

MCPON visits USS Chafee, joint base Sailors

Story and photo by MC2 Tiarra Fulgham

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West,
Detachment Hawaii

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens visited Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 14 during a two-week fleet enhancement trip to the Pacific region.

While at Pearl Harbor, Stevens visited the guided missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) where he was given a guided tour that included the ship's combat information center and the central control station as well as a briefing at the chiefs' mess.

"It was a real pleasure to host the MCPON onboard the Chafee. I had a great sit-down with him and discussed manning, port support. He also gave me a good perspective on what they are talking about in Washington that affects the Sailors," said Cmdr. Anthony Littman, USS Chafee's commanding officer.

"It was just an honor because our Sailors work really

hard, and it's good to know that they are getting the attention they deserve from the Navy leadership."

While aboard the Chafee, Stevens took the time to speak with junior enlisted Sailors.

"The visit from the MCPON was a really great experience. I know my shipmates and I appreciated it a lot," said Gas Turbine System (Mechanical) 3rd Class Brandi Brader.

"I think it makes the junior Sailors feel really good when someone from the higher chain asks them about their personal lives, not in depth but enough to try and get to know them a little bit."

When asked about the importance of his visit to Pearl Harbor and any advice he had for Sailors looking to advance their career objectives, Stevens said Sailors are the main priority.

"Just like any place that I go in the Navy, it's important for me to get out and about to hear what is on the minds of Sailors and their families," said Stevens. "When I get back to Washington, D.C. and I offer my advice and

recommendations to those things that are going to better help our Navy, I am doing so with what Sailors have told me and what families have told me."



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens (left) meets with Sailors aboard USS Chafee (DDG 90) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 15 during a two-week fleet engagement visit to the Pacific region.

makers and lawmakers. "My message has been consistent with regards to this, and I call it, 'The Foundation to Success.' No matter who you are, what rank you are, what job you hold in the Navy, I say, 'work hard, stay out of trouble, and be a good

and decent person.' That's what I call the 'Foundation of Success.'"

During an all-hands call with Sailors at joint base, Stevens discussed budget changes, Navy-wide morale and received feedback from Sailors through a question and answer session.

The MCPON serves as the senior enlisted leader of the Navy and as the advisor to the chief of naval operations and to the chief of naval personnel in matters dealing with enlisted personnel and their families.

USS Chung-Hoon honors Sigsbee Sailors aboard 'Mighty Mo'



Story and photos by Brandon Bosworth

Assistant Editor, Ho'okele

Sailors from USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) gathered at the Battleship Missouri Memorial on April 14 for a ceremony honoring the memory of those who served aboard the USS Sigsbee.

The ceremony was held to pay respects to the 23 Sailors

who lost their lives when a kamikaze suicide plane struck the ship on April 14, 1945 during the Battle of Okinawa.

This annual ceremony is usually held aboard USS Chung-Hoon, but the ship is currently undergoing repairs. However, the location of this year's event is fitting as the USS Missouri suffered its own kamikaze attack on April 11, 1945 in waters

northeast of Okinawa.

At the time of the kamikaze attack on Sigsbee, the commanding officer was Cmdr. (later rear admiral) Gordon Pa'ea Chung-Hoon, namesake of the USS Chung-Hoon.

The attack knocked the ship's port engine and steering control out of commission and caused the starboard engine to be capable of running at only five knots. Despite

the damage, Chung-Hoon continued to direct the ship's anti-aircraft fire, while at the same time directing damage control parties that saved Sigsbee. The ship managed to make it to port under its own power.

"The Sigsbee wasn't as well-armed as other ships but was well-prepared, thanks to her commanding officer," said Cmdr. Ryan Collins, commanding officer

of Chung-Hoon.

"In the minutes, hours and days following the attack, the performance of the Sigsbee's crew was something to marvel at," he said. "We strive to live up to their heroism."

Chung-Hoon received the Navy Cross and Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism as commanding officer of Sigsbee from May 1944 to

October 1945. Chung-Hoon was also a Pearl Harbor survivor, assigned to the battleship USS Arizona during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

USS Chung-Hoon's ceremonial guard conducted a three-volley salute and Sailors dropped flower petals off the side of Missouri into the waters of Pearl Harbor to pay tribute to the Sigsbee Sailors who lost their lives.



