

# Bilateral U.S., Japan exercise promotes security

Capt. Justin Billot

Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

Personnel from the U.S. military and Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) engaged in the week-long "Integrated Air and Missile Defense Wargame V" at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to strengthen ties between the two nations and unite missile defense operations through bilateral training.

Representatives from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Japan Air Self-Defense Force and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force gathered on the shores of Oahu during the second week of February to participate in the bilateral and joint exercise.

Japan Air Self-Defense Force Maj. Gen. Yutaka Masuko, director of the defense plans and operations directorate at the air defense command headquarters, and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Rear Adm. Ryo Sakai, commanding officer of Escort Flotilla One, led a team of Japanese air and missile defense planners during the exercise. The 613th Air Operations Center of Pacific Air Forces hosted the event.

"The goal of this exercise is to continue bilateral integration between our two nations to promote the security and stability of the Asia-Pacific region," said Maj. Gen. Kevin Pottinger, mobilization assistant to the PACAF commander. "Integration and ally engagements are keys to the success of mutual defense of Japan and continued free access to the global commons."

The event is a continuation of



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

Planners from the U.S. military and Japan Self-Defense Forces engage in missile defense planning during the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Wargame V on Feb. 13 in the 613th Air Operations Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

previous exercises that provide opportunities for service members from each nation to work together as well as enabling important joint U.S. training. Bilateral engagements are central to U.S. and Japanese shared goals of security and regional stability, according to Pottinger.

"We have made great progress working with our Japanese allies to enhance the integration of our air and missile defense opera-

tions," Pottinger said. "This exercise strengthened our highly synchronized, bilateral control of integrated air and missile defense."

The high fidelity, table top exercise was run by the Naval War College's Gravelly Group and challenged Japan Self-Defense Forces and U.S. forces with a series of simulated events throughout a five-day period. Ultimately, these simulations pro-

vide realistic training opportunities for defense personnel while generating actionable and knowledgeable feedback for missile defense planning. For many military personnel, it was the first time working alongside allies in the Pacific.

One aspect that required no simulation was the effort required to coordinate defense training across two different languages. Even with the outstanding English skills of

the visiting JSDF officers, the fast pace of a missile defense exercise and its complex, highly technical vocabulary made the role of key language translators absolutely essential in the bilateral exchanges.

IAMD Wargame V is one of many bilateral exercises this year. These engagements ensure that when it comes to security and stability in the Pacific, Japanese and U.S. forces are speaking the same language.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro

(Left) Capt. Carlyle Devoe (Navy ret.), Honolulu Navy League president, and Rear Adm. Robert Girrier, (right) deputy commander and chief of staff of U.S. Pacific Fleet, present a Sailor with a coin of appreciation during the sixth annual Honolulu Navy League-sponsored individual augmentee (IA) recognition luncheon at the Ala Moana Hotel.

## Individual augmentees honored

MCSA Rose Forest

Navy Public Affairs  
 Support Element West, Det. Hawaii

More than 62 Hawaii-based Sailors and Marines and their families were recognized for their service as individual augmentees (IAs) during the sixth annual "Boots on the Ground" IA recognition luncheon held Feb. 21 at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu.

Hosted by the Honolulu Council Navy League and presented by Partners in Patriotism, the luncheon recognized service members who deployed away from their command to regions in need of a unique skill that they possessed.

"This is an opportunity to call out individuals and recognize what they have done," said Rear Adm. Robert P. Girrier, deputy commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet. "The name says it all; it was 'individuals' who came forward ... to 'augment' critical shortfalls in certain mission areas."

"It's the nature of our force. This volunteer force that we have created over the decades has some incredible talent at the individual level," said Girrier. "This is what you get when you have a professional force."

Since 2002, more than 114,000 active and Reserve Sailors and Marines have served on IA deployments. They leave their normal

military duties to fill critical jobs in locations around the world.

"It was a huge learning experience for me," said Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Tara Myles. "That's why I volunteered. I wanted to learn and see a different aspect of my rate."

