

Pearl Harbor Colors honors end of WWII

MC2 Johans Chavarro

Navy Public Affairs Support
Element Detachment Hawaii

A Pearl Harbor Colors honors and heritage “morning colors” ceremony held Aug. 20 commemorated the 70th anniversary of the War in the Pacific at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument Visitor Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

Hosted by Navy Region Hawaii in coordination with the National Park Service, the theme for the ceremony was the 70th anniversary of the end of the War in the Pacific, in honor of those who have served and are currently serving the nation.

“This ceremony serves to enhance the recognition and preservation of our nation’s military history,” said Master Chief Cryptologic Technician (Collection) Ky Simpson, senior enlisted leader at Navy Information Operations Command Hawaii and master of ceremonies during the event.

“We are here to honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans and say ‘thank you’ for your service,” he said.

The ceremony also recognized



U.S. Navy photo by Agnes Tauyan

Herb Weatherwax, Pearl Harbor survivor, shares his story with CPO selectees following the Pearl Harbor Colors ceremony held Aug. 20 at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument Visitor Center at JBPHH. (Additional photos on page A-5.)

the approximate 40 chief petty officer selects who were in attendance, as they transition to the

unique leadership role of becoming a Navy chief petty officer (CPO) and continue the legacy

passed on from the generation who fought for the nation’s freedom 70 years ago.

Retired Master Chief Yeomen James “Jim” Taylor, Pearl Harbor liaison and guest speaker during the ceremony, spoke of his experiences in joining the chiefs mess and what a momentous experience it is, both professionally and personally.

“Forty-three years ago, I became a member of the CPO community,” said Taylor. “It was then, and still is today, an elite family of men and women dedicated to leading their young Sailors. In a few weeks, you will all realize all the hard work over the years has been well worth it. And those anchors you will be wearing will be part of your life, for the rest of your life.”

At 8 a.m., members of the JBPHH Honors and Ceremonies paraded the colors.

The attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 marked the beginning of the war in the Pacific, which lasted from 1941-1945, when the Japanese announced their intent to surrender Aug. 15, 1945.

“The American flag represents the ideals of our founders, the bonds that unite us all as citizens, but foremost, it represents the sacrifice of our veterans, both past and present,” said Simpson.

Hawaii products vie for entry into local commissaries

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Staff Writer, Ho’okele

According to Keith Hagenbuch, Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) executive director store operations, commissaries in Hawaii purchased nearly \$8 million from local-based brands and another \$6.5 million in locally grown fruits and vegetables last year.

With so much at stake, it’s easy to see why the American Logistics Association (ALA) Hawaii Food Show, which has been held for 18 consecutive years, has become a must-attend event for local vendors.

This year a total of 68 companies made the cut to audition their products for a slot in the lucrative commissary marketplace.

Of those 68 companies, 18 were first-timers at the annual event, which was held Aug. 18 at the Hawaii Prince Hotel, Waikiki.

“The problem is we can only get so many booths,” said Hagenbuch, who stated that quite a few vendors that try out didn’t make the cut. “There is only so much space and if you go in there, you’ll see every space is full. With 18 new ones, this could be interesting.”

Over the years, DeCA has placed more than 2,000 products in local commissaries that were originally presented at these shows.

Companies, such as Hawaii Sun Juices, Hawaiian Isle Kona Coffee and Hawaiian Host Chocolates, were introduced to our local military homes as a direct result of their participation at the food show.

Alan Skorski, a first-time vendor at this year’s food show, said besides the money-making opportunity of selling his products at the commissary, if selected, he will have the distinct pleasure of serving the brave men and women of the armed forces.

Skorski is president and owner of Megaload Chocolates, which is a unique blend of a peanut butter cup, surrounded in chocolate and topped with a variety of lip-smacking morsels, such as chocolate-chip cookie, chocolate sandwich cookie, peanut butter crunch, candy-coated-chocolate pieces and three kinds of pretzels.

“Personally, I’m a huge fan of our military,” said Skorski, whose products can be seen at www.megaloadchocolates.com. “I love our troops and to be able to contribute in any way shape or form to their wellbeing is great.”