(From left to right): USS Chung-Hoon's ceremonial guard conducts a three-volley salute to pay tribute to Sigsbee Sailors at a ceremony held April 14 at the Battleship Missouri Memorial. Sailors from USS Chung-Hoon pay tribute by dropping flower petals into Pearl Harbor. Cmdr. Ryan Collins, commanding officer of USS Chung-Hoon, speaks at the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

Royal Australian Air Force commodore visits JBPHH



Commodore Peter Yates, Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) general logistics director, asks questions about corrosion control and maintenance procedures during a briefing held April 7 with 15th Maintenance Group leadership in hangar 21 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH). Yates was visiting JBPHH to conduct tactical-level discussions on how the RAAF and U.S. Air Force can expand their interoperability in order to deliver seamless integration of forces.

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

Satellite vehicle registration office to open April 22

Grace Hewlen

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

The City and County of Honolulu is opening a new satellite vehicle registration office at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam at 10 a.m. April 22 with a grand opening and blessing ceremony.

The new vehicle registration office is located at 915 North Road, building 1314, in the Club Pearl Complex.

It is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. The office will be closed on all state and federal holidays.

The service is open to all military personnel,

their family members and civilian personnel who have base access from all military bases.

In an arrangement between the City and County of Honolulu and Navy Region Hawaii, the new service at JBPHH is a one-year pilot program to provide limited motor vehicle registration services to all military personnel on Oahu. If successful, the program could be extended. Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam was selected due to its central location on Oahu.

For more information, call 473-1487. For a list of services, visit www.cnic.navy.mil/pearlharborhickam under "popular links."



JBPHH, CSAAD 'Stay Alive' offers rides to prevent drinking and driving **See page A-2**



HI-5 Redemption Center to reopen at Hickam **See page A-3**



Aloha to Pearl Harbor survivor George Bennett **See page A-4**



USS Lake Erie visits Osaka **See page A-6**



Hickam Thrift Shop assists military families, seeks volunteers **See page B-1**



Easter sunrise service set for Sunday **See page B-2**

JBPHH, CSAAD 'Stay Alive' offers rides to prevent drinking and driving

Story and photos by Don Robbins

Editor, Ho'okele

April is Alcohol Awareness Month, and two associations at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam have joined forces to help their fellow military service members avoid the dangers of drinking and driving.

"The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Junior Enlisted Association (JEA) and the JBPHH Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) have combined for a 'Stay Alive: Don't Drink and Drive Campaign,'" said Master-at-Arms 3rd Abrel Smith, president of JBPHH CSADD.

Members of the associations are distributing credit card-sized plastic cards, de-

signed to be attached to a person's keychain. The front of the card features messages such as "Count on Us, We'll Get You Home Safe!" and "Don't Be That Guy/Girl." The back of the card features the phone number 808-473-1222 in large red letters.

Military service members who need a ride home because they have been drinking can call the phone number and a fellow service member will pick them up at their location and take them home to their residence, Smith explained.

"If they put it on their keychain, the Sailor might see it and think twice about doing something crazy," Smith said.

"I'm really excited about our Stay Alive program because I know that this program will, and has, saved

careers here at JBPHH and other commands around the island as well. This program plays a vital role in keeping our service members from getting behind the wheel intoxicated," Smith said.

"The great thing about it all is you don't have to pay a dime. Just pick up the phone and call 808-473-1222, and I promise you will get home safe, no question asked. Remember, your JEA and CSADD cares," Smith added.

The volunteer service members running the program have scheduled certain people to have rotating duty days so someone will be available to offer rides to intoxicated service members. Volunteers will also be using their own personal vehicles and gas to provide the service.



The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Junior Enlisted Association (JEA) and the JBPHH Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) are distributing these credit card-sized plastic cards for fellow service members to place on their keychains. The cards have a number on the back to call for a ride to prevent drinking and driving.

Ashes of Hickam Field survivor scattered at USS Utah Memorial

Story and photos by Brandon Bosworth

Assistant Editor, Ho'okele

The ashes of Army Private 1st Class William "Bill" P. Mueller, a survivor of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Oahu, were scattered in the waters near the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island during a ceremony held April 9. Mueller was at Hickam Field during the attack.

Lt. Col. Sonny Young (Army ret.), served as the officer in charge during the ceremony, and Chaplain Capt. Ray Kitagawa, senior Army chaplain, Hawaii Army National Guard, presided over the services. The Hawaii Army National Guard provided full military honors.

"It was Bill's wish to make a final voyage to Hawaii after he died to have his remains scattered here in the waters of Pearl Harbor," said Jim Taylor, Pearl Harbor sur-

vivor liaison. "Thanks to the efforts of his son, Mike, and these wonderful people, his wish will come true today."