More than 1,400 IA Sailors have been awarded the Bronze Star, and nearly 20,000 have been awarded meritorious service awards of various types.

The Navy League is a civilian non-profit organization that hosted the luncheon to give the Marines and Sailors who served as individual augmentees recognition for their services.

## USS Columbus underway



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Steven Khor

(Above) Chief Machinist's Mate Darryl Jackson of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS Columbus (SSN 762) spends time with his son at a lunch for the crew before Columbus departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 19.

(Below) The Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS Columbus (SSN 762) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 19 for a regularly scheduled deployment to the western Pacific region. (See story and additional photos on page A-2, A-5).

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jason Swink



USS Columbus departs for western Pacific deployment  
 See page A-2



Navy Seabees, Air Force civil engineers join in 'Olympics'  
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Honors  
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C-17 pilots train hard  
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15th Wing gears up for 2014 AFAP drive  
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COLA survey  
 See page B-5

# USS Columbus departs for western Pacific deployment

Story and photo by  
MC1 Steven Khor

Commander Submarine Force  
U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs  
Office

Families and friends bid farewell to the crew of the Los Angeles-class, fast-attack submarine USS Columbus (SSN 762) as it departed Feb. 19 from Joint Base Pearl-Harbor Hickam for a deployment to the western Pacific region.

Cmdr. David Youtt, Columbus' commanding officer, said the submarine and her crew are ready to get underway on a western Pacific (WESTPAC) deployment.

"The ship is in the best condition of my time on board, all systems are at 100 percent, and we are ready to execute our WESTPAC deployment," said Youtt. "The crew is definitely ready to get under way, and we are ready to professionally execute the mission."

Missions will include handling a multitude of taskings, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare and special operations in theater.

Youtt noted some of the challenges facing the crew include leaving their families, keeping the submarine operational for long periods, and continuing to qualify the Sailors in all facets of submarining.



Chief Electrician's Mate Derek Diener of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS Columbus (SSN 762) spends time with his family at a lunch for the crew before Columbus departs to the western Pacific region. (See additional photo on page A-5).

However, he said he has an excellent crew and an excellent supply system to ensure continuous successful operations.

Youtt noted goals that include being ready for anything that Columbus is tasked to do, maximize qualifications of the submariners, and maximize the experience of the crew. He added

that the senior Sailors will train with the younger personnel to gain the experience of going on a western Pacific deployment and how to best represent the country.

Master Chief Machinist's Mate Herman Del Toro, Columbus' chief of the boat, added that the crew will also have the opportunity to experience foreign

ports of call.

"The crew has been training hard and even though it can be tough to leave the families, sometimes we get an opportunity to pull into some ports that some crew [members] will never experience if not for deployments," said Del Toro.

Columbus deployed with about

135 Sailors, many of them on their first deployment.

For Culinary Specialist Seaman Jose Hernandez, a first-time deployment brings feelings of anticipation and excitement.

"I'm pretty excited for this first-time deployment," said Hernandez. "It should be nice. I like the crew I'm working with, so I'm not worried about going under for so long."

Hernandez talked about the challenges he will face.

"I'm looking to experience challenges and how we handle them as a crew, or individually, how well I do in getting my qualifications," said Hernandez.

Hernandez added that despite any challenges, he looks forward to his first deployment, seeing new ports, and learning from his fellow shipmates to better prepare him for future opportunities in life.

Columbus is the 51st Los Angeles-class submarine and the 12th improved version of this class, which includes a vertical launch system for Tomahawk cruise missiles and an improved hull design for under-ice operations. It completed a post shipyard availability in June 1994 in Groton, Conn. after initial construction and shakedown operations. In September 1994, the ship conducted an inter-fleet transfer to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and joined the U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Force.



Lt. Col. Gregg Johnson, 535th Airlift Squadron commander, banks left in a C-17 Globemaster III simulator. (See additional photo on page A-5).

## C-17 pilots train hard

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt.  
Alexander Martinez

15th Wing Public Affairs

For C-17 Globemaster III pilots, training doesn't only occur in the sky. In fact, much of their training is done on the ground to ensure that when they fly, they're prepared to deal with any issue that may come their way.

