

# Remembering those who have been lost

# “Navigator” WHO'OKELE

July 31, 2015

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS  
www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii www.hookelenews.com

Volume 6 Issue 29

## Oklahoma unknowns receive honors

Story and photo by  
MC2 Jeff Troutman

Navy Public Affairs  
Support Element West, Det.  
Hawaii

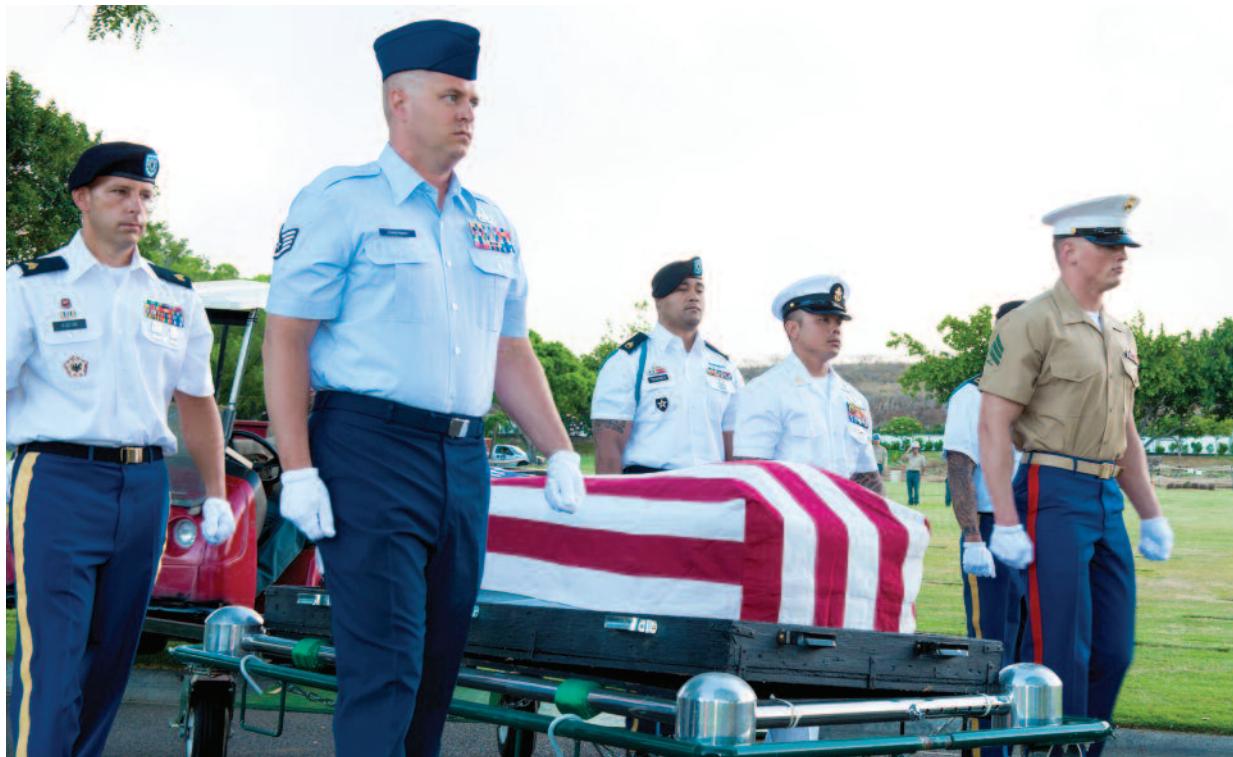
HONOLULU—A dignified transfer for unknown service members who once served aboard the USS Oklahoma was held July 27 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) in Honolulu.

The dignified transfer was performed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), an organization that helps determine the fate of missing service members and where possible, recover them alive or recover and identify the remains.

The process of identifying the remains of the service members will begin at the newly-built POW/MIA Accounting lab located at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The remains will then be sent to a lab in Omaha, Neb. for more detailed study.

“It’s a very humbling experience, to be a part of this procedure,” said Chief Hospital Corpsman Joshua Saniel, a member of the DPAA.

“It helps to bring closure for the families who before now didn’t know the fate of their loved ones missing or



Members of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) escort a casket containing the remains of an unknown USS Oklahoma service member through the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific during a dignified transfer in Honolulu.

killed in action, and it’s an honor to our past service members who gave their lives for our country,” he said.

According to the DPAA website, more than 83,000 Americans are still missing from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. For those service members killed in action, the DPAA community is charged with locating, re-

covering and identifying their remains.

