

JBP HH hosts safety standdown



Brandon Bosworth
Assistant Editor, Ho'okele

The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Safety Department held a safety standdown at Sharkey Theater on May 19, 20 and 21. The event featured presentations about subjects such as water safety, personal safety and recreational off-duty safety.

“We want to bring a safety awareness to your everyday person, so they can enjoy whatever festivities they have planned safely,” said Melody Sale, JBP HH safety supervisor.

Capt. Stanley Keeve, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, offered opening comments. He

drew attention to the fact that over the past few months, several members of the JBP HH community have been hurt off-duty, with one individual losing his life.

“People don’t anticipate the dangers,” he said. “It’s important to pause and think about what you’re doing. Even if you are in the backyard barbecuing, you can get in trouble.”

Keeve concluded his opening comments by encouraging those attending the event to make good use of the opportunity to learn more about safety.

“Make this time useful,” he said. “Learn at least one thing you didn’t know before you came in.”

During the standdown,



Capt. Stanley Keeve, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, offered opening comments during a safety standdown held May 19, 29 and 21 at Sharkey Theater.

the winners of the JBP HH safety slogan contest were announced.

The slogans offered ways to put an emphasis on good safety practices.

The third place prize went to Master Sgt. Oluseun Akande, 735th Air Mobility Squadron, whose slogan was “Cheat the Heat to Stay Fit.”

Kenneth Jones, Pacific Air Forces, won second place with “Safety is the Scene in 2015. Be seen!”

The first place winner was Damage Controlman 2nd Class Honolulu Mika, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, with the entry, “If you are hot and feeling slow, Drink H2O... Got Hydration? #Hydrate!!!”

(Additional safety information on page A-6.)



Leadership of two top military commands in Hawaii to change

Ho'okele Staff

Leadership of two top Hawaii-based military commands, U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) and U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT), will change hands May 27 at a double change of command at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam (JBP HH).

Adm. Scott H. Swift will assume command of U.S. Pacific Fleet from Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr. at 9 a.m. at Kilo Pier at JBP HH.

Immediately following the U.S. Pacific Fleet ceremony, Harris will assume command of U.S. Pacific Command, headquarters at Camp H.M. Smith from Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III.

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert will also be in attendance.

The ceremony will be covered real-time on U.S. Pacific Command social media sites and streamed live at www.defense.gov.

He took command of PACOM on March 9, 2012 and is retiring.

He previously served as director, Navy Staff as well as ashore assignments as executive assistant to the



vice chief of naval operations. His career as a surface warfare officer includes command assignments as commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet; commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe; commander, U.S. Naval Forces Africa; and Allied Joint Force Command Naples.

Harris was promoted to admiral and assumed command of the U.S. Pacific Fleet on Oct. 16, 2013.

He is the 34th commander since the fleet was established in February 1941.

Harris is the highest-ranking Asian American in the history of the Navy and the first to attain the rank of four-star admiral.

His career assignments have included assistant to the chairman of the JCS where he served as the chairman’s direct representative to the secretary of state, chief speechwriter for the chairman of the JCS, and three tours on the Navy Staff.

Swift comes to PACFLT from his position as director, Navy Staff, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon where he has been assigned since September 2013. He was previously the commander of U.S. 7th Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan.

Memorial Day events announced

Several events to observe Memorial Day have been planned across Oahu. They include:

- The Roll Call of Honor in Remembrance ceremony will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. May 24 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

(Punchbowl).

- A Veterans Candlelight Memorial Day ceremony will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. May 24 at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl).

