

Japanese sailors pay respects

MC2 Johans Chavarro

Navy Public Affairs Support Element Detachment Hawaii

Approximately 40 Japanese soldiers and sailors gathered Aug. 4 aboard the historic USS Arizona Memorial at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a wreath-laying ceremony. They are assigned to Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) helicopter destroyer JS Hyuga (DDH 181), destroyer JS Ashigara (DDG 178) and amphibious tank landing ship JS Kunisaki (LST 4003).

The wreath-laying ceremony paid respects to those who lost their lives during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

Lt. Cmdr. Creighton Ho, foreign ship liaison officer assigned to Navy Region Hawaii, described the visit: “With covers removed, heads bowed in silence, and bugles rendering honors, the [Japanese] sailors and soldiers stood at attention in their full dress uniforms while Japanese Rear Adm. Hiroshi Oka, commander, Mine Warfare Forces, JMSDF, placed a wreath in front of the displayed names of the Sailors who dedicated their lives to their country, which symbolized the utmost respect and honor given by the Japanese.”

After the ceremony, the Japanese service members toured

the memorial, routinely stopping to read the informational display stands located throughout the memorial.

Following the visit to the USS Arizona Memorial, the JMSDF service members conducted wreath-laying ceremonies at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl and Makiki Cemetery, as well as visited the Ehime-Maru Memorial.

“This, along with other ceremonies scheduled to be performed today at Punchbowl and the Makiki Cemetery, is significant in strengthening relations between Japan and the U.S., where we are one family, sharing the same waters,” Ho said.

According to Japanese Lt. Michio Hayakama, assigned to JS Kunisaki, visiting the memorial sites around the island plays an important role in building a better friendship and partnership with the U.S.

“It works out to improve communication and learn the background to what the other one is thinking, and that helps to understand each other better,” said Hayakama.

“Seventy years ago, what led us to war was a misunderstanding of each other, but now we think about each other and that helps us to have peace, which will naturally be passed down to the next generation,” Hayakama said.

For Japanese Ensign Takeya Tsunokawa, assigned to JS Ku-



U.S. Navy photo by Seaman Michael Ray

Senior military leaders from the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force render honors during a wreath-laying ceremony at the USS Arizona Memorial during a scheduled port visit at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The ceremony paid respects to those who lost their lives during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

nisaki, the opportunity to visit the memorial sites, like the Arizona Memorial, helps keep the history and the future of Japan in perspective.

“You don’t think about this normally every day,” said Tsunokawa. “We do a lot of joint exercises and we have a really good relationship, but these moments, like today, you don’t really think about.”

“We are the next generation and it’s kind of hard, but you can’t just let it go. You have to learn the history. You learn a lot from the past

which helps you think about the future and where you’re headed. So whenever we have a chance like this, we participate and try and show respect and reflect,” Tsunokawa said.

Following the scheduled port visit to Pearl Harbor, the JMSDF ships are slated to arrive in San Diego and participate in the multi-lateral exercise Dawn Blitz 2015. Dawn Blitz is a scenario-driven exercise led by U.S. 3rd Fleet and I Marine Expeditionary Force that will test participants in the plan-

ning and execution of amphibious operations through a series of live training events.

Overall, Creighton said events such as these help strengthen U.S.-Japan relations as they reinforces communication and cohesion between the two.

“The importance of maintaining U.S.-Japan relations reaches throughout the Pacific and the rest of the world as our missions become one to defend freedom across multiple warfare areas,” said Creighton.

USS John Paul Jones participates in missile defense test

Missile Defense Agency

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA), U.S. Pacific Command, and U.S. Navy Sailors aboard the USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53), homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, successfully conducted a series of four flight test events exercising the Aegis ballistic missile defense (BMD) element of the nation’s ballistic missile defense system (BMDS).

The flight test, designated multi-mission warfare (MMW) events 1 through 4, demonstrated successful intercepts of short-range ballistic missile and cruise missile targets by the USS John Paul Jones, configured with Aegis Baseline 9.C1 (BMD 5.0 capability upgrade) and using standard missile (SM-6 Dual I and SM-2 Block IV missiles).

