

U.S. and Australia team up during Talisman Sabre



Lt. Jamie C. Seibel

Amphibious Squadron II Public Affairs

INDIAN OCEAN (NNS)—For two years, service members from both the U.S. and Australian Navies have prepared for a complex amphibious assault scenario taking place on the shores of the Northern Territory of Australia during Talisman Sabre 2015.

Talisman Sabre is a comprehensive biennial military exercise, allowing a U.S. and Australian Combined Task Force to prepare for crisis actions and contingency operations.

Members of the Australian Fleet Battle Staff and Australian Army are embarked on board the ships of Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 7. They will work side by side with U.S. counterparts throughout the next two weeks.

Fleet battle staff members

are taking on the role as sea combat commander based on board USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6). Capt. Nick Woodley of the Royal Australian Navy and his staff will be overall responsible for all surfaces and subsurface threats entering the battle space during the scenario.

“What we are looking at doing is fully integrating with the amphib piece,” said Woodley, “The aim is to set the pre-conditions which enable an amphibious assault to take place.”

The Australian military brings to the ship their knowledge and skill. They use all U.S. shipboard equipment and, for the time they are embarked, they are standing combat watches beside the ship’s company.

“Within this context, we bring warfare expertise in anti-submarine warfare and anti-surface warfare specialties, but more importantly, command and control which complements the other parts of

the expeditionary strike group,” said Woodley.

“We are trying to build up that ability to handle multiple disciplines of warfare superimposed on the amphibious mission which is critical for this ship, the task force and the exercise.”

“Large ships such as Bonhomme Richard, Ashland and Green Bay are filled with fighting forces, which will go in where they are navigationally constrained to offload their fighting troops,” said Woodley. “We look after those areas that must have threats neutralized.”

The goal for the team as sea combat commander is to maintain sea control and facilitate the landing until the troops are self sufficient and the ships can move out into open water.

Woodley said submarine warfare will be the most challenging warfare element because it’s the nature of the submarine to use stealth to achieve its mission, and the

team will work to counter that.

This year the Australian command team was able to embark early with the strike group, conducting port calls in the Australian cities of Fremantle and Bunbury. The advantage allowed them to prepare and acclimate to the crew, overcome technical difficulties, and settle into the routine of the ship.

“It is one thing to have staff talks and meetings; it’s totally a different thing to get together and operate,” said Capt. Marvin Thompson, commodore of Amphibious Squadron (CPR) 11.

CPR-11 is the forward-deployed naval force amphibious ready group complementing ESG-7 and is responsible overall for the ships where the Australians will train.

This is the sixth iteration of the exercise which will focus on joint training in a mid-intensity, high-end operation. In addition to the amphibious force, the exercise will feature 21

ships, including the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73), more than 200 aircraft and three submarines.

“When we work with Australia, it requires us to be more agile in our thinking, adapting to the size and scope. We sometimes get comfortable operating the same way, and when we work alongside our partners, it challenges us and makes us stronger,” Thompson said.

Talisman Sabre is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Pacific Command and Australian Defence Force Headquarters, Joint Operations Command and runs July 4-18.

(Above) The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Preble (DDG 90) (home ported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam) is underway to participate in exercise Talisman Sabre 2015.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 David Flewellyn

Pearl Harbor Colors ceremony honors future service members, leaders

MC1 Meranda Keller

Navy Public Affairs Support Element Detachment Hawaii

U.S. Naval Sea Cadets and future service members who are a part of the Honolulu Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) participated in a Pearl Harbor Colors honors and heritage ceremony hosted July 16 by Navy Region Hawaii at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

Veterans, past and present, celebrated the enlistment of 34 service candidates into the ranks of the armed forces.

“This morning’s ceremony is what Pearl Harbor Colors is all about,” said Jim Neuman, the Pearl Harbor Colors coordinator.

“It was wonderful to see those 34 young men and women enlisting in the armed forces in front of their families, friends and the hundreds of visitors who stood by watching. You couldn’t ask



U.S. Navy photo by Seaman Michael Ray
Naval Sea Cadets, Hawaii division, form ranks as the national anthem sounds.

for a better venue to start your military career than on the visitor center lawn with the legacy of the USS Arizona Memorial and USS Missouri as a backdrop. Those enlistees will never forget where they took their oath to defend America,” Neuman said.

