

## Joint-service training helps medics stay prepared

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt.  
Alexander Martinez

15th Wing Public Affairs

Air Force, Army and Navy personnel participated in a medical patient transfer training on the Hickam flightline April 17.

The training helped Air Force and Navy medics learn techniques for loading and unloading patients on a HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter, C-17 Globemaster III and a personnel transport bus.

"This hands-on training will help familiarize the medics with safety aspects and flow of a patient movement," said Capt. Stephen Williams, 15th Medical Group (15th MDG) readiness officer. "They'll be better prepared to do a patient movement if they ever have to do so."

Williams and his team of organizers worked diligently to coordinate planning of the event, including having the C-17 and HH-60 available to train on, reserving space on the flightline, and



Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Schantz (left), 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, observes 15th Medical Group medics as they lift a patient litter into a HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter during a joint training session April 17 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (See additional photos on page A-5.)

other logistical requirements.

"The planning took a bit of an effort. Most of it was trying to find the correct Army and Navy points of contact," Williams said.

"They were great to work with and were on board from the beginning. We made sure they knew our vision for the training, so we could all work together and pull it off successfully."

Participants received instruction from subject matter experts from the 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Detachment 1, and the Army's 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment

at Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii.

Col. Virginia Garner, 15th MDG commander, came up with the idea of the training and highlighted the importance of joint-service

training events such as this.

"We are on a joint base and we interact with the Army and Navy on a daily basis, so training like this and having us all work together makes sense and benefits us all," Garner said.

"This gives the medics an opportunity to come out onto the flightline and learn about [air evacuation] operations so that if something were to happen down the road, our folks are prepared."

Navy Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Trevor Wallace, Naval Health Clinic Hawaii, joined five other Sailors in the training and said it was a beneficial event.

"We're definitely using this opportunity to expand our knowledge and work jointly with the other services," Wallace said. "When a disaster or mass casualty event happens, it doesn't matter what uniform we're wearing, we need to come together to make sure the patients get the proper care and treatment they deserve."



Misty Kela'i, executive director of culture and arts, City and County of Honolulu, performs a Hawaiian blessing as Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell (left), Capt. Jeffrey James (center), commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), and Col. David Kirkendall (right), 647th Air Base Group commander and deputy commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, participate in the grand opening of a new satellite vehicle registration office.

## New satellite vehicle registration office opens April 22 at JBPHH

Story and photo by  
Brandon Bosworth

Assistant Editor, Ho'okele

The grand opening of a new satellite vehicle registration office was held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on April 22. On hand for the event were Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of JBPHH, Col. David Kirkendall, 647th Air Base Group commander and deputy commander of JBPHH, and Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell.

Misty Kela'i, executive director of culture and arts, City and County of Honolulu, performed a Hawaiian blessing.

"This is a win-win for both the Navy and the City and County of Honolulu," said James. "It's a superb example of partnership."

Caldwell agreed that the opening of the new satellite vehicle registration office "is an excellent example of partnership" between the city and the military. He also commented about how important it is to have these

services conveniently located for the military.

"Our young military partners often have lots of paperwork," said Caldwell. "Having an office close to their COs and close to where the papers are located will make things easier."

"This new location will benefit military personnel while also reducing the lines for Oahu residents at all satellite city halls," said Sheri Kajiwarra, director of the city's customer services department.

"Motor vehicle transactions account for 70 percent of satellite city hall business, and transactions involving military personnel can be especially time-intensive as these often involve out-of-state transfers, requiring additional forms and signatures," Kajiwarra said.

The new office is a joint project between the City and County of Honolulu and Navy Region Hawaii. The vehicle registration office at JBPHH is part of a one-year pilot program to provide limited motor vehicle regis-

tration 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.

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.

Services offered include transactions related to initial vehicle registration, out-of-state permits, transfer of ownership, replacement of Hawaii plates and/or registration emblems, duplicate Honolulu titles and registrations, the ordering of special plates, veteran's plates, and organizational plates, and junking and storage.

For more information, call 473-1487.