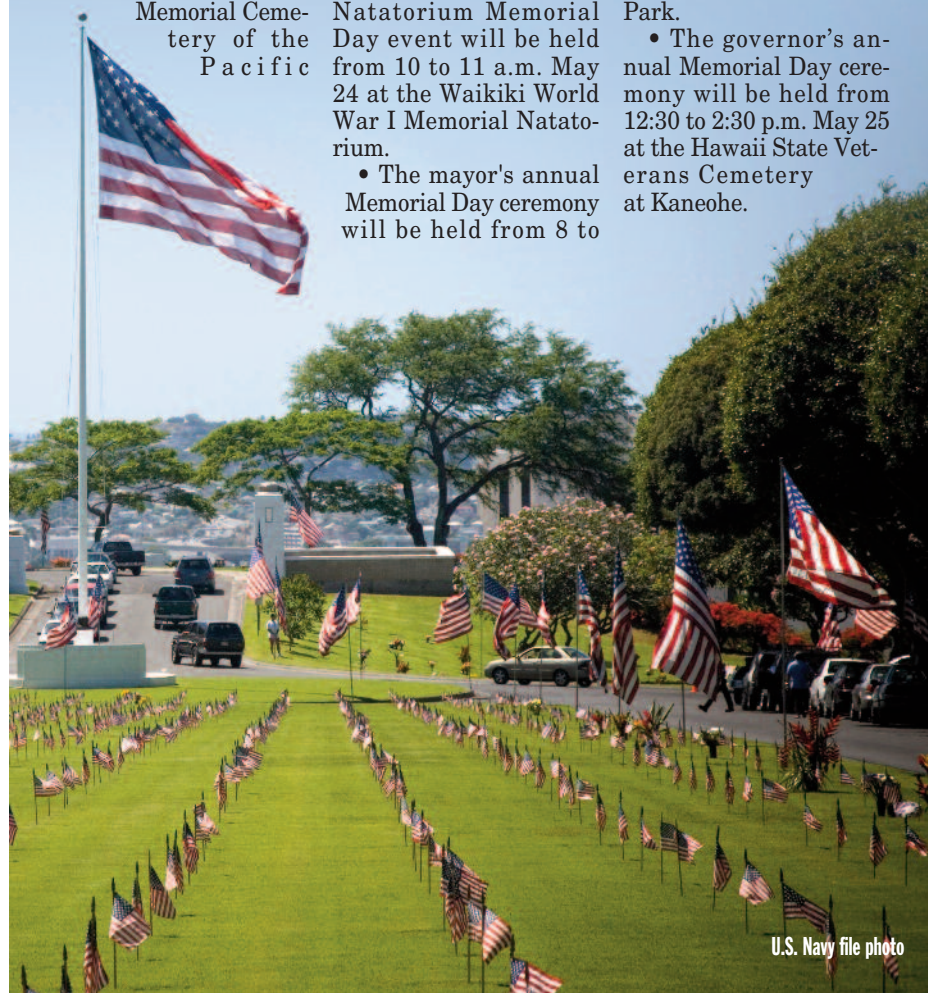
- A Friends of the Natatorium Memorial Day event will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. May 24 at the Waikiki World War I Memorial Natatorium.

- The mayor’s annual Memorial Day ceremony will be held from 8 to

10:30 a.m. May 25 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl.)

- The Bowfin SubVets Memorial Day ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. May 25 at the USS Parche Submarine Memorial Park.

- The governor’s annual Memorial Day ceremony will be held from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. May 25 at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery at Kaneohe.



U.S. Navy file photo



Joint service ceremony marks anniversary of West Loch Disaster
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USS Michael Murphy returns home after successful seven-month deployment
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Memorial ceremony concludes JBP HH Police Week
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USS Chafee leaves on deployment
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Summer safety
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MWR concert set for Memorial Day
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Joint service ceremony marks anniversary of West Loch Disaster

Story and photo by Brandon Bosworth

Assistant Editor, Ho'okele

Afloat Training Group (ATG) Middle Pacific (MID-PAC) and the 8th Theater Sustainment Command held a joint service ceremony marking the 71st anniversary of the West Loch Disaster on May 21.

The event was held aboard a U.S. Army Logistics Support Vessel (LSV) stationed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, which sailed to the site of the tragedy.

