

Officials unveil USS Arizona stamp



U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Tiarra Fulgham

(Above): (from left to right), Greg Wolny, United States Postal Service Honolulu district manager; Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, USNS vice president; Paul DePrey, National Park Service superintendent; Ret. U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka and Hawaii State Rep. K. Mark Takai unveil the USS Arizona Memorial Priority Mail express stamp.



(Left): Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, along with Ret. U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Akaka and Paul DePrey, National Park Service superintendent sign a framed image of the new priority mail express stamp on March 13. The stamp features an illustration of the USS Arizona Memorial created by artist Dan Cosgrove.

DMV on JBPHH to be determined by city council vote

SrAirman Christopher Stoltz

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

Waiting in line at the DMV is the worst. Not only is a fair chunk of your day wasted while you wait for your number to be called, but then you have to play catch up on work you may have missed while you were out.

For military members and their families in the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) area, this may soon be an issue of the past.

On March 13, Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell and council members, Breene Harimoto, Ron Menor and Kimberly

Pine, announced a pilot program and proposal that would bring a city motor vehicle registration to JBPHH.

The city council, however, must first approve the program. As Ho'okele went to press, the proposal was scheduled to be on the March 20 agenda of the City Council Intergovernmental Affairs and Human Services Committee.

If approved by the city council, the new registration office would be located in Club Pearl. The service would be open to all military personnel, their family members and civilian employees from all military bases.

According to the Pearlridge DMV, some of the lengthiest transactions at the DMV are military out-

of-state car registrations. Opening a satellite location at joint base would alleviate congestion at the other DMV locations throughout Oahu. The new office, however, would not be open five days a week.

"What we're looking to do is have the location open two times a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays," said Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell. "We are going to have people from other satellite city halls, Pearlridge in particular, who will staff this office behind me." [at Club Pearl]

If the plan is approved, the selected location at Club Pearl will be transformed from empty space to relief for service members and their families who wish to spend less of their time waiting in a queue.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Nardel Cervacio

Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, looks on as Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell holds a press conference on a proposal to open a motor vehicle registration office at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Sentry Aloha emphasizes aircraft integration

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal

Defense Media Activity - Hawaii

More than 350 participants and five units participated in the largest Sentry Aloha exercise to date from March 6 to March 19.

Sentry Aloha is an air-to-air exercise focused on offensive and defensive counter measures and fighting integration, providing pilots with the opportunity to integrate different generations of aircraft into one air-to-air exercise.

"What we're working on here is fifth generation advanced air-to-air tactics," said Lt. Col. Mike Didio, 112th Fighter Squadron commander, Ohio Air Na-

tional Guard.

"We're working on defensive counter air missions where basically we're blue air trying to protect an asset integrated with the [F-22 Raptors]. Then we will move on to an offensive counter air mindset where we're actually taking the fight to the simulated enemy working with F-22s and F-15 [Eagle]."

For Maj. Brian Moran, 112th Fighter Squadron weapons officer, Ohio Air National Guard, working alongside and supplementing other airframes like the F-22 has been a useful training experience.



(Above): An F-16 Fighting Falcon, assigned to the 112th Fighter Squadron, Ohio Air National Guard, participates in a Sentry Aloha exercise March 7 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (Left): An F-22 Raptor from the 199th Fighter Squadron, Hawaii Air National Guard.

"It's been awesome being able to come out here and support our fifth generation brethren, the F-22," said


Moran, 112th Fighter Squadron. "Working with them on the blue side and seeing how we can all inte-





grate together has been great." Although Moran has trained beside the F-22 be-


fore, Sentry Aloha offers something new for him.

See Sentry Aloha A-6

 Elmendorf fighters take up winter refuge at JBPHH **See page A-2**

 Emergency management training keeps JBPHH prepared **See page A-2**

 Hickam Airmen participate in Read Across America **See page A-4**

 PHNSY plans new methods to repair sealing surfaces to upgrade vertical launch system **See page A-6**

 "Stamp of approval" **See page B-1**

 Joint base to hold "Walk to Safety" April 1 **See page B-3**

Elmendorf fighters take up winter refuge at JBPHH



Senior Airman Trey MacLaughlin, a 525th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, marshals an F-22 Raptor into place on the flightline at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on March 11.

**Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden**

15th Wing Public Affairs

Having 365 days of tropical weather makes Hawaii not only an ideal place for a beach vacation, it provides optimal working conditions for flying units needing to escape wintry weather.

One such unit taking advantage of the warmer temperatures is the 525th Fighter Squadron (FS) from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, on temporary duty to JBPHH for Operation Cope Thaw.

According to Maj. Ryan Wick, an F-22 Raptor pilot with the 525th FS, prior to arriving at JBPHH for Cope Thaw on March 1, not a single pilot in their unit at home was combat-mission ready for various reasons — one of them being weather-related cancellation of sorties.

“Alaska is a great place to fly. The airspace is unmatched, and the local community is extremely supportive,” said Wick. “However, there are unique challenges when it comes to the weather. On average, our pilots fly eight sorties a month. That’s what it takes to be considered combat mission ready. But due to weather attrition this season, we were averaging four or five sorties a month, so when we arrived here March 1 the entire squadron was non-combat mission ready.”

Wick said the unit typically supports two flying periods a day, but due to weather conditions beyond their control, there are times when flying just isn’t safe.

“We’ll fly in negative 30 degrees, but snow, fog, low clouds and freezing rain force us to ground the jets, and it is difficult to get lost sorties back,” he said.

But temporarily relocat-

ing operations to Hawaii has made all the difference. After only one week on island, the unit has already seen one pilot attain the required amount of flying time, an achievement Wick said is virtually unprecedented.

“We brought 12 pilots here and if things go as planned, we should leave here with 12 pilots fully combat mission ready,” he said. “In only two weeks, we’ll accomplish what usually takes a month.”

Wick attributed the unit’s success during Cope Thaw to more than just blue skies.

“We haven’t lost a single sortie due to maintenance,” he said. “Our goal is to fly 100 percent of our maintenance contracted sorties and since we’ve been here, we’ve flown 100 percent. We’ve seen absolutely phenomenal maintenance work.”

Though maintenance on the jets isn’t directly impacted by the weather, Mas-

ter Sgt. Jason Schmidt, 525th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron lead production superintendent, said being on temporary duty to Hawaii has boosted the team’s productivity.

“The maintenance is all the same regardless of where we are, but I’m sure the warm weather makes us more productive,” he said. “The guys’ spirits are up, everybody’s in a good mood ... you can’t beat it. It’s a morale booster. The winter in Alaska is long, so it’s nice to get to work in sunny weather in the middle of the winter.”

In fact, being TDY to Hawaii has even brought the team closer together. “There’s been extraordinary teamwork to get the mission accomplished here,” he said.

“We’re all here working together toward the same goal, so some folks have had to step outside of their comfort zones to help out in



Senior Airman Trey MacLaughlin, a 525th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, services the oil on an F-22 Raptor engine during a through flight inspection on the flightline at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on March 11.

other specialties. You’ve got folks from different career fields working together to learn what other people on the team do. It’s been a good learning experience for everyone because the dynamic here is different than back home.”

The coincidental timing of Cope Thaw also created another training opportunity for the unit to take full advantage of—participating in Sentry Aloha 2014. The ongoing aerial combat exercise provides an opportunity for the F-22 unit to maximize the weather here and to train with many of the dissimilar aircraft on the island in support of the exercise.

Capt. Patrick Kellerman, 525th Aircraft Maintenance Unit officer in charge, said Cope Thaw’s success has truly been an all-around team effort.

“The host unit has been really supportive,” he said. “We could not have done this without them. It’s because of them we are even able to be at 100 percent of our sorties. They’ve helped us out by sharing their infrastructure and providing us equipment we weren’t able to bring down here.”

After seeing just how beneficial using the airspace in Hawaii can be, Wick said he hopes the unit is able to continue pursuing opportunities like this for many years to come.

