

Welcome back USS Halsey

Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific Public Affairs

The Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97) returned Thursday from a seven-month deployment to the western Pacific.

While on deployment, the ship and crew of nearly 280 Sailors conducted various theater security operations and goodwill activities with partner nations.

“This was the first deployment for nearly two-thirds of my crew. Their conduct ashore and performance in exercises and missions in a variety of warfare areas was as excellent as it was professional,” said Cmdr. Linda Seymour, commanding officer.

“In the hard-hitting spirit of our namesake, USS Halsey made her mark as a reliable and agile partner to our sister ships and host nations in [U.S.] 7th Fleet,” she said.

Detachment Three from the “Easyriders” of Helicopter Maritime Strike



The guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97) arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after returning from a seven-month deployment to the western Pacific. (Additional photos on page A-5.)

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Johans Chavarro

Squadron 37 (HSM-37) embarked aboard Halsey during the deployment and returned Feb. 3 to Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

The Easyriders flew 230 sorties, totaling more than 720 hours, with two SH-60B aircraft in support of multi-national exercises and presence operations.

“We know we made a positive difference in the region, and the experience we gained is invaluable to all members of the detachment,” said Lt. Cmdr. D. J. Wallace, officer in charge of Detachment Three.

“Our return to home port ends the final SH-60B deployment for HSM-37. Our

feelings are bittersweet. As maintainers and pilots transition to the very capable MH-60R, we close out 25-plus years of sustained presence with the SH-60B in the [U.S.] 3rd and [U.S.] 7th Fleet areas of operation,” Wallace said.

Halsey also participated in Cooperation Afloat

Readiness and Training (CARAT), building partnerships to increase stability in the Indo-Asia Pacific region and provided an escort to both Carl Vinson and George Washington Strike Groups during Valiant Shield and Keen Sword exercises.

Halsey Sailors com-

pleted numerous community relations projects which included volunteering at animal shelters, local elementary schools and orphanages while finishing several park and public area cleanups to beautify the surrounding community.

Halsey is named for Fleet Adm. William F. “Bull” Halsey, who was the first commander of U.S. 3rd Fleet. The ship is a multi-mission destroyer with anti-air warfare, anti-submarine warfare and anti-surface warfare surface combatants capabilities; designed to operate independently or with an associated strike group.

Halsey is assigned to Commander, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31 aligned under Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific (MIDPAC) and U.S. 3rd Fleet. U.S. 3rd Fleet leads naval forces in the eastern Pacific from the west coast of North America to the international date line and provides the realistic, relevant training necessary for an effective global Navy.

F-15 Eagle flies in Sentry Aloha



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Sr. Airman Loni Kingston

An F-15 Eagle assigned to the 104th Fighter Wing, Barnes Air National Guard Base, Westfield, Mass., flies near a Hawaii Air National Guard KC-135 Stratotanker in preparation for inflight refueling during exercise Sentry Aloha 2015 over the Pacific Ocean, Jan. 29. Sentry Aloha is a joint aerial combat training exercise hosted several times annually by the Hawaii Air National Guard. (Additional photo on page A-5.)



U.S. Navy photo

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Jonathan Greenert conducts an all-hands call to more than 500 Hawaii-based Sailors.

Welcome CNO

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Jonathan Greenert will be in Hawaii today and will conduct an all hands call from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m. at Bloch Arena at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. All hands are to be seated by 2:30 p.m.

The all hands call will begin with a reenlistment and awards ceremony. The CNO will then provide initial remarks to be followed by a question and answer period. Uniform for re-enlistees and awardees will be Navy service uniform for E-6 and below and service khaki for E-7 and above. For all other military personnel in attendance, uniform will be uniform of the day.

Leaders are expected to ensure every Sailor available has the opportunity to hear from the Navy’s top military leader.

Deactivation ceremony creates Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal

Defense Media Activity - Hawaii

Service members and civilians at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam attended the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) deactivation ceremony held Jan. 30.

The ceremony also served as a way to officially merge the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), based in Washington, D.C., select functions of the Air Force Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory (LSEL) and JPAC into the newly established Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA).