The West Loch Disaster occurred on May 21, 1944. Thirty-four ships were in Pearl Harbor's West Loch to load ammunition and supplies for the impending U.S. invasion of Saipan. The LSTs (landing ship, tank), small ships designed to land battle-ready tanks, were close together along six berths. At 3:08 p.m., an explosion occurred resulting in a chain reaction of explosions that sank six of the LSTs and severely damaged several others.

There were 163 men were killed and 396 wounded. Nearly one-third of the casualties came from the Army's segregated African American 29th Chemical Decontamination Company. The West Loch Disaster was Pearl Harbor's second greatest disaster in terms of casualties. The exact cause was never determined.

Attending the ceremony were service members from the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard, as well as personnel from the National Park Service and guests from the African-American Diversity



Young service members place a memorial wreath into the waters of Pearl Harbor at the conclusion of a ceremony which marked the 71st anniversary of the West Loch disaster.

Cultural Center Hawaii. Lt. Cmdr. Kenneth Brown, ATG MIDAC, served as master of ceremonies, and chaplain Maj. Douglas Johnson, 647th Air Base Group, provided the invocation and benediction.

Maj. Gen. Edward F. Dorman, commanding general of the 8th Theater Sustainment Command, offered remarks at the event. With the wreckage of one of the sunken ships, LST 480, in the background, he stressed the valuable lessons learned from that fiery day at West Loch.

"The West Loch Disaster forced systematic changes in explosive safety," he said. "Having been in combat, I can attest to the rigorous requirements for handling

ammunition, explosives, and fuel."

Jim Neuman, Navy Region Hawaii historian, talked a bit about Pearl Harbor's history and the specifics of what happened at West Loch. He emphasized the actions of those responding to the disaster.

"There was a very quick response," he said. "Like on Dec. 7, the responders were very professional and will-trained."

The ceremony concluded with a rifle salute and the playing of "Taps." The youngest service members in attendance then placed a floral wreath in the waters of Pearl Harbor in honor of those who lost their life at West Loch 71 years ago.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan

Logistics Specialist 3rd Class Mark Manimtim, assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90), holds his child prior to the ship's departure from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for an independent deployment.

USS Chafee leaves on deployment

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

The guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) departed May 18 from Pearl Harbor for an independent deployment to the U.S. 7th and 4th Fleet areas of operations.

Chafee deployed with its crew of more than 300 Sailors. The ship will conduct theater security cooperation and maritime presence operations with partner nations as well as participate in exercise Talisman Saber within the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. It is expected to play an integral part in counter-illicit trafficking mission Operation Martillo (Spanish for 'hammer') in the U.S. 4th Fleet area of operations.

Along with the crew of Chafee, the drug interdiction team includes the ship's organic visit, board, search and seizure team, providing support for the embarked Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment. Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 37,

Detachment 6 will provide embarked air support.

Chafee will also participate in the Oceania Maritime Security Initiative (OMSI), a joint Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security and Department of Commerce program. The ship will support maritime law enforcement operations to administer U.S. and Pacific island nations fisheries laws and the suppression of illicit activities.

"This ship and crew are ready for any real world operations," said Cmdr. Shea Thompson, commanding officer. "There is no other team I would rather deploy with."

(Below) Sailors, assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90), wave farewell as the ship departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan



HO'OKELE Online

<http://www.hookelenews.com> or <https://www.cnlc.navy.mil/hawaii>

Commentary

Don't make this Memorial Day become your memorial

Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

How will you be spending Memorial Day? Most of us will be paying tribute to fallen heroes in some way, even in quiet moments alone.

One way to honor the men and women who gave their lives for our prosperity and ability to live free is to protect the gift they gave us and not put ourselves in unnecessary danger when off duty.

When we think of Memorial Day, we think of lives lost due to combat. The fact is for many people Memorial Day weekend is a time of sorrow because of off-duty mishaps.