Hickam C-17 pilots maintain their preparedness by conducting recurring training throughout the year. This includes computer-based training, monthly exams on basic flight knowledge, self-paced instrument simulator sorties for newer pilots, and quarterly phase training in a C-17 simulator, a 30-foot machine that gives pilots a realistic feeling of flight.

"Using [the simulator] gives us a great opportunity to practice our flying and improve overall," said Lt. Col. Gregg Johnson, 535th Airlift Squadron (AS) commander. "It really helps build our confidence, whether you're a pilot like me who's been doing this for a while, or a newer pilot. In fact, it's very important for our newer guys."

Johnson and copilot 1st Lt. Taylor Ragland, 535th AS, recently completed a phase 1-day 1 training together in the C-17 simulator.

"The simulator gives us a chance to go through a problem in real time so if it happened in real life, we would be able to rely on our training to fix the problem," Ragland said.

Before entering the simulator, pilots go through a pre-brief with a pilot instructor to prepare for their simulated mission. While the pilots have a good idea what the training might include, they don't fully know, allowing the element of surprise to drive their training.

The simulator, sitting on hydraulic legs, moves with the motion of flight conducted inside to give a real sense of flying. The detailed landscapes and weather patterns challenge the pilots, but pilot instructors also inject different challenges and emergencies during training. Most emergencies that are practiced in the simulator can't be practiced in the air, such as engine fires,



A C-17 Globemaster III flight simulator sits ready for pilots to board.

hydraulic failure and enemy threats.

"The scenarios test our decision-making skills and ability to identify issues or emergencies," Ragland said. "We then run through our procedures to solve the problem using checklists."

According to Ragland, the C-17 simulator program saves the Air Force \$20,000 per flight hour as opposed to the pilots flying in-air missions for the same training. This doesn't include maintenance costs, manning and time. It costs \$25 million to construct the simulator and its facility, and it pays for itself every six months in fuel savings alone.

Additionally, the simulator has the ability to link up with C-17 simulators at other bases to conduct joint-mission exercises and can even link up with simulators for KC-135 Stratotankers to practice in-air refueling.

"The ability to link up with simulators from other bases gives us more of a real-time practice because there are other pilots you're interacting with, so you can't just press pause in the [simulator]," Ragland said.

The realistic training the C-17 simulator provides to pilots ensures Hickam's fleet continues to fly safely and effectively to accomplish the 15th Wing mission.

## NAVFAC commands partner to support STEM outreach program

Naval Facilities  
Engineering Command  
Pacific Public Affairs

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific and NAVFAC Hawaii partnered to provide an educational science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) opportunity for Radford High School to visit the Navy Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) on Feb. 7.

Paul Carter of NAVFAC Hawaii gave a guided tour of the 11.61 acre facility located at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to the school's advanced placement environmental science (APES) class.

"Water was a big topic in the APES curriculum, and the tour was directly related to what the students were learning," said Jennifer Hall, Radford High School APES teacher. "The day before the tour, the students had just finished learning about water pollution, wa-

terborne diseases and the process of water treatment."

The tour consisted of a safety brief at the beginning of the plant, then onto sewer water intake, then through the different stages in the plant process, and finally to the lab where the water is tested.

"Very often students just read about what they've learned, but never have the opportunity to witness it," said Hall. "The students were glad to witness the process of water treatment and be able to view the samples of water under a microscope. The aeration tanks also piqued a lot of interest."

STEM-related sections of the tour included the overall plant water intake capacity of water flow in and out, flocculation formation, the different aeration basins, chemical reactions with the bacteria, pH of the water at the outfall and methane production.

"The students were thor-

oughly engaged in every part of the tour, asking questions and being intrigued about the entire process," said Lt. Brian Christner, NAVFAC Pacific aide to the commander and tour escort. "They enjoyed the tour and learned about the pivotal role NAVFAC and the plant serves to treat the waste water we produce."

