge of military justice.

The interactive event picks up in court after Jack cuts down the beanstalk, bringing the giant to his death, and is arrested and charged with breaking and entering, second degree murder and theft.

Sixteen students from the audience served as the mock jury and, after hearing arguments from the defense and prosecution as well as witness testimony from the harp and giant's wife, found Jack guilty of all charges and sentenced him to death.

"I think this was a good event," said Madeline English, student and jury member. "My favorite part was when the jury got to decide if he was guilty and what the punishment should be."

English, who wants to go to school to become a lawyer when she grows up, said the event was also educational.

"I think it's really awesome that the military lawyers came to do this. I'm super happy because it also gave me an idea of what I'm going to face when I'm up there," she said.

Navy Marine Corps Relief Society concludes annual fund drive

Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer, Ho'okele

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Pearl Harbor recently wrapped up the main portion of their annual fund drive. The NMCRS received \$473,960 in donations, about \$15,000 more than last year.

Based on per capita donations, NMCRS Pearl Harbor did especially well," said Paul Belanger, director of NMCRS Pearl Harbor.

"The average per capita donation was \$38.21," he said. "That's the third highest per capita donation in the world."

Belanger thinks many factors contributed to the success of the 2015 campaign.

"We always pride ourselves on very successful fund drives," he

said. "Our coordinator, Lt. Cindy Suarez, did an excellent job, and we got full support from Rear Adm. Rick Williams."

He added that the generous spirit of the community is what really put this year's drive over the edge.

"Thanks to all our Sailors and Marines for taking good care of NMCRS," Belanger said. "This year's slogan was, 'We are Marines and Sailors caring for our own,' and that's what they did here at Pearl Harbor."

The goal of the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society is to provide, in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, financial, educational and assistance to members of the naval services of the United States, eligible family members and survivors when in need.

Since it was founded in 1904,



Photo courtesy of NMCRS Pearl Harbor

Paul Belanger, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Pearl Harbor, speaks at the NMCRS Pearl Harbor Volunteer of the Quarter luncheon held in April.

the society has provided more than \$1.1 billion in interest-free loans and grants to more than

four million active duty and retired Sailors, Marines and their families. It is sponsored by the

Department of the Navy and operates nearly 250 offices ashore and afloat at Navy and Marine Corps bases throughout the world

Even though the fund drive is officially over, NMCRS accepts donations all year long. For Sailors and Marines interested in having allotments taken out of their paychecks to go to NMCRS, the deadline for 12-month allotments is coming up soon. However, allotments for shorter time periods are available throughout the year. To set up allotments, service members can contact their command's fund drive coordinator.

In addition to donations, NMCRS Pearl Harbor is always looking for volunteers. Those interested in volunteering can contact Felix Navarro at 473-0282.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

(Right) Yeoman 1st Class Gregory Joseph kicks the ball during a U.S. Pacific Fleet Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) kickball tournament held May 5 to help launch physical fitness awareness month. CSADD's mission is to create a culture in which shipmates are helping shipmates maintain a course of success through good decision-making.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Tamara Vaughn



(Below) U.S. Pacific Fleet Sailors participate in warm-ups before competing in the CSADD kickball tournament held May 5 to help launch physical fitness awareness month.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Tamara Vaughn



(Above) Tech. Sgt. Zachary Bolda, Pacific Air Forces Judge Advocate office NCOIC of operations and international law, greets students from Aliamanu Elementary School after performing a mock trial for Law Day held May 1.

U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden



(Left) Capt. William A. Dodge Jr., commanding officer at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific (NCTAMS PAC), speaks about the modernized enterprise terminal (MET-1) capabilities during a ribbon-cutting ceremony held April 16 at the installation.

U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Denise Baumeister

JBPHH welcomes new 'field of dreams'

Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor, Ho'okele

With just one stroke of the scissors, Capt. Stanley Keeve Jr., commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), and Tina Lui, Morale, Welfare and Recreation assistant athletics director, officially dedicated the newly renovated Earhart Field in a maile lei-cutting ceremony on May 2.

Earhart Field recently completed a major face-lift with the installation of a state-of-the-art synthetic playing surface that was funded through the Office of Secretary of Defense to the sum of \$1.3 million.

FieldTurf is the number one artificial surface that is custom fitted in professional stadiums throughout the world and is known for its close feel, safety and play of real grass.

Hawaii's Aloha Stadium uses the same turf and it has also been installed at a few high school campuses in Hawaii.

"It looks fantastic," Keeve said. "Just look at it. The field is green, obviously synthetic turf, but it feels like real grass. Just talking to a few of the players and they had nothing but compliments. It's a very nice facility and I'm just happy that we could do something like this for our residents, our community and military members to use. It's a first-rate field."

While the project was in the works for two years, once the shovels hit the ground, Jim Cosper, MWR program analyst, said that installation was completed in only four months.

Coordinated through Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii and MWR, Nan Inc. subcontracted the installation to Applied Surfacing Technology, which is the same company that did the job at Aloha Stadium.