All flight test events were conducted at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Kauai, Hawaii.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Nardel Gervacio

The guided-missile destroyer USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, July 27, to participate in missile defense tests with Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai.

“This important test campaign not only demonstrated an additional terminal defense layer of the BMDS, it also proved the robustness of the multi-use SM-6 missile on-board a Navy destroyer, further reinforcing the dynamic capability of the Aegis Baseline 9 weapon system,” said Vice Adm. James D. Syring, MDA director.

Event 1
 On July 28, at approximately 10:30 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time (July 29, 4:30 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time), a short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) target was launched from PMRF in a northwesterly trajectory. John Paul Jones, positioned west of Hawaii, detected, tracked and launched a SM-6 Dual I

missile, resulting in a successful target intercept.

Event 2
 On July 29, at approximately 8:15 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time (July 30, 2:15 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time), a short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) target was launched from PMRF in a northwesterly trajectory. John Paul Jones detected, tracked and

launched a SM-2 Block IV missile, resulting in a successful target intercept.

Event 3
 On July 31, at approximately 2:30 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time, (8:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time) an AQM-37C cruise missile target was air-launched to replicate an air-warfare threat. John Paul Jones detected, tracked and successfully engaged the target using an SM-6 Dual I missile.

Event 4
 On Aug. 1, at approximately 3:45 p.m. Hawaii Standard Time, (9:45 p.m. Eastern Standard Time), a BQM-74E cruise missile target was launched from PMRF. The USS John Paul Jones detected, tracked and successfully engaged the target using an SM-6 Dual I missile. The SM-6’s proximity-fuze warhead was programmed not to detonate after reaching the lethal distance from the target, thus providing the ability to recover and reuse

the BQM-74E target.

Facts
 •MMW Event 1 was the first live fire event of the SM-6 Dual I missile.

•MMW Events 1 and 2 were the 30th and 31st successful ballistic missile defense intercepts in 37 flight test attempts for the Aegis BMD program since flight testing began in 2002.

•The MDA will use test results to improve and enhance the ballistic missile defense system (BMDS).

•Aegis BMD is the naval component of the BMDS. The MDA and the U.S. Navy cooperatively manage the Aegis BMD program.

•Operational elements of the BMDS are currently deployed, protecting the nation, our allies, and friends against ballistic missile attack.

•The BMDS continues to undergo development and testing to provide a robust layered defense against ballistic missiles of all ranges in all phases of flight.

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-



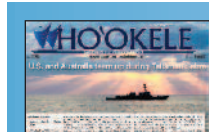
Courtesy photo

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

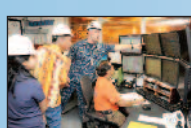
The public will be allowed access to Ford Island, with parking available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please plan accordingly for traffic due to the limited lanes on the Ford Island bridge. Other parking and transportation options will be posted on the website when available at www.cnic.navy.mil/70yearsofpeace.

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.

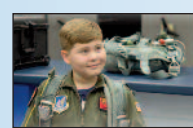
(Additional information on page A-6.)



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Hickam completes Warrior Day training to demonstrate cooperation
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MWR’s guided hike provides safer way to explore
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15th Maintenance Group is under new leadership

Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Aaron Oelrich

15th Wing Public Affairs

The 15th Maintenance Group (15th MXG) said farewell to Col. David Pastore during a change of command ceremony held July 28 in hangar 19 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Pastore assumed command of the 15th MXG in July 2013. He was presented the Legion of Merit for his outstanding service and accomplishments during the July 28 ceremony.

Just before relinquishing command to Col. Robert Copes, Pastore thanked his special guests, 15th Wing leadership, 15th MXG leadership, his fellow group commanders, Friends of Hickam visitors and his family.