Mueller was born in Germany on June 9, 1921. His family immigrated to the United States in 1924 because of the growing strife in Germany. Mueller joined the U.S. Army on Oct. 6, 1939 in Pittsfield, Mass. at the age of 18. He arrived at Schofield Barracks in December 1939 and was assigned to 'D' Company, 19th infantry, 24th Division.

On the morning of Dec. 7 1941, Mueller was waiting to begin a flying lesson at Hickam Field.

"His instructor was a little late landing to pick him up and, unfortunately, Bill witnessed him getting killed by a Japanese fighter," said Taylor. "He was an eyewitness to major destruction to aircraft and hangars at Hickam and the terrifying scene of Navy ships blowing up, bombs falling everywhere, and fighter planes strafing



A Hawaii Army National Guard bugler plays "Taps" at the ash-scattering ceremony held April 9 honoring Hickam Field survivor, Private 1st Class William "Bill" P. Mueller, at the USS Utah Memorial as Lt. Col. Sonny Young (U.S. Army ret.) presents the U.S. flag to his son, Mike Mueller.



The ashes of Army Private 1st Class William "Bill" P. Mueller, a survivor of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Hickam Field, were scattered in the waters near the USS Utah Memorial.

with their machine guns — one of those guns killing his instructor."

Following the attack, Mueller was sent to Canton Island where he underwent six months of intensive combat training, which was followed by jungle warfare training in Australia. He first entered into combat in the jungles of Papua, New Guinea, where he lost many fellow Soldiers. In over a year of fighting, he received many combat wounds, malaria, amebic dysentery, dengue fever and jungle rot. Despite his desire to stay and fight, Mueller was ordered back to the U.S. for medical care in June 1944.

Mueller went on to serve a year of cadre duty at Camp Croft, S.C. and received an honorable discharge on June 15, 1945. Over the course of his military career, Mueller received the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, Good Conduct Medal and many other citations.

"He was a proud U.S. Army veteran of the 24th Infantry Division, which was the first to see combat in World War II," said Taylor. "The 24th Infantry Division is fiercely proud of their heritage as the 'first to fight' in defense of freedom."

Just prior to his discharge, Mueller met Jean Marler, the woman he would marry. He and Jean were together until her death in 1975. After leaving the Army, Mueller worked for the post office and retired 30 years later as a letter carrier.

"Bill was my kind of guy," said Taylor. "He loved country music,

very cold beer, flirting with the ladies, traveling, photography, prospecting, riding motorcycles, and spending time in his 'ham shack.' He rode his custom-made Gold Wing trike until he suffered a stroke in 2011."

Mueller died on Dec. 23, 2012. At the April 9 ceremony, he received full military honors, including three rifle volleys, the sounding of "Taps" and folding and presentation of the U.S. flag.

Mueller's son, Mike, flew in from Kingman, Ariz. for the event.

"It was very touching and very impressive," he said. "It was better than what Hollywood could have done."

Mike Mueller always knew that his father's wish was to return to Pearl Harbor upon his passing.

"He was very patriotic, and very proud of being a Pearl Harbor survivor," he said. "Since I was a child I knew he wanted to come back to Pearl Harbor."

Ford Island Bridge to close temporarily April 30

From 9 to 10:30 a.m. April 30, all lanes of the Ford Island Bridge will be closed for operations and periodic

maintenance.

All motorists and pedestrians are advised to plan accordingly. Boat traffic under the cause-

way will not be allowed because the small craft gate will be closed during bridge opening to minimize collision hazards.

Bequette relieves O'Harrar as USS Tucson CO

Story and photos by MC1 Steven Khor

Submarine Force Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Cmdr. Michael Bequette relieved Cmdr. James "Ted" O'Harrar as the commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) during a change of command ceremony April 10 at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

O'Harrar said he is proud that he had the opportunity to be in command of Tucson and work with a fantastic team of Sailors.

"Leading you all has been the most rewarding and humbling honor of my career," O'Harrar said. "You are all heroes in my book. You are the best there is. You kept us at sea for missions of unprecedented length and I cannot thank you enough. I want you to know that what you do every day matters and has been of tremendous value to aiding in our national security. Thank you for what you do."

During his 37 months in



Cmdr. James O'Harrar (left), outgoing commanding officer of USS Tucson, is congratulated by Capt. Rick Stoner, the commander of Submarine Squadron Seven, during a change of command ceremony for USS Tucson (SSN 770) held April 10.

command, O'Harrar took his submarine and crew on two western Pacific tours, one eastern Pacific tour and numerous shorter underway periods, totaling nearly 600 days at sea and steaming more than 150,000 miles.

