

Total force effort ensures successful typhoon evacuation

Senior Airman Orlando Corpuz

154th Wing Public Affairs

A C-17 Globemaster III cargo plane and crew from the Hawaii Air National Guard at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam evacuated more than 125 Department of Defense (DoD) personnel from Wake Island, July 14.

The evacuation was executed as Typhoon Halola, which at the time was packing sustained winds in excess of 100 mph, had a forecasted track that took it dangerously close to the isolated atoll, located roughly 2,300 miles west of the Hawaiian Islands.

Wake Island functions as a divert airfield or primary stopping point for cross-Pacific military flights. At any one time, more than 100 DoD personnel are on station to maintain and operate the airfield there.

It was planned to be a routine training day with roughly three hours of flying time around the Hawaiian Islands for the all Guard crew who reported for duty that morning. Upon learning of the real world assignment, the crew sprang into action.

"We train for the unexpected. When leadership tasked us with the emergency evacuation of Wake Island, so many things go through your mind. Are we



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.



More than 125 Department of Defense members and contractors in-process at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, July 15, after evacuation from Wake Island in preparation for potential surges caused by Typhoon Halola. The evacuees were transported aboard a C-17 Globemaster III assigned to the Hawaii Air National Guard from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in coordination with the 613th Air Operations Center at JBPHH and the Pacific Air Forces Regional Support Center at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

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

ready for this mission? What dangers should we be aware of?" said Capt. Skip Saito, aircraft commander, with the 204th Airlift Squadron.

"All questions aside, we were confident and ready to execute anything that was brought to us. That is what we train for," he said.

The crew of five took off

from Honolulu at 11 a.m. and, roughly four and a half hours later, landed on Wake Island. With engines still running, Wake Island personnel and their personal effects were loaded onto the C-17. The C-17 was airborne just over one hour after landing, this time with a flight plan taking it to Andersen AFB in

Guam, where the evacuees would remain until the storm passed.

"As a Hawaii Air National Guard crew, we are here for relief and humanitarian support in the event natural disaster hits the state of Hawaii. Expanding our support to the territories of the United States of America shows that we are

not limited in what we do," said Saito.

An evacuation mission such as this highlights Pacific Air Force's flexibility to generate air response quickly across the theater, a key component to air power.

"This was an exceptional team effort utilizing Guard, active and civilian mem-

bers of our Air Force to safeguard life and property," said Air Force Col. Gregory Woodrow, vice-commander of the 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard.

"We are all extremely proud of the professionalism and can do attitudes displayed by all," Woodrow said.

Drivers urged to use caution as school starts July 29

David Tom

Navy Region Hawaii School Liaison Officer

Summer will soon come to an end for public school students as they start school on July 29. With schools back in session, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) is reminding drivers to use extreme caution and be especially aware of children walking or riding their bicycles to and from school in the morning and afternoon.

There is always an adjustment period when classes resume, for both drivers and students. Also be aware that some children may not see you when they are entering the crosswalks, so please

drive slowly and always watch for the children.

Student traffic will usually start just before 7 a.m. and continue through 8 a.m. After-school traffic normally begins at 2 p.m. and winds down after 3 p.m.

Because of the large number of families who arrived in Hawaii during this summer, there are many students new to JBPHH and the surrounding military housing community who are not familiar with the local traffic patterns.

"The best advice we can give is for drivers to slow down and give yourselves more time to get to your destination. The extra time is certainly worth avoiding accidents," said Lt. Col. Karla



Aliamanu Elementary School's Falcon Safety Patrol assists students in crossing the street, helping to ensure students are safe from traffic.

Heren, deputy commander for 647th Air Base Group.

Likewise, parents and students should map out the safest route to school together, including any alternate routes, and should also discuss proper safety practices such as the use of crosswalks and proper bicycle safety. Additionally, please ensure your children wear bright clothing to increase visibility for drivers.

Finally, children should not walk to school wearing headphones or playing portable video games because this makes it difficult for them to hear the traffic around them. Let's all do our part to ensure a safe and accident-free school year for all.

Joint Base honors fallen service members

The American flag is flown at half-mast July 21 around Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The flag will remain at half-mast through July 25 to honor each Marine and Sailor killed by a gunman in Chattanooga, Tenn.

