

Congresswoman Gabbard tours Red Hill facility



Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02) visited the Navy's Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility on Aug. 25. Sen. Mazie Hirono also visited the facility June 30. Sen. Brian Schatz and Congressman Mark Takai toured the Red Hill facility Aug. 26.

Photos by Erika Tsuji

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Rear Adm. John Fuller, commander, Navy Region Hawaii, and Capt. Ken Epps, commanding officer of Fleet Logistics Command

Pearl Harbor, hosted U.S. Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard Aug. 25 for a familiarization visit to the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. Gabbard's office released photos to the media Aug. 26.

According to information provided to the media from Gabbard's office: "Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02) visited the Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility this morning where she received a briefing, observed the control center, and

toured the tunnels and storage tank facilities. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the storage tanks, the structure and the control systems, examining the integrity of the tanks and what actions are required to

ensure the protection of Oahu's water supply." According to Fuller, in a recent OpEd piece: "Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility is a safe, reliable and modernized facility; the Navy is absolutely committed to

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

Pacific Fleet master chief visits waterfront

Story and photo by MC2 Laurie Dexter

Navy Public Affairs Support Element Detachment Hawaii

U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief Susan Whitman paid a visit to the Sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyers USS Hopper (DDG 70) and USS Michael Murphy (DDG112), Aug. 19 and 20, respectively.

Whitman, who assumed the duties as the 17th fleet master chief for the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Aug 13, greeted Sailors individually as she encountered them throughout the ships and gave them an opportunity to voice any concerns they have about the Navy.

"Any time I visit a command, I want to show that I care about the Sailors and their health and welfare," said Whitman. "Today, the Sailors were happy; they're motivated."

Throughout her visits, she asked Sailors the question, "If there was one thing you could change—if you were in charge—what would it be?"

"Some did not like the PFA standards; some wanted different working hours," said Whitman. "At the end of the day, at least the Sailors are able to tell leadership what's on their



minds, and we can take it back and fight the good fight for them."

Master Chief Adrian McCown, command master chief of Michael Murphy, said it was a great opportunity to welcome a fleet master chief on the ship to speak with the Sailors.

"The younger folks seeing the enlisted senior leadership—especially the force and fleet level who come down, take an interest in them and ask them questions—to take back suggestions—is something that keeps them motivated," said McCown.

"It also helps keep us old folks, who have been institutionalized, thinking of different ways to improve ourselves and the ship."

Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Chance Boyer, assigned to Hopper, said he was appreciative of the visit.

"It makes me feel good," said Boyer. "It lets us know she can talk one-on-one with us at the deck plates. It shows she wants to get to know her Sailors."

U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief Susan Whitman (second from left), meets with Sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) during a tour of the ship at JBPHH



Pearl Harbor chief selectees put damage control skills to test
See pages A-2



Team PAX named 'Top Dawgs' in first JBPHH Port Dawg Rodeo
See page A-4



Wounded Warrior Regatta kicks off OceanFest
See page B-1



Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard graduates 92 apprentices
See page A-2



POW/MIA Memorial Week events set for Sept. 14-18
See page A-7



Event to honor fallen service members
See page B-6

Pearl Harbor chief selectees put damage control skills to test

Story and photo by
MC1 Jason Swink

Submarine Force Pacific
Fleet Public Affairs

Chief petty officer (CPO) selectees competed in a Damage Control (DC) Challenge on the Pearl Harbor waterfront Aug. 20. The challenge was sponsored by the Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC) Chief Petty Officers Association.

The competition gave CPO selectees from local commands a chance to train and test their knowledge and practical skills in a friendly competition.

"This event was set up for the newly selected chief petty officers to inspire teamwork through casualty procedures and make sure everyone is working together properly," said Chief Machinist's Mate Corey Murphy from the Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS North Carolina (SSN 777).