The WWTP was built in increments starting in 1969 and is owned, operated and maintained by NAVFAC Hawaii. It provides advanced secondary treatment through the use of clarifiers, an activated sludge process, and effluent filtration for approximately 5.5 million gallons of wastewater per day.

The WWTP's primary, secondary and tertiary treatment, such as sand filtration and ultraviolet disinfection of both domestic and industrial wastewater is beneficial to the U.S. Navy and the state of Hawaii, keeping the island's ocean waters clean.



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Brian Christner

NAVFAC Pacific and NAVFAC Hawaii partnered to provide the Radford High School Environmental Science class with an educational tour of the Navy Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) on Feb. 7.

## JBPHH launches Flickr, shares photos with Navy, Air Force community

Anna Marie General

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

In addition to its presence on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest, on Feb. 21 Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) launched Flickr, an online photo sharing and management tool as part of their official social networking sites.

With Flickr's one terabyte of free space, this allows JBPHH to organize and share high-resolution photos with stakeholders and the Pearl Harbor-Hickam community.

Coinciding with the launch, JBPHH

leadership recognized Sailors, Airmen and civilians for a "job well done" during an awards ceremony held at the Hickam Memorial Theater. It captured the camaraderie of the joint base community that received more than 100 views on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Flickr during its first day online.

Social media has changed the way we communicate and disseminate information instantly over the last decade, which makes Flickr the Facebook of photography.

To view or download Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Flickr photo stream, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/pearlharborhickam>.

Commentary

# Navy housing liaison shares energy saving tips

Todd Thom

Navy Region Hawaii  
Housing Liaison

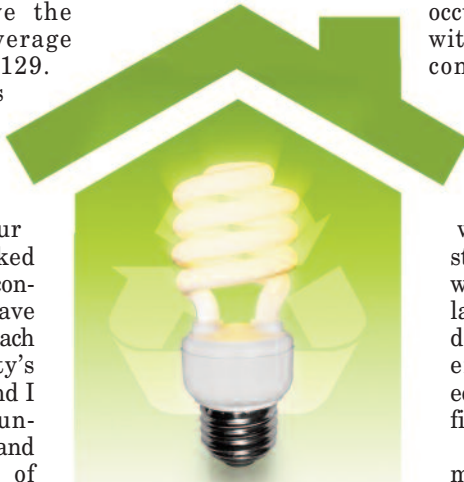
I serve as the advocate for residents living in Forest City's Navy public-private venture (PPV) homes and engage daily with Forest City Residential Management and its residents to help make living in a Forest City home a positive experience.

The Navy's Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP) is part of living in a Navy PPV home and is crucial to long-term sustainability of the PPV program. Less electricity usage reduces costs to the project's operating budget, allowing funds to be spent on other uses like additional services and future home replacement.

In December 2013, 33 percent of Forest City's res-

idents were above the buffer with the average payment being \$129. Also, 32 percent of its residents were below the buffer with an average rebate of \$135.

For the past four months, I have worked with Forest City to contact residents who have had the highest bills each month. Forest City's property manager and I personally made hundreds of phone calls and conducted dozens of home inspections to aid residents in reducing their utility consumption. Through these outreach efforts, I have learned a lot and so have housing residents. I have reconfirmed my belief that some families are fully aware of their usage and are comfortable with their family lifestyle and energy consumption.



I have also engaged with a considerable number of residents who were unaware of preventable factors contributing to their high energy usage. Many have made adjustments after my visit and actually saw a decrease in their next monthly consumption (and often their bill). I want to share the knowledge that we have gained from these interactions.

The three most common factors are not surprises—they are at the top of every energy saver checklist: air conditioning, water heaters and plug load.

Air conditioning maintenance at the resident level is essential and two-fold. It can be significant in keeping costs down and in preventing mold from

occurring in a home. We witnessed numerous air conditioning systems with dirty or clogged filters.

A clogged filter suffocates the system and makes it work harder if not constantly. To better track when your filter was last changed, write the date down on your calendar and the filter edge that faces the A/C filter door.