Every year, thousands of new service members walk through recruiters’ doors with the hopes of joining our nation’s armed forces.

“Our mission at the NSCC is determining the physical, mental and moral qualifications of each applicant that attempts to join the armed services,” said Lt. Cmdr. Andrew C. Gerla, commander of the Honolulu Military Entrance Processing station.

“Knocking on and walking through the front door isn’t easy. And while the door is open to everyone, we are only going to qualify America’s best and brightest.

“So it is my absolute honor to enlist these fine young men and

women standing here in front of us today as they embark on a new journey in their life,” Gerla said.

Sponsored by Navy Region Hawaii in coordination with the National Park Service, the ceremony featured the U.S. Marine Forces Pacific Band, the Joint Base Honors and Ceremonies Guard, an official observance of “morning colors,” and remarks from Gerla and Lt. Cmdr. Loren Relin, regional director of the United States Sea Cadets Corps.

The Navy League of the United States established the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) in 1958 to “create a favorable image of the youth in the part of American youth.” During those passing years, there have been more than 13,000 enrollments.

NSCC is a nonprofit, federally funded youth outreach program for Americans ages 11-18, committed to the development of future leaders with ties to the military.

Tropical Depression Ela posed no threat, but is reminder

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor, Ho’okele

Island residents spent some hot, sticky days last week as Tropical Depression Ela, the first tropical storm of the 2015 hurricane season, passed the island chain. Luckily, other than the oppressive weather conditions and rainy conditions, the storm had little effect on Hawaii.

But it served as a reminder that we are right in the middle of hurricane season and at any time, one of the storms could form and make its way toward the islands. For those residents who haven’t already done so, it is a good time to make an emergency preparedness

plan and assemble a disaster kit.

Emergency management officials agree that it isn’t a matter of if, but when, Hawaii will have to deal with one of the powerful storms. You never know – this might be the year.

“Get back to basics, review or make a family emergency plan, and stock your kit with essential items that you need,” encouraged Dan DuBois, emergency manager for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

“Having an emergency kit is very important—with enough food and water to last your family for three to seven days, medications, etc. and making sure that you have at least \$250 in

cash,” he said.

With widespread power outages, ATMs (automated teller machines) would not be operable and couldn’t dispense money.

“Make sure that important documents, such as your homeowners’ insurance papers and health paperwork, are in waterproof containers, and take those with you to the evacuation shelter,” DuBois said.

There are many things that can happen as the result of a visit by a hurricane, tropical storm, or any other natural disaster. The major result is the high winds, heavy rains, flooding and storm surge brought on by the storm. Those elements can cause major damage, power outages, etc.

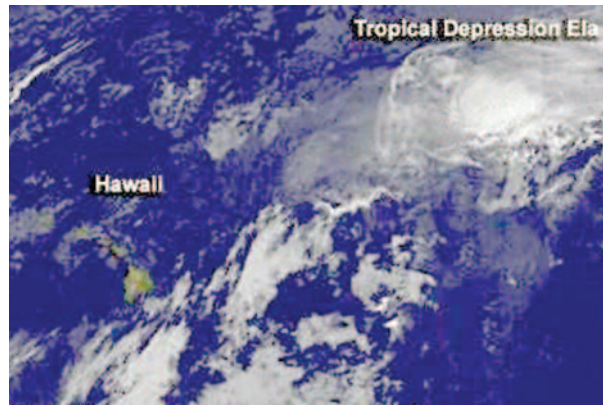


Image courtesy of NOAA

Post-Tropical Depression Ela was located northeast of Hawaii on July 10.

DuBois stressed the importance of residents collecting the food, water, batteries and other supplies that they need ahead of time. Too often, people wait until the last minute to pur-

chase plywood and board up their homes, purchase the necessary supplies, etc., he said.

Another thing to consider is that store shelves are quickly depleted and once

that happens, residents won’t be able to find essential items such as bottled water, food staples, flashlights and batteries. That happened when Hurricane Iniki struck in 1992.