At first, Lui said that ev-



Members of the 647th Civil Engineer Squadron and Kunia Rochefort soccer team surround Tina Lui, Morale, Welfare and Recreation assistant athletics director, and Capt. Stanley Keeve Jr., commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, as they share cutting duties of the maile lei to dedicate the renovation at Earhart Field.

erything looked like a jumbled mess, but it didn't take long before it took shape.

"It came a long way," Lui acknowledged. "When we looked at it piece by piece, it would have wrinkles, then it looked hard. Once they put everything in, pulled the turf out, everything fell in real nicely."

The finished product is durable—it comes with an eight-year warranty—and is made to withstand everything that is thrown at it from flag football to soccer to physical training (PT).

Not only is the quality of the turf highly wear resistant, installation wasn't as easy as laying down a carpet.

Marking on the field aren't painted on, but had to be individually and meticulously applied one at a time.

"It's the highest grade playing turf available," Lui noted. "We got it lined for soccer and football. They had to hand cut the dashes and stitch those in. So they tailored it for us."

That level of commitment to excellence, said Keeve, is nothing short of what

JBPHH would do for the well being of each and every Sailor and Airman under its command.

"I think like any organization you want to live and work in a place that makes life better," Keeve said. "I would say that having a field like this makes life better because they can do these intramural games and do it on a professional field."

Tom Jones, MWR director, agreed with Keeve and added that the field goes a long way toward bringing the base's athletic facilities into the new age.

Jones also stated that the level of excitement has taken a huge bump up now that the new field is here.

"We're coming of age," Jones said. "This is what people use now, both in inner cities and suburbs. This field serves multiple purposes and the playability is great. These guys get excited, and I think it sends a really good message for the Navy and Air Force that they care about their people. That's a critical message to those who are serving their country."

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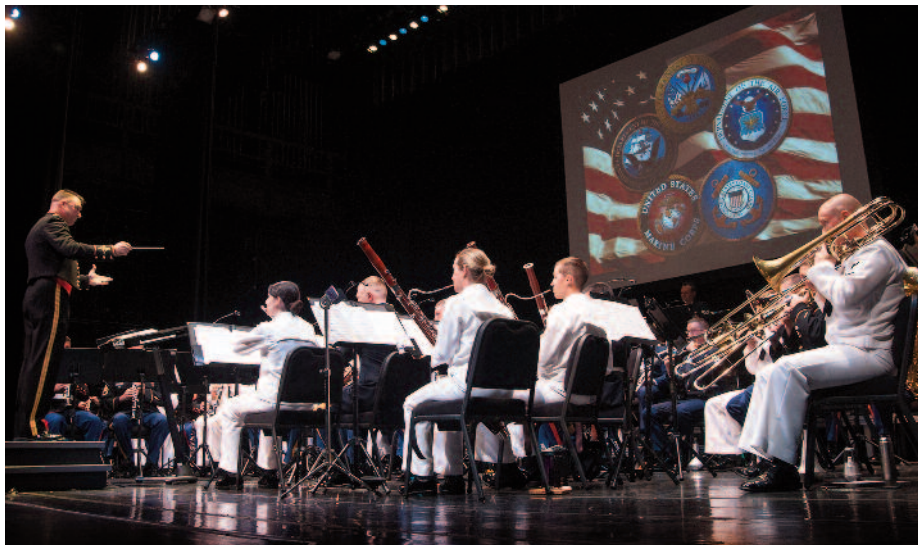


Photo courtesy of Pacific Fleet Band

The annual Combined Military Band Appreciation Concert will be held May 16 at Hawaii Theatre in Honolulu.

Combined Military Band Appreciation Concert scheduled for May 16

In recognition of May as national Military Appreciation Month, the Hawaii Theatre and the Honolulu Council of the Navy League will host the 30th annual Combined Military Band Appreciation Concert at 6 p.m. May 16 at Hawaii Theatre in downtown Honolulu.

Seating will begin at 5 p.m. on a first come, first served basis. The performance is free and open to the public.

The lead organization for this year's concert is the United States Navy's Pacific Fleet Band under the leadership of Lt. Patrick K. Sweeten, the bandmaster.

The combined military band features instrumentalists and vocalists from each branch of the U.S. armed forces, with respective conductors from all of the military service bands stationed on Oahu taking up the baton for patriotic selections.

This special concert will feature musicians from the U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet Band, the U.S. Marine Forces-Pacific Band, the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division Band (Army Music Hawaii), the U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific-Hawaii and members of the Hawaii Army National Guard's 111th Army Band.

Free tickets and event information is available from the Hawaii Theatre box office, which is located in downtown Honolulu at 1130 Bethel St. (between Hotel and Pauahi Streets), during regular box office hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

National Military Appreciation encourages U.S. citizens to observe May as a symbol of patriotic unity, to honor current and former members of the U.S. armed forces and those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace.

(For more information, call the box office at 528-0506.)



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Hickam radiology to close temporarily

The Hickam radiology department will be closed from May 28 to July 15 for major construction and equipment upgrades. Patients may have their imaging study completed at any military radiology department on Oahu to facilitate care.

The closest facility is Naval Health Clinic Hawaii Makalapa clinic radiology department on the Pearl Harbor side of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. For more information, call 473-1880, ext. 2200.

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