Change your filter monthly at a minimum, more frequently if you have pets that shed hair. Filters are available free of charge at the self help center located on Nimitz Road.

OSHA recommends 76 degrees for an office environment; a home's recommended setting is 78 degrees. We noted that some residents have heat-generating items like televisions and entertainment systems placed near the A/C thermostat. This resulted in the A/C turning on when it wasn't needed.

It also helps to keep cooling boundaries closed and use light-blocking curtains on your windows to minimize the sun's heating effect in the home.

We found water heater timers with the incorrect time of day. A common cause of this is due to a previous power outage, so be sure to reset the timer any

time you lose power. The result was that electricity was turning on at the wrong time to heat the water, such as during the day when the sun should be heating the water.

Some families, based on their lifestyle, can have hot water available solely from the sun without ever using "on" and "off" timer pins. Only on cloudy days would these residents need to manually turn on the water heater by flipping the timer level to the "on" position (just remember to flip it to the "off" position when you have enough hot water. Operating the water heater using "only solar" can reduce monthly consumption by as much as 20 percent.

Residents can also benefit from checking their air conditioner and hot water heater weekly. Keeping the space dry and free of water leaks prevents humidity that may create mold.

We met residents who were not aware of how much plug load they had. Some chose to re-evaluate whether their extra freezer, refrigerator or beverage cooler was really needed for the few items that were in them, compared to the cost to run them.

Some residents had multiple items plugged in when not in use that continued to draw electricity. These items should be unplugged or turned off through the use of a power strip. Forest

City makes available one free advanced-power strip per household, so be sure to go to your resident service office if you have not received yours.

We noted residents who liked to use air fresheners plugged into an outlet to heat oil or wax. The home smelled nice; however, many of the bulbs and elements in these fresheners can cost up to \$11 a month to operate. This becomes significant when several of them are plugged into a home, operating 24/7. We met residents who used less electricity by utilizing a liquid scent with wicks that they inverted every few weeks.

These are just a few of our most common findings that could have a significant impact on electricity consumption. For more tips and information, visit: [www.livewithinthebuffer.com](http://www.livewithinthebuffer.com).

If there is a problem in your home or you would like assistance in how you can conserve energy in your home, contact a Forest City community manager for your location or me at 474-1804 for assistance.

Remember that conservation doesn't have to be a hardship but does require good stewardship.

*(Editor's note: We will have more information soon about energy conservation and electricity rates. Watch this space.)*

## Diverse Views



### Which African American historical figure do you admire the most and why?



**Spencer King**  
Air Force Office of Special Investigations

"Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Sr., first black general officer, the reason I joined the military. His dedication and service inspired me."

**MM1 Edward Cabansag**  
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam



"Martin Luther King, of course, because he has had the most impact for us by far as far as minority rights."



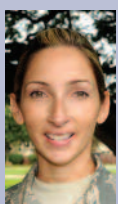
**Staff Sgt. Antonio Vazquez**  
8th Intelligence Squadron

"Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He showed millions of Americans and the world that any dream, no matter how big or small, is worth fighting for."

**CTR2 Caleb Lovett**  
NIOC Hawaii



"George Washington Carver, because he invented peanut butter. I love peanut butter. Can't have PB and Js without it."



**Master Sgt. Amy Mendonca**  
8th Intelligence Squadron

"Oprah Winfrey. She has overcome such adversity in her life, to become one of the most influential women in the world. She has inspired millions to better themselves and their lives."

**CTRSA Roman Small**  
NIOC Hawaii



"Martin Luther King. Civil rights, that's what it should all be about."



**Staff Sgt. Shawn Williams**  
647th Logistics Readiness Squadron

"Jackie Robinson. He showed great courage and overcame many obstacles. He also went after his dreams no matter what anyone said."

**CTR2 Shane Hale**  
NIOC Hawaii



"Rosa Parks. She stood up for what she believed in."