U.S. Navy photos by MC1 Meranda Keller



Back to school
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USS Preble enjoys Australian culture in Darwin
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Sailors and Airmen distribute food for those in need
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Feds Feed Families 2015 Campaign is underway
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Sailors join in fishpond restoration
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National Night Out to be held Aug. 4
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USS Preble enjoys Australian culture in Darwin

Story and photo by
MC3 Alonzo M. Archer

USS Preble (DDG 88) Public Affairs

DARWIN, Australia (NNS)—The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers USS Preble (DDG 88) and USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) arrived July 20 in Darwin, Australia for a port visit, after successfully completing Talisman Sabre 2015 (TS15).

Sailors on both ships stood at parade rest in their dress white uniforms as they entered the port, as a gesture symbolizing respect and friendship otherwise known as “manning the rails.”

This port visit follows both ships' participation in TS15, in which Preble and Fitzgerald were among the 21 ships from the U.S., Australian and New Zealand navies that participated in the exercise that trained more than 30,000 U.S. and Australian Defence Force members in planning and conducting combined task force operations.

“Talisman Sabre was a very challenging exercise for us, but we emerged more capable than we were before we went into it,” said Cmdr. Jeffrey Heames, command-

ing officer of Preble.

“We've learned a lot, and we've reinforced the strong relationship we have with our Australian partners. We're ready for the next challenge and the next contribution for us in terms of promoting regional stability in the area.”

Moored alongside Preble, is Fitzgerald. Having also played a large role in the rigorous TS15, they look forward to some time off and exploring Australia.

“Talisman Sabre provided a great opportunity to improve individual ship and strike group readiness in a complex multi-warfare environment with our Australian counterparts and serves to strengthen ties and improve our overall ability to work together,” said Cmdr. Christopher England, “Fitzgerald's commanding officer. Pulling into Darwin after the exercise provides a chance for the crew to unwind and enjoy the local Australian culture.”

Preble is homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Preble and Fitzgerald are currently deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility in support of security and stability in the Indo-Asia Pacific region.



Cmdr. Jeffrey Heames, center, commanding officer of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Preble (DDG 88), provides guidance to the ship's bridge team as the ship pulls into port in Darwin, Australia.

JBPHH Safety Office offers back-to-school traffic safety reminders

Safety tips for bicyclists, drivers

Daniel Bertubin

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Safety Office

With the expected increase of youth bicyclists on the road as school begins, drivers of motor vehicles can take steps to be vigilant in the months ahead.

Defensive driving techniques include being courteous, such as allowing at least three feet of clearance when passing a bicyclist on the road, looking for cyclists before opening a car door, and especially when pulling out from a parking space.

It is important for drivers of motor vehicles to yield to cyclists at intersections and as directed by signs and signals.

Drivers, especially those with big vehicles, should be cautious and watch for cyclists when making either left or right turns.

Bicyclists should wear properly fitted bicycle helmets when they ride. Safety officials say that a helmet is the single most effective way to prevent head injuries resulting from a bicycle crash. Statistics show that hundreds of bicycle fatalities occur each year and that head injury is the leading cause of those bicycle fatalities.

The following Joint Base Traffic Instruction (JBPH-HINST 5100.1) lists 11 tips for bicycle safety:

- All persons, including minors, riding bicycles on JBPHH will observe the



Photo illustration

same traffic rules as are required of a motor vehicle operator.

- All persons operating bicycles through any JBPHH installation gate should avoid the normal flow of vehicle traffic whenever possible and utilize available bike paths and side streets.

- Sidewalks may be used

by bicyclists when bicycle riders do not pose a hazard to pedestrians. All bicyclists under the age of 18 will dismount their bicycles at intersections and walk the bicycles across the street, whether or not a crosswalk is present.

- All riders will wear approved ANSI or SNELL

Memorial Foundation-certified bicycle helmets.

- Every bicycle when in use at night (from 30 minutes before sunset to 30 minutes after sunrise) shall be equipped with a white light on the front which shall be visible for at least 500 feet ahead and a red reflector or red light on the rear which

shall be visible for a distance of at least 600 feet.

- Bicyclists are highly encouraged to equip their bicycle with a bell or other device capable of being heard for a distance of at least 100 feet. Sirens and whistles are prohibited.

- All bicyclists shall wear light colored clothing. Dur-

ing restricted visibility conditions, reflective clothing or vests will be worn by all bicyclists.