Liberty is a mission. You have a responsibility to safeguard yourself and your shipmates—through good decision making on

and off duty. Practice operational risk management (ORM) at all times. ORM should be at the forefront in planning hikes, ocean sports, motorcycle rides and any situation where alcohol is involved.

A few facts to consider during the critical weeks between Memorial Day and Labor Day:

- Nearly 90 percent of fatalities last summer



U.S. Air Force photo

An Airman salutes a grave site at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in 2012.

were from E-3 to E-5.

- In eight of nine fatal motorcycle accidents, riders were at fault.
- Trip planning reduces risk: Access TRiPS at <https://trips.safety.army.mil/>

- Alcohol-related mishaps kill and injure Sailors and Marines every summer.

- Knowing your limits and respecting the ocean can keep you alive.
- Active bystanders can save lives—and careers—of their shipmates.

There are more facts and figures to consider during the critical days and weeks ahead. Everyone in uniform should be getting the training and getting the

message: Safeguarding yourself and your shipmates is a proper tribute to those who sacrificed to give us “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Safety is a leadership responsibility, and it's up to all leaders to ensure good ORM is considered on and off duty. It's a shipmate's role to be an active by-

stander and speak up or speak out when you see dangerous behavior that may put someone's life in danger.

The Navy Safety Center reports that we lost 13 Sailors and nine Marines last summer in the Department of the Navy. That's 22 young trained and ready warfighters no longer with us—and hundreds of shipmates, friends and families they left behind.

Those who were lost, including here in Hawaii, were in the same age range as the young men killed in Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

On this Memorial Day, as we remember those who died, we should commit ourselves to protect our Sailors from needless fatalities and injuries.

To all service members in our region, I ask for your self-discipline this summer. Be a good leader and take care of your shipmates and yourself.

Please be safe this summer and let's not make this Memorial Day your memorial day.

Diverse Views



How do you stay safe when engaging in physical activities outside of work?



Staff Sgt. Shameka Risch
647th Force Support Squadron

“When engaging in physical activities outside, I make sure to wear sunblock and have plenty of water available. I always have a buddy with me or someone with experience in the activities I'm about to do.”

BMCS Nathan McQuown
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam



“The Navy teaches us to always use operational risk management in and out of work, so I apply it to outside physical activities.”



Master Sgt. Jason Zarudny
690th Cyberspace Operations Squadron

“I stay safe by knowing the dangers of the activities I participate in. I use all proper PPE, and I don't exceed my personal physical limitations.”

CTR2 Dmitriana Henry
NIOC Hawaii



“I make sure I am prepared to do the activity I have planned, make sure that I am hydrated for the activity and that I am aware of my surroundings.”



Tech. Sgt. Samuel Dykes
Defense Information Systems Agency Pacific

“I stay safe when participating in physical activities by first, staying hydrated. Secondly, I research the dangers associated with any new activity I engage in. Third, I always wear any protective gear needed for the activity. Lastly, I use common sense. If I think I could get hurt by doing something unsafe while engaging in an activity, I choose not to do it rather than risk getting hurt and endangering my career.”

LS3 Joshua Williams
Naval Supply Command Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor



“I am always aware of my surroundings while conducting any kind of physical activities so I don't get hurt and I make sure to look out for my shipmates to help ensure their safety.”



Tech. Sgt. Bret Talbott
613th Air and Space Operations Center

“I always ensure my equipment is properly functioning and I am properly hydrated.”

ENS Marcus Hayes
USS Chosin (CG 65)



“I make sure the location of my physical activity is a safe location, that no special advisories have been issued for the area of the activity and to use operational risk management while conducting the activity.”

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

Naval Safety Center cautions against drinking and driving

Naval Safety Center

Sailors and Marines are involved in more fatalities between Memorial Day and Labor Day than any other time of the year, according to the Naval Safety Center.

During that time period in 2014, the safety center reported that 13 Sailors and nine Marines lost their lives.