The Secretary of Defense announced U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Mike Franken as the



U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. John Dolan (left), U.S. Pacific Command chief of staff; U.S. Army Master Sgt. Michael Swam (center), DPAA senior enlisted leader; and U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Kelly McKeague (right), DPAA deputy director, perform the casing of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) colors during the JPAC deactivation ceremony Jan. 30 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

DPAA interim director, U.S. Air Force Kelly McKeague as the DPAA interim deputy, and U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Michael Linnington as the DPAA senior advisor on Jan. 9.

McKeague explained the reason behind the reorganization efforts.

“The nation and the Department of Defense have been always committed, staunchly committed, to the solemn obligation that we have to search for, recover and identify the remains of service members from past conflicts,” McKeague said.

“Today’s ceremony is a culmination of an effort that started with Secretary Hagel last March where he saw an opportunity to improve the way we do this mission. Today brings together, in an operational forum, three organizations

that will now be charged with fulfilling this mission.”

McKeague said that the integration of DPMO, JPAC and LSEL will create challenges but will also promote and increase the mission’s capabilities.

“There are obviously structural differences and changes with an organization that brings together three different organizations into a solid and integrated organization. There are always challenges with that,” McKeague said.

“With that also comes the opportunity to improve our processes, build upon established strengths that we have, and, more importantly, move this mission forward with more effectiveness and more efficiency in how we fulfill this promise.”

See JPAC, A-7



Cooperative partnerships build stronger community
 See page A-3



‘War on the Waters’ explains how Navy saved the nation
 See page A-6



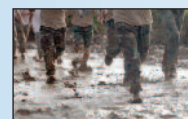
CNP hosts all hands call broadcast
 See page B-2



JBPHH Airmen participate in emergency management training
 See page A-4



Pacific Fleet Band tunes up Moanalua Middle School Band
 See page B-1



Swamp Romp, Expo this weekend
 See page B-3



Photo courtesy of Battleship Missouri Memorial Association

Members of the Hawaii Civil War Roundtable participate in Living History Day by simulating a combat charge.

Battleship Missouri Memorial unveils new exhibit on Living History Day

Battleship Missouri Memorial Association

Pier Foxtrot 5 at Pearl Harbor buzzed with the music of the Big Band era, women dressed as Rosie the Riveter, and Soldiers from all periods of America's history marched on the decks of the retired USS Missouri for the second annual Living History Day held Jan. 31.

History came to life at the Battleship Missouri Memorial to celebrate two notable anniversaries for the Mighty Mo. The first was the USS Missouri's launch into service 71 years ago (Jan. 29, 1944). The second was its opening in Pearl Harbor for public tours 16 years ago (Jan. 29, 1999).

The event also marked the public unveiling of the Battleship Missouri Memorial's newest historical exhibit, "The War that Changed the World." The event began the Mighty Mo's build-up to the commemoration ceremony honoring the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, which will take place on Sept. 2.

"With Living History Day, we look back to honor the USS Missouri and all the men and women who have fought for and supported the preservation of America's freedoms," said Michael Carr, president and CEO of the Battleship Missouri Memorial. "But today we are also looking ahead to the momentous date of Sept. 2, the 70th anniversary of when history's biggest war ended onboard the USS Missouri, with the opening of a new exhibit honoring the memories of the Sol-



Photo courtesy of HiShotz Photography

An actor playing Gen. Douglas MacArthur commanded the captain's cabin of the retired USS Missouri to ensure it was in shipshape condition for guests visiting during Living History Day.

diers and civilians of that era."

A highlight of the festivities was a special presentation by newly elected Congressman Mark Takai, who was sworn into office earlier this year. Takai presented his first certificate as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives to the Battleship Missouri Memorial, honoring the staff and volunteers for their dedication in sharing the Mighty Mo's place in history with the world.

"I commend the Battleship Missouri Memorial for their dedication to providing current and future generations the opportunity to experience this world-class battleship, and to be inspired by the universal values represented here of duty, honor, strength, sacrifice and peace," Takai said.