"To the men and women of the maintenance group, I know I have been demanding. I have asked you for much and, over the course of the last few years, you have given it," said Pastore. "You are incredi-



U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech Sgt. Aaron Oelrich
Col. Randy Huiss, 15th Wing commander, takes the guidon from Col. David Pastore, former 15th Maintenance Group commander, July 28 during the change of command ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

ble leaders, and I am very proud of the organization we have grown into."

Pastore said to Copes, "The Airmen of the 15th MXG are incredible, and if you take care of them they will take care of you."

Copes comes to the 15th MXG after being a student at the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, National Defense University, Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C.

Col. Randy Huiss, 15th Wing commander, presided over the ceremony and acknowledged Copes as one of the top rated squadron commanders while he expressed his confidence in Copes' ability to lead the 15th MXG.

After thanking the 15th Wing leadership and members of the local community for the "warm reception," Copes addressed the Airmen of the 15th MXG.

"To the men and women of the 154th and 15th Maintenances Groups, I look forward to working with you over the next few years

and continuing the outstanding partnership that has been developed," said Copes.

"Our interdependences on one another has helped drive a successful track record in both of our wings, and I know that if we work hard and as we mature that our relationship will only get stronger in the years to come," he said.

As the 15th MXG commander, Copes will lead and provide operational direction to an integrated force of 500 active duty, Hawaii Air National Guard, civilian and contractor members supporting C-17, F-22 and C-37 and C-40 special assigned airlift mission aircraft to meet global airlift, global strike and theater security mission requirements.

Additionally, his group supports 6,500 joint and allied aircraft transiting through Hickam each year.

"Our primary goal is to ensure that we put safe and reliable aircraft in the air," said Copes. "We will accomplish that by being professional Airmen driven by the Air Force core values."

Command Chief Master Sergeant of 11th Air Force visits 15th Wing



U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Kaitlin Daddona
Chief Master Sgt. Gay Veale, command chief master sergeant of the 11th Air Force, receives a lesson from Senior Airman Shawn Hewitt about the proper way to detonate a bomb at the William N. Newman Explosive Ordnance Disposal facility July 29 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Kaitlin Daddona
Chief Master Sgt. Gay Veale, command chief master sergeant of the 11th Air Force (right), Talks with Airmen from the 15th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, July 27, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. During the visit, Veale meet with junior enlisted, noncommissioned officers and senior noncommissioned officers as well as wing, group and squadron leadership to discuss the unique joint base structure here.

Ho'okele to begin newspaper survey Aug. 14

Ho'okele Staff

Ho'okele readers will have an opportunity to participate in a survey and also have a chance to win some great prizes.

The eight questions on the survey will provide some helpful feedback to the staff of Ho'okele and give us some ideas to help improve the newspaper. We would like to hear from you. What is your favorite section of the newspaper? What is your least favorite section? What do you think we could do better?

We appreciate your taking the time to participate in the survey and give us some valu-

able feedback. Visit www.hookelenews.com to complete the survey. Only one survey should be completed per person.

Prizes have been provided by our publisher, the Honolulu Star Advertiser, and by the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange. These include a \$200 NEX gift card offered by our publisher and a gift basket filled with goodies from the Pearl Harbor NEX.

The survey will begin Aug. 14 and continue through Sept. 4.

So please take a few minutes to answer the survey. We would love to hear from you. Mahalo nui loa!



HO'OKELE Online

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



Commentary

Red Hill Fuel Facility is national strategic asset

Rear Adm. John Fuller

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. John V. Fuller

Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility is a safe, reliable and modernized facility; the Navy is absolutely committed to keeping our drinking water safe.

All of our families drink water from the same aquifers. We test water regularly, and it continues to meet or exceed federal and state drinking water quality standards.

Recently, the Environmental Protection Agency and State Department of Health held a public com-

ment period to hear from citizens. During that time, out of respect for the process, the Navy refrained from speaking publicly. Now that the comment period is over, we

are grateful for the opportunity to discuss the issues.

The Red Hill fuel facility is a national strategic asset, still essential for providing the fuel necessary to defend our nation, safeguard our national interests and support humanitarian missions overseas. When your military operates overseas, our forward presence ensures open sea lanes and the free flow of commerce to Hawaii, the mainland and beyond.