Murphy judged the teams participating in pipe patching drills. Much of the focus was on safety procedures, proficiency with different types of



Chief (selectee) Sonar Technician Chris Haws (left) from Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC) staff and Chief (selectee) Logistics Specialist Mike Traczynski, assigned to the Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS North Carolina (SSN 777), apply a patch to a simulated ruptured pipe during a damage control challenge hosted by COMSUBPAC's Chief Petty Officers Association at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (Additional photo on page A-5.)

pipe patching equipment, and, most importantly, the ability to communicate as a team, according to Murphy.

"They need to be able to work as a team," Murphy said. "If they can't work as a team, there is no task they can complete effectively."

Competition involved events such as emergency medical assist teams, safety and rescue-carrying a 175-pound training

mannequin, pipe-patching of ruptured pipes with pressurized water spraying out, setting up and running an electrical sub-

mersible pump for dewatering, and numerous other firefighting simulations with real equipment.

"This is about teamwork," said Chief-select Electrician's Mate Greg Rosenthal, stationed aboard the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Olympia (SSN 717).

"We all have different levels of experience and different backgrounds," he said. "We all have to come together and share our experiences and come out on top."

Sailors were outfitted with firefighting gear and donned air bottles in the 90-degree heat to complete more than half of the challenges.

"My favorite part is getting sprayed with the hose because it's really hot out," said Chief-select Culinary Specialist Joe Nicholson, who serves on the COMSUBPAC staff. "I would rather do chief induction season in the winter."

Despite the high temperatures, the DC Challenge provided Sailors with valuable training designed to enhance their skills and abilities in performing their missions at sea and ashore.

10 new local vendors gain selling rights in commissary

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Staff Writer, Ho'okele

The recent 18th Annual American Logistics Association (ALA) Hawaii Food Show created quite a stir among local merchants and vendors hoping to sell their products in the lucrative commissary marketplace.

A total of 68 companies, 18 first-timers, pitched their products at the event, which was held at the Waikiki Prince Hotel on Aug. 18.

After the show closed, vendors eagerly crossed their fingers and waited patiently for the announcement that could change their lives forever.

While some were disappointed at not making the cut, the event selected enough items to appear on the commissary shelves

that would make this year's food show a big success.

Of the 18 new vendors, a total of 10 vendors were chosen to sell their products in the local commissary system for the very first time.

Among the companies that military shoppers can look for soon are: Tiki Candy Company, Punalu'u Bake Shop, Big Island sweet breads and candy goods, Maui chocolate bar and Imuraya mochi coconut frozen dessert.

Like many of the new products selected for sale in the commissary, Imuraya mochi is a creation that is not only delicious, but also suitable for health-conscious families and diets.

According to company representatives, the frozen dessert not only tastes great, but is also gluten-free, dairy-free and vegetarian friendly, while being



Punalu'u Bake Shop, a bakery from the Big Island, passed the taste test at the ALA Food Show and has been given a go to sell its products in the local commissaries for the very first time.

made in the USA. "This is a great opportunity for us," said Ryan Ya-

mamoto, Imuraya marketing specialist. "I love the chance to work with the

commissaries. We have what it takes to keep up (production)."

Although healthy is a key selling point, Yamamoto said that the product's flavor sells itself.

"Taste first and foremost," Yamamoto said. "If it doesn't taste good, people aren't going to buy it."

Besides the 10 new vendors, Defense Commissary Agency (DeCa) buyers at the ALA Hawaii Show selected a total of 153 new items to appear on local commissary shelves soon.

Over the 18 years of its existence, the food show has become a major gateway for local vendors to gain access to the commissary and their customers.

From humble beginnings with only a dozen vendors attending the first show, the event has grown to generate nearly \$8 million from local-based brands and another \$6.5 million in locally grown fruits and vegetables last year.

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard graduates 92 apprentices

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY&IMF) graduated the 92 members of the 2015 apprentice class Aug. 26 at the Historic Hickam Officer's Club at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Keynote speaker at the graduation was Gregory "Kaipo" Crowell, the shipyard's nuclear engineering and planning manager. Born and raised on Oahu, Crowell is a

Kamehameha Schools graduate who earned a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Portland, then was hired by Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard to train as a nuclear engineer.