## Earth Day celebrated at expo



(Above) Cory Campora, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii Natural Resources manager, speaks to a patron on environment conservation efforts at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange Earth Day Expo, "Partnering for a Greener Future" at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Earth Day serves as a reminder of the importance of environmental protection and community engagement and has been celebrated nationally since 1970. (Below) Katie Ramirez (left), Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Energy Installation manager, speaks to patrons about water saving methods at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange Earth Day Expo, "Partnering for a Greener Future" at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photos by MC3 Johans Chavarro



## 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 causeway will not be al-

lowed because the small craft gate will be closed during bridge opening to minimize collision hazards.



USS Lake Erie Sailors give back to Osaka children  
See page A-2



Combat dining-in continues Air Force tradition at joint base  
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Merrie Monarch shares beauty, culture of hula  
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Seymour relieves Cave as USS Halsey commanding officer  
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Holocaust remembrance event to be held April 28  
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Navy Region Hawaii, Sailors emphasize SAAM during April events  
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# ATG MIDPAC holds change of command ceremony

Story and photo by  
MC2 (SW) Laurie Dexter

Navy Public Affairs Support  
Element West, Detachment Hawaii

Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific (ATG MIDPAC) held a change of command ceremony April 22 at Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Cmdr. Timothy Wilke relieved Capt. John M. Figuerres as commanding officer of ATG MIDPAC.

Capt. Mark Sakaguchi, commodore of Afloat Training Group Pacific, was the guest speaker for the ceremony. He commended Figuerres for a job well done as the commanding officer of ATG MIDPAC during the last three years and the hard work of the ATG personnel, commenting on their responsibilities and roles within their community.

"John, I want to thank you for your support, professionalism and leadership here on the waterfront," said Sakaguchi. "Although we have built the Surface Force Readiness Manual (SFRM) from the top down, you have established a firm foundation in understanding



Capt. John M. Figuerres, former commanding officer, Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific, salutes as he walks through the side boys during a change of command ceremony at Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

fleet training that will support the tenants of the SFRM well into the future." Sakaguchi sub-

sequently presented Figuerres with the Legion of Merit award. Figuerres thanked his Sailors.

"It has been my extreme honor to serve as your commanding officer for the last three years. The

challenges we faced were many of the same of what we have always confronted—high tempo and low manning. I would like to think that we achieved what I set out to do, but the true answer to that question could only come from you. During our time together, I watched as we came together as a team."

During the ceremony, Figuerres and Wilke read their orders followed by the ceremonious salute to symbolize the official changeover of command.

"Capt. Figuerres, you've turned over a great team and I hope to build upon your success," said Wilke. "I truly appreciate the guidance you provided me these past few months in preparing me for this assignment. Strong coordination and communication with all of you will be one of my main focuses here at ATG MIDPAC."

ATG MIDPAC's mission is to provide safe and effective training to the Pacific Fleet and Coast Guard ships. Command members assist commanders in assessing ships' training readiness and provide training necessary to meet basic training standards.

# Seymour relieves Cave as USS Halsey commanding officer

Lt. j.g. Rochelle A. Perry

USS Halsey (DDG 97) Public Affairs

Cmdr. Linda C. Seymour relieved Cmdr. Gary L. Cave as commanding officer of USS Halsey (DDG 97) during a change of command ceremony held April 18 on the ship.

Capt. Chris Bushnell, commander of Destroyer Squadron 31, commended Cave for his excellent performance and distinguished leadership while in command of Halsey. He summarized the challenges of hull swap, a compressed basic phase, and various other trials as the crew maintained a positive attitude for the duration.

Cave said he is proud of having the opportunity to command Halsey and working with a team of outstanding Sailors.

"It has been, and will always be, a point of great pride to have been your commanding officer," Cave said.

"I leave you in excellent hands with Cmdr. Seymour and Cmdr. Athans, and I would ask that you continue to provide them the same level of enthusiasm, trust, ownership and pride that I have come to expect from each of you," Cave said.

As Seymour assumed command of Halsey, she thanked Cave for the great teamwork and friendship as well as turning over a great ship and an even greater crew.