Although the facility was built 70 years ago, we have routinely upgraded it and it has state-of-the-art communication and inventory management systems. Each of the 20 fuel tanks was constructed with steel plates, backed by 2.5 to four feet of reinforced concrete and another six to eight inches of gunite, all surrounded by Red Hill's basalt rock.

Since 2006, the Navy and Defense Logistics Agency invested more than \$145 million to modernize Red

Hill and for environmental testing, and we plan to invest another \$70 million in upgrades. This does not include any additional work that would be required by regulators through the Administrative Order on Consent.

Because of its location, Red Hill is a unique facility protected from both physical and cyber-attack. Inside the facility we use state-of-the-art machinery, and we employ dozens of cameras for around-the-clock surveillance and security.

We test groundwater at several locations, conduct routine drinking supply compliance sampling, and submit test results to regulatory agencies for review and evaluation. We are committed to putting in more groundwater monitoring wells, as necessary, in coordination with DOH and EPA.

The January 2014 leak in tank 5 was found to be the result of faulty work by our

contractor. Since then we have put in place new guidelines, processes and procedures, and we increased our oversight for contractor workmanship. Bottom line: We have instituted rigorous new safeguards to prevent a future fuel loss.

Tank 5 remains empty, and all tanks are passing industry standard tightness testing.

The Navy is continuing to work closely with EPA, DOH and community stakeholders. Since 2014 we have welcomed increased inspections at Red Hill, including oversight tours and familiarization visits with community leaders and elected officials.

I thank the community for your understanding and patience. We take responsibility for any environmental impacts the Red Hill fuel facility may have caused, and we are committed to keeping the community informed – with the facts. Your Navy is working

diligently toward a future with no reliance on fossil fuels – supporting the use of more renewables and moving forward to sustainable and reliable alternative energy sources.

Until that day, we are committed to energy security and the safe use of fossil fuels. Until we can move completely to a greener alternative, we must maintain Red Hill as part of our national defense strategy.

Our Navy is fully committed to environmental stewardship. And our non-negotiable priority remains keeping our drinking water safe.

(For more information about Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, visit <http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrh/om/environmental/red-hill-tank.html>.)

For more information about the Department of the Navy's approach to energy, environment and climate change visit <http://greenfleet.dodlive.mil/>)

Diverse Views



What do you do to conserve water at your home or work?



Ralph Custudio
Morale, Welfare and Recreation
Pearl Harbor

"While I'm taking a shower at home, I turn off the water when I'm applying soap, shampoo and conditioner. I just use the water to soak and rinse myself.

At work our facility uses automatic stop faucets. Press a button and it will dispense water for five seconds, and then turn off so you don't forget to turn it off."

Col. David (Bull) Kirkendall
613th Air Operations Center



"We limit our usage by being conservation conscious. Short showers, limiting use of water consuming appliances, and limiting the times we wash our vehicles. Also, we ensure there aren't any leaking faucets or running toilets. You'd be amazed how much water we lose to seemingly small things."



Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Aviana Parr
Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 37

"While brushing my teeth, instead of letting the water continuously run, I turn it off until I'm done."

Senior Airman Maresa Miessler
65th Airlift Squadron



"I only use what is necessary and make sure to turn the faucet off when I'm not actively using the water."



Operations Specialist Jasmine Bencid
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

"I just turn it off when I'm not using it."

Staff Sgt. Mavis Jones
HQ PACAF



"Water conservation is definitely important. I usually focus on conserving when it comes to washing dishes, brushing my teeth, or washing my clothes by not leaving the water running, or doing laundry once a week."



Master Sgt. Scott Pacheco
15th Medical Group

"We regularly try to conserve water by limiting the amount of time my family take showers and just general smart use."

Provided by MCI 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



U.S. Navy photo by MCI Nardel Gervacio

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.