- Bicycles will be properly parked and secured by use of a chain and padlock or bicycle cable lock to an approved bike rack.

- No bicycle will be ridden on any sidewalk within business areas (i.e., base exchanges, commissary, bank, credit union, etc.) or on the Mokulele pedestrian overpass.

- Bicycle operators are prohibited from using any crosswalk, sidewalk, driveway or any other area not designated as a traffic lane for the purpose of passing a traffic control device, to circumvent the flow of traffic, or to cross over lanes of traffic unless already legally operating on a sidewalk.

- Bicycles are prohibited on any portion of the Kuntz Avenue overpass or on O'Malley Boulevard from the Air Mobility Command (AMC) Terminal Road to the Kuntz Avenue exit. Children traveling to Hickam Elementary should avoid the busy roads of Fox Boulevard, Signer Boulevard and 11th Street. If children are using Porter Avenue, they should stop for traffic at Porter Gate before proceeding to Hickam Elementary. Children traveling to all other base elementary schools should consult with school officials regarding the best routes to take.

For additional traffic safety tips, visit http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/bicycle_safety_journey/el_en.html or <https://hickam.eim.pacaf.af.mil/647ABG/SEG/>.



Commentary

Back to school, back to promoting summer safety

Rear Adm. John Fuller

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

I believe we build partnerships by establishing common ground. The most common of common grounds is how much we all care about our loved ones. We all show it by keeping them safe, within our power to do so.

As we prepare for another school year here in Hawaii, I ask everyone to be extra vigilant and engaged when it comes to safety. I often hear the question, "What keeps you up at night?"

Well, here's a vision that would increase the quality of everyone's slumber—seeing drivers slowing down and looking out for pedestrians and obeying traffic rules in housing areas, at crosswalks and near schools and child development centers; and



U.S. Navy photo by Bill Doughty
Rear Adm. John Fuller, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, discusses back-to-school safety yesterday with news anchor Ron Mizutani during a segment of KHON2 TV's "Wake Up 2day" as a photo stream runs in the background.

seeing drivers paying attention and choosing to not be distracted by their smart phones, etc.

The Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Deci-

sions (CSADD) is playing a big role in getting the word out—waving signs on roadsides and offering timely reminders. Great work!

Good leaders show by ex-

ample. They instill pride, share information and lean forward. They demand excellence. I see all of those qualities in our proactive military and civilian leaders

who are taking safety and security seriously no matter where they are.

We re-focus on safety and security every back-to-school season, but, in fact, we need to be energized year-round. See something, say something. Know something, do something. Being vigilant and staying engaged only helps the community if we make a commitment.

Our job and our mission is to protect and defend our nation. We can do that only if we protect ourselves first. Here's a great life example. Did you ever wonder why airlines ask passengers to secure their oxygen first? You can't help someone if you are incapacitated yourself.

So, in addition to driving safely, we need to practice good habits off duty, on and off base, especially when we go hiking, swimming or boating—or when operating a motorcycle.

We are in the middle of

the 100 days of summer (from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day), a time when most off-duty accidents occur.

Do you have a shipmate or wingman when you go hiking? Do you read and comply with signs on trails and at the beach? Are you making good, responsible choices when consuming alcohol?

One of the saddest days any leader can experience is attending a memorial service with the family and friends of a young person who made an error in judgment and paid with his or her life. A few moments in time can change the course of a lifetime.

Can you tell the kids in your life—sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, brothers and sisters—"I did the right thing"?

Let's protect our shipmates, our families and our extended ohana. Promote safety and security year-round. Thank you!

Commentary

Tips to help our children prepare for school

Col Renzi Smith

Deputy Commander, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

It's hard to believe this summer is already drawing to a close and school starts again on July 29. To help ensure a successful start of the new school year, PBS Education and NASP Resources offer the following tips to help your child get

ready for school:

- Meet the new teacher(s); if there is a school open house, make sure you attend it. Find out how they like to communicate (e.g., phone, email).

- Tour the school with your child if your child is starting a new school.

- Obtain the class supply list and take a special shopping trip with your child. After you get the basics, let

your child get the cool looking notebook or a favorite-colored pen.

- Chat about today's events and tomorrow's plans, but don't spend the last weeks of summer vacation reviewing last year's curriculum.

- Ease into the routine a few days in advance by setting the alarm clock, going through your morning rituals, and get in the car or to

the bus stop on time.