The center said that alcohol-related mishaps kill and injure Sailors and Marines every summer. The safety center urges military members never to drink and drive.

According to information from

www.thatguy.com, absorption of alcohol depends on a person's size, weight, body fat and gender. Other factors include the amount of alcohol consumed, the amount of food in a person's stomach and use of medications.

Here are some questions the center suggests military members ask themselves to see if they need help.

- Have you ever felt you should cut back on your drinking?
- Does your drinking ever make you late for work?
- Do you ever forget what you did while you were drinking?
- Do you ever drink after telling

yourself you won't?

- Have people annoyed you by criticizing your drinking?
- Do you ever need a drink first thing in the morning, to steady your nerves, or get rid of a hangover?

Those who answered yes, even to one question, may have a problem with alcohol.

TRICARE has information at www.tricare.mil/ProviderDirectory/ <http://www.tricare.mil/mtf/> and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment at 1-800-662-HELP can help find a local resource.

For more information on safety, visit www.public.navy.mil/commnavsafecen.

Hazel Ying Lee flew for U.S. military



U.S. Air Force photo

Hazel Ying Lee, the first Chinese American woman aviator, was also the first Chinese American woman to fly for the United States military. She joined the Women Airforce Service Pilots and was trained to ferry aircraft. She delivered transport aircraft, but she also flew more powerful fighters, such as the P-63 Kingcobra, to their destinations. She was killed in the line of duty ferrying the P-63, the last WASP to die in service to her country. May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

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USS Michael Murphy returns home after successful seven-month deployment

Ensign Kelly Lorentson

USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) Public Affairs

After a successful seven-month deployment, USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) returned Thursday to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH)

Friends, families and fellow service members lined the harbor and gathered on the pier to welcome the ship home as it finished the last leg of its maiden deployment.

While deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR), Michael Murphy promoted security and stability throughout the western Pacific region. In total, the ship spent nearly 200 days underway and conducted more than 800 flight hours with the ship's attached helicopter squadron, Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 37, Detachment 4.

"Although time away from family and friends is hard, the most rewarding time in a Sailor's career is deployment when they have the opportunity to see the result of their hard work, from boot camp, to 'A' and 'C' schools, through the ship's training cycle," said Cmdr. Todd Hutchison, Michael Murphy's commanding officer.

"The crew performed magnificently and also had the



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan

The guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) returns to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam May 21 from its maiden deployment. (See additional photos on page A-5.)

opportunity to enjoy some liberty in places like Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong. We were proud to represent our nation and our Navy on deployment and are very thankful to be home," Hutchison said.

Michael Murphy began deployment by patrolling the western Pacific Ocean for illegal fishing and other crimes during a joint operation with the U.S. Coast Guard known as the Oceania Maritime Security Initiative (OMSI). From there, the ship continued operations in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, conducting security patrols and

normalizing U.S. presence in the region.

Focusing on building relations and strengthening alliances with foreign navies, Michael Murphy conducted several military exchanges with ships from the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), the Republic of Korea (ROK) navy and the French navy.

While operating in waters near the Korean Peninsula, Michael Murphy participated in Foal Eagle 2015, an annual defense-oriented training exercise with the ROK navy, designed to increase readiness and main-

tain stability in the Korean Peninsula as well as promote ROK-U.S. interoperability.

One of the more memorable events of Michael Murphy's maiden deployment was the successful execution of Multi-Sail 2015, a multi-day training exercise near Guam involving several U.S. 7th Fleet assets and special operations forces (SOF) working alongside several JMSDF ships.

While embarked aboard Michael Murphy, SOF combined efforts with the crew to conduct advanced maritime interdiction operations and visit, board, search and

seizure training to exercise the dynamic and far-reaching capabilities of U.S. 7th Fleet and SOF assets and operations.