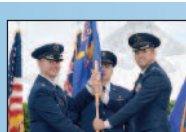
In our island paradise, isolated in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, it could be quite awhile before store shelves are replenished. So it’s important to be prepared.

For more information, about emergency preparedness, visit the Navy Region Hawaii website at www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii and the JBPHH website: www.cnic.navy.mil/PearlHarbor-Hickam.

Additional information is available at www.ready.gov.



Spreading the message: CSADD reminds Sailors to ‘Keep What You’ve Earned’ See page A-2



New commander takes charge of 15th MDG See page A-4



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Consumer and financial protection fair helps military consumers in Hawaii See page A-3



Pacific Partnership hosts opening ceremony in Solomon Islands See page A-6



‘Power up’ for Hickam Super Hero 10K Run See page B-4

Spreading the message: CSADD reminds Sailors to 'Keep What You've Earned'

Story and photo by
MC2 Johans Chavarro

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element
Detachment Hawaii

(Editor's note: Although much of this CSADD story focuses on the Fourth of July holiday, the message is valid throughout the year.)

Honking horns and reciprocal shakas, followed by a verbal cascade of, "Keep What You've Earned!" "CSADD cares!" and "Don't Be That Guy," resounded recently near the Makalapa Gate at Joint Base as CSADD reminded drivers to be safe and make the right decisions.

"They can't miss us," said Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Anthony R. Ramos, president of Pearl Harbor Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) and assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Port Operations Dock Masters.

"We're at one of the main entrances of the base, so they have no option but to stop and see the messages. Now, it's just up to them to make the right decision," Ramos said.

As an organization run by Sailors for Sailors, CSADD gives junior Sailors the opportunity to get involved in the community and meet other people, while promoting positive choices.

And on this particular morning, armed with posters and their aloha salutes, Ramos and a handful of other CSADD Sailors strategically positioned themselves throughout the



Sailors, part of the Pearl Harbor Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) chapter, participate in a CSADD gate awareness event July 2 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. CSADD's mission is to encourage positive social interaction, development of leadership and decision-making skills among junior Sailors.

intersection of Makalapa Road and North Road to promote responsible decision-making on the eve of one of the most popular U.S. holidays, the Fourth of July.

"We're trying to show the rest of our shipmates, and anyone else who works here on the base, that we care about their well-being," said Ramos. "We have the Fourth of July weekend coming up, and while it's a great time for everybody to get some time off and relax, we also want to remind everybody to keep what they

earn."
"You don't want to go out there and do things that can damage your career or damage your family," said Ramos. "So, you know, go out there and have a good time, but do it smartly. Make smart decisions."

And with each passing car, horn sounding or not, triumphantly the CSADD Sailors held their posters out in front, or over their heads, vigorously urging those passing by to heed their message.

"Drive Sober, or Get Pulled Over," read one sign.

Another, "CSADD Cares."

"Don't Text and Drive." And finally, "Keep What You've Earned."

"This could be that difference maker for someone who is having a bad day, just seeing one of these signs could help them. They might realize, 'OK, somebody cares,'" said Ramos.

"We're here for them and we just want them to know that. We're physically out here trying to show them we really are here for them."

For Ramos, that is what

CSADD is all about—Sailors helping Sailors.

"Sailors helping Sailors is where it starts," said Ramos. "When you go home, your family doesn't always know what goes on at work and when you're at work, your coworkers don't always know what goes on at home, but they see you every day, that's for sure."

Ramos joined the Navy seven years ago as a way to get more out of life. "I was doing security before I joined the Navy, and I felt like I just wasn't getting enough out of it," said Ramos.

"I really wanted to add more on to my life, do something different. I'm also the oldest of five, so I kind of wanted to set a good path for my brothers and sisters, too," he said.

It was at his first duty station that Ramos was initially introduced to CSADD and gravitated toward it. So when the opportunity came up to lead the program, shortly after arriving at Pearl Harbor, Ramos didn't hesitate to seize the opportunity.

"Since he's got here, he's just been rolling with everything, trying to get everything going," said Chief Boatswain's Mate Michael Espita, assigned to JBPHH Port Operations dock masters.

"One of our first conversations was how he could be more of an asset while he was at the command," said Espita. "So one of the things I told him was to try and get involved outside of the shop and with the command. A couple of weeks go by and he comes back and is like, 'I'm the CSADD president.'"