Ryan Yamamoto, marketing specialist for Imuraya USA, Inc., points out the benefits of Mochi Coconut Ice. Coming in four flavors, chocolate, mango, strawberry and yuzu (Japanese citrus), the product is gluten free, dairy free and vegetarian friendly. (Additional photos on page A-4 and A-5.)

Hagenbuch said that what makes Hawaii commissaries different from the rest of the country is that they have to cater to a community that is much more diverse than from other DeCA zones.

Eyvinne Umemoto, store director of Pearl Harbor

Commissary, said that he is well aware of the fact and is constantly seeking other ways to serve the needs and wants of the multicultural personnel at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

“Last year, we actually reset the produce side to come up with a local produce sec-

tion,” Umemoto pointed out. “That kind of ties in with going organic as well as promote local farmers.”

Meanwhile, promoting a healthier diet is where the trend in selecting new vendors appears to be headed, said Tototua Ripley, Hickam store director. And

he is onboard with that when it comes to judging who will make the cut this year.

“We’ll look at the entire (show) and see what they (vendors) have to offer,” Ripley said. “We’re actually

See FOOD SHOW, A-4

Navy installations in Asia Pacific to participate in Citadel Pacific 2015

Navy Installations Command
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS)— Exercise Citadel Pacific 2015 (CP 15) will be conducted on Navy installations throughout the U.S. Pacific command area of responsibility, including Navy Region Hawaii, Navy Region

Japan, Joint Region Marianas and Singapore area coordinator, Aug. 25-29.

Citadel Pacific 15 is a regularly-scheduled exercise and is not in response to any specific threat. The exercise, like many other exercises installations perform throughout the year, is designed to enhance the training, readiness and capability of naval security forces to respond to

threats to Navy installations and units. This is the fourth year this exercise has been conducted.

“Training scenarios used and the responses practiced during CP 15 enable the Navy to maintain our forces at a high level of readiness,” said Bill Clark, Navy Installations Command’s exercise program director.

“The exercises are part of our

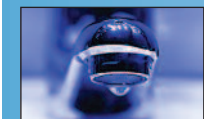
commitment to ensuring the safety of personnel, information and equipment. CP 15 will test the capabilities and implementation of antiterrorism plans, emergency preparedness, recovery and consequence management procedures in response to a series of simulated incidents across the Pacific Command area of responsibility,” Clark said.

Citadel Pacific 15 is a field

training exercise designed to establish a learning environment for participants so that response plans and operational capabilities are practiced. The exercise will also engage other shore enterprise primary mission capabilities such as fleet and family readiness, fire and emergency services, emergency preparedness and safety, which are major factors in any threat condition.



Fireworks over Pearl Harbor commemorate 70 years of peace
See pages A-2



Be mindful of water use and report waste
See page A-2



Chung-Hoon undergoes certification exercises at sea
See page A-6



Mercy, Millinocket arrive in Vietnam for Pacific Partnership
See page A-7



Biggest Little Airshow takes off at Ford Island
See page B-1



Memorial to commemorate end of World War II anniversary
See page B-2



From left to right, Adm. Scott H. Swift, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell; Tamio Mori, mayor of the city of Nagaoka, Japan; and Rear Adm. John Fuller, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific unveil a commemorative plaque during the Nagaoka-Honolulu 70 Years of Peace floral tribute and wreath presentation ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Fireworks over Pearl Harbor commemorate 70 years of peace

Story and photos by
MC2 Johans Chavarro

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element
Detachment Hawaii

Service members, families and friends joined mayors and city council members of Honolulu and Nagaoka, Japan during the Honolulu-Nagaoka 70 Years of Peace anniversary ceremonies at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on Aug. 14 and 15.

The ceremonies commemorated 70 years since the end of the World War II and the enduring commitment to peace and trust between the U.S. and Japan, as well as Pearl Harbor and Nagaoka.

The two-day event began Friday with a private wreath laying and white chrysanthemum floral tribute as those in attendance paid respects to those lost during World War II.

"The Pacific Ocean, once the source of fierce fighting, has become the lifeblood of our nations and the source of our shared peace, stability and prosperity," said Adm. Scott H. Swift, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet.

