

Japanese ships make port visit



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jeff Troutman

Line handlers receive a mooring line from Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) guided missile destroyer JS Ashigara (DDH 178) as the ship pulls pier-side into Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Sept. 23 after completing multilateral exercise Dawn Blitz 2015 in San Diego. Dawn Blitz is a scenario-driven exercise led by U.S. 3rd Fleet and 1st Marine Expeditionary Force that tested participants in the planning and execution of amphibious operations through a series of live training events.

Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) guided missile destroyer JS Ashigara (DDH 178) pulls pier-side into Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jeff Troutman



America welcomes new citizens at naturalization ceremony on 'Mighty Mo'

Story and photo by
Brandon Bosworth

Assistant Editor, Ho'okele

More than 60 immigrants from 19 nations became U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony held Sept. 17 on the deck of the historic Battleship Missouri Memorial.

United States District Court Chief Judge Susan Oki Mollway presided and administered the Oath of Allegiance required of new citizens.

Capt. Adolfo H. Ibarra, commanding officer of USS Port Royal (CG 73), spoke at the ceremony. Ibarra is originally from Honduras and immigrated to the U.S. in 1980, settling in Hillburn, NY. Following completion of the Naval Academy Preparatory School, he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy with a bachelor of science degree in history and was commissioned in 1992.

"In becoming citizens of the United States, you are showing your own commitment to upholding the ideals, values and responsibilities of being an American," Ibarra said to



New citizens take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States during a naturalization ceremony held Sept. 17 on the Battleship Missouri Memorial. (Additional photo on page A-5.)

the 63 new citizens.

"For you, Constitution and Citizenship Day will no longer be a date in the calendar. Just like my mother, my sister and I celebrate August as our second birthday, Sept. 17, 2015 will be your second birthday. Always cherish the date and make the American dream a reality for you and your families," Ibarra said.

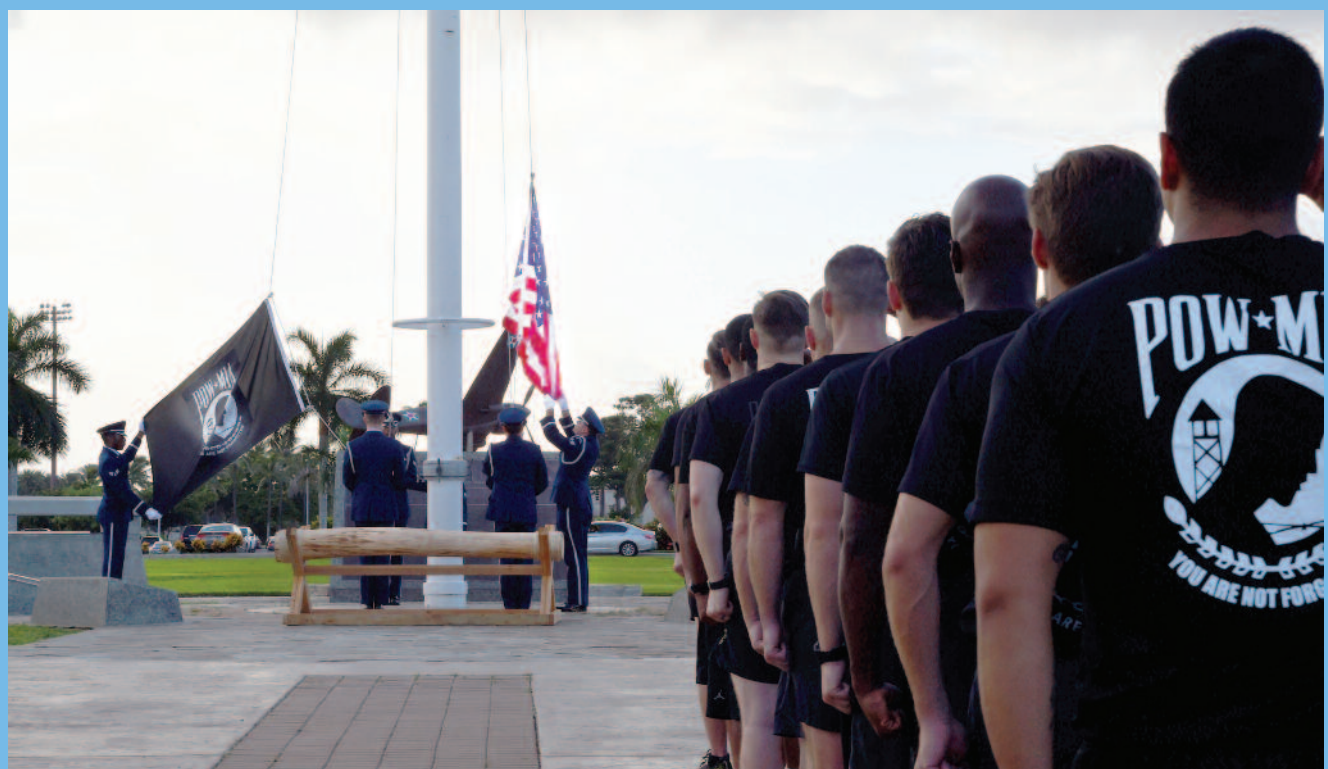
This is the Oath of Allegiance that people take when becoming American citizens:

"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.

Remembrance run concludes POW/MIA Week

Airmen from the 25th Air Support Operations Squadron run in formation from Earhart track to Atterbury Circle at the conclusion of the 24-hour Prisoner of War and Missing In Action remembrance run held Sept. 18 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The run was organized by the 25th Air Support Operations Squadron as a part of POW/MIA week and National POW/MIA Day. Every year the nation pauses on the third Friday of September to remember the sacrifices and service of prisoners of war. There are 83,344 Americans still unaccounted-for across the Defense Department. (Additional photos on page A-5.)

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



Service members learn about 'Courage to ACT' See page A-2



Suicide Prevention Month events scheduled See page A-3



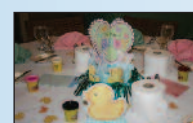
Local chefs shine at culinary competition See page A-4



2015 CFC kicks off at JBPHH, runs through Nov. 20 See page A-2



Hispanic Heritage events 'energize' October See page A-3



Special delivery See page B-1

Service members learn about 'Courage to ACT'

MC3 Katarzyna Kobiljak

Navy Public Affairs Support
Element Detachment Hawaii

"Why do we fall? So we can pick ourselves up." Dr. Mary Bartlett posed that question and answer to service members and their families during a resilience/suicide awareness training held Sept. 18 at Sharkey Theater at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"Take a good look around," Bartlett said to the audience. "One in six people will think briefly about committing suicide during their lifetime. Whether those people act on that thought or not depends on the circumstances."

Bartlett, a licensed professional counselor with 18 years of experience in behavioral health, focused her presentation on teaching strategies to prevent suicide and talked about a different approach by the Department of Defense for suicide prevention training.

Suicide prevention training has changed over the years, and now military members are encouraged to incorporate resilience training



U.S. Navy photoby MC3 Katarzyna Kobiljak

Dr. Mary Bartlett, a master trainer for the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, conducts a resilience/suicide prevention training at Sharkey Theater at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

into their on and off-duty activities, which will help to build a more capable, effective and mission-ready workforce.

"Life throws us curves and all

of us will have to face adversity, but resilience is our capacity to bounce back from whatever happens in our life," Bartlett stressed.

Instead of focusing on weaknesses, military members should focus on their strengths, she said. If we are connected, flexible, hopeful and grateful, the chances

are we will be able to help lift up our brothers and sisters in arms," she said.

The training was a part of the Navy's "One Small ACT" campaign, and it was open to all ranks and branches of military.

"I really like that theme because it's empowering," said Lt. Rebecca Miranda, a social worker and a suicide prevention program manager for the Military Family Support Center at Joint Base.

"I feel hopeless when I hear about statistics and suicide. We keep pondering the stories of why somebody committed suicide, but we should shift our focus to what we can do to prevent it from happening," she said.

Miranda said that when we see our shipmates struggle and we know they are acting out of the ordinary, we need to have the courage to ask the question, "Are you going to kill yourself?"

"Asking is the hardest thing," said Miranda. "We all have problems and we all have issues, but we also have each other."

(For more information about suicide prevention, contact Miranda at 474-0045 or rebecca.miranda@navy.mil.)

2015 CFC kicks off at JBPHH, runs through Nov. 20

Staff Sgt.
Christopher Stoltz

15th Wing Public Affairs

Airmen and Sailors stationed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam will have the opportunity to donate to a charity of their choice during the 2015 Combined Federal Campaign, or CFC, which kicked off Sept. 21 and runs through Nov. 20.