First female line officer takes oath



U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command photograph

Mildred H. McAfee takes the oath of office on Aug. 3, 1942 at the Navy Department to become the first female line officer. She is commissioned a lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve and simultaneously undertakes the duties of being the first director of the newly established WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). Administering the oath is Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox. Looking on are Adm. Ernest J. King, chief of naval operations and commander in chief U.S. Fleet (left), and Rear Adm. Randall Jacobs, chief of naval personnel (right).

HO'okele

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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USNS Mercy completes PP15 mission in Roxas City, Philippines

MC3 Mayra A. Conde

Pacific Partnership Public Affairs

ROXAS CITY, Philippines—The hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) departed Roxas City, Philippines, Aug. 2 after completing a 16-day mission stop for Pacific Partnership 2015.

During the first stop of the Philippines mission, U.S., partner nations, and host nation service members and non-governmental organizations conducted subject matter expert exchanges, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief symposiums, engineering projects, veterinary events and provided direct medical care in the Capiz Province.

“Being compassionate and helpful is natural to human beings,” said Victor A. Tanco Sr., governor of the province of Capiz, during a reception held aboard Mercy.

“So despite diversities and differences, there is always a place in our hearts for others and especially to those who have less in life. Maybe our differences are God’s way of reminding us not to be selfish and instead to share our countless blessings with others. I’m referring to Pacific Partnership 2015 serving as a true example of excellence in humanitarian service,” Tanco said.

The mission in Roxas City saw an increase in the number of partner nations involved in the mission with Japan, Korea and Malaysia joining the U.S., Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines.

“For our dentists, this was probably one of the ports with the best partnering in terms of having the most number of partner dentists that [our personnel] worked with,” said



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Trevor Andersen

An MH-60S Seahawk helicopter from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 21 lands on the hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) July 21 for refueling.

Cmdr. Marion Henry, Mercy’s director of surgical services

“They brought partners on board to the dental clinic here on Mercy, and taking care of patients together working side-by-side there was a high level of partnership and exchange,” Henry said.

Henry said the same side-by-side interaction also occurred during surgical procedures and nursing services provided to patients.

“Similarly in the operating rooms, we had not just Philippine surgeons, but we had a large number of surgeons from our other partner nations. We had Japanese and Koreans

working with us, so that almost every surgical procedure had a multinational surgical team there,” said Henry. “Additionally, the Filipino nurses who came on board to be our translators and to work with us in all areas were extremely helpful and very involved. They had a high level of nursing skill and medical knowledge, so they were a delight to work with.”

Engineers from the U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Japan Self Defense Force built a school building from the ground up. In addition, engineers from the Navy, Air Force and Armed Forces of

the Philippines built a health center and refurbished three school buildings that were damaged during Typhoon Yolanda in 2013.

“Your sincerest endeavors reflect that we do not have to be in office to render assistance to others,” Tanco said.

“Rather, we only have to be emphatic and show our love and compassion through utmost dedication and earnest commitment in service. Your humanitarian assistance, which primarily reached the less fortunate Capizenos, made a difference in their perception of life because of your commitment to uplift the lives of others. You

motivated us to hope, to dream, and to realize the beauty of sharing and loving as well as it inspired us to have a positive outlook on life. As this mission draws to a close, the provincial government of Capiz would deeply like to thank you for being a partner in this mission to uplift the people of Capiz,” he said.

Mercy will continue to its next mission stop in Subic Bay, Philippines and then proceed to Vietnam.

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 to date have provided medical care to approximately 270,000 patients and veterinary services to more than 38,000 animals. Additionally, PP15 has provided critical infrastructure development to host nations through the completion of more than 180 engineering projects.

Non-governmental organizations participating are Project Hope, Operation Smile, Latter Day Saints Charities, University of California San Diego, University of Virginia, University of Hawaii, Project Handclasp and World Vets.