- For at least the first week of school, clear your own schedule so you will be free to help your child acclimate to the school routine and overcome the confusion/anxiety many children experience at the start of a new school year.

- After school, review with children what to do if they get home after school and you are not there.

- Review your child's schoolbooks and talk about what your child will be learning during the year.

Hopefully these steps can help you and your children transition back to school. Parents are a child's first and best teacher.

Decades of research show that parent involvement has incredible impact on student performance. Students earn higher grades,

better test scores and graduation rates increase. When parents show interest in our children's education, we reinforce the message that education is a top priority.

As parents, it is our mission to partner with our schools and students to provide the support, environment and resources needed for our children to succeed in school.

Diverse Views



Now that school is going back in session, what advice would you give children about staying safe?



Tech. Sgt. Todd Shak
Air Force Recruiter, HIANG

"My advice for children to stay safe in school would be to listen to their teacher's instructions when practicing drills because it will prepare them to react appropriately in a time of emergency."

SN Starlet Timmons
USS Hopper (DDG 70)



"I would say, be aware of your surroundings. Don't talk to strangers. If it's someone you don't know, don't talk to them. Always know what is going on around you."



Capt. Mia Holley
647th Force Support Squadron

"I would advise children to be familiar with how their school handles emergencies (such as lockdown, tornado/hurricane and fire drills). I'd also advise them to always keep a list of important contact phone numbers and personal information in the event of an emergency."

Personnel Specialist 3rd Class
Geness Napuli
USS Hopper (DDG 70)



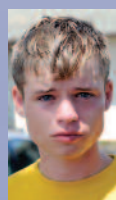
"A lot of kids feel the pressure to fit in a certain type of group. I would advise them to be themselves and at the same time know what is right or wrong. Take advantage of the many programs available (at school) and not worry about trying to be cool by getting into drugs or alcohol."



Senior Airman Thomas Erskine
647th Security Forces Squadron

"Make sure you know who you are getting in the car with. Do not get in stranger's vehicles or follow strangers anywhere if they offer you anything."

Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class
Kade Wilson
USS Hopper (DDG 70)



"Pay attention to what your parents tell you to do. Your parents know what's safe and what's not. If they say don't go in a car with strangers, obviously you won't do that. If something feels wrong, don't do it."

Provided by MC1 Nardel Gervacio 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

USS Boxer sets record for Pacific crossing



U.S. Navy photo

The USS Boxer (CV 21) brings aboard United States Air Force F-51 Mustangs at Naval Air Station Alameda, Calif., for transportation to East Asia in July 1950 during the early days of the Korean War. On July 23, 1950, (65 years ago this week), the USS Boxer set the record of crossing the Pacific, bringing aircraft, troops and supplies for the Korean War, arriving at Yokosuka, Japan. It carried a load of 145 (P 51) and six (L 5) Air Force aircraft, 19 Navy aircraft, 1,012 passengers and 2,000 tons of additional cargo, all urgently needed for operations in Korea. In making this delivery, Boxer broke all existing records for a Pacific crossing, steaming from Alameda, Calif., to Yokosuka in eight days and 16 hours. On the return trip to the U.S. on July 27, it cut the time down to seven days, 10 hours and 36 minutes.

HO'OKELE

Director, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs
Agnes Tauyan

Deputy Director, Public Affairs
Bill Doughty

Director, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs
Grace Hew Len
Managing Editor
Karen Spangler

Editor
Don Robbins

Assistant Editor
Brandon Bosworth

Sports Editor
Randy Dela Cruz

Sr. Graphic Artist
Antonio Verceluz
Graphic Artist
Blair Martin

Ho'okele is a free unofficial paper published every Friday by The Honolulu Star Advertiser 500 Ala Moana Boulevard Suite 7-500 Honolulu Hawaii 96813, a private firm in no way connected with DoD, the U. S. Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with Commander, Navy Region Hawaii.

All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: 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.

Sailors and Airmen distribute food for those in need

Story and photos by MC1 Meranda Keller

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element
Detachment Hawaii

HONOLULU—A group of 20 service members, stationed throughout Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, volunteered at the Honolulu Community Action Program's (HCAP) food distribution center July 17.

During their volunteer service, the service members distributed fresh produce, along with other perishable and non-perishable food items, to disabled seniors and low income families and individuals of the Kalihi Valley housing area.