He has held significant positions of leadership at the shipyard over his 32-year career. When he was selected in April to be a member of the Senior Executive Service, he became the shipyard's most senior civilian.

(See next week's Ho'okele for complete coverage of the graduation.)

2015 Feds Feed Families food drive continues at Joint Base

Brandon Bosworth

Assistant Editor, Ho'okele

The Feds Feed Families program is in full swing at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Feds Feed Families is a charitable campaign led by the United States Department of Agriculture that collects canned goods and non-perishable food items for those in need.

The campaign has been held annually since its launch in 2009. Since then, service members and federal workers have do-

nated and collected nearly 39 million pounds of food and other non-perishable items to support families across America. Last year alone, more than 14.8 million pounds were donated and provided to food banks and pantries.

The 2015 campaign began in July and runs through Oct. 30.

"After food is collected in the Navy Region Hawaii area of responsibility, it is donated to local food banks in Oahu and Kauai," said Chief Religious Programs Specialist Kimberly Bell, campaign organizer.

Collection boxes for canned goods and non-perishable food items have been placed at several locations around JBPHH, including Hickam Chapel and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Library as well as the administration buildings for Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, U.S. Pacific Fleet and U.S. Pacific Command.

(For more information or to find a collection spot, call Bell at 473-4512. For more information about the Feds Feed Families program, visit www.usda.gov/fedsfeedfamilies.)

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Ho'okele to end newspaper survey Sept. 4

Ho'okele Staff

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

The eight questions on the survey 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 valuable feedback. Visit www.hookelenews.com to complete the survey. Only one survey should be completed per person.

Prizes have been provided by our publisher, Oahu Publications Inc., 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 continue through Sept. 4. So please take a few minutes to answer the survey. We would love to hear from you. Mahalo nui loa!



Window on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

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Women's Equality Day

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor, Ho'okele

An observance of Women's Equality Day was held Wednesday at Joint Base to celebrate the accomplishments and the importance of women being given a voice, a vote and equality—in the workplace, in society, in the political arena.

The official observance of Women's Equality Day began in 1971, thanks to an effort spearheaded by Rep. Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.), and Aug. 26 was set as the date. The selection of that date was significant—commemorating the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote.

There are many women we have to thank for bringing women's equality to the place where it is today. Where would we be without pioneers, such as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who led the crusade for women's rights, including the right to vote? They started the ball rolling and paved the way for equal opportunities for women.

When you think about the many women who have made contributions to our military, our country and our world, where do you even begin?

Here in Hawaii, Gen. Lori Robinson heads Pacific Air Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet has recently welcomed its new fleet master chief, Fleet Master Chief Susan Whitman. Some of the ships here at

Pearl Harbor are commanded by women. Cmdr. Gina McCain is the commanding officer of USS O'Kane. Cmdr. Linda Seymour recently commanded the USS Halsey, turning over command of the ship Aug. 3 in San Diego.

Vice Adm. Nora Tyson became the first female to lead a U.S. Navy ship fleet when she took command of U.S. 3rd Fleet on July 24.

Secretary of the Air Force Deborah James, the 23rd Secretary of the Air Force, is only the second woman in that position, preceded by Sheila Widnall (1993-1997).

Women serve in Congress, and two members of our Congressional delegation from Hawaii, Sen. Mazie Hirono and Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, are women.

Throughout the country, women are active in politics and some have made bids for the highest office in the land—as president and commander-in-chief.

Women have been pioneers in the air and in space. Capt. Sunita Williams, a naval aviator and NASA astronaut, conquered space in 2007 when she set the record for the longest uninterrupted space flight by a female astronaut.

Maj. Gen. Jeanne Holm, at one time director of the Women in the Air Force (WAF), was the first female one-star general in the Air Force and the first two-star female general in the armed forces.

Who can forget Amelia Earhart, way ahead of her

time, who was a pioneer for women and aviation and whose disappearance in July 1937 remains a mystery to this day.