In addition to underway operations, Michael Murphy made many port calls to foreign countries and cities, including Malaysia, Japan, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea and Hong Kong. While visiting these ports, Sailors enjoyed local attractions and activities through Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) sponsored tours and events.

Some of the more popular tours included white water rafting and elephant riding in Thailand, hiking Mount Kinabalu in Malaysia, trips to Disneyland and Macau while in Hong Kong, a ride on the Singapore flyer and visit to the night zoo in Singapore, and trips to Nagasaki while in Japan.

"Hitting a new port can be overwhelming because of all the places to see and activities to do. It's nice to know MWR already has tours filled with great places to visit, so I can get the most out of my liberty," said Fire Controlman 2nd Class Jonathan Carrillo.

"Some of my best memories from deployment were from tours that provided an easy way to experience the local culture," he said.

Many Sailors also volun-

teered to participate in community relations (COMREL) projects coordinated prior to each port visit between the ship and the host country. Sailors cleaned a local beach in Malaysia, painted and landscaped for two local orphanages in Thailand, played sports with children at St. George's Girls home, and prepared meals at a soup kitchen in Singapore. They also visited with residents of the Korean Rehabilitation Center in South Korea and Po Leung Kuk Wong Chuk Hang home for the elderly in Hong Kong.

"For me, coordinating and participating in the COMRELS was a way to help project a positive image for our Navy and our country," said Fire Controlman Chief Ryan York, Michael Murphy's community relations coordinator.

"The best part of it was seeing all the smiling faces and appreciation from those that we interacted with and helped throughout the deployment," York said.

Michael Murphy is named for Lt. (SEAL) Michael P. Murphy, a New York native who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during Operation Red Wings in Afghanistan in 2005.

The ship is homeported at JBPHH, Hawaii.

Giving honu a helping hand

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) personnel and volunteers from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam help return a honu (sea turtle) to the wild at Keehi Lagoon on May 14. The turtle was found entangled in fishing gear by a Hickam marina staffer, who called the JBPHH "turtle phone" to report a sea animal in distress. 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 turtle was cared for and spent time rehabilitating in a pool before being returned to the wild. 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. A story on the turtle rescue appeared on page 1 of the May 8 issue of Ho'okele.



Commissaries announce Memorial Day hours

In observance of Memorial Day, May 25, the Pearl Harbor Commissary will open at 9 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. The Hickam Commissary's hours on Memorial Day will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call the Pearl Harbor Commissary at 471-8402, ext. 101 or the Hickam Commissary at 449-1363.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



(Left) Electronics Technician 1st Class Roel Cabales greets his daughter as the guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) returns May 21 to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam from its maiden deployment.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jeff Troutman

(Right) Fire Controlman 2nd Class James Masterson of the guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) proposes to his girlfriend Tiani as the ship returns to JBPHH.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jeff Troutman



(Left) Cmdr. Patrick Friedman, right, passes command of the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Columbia (SSN 771) to Cmdr. David Edgerton at a ceremony held May 15. It was overseen by Capt. Craig Blakely, commander of Submarine Squadron 7.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Steven Khor

(Right) Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Charles Beebe, assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90), says goodbye to his dog prior to the ship's departure from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for an independent deployment.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan



Pearl Harbor Colors salute keeping fleet 'fit to fight'



(Left) The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Honors and Ceremonies Guard renders honors to the U.S. flag during the playing of the national anthem during the Pearl Harbor Colors ceremony held May 21 at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. The theme for this month's event was "Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard: 107 Years of Keeping the fleet 'fit to fight.'"

Photo by David Tomiyama

(Below) Sailors from Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY&IMF) pay their respects to the national anthem during the Pearl Harbor Colors Ceremony at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, May 21. More than 300 Shipyard Sailors participated in the monthly ceremony and nearly 1,700 civilian visitors viewed or attended the ceremony.