"It has truly been an honor to serve as executive officer under Cmdr. Cave, and now I am humbled and honored to be your new captain," said Seymour.

Cmdr. Gary Cave, outgoing commanding officer of Halsey, says his final farewell to Cmdr. Linda Seymour, incoming commanding officer, during a change of command ceremony held April 18 on the ship.



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Erica Bauer

# USS Lake Erie Sailors give back to Osaka children

Story and photos by  
MC3 Mackenzie P. Adams

USS Lake Erie (CG 70)  
Public Affairs

OSAKA, Japan – Sailors assigned to the Ticonderoga-class, guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) participated in a community service (COMSERV) project April 14 at Holy Family Home.

The COMSERV was designed to allow Sailors to interact with members of the local community while providing assistance to the residents and managers of Holy Family Home.

During the COMSERV, Sailors had the chance to assist the home managers with various tasks and to sit down with some of the children and share refreshments.

For Fire Controlman 3rd Class Michael Figaro, the experience proved to be very rewarding.

"It always feels good to help out people in need, and it feels really great to be able to provide the children of the home with some great memories of Sailors helping out and



(Above) Interior Communications Electrician 3rd Class Adam Bailey, interacts with a child during a visit to Osaka. (Additional photo on page A-5.)

having fun," said Figaro. "I had a great time today and I hope to participate in more events like this in the future."

Once the work was done, Sailors and the children at the home played games in the courtyard.

"Today was a phenomenal experience," said En-

sign John Jackson. "It was so great to see the smiles on the kids' faces and to give back to the people of Osaka."

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



Lt. Cmdr. Raphael Castillejo, executive officer of the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70), plays games with a child during a community service project.



Capt. John Banigan, commanding officer of the Ticonderoga-class, guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70), interacts with children at Holy Family Home.



Lt. Cmdr. Raphael Castillejo, executive officer of the Ticonderoga-class, guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70), plays games with children during a community service project.



Commentary

# Forest City reinvests in military communities in Hawaii

Susan Ridgeway

Director of Property Operations,  
Forest City Residential  
Management

Forest City Navy Hawaii, which has developed more than 6,500 military family homes and also manages more than 35 neighborhoods in Hawaii, has embarked upon an array of community improvement/reinvestment projects which collectively will total \$8.26 million.

Residents are doing their part to conserve energy as evidenced by the 12 percent reduction in electric usage since RECP [Resident Energy Conservation Pro-

gram] began in 2011.

Forest City continues its efforts to aid in energy conservation with most of the projects that are being undertaken in 2014 aimed at improving energy efficiency, which will provide sustainability benefits and lower energy bills while also providing enhanced comfort for current and future residents.

The largest portion of Forest City's neighborhood enhancement projects involves replacing the air conditioning systems in 903 military family homes located in the Moanalua Terrace and Doris Miller Park neighborhoods. Each home there will receive new, more energy-efficient air conditioner compressors and air handlers.

The new air conditioners and related home modifications are expected to significantly reduce energy consumption for cooling while improving air flow and efficiency in each of the refitted homes.

New refrigerators for a total of 264 homes in the Doris Miller Park and Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands, Kauai are also a part of the community enhancement plans. This \$230,000 project will replace older model refrigerators with new Energy Star-rated appliances which are designed to use at least 15 percent less energy than non-rated models.

One energy-saving system al-

ready in place in many military family homes is the use of solar water heaters (except in historic homes). Forest City expects to spend about \$1 million to keep these highly sustainable components operating during 2014.

In addition to widespread energy-efficiency enhancements, Forest City will also be spending \$1 million on improvements and replacements to playground equipment in several neighborhoods.

The reinvestment budget allows for 13-15 playgrounds in the Doris Miller Park, Moanalua Terrace, PMRF Barking Sands and NCTAMS [Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station] to be redone. Hawaii's

high humidity and salty air can reduce the lifespan of outdoor facilities and can increase the amount of repair and replacement work necessary.