The CFC is the world's largest workplace giving campaign. Since the inaugural campaign in 1964, federal employees have donated more than \$7 billion for various charities and causes.

The CFC provides assistance to national and local



emergency relief agencies as well as eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world.

More than 24,000 organizations are currently

listed in the CFC booklet.

The Department of Defense and uniformed services have already made pledges ranging from \$7,000 to \$2.5 million per organization, including the Air Force, which pledged

\$1.2 million; the Army, which pledged \$1.3 million; and the Marines and Navy, which pledged \$2.5 million.

"There are many ways to contribute to the CFC," said Air Force 1st Lt. Nicole G. Stanley, 15th Wing agency CFC project officer.

"It doesn't necessarily have to be a monetary donation. A person could volunteer their time assisting the CFC, which can be just as helpful as donating money. However, Airmen and Sailors can donate monetarily using the pledge card, through the MyPay website, or by visiting the CFC-Hawaii website."

Stanley also said there are benefits to donating to

the CFC beyond the fact they are tax-deductible. She said she has had the opportunity to speak to someone directly affected by the contributions to the program.

"At the last CFC meeting we held, I had the opportunity to meet a woman who had suffered wounds in combat who had been a recipient of a CFC-supported program," said Stanley.

"Although she was missing a leg and had other visible scars, she was there at our meeting, thanking us. We didn't have anything to do with her recovery, but she was still there, thanking us for investing our time in the program."

Established by President

John F. Kennedy in 1961, the CFC is the world's leading annual workplace charity campaign. The philanthropy-based campaign rallies support from more than four million federal employees and military personnel to assist more than 2,700 local, national and international charities, 149 of which are located in the Pacific community.

Contributors may complete a paperless contribution via credit card, debit card or e-check online. Donations can also be made via payroll allotment(s), cash or check on a paper pledge card. A detailed list of CFC charities can be accessed at <http://www.cfc-hawaii.org/>.

Diverse Views



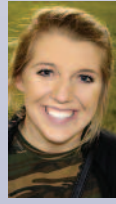
Monday was the International Day of Peace. What or where is the most peaceful place you have ever visited and why was it so peaceful?



Master Sgt. Patrick Platt
Headquarters Pacific Air Forces

"Most peaceful place I have ever visited would have to be northern New Hampshire, especially during the fall. The leaves changing color with the cooler temperatures allow me to relax and reflect."

Melanie Van Den Heuvel
Military spouse



"I think that the most peaceful place is probably just being at home. I feel like when I'm at work or at school, there is always a distraction. When I come home, it's time to unwind and enjoy time with my husband."



Tech. Sgt. Lavada Hunn
692nd Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group

"Being with someone I care about while experiencing new places—such as my first time on a beach in Hawaii or visiting the Eiffel Tower—is what makes something peaceful for me. I have visited a lot of places and the most memorable ones were when I could experience them with a friend or family. It makes me reflect on what really matters to me. This is what I would describe as the most peaceful moments or places."

Senior Airman Bryan Fossick
17th Operational Weather Squadron (17 OWS)



"Waimea Falls because of the natural beauty. I've never experienced that before."



Tech. Sgt. James Quinlan
Binnicker Professional Military Education Center

"The most peaceful place I have ever visited was my vacation to Waikiki with my wife and no kids! Just being able to sit on the beach and relax not having to worry."

Meghan Harvey
Military spouse



"I would say Haleakela on Maui. We drove up there and just sitting there watching the sun rise was beautiful."

Provided by Randy Dela Cruz and Staff Sgt. Christopher Stoltz

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

Suicide Prevention Month events scheduled

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

A series of events have been scheduled in September to observe Suicide Prevention Month.

- An express yourself karaoke event and Hawaiian dinner, part of Free Food Fridays, will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. today at the Beeman Liberty Center. The event is open to all single Sailors and Airmen.

- A Joint Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation 5K buddy run and resiliency fair will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday at Hickam Fitness Center. The event is open to all Department of Defense personnel, families and retirees. Pets are allowed. Awards will be provided to the first place winner in men's, women's, youth boys, youth girls, and men's and women's stroller categories. Community support resources will be on site to provide information about services available.

For more information, visit www.greatlife-hawaii.com or call 448-2214.