"I took on running

CSADD because I love what it is and what it stands for," said Ramos. "I felt like I should be giving back in some way, [and as CSADD president], I'm in a good position to do so," Espita said.

Since then, Ramos and his CSADD team have been working hard to spread the CSADD message, increase membership and CSADD's involvement in the community.

"We recently went out to some of the other ships, the [USS] Chung-Hoon and Michael Murphy and talked to those guys over there," said Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Mark Bonner, a new CSADD member and one of the Sailors on Makalapa and North Road that morning.

"We also talk to the Sailors that dock the ships about making right decisions."

Like Ramos, Bonner also emphasized the importance of Sailors helping Sailors and the responsibility one has to those values when holding any particular leadership position.

"When I was an LPO [leading petty officer] a lot of the other Sailors looked up to me, looked at what I was doing, how I carried myself, and how I bettered myself," said Bonner.

"When you're out there supporting these causes, people respond and are like, 'Wow, people are taking the time out of their day to show they care.' As a collective whole, we feel like our voices will help out the younger generations and the generations after that. And that's what we're trying to do today and every other day," Bonner said.



Consumer and financial protection fair helps military consumers in Hawaii

Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Aaron Oelrich

15th Wing Public Affairs

In observance of Military Consumer Protection Day, the Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) hosted a consumer and financial protection fair July 15 at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange.

The fair was geared toward military members and the unique financial challenges they and their families may face.

"The DCCA's responsibility is to reach out to the public and educate them about the resources that are available and empower them to make better decisions as a consumer as well as help protect people from many types of fraud," said Jacqueline Choy, the consumer protection education specialist with the State of Hawaii Office of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

More than two dozen government and nonprofit



agencies participated in the event, including representatives from the Department of the Attorney General, Hawaii Homeownership Center, Internal Revenue Service and the Military Family Support Center.

Ashley Carmichael, a military spouse, found what she was looking for at the fair. "It was interesting to see people who could answer my questions and to get brochures with information on things like credit and debt management, home sales and the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act," said Carmichael.

According to Choy, supplying hundreds of informational pamphlets and books with topics ranging from identity theft and debt to phone scams and

vehicle lemon laws, the fair provided a venue for consumers to gain awareness on a variety of important topics in one location.

"A lot of the time, people don't have an awareness of the resources that are there to help them out," said Capt. Kevin Estes, officer in charge of the legal assistance office for Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe.

"So an event like this gets them talking to their friends, families and coworkers, helping to create greater awareness of the resources that are available."

Choy said this is the second year DCCA has held this annual event, and they are looking forward to continuing to promote consumer and financial protection to military members and their families for many years to come.

(For more information visit the Military Consumer Protection Day website at <http://www.military.ncpw.gov> and the Hawaii DCCA website <http://cca.hawaii.gov/>.)

In observe of Military Consumer Protection Day, the Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs hosted a consumer and financial protection fair July 15 at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange.

Diverse Views



What is your favorite childhood song?



Lt. Mike Carney
USS Port Royal (CG 73)

"Because I'm grumpy and getting old, 'Peace Train' by Cat Stevens. Reminds me of Saturday mornings of yester years, listening to it on a reel to reel."

Lt. Col. Jacque Wilson
HQ PACAF



"I'm going to laugh and say, 'We Will Rock You' by Queen. To this day, I still listen to it with my children."



Ensign Alexis Treka
USS Port Royal (CG 73)

"My favorite song growing up was 'Son of a Son of a Sailor' by Jimmy Buffet. Reminds me of my childhood."

Senior Airman Briona Morris
65th Airlift Squadron



"'Bills, Bills, Bills' by Destiny's Child. My sister and I choreographed a routine to it, and I'm reminded of that every time I hear that song."



CS3 Joseph Dee
JBPHH

"My favorite childhood song growing up was 'Time' by Pink Floyd. A good song that helps you to mellow out, chill out and really nice to relax to. Makes you feel good all over."

Master Sgt. Ruben Mindieta
766th Specialized Contracting Squadron



"I would have to say, 'Rockin' In The Free World' by Neil Young. Listening to it brings back great memories of working in my dad's garage on the family car."