During World War II, a group of young women became pioneers in the aviation industry by forming what was known as the Women Airforce Service Pilots or WASPs. Those women are now looked upon by many people as heroes and role models because they were the first women in history trained to fly American military aircraft.

Female Sailors were first assigned to some non-combatant ships in 1978 and in

1994, their service was expanded to include combatant ships. In 2010, the Navy announced a policy change that would allow women to serve on submarines and in June 2015, the Navy announced the names of the first group of enlisted female Sailors who were selected to serve on submarines.

These are only a few of the women who have made outstanding contributions and continue to play significant roles in their communities, in their careers, in our country and throughout the world.

The days are long gone when women are limited to

only a few careers, typically teachers or nurses.

But this evolution didn't happen overnight, and it wouldn't have happened without those early suffragettes who fought for equality for women. Through the decades, women have marched across the pages of history, making contributions in politics, the arts, education and medicine that have changed the world in which we live.

Women today can do just about anything they set their minds to do—the glass ceiling has been shattered.

Back in 1920 as the women's equality movement

was gaining momentum, I doubt if those early suffragettes had any idea that one day women would be generals and astronauts, ship commanding officers and airplane pilots.

Let's give a big thanks to Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and others like them for their determination and for their foresight in recognizing the abilities of women and what they could accomplish—and fighting for women's rights.

Sometime in our lifetime, we may be able to add "Madame President" to that list.



Capt. Stanley Keeve Jr., commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, delivered the opening remarks at a Women's Equality Day event held Aug. 26 at Makai Recreation Center, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Joint Base celebrates Women's Equality Day

Story and photo by **Brandon Bosworth**

Assistant Editor, Ho'okele

A Women's Equality Day event was held Aug. 26 at Makai Recreation Center, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Congress designated Aug. 26 Women's Equality Day in 1971. The annual event began as a commemoration of the passage of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920. Sometimes referred to as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment, the amendment granted women the right to vote, stating "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."

Women's Equality Day has since evolved to a broader recognition of women's equality in society and the workplace.

Capt. Stanley Keeve Jr., commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, delivered the opening remarks. He discussed famous American women in history, such as the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States, Elizabeth Blackwell, as well as civil rights advocates Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Keeve noted that all of these women had one thing in common: none of them had the right to vote.

"We should pay homage to the past and look to the future," said Keeve. "There are many daughters who need to be shown the way as citizens of this great country."

The Aug. 26 event also featured a presentation about the history of women in the U.S., with a special emphasis on women and the military. There was a reading of Maya Angelou's poem "Phenomenal Woman," as well as games and an opportunity for attendees to learn how to register to vote and cast a ballot.

Various universities, SAPR and the JBPHH Library had information booths with exhibits tied to women's history.

Diverse Views



What's your favorite comedy movie of all time?



Capt. Brandon Tovado
613th Air and Space Operations Center

"The Terminal" with Tom Hanks. It's simple, fun and can be watched over and over."

Master Sgt. Tosha Weaver
HQ PACAF



"Adam Sandler's 'Eight Crazy Nights.' It's funny, and I just love any movie that has Adam Sandler in it. I think he is hilarious."



Tech. Sgt. Amanda Dick
HQ PACAF

"While You Were Sleeping.' I love anything with Sandra Bullock in it. The whole cast makes it a fun movie to watch."

Staff Sgt. Eduardo Lopez
56th Air Communications Squadron



"My favorite comedy movie would have to be 'Life' with Eddie Murphy and Martin Lawrence. It is quite funny but also gives you a look into the times of racial segregation and changes in society."

Provided by David D. Underwood Jr.