The ceremony's guest speaker, retired Navy Capt. Kevin Peppe, praised O'Harrar for a job well done.

"I know you had a great deal of trust and confidence in my shipmate," said Peppe to the families and supporters on the pier. "On behalf of all of you sitting here and on behalf of the crew, I am just going to say for you, 'Thank you, Ted.'"

O'Harrar was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his command of



Cmdr. James O'Harrar is piped ashore after being relieved by Cmdr. Michael Bequette as commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS Tucson (SSN 770) at a change of command ceremony April 10.

Tucson from January 2011 to April 2014.

As Bequette assumed command of Tucson, he thanked O'Harrar for turning over a great ship and an even greater crew.

"I could not be more honored to lead such a fine crew of submarine warriors whose professionalism and expertise have truly hon-

ored the legacy of our WWII Pacific submarine crews," said Bequette. "I am humbled to take over as your commanding officer and continue Tucson's history of excellence."

Tucson is the second ship of the U.S. Navy to bear the name of the Arizona city. It is the 59th Los Angeles-class attack submarine and

the 20th of the improved Los Angeles-class attack submarine to be built. Twelve vertical-launch missile tubes for Tomahawk cruise missiles provide Tucson with great offensive capability. Retractable bow planes give the ship increased maneuverability and under ice surfacing potential.

Commentary

Doolittle Raid – lesson in joint innovation, courage, resilience

Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Less than 19 weeks after the U.S. Navy was attacked at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, the American military struck back. On April 18, 1942 — 72 years ago today — 16 Army Air Force bombers launched from a Navy aircraft carrier to attack the enemy's homeland.

Led by Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle, the raid was launched from USS Hornet,

commanded by Capt. Marc Mitscher, and escorted by ships under the command of Vice Adm. "Bull" Halsey aboard his flagship, USS Enterprise.

The extraordinary joint Doolittle Raid showed Imperial Japan's military leaders their vulnerability and America's resolve.

The raid also demonstrated innovation, courage and resilience.

The five-man B25 crews trained relentlessly prior to their mission, with specialized training led by Navy flight instructor Lt. Henry F. Miller. The Army Air

Force made ingenious modifications so the bombers could have extra fuel but less weight.

Pilots, all volunteers, needed to be extremely fearless, taking off in their huge planes from a short flight deck. On rough seas they launched in bitter cold, 75-knot winds and foam-flecked spray, as Sailors aboard recalled.

Doolittle, as his team's leader, took off first. His success inspired the other pilots just as their entire mission would inspire the nation — putting action to the nationwide words of resolve heard

throughout the world: "Remember Pearl Harbor!"

The innovation, courage and resilience demonstrated by Halsey and Doolittle and countless others carried over into the weeks and months that followed — first in the Battle of the Coral Sea and then, in the big turning point of the War in the Pacific — the Battle of Midway.

Historians tell us that the Doolittle Raid contributed strategically to our victory at Midway, as the enemy felt humiliated and overextended to try to prevent another attack on their homeland.

The Doolittle Raid is also an early example of the evolution of "air sea battle," integrating air and naval capabilities across domains, where collaboration and cooperation helped win the day — and eventually win the war. We remember the heroes of the Doolittle Raid.

This strategically important event is particularly meaningful to our joint Navy-Air Force team. This uniquely shared accomplishment is a reminder of what we have the potential to accomplish when we mutually support each other.

Diverse Views

What is your favorite Easter candy?

1CCSN Kayla Viager
TPU

"Those little chocolate eggs with the caramel inside. Everyone's addicted to them. You see them in the little baskets."

OCSC Douglas Anderson
CSCS Det. Pearl Harbor

"SweeTarts."

Senior Master Sgt. Mark Morgan
HQ PACAF

"Peanut butter filled chocolate bunny because I love Reese's Peanut Butter Cups. Easter is the only time I can have them because they are so bad for me."

Nathan Tibbetts
Military family member

"Definitely Peeps. When I was younger I would try and see how many of the marshmallow birds I could fit in my mouth."

STG2 Shanell Mendoza
RLSO

"Chocolate bunny, I guess."

Airman 1st Class Christopher Heard
747th Communications Squadron

"Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, because they're peanut butter and chocolate...and who doesn't like peanut butter and chocolate?"

Master Sgt. Chandra Lewis
747th Communications Squadron

"Cadbury Creme Eggs because they are delicious."

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

HI-5 Redemption Center to reopen at Hickam

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii

bor-Hickam on May 6.