Living History Day at the Battleship Missouri Memorial offered a

variety of entertaining displays, exhibits, musical performances, and re-enactments of historical figures for the enjoyment of guests. Highlights included:

- "Gen. Douglas MacArthur" greeting visitors in the captain's cabin just outside the famed surrender deck where the real-life general presided over the ceremony ending World War II.
- A Civil War-era warship blowing its steam engine.
- Couples from Hawaii Jitterbugs dancing to Big Band swing music.
- Soldiers from the Marine Forces Pacific Party Band performing hits for all ages to enjoy.
- Special tours of the radio room and mailing station from the ship's post office.

For more information, call 1-877-644-4896 or visit USSMissouri.org.

Miller relinquishes command of 515th AMOW at JBPHH

Kristine Hojnicky

515th Air Mobility Operations Wing

Col. Albert G. Miller relinquished command of the 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing (AMOW) to Col. Jeffrey G. Pierce during a ceremony Feb. 4 at the wing headquarters, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

During his seven-month tenure with the 515th AMOW, Miller successfully supported three presidential missions to multiple countries in the region, coordinated efforts to implement the first Department of Defense pet airlift program in the Republic of Korea, and shepherded facility improvements at six squadron locations across the Pacific. Miller is set to assume command of the 22d Air Refueling Wing at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas in mid-February.

During the ceremony, Miller remarked how humbled and proud he is to have served the men and women of the wing as their commander.

"I will always cherish having been a part of what allows our Air Force to claim superiority over all others," he said.

"We are the only Air Force in the world that can move anything or anyone to anywhere in mere hours because we provide the en-

route platform to do so. And you make this mission look easy every day. Thank you and your families for your service and sacrifices for our nation," he said.

Pierce served as the wing's vice commander from July 2014 to February 2015. Previously he served on the joint staff at the Pentagon and as commander of the 735th Air Mobility Squadron, also located at JBPHH.

As commander of the 515th AMOW, he is responsible for 1,800 geographically separated personnel across 26 operating locations and nine Pacific time-zones from Alaska to Diego Garcia. There is an annual budget of more than \$50 million.

"I am proud to have the privilege of leading the men and women of the 515th AMOW," said Pierce. "The enroute support we provide each and every day reassures our Allies, deters would-be aggressors, and provides much needed assistance in time of crisis."

The 515th AMOW serves as the Pacific arm of the U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center and Air Mobility Command. The wing's mission is to provide agile enroute capability to accelerate global air mobility for war fighters throughout the Pacific, utilizing command and control, aerial port operations and aircraft maintenance.

Ford Island Bridge to be closed morning of Feb. 11

All lanes of the Ford Island Bridge will be closed from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Feb. 11 for operations and periodic maintenance.

Motorists and pedestrians should plan accordingly.

Blood drive schedule updated

Tripler Army Medical Center Blood Donor Center has updated its schedule of upcoming blood drives as part of the Armed Services Blood Donor Program (ASBP).

Dates and locations are updated regularly online as new drives are scheduled.

Donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment online, call to make an appointment, and check www.militaryblood.dod.mil for the latest information.

Currently scheduled drives include:

- Feb. 10, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., JIOC Building, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.
- Feb. 18 and 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 3rd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.
- Feb. 24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., NEX, Tripler Army Medical Center.

For more information, call 433-6699 or 433-6148 or email michelle.lele@amedd.army.mil.

GOT SPORTS

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Commentary

Cooperative partnerships build stronger community

Rear Adm.
Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region
Hawaii and Naval Surface
Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

The theme of this week's commentary is the power of cooperative partnerships in improving our community – and why that is so important to our mission.

As beautiful as Hawaii is, you may have noticed some of our aging buildings and other facilities are in poor condition and in desperate need of repair. Frankly, some areas had become eyesores with overgrown weeds, broken foundations and roofs, cracks in infrastructure and many broken windows.

Some of these buildings are considered historical landmarks, and we are restricted from removing and replacing them. But we must not allow regulatory requirements, facility budget cuts, sequestration, the continuing resolution, and increased operational demands to become excuses to do nothing.

We must not allow circumstances to put us in a state of paralysis – as perceived "victims." The antidote to victimhood is responsibility and action.