Agency teams deploy to countries throughout Asia, the Pacific and Europe, as well as to sites in the United States. Additionally, the DPAA also performs humanitarian missions worldwide to recover and identify individuals as directed by the Pacific Command.

Michael S. Lennington,

the DPAA director, was on hand to witness the transfer and to praise his team of service members for their duties.

“This is an amazing thing you all did as a team this morning,” Lennington told the approximately 20 Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine service members who carried out the transfer service. “This is about never leaving a service member behind,

and I can’t put into words how incredibly important this is to the family members of those you served here today. You should look back on your service today, and all of what you do, with immense pride,” Lennington said.

To prepare for the transfer service, DPAA service members rehearse many times in the days and weeks before the transfer

takes place to ensure each fallen service member receives full military honors and is transferred with dignity and grace.

“It gives me a real sense of pride to see our rehearsal and our hard work rewarded in this manner, to reconnect these service members with their families,” said Sgt. 1st Class Merianne Salcepuedas, a DPAA member who helped oversee the transfers. “I’m just grateful I have the opportunity to be a part of this.”

The DPAA is supported by a number of defense agencies who assist with the transfer and identification service, including the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL). The personnel components of the military departments, including the Service Casualty and Mortuary Affairs officers, also provide key support serving as primary liaisons with family members.

Other Department of Defense entities, including intelligence community components such as the Defense Intelligence Agency, bring together myriad specialties that are instrumental in support of achieving the fullest possible accounting.

(For more information about the DPAA, visit their website at: [www.dpaa.mil](http://www.dpaa.mil).)

## 70 Years of Peace commemoration to be held here on Aug. 15

Nagaoka fireworks to be launched off Ford Island

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

The U.S. Navy in Hawaii will join the cities of Honolulu and Nagaoka, Japan, in commemorating the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II in the Pacific on Aug. 15 on historic Ford Island at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Fireworks will be launched off the west side of Ford Island.

The public is invited to the events, beginning at 4 p.m. and culminating in Pearl Harbor’s first-ever display of Nagaoka’s famous fireworks at 8 p.m. to honor the memory of the war’s victims

and to celebrate 70 years of peace and friendship.

The event is free and open to the public. Activities kick off at 4 p.m. with food available for purchase, cultural and educational displays, and entertainment. The official commemorative program starts at 7 p.m. with guest speakers, a youth peace summit declaration, performances by Nagaoka children’s choir and HEARTS Hawaii choir, and a special performance of the hit song “Jupiter” by the Japanese singer-songwriter Ayaka Hirahara.

At 8 p.m. the skies above Pearl Harbor and surrounding areas will light up with a display of Nagaoka’s special fireworks to honor war victims, pursue everlasting peace and friendship, and pave the way for future genera-



Courtesy Photo

tions. Music for the fireworks will simulcast live on radio station Hawaiian 105.1 KINE.

The public will be allowed access to Ford Island, with parking available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please plan accordingly for traffic due to the limited lanes on the Ford Island bridge. Other parking and transportation options will be posted on the website when available at [www.cnic.navy.mil/70yearsofpeace](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/70yearsofpeace).

Strict security measures will be in place. No large bags, large purses, outside food or beverages, coolers, or tents will be permitted. Visit the website for a complete list of restricted and authorized items. All carry-in items are subject to search.

Like on facebook [www.facebook.com/70yearsofpeace](http://www.facebook.com/70yearsofpeace).

## Drill held aboard USS Chafee

Sailors assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 5, embarked aboard the aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73), perform a helicopter rope suspension technique exercise in an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the Golden Falcons of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 12 during a visit-board-search and seizure drill aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) on July 28. Chafee is homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Clemente A. Lynch



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Shakey’s Pizza and more coming in ‘16  
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# Marines from the Battle of Tarawa come home

Story and photo by  
Cpl. Matthew Bragg

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

*(The Marines from the Battle of Tarawa were repatriated during a ceremony held July 26 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.)*

TARAWA, Kiribati – The 3rd Marine Division conducted a repatriation ceremony July 25 in Kiribati to honor the remains of at least 36 Marines in Tarawa, Kiribati, who fought and died during the Battle of Tarawa in World War II.

The Battle of Tarawa, also known as the 76-hour battle, took place from Nov. 20-23, 1943 on the heavily fortified island of Betio, which was held by 4,500 Japanese troops. More than 18,000 U.S. Marines were sent to secure the island, but the coral reefs surrounding the island acted as a blockade and caused unexpected problems during the Marines' amphibious assault.

When the battle finally ended, more than 1,000 U.S. troops had been killed in action and were left to become a piece of unrecoverable history. However, the Marine Corps has a saying: Never leave a Marine behind.