"The center had to be closed in October 2013 due to financial adjustments of the program, requiring moving redemption from Morale, Welfare and Recreation to the Navy Exchange," said Fran Pena, recycling program manager

for Navy Region Hawaii.

"We are very pleased to reopen and provide easy drop off HI-5 cans and bottles to all military, family members and Department of Defense civilians who wish to use our facility."

Vouchers will be issued at building 1715 that can be

redeemed for cash at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange customer service desk in the main atrium.

For those who wish to recycle more than cans and bottles, personnel at the other end of the building will accept cardboard and paper items such as newspaper, soft cover books, catalogs and magazines.

The redemption center is open from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Please remember that all bottles or cans turned in for redemption should be free of liquids and debris.

For commands and activities who are interested in establishing regular pickup service for recyclables, or who need assistance in transporting large quantities of goods, call Richard Vila at the Navy Region Hawaii recycling program coordinator at 474-9207.

U.S. Navy photo by Denise Emsley

Aluminum cans are collected at the Navy Region Hawaii Recycling Program's Hickam Redemption Center (building 1715).



HO'okele

Oahu's natural wonders makes it ideal for a 'staycation'

"NAVIGATE" TO HO'okele ONLINE

www.hookelenews.com or www.cnrc.navy.mil/hawaii

Doolittle Raid on Japan launched April 18, 1942

U.S. Navy photograph

Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle, United States Army Air Forces, leader of the raiding force, wires a Japanese medal to a 500-pound bomb for "return" to its originators during ceremonies on the flight deck of USS Hornet (CV-8), shortly before his force of 16 B-25B bombers took off for Japan. The planes were launched on April 18, 1942, which was 72 years ago today.

HO'okele

Commander, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Capt. Jeffrey James

Deputy Commander Col. David Kirkendall

Director, Public Affairs Grace Huh Len

Managing Editor Karen Spangler

Editor Don Robbins

Assistant Editor Brandon Bosworth

Sports Editor Randy Dela Cruz

Layout/Design Antonio Verceluz Richard Onaha Hutter

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii
Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Chief of Staff Capt. Mark Manfredi

Director, Public Affairs Agnes Tauyan

Deputy Director, Public Affairs Bill Doughty

Ho'okele is a free unofficial paper published every Friday by The Honolulu Star Advertiser 500 Ala Moana Boulevard Suite 7-500 Honolulu Hawaii 96813, a private firm in no way connected with DoD, the U. S. Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with Commander, Navy Region Hawaii. All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: editor@hookelenews.com World Wide Web address: <https://www.cnrc.navy.mil/Hawaii/> or www.hookelenews.com. This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication primarily for members of the Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps military services and their families in Hawaii. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U. S. Government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps and do not imply endorsement thereof.

The civilian publisher, The Honolulu Star Advertiser, is responsible for commercial advertising, which may be purchased by calling (808) 521-9111. The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products and services advertised by the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii or The Honolulu Star Advertiser. Everything advertised in this paper shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source. Ho'okele is delivered weekly to Navy & Air Force housing units and Navy and Air Force installations throughout Oahu. Housing residents may contact the publisher directly at (808) 690-8864 if they wish to discontinue home delivery.

Aloha to Pearl Harbor survivor George Bennett

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor, Ho'okele

Wearing a big smile and proudly dressed in his immaculate white chief's uniform—that's how people will remember Pearl Harbor survivor George Bennett.

For many years, George was a frequent visitor to Hawaii and the Pearl Harbor Day ceremony which commemorates the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Oahu.

"He always wore his Navy chief's uniform whenever he came for Pearl Harbor ceremonies. He was very meticulous about his uniform. He didn't want a thread out of place," said Jim Taylor, Pearl Harbor survivors' liaison for Navy Region Hawaii.

At the age of 90, George passed away peacefully in his sleep on April 7 in Battleground, Ore.

Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, issued a statement to be read at George's memorial service.

"As a young Sailor, George Bennett faced danger with bravery and determination. He dodged enemy bullets to head to his battle station to defend his shipmates. He then fought across the Pacific to defend our nation, preserve our way of life, and advance our ideals of liberty and democracy," he said.

"We will remember George and those with whom he served—the 'Greatest Generation': Americans with uncommon values, strength and resolve. We will never forget the burdens and sacrifices George made as a young Sailor in Pearl Harbor. His honor, courage, commitment and service—throughout his life—are an important reminder of how we should approach today's



U.S. Navy file photo

Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, (former commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific), speaks with Pearl Harbor survivor George Bennett Sept. 2, 2010.

challenges and why we can never take readiness for granted," said Williams.