By taking responsibility, embracing innovation and developing cooperative partnerships, we are finding ways to begin rejuvenating isolated areas including at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, on Ford Island, in Wahiawa and in Fort Kamehameha housing.

So here is what we are doing.

At various locations, we are taking corrective steps in buildings where the infrastructure remains sal-

vageable and the problems are manageable. We are making progress by changing our approach and methodology to fix our buildings before the entire neighborhood suffers.

First we are taking our leading eyesores and breathing new life into them by reinventing them. We are giving those buildings and facilities important missions that bring people and resources to them, while keeping an eye on our historic origins. Here are some examples:

- At the shipyard, we are repairing piers, docks and buildings to better accommodate the fleet, recognizing we are the gateway to the rebalance to Asia-Pacific.

- At Ford Island, we are investing in "warfighting first" with building conversions that will support a MDPAC-SUBPAC multi-warfare training center and fleet interactive display equipment.

- At joint base, we are investigating the possibility of refurbishing the Fort Kamehameha housing area to a beautiful recreation area for service members, families and veterans for years to come. We want

to convert the homes to a Navy Gateway Inns & Suites lodge.

- At Wahiawa, we will fix the buildings, facilities and amenities that have a direct impact on quality of life for our fleet, fighters and families. That includes swimming pools, dining services and other quality-of-life support.

Among our strategies are developing partnerships in operations, planning and implementation of unique cost-sharing initiatives, where possible. Those efforts with multiple stakeholders are starting

to see an impact with more positive results expected in 2015 and beyond.

Navy Region has teamed up with United States Pacific Command; Pacific Air Forces; Commander, Navy Installations Command; Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet; Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; Pacific Historic Parks; and the Military Affairs Council of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, among others.

It's amazing what can be achieved when a group of like-minded people get together and get creative.

They find a way. And, once people see a positive change, others are energized to be part of their winning team. Momentum builds. The community gets stronger.

As joint base commander, Capt. Stan Keeve, said, "Yes, it's a challenging environment to operate in, but with vision and strong leadership we can effect change. We are already seeing movement in the correct direction — forward."

That brings us to our mission, one which Vice Adm. Dixon Smith, com-

mander, Navy Installations Command, calls "a vital and timeless mission — a mission the entire Navy is counting upon us to accomplish: to serve as the shore integrator to sustain the fleet, enable the fighter, and support the family."

Our positive, can-do cooperative partnerships help us take customer service to the next level, execute policy, make smart business decisions, continuously improve, and represent the Navy to the surrounding community, all of which are part of CNIC's guiding principles.



U.S. Navy photo by MCI Jay C. Pugh

Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Vice Adm. Dixon Smith conducts an all hands call at Navy Region Singapore (NRS). Smith's stop in Singapore was part of a tour of more than 70 Navy commands worldwide.

Diverse Views



What is the most memorable dream you've ever had?



IT3 Gina Mitchell
PACOM JIOC

"I had a dream that I was in the middle of Japan doing karate and kung fu and beating people up. Kind of like 'Kill Bill.' I was her."

Staff Sgt. Kenneth De Gracia
PACAF



"Winning the lottery and playing for the San Francisco Giants as an outfielder."



CSSN Carlos Malava
USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60)

"I guess being a superhero in some sort of anime or cartoon."

Carol Takumi
PACAF



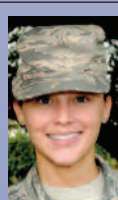
"I was sitting in the living room with my dad. I turned around to talk with him when I saw, in the big picture window, someone with a big gun aimed at my dad. The guy pulled the trigger. I immediately woke up and called my dad to see if he was okay. He told me to stop dreaming about him."



EM3 Oleg Ligay
USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60)

"I was flying once. That was pretty incredible."

Staff Sgt. Ashleigh Donovan
647th Civil Engineer Squadron



"My real-life dreams came true. When I woke up, I tried so hard to fall back asleep and into the same dream."

Provided by Lt. j.g. Eric Galassi
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

First bombardment unit reaches Hickam



Photo courtesy of Pacific Air Forces

On Feb. 8, 1938, (77 years ago this week) Hickam Field's first bombardment unit, the 31st Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), arrived from Hamilton Field, Calif. Four members of the unit were killed in action on Dec. 7, 1941, nine members were wounded, and all of the unit's B-18 Bolo bombers (as shown in this photo) were damaged or destroyed. Re-equipped with B-17s, the squadron was assigned various maritime bombing and surveillance missions in the South Pacific.