**Tech. Sgt. Mia Williams**  
56th Air and Space Communications Squadron

"Michael Jordan. Although there are many African American figures I admire, I admire Michael Jordan because there is a quote that sticks out to me he mentioned. 'I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games; 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.' Very powerful!"

Provided by David D. Underwood Jr.  
and Lt. j.g. Eric Galassi

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

Drop us a line at [editor@hookelenews.com](mailto:editor@hookelenews.com) or [karen.spangler@navy.mil](mailto:karen.spangler@navy.mil)

## Ship named after first African American naval aviator



U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph

USS Jesse L. Brown (DE-1089) is shown here being tied up at the Charleston Naval Base, S.C. as it returns from maneuvers in the Mediterranean Sea with other ships of Destroyer Squadron Four in 1974. USS Jesse L. Brown, a 3963-ton Knox-class escort ship built at Westwego, La., was commissioned in February 1973, 41 years ago this month. It was named in honor of Ensign Jesse LeRoy Brown, who became the first African American naval aviator in 1948.

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# Navy Seabees, Air Force civil engineers join 'Olympics'

MC2 Tiarra Fulgham

Navy Public Affairs  
Support Element West,  
Det. Hawaii

Sailors from Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 303, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific and Air Force engineers competed in the Seabee Olympics held Feb. 22 at Quick Field at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The Seabee Olympics is an annual event held prior to the Seabee birthday ball to build camaraderie, esprit de corps and unit cohesion among Seabees, Civil Engineer Corp officers, and engineers from the U.S. Air Force 647th Engineering Squadron.

"The way the teams have come together has changed over the years. Combining with the joint base has allowed us to invite the Air Force and have the 647th civil engineers," said Lt. John Daly, resident officer of construction, Kaneohe Bay. "We call it the Seabee Olympics, but what we are really celebrating is the military engineers."

Events included traditional competitions that deal with construction or the mechanic work that engineers do, such as pushing a Humvee, driving a nail relay race and a construction project, all which reflect the military engineering department. This year's events also included ultimate frisbee, tug-of-war, tire flips and flag football.

"It's pretty good being out here with the Navy. It's good competition and a good morale builder," said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jeremie Wilson of 647th Civil Engineer Squadron. "We don't get to see this



Seabees assigned to Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawaii Self-Help participate in a tire flip race Feb. 21, at Quick Field on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Seabees assigned to Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303 and Airmen from the 647TH Civil Engineer Squadron (647 CES) participate in Ultimate Frisbee at Quick Field.



(Far left) Steelworker 1st Class David Banaszak assigned to Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303 participates in a nail and hammer relay race during the Seabee Olympics Feb. 21.

(Left) Seabees assigned to Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303, and Airmen from the 647TH Civil Engineer Squadron (647 CES) participate in Ultimate Frisbee at Quick Field on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Sean Furey

side often and they don't get to see us, so it's a good way to just get out here and realize we are all the same people."

The Seabee Olympics this year takes place during the National Engineers

Week during which the Society of American Military Engineers recognizes the many achievements of military engineers.

"A couple of years ago, we switched it over to a trophy that gets passed back and

forth called the "Admirals Hammer," which currently the Air Force holds," said Daly. "The goal is to get it out of building 1200. Whether it comes to NAVFAC Hawaii or whether it goes to CBMU 303, we are

both trying to get the trophy back into Seabee hands."

The USAF claimed the "Admirals Hammer" in both 2012 and 2013. This year the trophy was placed in the hands of NAVFAC Hawaii.

The official birthday of

the Seabee rate is March 5. Navy Seabees will celebrate March 8 at the Hale Koa in Honolulu. This year marks the 72nd anniversary of the Navy Seabees and the 162nd anniversary of the Civil Engineer Corps.

## Service members can receive help filing income tax returns

Story and photo by  
Master Sgt.  
Jerome S. Tayborn

15th Wing Public Affairs

As of Jan. 31, active-duty, Reservists, family members and retirees can now have their 2013 income taxes prepared using the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam self-service tax center.

The tax service is free of charge and runs through the Internal Revenue Service's deadline for tax return submissions April 15. Eligible reservists must be on active status and retirees' annual income must not exceed \$58,000.