"Today provides for us the opportunity to bring home some Marines who were lost here during the Battle of Tarawa over 70



A 3rd Marine Regiment color guard takes its place, July 25, during a repatriation ceremony in Tarawa, Kiribati. The ceremony honored the remains of approximately 36 Marines who fought and died during the Battle of Tarawa during World War II and were loaded onto a C-130J Hercules aircraft to be transported back home to the United States. (Additional photos on page A-5.)

years ago," said Maj. Gen. Richard P. Simcock, 3rd Marine Division commanding general.

"Those Marines that gave their lives and ensured our way of life continued here in the Pacific were fully expected to come home, but it didn't work out that way. Today we've filled that obligation for those Marines," Simcock said.

In March 2015, History Flight, a privately owned organization

working in cooperation with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, discovered a long-lost burial trench and recovered what are believed to be the remains of at least 36 U.S. Marines killed during the battle. One set of those remains is tentatively believed to be those of 1st Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Jr., who was one of four Medal of Honor recipients for his actions on Tarawa and the only

one whose remains have been unaccounted for.

The remains of the Marines were placed into American flag-draped caskets and loaded onto a C-130J Hercules aircraft during the ceremony.

"This ceremony I could not describe. It is one of the most solemn ceremonies I've had the opportunity to participate in," Simcock said.

"Seeing those flag-draped coffins getting on the aircraft and knowing they're going home, it makes me feel good as a Marine. For us it's always about accountability and bringing our Marines home after the fight is over," he said.

After the final casket was loaded onto the aircraft, the audience remained still in a moment of silence as a bugler performed ceremonial Taps.

Once the caskets were loaded aboard the aircraft, the C-130 departed from Tarawa to begin the transportation of the remains back to the U.S.

"I was very pleased to learn of the discovery of the remains of our Marines on the island of Tarawa ... This battle demonstrated the indomitable fighting spirit of our Marines ...," said Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., commandant of the Marine Corps.

"The lessons learned there paved the way for our success in the Pacific campaign and eventual end to the war. We look forward to their return home," Dunford said.

After transportation back to the U.S. has been completed, the remains will undergo DNA testing to confirm the identities of the Marines and will then be turned over to their respective families for burial with full military honors.

## Board of Water Supply offers tips on seven ways to save water

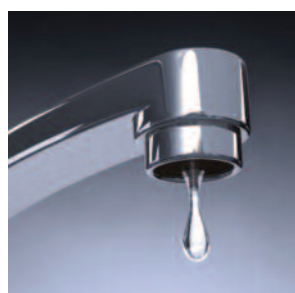
Provided by Board of Water Supply, City & County of Honolulu

Our water resources in Hawaii are limited, so let's not waste a drop. If we save enough water now, we'll have what we need for years to come.

Here are some simple ways to do your part:

- Water lawns just two to three times a week.

Lawns don't need to be watered every day, even dur-



ing the summer. The fact is if you water just once every three days, you promote deeper root growth, making your lawn healthier and

more water-efficient.

- Don't water lawns between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Water evaporates quickly when the sun is out. So if you water during the day, you're watering the sky. Instead, water in the early morning, evening or at night. It'll keep the water where you want it: in your lawn.

- Check for leaks in plumbing and toilets.

How? Turn off water throughout your house,

check your water meter, and check back two hours later. If it has moved, something is leaking. Checking toilet leaks is even easier with a free Board of Water Supply test tablet.

- Install water-efficient plumbing fixtures.

A new toilet can save five gallons or more every flush. A new showerhead can save up to five gallons every minute. An aerator on your kitchen faucet can save up to five gallons daily.

- Take shorter showers.

Every minute you trim from your shower saves three to six gallons of water. So get in and out a little faster, or pause the water while you lather, shave or shampoo.

- Put a nozzle on your garden hose.

Left unattended, a running garden hose can waste more than 100 gallons in just minutes. Use a shutoff or pressure nozzle, so you only use what you need when

you're watering the plants, cleaning the house or washing the car.

- Don't let the faucet run and run.

Turn off the tap while brushing teeth or shaving. In the kitchen, use a dishpan for soapy water, and rinse with clean water quickly. Just imagine all that water running all over the counter or floor, instead of down the drain. That'll give you a hint at how much water you're accidentally wasting.

## MCBH implements new base access guidelines

Marine Corps Base Hawaii

Starting Aug. 1, changes to the vehicle and base access policies will be implemented for military and civilians stationed at or visiting Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH).