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Airmen participate in emergency management training

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez

15th Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from the 15th Wing tested their emergency management knowledge and skills during integrated base emergency response capability training (IBERCT) Jan. 26-30.

Participants of the training from the 15th Aerospace Medical Squadron (AMDS) practiced their response to chemical, biological and radiological contamination scenarios that simulated real-world potential threats.

"It's absolutely invaluable training," said Lt. Col. Mary Carlisle, 15th AMDS commander. "It validates our readiness requirements, and we are happy to have this training opportunity."

The training built upon itself throughout the week, progressing in difficulty and detail. The final days of the training consisted of hands-on scenario training.

While conducting hands-on scenario training, Airmen used hazardous compound detection equipment to take initial air and material samples of the training area. Once a simulated emergency took place, they suited up in hazardous material suits, gloves, boots and gasmasks and followed their training procedures to enter the affected area in order to conduct air and material testing. They then compared the results to their initial samples to determine the level of contamination.

Airmen worked together in teams to conduct the testing and reported their actions and findings back to a command center where the data was examined for further action, including coordination with other emergency response agencies.

"This week we learned to



Airman 1st Class Christopher McCloud, left, and Tech. Sgt. Aubrey Pabon, right, 15th Aerospace Medicine Squadron bioenvironmental engineering flight, test for chemical contamination during integrated base emergency response capability training Jan. 30, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

have clear objectives, a clear mind and a clear understanding of how our duties are performed," said Staff Sgt. Eva Doty, 15th AMDS bioenvironmental engineering flight NCO in charge of readiness.

"We were already proficient in emergency response, but this gives us a better understanding of our processes and the equipment we use."

The training was coordinated through the bioenvironmental engineering office at Pacific Air Forces Headquarters. All PACAF bases are scheduled to par-

ticipate in the training.

The 15th AMDS bioenvironmental engineering flight is the first unit in PACAF to go through the training.

Carlisle said being the first PACAF base is an advantage for the 15th AMDS because "it allows us to provide feedback for the scenarios to the other PACAF bases."

In order to maintain training consistency, the IBERCT was conducted by emergency management specialists with Alliance Solutions Group, a government contractor.



Two 15h Aerospace Medicine Squadron bioenvironmental engineering flight Airmen pass a solution used to test for chemical contamination during integrated base emergency response capability training.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



Builder 1st Class Donald Wedekind, Seabee diver from Underwater Construction Team Two, Port Hueneme, Calif., checks the density of piles during a survey on a deep draft wharf at U.S. Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia. During the survey Jan. 19, Seabees from Underwater Construction Team Two, Port Hueneme, and Navy divers from Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One, Pearl Harbor are checking fenders and piles on the wharf to ensure they are structurally sound.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Class Gary Keen



Hawaii Air National Guard photo by Sr. Airman Orlando
An F-15 from the Massachusetts Air National Guard's 104th Fighter Wing taxis out for a morning sortie and an F-16 from the 18th Aggressor Squadron follows behind. The fighters and Airmen are participating in the "Sentry Aloha" fighter training exercise at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



Photo from the inbound sea and anchor for USS Michael Murphy's recent port visit to Singapore. The ship spent about a week in port for mid-voyage repairs. While the main focus of this port visit was to conduct essential maintenance, the crew was also able to enjoy some much needed down time and explore the city of Singapore.

U.S. Navy photo by IC3 Twan Sia



Service members, families and friends welcome back the guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97) after returning Feb. 5 to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam from a seven-month deployment to the western Pacific.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Johans Chavarro



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Johans Chavarro
Fire Controlman 3rd Class Adam Brown, stationed aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97), greets his wife, Alyssa, with a kiss after arriving at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Johans Chavarro
Sailors cross the brow of the guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97) after arriving at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

'War on the Waters' explains how Navy saved the nation

Review by Bill Doughty

When the USS Monitor was lost in a storm 152 years ago, the future of the nation hung in the balance.