"Our relationship with the military volunteers is outstanding," said Ace Tufu, manager of Kalihi-Palama District Service Center.

"We just do not have the staff to do everything we do. Without them, we would not be able to make this event successful."

The HCAP is a private,



(Above) Sailor and Airmen volunteers participate in Honolulu Community Action Program's monthly food distribution July 17 by handing out fresh produce, along with other perishable and non-perishable food items, to disabled seniors and low income families and individuals in the Kalihi Valley housing area.

(Left) Quartermaster 3rd Class Khris Jurado, assigned to Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, boxes several ears of corn July 17 during the monthly Honolulu Community Action Program food distribution.

non-profit organization, which delivers need-based human services to the economically challenged on the island of Oahu since 1965. Currently, the number of individuals and families who receive food from HCAP each month continues to grow, averaging approximately 900 families a month.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Britney Canzaro, assigned to 647th Logistics Readiness Squadron and first-time volunteer at HCAP, said she was surprised to see the line of people wrapped about the building needing food.

"I was surprised with the variety of food and the amount of people waiting in line," said Canzaro. "The bananas were the first thing to go, then the candy."

Ohana Produce works in collaboration with the HCAP, offering its services through four district service centers: Windward, Kalihi-Palama, Central and Leeward.

HCAP's programs and services impacted more than 20,000 low-income individuals and families throughout the island of Oahu.

Feds Feed Families 2015 Campaign is underway

MC1 Omari K. Way

Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs

The USDA's Feds Feed Families (FFF) summer food drive returned July 7 to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and is scheduled to run through Oct. 30.

The annual campaign gives military and civilian federal employees an easy way to donate non-perishable food to families in need.

Employees here can donate at collection areas located in base chapels or use drop-off sites located in the administration buildings

for Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. Pacific Command or other tenant organizations on JBPHH.

Arrangements for donations can also be made through the Feds Feed Families website, www.fedsfeedfamilies.gov.

Last year FFF collected just under 15 million pounds of food nationwide.

This year, organizers here anticipate advertising and convenient donation sites will help to collect at least 7,000 pounds of non-perishable food for local families.

"After food is collected in the Navy Region Hawaii area of responsibility, it is

donated to local food banks in Oahu and Kauai," said Chief Religious Programs Specialist Kimberly Bell, campaign organizer.

The Hawaii Food Bank website estimates 287,000 people received food assistance statewide last year.

For more information, call Bell at 473-4512 or visit www.fedsfeedfamilies.gov.

Sailors load more than 1,500-pounds of food during one of many "drops" during last year's "Feds Feed Families" campaign held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Photo by Senior Airman Christopher Stoltz



Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

The American flag is flown at half-mast on board USS Grace Hopper (DDG 70) July 21 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The flag will remain at half-mast through July 25 to honor each service member killed by a gunman in Chattanooga, Tenn.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Meranda Keller



Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Lovgren, fuels director, NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor, explains the monitoring systems at the Pearl Harbor Red Fuel Facility to Hawaii State House Reps. Gregg Takayama and Linda Ichiyama during a site visit, which also included members of the Hawaii Military Affairs Committee, state legislators and local business leaders. A modernized facility, each of Red Hill's 20 cylinder tanks is 250 feet tall and 100 feet in diameter and can hold up to 12.5 million gallons of fuel.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Nardel Gervacio

Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Lovgren, fuels director, NAVSUP Fleet Logistic Center Pearl Harbor, briefs members of the Hawaii Military Affairs Committee, state legislators, and local business leaders about the Red Hill fuel storage facility during a site visit July 17. The Red Hill facility is considered a national strategic asset.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Nardel Gervacio



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Laurie Dexter

Sailors and local volunteers pick invasive mangroves out of the ground during a July 18 cleanup at the ancient fishpond, Loko Pa'ai, at McGrew Point Navy housing on Oahu. The fishpond restoration started September 2014 and is an ongoing cultural resources project involving the Navy and the local community. (See story and additional photos on page B-1.)

Navy announces contest to show what responsible drinking means

Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS)—This summer, the Navy Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (NADAP) Office is hosting a contest for Sailors to submit their ideas for a new poster and slogan for the “Keep What You’ve Earned” (KWYE) campaign.

Now is your chance to put your creativity to the test, show the Navy what responsible drinking means to you, and help

your shipmates make smart decisions.