Emergency management training keeps JBPHH prepared

**Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez**

15th Wing Public Affairs

Keeping in line with Ready Navy and Air Force Be Ready disaster preparedness programs, the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam emergency management office conducted ombudsmen and key spouse community preparedness training March 12 at Hickam Memorial Theater.

“It’s very important to stay prepared and know what to do in the event of an emergency,” said Col. David Kirkendall, 647th Air Base Group commander, who gave the opening statements during the brief. “With this training, you’ll have the information you need to weather a storm, figuratively and literally.”

The training was open to community ombudsmen, key spouses and members of the family readiness group at JBPHH.

The training covered response strategies and scenarios regarding possible disasters, including

hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, tornados, floods and active shooters.

Daniel DuBois, the JBPHH emergency management officer, conducted the training and highlighted three main emergency preparation actions: Be informed, have a plan and make a kit.

“You are the ‘tip of the spear’ in the community,” DuBois said. “I need you to take this information on staying prepared back to your people and commands.”

DuBois said there is an even greater importance for JBPHH and the state of Hawaii to stay prepared because of our geographic isolation in the Pacific.

“If there’s a big storm or a hurricane, we can’t just simply evacuate inland,” he said. “We’re limited in space and there’s really no place to go.”

DuBois also highlighted active shooter risks and measures to take in the event of an active shooter scenario.

“Lately there’s been an increased awareness of active shooter risks,” he said. “It can



Col. David Kirkendall, 647th Air Base Group commander, (right) and Daniel DuBois, JBPHH emergency management officer, speak with attendees at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Ombudsman Key Spouse Community Preparedness Training at the Hickam Memorial Theater at JBPHH on March 12.

happen at the commissary or the [Navy Exchange], but the key is staying alert and prepar-

ing for the worst.” Other upcoming emergency management training will be

quarterly emergency management working group on March 26.

Commentary

Hopper, 'Hopper Nation' show character, courage, commitment

Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Seventy years ago this year – 1944 – the first warship in our Navy to be named for a woman was launched: USS Higbee (DD 806), named for Lenah S. Higbee, one of the Navy's first 20 nurses and superintendent of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps during World War I.

That same year, Midship-

man Grace Hopper became a lieutenant (junior grade) and began an assignment at Harvard University through the end of World War II.

Hopper had seen what happened here at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 and was inspired to join our Navy.

Grace Hopper, as we know, would go on to have a distinguished career, developing COBOL (common-business-oriented language) and bringing the Navy into the computer age.

During her lifetime, Hop-

per witnessed milestone achievements for women, including the right to vote, the establishment of WAVES (Women Accepted for Emergency Service), and the passing of the Women's Armed Forces Integration Act.

In 1973 Hopper was promoted to captain by Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, Chief of Naval Operations, and in 1985 she achieved the rank of rear admiral.

USS Hopper (DDG 70) was launched in 1996, following USS Higbee as the

Navy's second warship to be named for a woman.

At this moment, the men and women known as "Hopper Nation" are deployed forward from their homeport here at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. They are representing our Navy and our nation – building partnerships and providing maritime security. They are doing their part, often just with their presence, to make our world safer.

Their tactical achievements are having strategic impacts with our partners.

We are extremely thankful, not only for their service but also for the sacrifice and support of their loved ones. The families of USS Hopper are strong and resilient in supporting their Sailors.

During this Women's History Month, let's reflect on the skill, determination and tenacity of women like "Amazing Grace" Hopper as well as her namesake – our mighty guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper. We are grateful for the character, courage and commitment they both personify.

Diverse Views



What was your favorite subject in school?

IT2 Jason Wood
VPU2



"I guess I liked English. My teacher was really cool. She reminded me of Robin Williams in 'Dead Poets' Society.' One time she got up on her chair and did the whole 'seize the day' speech."

RP1 Peter Green
USS Chosin (CG 65)



"My favorite subject in school was history because it made me realize why I was doing what I was doing, why I was in school, why the country was the way it was."