"The chief of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force, Adm. Tomo-



Service members, families and friends bow their heads during the invocation at the Nagaoka-Honolulu 70 Years of Peace floral tribute and wreath presentation ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

hisa Takei, recently summed up the impact of the resolution of the war through the intervening 70 years of stability and prosperity as transitioning an ocean of war to an ocean of peace to an ocean of prosperity," Swift said.

Focused on the pursuit of peace, Pearl Harbor and Nagaoka united as sister cities in March 2012.

"Our commitment to this truly significant and historic commemorative event is rooted in our hopes of ensuring a bright and peaceful future for the coming generations, our

appreciation for 70 years of peace, and our message to the world about the importance of peace," said Tamio Mori, Nagaoka mayor.

Rear Adm. John Fuller, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, said the ceremony served an important role in ensuring current and future generations remember the history of the war in the Pacific so as to preserve the trust and friendship that has transpired from it.

"To me, it is important

we remember our history and the foundation of our strong friendship here," said Fuller. "I was honored to have my children here and have them watch the two mayors of the two cities work together. Most importantly, I believe this demonstrates that we are much stronger together than we ever were apart. And it's so wonderful to have such honorable friends at our side."

On Aug. 15, the city of Nagaoka brought its fireworks display to Ford Island, JBPHH. The fire-

works display served to express condolences to those lost during the war in the Pacific as well as the continued pursuit of peace between the U.S. and Japan and Pearl Harbor and Nagaoka.

According to Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, the event showed how strong the U.S.-Japan friendship is, as citizens from both countries gathered side-by-side to commemorate the past.

"I think the culmination of this event is that the relationship between the Japanese people and

the American people are strong in friendship," said Caldwell.

"I saw that tonight in the crowd, people from both countries celebrating and enjoying the music. I think there was a lot of understanding without saying many words."

The attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 marked the beginning of the war in the Pacific, which lasted from 1941-1945 when the Japanese announced their intent to surrender Aug. 15, 1945.

Members of Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Hawaii perform various dances during the Nagaoka-Honolulu 70 Years of Peace commemoration on Ford Island at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Photo Illustration | U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Laurie Dexter



Be mindful of water use and report waste, leaking fixtures

Denise Emsley

Naval Facilities
Engineering Command
Hawaii Public Affairs

As the Navy's water provider on Oahu and Kauai, Naval Facilities En-

gineering Command Hawaii (NAVFAC Hawaii) asks all customers to join with our neighbors in Hawaii and the Honolulu Board of Water Supply in reducing water use and eliminating waste during this very warm summer in

Hawaii.

"NAVFAC Hawaii operates and maintains six water systems, five on Oahu and one on Kauai, that provide clean and safe potable water to Navy and Department of Defense personnel, military hous-

ing, various tenant organizations and non-federal entities," said Capt. Dean Tufts, NAVFAC Hawaii commanding officer.

"Water is a very precious resource, especially in our island environment. It is all of our responsibility to

use it wisely and never waste it," Tufts said.

Navy water users are asked to conserve water and report leaking plumbing fixtures or any broken irrigation systems to their facilities/building manager.

"My folks cannot be everywhere, so I ask for everyone's help in reporting water problems to your facilities or building manager as they have the contacts with NAVFAC Hawaii to get the issue resolved quickly," said Tufts.



Diverse Views



Which person in U.S. military history do you admire the most?



Staff Sgt. Olivia Rogers Stinson
647th Security Forces Squadron

"I admire Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog (retired) because she stood for so much and set the standard for all women and even men who serve in the military today. The thing I admire the most is the fact she was Security Forces and she held such longevity in our career field, 34 years."

Juan Rodriguez
Navy spouse



"Chris Kyle for his courage and commitment to the lives of his men."



Maj. Brian Hoelzel
HQ PACAF

"I admire Capt. Lance P. Sijan. He was brave and courageous as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. He persevered despite his injuries and paid the ultimate price."

Lt. Cmdr. Tom Henggeler
Operational Support Officer NAV-SUP FLC Pearl Harbor



"I always admired Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, not only because of his accomplishments as the supreme allied commander in WW II, but his approach to governance as the 34th president. He looked to moderation and cooperation as a means of governance."



Staff Sgt. Ryan Sofranko
HQ PACAF

I admire Gen. [Jimmy] Doolittle. The bravery and leadership that he displayed during the Doolittle Raids made him a true American hero during a time when our country needed one the most."