- An ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) workshop will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel. Participants can learn suicide first aid skills to help pull someone out of the "river of suicide." The workshop is designed to offer skills to better care for those with thoughts of suicide. It is open to all adult military, civilian and family members. Pre-registration is required.

For more information, email rebecca.miranda@navy.mil.

Presidential Proclamation

National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2015

President Barack Obama



President Barack Obama

Throughout our history, our nation has been enriched by the storied pasts of all who call the United States of America home. America's Hispanic community has woven unique threads into the diverse fabric of our country and played an important role in shaping our national character as a people of limitless possibility.

This month, let us honor their distinct heritage while reaffirming our commitment to enabling them to build a future bright with hope and opportunity for themselves, their families, and the country we love.

Hispanics contribute to our nation's success in extraordinary ways—they serve in the military and government, attend schools across America, and strengthen the economy. They are the father who works two jobs to give his children a better life and the mother who ventures out to take a risk and start a business.

They are the student—often the first in their family to go to college—who pursues their greatest aspirations through higher education. They are the lawful permanent resident who seeks to naturalize and become a citizen and the business leader whose loved ones have lived in the United States for generations.

Each day, we see the tremendous impact they have on our communities, and they reflect an enduring truth at the heart of

our nation: no matter where you come from or where your roots are, with hard work and perseverance you can make it in America.

My administration remains committed to ensuring Hispanics have every opportunity to achieve the American dream. Last year, we approved more than 4,000 loans totaling more than \$1 billion for Hispanic-owned small businesses, helping create jobs and improve local economies. We have invested resources in education and reformed our schools to provide the opportunities every Hispanic student needs to graduate from high school prepared for the future they will inherit.

We have also expanded high-quality preschool and early childhood education for our youngest learners in Latino communities and provided grants and loans to assist tens of thousands of Hispanic young people and adults on their journey toward earning a college degree. The dropout rate for Hispanic students has

been cut by more than half since the year 2000, and college enrollment has risen by 45 percent since 2008.

Additionally, since I signed the Affordable Care Act in 2010, the share of Hispanics under 65 without health insurance has fallen by one-third, and in the years ahead I will continue working to address the health disparities that still exist. And we are expanding the cultural, economic and familial ties that so many Hispanic Americans share with Latin America by entering a new chapter of engagement and cooperation with Cuba.

The United States has a centuries-old tradition of welcoming immigrants, which has given us a tremendous advantage over the rest of the world. Last year, I took action to fix our broken immigration system within the confines of the law.

The policies include offering temporary relief to parents of children who are United States citizens or lawful permanent residents so they could come out of the shadows, get right with the law, and further contribute to America's success while also providing for their loved ones—because as a nation that values families, we must work together to keep them together.

I also took steps to modernize the legal immigration system for families, employers and workers and strengthened federal immigrant integration efforts. I created the White

House Task Force on New Americans—a federal interagency effort focused on strengthening and enhancing our efforts to integrate new Americans and build welcoming communities.

And we are working to make sure the millions of individuals who are eligible for citizenship understand the opportunities, rights and responsibilities that it affords. While these actions make our system better, they are not a permanent fix to our broken immigration system—and that is why I continue to call on the Congress to pass meaningful, comprehensive immigration reform.

As a nation, we are bound by our shared ideals. America's Hispanic community has the same dreams, values, trials and triumphs of people in every corner of our country, and they show the same grit and determination that have carried us forward for centuries.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, let us renew our commitment to honoring the invaluable ways Hispanics contribute to our common goals, to celebrating Hispanic culture, and to working toward a stronger, more inclusive, and more prosperous society for all.

To honor the achievements of Hispanics in America, the Congress by Public Law 100-402, as amended, has authorized and requested the president to issue annually a proclamation designating Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 as "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

Delta-winged XF-92A takes to the air



U.S. Air Force historical file photo

The XF-92A, shown above, made its first flight on Sept. 19, 1948 at Muroc Air Force Base (now Edwards Air Force Base), Calif. The first true delta-wing aircraft, the XF-92A was originally conceived as a point-defense interceptor. It later was used purely for experimental purposes. The delta-wing concept led to the F-102 and F-106 fighters as well as the B-58 bomber.

Hispanic Heritage events 'energize' October

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

Hispanic Heritage Month will be observed through Oct. 15. This month's theme is "Hispanic Americans: Energizing our Nation's Diversity." A Hispanic Heritage Month event will be held from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Oct. 1 at the

Hickam Chapel Center multipurpose room, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH). The event will include keynote speakers Cmdr. Dennis Mojica and Master Chief Adeline Lopes. Live entertainment featuring Latin music and historical information will be provided.