George joined the Navy in February 1941 and was a 17-year-old Navy radio operator when death rained from the skies over Oahu on Dec. 7, 1941.

When the Japanese fighters swarmed through the skies and attacked Pearl Harbor, George was in his barracks near hangar six on Ford Island. He recalled that a Japanese airplane flew past his window and was so close he could see the pilot in the cockpit.

"He was running from his barracks down the road to his battle station, all the time being strafed by Japanese aircraft. He kept ducking for cover while running," Taylor explained.

"Upon arrival at his battle station, he climbed up on the roof to fight the fire in the hangar, still being strafed. As he continued to fight the fire, he witnessed the USS Nevada run aground. "When

asked later if he was afraid of dying, he said, no, the only thing he was afraid of was getting in trouble because he didn't have his cover on," Taylor said.

Taylor said that George was also rather mischievous and shared a story about the young Sailor and his shipmates. "One night, George and his shipmates had a few too many to drink and thought it would be fun to have a lemon meringue pie fight in the officers' swimming pool. They were 'volunteered' to clean up the pool the next morning."

After the war, George continued his job as a radio operator on PB4Y-1 bombers, going on bombing runs out of Guadalcanal. He spent six years in the Navy and served 34 years in the Navy Reserve, retiring as a Navy chief petty officer.

He later worked for 35 years as a communications manager for Union Pacific Railroad. He is the father of three children: Jane, Eileen

and Mike.

Even as he moved into his golden years, George led an active and interesting life. He served as the national secretary for the Pearl Harbor Survivors' Association before it disbanded in December 2011 and was also the president of the Clark County, Ore. chapter of the group. A part of living history and dressed in his whites and Pearl Harbor survivors' hat, George frequently shared his story with students in Oregon schools.

He spoke about the dwindling numbers of Pearl Harbor survivors during an interview with "The Oregonian" last December.

"We Pearl vets are passing on quickly. As national secretary, I get notified when a member dies, and there are many more these days," George told "The Oregonian."

Although George broke his hip last October, it didn't keep him from doing what he wanted to do—getting ready

to marry the love of his life.

In February of this year, he again found wedded bliss when he married his sweetheart. His romance with Donna Higgins began during a dance at the assisted living facility where both of them lived. Even though he was still mending from his broken hip, George was ready for his "walk" down the aisle.

"I can get along pretty well with my walker. She'll be pushing me in the wheelchair to the dining hall, I guess," George joked with "The Oregonian" writer.

Taylor, who conducts the ash-scattering ceremonies and interments for Pearl Harbor survivors, was a longtime friend of George.

"George always maintained his youthful spirit and loved to wear his Pearl Harbor survivor's hat. He said that laughter was one of the keys to his longevity," Taylor said.

"In the past 25 years, I have had the honor and privilege to meet hundreds of Pearl Harbor survivors. They each had their own sto-

ries and personalities. Chief Bennett was special—he was the epitome of a Navy chief petty officer.

"During the attack, he put his life on the line by running about 300 yards to his battle station while being strafed by enemy planes. I remember asking him if he was afraid. His response was, 'No, I was just doing what I was trained to do,'" Taylor recounted.

"Chief Bennett came to Hawaii numerous times and I always hosted him. I once called him a hero. His response was, 'I'm not a hero. I was just doing my job'—the same words I've heard from other survivors. He then added, 'The heroes are those who didn't make it home, those who sacrificed their lives protecting the freedom our citizens enjoy today.' Well—in my opinion, Chief Petty Officer George Bennett was a hero!" Taylor said.

Burial for George will be at Willamette National Cemetery, Willamette, Ore. at a date to be determined.

SAAM events to be held this month

Navy Region Hawaii

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office

The theme for this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) is "Live Our Values: Step Up to Stop Sexual Assault."

A series of SAAM events have been announced.

- Today, 6 to 9 p.m., movie night at the liberty center at the Wahiawa Annex.

- Saturday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., "Ryde Against Sexual Assault."

- April 23, Denim Day/Ask Me Why?

Denim Day has been internationally celebrated since 1999, after an Italian high court ruling that overturned a rape conviction because the victim was wearing tight jeans.

- April 25, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., "Shootout Sexual Assault" bystander-intervention training at Hawaii All Star.

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response emergency line is 722-6192.

For more information on SAAM, call 474-0154.