Master Sgt. Wendy Mosby
HQ PACAF



"Sociology, because I think it is interesting to learn how society can impact individual's behaviors and motivations in life."

EN1 Gregory Quinn
First Lieutenant JBPHH



"History, I guess. I just found it interesting. No real reason."

Tamara Sims
766th Specialized Contracting Squadron



"Math, because there was a formula to solve the problem."

Lt. j.g. Paul Manglona
NAVFAC Hawaii



"My favorite subject was math. Problem solving, that's my job now as an engineer. I like the challenge behind it and figuring out what you know and using it to solve a problem."

Provided by Lt. j.g. Eric Galassi and David 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

Commentary

Actions of Sen. Margaret Chase Smith demonstrate character

Rebecca Hommon

Navy Region Hawaii Environmental Counsel



U.S. Congress, Congressional portrait Margaret Chase Smith

This year's Women's History Month encourages taking a moment to reflect upon women of character, courage and commitment. The following provides a brief introduction to the life of a notable woman: United States Sen. Margaret Chase Smith. She serves to inspire us to emulate her actions, to speak up, to take a stand, to serve beyond ourselves no matter what our gender.

The actions of Chase Smith demonstrate what it means to have great character. The wife of Maine Rep. Clyde Smith, she accompanied her husband to Washington to work as his secretary, leaving their home in Skowhegan, Maine in 1937. Falling seriously ill in

1940, Clyde Smith asked the voters of his Maine district to consider his wife as his best successor.

The voters did so, electing her repeatedly for positions in the House and then the Senate from 1940 to 1972. It is her speech on the Senate floor in 1950 which best

demonstrates her character.

Known as the "Declaration of Conscience," she called into question in the strongest of terms the actions of the Senate in tolerating the notorious behavior of Sen. Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin. McCarthy's actions ruined numerous people's lives, characterizing individuals as unpatriotic members of the then highly feared Communist party, thereby ending their careers.

His accusations were questionable and often baseless, but highly effective.

Many in the entertainment industry as well as the State Department were damaged by his actions and few seemed to be willing to speak against him. While both Republicans, Smith, through her powerful statement to the Senate, bravely challenged McCarthy's tactics.

Six male moderate Repub-

licans signed onto Senator Chase's Declaration. Yet, it was she who, while noting the Senate's willingness to tolerate questionable character assassinations, defended every American's rights to criticize; to hold unpopular beliefs; to protest; and to hold independent thoughts.

All knew she was challenging, without mentioning his name, the feared and feared Communist party, and risked becoming his next target. In spite of McCarthy's best efforts, she was re-elected and served for an additional 20 years in the Senate. Her "Declaration of Conscience" speech is considered to be one of the 100 most influential speeches in U.S. history.

(This article is the second in a Women's History Month series featuring women of character, courage and commitment.)

Grace Hopper pioneered computer language



Official U.S. Navy photograph

Capt. Grace M. Hopper, head of the Navy Programming Language Section of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, discusses a phase of her work with a staff member in August 1976. "Decpack" computer equipment can be seen at the right. Among her numerous accomplishments, Hopper helped develop a common business computer language, known as COBOL. Hopper reached the rank of rear admiral during her career. The USS Hopper, homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, is named in her honor. March is Women's History Month.

WHO'OKELE

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Hickam Airmen participate in Read Across America

Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) put their storytelling skills to work March 10 in celebration of Read Across Nimitz.

A nod to the 17th Annual Read Across America Day, which was held March 3, Read Across Nimitz is a localized program hosted by Nimitz Elementary School to help build awareness of the importance of reading. In addition to celebrating the birthday of Dr. Seuss, both programs focus on motivating children and teens to read more through innovative events and storytelling.

In honor of the occasion, more than 70 volunteers from the local community and JBPHH picked up their favorite story books and headed over to the school for story time.