In addition, a special Hispanic

Heritage Month luncheon will be served from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Oct. 7 at Silver Dolphin Bistro.

For more information on the Oct. 1 event at the Hickam Chapel Center, contact Chief Fruji 'Ken' Mills at 473-4087 or email at fruji.mills@navy.mil or Anna General at 473-0405 or by email at anna-marie.general@navy.mil.

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Patrol Squadron 4 assists with search and rescue

Lt. Jan Krsak

Patrol Squadron Four Public Affairs

The U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy and good Samaritans aboard a fishing boat recently helped rescue a sailing vessel that was taking on water, approximately 300 miles north of the island of Maui.

At about 11:45 a.m. Sept. 9, the 36-foot Honey Cutter en-route from Hawaii to San Diego sent a SOS message that stated the vessel had suffered a keel fracture and was taking on water.

The Coast Guard requested help from Patrol Squadron Four based at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay and good Samaritans on the Captain Kenneth, located approximately



A P-3C Orion aircraft attached to Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 takes off from Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay to conduct anti-submarine warfare qualifications in support of their inter-deployment readiness cycle.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Devin Menhardt

40 miles from the Honey Cutter.

The Navy's P-3C Orion arrived on scene and quickly established communications with the distressed vessel. The crew remained overhead for several hours and coordinated the arrival of the Captain Kenneth to the scene. The efforts of the aircrew helped ensure a successful meetup and tow with the two boats. If it hadn't been for the capabilities and training of the aircraft and crew, the distressed boat could have capsized into the ocean, stranding the crew.

The Honey Cutter crew said they were prepared to abandon ship and were manually dewatering the vessel. The Captain Kenneth arrived on scene and was able to start towing the Honey Cutter at about 11 p.m. No injuries were reported.

Local chefs shine at culinary competition

Story and photo by Brandon Bosworth

Assistant Editor, Ho'okele

The Navy Food Management Team (NFMT) from Navy Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) Fleet Logistics Center (FLC) Pearl Harbor hosted a cooking competition for Navy culinary specialists at Lockwood Hall, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on Sept. 17.

The contest was part of a food and product expo featuring a variety of vendors.

USS Chosin (CG 65), USS Port Royal (CG 73), USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), USS Hopper (DDG 70), USS Halsey (DDG 97) and Silver Dolphin Bistro all sent culinary teams to take part in the competition.

Each team, comprised of three culinary specialists, had 90 minutes to create their dishes, which had to



Culinary specialists from six different Navy commands competed in a cooking competition held Sept. 17 at Lockwood Hall, JBPHH. (Additional photo on page A-5.)

U.S. Navy photo

include at least one appetizer and one main course. Dishes were judged based

on three criteria: creativity and teamwork, taste and wholesomeness, and

plate presentation.

Judges for the event included Rear Adm. John V.

Fuller, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Mid-

dle Pacific; Capt. Eric Weilenman, chief of staff, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; Capt. Stanley Keeve, commander, JBPHH; and Kevin Dugan, chef at the Hale Koa Hotel.

The team from Chosin won the competition with a shrimp avocado salad appetizer and a main course of roasted Sonoma chicken. Silver Dolphin Bistro came in second place and third place went to Port Royal.

"We're all very happy," said Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Macon Moore from the Chosin team. "All my colleagues put in the effort to accomplish this and become successful."

Fuller called the competition "fantastic."

"I was just impressed that they all came up with totally different dishes," he said. "It was a great demonstration of the pride and talent of our Sailors."

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Aaron Oelrich
Master Sgt. Kurt Ward, first sergeant from the 25th Air Support Operations Squadron, runs with a dummy M-16 during the 24-hour Prisoner of War and Missing In Action remembrance run Sept. 17 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.



U.S. Navy photo by Brandon Bosworth
Left to right, Kevin Dugan, chef at the Hale Koa Hotel; Rear Adm. John V. Fuller, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; Capt. Eric Weilenman, chief of staff, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; and Capt. Stanley Keeve, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH); fill out their scorecards while judging a cooking competition held Sept. 17 at Lockwood Hall, JBPHH.