QMSN Robert Torres
JBPHH

"'Poison' by Bell Biv DeVoe. Every time I used to hear that song, it made me want to, 'get down, with the get down.' A song that you can't help but dance to."

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

GOT SPORTS
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Navy Region Hawaii is conducting the command climate survey through July 31

Navy Region Hawaii is conducting the command climate survey through July 31. The command climate survey is a commander's management tool that allows them to proactively assess critical organizational climate dimensions that can impact the organization's mission.

The survey will assess 23 climate factors by posing questions that survey takers respond to using a four-point scale. The questionnaire focuses on four primary areas: Military Equal Opportunity (EO), Civilian Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), Organizational Effec-

tiveness (OE), Perceptions of Discrimination/Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault Prevention & Response (SAPR). The region is striving for 100 percent participation, so all personnel are highly encouraged to complete the survey.

The survey takes about 25 minutes to complete and provides multiple opportunities for respondents to enter their personalized comments.

If you have any questions about the survey, call MA1 William Woolery at 474-6205.

Men of Air National Guard take break



Photo courtesy T. Merrill, retired 154th Wing historian

In 1960 the Hawaii Air National Guard's (HIANG) 154th Fighter Group (predecessor of the current 154th Wing) stood up at former Hickam Air Force Base, reorganizing what had been a fighter squadron with support sections, into a group with subordinate squadrons. The photo shows some aircraft maintenance personnel from the 154th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (CAMRON.) They are shown in this photo circa 1960-63 wearing the newly designed 154th Fighter Group Ku-ka'ili-moku emblem that is still in use today.

HO'OKELE

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All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: editor@hookelenews.com World Wide Web address: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Hawaii/> or www.hookelenews.com.

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Ho'okele is delivered weekly to Navy & Air Force housing units and Navy and Air Force installations throughout Oahu.

New commander takes charge of 15th MDG

Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Public Affairs office

Col. Christopher Paige assumed command of the 15th Medical Group (MDG) from Col. Virginia A. Garner during a change of command ceremony July 14 at the Missing Man Formation at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

During the ceremony, Garner was presented with the Legion of Merit for her outstanding service and accomplishments as commander of the 15th MDG. She expressed her gratitude to leadership, members of the local community, and the Airmen of the 15th MDG for their dedication and service throughout her command.

"To the men and women of the 15th MDG, I'd love to call each of you out by name because every one of you has touched the lives of so many, either directly or indirectly, through your support," she said.

"I could not be more proud and more humble than to have been working for you. It has truly been an honor and privi-



Col. Randy Huiss, 15th Wing commander, receives the 15th Medical Group guidon from Col. Virginia A. Garner, 15th MDG commander July 14 during the 15th MDG change of command ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

lege. Keep taking good care of each and our nation's most precious resources—it's people. You have a pretty amazing new leader taking over. Chris Paige comes with a wealth of experience and leadership credentials that I'm sure will propel this group to even higher levels of success," Garner said.

Garner also expressed her appreciation for the great working relationships and medical partnerships forged during her time as commander.

"I really feel like the spirit of cooperation and collaboration has set the standard for the future of healthcare in the Department of Defense," she said. "It has been awesome working side-by-side with each of you in caring for our nation's heroes and their families."

As her last act as 15th MDG commander, Garner advised Paige to "take care of the Airmen, and they will take care of you."

Paige comes to the 15th MDG from Maxwell Air Force Base where he was a student at the Air War College.

As the new 15th MDG com-

mander, Paige will lead nearly 243 personnel and three squadrons, overseeing a \$35 million infrastructure, operations and maintenance budget. He is responsible for providing medical and dental services for 14,800 beneficiaries and ensuring quality healthcare service for 90,000 outpatient visits, 22,000 dental visits, and more than 125,000 pharmaceutical distributions annually.

After thanking Garner and the 15th Wing leadership and members of the local community for the "warm reception," Paige turned his attention to his "superstar Airmen."

"I am in awe of this community, of this group and of this wing," Paige said just after taking command.

"Without a healthy community, this mission cannot be accomplished. I look forward to working with my all-star team to give this community world class health care. I am honored to be here and honored to take command of this outstanding organization. We look forward to meeting you and your families," he said.