LS3 Dominique Brown
NAVSUP FLC Pearl Harbor Post Office



"The person I most admire in U.S. military history is Chief Yeoman Anna Dervartanian. She was the first female master chief of the Navy and as a female role model, she gave me a sense of hope that one day I could follow in her footsteps."



SFC Amanda Williams
NAVSUP FLC Pearl Harbor Navy Food Management Team

"Gen. (retired) Colin Powell. His approach to leadership led to mission accomplishment and earned him a lot of respect. His leadership style is so contagious and worth emulating. His model for leading has been utilized in training not only for the Department of Defense but companies in the civilian sector."

Mike Gladden
NAVSUP FLC Pearl Harbor



"Lt. Joseph Schmitz, Supply Corps, USN, senior supply officer, USS Paul F. Foster (DD 964) (1989 - 1991). Lt. Schmitz stood out ahead of a couple of similarly top notch caliber supply corps officers I have had the pleasure of serving with over the years."

Provided by Ensign Dorothy Wright and David D. Underwood Jr.

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Got opinions to share?

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Navy updates SAPR instruction

Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

Washington (NNS)—Navy's 21st Century Sailor Office announced Aug. 17 the release of an updated instruction governing the SAPR program.

OPNAVINST 1752.1C is the first update since 2006 and includes comprehensive changes that organize policy into more coherent format, provides updated requirements, and emphasizes the importance of the prevention of sexual assault.

The information aligns with the National Defense Authorization Acts for Fiscal Years 2007 through 2014 requirements and Department of Defense policy and mandates.

Additionally, the revision contains updates relating to safety assessment requirements, SAPR training requirements, retaliation initiatives, Reserve Component services, and availability of the Victims' Legal Counsel program for adult sexual assault victims within the Navy.

The document incorporates many of the changes that have already been implemented through the use of NAVADMINs and, as a result, cancels 10 naval messages dating back to 2009.

It can be read in its entirety at the following link: <http://www.navy.mil/docs/OPNAVINST-1752-1C.pdf>.



U.S. Navy photo

Leaders celebrate peace



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Laurie Dexter

From center to right, Tamio Mori, mayor of the city of Nagaoka, Japan, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, and Rear Adm. John Fuller, commander of U.S. Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific, take turns answering questions during a press conference following the Nagaoka-Honolulu 70 Years of Peace commemoration on Ford Island at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (Additional photos on page A-2.)