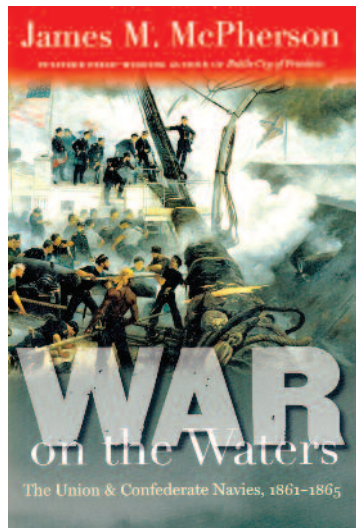
In his insightful book, "War on the Waters," James M. McPherson shows how Union naval leaders, technology and strategies combined to overcome setbacks and losses to the Confederacy – and eventually win the war, free enslaved people and preserve the Union.

"To say that the Union navy won the Civil War would state the case much too strongly. But it is accurate to say that the war could not have been won without the contributions of the navy," concludes McPherson.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning author writes about the wisdom of Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles, the courage of Rear Adm. David Glasgow Farragut and the power of working jointly. The Army's Gen. Ulysses S. Grant worked hand-in-hand with Navy's Rear Adm. David D. Porter, the son and namesake of the War of 1812 hero.

We also meet Cmdr. John Rodgers (another son and namesake of a War of 1812 captain) and Cmdr. George H. Preble (grandson of one of the Navy's greatest leaders, Capt. Edward Preble). The ties to the War of 1812 — in people, foreign alliances and brown-water naval tactics — are enlightening.

President Lincoln ordered the Army to provide its fleet of vessels to the Navy but promoted the idea of one-two punches by the Navy and Army from river ports to river forts. McPherson describes the fearless leadership of 19-year-old ship driver Colonel



Charles Rivers Ellet.

Quoting letters, diary entries, first-person reports and dispatches, the author presents a broad history of naval warfare on both sides of the Civil War. He describes "asymmetrical war on the waters" in blockades and blockade running, riverbank guerrilla warfare, subterfuge at sea, and night attacks, and he follows the development of ironclad ships, submersible vessels and mines (torpedoes).

The Civil War saw the watershed shift from wooden ships of previous centuries that would lead to the development of battleships by the end of the century. Innovation would continue. Less than 50 years after the end of the Civil War the era of naval aviation would begin.

Well-worn strategies of blockading commerce and targeting blockade runners would be expanded into the next century. A naval embargo against Imperial Japan in 1941 led to the beginning of the War in the Pacific.

Against the Confederacy in



(Above) Civil War gunship USS Commodore Perry.

(Right) USS Monitor crewmen working.

Images courtesy of Navy Reads

the 1860s, blockades were important in preventing the exporting of cotton and importing of salt. The role of salt in the southern economy and the targeting of salt production in the south by the Union Navy are fascinating side notes showing the importance of a healthy economy to a strong military.

McPherson describes the overall sociological effect of naval strategies on people in the north and south, too.

"Modern historical scholarship has shown how the Union army became a powerful force in the liberation of slaves, and how the 180,000 liberated black Union soldiers (most of them liberated slaves) in turn helped the Union army win the war. Less well known is the role of the Navy in freeing slaves and the vital contribution of black sailors to the navy's campaigns. In 1861-



1862 the Navy penetrated earlier and more deeply than the army into tidewater regions of the South Atlantic coast and into the valleys of the lower Mississippi River and its tributaries..."

"War on the Waters: The Union & Confederate Navies, 1861-1865" starts as a dry treatise but picks up steam. With nearly two dozen photos and illustrations and 19 easy-to-read maps, this book is filled with information, details and insights. It deserves a place on

every military historian's bookshelf.

McPherson proves his conclusion: The Navy played a key role in winning the Civil War and saving the United States — a mere century and a half ago.

(A version of this review appeared on Navy Reads and DoD Navy Live blogs. Doughty's Navy Reads blog promotes reading and literacy and is in support of the Chief of Naval Operations Professional Reading Program.)