Millinocket crew, Pacific Partnership personnel save life in Solomon Islands

**Pacific Partnership
Public Affairs Office**

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (NNS)—The quick reactions of personnel from Pacific Partnership and the Military Sealift Command joint high speed vessel USNS Millinocket (JHSV 3) saved the life of a man who was drowning in the waters near the ship, July 10.

After arriving in port earlier in the day, three civilian mariners, Frederick Beck, Daniel Claycomb and Shannon Alves, noticed a semiconscious man floating in the water, unable to keep himself afloat.

"We saw some splashing in the water after one of the ferry boats had went by," said Beck. "We immediately alerted the medics and attempted to

keep him afloat."

The crew quickly threw him a life buoy to try to pull him from the water.

"We had to drag him while he was on the buoy around the ship to the pier," said Claycomb. "If it were not for us throwing that out there, he would have drowned."

Noticing the unfolding event on the pier, Australian Army Lt. Col. Rodney Petersen and

Australian Navy Lt. Cmdr. Alison Zilko quickly ran to the pier and, with help from the ship's crew, successfully pulled the man from the water. Zilko then began administering medical treatment.

"This man was very lucky to have been noticed by the Pacific Partnership 2015 personnel and ship's crew," said Zilko.

According to Petersen, the man was only minutes away from dying if not for the quick actions of the crew.

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Charles Runner immediately contacted the local authorities to send a vehicle to retrieve the man.

The man survived and was taken away for further medical treatment.

Now in its 10th itera-

tion, Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multilateral humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Asia-Pacific Region.

Additional information on the Pacific Partnership mission is available on the U.S. Pacific fleet Pacific Partnership website at www.cpf.navy.mil/pacific-partnership/2015/.



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PEARL HARBOR • HICKAM NEWS

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

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



More than 125 Department of Defense civilians, service members and contractors arrive at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, July 15, in a C-17 Globemaster III assigned to the Hawaii Air National Guard at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, after evacuation from Wake Island in preparation for potential surges caused by Typhoon Halola.

U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Alexa A. Henderson

(Right) Col. Randy Huiss, 15th Wing commander, passes the 15th Medical Group (MDG) guidon to Col. Christopher Paige, 15th MDG in-coming commander, during the 15th MDG change of command ceremony July 14 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech Sgt. Aaron Oelrich

(Below) Members of the 15th Wing salute the American flag before the 15th Medical Group (MDG) change of command ceremony July 14 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Col. Christopher Paige assumed command of the 15th MDG from Col. Virginia A. Garner during the ceremony.

U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech Sgt. Aaron Oelrich



U.S. Navy photo by Seaman Michael Ray

Civilians swear an oath to join the military during a flag ceremony at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center. Each month, civilians and military personnel join together to render honors during the ceremony.

Pacific Partnership hosts opening ceremony in Solomon Islands

Pacific Partnership Public Affairs

HONIARA, Guadalcanal —Building and sustaining relationships was the underlying theme of the opening ceremony of the Pacific Partnership 2015 mission in Solomon Islands, July 13.

The Military Sealift Command's joint high speed vessel USNS Millinocket (JHSV 3) is in the Solomon Islands as part of the PPI5 mission.

"The relationship between our two countries goes back since the Second World War," said Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare. "I acknowledge the courage and bravery of allied troops along with the local scouts and coast watchers. They fought side by side for a more peaceful world in which their younger generations could grow and prosper."

"I believe that the values and principles for which they fought are ones that our people in the present age also aspire to live under. In this connection, I continue to acknowledge the United States for continuing to make the world a better place to live," Sogavare said.

Further emphasizing the long-standing relationship the two countries have shared, Walter North, U.S. ambassador to the Solomon Islands, spoke to the people of the Solomon Islands about the shared issues both nations face.

"Solomon Islands and the United States have enjoyed a close relationship since your independence in 1978," said North. "Our two nations



U.S. Marine Corps photo by combat correspondent Sgt. James Gulliver
Commodore, Task Force Forager Capt. James Meyer delivers remarks during the July 13 opening ceremony for Pacific Partnership 2015 in the Solomon Islands.

have grown closer in recent years, working together on issues such as adapting to the impacts of climate change, combating deforestation and rural poverty, and spurring economic development."