All vehicles on the installation must be clearly identified by an MCBH decal or paper pass. These changes apply to all service members stationed at the base or visiting from another base, base employees, retirees, Friends of Kaneohe Bay passholders and visitors.

Active duty and civilian Marines who work at MCBH without a current base decal must request a decal at the vehicle registration office in building 1095.

Retirees will need to request either a decal or an annual paper pass at the registration office. Friends of K-Bay and active duty from other bases will be able to request an annual paper pass.

Visitors will need to request a day pass at the front gate pass house.

In order to register a vehicle, drivers must have their valid Hawaii state vehicle registration, no-fault insurance and safety inspection, as well as their current authorized Department of Defense identification card and license, and a completed MCBH decal application form.

For more information, including the hours of operation and application form, visit the website <http://ow.ly/QiOF1>.

## USS John Paul Jones departs for scheduled deployment



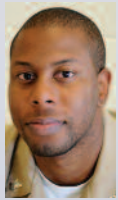
U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Nardel Gervacio

The guided-missile destroyer USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53) departs July 27 from Joint Base Pearl-Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled underway. John Paul Jones replaced USS Lake Erie (CG 70) in Hawaii as the nation's ballistic missile defense test ship.

## Diverse Views



What is the best way to protect your belongings?



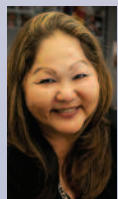
**Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Nicholas Williamson**  
Navy Operational Support Center, Pearl Harbor

"The best way to protect your belongings is to have some sort of insurance. If anything goes missing, if someone wants something, they're going to take it. So, the best thing is to have insurance, so that way you can replace whatever you lost as quickly as possible."

**Senior Master Sgt. Roy Robinson**  
647th Force Support Squadron



"Make sure you have your belongings in a safe and secure area."



**Valerie Uyeda**  
Navy Region Hawaii

"My dogs are there to protect me, so they alert me, and they tell me when someone is there. So I know not to open the door, and that is how I protect myself."

**Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Pachasa**  
HQ PACAF



"One hundred percent accountability doesn't casually happen. Make sure you don't bring your things to dangerous situations, and always make mental notes of where you put things."



**Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Lonnie Ragland**  
Navy Operational Support Center, Pearl Harbor

"To me the best way to protect your belongings is to make sure that it's secure in some type of manner or fashion. For example, if you're going to the gym and you have a gym bag with your wallet, keys or other valuable items and you put it [in the] locker room, but you don't put a lock on it, your items are not secure. The same goes with your home. If you want to make sure your home is secure, you may want to do a little research to find out the best way to secure your house such as adding lights, ADT systems and adding dead bolts to your doors, which will hinder an potential intruder."

**Senior Airman Cheyenne Lembke**  
17th Operational Weather Squadron



"Make sure you don't leave important things out in a place where they are not secure."



**Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Ley Ordenez**  
Navy Operational Support Center, Pearl Harbor

"The best way to protect your belongings for me is to have insurance for your home like fire, flood or earthquake insurance just in case a disaster happens. It's a peace of mind knowing that you have it, just in case the unthinkable happens."

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

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

Phone: (808) 473-2890 or 473-2895  
Email: editor@hookelenews.com



# How the Wright Brothers got to the moon

Review by Bill Doughty

When naval aviator and U.S. astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first man to step onto the moon, he brought a physical piece of the Wright Brothers legacy with him. What the fellow Ohioan carried with him is revealed in David McCullough's latest work, "The Wright Brothers" (Simon & Schuster, 2015).

McCullough, the author of "1776," "Truman" and "John Adams," explains how and why Wilbur and Orville were successful in inventing the airplane and demonstrating the first human-operated, powered and sustained flight of a heavier-than-air machine in 1903.

The brothers faced family ravages of typhoid and tuberculosis, swarms of "demon mosquitoes," oppressive heat and plenty of crashes before and after their first flight. Later, another challenge was just getting the scientific community, media and nation to take them seriously.

How they dealt with challenges and setbacks was key to their success.

The boys' father, Rev. Milton Wright, bought them educational toys and books, encouraged high standards of excellence, promoted unity of purpose, and nurtured determination. "We learn much from tribulation, and by adversity our hearts are made better," the senior Wright wrote to Orville after a crash cost the life of an Army lieutenant.

The brothers' high school teacher noted "their patient persistence, their calm faith in ultimate success, their mutual consideration of each other."

Books in the Wright family collection included ecclesiastical works alongside works by Robert Ingersoll, who had an apparently significant influence on the brothers, according to McCullough.