Johnson takes reins as DESRON 31 changes command



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Laurie Dexter

Capt. Christopher J. Bushnell, commander, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31, left, speaks during a change of command ceremony Aug. 4 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. During the ceremony, Capt. Charles A. Johnson relieved Bushnell as commander of DESRON 31.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Laurie Dexter

Capt. Charles Johnson, left, reports to Rear Adm. John V. Fuller, commander of U.S. Navy Region Hawaii, Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific, during the Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31 change of command ceremony at Joint Base.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



(Left) Lt. Col. Jason L. Musser (center), assumes command of the 15th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, July 30, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Col. Christopher T. Paige (left), commander, 15th Medical Group, officiates at the ceremony as Lt. Col. Robert B. Woolley (right) relinquishes command.

U.S. Air Force photo by David D. Underwood, Jr.

(Below) Members of the 15th Wing attend the 15th Maintenance Group change of command ceremony July 28 at JBPHH. Col. Randy Huijs, 15th Wing commander, presided over the ceremony as Col. Robert Copes assumed command of the 15th MXG from Col. David Pastore.

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



(Left) A training combat delivery system is dropped out of a C-17 Globemaster III over Kahuku Training Area as part of Warrior Day, a day dedicated to demonstrate the cooperation and capabilities of total force integration at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, July 31.

U.S. Air Force photo by 2nd Lt. Kaitlin Daddona

(Right) The guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), front, and the guided-missile cruiser USS Mobile Bay (CG 53) take part in a show of force demonstration Aug. 4. The ships are part of the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group and are participating in a composite training unit exercise, the final step before being certified for deployment.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Andre T. Richard



Hickam completes Warrior Day training to demonstrate cooperation

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Aaron Oelrich

15th Wing Public Affairs

Air Force active duty and Air National Guard Airmen joined forces July 31 in a Warrior Day at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to demonstrate the cooperation and capabilities of total force integration.

The day featured the participation of 15th Wing C-17 Globemasters III and F-22 Raptors of the 199th Fight Squadron, as well as KC-10 Extenders from Travis Air Force Base, and tested the ability for the aircraft and personnel to work together to complete a mission.

"Warrior Day is a chance for all the members and different aircraft to get together and integrate," said Capt. Justin Taylor, the 535th Airlift Squadron (AS) number three aircraft lead in the five ships of C-17s.

"It gives us the opportunity to fly together to execute a common mission on a scenario that our 15th Wing put together for us," Taylor said.

The Warrior Day training schedule began with a pre-mission brief, which brought together all the participants of the training, covered all projected scenarios, and provided an overview of the day's events.

Training simulations included combat maneuvers in a hostile environment, air drops and refueling operations. It also included an engine-running crew change of three of the C-17s.

"I thought it turned out fantastic," said Maj. John Reed, a C-17 pilot and assistant director of operations at the 535th AS. "That was the most air drop sorties we've ever flown in one day at Hickam."

However, Warrior Day wasn't just a training opportunity for the flying squadron. The day also gave maintenance Airmen a chance to showcase their capabilities in a realistic training scenario.

The 15th Wing and 154th Aircraft Maintenance squadrons generated the five C-17 aircraft and the four F-22 used during the Warrior Day training.

"There is a lot of preparation put into each aircraft for something like Warrior Day," said Tech. Sgt. Ryan Barlowe, 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron expeditor. "It is more than just the Airmen launching that morning. It takes about 24 hours of preparation to get the aircraft ready to fly."

Warrior Day concluded as the last aircraft was inspected by the Airmen of the maintenance squadrons.

"I think Warrior Day is beneficial," Barlowe said. "It shows our capabilities to generate aircraft, and it is cool to watch five jets take off at the same time and know that you played a part in that. I know my Airmen feel the same way."

(Top) Aircrew from the 535th Airlift Squadron conduct a pre-mission briefing on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam July 31.

(Right) A C-17 Globemaster III from the 535th Airlift Squadron flies over the north shore of the island of Oahu, July 31. Air Force active duty and Air National Guard Airmen joined forces in a Warrior Day to demonstrate the cooperation and capabilities of total force integration. Training simulations included combat maneuvers in a hostile environment, air drops, and refueling operations. It also included an engine-running crew change of three of the C-17s.