Photo by Danielle Jones



Safety centers offer Memorial Day holiday tips for Sailors, Airmen

Don Robbins

Editor, Ho'okele

As the summer season begins, Sailors, Airmen and their families will gear up to celebrate the Memorial Day holiday this weekend.

Here are some tips on ways to keep safe throughout the entire year, including during the upcoming holiday weekend (which begins the Critical Days of Summer campaign).

Driving

• Are you careful at intersections? It may not be safe to assume that others are going to do the right thing.

• Are you focused when operating a vehicle? Staying focused (not distracted), keeping your eyes on the road, and being aware of other drivers, can help prevent accidents.

• Do you ever drink and drive? It is wise to plan your transportation in advance, if you drink. And if you drink, don't drive!

• Do you drive if you are tired? It is advisable to drive when you are well-rested instead.

• Do you use your turn signals to avoid making any sudden moves?

Beach safety

• Do you protect your skin? Do you limit the amount of direct sunlight you receive between 10

a.m. and 2 p.m. and, wear a sunscreen with a sun protection factor containing a high rating such as 15?

• Do you drink plenty of water regularly and often even if you do not feel thirsty? Your body needs water to keep cool.

• Do you watch for signs of heat stroke? Heat stroke is life-threatening. Signs include hot, red, and dry skin; changes in consciousness, rapid, weak pulse, and rapid, shallow breathing.

Grilling food

• Do you keep your grill at least three feet away from your house, porch, shed, trees or bushes?

• Do you use starter fluid that is made especially for barbecue grills? Do you follow the instructions about how to apply and light it?

• If you have a gas grill, do you make sure you read and follow the instructions about how to use and store it and remember never to leave lit grills unattended?

Swimming pools and kids

• If you're at a pool with children who are either very young or who can't swim, do you make sure they are never left alone, even if they aren't in the water?

• If you are taking care of an infant or toddler, do you make sure to keep them within arm's reach?

• Have you learned about rescue swimming and taken a CPR course? You never know when you might have to rescue someone.

• Do you make sure you have life preservers handy?

Boating

• Have you learned to swim?

• Do you make sure you are not drinking while boating?

• Do you wear an approved life jacket, and make sure your passengers do, too?

(For more information on safety, visit Naval Safety Center at <http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil> or the Air Force Safety Center at <http://www.afsec.af.mil/index.asp>.)





U.S. Navy photo by MCI Charles E. White

The Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) visits Pearl Harbor in 2014.

USNS Mercy departs for Pacific Partnership

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO—The hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) departed May 17 for a four-month deployment in support of the Navy's Pacific Partnership 2015.

The 10th iteration of the U.S. Pacific Fleet's annual Pacific Partnership mission will take place in the Southeast Asia and Oceania regions over a four-month period beginning in late May.

Host nations will include Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Vietnam.

Working at the invitation of each host nation, U.S. Navy forces will be joined by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and regional partners that include

Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Canada, Timor Leste, Fiji and France to improve maritime security, conduct humanitarian assistance, and strengthen disaster response preparedness.

Born out of the devastation wrought by the 2004 tsunami that swept through parts of Southeast Asia, Pacific Partnership began as a military-led humanitarian response to one of the world's most catastrophic natural disasters. Building on the success and goodwill of this operation, the hospital ship USNS Mercy returned to the region in 2006 for the inaugural Pacific Partnership mission.

The mission staff expanded to include partner nation militaries and NGOs working to increase the disaster relief capabilities of

Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines and East Timor. Since then, Pacific Partnership has grown in scope and size.

Navy Capt. Christopher Engdahl, commander of the Everett, Washington-based Destroyer Squadron 9, will lead this year's mission from Mercy. Also deploying for the Pacific Partnership mission for the first time will be the Joint High Speed Vessel USNS Millinocket (JHSV 3), with embarked elements of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment.

Partner nation militaries and government agencies, NGOs and host nation planning efforts have focused on collaborative efforts with professionals in the fields of medicine, dentistry, veterinary, public health services, engineering and disaster response.