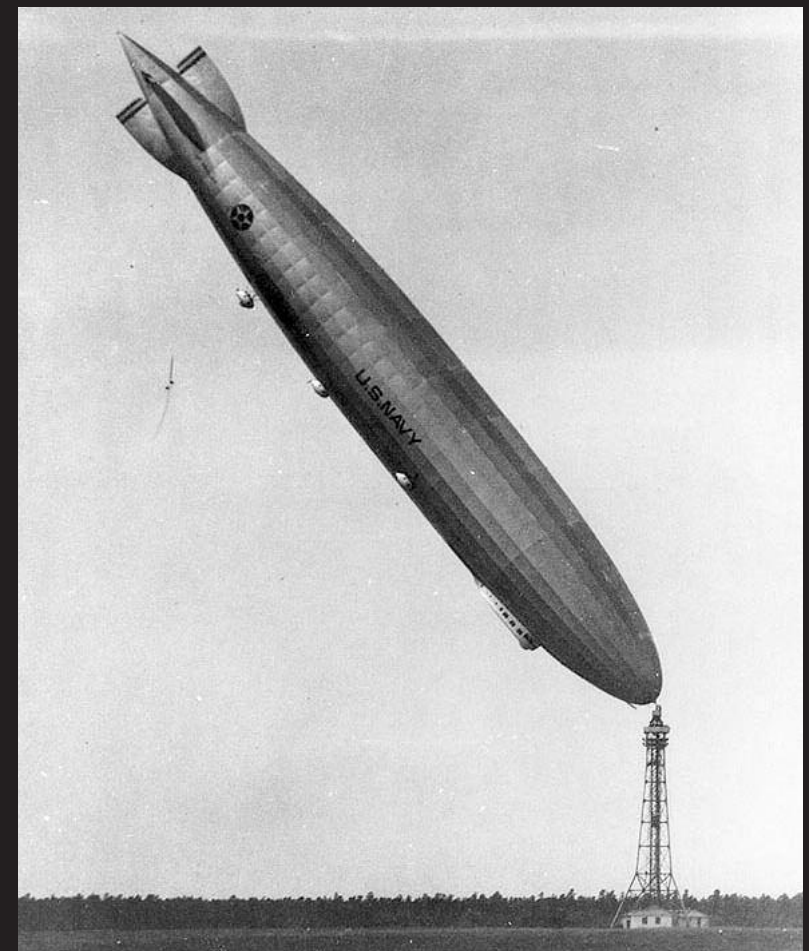
Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views?
Got opinions to share?

Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

USS Los Angeles rises to near-vertical position

USS Los Angeles (ZR-3) rises out-of-control to a near-vertical position, while moored at the high mast at Naval Air Station Lakehurst, N.J., shortly after 1:30 p.m. Aug. 25, 1927. This incident resulted from the sudden arrival of a cold air front that lifted the airship's tail, causing it to rise before it could swing around the mast parallel to the new wind direction. Los Angeles suffered only minor damage, but the affair demonstrated the risks involved with high mooring masts.

U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command photograph



HO'okele

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Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Meranda Keller

USS Missouri CPO Legacy Academy Class 013 chief petty officers (CPO) and chief petty officer selectees assigned to various units throughout the Pacific march in formation on Aug. 25 at Ford Island at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



(Left) Members of Team Ramrod push pallettes onto a simulated aircraft as part of the inaugural Port Dawg Rodeo Halversen loader driving course on Aug. 20 at JBPHH. (Below) Members of Team Ramrod guide a Halversen loader.

U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden



(Right and below) Chief petty officer selectees demonstrate fire fighting capabilities during a damage control challenge hosted by Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Chief Petty Officers Association on Aug. 20 at JBPHH.

U.S. Navy photos by MC1 Jason Swink



Radford Transition Center helps students adjust

Story and photo by
Don Robbins

Editor, Ho'okele

Radford High School senior Jesse McElhaney knows first-hand how tough it is to frequently move to different states and schools. He explained that as a Navy family member, he has had to attend seven different schools so far.

McElhaney's father James is a Navy hull maintenance technician first class at Training Support Detachment at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and the family's last duty station was at Naval Weapons Station Charleston at Goose Creek, S.C.

Although the frequent moves could be stressful, McElhaney and other students at Radford High School said they appreciate having the effective Radford Transition Center program at a school with a highly mobile military population as they are faced with having to move as their parents change duty stations.