U.S. Navy photo by Brandon Bosworth
Immigrants salute the flag prior to becoming citizens during a naturalization ceremony held Sept. 17 on the Battleship Missouri Memorial.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Aaron Oelrich
Airmen from the 25th Air Support Operations Squadron run in formation from Earhart track to Atterbury Circle at the conclusion of the 24-hour Prisoner of War and Missing In Action remembrance run Sept. 18 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden
Airmen assigned to 15th Wing enjoy lunch served to them by members of the Hawaii First Sergeants Association in celebration of their birthdays held Sept. 17 at the Hale Aina Dining Facility, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Fire Prevention Week campaign: Hear the beep where you sleep

Every bedroom needs working smoke alarm

Angela Sanders

Fire Inspector, Federal Fire Department Hawaii

Location matters when it comes to your smoke alarm. That's the message behind this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!"

Along with firefighters and safety advocates nationwide, the Federal Fire Department Hawaii is joining forces with the non-profit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) during Fire Prevention Week, October 4-10, to remind local residents about the importance of having working smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside



each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.

According to the latest NFPA research, working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire in half. Meanwhile, three out of five fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Jeffrey Fernaays, the Federal Fire Department Hawaii prevention chief, said that according to NFPA statistics, "In a fire, seconds count. Roughly half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. Home smoke alarms can alert people to

a fire before it spreads, giving everyone enough time to get out."

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign includes the following smoke alarm messages:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. This way, when one sounds, they all do.
- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they don't respond properly.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and

stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.

• Call the fire department from outside the home.

The Federal Fire Department will be at the following locations during Fire Prevention Week to promote "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!"

- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Oct. 3, Honolulu Zoo.
- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Oct. 5, Schofield Barracks Exchange.
- 3 to 5 p.m., Oct. 7, Hale Koa Hotel in Kalia Room.
- 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Oct. 8, Tripler Army Medical Center.
- 4 to 6 p.m., Oct. 9, National Night Out at Aliamanu Military Reservation Community Center.
- 3 to 7 p.m., Oct. 20, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Mololani Com-

munity Center.

• 4 to 6:30 p.m., Oct. 30, fall festival at Hickam Makai Rec Center.

• 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Oct. 31, University of Hawaii football game at Aloha Stadium, UH vs. Air Force.

Through these educational, family-oriented activities, residents can learn more about the importance of having a working smoke alarm in every bedroom.

For more information about the Federal Fire Department Hawaii, contact Fire Inspector Angela Sanders at (808) 471-3303, ext. 617 or angela.sanders1@navy.mil.

To learn more about smoke alarms and "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm," visit NFPA's web site at www.firepreventionweek.org and www.sparky.org/fpw.

Inaugural quarterly birthday meal celebrates 15th Wing Airmen

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Public Affairs

The inaugural quarterly birthday meal took place Sept. 17 at the Hale Aina Dining Facility in celebration of Airmen born in July, August and September.

Participating Airmen and their leadership dined on a special lunch that included grilled steak, lobster, chicken, shrimp, potatoes and vegetables.

The meal, which was planned and hosted by the Hawaii First Sergeants Association, was the first of its kind at Hickam in 17 years.

"This hasn't been done in so long here, we just wanted to do something special for the Airmen," said Master Sgt. Alfred Wells, Hawaii First Sergeants Association.

"We wanted to give Air-

men a piece of home and show them their birthday is special even when they are away from home."

The sit-down meal was served restaurant-style to the guests of honor by members of the Hawaii First Sergeants Association, who also waited on the Airmen the entire meal, to add to the celebratory feel of the event.

"The first sergeants wanted to serve the Airmen their meal as another way of giving back to the Airmen," Wells said.

Airman 1st Class Morgan Carpenter, 647th Security Forces Squadron, said the birthday celebration caught her completely off guard.

"I'd never heard of this event before now, but to have the wing commander and all these members of leadership come out to celebrate everyone's birthday, I felt honored to be a part



Airman 1st Class Rodnaja Ragin, Pacific Air Forces commanders' support staff administrator, is served lunch by Master Sgt. Nicholas Headen, 15th Medical Group first sergeant.

of it," she said.

Carpenter said she was also pleasantly surprised to see the first sergeants and

other members of wing leadership serving lunch.

"Never in my life would I have expected as an airman

first class to have a lieutenant colonel waiting on me," she said.

"I really appreciated the

effort and it makes me feel appreciated. I would have expected other Airmen to be waiting on us maybe, but I liked seeing the leadership get involved. It makes me feel as though I am really a valued part of the team and the Air Force."