Last year more than 670 federal returns were filed by the JBPHH tax center.

The walk-in only and self-service process allows customers to electronically file their 2013 income tax returns at their own pace with the help of an on-staff volunteer tax preparer to assist with any questions and guidance.

"If service members have their taxes prepared by a professional business, it could cost anywhere from \$200 to \$500," said Cryptologic Technician (Interpreter) 1st Class



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Edward Lim, 324th Intelligence Squadron linguist, assists U.S. Navy Cryptologic Technician (Interpreter) 3rd Class Mary Chamber, Navy Information Operations Center, as she files her 2013 income taxes Feb. 19 at the tax center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Dewayne Bell, assigned to Navy Information Operations Center, who is a volunteer tax preparer.

"The average cost to purchase the online software could range from

\$20 for a basic copy to \$80 for a more premium version," Bell said.

Typically it only takes 30-60 minutes to file a tax return with minimal assistance utilizing the

services, unless a member has a more complex tax return.

"Depending on the ease of a return and how quickly the IRS can accept a return, it can be done

fairly quickly," said Bell. "If filing an electronic return, it can take up to 21 days to receive a refund, but here we have seen it take as little as five working days in some cases."

"We advise service members to bring all your tax papers with you including last year's return taxes," said Bell.

"This is my first time utilizing these services, and I think it's pretty amazing," said Cryptologic Technician (Interpreter) 3rd Class Mary Chamber, Navy Information Operations Center. "The process was pretty easy, and all of the volunteers here are very helpful and friendly."

The tax center staff members are volunteers certified through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance office with the IRS and have completed all IRS required exams.

The tax center is located in the Navy College, building 679 at Pearl Harbor. Tax center office hours are from 8:30 a.m. through 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. For more information, call the JBPHH tax center at 473-4112.

# Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



(Left) Airmen from the 15th Medical Group struggle to drive as they take part in a driving simulation game while wearing goggles that replicate the effects of alcohol during the group's Wingman Day held Feb. 20 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The event highlighted the dangers of drinking and driving and the consequences associated with it.

U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn

(Right) Airmen from the 647th Civil Engineer Squadron help guide a fellow blindfolded Airman through a simulated land mine obstacle course during the 647th CES Wingman Day held Feb. 19 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Wingman Day encourages teamwork and highlights the Air Force's focus on its most valuable asset: Airmen.

U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn



(Left) Airmen from the 96th Air Refueling Squadron participate in a kayak race during the 96th ARS Wingman Day held Feb. 20 at Hickam Beach on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn

(Right) Lt. Col. Mark Ladtchow, 199th Fighter Squadron commander, and Lt. Col. James Sage, 199th Fighter Squadron director of operations, provide a brief overview of the Hawaii F-22 Raptors to Sen. Richard J. Durbin (Dem.-Ill.), Sen. Brian E. Schatz (Dem.-Hawaii) and Sen. Mazie Hirono (Dem.-Hawaii) on Feb. 18 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Kristen M. Stanley



(Left) Lt. Americo Perez Jr. of the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Columbus (SSN 762) enjoys time with his family at a lunch for the crew before Columbus departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 19.

U.S. Navy photo by MCI Steven Khor

# USS Chung-Hoon ramps up for maintenance at shipyard

Lt. j.g. Augustus Karisch

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93)

The guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) will undergo a large overhaul of its physical structure and various mechanical and electronic systems at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

Though it is not uncommon for a ship to be in port for two weeks or even a month at a time while minor work is completed, this five-month extended period of maintenance is a new occurrence for most of the current crew. With its upgraded capabilities, it can provide the best possible support to U.S. Pacific Fleet.

"It's easy to feel like we aren't doing what we signed up for as Sailors when we're just sitting next to the pier," said



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Paul Kelly

The guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) underway during Talisman Saber 2013.

Cmdr. Ryan Collins, commanding officer.