Lockheed Lightning at Hickam

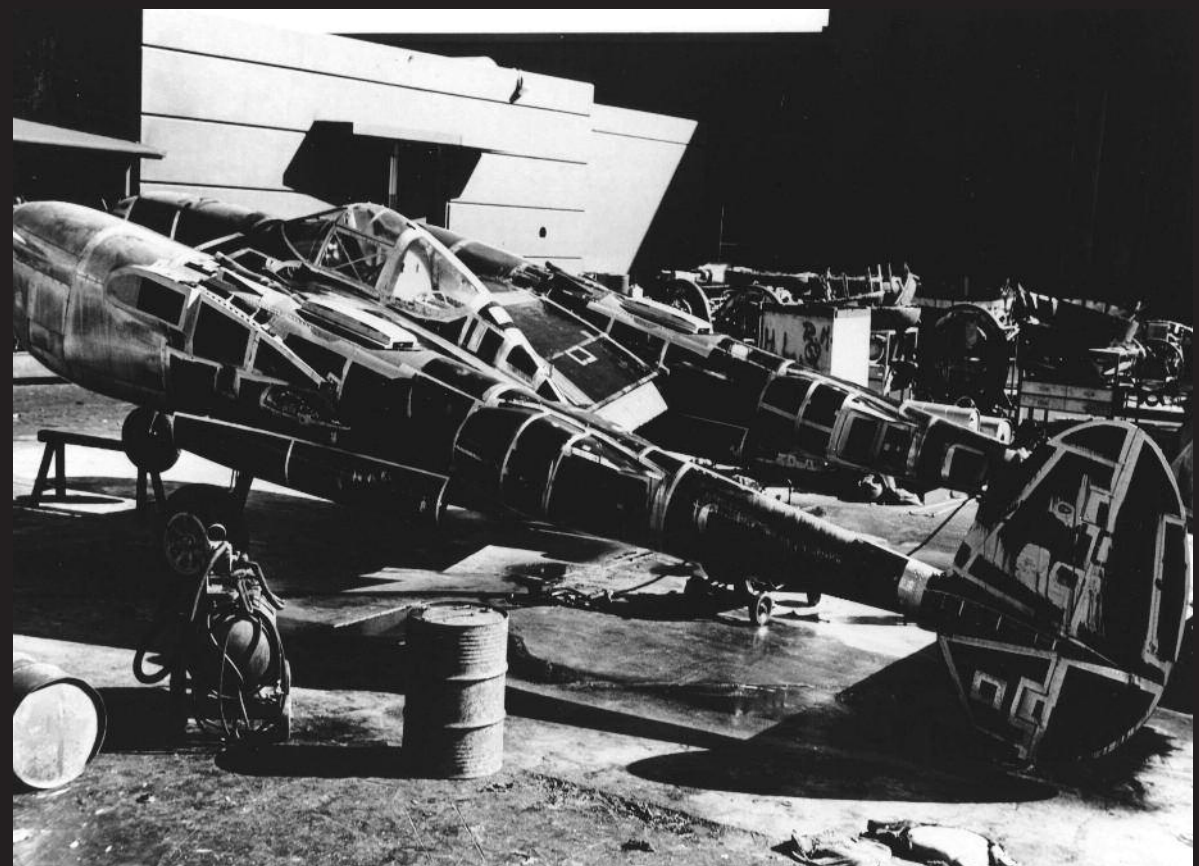


Photo courtesy of Hawaii Department of Transportation

Lockheed P-38 Lightning aircraft are shown here at the former Hickam Field in August 1944 (71 years ago this month) before their wings and engines were installed.

HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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Capt. Mark Manfredi

Commander, Joint Base
Pearl Harbor-Hickam
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U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Class Brian G. Reynolds

The Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Santa Fe (SSN 763) prepares to moor at Fleet Activities Yokosuka.

USS Santa Fe visits Japan

USS Santa Fe Public Affairs

FLEET ACTIVITIES YOKOSUKA, Japan - The Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Santa Fe (SSN 763), homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, arrived Aug. 17 at Yokosuka, Japan for a visit as a part of its deployment to the western Pacific.

With a crew of approximately 150, Santa Fe will conduct a multitude of missions and showcase the endurance and flexibility of the submarine fleet.

"Santa Fe is proud to contribute to the [U.S.] 7th Fleet commander's initiatives," said Cmdr. Timothy Poe, Santa Fe's commanding officer.

Santa Fe is making its second deployment to the western Pacific in the last three years. Combining stealth, fire power and persistence to remain on station indefinitely, Santa Fe is crucial to the U.S.

Navy's, and its allies,' underwater dominance in the region.

"This port call is important to the crew of the Santa Fe as a well-deserved reward for their hard work and dedication over the last several months," said Senior Chief Electronics Technician Juan Gonzalez, the chief of the boat aboard Santa Fe.

"The crew has been put through their paces and has stood tall and strong through all challenges. This is also a great opportunity to show military presence and foster a stronger relationship between our two countries," he said.

Measuring more than 360 feet long and weighing more than 6,000 tons when submerged, Santa Fe is one of the stealthiest submarines in the world. This submarine is capable of supporting a multitude of missions. Commissioned on Jan. 8, 1994, Santa Fe is the 52nd ship of the Los Angeles-class.



Not just food products, but other handy items were at the show as well. Here a representative from Electronic Management Supply Services, Inc. demonstrates a mini multi-function power and inflation tool.

ALA Hawaii Food Show

Continued from A-1

down there with the customers and we listen to what they have to say."

Also there taking in all of the excitement of seeing the many vendors was retired Sen. Daniel Akaka, who first proposed the idea of a food show here in Hawaii to the ALA and DeCA.

Akaka has attended every one of the 18 food shows that were held in Hawaii. "I give all the

credit to ALA and DeCA," Akaka humbly said.

"I worked at that time with Rick Page, who was the manager of DeCA here. I was trying to get the commissaries to use more local farmers, producers and vendors.