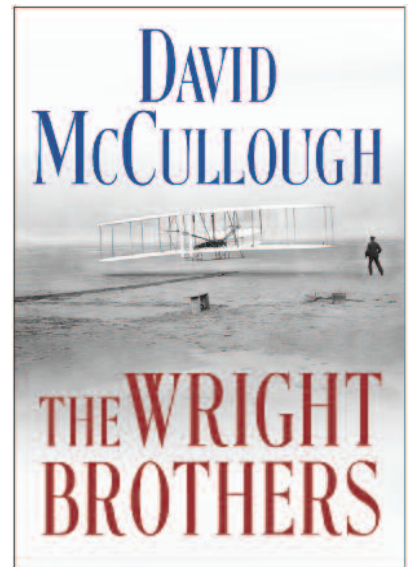
"There could be found the works of Dickens, Washington Irving, Hawthorne, Mark Twain, a complete set of the works of Sir Walter Scott, the poems of Virgil, Plutarch's 'Lives,' Milton's 'Paradise Lost,' Boswell's 'Life of Johnson,' Gibbon's 'Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire,' and Thucydides. There were books on natural history, American history, a six-volume history of France, travel, the 'Instructive Speller,' Darwin's 'On the Origin of Species,' plus two full sets of encyclopedias."

Wilbur was interested in history and science, especially birds, equilibrium and the study of wind.

McCullough's butterscotch voice comes through the narrative as if



David McCullough



the reader is listening to a Ken Burns documentary. McCullough's descriptive powers, so strong in all his work, are put to good effect here. For example, here is the author's description of the Outer Banks of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina:

"The previous winter on the Banks had been especially severe, one continuing succession of storms, the brothers were told, the rain coming down in such torrents as to make a lake that reached for miles near their camp. Ninety-mile-an-hour winds had lifted their building from its foundation and set it down several feet closer to the ocean. Mosquitoes were said to have been so thick they turned day into night, the lightning so terrible it turned night into day. But the winds had also sculpted the sand hills into the best shape for gliding the brothers had seen, and the September days now were so glorious, so ideal, that instead of turning at once to setting up camp, they put the glider from the year before in shape and spent what Wilbur called 'the finest day we ever had in practice.'"

The brothers' aircraft were tested near Kitty Hawk and refined in a pasture near Dayton, Ohio, where their 1905 Flyer would become the first practical aircraft 110 years ago this year.

"It was at Huffman Prairie that summer and fall of 1905 that the brothers, by experiment and change, truly learned to fly. Then, also, at last, with a plane they could rely on, they could permit themselves enjoyment in what they had achieved. They could take pleasure in the very experience of traveling through the air in a motor-powered machine as no one had. And each would try as best he could to put the experience in words."

McCullough's extensive research helps us experience the brothers' emotions and read their first-hand accounts. The author acknowledges resources with humility, respect and appreciation, including Library of Congress, Wright State University in Dayton and Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum.

This book takes us through the early life of the Wright Brothers, their success in designing and selling bicycles, and their adventures in Europe, especially in Paris, at a time when they were courted by French, British and German governments and militaries—before the American military showed real interest in their achievements.

Eventually they received honors, memorials and accolades (and unfortunately acrimonious patent infringements) from Dayton to D.C. and from Le Mans to New York. We learn about their relationship with Otto Lilienthal, Chanute Langley, Charles Lindbergh, Alexander Bell, Glenn Curtiss and other friends and rivals.

Wilbur's flight in New York around the Statue of Liberty and above the departing Lusitania in 1909 is a standout. Orville saw the 1921 commissioning of his namesake USS Wright (AV/AZ-1), a ship that was captained by commanding officers that included Ernest J. King, Aubrey W. Fitch and Marc A. Mitscher and which fought in World War II in the Pacific. Orville lived long enough to see aircraft and bombers used extensively in WWII.

The first USS Kitty Hawk (APV-1) was launched in 1941 and served throughout the Second World War. Another namesake, the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk II (CV(A) 63), was launched 57 years after the brothers' first flight, served nearly half a century, and was decommissioned in 2009.

(Doughty writes Navy Reads on weekends: [www.navyreads.blogspot.com](http://www.navyreads.blogspot.com).)

## Crew works on 'Sabre' jet at Hickam



Photo courtesy T. Merrill, retired 154th Wing historian

This photo taken circa 1954-1958 shows the North American F-86E "Sabre," with the tail number 51-2721, assigned to the Hawaii Air National Guard's 199th Fighter Squadron. It is being worked on by ground crew personnel at the former Hickam Air Force Base. The "TH" on the fuselage denotes "Territory of Hawaii."