"But really, we are investing in the future readiness of our ship and giving

her the cutting edge technology we need to meet any challenges we may face in the future," he added. "This maintenance

period will go off safely and efficiently with proactive oversight by all hands, and soon we can get back to what we do

best – defending America's interests over the horizon."

To keep their skills sharp, Chung-Hoon Sailors will crossdeck to other ships on the waterfront as well as make use of the various shore-based simulators and training systems available in and around Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

There will be scaffolding and power tools on the ship, and many of the training systems that the Sailors rely on will be temporarily out of commission. To mitigate these risks, Sailors aboard Chung-Hoon will be required to undergo focused safety training and use additional personal protective equipment when moving about the ship.

Command Master Chief Chris Detje warned against complacency and a

lack of focus. "The ship will be in a vulnerable period where training and safety can easily be overlooked," said Detje. "This maintenance period should be taken every bit as seriously as a deployment work-up phase, so that we remain safe and proficient and can hit the ground running as soon as we are out of the yards."

Indeed, training and safety are emphasized at all levels and in all spaces.

"For the last two years, and really for most Sailors' entire careers, our job has been to prepare for deployments and to focus on carrying out the Navy's mission abroad," said Lt. Cmdr. Tom Ogden, Chung-Hoon's executive officer.

"Now it's time to shift our focus and approach this maintenance period with the same intensity and commitment," he said.

## 15th Wing gears up for 2014 AFAF drive

Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez

15th Wing Public Affairs

In the spirit of giving back to the Air Force community, the 15th Wing is preparing its 2014 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign which begins March 3 and runs through April 11.

The AFAF is an annual fundraiser for charitable organizations that provide support to the Air Force community, including active duty, Reservist and Air National Guard Airmen, their family members and retirees.

The charitable organizations include the Air Force Villages, Inc., the Air Force Aid Society, Inc., the Gen. and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation, and the Air Force Enlisted Village, Inc.

The organizations help the Air Force community by providing aid during emergencies, support for educational needs, and assisting widows and widowers of Air Force members in need of financial assistance.

Master Sgt. Valorie Whitehill, 15th Maintenance Group, and Capt. Jeremy Tippey, 15th Operations Support Squadron, are the installation project officers for

this year's campaign.

The six-week campaign begins with an AFAF kickoff reception on March 3 where the first official contributions from the 15th Wing will be given.

A key focus for this year's campaign is getting as many Airmen as possible to donate, even if it's only a small amount. Every wing unit will have an AFAF keyworker in charge of coordinating the collection of donations and ensuring 100 percent contact with their unit personnel.

"The key is to ensure all service members are contacted and accurately informed on what AFAF provides," Tippey said. "We want everyone to know their whole donation goes directly to help other Air Force members."

This year, Hickam's monetary goal is to raise \$115,620. Donors are encouraged to learn more about the charities the AFAF supports and can find their website links at <https://www.afassistancefund.org>.

"I believe that the more people understand what these four organizations are about, the more likely people are to give," Whitehill said.

For more information on Hickam's AFAF campaign, call Master Sgt. Whitehill at 448-6068 or email [valorie.whitehill@us.af.mil](mailto:valorie.whitehill@us.af.mil)

## NMCRS fund drive to kick off March 3

The 2014 Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) "Be their Safety Net — Donate Today" fund drive for Navy activities will be held March 3 to April 4.

Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, will kick off the fund drive for all command key persons at 11 a.m. March 3 at Sharkey Theater, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Uniform is service khaki for E-7 and above, uniform of the day for E-6 and below. All commands are requested to send their NMCRS fund drive representative to this kickoff meeting. Commanding officers, officers in charge and command master chiefs are also invited to attend.

Command fundraising packages necessary to conduct the campaign will be distributed at 10:30 a.m. Key person training will also be provided.

NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor will provide overall fund drive coordination. Campaign collection updates will be reported to the NMCRS on March 14, 21, 28 and April 4.

For more information, contact Lt. Darian Wilder at [darian.wilder@navy.mil](mailto:darian.wilder@navy.mil) or 473-7903.