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PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS





U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal

U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. John Dolan, U.S. Pacific Command chief of staff, delivers opening remarks during the Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command (JPAC) deactivation ceremony Jan. 30 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Continued from A-1

JPAC's mission was to provide the fullest possible accounting for U.S. personnel to their families and the nation. McKeague said that DPAA's goals in fulfilling this promise won't change but only become stronger.

"It will become stronger. It will be more integrated, it will have access to a higher structure within the department. The agency will report directly to the

undersecretary of defense for policy, and, more importantly it will provide a focus," McKeague said.

"Now with these organizations all coming together in an integrated, comprehensive fashion, we're able to improve our strengths and build upon the efficiencies and effectiveness to make us better."

For McKeague, the merge allows service members and civilians assigned to DPAA a better

opportunity to serve those who are still missing, their families and the nation.

"We appreciate the opportunity to not only serve this nation but, more importantly, the fallen heroes who remain missing and fulfill the commitment to their families," McKeague said.

"There is no greater reward than that, no greater mission for someone in uniform than to be able to be associated with this mission and be able to fulfill it."

Greenert explains value of presence, danger of cuts

Amaani Lyle

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Presence remains the mandate of the Navy and the service must operate forward "when and where it matters," the chief of naval operations testified Jan. 29 before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

However, sequestration in 2013 not only whittled the Navy's contingency response force to one third but forced reductions in afloat and ashore operations, generated ship and aircraft maintenance backlogs, and compelled the Navy to extend unit deployments, Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert said.

"Sequestration resulted in a \$9 billion shortfall in 2013, below our budget submission ... degraded fleet readiness and created consequences from which we are still recovering," the admiral said.

Long deployments

Greenert also described carrier strike groups, amphibious-ready groups and destroyers experiencing eight- to 10-month, or longer, deployments.

"This comes at a cost of our Sailors' and our families' resiliency. It reduces the performance of the equipment, and it will reduce the service lives of our ships," he said.

The Navy's fleet readiness likely will not recover from the ship and aircraft maintenance backlogs until about 2018, five years after the first round of sequestration, according to Greenert.

"We reduced procurement of advanced weapons and aircraft, [and] we delayed upgrades to all but the most critical shore infras-

tructure," the admiral said.

"The end result has been higher risk [to] those missions requiring us to deter and defeat aggression and ... project power despite an anti-access, area-denial challenge."

Forward presence provides value

Still, recent events speak to the value of forward presence, Greenert asserted.

"When tasked in August, the George H.W. Bush Strike Group relocated from the Arabian Sea to the North Arabian Gulf and was on station within 30 hours, ready for combat operations in Iraq and Syria," Greenert said.

Additionally, Navy and Marine Corps strike fighters from the carrier generated 20-30 combat sorties per day and for 54 days represented the only coalition strike option to project power against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, the admiral said.

Greenert highlighted the USS Truxtun, which arrived in the Black Sea to establish a U.S. presence and reassure allies within a week after Russia invaded Crimea. He recounted the USS George Washington Strike Group's dozen ships that provided disaster relief to the Philippines in the wake of super typhoon Haiyan just over a year ago.

Overall, he said, a return to sequestration further delays critical warfighting capabilities, further reduces contingency response force readiness, and jeopardizes ship and submarine procurement.

"Unless naval forces are properly sized, modernized at the right pace ... ready to deploy ... and capable to respond in the numbers and at the speed required by the combatant commanders, they won't be able to answer the call," Greenert said.

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DoD official describes transition program progress

Terri Moon Cronk

DoD News Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The redesigned transition assistance program gives separating service members a “unique set of capabilities” as they enter the civilian workforce, Susan Kelly, defense transition to veterans program office director, told a House Veterans Affairs Committee panel recently.

In a review of the program before members of the economic opportunity subcommittee, Kelly outlined strides the Defense Department has made with the new TAP, in collaboration with several interagency

partners, such as the veterans affairs and labor departments.

Kelly emphasized that the new program will help more than 1 million service members transition from active duty in the next four years.

Career-readiness standards

“The foundation of the redesigned TAP is a set of career-readiness standards that are verified for all transitioning service members no later than 90 days prior to their separation from the military,” she explained.