Pearl Harbor Visitor Center to offer alternate fireworks viewing area

National Park Service

The National Park Service will open the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center grounds on the night of Aug. 15 to provide an alternate location for the public

to view the world-class Nagaoka fireworks display planned to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II in the Pacific.

The fireworks display will be launched from Ford

Island and is the culmination of "70 Years of Peace" events planned by the U.S. Navy, City of Nagaoka (Japan), and the City and County of Honolulu. The events are intended to remember those who lost

their lives in World War II and to extend a hand of friendship and peace.

On Aug. 15, the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center will close temporarily at 5 p.m. and will re-open at 5:30 p.m. The fireworks will

begin at 8 p.m.

Music for the fireworks will be broadcast live on radio station 105.1 KINE. The Pearl Harbor Visitor Center will close to the public after the fireworks show ends at approximately 8:30 p.m.

This event is free and open to the public.

Strict security measures prohibit purses, handbags, fanny packs, backpacks, camera bags, diaper bags, luggage and/or other items that offer concealment. Visitors may bring cameras, cell phones and wallets and are encouraged to pack lightly.

Picnic dinners are welcome. Guest should plan to pack meals in clear plastic bags. Blankets and chairs are welcome, but umbrellas and alcohol are not.

(For more information, visit the event website at www.cnic.navy.mil/70years_ofpeace or National Park Service at www.nps.gov/valr.)

PACAF commander engages Kadena Airmen, families

**Airman 1st Class
John Linzmeier**

18th Wing Public Affairs

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan—The Pacific Air Forces commander, Gen. Lori Robinson, visited Kadena Air Base, Aug. 2 through 4, to spend time with the men and women who make up Team Kadena and to better understand the base's capabilities, quality of life and mission readiness.

This was Robinson's first visit to the 18th Wing since she took command in October 2014. She toured various facilities around the base to get a firsthand look at how Airmen here lay the foundation of stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region on a day-to-day basis.

"With the U.S.'s strategic focus on the Pacific, it's paramount Airmen continue to operate effectively with all their core values—integrity, service before self, and excellence in all we do," Robinson said.

During her tour, the general was able to witness those values placed into action as Kadena Airmen reacted to a mission-focused exercise, simulating a deployment for more than 200 Airmen and demonstrating the base's combat-ready capabilities.

The visit also entailed an



U.S. Air Force Gen. Lori J. Robinson, Pacific Air Forces commander, speaks to 18th Wing leaders and their spouses after a coin presentation Aug. 3 at the Kadena Officer's Club on Kadena Air Base, Japan.

all-call at the Rocker NCO Club where Robinson addressed various topics and answered questions in regard to mission readiness. She emphasized readiness begins within one's per-

sonal life and delivered her expectations.

"I expect you to be physically, mentally and emotionally fit, not just today but every day," she said.

"Take care of your fam-

ily, too. I also expect you to be ready to fight tonight. If everything at home isn't squared away, then you're not ready to fight tonight."

She also explained a strong aspect of her leader-

ship philosophy was to not be afraid to provide realistic feedback when it is needed.

"We all like to hear good news," Robinson said. "We all like to pat someone on

the back and say 'you're totally awesome and that may not always be true. If we are able to give honest, focused feedback, we'll make sure that the force we have will continue to be the best Air Force in the world.'"

Robinson highlighted the fact that Kadena's strategic location is the perfect place to foster partnerships, power projection and presence throughout this side of the globe.

As the commander of PACAF, Robinson is responsible for air operations across the Pacific and commands more than 45,000 personnel. With such a large presence being held in hosting nations, she made it clear each Airman is expected to be a reputable guest.

"Here we are in someone else's country, and we're representing the United States of America," she said.

"No matter what rank, no matter what we're doing, everyone knows we U.S. citizens, and everybody's so proud of you. But we always have to remember that with whatever we do and with what we say, we are ambassadors," Robinson said.

After Robinson departs Kadena, she will continue her tour throughout the command before returning to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

U.S. Air Force photo by Naoto Anazawa

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