The KWYE campaign recognizes how hard you have worked to be successful in your career. As a Sailor, you have made sacrifices in your life, including choosing a more responsible lifestyle than perhaps some of your peers outside of the Navy.

The campaign encourages you to celebrate all that you have accomplished during your time in the Navy and to protect your career, life and the lives of those around you

by choosing to drink responsibly.

But what does responsible drinking mean to you?

If you have ever been at a bar with your friends and wanted to scream, “Stop embarrassing yourself!” or awoke after a night out and wished you had passed up on that extra beer, here’s your opportunity to remind others not to make the same mistake.

If you have ever been worried about a friend’s drinking habits but didn’t

know how to speak up, this is your chance to have a voice. If you have watched a Sailor get in a car with someone who has been drinking, now is the time to get your message out there and encourage responsible decision-making.

The “Keep What You’ve Earned” campaign needs your help spreading these messages of responsible drinking to the Navy community. The campaign encourages all Sailors with creative and meaningful messages about responsi-

ble drinking to participate in the poster contest.

Please email your submissions and any questions to sara.sisung.ctr@navy.mil by Aug. 31. There is no limit on the number of submissions per Sailor, so feel free to explore all of your slogan and design ideas.

If you win, your poster will be featured on the NADAP website and will be available for download by our campaign partners. You will serve a pivotal role in helping the campaign

find new, creative ways to promote responsible decision-making in the Navy.

To learn more about the KWYE poster contest and to read guidelines on how to submit your ideas, visit <http://ow.ly/Q0RrQ>, and go directly to the KWYE poster contest description and instructions for use.

As a Sailor, you make important decisions every day. It is in your hands to prevent instances of irresponsible alcohol use in the Navy and protect your fellow shipmates.



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Joshua Kelsey

Adm. Scott H. Swift, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet (right), walks with Adm. Jung Ho-sub, the chief of naval operations for the Republic of Korea, during a two-day visit to the Republic of Korea.

PACFLT commander reaffirms U.S. and ROK Navy alliance

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea, Public Affairs

SEOUL, Republic of Korea—Adm. Scott Swift, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, visited South Korea July 19-20, to meet with senior military and government leaders and reaffirm the U.S. Navy and Republic of Korea’s enduring alliance as a cornerstone of Indo-Asia-Pacific regional stability.

During the two-day visit, Swift met with leaders from both the U.S. and the Republic of Korea, to include U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea Mark Lippert, Adm. Jung Ho-sub, ROK chief of naval operations, Adm. Choi, Yoon hee, ROK chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen. Park, Seon-woo, deputy commander of the Combined Forces Command, to discuss the strength of the alliance between the U.S. and ROK.

“The United States and Republic of Korea navies have a long and storied history of working together,” said Swift. “The stability throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific region is

directly related to the strength of our alliance and I am committed to ensuring our strong partnership continues.”

Swift also emphasized the strength of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and assured ROK leaders the stability of the region is one of his top priorities.

“The only navy that is more powerful than the Pacific Fleet is the U.S. Navy ... So I am very confident that despite the uncertainty on the peninsula within the maritime domain we are fully prepared to support Gen. Scaparrotti and Chairman Choi and do whatever may be necessary as of the present and future.”

Swift also thanked the people of the ROK for their support of U.S. Navy

forces who are forward-deployed on the Korean peninsula.

“It was no accident that one of my first stops during this trip was to the Republic of Korea,” said Swift. “The support we (U.S. Pacific Fleet) receive from the people here helps ensure we are able to remain forward-deployed where it matters, when it matters.”

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea is the regional commander for the U.S. Navy in the Republic of Korea and provides expertise on naval matters to area military commanders, including the Commander for the United Nations Command, the Combined Forces Command and Commander, U.S. Forces Korea.

Air Force continues to work with DoD, OPM on cyber security incident

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Command Information

WASHINGTON (AFNS)—The Air Force maintains its commitment to protect personal information from cyber threats by continuing efforts with the Defense Department and the Office of Personnel Management to assist those impacted by the recent cyber incident involving federal background investigation data.

OPM and an interagency response team, including investigators from the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, concluded that sensitive information, to include Social Security numbers, was stolen from background investigations of 21.5 million individuals.

“We sincerely regret this has happened and that so many people were impacted by having their key information at risk,” said Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James. “Cyber security and protecting personal information of our personnel will always be a top priority for the Air Force. We will continue to support the DoD and OPM to ensure our personnel are protected.”