In addition to the first sergeants and 15th Wing leadership, the dining facility staff went above and beyond to make the birthday Airmen feel special. Not only did they set up for the event and prepare the food, but they also decorated the private area, baked a cake and put together goody bags.

"The homemade cake was a nice touch," said Carpenter. "I haven't had a birthday party since I was at home, so it was nice of everyone to throw us a party. It felt really nice and I truly enjoyed it."

SOS Center continues commitment for support

Don Robbins

Contributing Writer
Hawaii Army Weekly

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS—In a ceremony held Sept. 16, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii (USAG-HI) officially rededicated the Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) Center, now located at 663 Brannon Road, Schofield Barracks.

The center had previously been located at Fort Shafter since 2010.

With the doors of the re-established SOS Center opened, families of the fallen will have that same long-term support and care to embrace them here. Within this center, the SOS ohana will continue to honor the service and celebrate the lives of their fallen heroes.

Honor and remembrance

The SOS Center is called Hali'a Aloha, Hawaiian for "cherished or loving memory."

Upon entering Hali'a Aloha, visitors are greeted by photographs and family reminiscences of Soldiers and other military service members who gave their lives for their country.

"Just as we did five years ago at Fort Shafter, our SOS families will have a special place of their own to honor and remember their loved ones and to support each other," said Leonard Housley, deputy garrison commander of USAG-HI, in remarks at the ceremony.

"Our goal and our commitment remains exactly the same as it did back then – to provide the most caring, compassionate and effi-



U.S. Army photo by Jack Wiers

Karyn Hatakeyama (holding a portrait of her son), mother of the late Air Force Capt. Reid Nishizuka, attends the official rededication of the Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) Center held Sept. 16 at Schofield Barracks.

cient services we can to each of you," Housley added.

Gold Star Family members participated in the hanging of new portraits of their fallen family members at the center rededication. The new portraits included service members from the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Among those whose portraits were placed on the wall is the late Navy Chief Electrician's Mate (SW) Christian Villanueva who

died in 2011.

His family members were in attendance and his wife Mae tearfully described how much he loved his family.

"My husband was a very wise and loving husband to myself and father to his children," she said. "He loved going to the beach, loved taking the kids out to play, and to be a homebody. I know that he is watching over us," Mae said. She thanked everyone at the center for

Sept. 27 - Gold Star Families Event

A ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. Sept. 27 at the National Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) to honor all Gold Star mothers, families and extended ohana.

Boots and lei will be placed at the base of the "Lady Columbia" (who represents grieving mothers.) Boots representing the fallen sons and daughters, brothers and fathers, will be placed on the steps as part of the ceremony, along with a "lei of remembrance."

helping her and her children.

Another of those in attendance at the rededication was Karyn Hatakeyama. Her son was Air Force Capt. Reid Nishizuka, a pilot. Nishizuka died in 2013 when his plane crashed in Afghanistan. Hatakeyama said it was always Reid's dream to become a pilot.

After she hung her son's portrait on the wall, Hatakeyama reflected on his life and thanked Lis Olsen, the family support officer for Survivor Outreach Services and for Olsen's assistance helping the family deal with the grief of their loss.

"Thank you for reaching out to me," said Hatakeyama. "It's been so helpful during the past two years. I can't thank you enough."

Wall of Honor

Olsen also offered remarks on the significance of the SOS Center's "Wall of Honor and Remembrance." She explained that it's not how the service member died; it's their service that the center honors.

She said that the center invites family members to place photos of their fallen service members on the wall, when they feel ready to

do so, along with a written description of their family member.

"Write a love story, not an obituary," she said.

The rededication ceremony also included an unveiling of a memorial stone and a blessing/untying of the maile lei by Gold Star children.

The new SOS will be conveniently co-located with the Soldier and Family Assistance Center.

"We're sharing resources with other programs. It's a good fit," Olsen said. "The new facility also had space for our Wall of Honor and Remembrance, which is a big piece of what we are."

Program origins

The SOS program was established by the Army in 2008, following a rise in casualties from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation Enduring Freedom, with a mission to reach out to the families of the fallen.

The first SOS Center at Fort Shafter opened its doors in 2010 for Hawaii families. In an effort to recognize those fallen service members, 22 portraits were hung on the Wall of Honor and Remembrance.