Teams respond to simulated oil spill to protect environment

MC3 Diana Quinlan

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Detachment Hawaii

The Navy supervisor of salvage, Naval Sea Systems Command (SUPSALV), along with Clean Island Council and Metson Marine (Port Operations), recently conducted an equipment deployment exercise off the shores of Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) to enhance and facilitate joint operations during an environmental response.

The designed objective of the exercise was to test the equipment and communications as well as to conduct a simulated oil spill recovery effort near shore.

"The environment is a big concern for the military and the state of Hawaii," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Timothy Greene, Port Operations, JBPHH. "It is great to be able to work with civilian partnership and to help protect and



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Tierra Fulgham.

Various teams mobilize April 8 in the waters of Pearl Harbor following a simulated oil spill.

maintain the environment."

Representatives from the Clean Island Council, the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard oversaw and participated in the exercise.

"For the training today, we did a joint oil spill recovery exercise to better the relationship with the state and the base, to tie in to future joint operations if ever needed," said Greene.

"The training involved different methods of recovering the spill and moving it to the main vessel for treatment."

The oil spill recovery vessel (OSRV) Clean Islands participated in the exercise as the main vessel. Training was monitored from aboard Clean Islands as well as conducting operations, utilizing a skimmer

system with a three-vessel configuration and several SUPSALV towboats guiding and containing the simulated spills with floating barriers.

The simulated oil spills were visually created by using yellow blocks of wood that were distributed in the water.

"We had two different types of skimmers," said

Cynthia Pang, on-scene coordinator for Navy Region Hawaii. "One was a SUPSALV Mark Five skimmer. They took the oil and brought it to the skimmer, and the other boats captured the oil near the shore as the skimmers are unable to go near because of the depth, relying on the boats to bring it to them."

U.S. Coast Guard Capt.

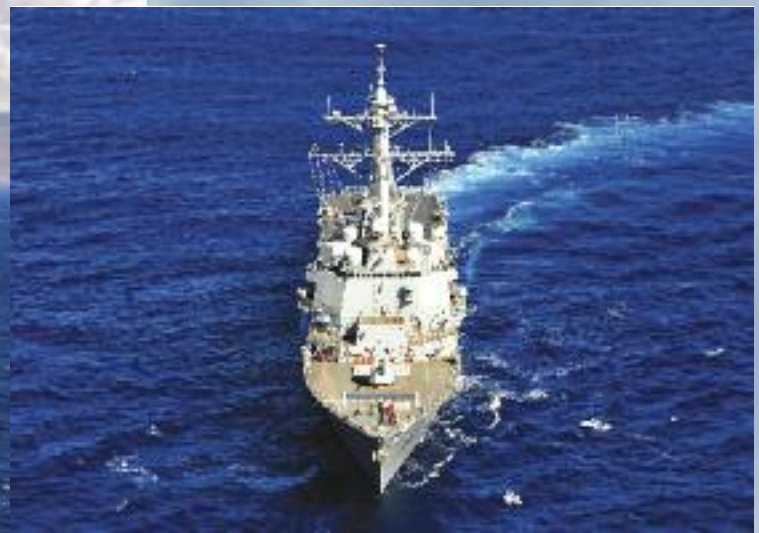
Shannon N. Gilreath, commander of Sector Honolulu, oversaw the training in addition to touring the SUPSALV mobile facilities and learning more about the wide range of equipment used.

"One of the challenges when you are dealing with oil spills is to get different groups together to do a cleanup," said Gilreath. "Communication is usually the biggest challenge, figuring out how to work together. So this was an opportunity to practice and demonstrate that it can be done, and it is a great team-building exercise for us for the future."

"It is very important that we are environmentally conscious," said Pang. "We have a lot of environmentally sensitive areas here in Pearl Harbor, and we want to make sure that we keep those areas clean and pristine and to avoid damage to wildlife refuge."

For more information, visit www.cleanislands.com and www.supsalv.org.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



The Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) flies the U.S. Navy battle ensign while performing maneuvers recently off the coast of Hawaii.

U.S. Navy photos by MC1 Daniel Barker



The late Army Private 1st Class William "Bill" P. Mueller, Hickam Field survivor of Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Oahu, Poses with his custom Gold Wing trike featuring a mural of the USS Arizona. Mueller's ashes were scattered during a ceremony held April 9 at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island.

Photo courtesy of Mike Mueller

(Clockwise from right): Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens takes time to meet with Sailors aboard USS Chafee (DDG 90) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 15 during a two-week fleet enhancement trip to the Pacific region.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens talks with Sailors at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 15 during a two-week fleet engagement visit to the Pacific region.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens talks with Sailors aboard USS Chafee.