"My heart has always been with the military and their families. The commissaries, to me, can help bring the spirits of the families to life," he said.

Pat Nixon, president of ALA, pointed the finger

right back at the senator for having the vision of what the show has become today.

"Doing business with the government 18 years ago was, you needed an accountant, you needed a law firm to help you fill out the forms," Nixon said.

"But the senator said, 'There's a way to do this.' You can't overlook the vision that the senator had. Way back then, it started off with an idea and it has grown into this."

A corpsman to call on

MC2 Marcus L. Stanley

John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group
Public Affairs

PACIFIC OCEAN (NNS)—There are more than 300 Sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93). All play an important role in accomplishing the ship's mission, and many of those Sailors perform at a level higher than their current pay-grade.

So when Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Andrew Watson heard Cmdr. Tom Ogden, Chung-Hoon's commanding officer, call him forward as HM2 Andrew Watson during an awards ceremony on the ship's mess deck Aug. 2, it came as a shock to the Los Angeles native, who only saw himself as someone who does his job.

"I love my job, and I never really expected to be rewarded for doing what's asked of me," said Watson. "That night, I remember him [commanding officer] making a speech about the meritorious advancement program. Then he looked directly at me and said, 'HM2 Watson.'"

At that very moment, things changed for Watson. The first change was he was now out of uniform. He recalls the conversation that his leading chief petty officer, Chief Hospital Corpsman Banny Chavez, had with him, as Chavez pinned the new shiny second-class insignia on his collar.

"He congratulated me and told me he was proud of me," said Watson. "Then he told me to always remember those who helped me along the way. He encouraged me to always keep pushing higher."

As Watson stood there on the mess deck as a proud new second class petty officer, the crew of 'Hawaii's Destroyer' gathered around him, shook his hand and congratulated him on his new promotion; however, Watson had only one thing on his mind.

"I just wanted to go pray and thank God for blessing me," said Watson. "After everyone congratulated me, I went up to the crew training room and prayed and shed a few tears. I couldn't believe I had just been chosen for meritorious advancement."

The meritorious advancement program (MAP) is part of the Navy's ongoing talent management initiative that empowers the command triad to advance their top performing junior enlisted Sailors to the next higher pay grade when they are ready for the next level of responsibility.

"The meritorious advancement program is one of those great privileges I have as a commanding officer," said Ogden. "It's Sailors like Petty Officer Watson who make me wish I had more opportunities to advance more of our great Sailors who are performing at such a high level."

That performance is something in which he has always taken pride. Watson said. Having held fast to the valuable lessons taught to him by his dad, who was also a Sailor, Watson refers to his passion for having a good work ethic simply as doing what he is told to do.

"I'm just doing what is expected of every Sailor," said Watson. "My dad taught me some very important things that I apply to what I do every day. He always spoke about attention to detail. He'd say, nothing in life can counter that; it applies



Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Andrew Watson

to everything in life. My dad would also say that. It's never a matter of not having enough time, it's about what will you make time for."

As a hospital corpsman, Watson's job centers on taking care of people, and the newly frocked HM2 has a unique perspective of his fellow Sailors aboard DDG 93.

"To me they're not just my co-workers and shipmates," said Watson, "I have 300 people on the ship who are my patients. I want them to be confident and comfortable in knowing that if they come in for something, I will do my best to take care of them and make sure they get better."

Though Watson's promotion may have come as a shock to him, Fire Controlman 1st Class Cameron Robinson said he had a feeling all along that Watson would get the promotion.

"It was simple for me to see," said Robinson. "When you have someone like HM2 who puts his heart into everything he does, it was easy to know that he would be the one promoted. It's good to know his hard work is paying off for him. I think everybody knew it was going to be Watson."

The Sailors of DDG 93 are currently underway for composite training unit exercise and joint task force exercise (COMPTUEX/JTFEX), the final step in certifying to deploy, and Watson said now is not the time for him to get complacent but to continue striving for the top.

"I'm focused on HM1 now," said Watson. "I've already begun looking at the [bibliographies] for the HM1 exam - looking at what the Navy is looking for from a first-class petty officer in the hospital corpsman rate. I'm also in college right now because I want to become a physician assistant through the Navy's [enlisted commissioning] program."