For Read Across Nimitz, the students were treated to snacks and a full hour of storytelling by the volunteer readers. Some were dressed in



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden
Staff Sgt. Joe Hinojosa, Pacific Command NCO, reads "Why Do Dragons Love Tacos" to second-grade students at Nimitz Elementary School in Honolulu on March 10, as part of Read Across Nimitz. Hinojosa joined other Airmen and members of the local community to take part in the program aimed at motivating children to read more through innovative events and storytelling.

Airman battle uniforms, others as Dr. Seuss characters.

"The response from the community far exceeded our

expectations," said Bernice Saavedra, Nimitz Elementary School parent community network coordinator.

"We had an overwhelmingly positive response from the parents and kids. We're trying to make reading a

bigger part of the school experience."

Sheri Honnaka, school librarian, said in the weeks leading up to the big event the teachers built excitement for the day by reading Dr. Seuss books to their classes, an act that soon drove students to the library in search of similar reads.

Honnaka said the event also encouraged parent involvement.

"The kids who had parents volunteering were excited to help them select books to read to their classmates," she said. "A lot of the students found more books they really enjoyed and wanted to take home to share with their family. I think it's really exciting to see the children fall in love with reading and be excited to learn."

Allison Pachasa, a parent volunteer, said she loves any opportunity to get involved with her son's classroom experience and saw Read Across Nimitz as a great way to encourage reading. "Anything I can do to help promote reading is

awesome," she said. "They are so focused on video games these days that it's hard to instill in them a love for reading, but I think it's fun to hear stories from different people. I think variety makes them understand reading can be fun."

Master Sgt. John Marquez, Binnicker Professional Military Education Center director of education and parent volunteer, said not only is it important to get children interested in reading, it's especially important to get them excited about it at an early age.

"I think it's important for adults to read to children both on and off campus," he said.

However, for Marquez the highlight of the event was simply witnessing the excitement.

"It was fun making the kids laugh and smile. That's what makes my day," he said.

After such a positive response from the parents and students, Saavedra said she hopes to see Read Across Nimitz become an annual event.

'Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment' in U.S. Navy

Chief of Naval
Personnel Public Affairs

The Navy joins the nation in celebrating Women's History Month during March, as announced in NAVADMIN 043/14.

Currently more than 59,000 active duty women and more than 9,000 Reserve women serve in the Navy. Making up 18 percent of the total force, women make numerous contributions to our Navy's mission and readiness.

Additionally, more than 54,000 women serve in a wide range of specialties as Navy civilians. Women leading in the Navy total force include: 32 active and Reserve flag officers, 69 senior executive service (SES) members, 48 command master chiefs and three command senior chiefs.

In 1908, Congress established the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps. The first 20 Navy nurses were women who became known as the "Sacred Twenty."

As one of the "Sacred Twenty," Lenah S. Higbee was one of the first women to serve formally as a member of the Navy. In 1909, Higbee was promoted to chief nurse at Norfolk Naval Hospital, and in 1911 she became the superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps, serving throughout the duration of World War I.

The Navy recognized Higbee's distinguished service as superintendent of the Navy Nurse Corps, awarding her the Navy Cross for service in the line of her profession and unusual and conspicuous devotion to duty. In 1944, the Navy commemorated Higbee's naval service, naming a ship in her honor. USS Hig-



U.S. Navy photo by MCI Collin Turner
Capt. Synthia Jones, (right), addresses the Women's History Month Symposium at Naval Support Activity Naples on March 26, 2013. The theme of this year's symposium is "Women Inspiring Innovation through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics."

bee (DD 806) was the first combatant ship to be named after a woman.

The Navy's first enlisted women, more commonly known as yeomen (F) or yeomanettes, provided clerical support during World War I. Capt. Joy Bright Hancock initially enlisted as a yeoman (F), serving until the end of World War I, by which time she had risen to the rank of chief petty officer.

In 1942, during World War II, she was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) program. Hancock rose to the rank of cap-

tain and led the WAVES through the 1940s and 1950s, facilitating the addition of women as a permanent part of the Navy.

Master Chief Yeoman Anna Der-Vartanian entered the Navy through the WAVES. She was not only the first woman to hold the rank of master chief in the Navy, but also across all armed services.