While background investigation records do contain some information regarding mental health and financial history provided by applicants and people contacted during the background investigation, there is no evidence that health, financial, payroll or retirement records of federal personnel or those who have applied for a federal job were impacted by this incident, for example — annuity rolls, retirement records, USAJobs.gov and Employee Express.

OPM will offer affected individuals credit monitoring services and identity

theft insurance. This comprehensive, three-year membership includes credit report access, credit monitoring, identity theft insurance and recovery services, and is available immediately at no cost to affected individuals identified by OPM.

In addition to assisting OPM and DOD, the Air Force remains committed to protecting its own information systems from attack. The Air Force privacy and information assurance officers work directly with program managers or system owners to ensure those systems which contain personal identifiable information have the proper security controls in place to prevent unauthorized access.

There are tools and techniques everyone can and should use to protect information in cyberspace.

“I want to stress again that our total force and their families need to be informed on how adversaries attempt to gain access to our information,” said Lt. Gen. William J. Bender, the information dominance chief and chief information officer for the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force. “More importantly we must be vigilant and act to deter them: guard information by practicing good OPSEC (operations security), follow basic computer security practices and alert the proper security offices of anything suspicious.”

The Air Force has created a toolkit of information for cyber security and safety at www.af.mil/cybersecurity.aspx. Additional information from OPM is available at <https://www.opm.gov/cybersecurity/>. This site contains details about what information was breached and what remedial actions and assistance will be made available.

STORY IDEAS?

Contact the Ho'okele editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements

Phone: (808) 473-2890/2895

Email: editor@hookelenews.com



USNS Mercy arrives in Philippines for Pacific Partnership

Pacific Partnership Public Affairs

ROXAS CITY, Philippines—The Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) arrived in Roxas City, Philippines, July 18 for the first half of its mission stop in the host nation for Pacific Partnership 2015.

While in Roxas City, medical staff aboard Mercy will perform surgical procedures and will host community health engagements, and also provide direct care in seven locations throughout the province of Capiz. In addition to medical care, PP15 personnel will work and train side-by-side with the community on civic service events, safety topics, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, water search and rescue, veterinarian care and community outreach projects.

"PP15 is such a wonderful opportunity for our medical teams because they get the chance to work side-by-side with the Philippine medical community. We learn so much from each other and this collaboration strengthens our international partnership and better prepares us to respond to natural disasters throughout the region," said Capt. Melanie Merrick, the commanding officer of the medical treatment facility on board Mercy.

In addition, the Mercy crew will host partnership events such as a multilateral leadership forum on gender and development, partnered training with Barangay health workers, biomedical repair exchanges, and a disaster risk reduction forum intended



U.S. Air Force by Senior Airman Peter Reft

USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) sits at anchorage off the coast of Papua New Guinea during the ship's recent mission stop for Pacific Partnership 2015. Mercy arrived in Roxas City, Philippines on July 18.

to enhance international response to natural disasters.

PP15 participants on the ship and on the ground include personnel from the United States, Australia, South Korea, Malaysia, Japan and New Zealand. The hospital ship arrived with more than 900 personnel, including volunteers from non-governmental organizations.

In addition, several PP15

events will be led by the United States Coast Guard. All PP15 personnel will work together with the Philippine government and local community on various medical, dental, veterinary and civic action projects.

Mercy will depart Roxas City Aug. 4, and transit to Subic Bay to continue its mission in the Philippines.

The Mercy crew will be in Subic Bay Aug. 5-14, continuing Pacific Partnership

subject matter expert exchange events and community relations projects while the ship undergoes routine maintenance.

"We value the knowledge and best practices we will exchange in the coming weeks and also the friendships we will undoubtedly make," said Capt. Christopher Engdahl, Pacific Partnership 2015 mission commander. "Preparing for natural disasters before

they happen is vital to the stability of the Pacific region. PP15 allows our nations to better prepare now so that we are able to respond and seamlessly integrate during future relief efforts."

Now in its 10th iteration, Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multilateral humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Asia

Pacific Region.

While training for crisis conditions, Pacific Partnership missions have provided medical care to approximately 270,000 patients and veterinary services to more than 38,000 animals.

Additionally, the mission has provided critical infrastructure developments to host nations through the completion of more than 180 engineering projects.

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