"While we're nearing the end of our initial development and construction phase for Navy Hawaii, our ongoing, long-term commitment to maintaining these communities in a high quality manner remains very strong," said Greg Raap, vice president of military housing for Forest City.

"We're always seeking ways to enhance the quality of life for our residents while being mindful of energy consumption. These latest reinvestment projects allow us to do both."

# Combat dining-in continues Air Force tradition at joint base

Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Public Affairs

A combat dining-in, one of the Air Force's most time-honored traditions, is scheduled to take place May 9 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"The dining-in will give Airmen a chance to experience a part of Air Force tradition and heritage while at the same time having

fun, enhancing esprit de corps of units, and relaxing and releasing stress," said Master Sgt. Ted Braxton, combat dining-in committee leader.

The theme for this year's dining-in is, "Honoring the Past, Leading the Future."

Braxton said attendees should expect a dinner buffet, beverage bar, water balloon fights, an obstacle course and many other traditional dining-in events.

"Get 'camo'd' up, bring your war paint and the biggest super soaker you can find. It's going to be a fun and messy night for all ranks," he said.

"This will be the only time you're able to hit your supervisor, commander, chief or first sergeant in the face with a water balloon and get away with it. It's going to be everyone for themselves that night, but it's going to be good fun. This won't be a ceremony where you come to sit down in a nice uniform and leave the same way," Braxton said.

Any military uniform will serve as appropriate attire for the evening, so Braxton challenges attendees to be creative.

"In the past, I've seen people come in World War I or G.I. Joe uniforms, so come in the most interesting and fun military uniform you can put together just as long as it displays your name and rank," he said.

The dining-in custom began in the 1930s with General H. "Hap" Arnold's "wing dings." A few years ago, "combat" was added to the name and the newest version of the dining-in tradition was formed.

Sponsored by the Hawaii Top 3 and Pacific Air Forces



U.S. Air Force photo illustration

Headquarters Top 3, the combat dining-in is the senior NCO corps' way of giving back.

"We saw the need to make sure our Airmen, meaning officers and enlisted members, didn't lose heritage and tradition," Braxton said. "With more and more senior NCO and officer retirements on the horizon, we wanted to make sure that younger Airmen

remember this combat dining-in event they attend at Hickam and continue the tradition when they are NCOs, SNCOs and ranking officers. Some of the younger Airmen and officers have never even heard of the dining-in, so we want to make sure they leave Hickam with a piece of heritage and tradition," he explained.

The event is scheduled from 5 to 8 p.m. May 9 at

Vosler Park. The tickets are \$10 and can be purchased from a first sergeant or committee lead. Committee leads are Senior Master Sgt. Scott Mills, Senior Master Sgt. Luis Reyes, Master Sgt. Timothy Stewart and Master Sgt. Ted Braxton.

Transportation will be available to shuttle Airmen to and from the housing areas and the dorms to the event.

## Diverse Views



### How do you think you could step up to prevent sexual assault?



ET3 Justin Smith  
USS Port Royal (CG 73)

"Maybe take a part in more bystander intervention. I know we train a lot, but we need more bystander intervention. Even when it happens not a lot of people stop it."

Chief Master Sgt. Justin Franklin  
HQ PACAF



"Be aware of situations around you and willing to step in and diffuse if needed."



Lt. J.g. George Himer  
USS Port Royal (CG 73)

"I think the biggest thing, thinking as a leader, is instilling a sense of awareness in terms of repercussions and severity that you as an individual can have on the community. I think the key is training. But it's not like you can babysit someone in every facet of their life."

Lt. Col. David Vanderburg  
HQ PACAF



"Set the environment in which all within my workplace know that sexual harassment will not be tolerated, and ensure the team is aware of what is acceptable versus unacceptable behavior. Looking out for your fellow wingman is ultimately what it's all about."



STG3 Morgan Hopkins  
USS Chosin (CG 65)

"Being there for those who have experienced it or keeping an eye out. When hanging out with friends, making sure they don't get into a bad situation or have a way out of the situation."