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# Vice Adm. Nora Tyson becomes U.S. 3rd Fleet commander

MC3 K. Cecelia Engrums

U.S. 3rd Fleet Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO (NNS) — Vice Adm. Nora Tyson relieved Vice Adm. Kenny “Pink” Floyd as commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet during a change of command and retirement ceremony held July 24 on Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) while pierside at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego.

During the ceremony, Floyd retired from active duty after “35 years of honorable naval service.” He assumed command of U.S. 3rd Fleet in May 2013.

Floyd reflected on his career while thanking his peers and the men and women of the U.S. Navy.

“Without a doubt, it has been the greatest privilege of my life to lead the men and women who have volunteered to defend this country,” said Floyd.

“Debbie (Floyd’s wife) and I continue to be humbled by the magnitude of the responsibility that you carry and strengthened by the willingness with which you carry it out.”

Adm. Scott H. Swift, commander U.S. Pacific Fleet, was the



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Kory Alsberry  
Vice Adm. Nora Tyson, left, assumes command of U.S. 3rd Fleet from Adm. Scott H. Swift, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, during the U.S. 3rd Fleet change of command and retirement ceremony held July 24. Tyson relieves Vice Adm. Kenneth E. Floyd as he retires after 35 years of service.

guest speaker.

“Floyd, in summary, you did it right,” said Swift. “Sailors of both today’s and tomorrow’s Navy are better prepared by your contributions, example and leadership throughout your career than they have ever been. On their behalf, and on behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for your leadership and service.”

Swift presented Floyd with his second Distinguished Service Medal as an end of career award, recognizing him for his exceptional meritorious service to the United States Navy.

“As Pink departs the pattern, there is no better officer to take the lead here at 3rd Fleet than Nora Tyson,” said Swift.

“When I travel around the theater, everywhere I go, I hear about the great work she has done leading operations and building partnerships in the Pacific Fleet AOR (area of responsibility),” he said.

Tyson’s most recent assignment was as deputy commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, where she reported in July 2013.

U.S. 3rd Fleet was formed during World War II on March 15, 1943 under the command of Fleet Adm. William F. “Bull” Halsey.

## Fed Fire informs residents to be aware of wildfire threats in dry season

Angela Sanders

Inspector, Federal Fire Department Hawaii

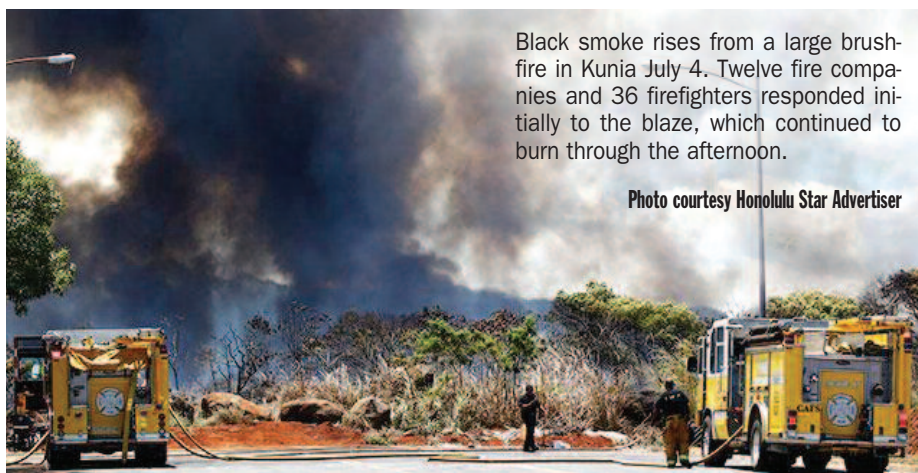
Dry season is upon us, so now is the time for the public to be aware of potential wildfire threats in the areas where they live and work. The Federal Fire Department Hawaii is asking all civilians and military personal to:

- Be vigilant at all times and report any suspicious activity.
- Report unauthorized dumping of rubbish and vegetation.
- Report overgrown, dry, and tall vegetation.
- Protect your home by clearing unneces-

sary shrubbery and debris.

- Clean roof and gutters regularly.
- Ensure fire apparatus can get to your home.
- Ensure smoke detectors are installed on each level of your home, in every sleeping area, and are being tested monthly.
- Create a safety zone around your home.
- When wildfires are threatening your area, if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Call 911 immediately if you see suspicious activity.

(For more information about the Federal Fire Department, contact Fire Inspector Angela Sanders at 471-3303, ext. 617 or [angela.sanders1@navy.mil](mailto:angela.sanders1@navy.mil).)