Reflecting on her service, Der-Vartanian noted that most of the personnel she led treated her with respect and professionalism. In the few exceptions where her authority was challenged, she maintained her professionalism with the saying,

"Fall in and pipe down!" Upon her retirement after 21 years of naval service, Der-Vartanian continued serving her country by joining the Central Intelligence Agency.

Darlene Iskra was one of the first female line officers to graduate from the Naval School of Diving and Salvage in Washington, D.C.

Looking back, Iskra said, "Dive school was the most physically challenging thing I had ever done to that point in my life. Had it not been for the support of my fellow classmates, especially my roommate and diving partner [present day] Rear Adm. Martha Herb, I

would have probably quit."

As a lieutenant commander, Iskra became the first Navy woman to command a ship when she assumed command of USS Opportunity (ARS 41) in 1990. Iskra took her ship, a Bolster-class rescue and salvage ship, to patrol the Suez Canal during Operation Desert Storm, ensuring the canal remained clear for commerce.

Reflecting upon her time as the first female commanding officer of a naval ship, she now understands that being a trailblazer means opening new ground for others to follow and that sometimes there are haz-

ards along the way. Iskra retired in 2000 as a commander with 21 years of service.

Most recently, Vice Adm. Michelle Howard was nominated for appointment to the rank of admiral and assignment as vice chief of naval operations. Upon confirmation, she will make history as the Navy's first female four-star admiral and first African-American and first woman to serve as the vice chief.

The character, courage, and commitment shown by Higbee, Hancock, Der-Vartanian, Iskra and Howard paved the way for women serving in the contemporary Navy. Today, women in the Navy, both officer and enlisted, hold leadership positions aboard warships, of carrier air wings and squadrons, recruiting districts, training stations and shipyards.

As we continue to progress forward, previously closed billets will open to women and the Navy will continue to witness women making history and new "firsts."

Commands are strongly encouraged to increase their knowledge and awareness of the contributions of women to our Navy and nation by celebrating the National Women's History Month theme, "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment," through programs, exhibits, publications, and participation in military and community events.

For more information about the history of women and their numerous contributions to the Navy, visit <http://www.history.navy.mil/special%20highlights/women/women-index.htm>.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



U.S. Air Force photo by Maj. Christopher Ross
Chief Master Sgt. Sarah Sparks, interim 15th Wing command chief, greets the new 15th Wing command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Jim Smith Jr., with a lei at the Honolulu International Airport on March 13. The chief and his wife flew in from Dover Air Force Base, where he previously served as the command chief for the 436th Airlift Wing. Smith has served in the Air Force for 29 years and has held numerous leadership positions within the maintenance career field.

U.S. Navy photo by MCI Steven Khor
Adm. John Richardson, director of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, talks with Sailors from the Pearl Harbor waterfront March 13, during a visit to the Pacific Fleet area of responsibility.



U.S. Navy photo by MCI Amanda Dunford
Pacific Fleet Master Chief Marco Ramirez speaks with Sailors during an all hands call aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) on March 17. During his visit, Ramirez spoke about several issues of concern including sexual assault prevention, warfighting readiness and the importance of missions executed in the Indo-Asia-Pacific.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal
A U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor pilot, 199th Fighter Squadron, Hawaii Air National Guard, prepares to taxi during a Sentry Aloha exercise March 13 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Sentry Aloha is an aerial combat exercise focused on offensive and defensive counter measures and fighter integration. Air National Guard, Air Reserves and active-duty airmen worked together during the training exercise.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez
Col. Johnny Roscoe, 15th Wing commander, speaks with Hickam Elementary School fifth graders after reading a book at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on March 13. Roscoe read to the students as part of Read Across America, a National Educational Association program that celebrates reading in schools. Roscoe read "Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever" by H. Joseph Hopkins.

Sentry Aloha Continued from A-1

"At weapons school out at Nellis AFB, I was able to work with the F-22 mostly in air-to-ground missions where [Raptors] provided the escort for us as we were going in to drop the bombs," Moran said. "This is my first time getting to strictly fly air-to-air with them."