Radford is located near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and serves many families from the base. JBPHH is also one of 14 bases involved in Operation Live Well's Healthy Base Initiative, and students explained that the transition center helps provide them with a healthy emotional environment.

The Radford Transition Center is a four-part program partially taught by student "facilitators" to encourage peer-to-peer interaction.

McElhaney, age 16,



Radford High School students Bailey Wells, Jacqueline Caicedo, Fallon Villarreal and Jesse McElhaney gather in front of the Radford Transition Center.

serves as one of the student peer facilitators helping new students adjust to the school and Hawaii.

"Everyone is really nervous at the beginning. We make them feel like they are welcome here," said McElhaney. Activities designed to make the new students feel welcome include tours of the campus, games and other anxiety-relieving events.

"We want to make them feel like this is a happy place," said McElhaney, who plans to attend college and major in either astronomy or astrophysics.

The components of the Radford Transition Center program include looking at Radford High's rules and activities, coping with stress, exploring the cul-

tural diversity/unique-ness of Hawaii, and developing a student's academic plan.

The experienced student facilitators also volunteer to serve as "lunch buddies," sitting and talking with new students during break times to ease their concerns about school.

Being a student facilitator is not a class or credit. It is a volunteer effort by students who give up their school break times to help newcomers. The student-to-student interaction is a vital component of the program, McElhaney emphasized.

The Radford High School Transition Center program serves the needs of all new students, military and civilian, who enroll at Radford High School and assists

them throughout the school year. It also provides preparation and a safety net by offering new students the resources, information and support to ensure academic achievement.

About 65 percent of the Radford students are military family members, predominantly Air Force, Navy and Army, said James Sunday, principal of Radford High School. About one-third of the student population at the school rotates out at the end of each school year, he emphasized.

Sunday is himself a Radford graduate who grew up at the former Hickam Air Force Base, and his father served in the Air Force for 30 years.

The Radford Transition Center has been serving

students from all walks of life for 11 years now, Sunday explained. It was designed by a team of Radford administration, staff and students in partnership with local military supporters under the umbrella of the Joint Venture Education Forum.

Because Hawaii is so geographically isolated, it's important to have a place for students to make their transition here less difficult, Sunday added. In the Hawaiian language, the center's motto is "*Malama I Na Haumana*," or "Caring for the Students," and the students and administrators there say that's exactly what it accomplishes.

"The Transition Center is giving kids a sense of belonging when they come here," Sunday said. Besides belonging, the transition center program also provides personal development for student facilitators, as 17-year-old 12th grader Bailey Wells has discovered. Serving as a facilitator has been beneficial to him personally, Wells explained.

"It helps me with my speaking skills. When you are speaking to a room full of people, you need to do it loudly and clearly," said Wells, whose career goals are to either become a software engineer, screenwriter or video game designer.

Wells is the son of Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Rick Wells of Pacific Air Forces Headquarters.

"This program is great. More schools should have it," said 17-year-old senior Jacqueline Caicedo, the daughter of Navy Lt. John Caicedo, deputy security offi-

cer at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Jacqueline said her dream is to attend college and major in social work so she can help other people.

Another student, Texas-born 16-year-old junior Fallon Villarreal, said that Radford is her fifth school in Hawaii and seventh throughout her life. Villarreal plans to participate in Navy ROTC and become a Navy officer specializing in cyber warfare and intelligence.

"I'm grateful for Radford, because it's so open and we have a lot to do," said Villarreal, the child of Senior Chief Electronics Technician Danny Villarreal of Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet.

David Tom, school liaison officer for Navy Region Hawaii, cited the challenges that military students face, always having to move to a new location and school with their parents as part of the permanent change of station (PCS) process.

"School is such a vital part of their lives," said Tom, a retired member of the Air Force.

He said that besides making new friends and learning the ropes of the school campus, the transition center program helps students to succeed better academically, socially, personally and emotionally.