Black smoke rises from a large brushfire in Kunia July 4. Twelve fire companies and 36 firefighters responded initially to the blaze, which continued to burn through the afternoon.

Photo courtesy Honolulu Star Advertiser

**HO'OKELE Online** <http://www.hookelenews.com/> or visit <https://www.cnmc.navy.mil/Hawaii>




# Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

The fast-attack submarine USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) transits the south-east loch of Pearl Harbor, July 23, passing the half-masted flag of another fast-attack submarine, USS Charlotte (SSN 766). National ensigns aboard all vessels of the U.S. Navy flew at half-mast July 21-25, honoring the five fallen service members of the shootings in Chattanooga, Tenn., on July 16. Both Los Angeles-class submarines are with Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Steven Khor



(Left) Members of the Defense POW MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) place an American flag over a casket containing the remains of an unknown USS Oklahoma service member at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) during a dignified transfer July 27 in Honolulu. The DPAA serves to provide the fullest possible accounting for America's missing military personnel to their families and the nation, by maximizing the number of missing personnel accounted for and ensuring timely, accurate information is provided to their families.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jeff Troutman

(Right) 3rd Marine Regiment pallbearers carry a casket onto a C-130J Hercules aircraft, July 25 during a repatriation ceremony in Tarawa, Kiribati. The caskets held the remains of approximately 36 Marines who fought and died during the Battle of Tarawa in World War II. The remains were transported back to the United States for proper identification and final burial.

U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Matthew J. Bragg

(Below) 3rd Marine Regiment pallbearers lift the final casket of remains, July 25 during a repatriation ceremony in Tarawa, Kiribati.

U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Matthew J. Bragg



# PP15 concludes successful visit to Solomon Islands

**U.S. Marine Corps  
Sgt. James Gulliver**

*Pacific Partnership Public Affairs*

HONIARA, Guadalcanal —The people of the Solomon Islands and members of Pacific Partnership 2015 celebrated the completion of a successful two-week mission by the Military Sealift Command joint high speed vessel USNS Millinocket (JHSV 3), July 24.

Millinocket and embarked Task Force Forager provided medical, engineering, veterinary and dental support to Guadalcanal and Malaita citizens.

“Just two weeks ago we began our mission in the Solomon Islands, and today we stand proud of what we achieved together as a team,” said Capt. James Meyer, commodore, Task Force Forager, during a reception celebrating the completion of work in the Solomon Islands.

“This mission could not have



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Carla Burdt

Capt. James Meyer, commodore, Task Force Forager (right), welcomes a representative from the local government to the closing reception of Pacific Partnership 2015 in the Solomon Islands.

been accomplished without the joint efforts of everyone here tonight,” he said.

The leadership of the Solomon Islands expressed their gratitude for all the assistance brought by

Pacific Partnership 2015 personnel.

“We thank you so much for everything you have done for this country,” said Milner Tozaka, the minister of foreign affairs. “What you have done will continue to improve the lives of our people even after you have left our shores.”

Seabees and Marines spent 12 days renovating Vura Primary School to improve the learning environment for the 450 students who attend the school.

The medical teams trained more than 160 Solomon Island medical professionals, farmers and police. They saw more than 560 patients, 51 animals and distributed approximately 400 spectacles.

“The accomplishment of our medical team has been spectacular as they built capacity and capability in both Auki, Malaita and here in Honiara,” Meyer said.

He also spoke of the warm welcome they received in the Solomon

Islands and how the youth of the nation left an impression on him.

“I’ve noticed that what sets the Solomon Islands apart from the other countries we have visited on Pacific Partnership is the youth’s eagerness to learn, the adult’s enthusiasm to hone their skills and use our training after we leave,” he said. “Your kindness and hospitality has touched everyone on our team.”

Millinocket departed the Solomon Islands July 26 and is en route to the Philippines to continue the Pacific Partnership 2015 mission.

Task Force Forager is led by an expeditionary command element from the Navy’s 30th Naval Construction Regiment (30 NCR) from Port Hueneme, Calif. Millinocket is 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).

## *Seabees perform underwater cable maintenance*

Builder 2nd Class Ben Reed, assigned to Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2, inspects tubes containing hydrophone cables for corrosion and exposed cable that will need to be patched or need cathodic protection. UCT 2’s Construction Dive Detachment Charlie (CDDC) is performing subsea cable maintenance July 14 at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF). CDDC is on the first stop of their deployment, where they are conducting inspection, maintenance and repair of various underwater and waterfront facilities in support of the Pacific Fleet.