North also noted he is excited the Solomon Islands is hosting Pacific Partnership 2015 because it allows for further collaboration on disaster response preparedness.

"This year, Pacific Partnership 2015 continues the annual deployment of United States Pacific Fleet forces in cooperation with regional governments, partner military forces, humanitarian, and non-government organizations," said North.

"Besides providing medical and humanitarian assistance, Pacific Partnership's overarching goal is to improve the interoperability of the region's military forces, governments, and humanitarian organizations during disaster relief operations," he said.

Millinocket and embarked Task Force Forager, led by an expeditionary command element from the Navy's 30th Naval Construction Regiment (30 NCR) from Port Hueneme, Calif., are currently serving as the secondary platform for Pacific Partnership 2015. The primary platform for the mission is the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19).

Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange is one of 2014 Bingham Award winners

Navy Exchange Service Command

The Navy Exchange at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam is runner-up in the category of sales above \$85 million for the 2015 Bingham Award, according to an announcement made by the Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM).

The Bingham Award is presented to the best of the best NEXs in nine sales categories for overall financial results and customer service.

“Winners of the Bingham Award exemplify the true spirit, dedication and professionalism of all our associates and management teams,” said Retired Navy Rear Adm. Robert J. Bianchi, chief executive officer, NEXCOM.

“The Bingham Award recognizes our stores for work they do throughout the year in support of our customers. By design, this award is presented to both the NEX and the local Navy command to recognize their partnership and dedication in supporting the quality of life of our military members and their families,” Bianchi said.

The winner in the category for sales above \$85 million was Naval Base Guam.

Other winners and runners-up of the 2014 Bingham Award are:

Sales \$36 - \$85 million

Winner, Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy; runners up, Naval Station Mayport,

Fla. and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Sales \$23 - \$36 million

Winner, Naval Station Rota, Spain; runners up, CFA Sasebo, Japan and Naval Station Everett, Wash.

Sales \$14 - \$23 million

Winner, Naval Support Activity Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Va.; runner up, Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy.

Sales \$7 - \$14 million

Winner, Naval Air Station Key West, Fla.; runner up, Naval Base Ventura County, Point Mugu, Calif.

Sales \$3 - \$7 million

Winner, Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev.; runners up, Navy Region Center, Singapore and NSAHR Portsmouth Annex Navy Exchange, Portsmouth, Va.

Sales \$1.4 - \$3 million

Winner, Navy Exchange Hario, Japan; runner up, Navy Shipyard Portsmouth, N.H.

Sales \$700,000 - \$1.4 million

Winner, Naval Support Facility, Indian Head, Md.; runner up, Naval Support Activity, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Sales \$85,000 - \$700,000

Winner, SCSC Wallops Island Navy Exchange, Va.; runner up: Naval Support Activity Gaeta, Italy.

The Bingham Awards will be presented during local ceremonies to be determined at a later date.

Blood drive to be held July 28 at NEX

Armed Services Blood Program

An Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) drive will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 28 at Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) main entrance.

The Tripler Armed Services Blood Program will hold the drive to help support ill or injured service members, veterans and their families worldwide.

All blood types are needed, although types O and AB are in the most demand. A free T-shirt will be provided with every donation.

There are a few basic requirements that must be met in order to donate blood with the ASBP. In general, donors must:

- Have not donated blood previously within the last eight weeks.
- Weigh at least 110 pounds.
- Be at least 17 years of age.
- Have been feeling well for at least three days prior to donating.

- Be well hydrated and have eaten something prior to donating.

- Have picture ID and know when/where you have traveled.

- Be able to list the types of medications currently being taken.

All donations made will directly support Tripler Army Medical Center and deployed service members.

The Tripler Blood Donor Center is one of more than 20 ASBP blood donor centers worldwide. The ASBP is the official military blood program of the United States and provides a direct connection between those who give and military service members in need of lifesaving blood.

A video from the Armed Services Blood Program is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoz14-KRq0w>

For more information, call Michelle Lele-Himalaya at 433-6699 or email michelle.lele.civ@mail.mil.