Watson added that since he is now an HM2, the workload only gets heavier. He also stated that he will be forever grateful that the chain of command decided to make him an HM2 and that they may never know how much it truly means to him.

(For more information on the day-to-day events aboard USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), visit the DDG 93 page on Facebook.)

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Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

Retired Master Chief Yeomen James "Jim" Taylor, Pearl Harbor survivors liaison, delivers remarks during a Pearl Harbor Colors honors and heritage ceremony Aug. 20 at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument Visitor Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Johans Chavarro



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Johans Chavarro

Navy chief petty officers and chief petty officer selectees stand at parade rest during a Pearl Harbor Colors honors and heritage ceremony Aug. 20.



Sailors assigned to the Pacific Fleet Band perform during the Aug. 20 Pearl Harbor Colors ceremony.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Johans Chavarro

Sharon Zambo-Fan, ALA Hawaii show co-chair, chats with Sen. Daniel Akaka during the opening ceremonies of the ALA Food Show. Akaka is credited with pitching the idea of the food show 18 years ago.

U.S. Navy photo by Randy Dela Cruz



Chung-Hoon undergoes certification exercises at sea



(Clockwise beginning at left): The guided missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) fires its Mk-45 five-inch gun during an integrated live-fire exercise. The John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group is undergoing a composite training unit exercise and joint task force exercise, the final step in certifying to deploy. (At top right): An MH-60R Sea Hawk from the Paniolos of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HMS-37) unloads supplies during a vertical replenishment (VERTREP) on Chung-Hoon. (At bottom right): Sailors aboard Chung-Hoon handle a line while conducting an underway replenishment (UNREP). (Bottom): An MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter prepares to land on Chung-Hoon.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ryan J. Batchelder



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Marcus L. Stanley



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ryan J. Batchelder



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Ryan J. Batchelder

Women's Equality Day event planned for Aug. 26 at JBPHH

A Women's Equality Day event will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Aug. 26 at Makai Recreation Center, 1859 McChord St., building 1859 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Capt. Stanley Keeve Jr., commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, will deliver the opening remarks.

Discussion will focus on the right to vote. Participants can learn how to get registered to vote and cast their ballot in voting

booths for a chance to win the grand prize. Light refreshments will be provided.

The event is designed to recognize the continuous achievements of all Americans to American culture and increase awareness, mutual respect and understanding.

On Aug. 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote was certified as part of the U.S. Constitution.

Referred to as the Susan B. Anthony Amend-

ment, it states, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

The U.S. Congress designated Aug. 26 as "Women's Equality Day" in 1971 to honor women's continuing effort toward equality.

For more information, email Master Sgt. Shakila Grate at shakila.grate@us.af.mil or Master Sgt. Marisa Turner at marisa.turner@us.af.mil.

Slow down for long-distance aviators

Becky Hommon

Navy Region Hawaii,
Environmental Counsel

Welcome home to our returning long-distance aviators, the Pacific golden plover, locally known as the kolea.

We know it's August because, one by one, these long-legged over-ocean flyers are making their way some 3,000 miles from their summer nesting sites in Alaska and other northern locales back to their chosen Hawaii lawns.

Looking a little bedraggled and scruffy, they are working hard to replenish their weakened bodies. Feeding intently on worms and bugs, these skilled navigators, protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, may not notice that they have drifted into traffic. Please slow down for them as they have been away and are once again not used to urban life and traffic.

Dr. Cory Campora, natural resources manager



U.S. Navy photo

A kolea is back in Hawaii after returning from northern locales.

for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, noted that these migratory birds may be decreasing in number due to rising sea levels and habitat pressures. He said that their 3,000-mile/3-day flight may be the longest non-stop migration of any birds.

"They can be so focused on chasing an insect, they won't notice that they're in the middle of the road,"

Campora said.

If your ears haven't yet tuned to the call of these very special birds, watch for them in the evening. They make a two-tone distinctive chirp as they take flight. You can marvel at their navigational skills and enjoy their signaling call until next tax day or mid-April when they will once again head north to nest and lay their eggs.

Welcome home, kolea!

STORY IDEAS?