Student facilitators in the transition center program also receive supervision from part-time teachers.

The program has been recognized by the Department of Defense and earned recognition from former First Lady Laura Bush in May 2007.



WHO'OKELE Online

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<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Hawaii>



USS Columbus returns from southern command deployment

MC1 Steven Khor

Submarine Force Pacific
Fleet Public Affairs

The Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Columbus (SSN 762) recently returned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam following a unique deployment to the south.

Columbus returned Aug. 11 to the submarine piers that were lined with families and friends bidding a warm aloha welcome as it returned from a deployment to the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) 4th Fleet area of responsibility.

The crowd cheered and waved signs, banners and lei as the submarine came into view in the harbor.

Columbus completed two safe and efficient transits of the Panama Canal and made the first-ever Los Angeles-class submarine visit to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, according to the submarine's commanding officer, Cmdr. Albert Alarcon. He said the crew was outstanding and productive throughout the deployment.

"I'm very proud of my shipmates," said Alarcon. "It has been a pleasure to watch each of my Sailors grow personally and professionally as they continuously postured the



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jason Swink

The Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Columbus (SSN 762) moors pierside Aug. 11 as it returns to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam following a deployment to the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) 4th Fleet area of responsibility.

Columbus team to reach a higher level of performance."

Lt. Cmdr. Ryan Mewett, Columbus' executive officer, said the crew was outstanding, maintaining a 96 percent operations tempo over the deployment and successfully completing both national

and theater commander tasking.

According to Mewett, submarines bring unmatched covert combat power to the theater commander and are ready to execute a broad set of missions, including intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; anti-sur-

face warfare; anti-submarine warfare; strike warfare and naval special warfare operations.

"Most Pacific Fleet submarines have extensive experience operating in the western Pacific," said Mewett, noting that Pacific Submarine Force units have not frequented

SOUTHCOM to nearly the same levels.

"We had more to learn and familiarize ourselves as we operated in an unfamiliar area. Also, we deployed for just three months rather than the typical six months of a western Pacific (WEST-PAC) deployment."

In addition to gaining the experience of operating at sea, the deployment afforded Sailors the opportunity to work on qualifications.

Over the course of the deployment, 19 enlisted Sailors and one officer on the crew became submarine qualified and are now able to wear their respective submarine warfare insignia, also known as "dolphins."

Twenty-two Sailors also qualified on new supervisory watch station positions.

"Our junior crew members performed well, aggressively pursuing submarine and watch station qualifications and taking advantage of the opportunity to gain operational experience," said Mewett.

Many Columbus Sailors had favorite moments during the deployment. Some were genuine favorites while others were funny memories.

"Preparing the charts for the first submarine visit to Guantanamo Bay in 21 years," said Electronics Technician 2nd Class Reese Hand about his experiences.

Electronics Technician 3rd Class Brandon Heglie said his favorite experience was seeing various crew members earn their dolphins.

POW/MIA Memorial Week events set for Sept. 14-18

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

The Air Force Sergeant's Association will host POW/MIA Memorial Week commemorations from Sept. 14 to 18 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

- A reveille will begin at 8 a.m. Sept. 14 at Atterbury Circle.

- A monument beautification will begin at 9 a.m. Sept. 15 at the POW/MIA monument.

- A name reading will be held from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the POW/MIA monument Sept.

14, Missing Man Formation Sept. 15, the Courtyard of Heroes Sept. 16, Earhart Track Sept. 17, and 15th Wing building Sept. 18.

- A sentinel post will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Missing Man Formation.

- A remembrance run will be held from 6 a.m. Sept. 17 to 6 a.m. Sept. 18 at Earhart track.

- A remembrance ceremony will be held from 7 to 8 a.m. Sept. 18 at the Missing Man Formation.

This is a time of remembrance for those who were held

prisoner and those who have yet to come home. Members of the JBPHH community are welcome to participate, including as volunteers.

(For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Mary Witherow at 448-1428 or Master Sgt. Amy Mendonca at 449-8775.)