U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Tiarra Fulgham



Navy supervisor of salvage, Naval Sea Systems Command, in partnership with the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Facilities Response Team and Hawaii Clean Islands Council, participate in an equipment deployment exercise April 8 in the waters of Pearl Harbor following a simulated oil spillage.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Tiarra Fulgham



USS O'Kane completes visit, hosts ship tour in Goa, India



U.S. Navy photo by FC1 Shod Williams

Rear Adm. Balvinder Parhar (left), Goa naval area commander, and Cmdr. James Juster, USS O'Kane commanding officer, cut the ceremonial cake at a reception on O'Kane during a port visit in Goa.

Naval Submarine League Aloha Chapter announces 2013 warfighting awards

MC1 Steven Khor

Submarine Force Pacific
Public Affairs

Recipients of the 2013 Naval Submarine League Aloha Chapter Annual Warfighting Awards were recently announced by Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC).

"We are proud to recognize outstanding leadership and performance within the current Pacific Fleet Submarine Force," said Jerry Hofwolt, president of the Aloha Chapter of the Naval Submarine League. "We are encouraged to see the leadership at the deckplate level and want to recognize both junior and senior enlisted

and officer leadership."

Hofwolt said that these Sailors are at the upper echelon of the submarine force.

The Naval Submarine League awards program is a highlight of the support the league provides to the submarine force. The awards are offered by the Naval Submarine League to recognize excellence, instill pride in the individual, reinforce the important role of the submarine force, and showcase the excellence that marks the performance of every submariner.

All four of the recipients performed at a level which the Naval Submarine League Aloha Chapter deemed highly deserving of

the award.

Cmdr. Marty Muckian, commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS Greenville (SSN 772), received the Adm. Bernard Clarey Award for outstanding service of a senior officer.

Lt. Max Reitblatt received the Capt. Charles Rush Award for outstanding service as a junior officer.

Chief Electronics Technician Matthew Tuckett earned the EMC (SS) John Rendernick Award for outstanding service of a senior enlisted Sailor.

Machinist's Mate 1st Class Timothy Andrews received the TM2 (SS) Henry Breault Award for outstanding service as a junior enlisted Sailor.

Ensign Calvin Sessions

USS O'Kane (DDG 77)
Public Affairs

GOA, India – The Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) visited Goa, India from April 4-6 en route to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operation.

After being greeted by Rear Adm. Balvinder Parhar, Goa naval area commander, O'Kane crew members interacted with Indian navy counterparts during ship tours, a reception and a cricket and soccer match. O'Kane Sailors also participated in a community relations project at

the Don Bosco All Boys School.

"The community relations project was a great opportunity to connect with the students of Don Bosco and the Indian navy through basketball and board game activities," said Fire Controlman 1st Class Dallas Vance. "After a good game, it was neat to socialize and enjoy snacks with the students."

Additionally, members of the Indian navy provided Cmdr. James Juster, O'Kane's commanding officer, and his crew members with a tour of the Indian Naval Air Base, while O'Kane hosted a ship tour for 25 Indian naval officers.

"I enjoyed the enthusiasm and interest the Indian navy expressed in the role I serve as a vertical launching system technician," said Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Stephen Lyons, O'Kane's tour guide.

During the port visit, O'Kane hosted a reception for 55 Indian naval officers and guests. "This port visit has been an amazing experience and opportunity to meet and enjoy the culture of the Indian navy," said Ensign Samuel Ross.

O'Kane departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled deployment to the western Pacific Ocean and Arabian Gulf on March 7.

USS Lake Erie visits Osaka

Ensign Austin Kim

USS Lake Erie (CG 70)
Public Affairs

The Ticonderoga-class, guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) arrived in Osaka, Japan for a scheduled port visit April 10.

The visit is designed to strengthen maritime partnerships with Japan and to enhance community rela-

tions with the city of Osaka.

"This isn't just a port visit for Lake Erie. It's a reflection of our commitment to a bilateral union between the U.S. and Japan," said Capt. John Banigan, Lake Erie's commanding officer.

While in Osaka, Sailors had an opportunity to participate in a variety of community service projects and tours.

"I've always wanted to travel to Osaka," said Sonar Technician (Surface) 1st Class Ronald Winfrey. "I love Japan, and I've heard that Osaka is a unique city with exceptional local dishes."

Lake Erie is deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility, supporting security and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Mackenzie P. Adams

Capt. John Banigan (center), commanding officer of USS Lake Erie (CG 70), speaks to local Japanese media about Lake Erie's port visit to Osaka on April 10.