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

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HO'OKELE
PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

Mercy, Millinocket arrive in Vietnam for Pacific Partnership

MC3 Mayra A. Conde

Pacific Partnership Public Affairs

DA NANG, Vietnam - The hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) and joint high speed vessel USNS Millinocket (JHSV 3) arrived Aug. 17 in Da Nang, Vietnam for their last mission stops of Pacific Partnership 2015.

While in Da Nang, U.S. and partner nation service members as well as non-governmental organizations will work together to conduct subject matter expert exchanges on various medical and disaster relief topics, dental engagements, and engineering civic action programs. Personnel aboard both ships will also have the opportunity to volunteer for community outreach events.

"A significant portion of what we're going to be doing in Vietnam is subject matter expert exchange," said Royal Australian Navy Cmdr. Ken Walters.

"It will be relating to disaster medicine, disaster preparedness and all the other



U.S. Navy photo by MCI Carla Burdt

Capt. Chris Engdahl, right, mission commander of Pacific Partnership 2015; Capt. James Meyer, center, the mission's deputy commander; and Capt. Thomas Giudice, master of the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), greet representatives from the Da Nang People's Committee.

associated items which will provide the Vietnamese community with the wherewithal to sustain themselves in events of a catastrophe," Walters said.

The mission in Vietnam will culminate in a disaster medicine drill where both U.S. and Vietnamese medical personnel will participate

both on and off Mercy.

"[The drill] will have about 50 casualties," said Walters. "Part of that will be an element that will happen aboard Mercy, where casualties will come from ashore and be brought here, and we will take the Vietnamese health providers through and show them how we run a

mass casualty and evacuation drill."

According to Capt. Melanie Merrick, the commanding officer of Medical Treatment Facility Mercy, the mission in Vietnam will focus on sharing ideas and furthering an understanding of the response capabilities in the host nation should a disaster strike.

"I expect that the crew aboard Mercy will be impressed with the sophistication and cutting-edge technology of the Vietnamese medical system," said Merrick. "I am looking forward to our discussions on disaster response as we develop the disaster drill, and I think we will learn new techniques from our Vietnamese partners in how to be better prepared for coastal disasters."

"Having lived along the east coast of the United States for many years, I know the threat of a hurricane is ever present, and I look forward to learning from our Vietnamese partners in how they have adopted a coastal response plan," she said.

Other engagements for the PP15 crew on this mis-

sion stop include orthopedic surgical cases, where Navy surgeons will work side-by-side with the host nation health providers.

"The surgical engagement in Vietnam will include some highly specialized surgical operations onboard Mercy, which will be conducted side-by-side with Vietnamese and U.S. Navy orthopedic surgeons," said Merrick.

"We have carefully planned these procedures of hip and knee replacements and are fortunate to have the non-governmental organization Project Hope sending their volunteers to assist with the care of the Vietnamese patients."

Additionally, U.S. Navy Seabees from Amphibious Construction Battalion One and U.S. Air Force "Red Horse" engineers will help renovate three medical buildings in Da Nang, as well as renovate bathrooms at a disadvantaged children's center.

Also, the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band has a full schedule of public performances in Da Nang, including several at the city's famed "Dragon Bridge."

"This is the sixth time the U.S. has visited Vietnam in the 10 years we have been conducting Pacific Partnership. The visit by Mercy and Millinocket to Vietnam also coincides with the 20th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam," said Capt. Christopher Engdahl, the mission commander for Pacific Partnership 2015.

"We look forward to working with our Vietnamese partners to fully understand the dynamics of preparing for disaster relief in this modern urban environment and furthering the partnership between our nations," he said.

"We are thrilled to conduct another Pacific Partnership mission in Vietnam," said Capt. James Meyer, commodore of Task Force Forager embarked aboard Millinocket. "Task Force Forager personnel will unite with USNS Mercy personnel and engage with local communities to improve capability, build relationships, and exercise our collective ability to respond to a natural disaster."



U.S. Navy photo by MCI Trevor Andersen

Third Officer Randy Stambaugh with the Military Sealift Command explains the navigation system of the hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) to Vietnamese media during a tour.



The hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) sits at anchor upon its arrival off the coast of Da Nang, Vietnam for Pacific Partnership 2015.

U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Valerie Eppler