If civilian career readiness standards are not met, service members receive further training or a “warm hand-over” to interagency

partners who ensure they receive post-separation assistance, Kelly added.

“Part of the redesign includes the robust ‘Transition GPS curriculum — Goals, Plans, Success.’ It builds the skills that transitioning service members need to meet in career-readiness standards, and it is now fully implemented at 206 military sites in the United States and overseas,” she said, adding that three supplemental training tracks exist for those who want to pursue higher education, technical training or entrepreneurship.”

The five-day program also is offered for service members around the world through DoD’s Joint

Knowledge Online platform, Kelly said.

TAP evaluation strategy progresses

A strategy for evaluating and assessing TAP has shown substantial progress, Kelly told the House panel. Its three goals are accountability, customer satisfaction and program effectiveness, she said. Long-term measures also are being developed by VA, DoL and the Small Business Administration, she said.

“Outcome measures are a priority for the TAP evaluation strategy, beginning with [The Vow to Hire Heroes Act of 2011] and career-readiness compliance,” Kelly said.

DoD-verified data to date shows active-duty service members’ compliance

across the services ranges from 91 percent to 97 percent, she said.

“These results account for three-quarters of the members who have separated from active duty,” Kelly added.

Work remains to be done

“We realize that we must work hard to close the remaining reporting gap,” she said.

A comprehensive communications campaign to inform service members about the redesigned TAP was put in place during fiscal year 2014, Kelly said. This year, she added, the goal is to implement the Military Life Cycle transition level of the program.

According to DoD’s TAP website, the MLC transition

level is critical because it gives service members the chance to plan for their post-separation career and see how their military skills can be used in the civilian world. It enables DoD to show how the services prepare their members for transition, and it optimizes how these highly trained and adaptable people can rapidly contribute to civilian society.

“This marks a major cultural shift for the department,” Kelly said. “In December, the military services reported to the White House that Military Life Cycle transition preparation was fully implemented at their installations, which the new TAP interagency governance structure will continue to monitor and improve.”

AF Assistance Fund campaign is in full swing

Air Force Aid Society

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — The 2015 Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign has kicked off and will run until May 1.

Air Force bases worldwide are participating in this fundraising event which raises money for four Air Force charities — Air Force Aid Society, Air Force Enlisted Village, Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation and the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

• The Air Force Aid Society: Provides Airmen and their families worldwide with emergency financial assistance, education assistance and various base-level community enhancement programs.

• The Air Force Enlisted Village: Supports Teresa Village in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., and Bob Hope Village in Shalimar, Fla. near Eglin Air Force Base. The fund provides homes and financial assistance to



U.S. Air Force photo by Scott M. Ash

Air Force senior leaders kick off the 2015 Air Force Assistance Fund drive in the Pentagon, Jan. 5. Seated are Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, and standing from the left are Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Larry O. Spencer, Undersecretary of the Air Force Eric Fanning and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody.

retired enlisted members' widows and widowers who are 55 and older. It also supports Hawthorn House (in Shalimar) which provides assisted living for residents, including 24-hour nursing care.

• The Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation: Donations support independent and assisted living needs for retired officers and their spouses, widows or widowers and family members. Communities are located in San Antonio, Texas.

• The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation: Provides rent and financial assistance to widows and widowers of officer and enlisted retirees in their homes and communities through financial grants of assistance.

Air Force officials are using a three-campaign grouping where all Air Force bases are assigned to one of the following three six-week campaign periods:

Group I — Feb. 2 - March 13

Group II — March 2 - April 10

Group III — March 23 - May 1

Group I bases, which already started, include Charleston Air National Guard Base, West Va.; Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota; Keesler AFB, Miss.; Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.; Laughlin AFB, Texas; Malmstrom AFB, Montana; Vance AFB, Okla. and Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, Minn.

New this year is an updated Air Force Assistance Fund website, which features information about all of the affiliate charities, a link to the donation forms, videos, assistance stories and FAQs. Everyone is encouraged to check out the site and learn more about how their donations help the Air Force family. Whether active duty or retired, officer or enlisted, Air Force Assistance Fund is there for the Airmen, by the Airmen to take care of our own.