U.S. Navy photo by Builder 2nd Class Joseph Hophan



## MyCAA Scholarship program aids military spouses in reaching career goals

Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Public Affairs



Military spouses looking to pursue their career goals by way of licenses, certificates, certifications or associate degrees can use the My Career Advancement Account Scholarship (MyCAA) to pay for their career development.

The MyCAA Scholarship is a workforce development program that provides up to \$4,000 of tuition assistance to eligible military spouses.

William Kono, 647th Force Support Squadron force development flight chief, said he highly recommends spouses take advantage of this benefit to find employment in high-demand, high-growth portable career fields and occupations.

The MyCAA Scholarship is available to spouses of active duty

service members E-1 to E-5, W-1 to W-2, and O-1 to O-2 who can start and complete their coursework while their spouse is on Title 10 military orders, including National Guard and Reserve component members' spouses.

The MyCAA Scholarship will pay up to \$2,000 annually to cover tuition costs for education and training courses and exams needed for an associate degree, as well as the cost of obtaining a license, certificate or certification at an accredited college, university or technical school in the U.S.

Kono said the scholarship program for spouses closely resem-

bles the education benefits offered to service members in that tuition assistance in the amount of \$4,500 is offered for active duty members to pursue associate, baccalaureate and master's degrees.

Additionally, the Air Force offers active-duty members the Air Force Credentialing Opportunities On-Line program to help service members obtain credentials and licenses.

Sarah Beard, a military spouse who recently used the MyCAA Scholarship to complete a pharmacy technician certification program, said the program offers a convenient way for military spouses to pursue educational goals.

"The program fit really well with my schedule, and it was perfect for what I needed it for," she said. "MyCAA makes it a lot easier for you to get your foot in the

door and at least start working toward continued education and career goals."

Beard described her experience with MyCAA as positive and successful.

"I got through my certification program with no hiccups, no problems with the payments, and no student loans to pay off," she said.

"The program is very beneficial and relatively easy to get started. If you're willing to put forth the effort to get started, it's definitely worth your time.

"Education is definitely something you have to want for yourself and be diligent and pursue it, and MyCAA is something you can rely on to help you," she said.

Though the education center is an available resource, Kono said the MyCAA Scholarship is part of the family benefits offered through the Airmen and Family

Readiness Center.

"This is primarily a family program that the Airmen and Family Readiness Center has eyes on," said Kono. "The education center gets involved when spouses come to us to discuss educational goals and aspirations. We steer spouses to the MyCAA program because of the \$4,000 tuition assistance available to help them complete education programs of their choosing."

For more information or to speak with spouse education and career opportunities career counselors familiar with the MyCAA program, call 800-342-9647 or visit <https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa/> to create a login and register.

For active-duty members interested in learning more about the AF COOL program, log on to the AF Virtual Education Center via the Air Force Portal.

## Volunteers needed for 70 Years of Peace commemorative events

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

Active duty military personnel from all services are needed to volunteer for events commemorating the 70th anniversary of the End of World War II in the Pacific to be held Aug. 14 and 15 at Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The "70 Years of Peace" commemorative events are hosted by sister cities, Honolulu and Nagaoka, Japan, along with the U. S. Navy.

The commemoration begins on Aug. 14 with a private evening memorial service and floral tribute open to invited guests. On Aug. 15, Ford Island will open to the public with festivities beginning at 4 p.m. and culminating in the spectacular Nagaoka fireworks display at 8 p.m.

Volunteer tasks include the following: site preparations, setup, and teardown

(Aug. 11-15); parking and traffic control (Aug. 14-15); trash pickup (Aug. 15); floral tribute assistance and ushers (Aug. 14), and floating lantern assistance (Aug. 14).

Civilians and military family members (age 16 and over) with base access are also welcome to volunteer. Call 471-3521 or contact Lt. Cmdr. Alex Torres, [alex.n.torres@navy.mil](mailto:alex.n.torres@navy.mil) or Chief Charles Tweedy, [charles.v.tweedy@navy.mil](mailto:charles.v.tweedy@navy.mil) to volunteer.

Volunteering provides an opportunity to contribute to this historic and significant event that honors the memory of war victims and celebrates 70 years of continuing peace and friendship.

For more information on 70 Years of Peace commemorative events, visit the website [www.cnmc.navy.mil/70yearsofpeace](http://www.cnmc.navy.mil/70yearsofpeace), or call the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs Office at 473-1173 or 473-2926.

## Conference registration to begin Aug. 6

Registration for the Joint Spouses Conference will begin at 6 p.m. Aug. 6. The conference will be held on Sept. 26.

Information on the workshops is posted at <http://www.jschawaii.com/workshops.html> and on the Joint Spouses' Conference Hawaii Facebook page.