The location of the exercise also makes Sentry Aloha an uncommon and effective training experience

"[Sentry Aloha] is great and a very rare training opportunity," said Lt. Col. Mike Didio, 112th Fighter Squadron commander, Ohio Air National Guard. "We get opportunities to

train with the F-15 a little more than the F-22. Being out here in the good weather and the great air space over the water is a very good and very unique training opportunity for our guys to make that happen."

According to Didio, the execution of this year's Sentry Aloha exercise is how he believes air-to-air training will be designed down the road.

"Total force integration is pretty much here to stay and it's the way of the future," Didio said. "It seems like this is the trend both in the Guard and the active components to maximize our training with our limited resources we now have available for exercises."



An F-15 Eagle from 131st Fighter Squadron, Massachusetts National Guard, takes off during a Sentry Aloha exercise March 7 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



An F-15 Eagle from 112th Fighter Squadron, Ohio Air National Guard, takes off from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

PHNSY plans new methods to repair sealing surfaces to upgrade vertical launch system

Danielle Jones
and Sarah Fry

Pearl Harbor Naval
Shipyards Public Affairs

Shipyards production and engineering representatives met recently with their off-yard partners to determine a better way to repair sealing surfaces in vertical launching system (VLS) missile tubes.

The method selected is an automatic laser welding and robotic grinding process, which will replace brush plating as a better way to perform VLS missile tube repairs. Automatic gas tungsten arc welding (GTAW) is also being developed as an alternate/back-up process.

The shipyard's laser welding and robotic grinding equipment had not been used since 2011 when challenges with the process resulted in unscheduled downtime for an availability.

Since that time, the shipyard has revitalized the collaborative partnership with Pennsylvania State Univer-

sity Applied Research Laboratory (ARL Penn State), Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Division Keyport at Keyport, Wash., and Advanced Manufacturing Engineering Technologies Inc. in Rexburg, Idaho. Representatives from NUWC Keyport and ARL Penn State came to the shipyard to discuss improvements and conduct one of several tests of the system.

Eric Petran, an electrical engineer and code 220's naval new technology program manager, said the modification of existing and introduction of new equipment allows more reliability.

"The new process is more rugged and capable than the old one," Petran explained. "It's a big job to clean and repair missile tubes aboard a nuclear submarine. The work will be executed 'one tube at a time' and, if we encounter any problems, we have an independent back-up for the welding portion of the repairs."

Charlene Mashiba, a



U.S. Navy photo by Danielle Jones

Capt. Jeffrey Heydon, code 300 operations officer, looks on as Charlene Mashiba, code 138 welding engineer, works with Miles Kotoshirodo, USS Asheville (SSN 758) project superintendent.

code 138 welding engineer, explained the back-up development.

"The back-up we're working on consists of an automatic GTAW welding process," Mashiba said. "It uses a tool originally de-

signed to effect repairs inside main sea water (MSW) valves. The GTAW process is well-known to shipyard workers as 'tungsten inert gas' (or TIG) welding."

Mashiba explained that the automatic MSW TIG

tool has been upgraded and adapted to assist in work on VLS missile tubes, in case the laser is not functioning. A handful of shipyard employees from shop 26 will be selected and trained on the new back-up device.

The VLS solution project was a three-way cost-share between the shipyard, NUWC Division Keyport and ARL Penn State. Capt. David Kohnke (the shipyard's former engineering and planning officer), NUWC Keyport commanding officer, and Jim VanAntwerp, division technical director, led the NUWC Keyport effort to secure funding for the project.

The Navy's manufacturing technology (ManTech) program — itself funded by the Office of Naval Research (ONR) and managed by ONR program manager Greg Woods — also provided significant financial assistance.

"We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and capable team," said Petran. "Everybody in this effort realized that we're one team and that by coming up with a VLS solution, all four Naval Sea Systems Command shipyards will share and hopefully benefit from our work."