Staff Sgt. Wiley Moore  
766th Specialized Contracting Squadron



"Situational awareness. To be able to see events that could develop into a tragic situation and being able to avoid it before it happens."



MU1 Justin Skorupa  
Pacific Fleet Band

"I think the biggest thing is to be aware of how these things can happen so if you see it going on you can intervene."

Tech. Sgt. Rachel Bush  
65th Airlift Squadron



"By being a good wingman and watching out for a friend while we are out. Intervening if something seems to be heading in a bad direction."

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

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

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

## Historic combat rescue took place 70 years ago



On April 25 and 26, 1944, 2nd Lt. Carter Harman of the 1st Air Commando Group (standing at left in the photo) made the first U.S. Army Air Forces combat rescue by helicopter. The rescue took place 70 years ago this week. In late April 1944, a 1st Air Commando L-1 aircraft crash-landed deep behind Japanese lines in Burma with three wounded British soldiers aboard. Lt. Harman flew his Sikorsky YR-4B helicopter from his base in India on a circuitous 500-mile route to avoid Japanese forces. After completing the rescue over the course of two days, Harman was later awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Photo courtesy of Pacific Air Forces

## HO'OKELE

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Lt. Col. Matt Keihl, Pacific Air Forces chief of continuous process improvement division, explains how to use various problem-solving tools and resources during an Air Force Smart Operations of the 21st Century Green Belt Academics Course held recently at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

## Green Belt training provides tools to lead

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez

15th Wing Public Affairs

With the idea of a slimmer, more efficient Air Force becoming more of a reality every day, the need for continuous process improvement is growing. In order to adjust to changes, work centers must utilize the most effective ways to fix problems or find more efficient ways to do things. The Air Force Smart Operations of the 21st Century is the program designed to ensure these goals are met.

According to the program's website, AFSO21 tools and principles enable Airmen to change day-to-day operations by integrating continuous improvement into the full spectrum of Air Force operations.

When a work center conducts an AFSO21 event, it is planned, organized and overseen by a facilitator who must go through a certification process in order to do so.

"[AFSO21] is the methodology of choice for process improvement in the Air Force because it is a very effective tool," said Lt. Col. Matt Keihl, Pacific Air Forces chief of continuous process improvement division.

Keihl is one of three individuals at JBPHH who is able to teach the principles of AFSO21 to program facilitators. The team plans to conduct quarterly training of the

AFSO21 Green Belt Academics Course, which is the initial training in the certification process. In the course, facilitators are introduced to the program and trained on numerous tools and resources that help them facilitate an AFSO21 event successfully.

Master Sgt. Dina Maldonado, 15th Operations Support Squadron, attended a recent Green Belt course and said the training was helpful and has a lot of great organizing techniques.

"I was interested in learning about ways we can improve our [work center] processes," Maldonado said. "I think it gave me an overview of all the possible avenues we can take in problem solving."

After attending the Green Belt course, prospective facilitators must attend an actual AFSO21 event, co-facilitate an event, and lead-facilitate an event under the supervision of a more experienced subject matter expert.

Keihl said the importance of AFSO21 ties in with an Air Force core value: Excellence in all we do.

"I usually ask my classes rhetorically, 'If you are not trying to improve your work center processes, how can you say you are pursuing excellence?'" Keihl explained.

There are many resources for those interested in the AFSO21 program, including <http://www.af.mil/library/smartops.asp> or an area on the community of practice (COP) via Air Force Knowledge Now at <http://afkn.wpafb.af.mil>.



## PHNSY offers monetary STEM awards for high school students

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY&IMF) has announced the availability of 10 \$2,000 awards for students interested and active in robotics.

The intent is to recognize local high school students who have demonstrated dedication to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) activities. These awards are funded by the National Defense Education Program.

To be eligible for the STEM awards, applicants must be: (1) a resident of the state of Hawaii, (2) a current high school (public, private or home-schooled) student in good academic standing and (3) able to provide proof of active participation in Hawaii's annual FIRST Robotics Competition for at least one full academic year.

The official application form — which includes details on an essay requirement and required letters of recommendation — must be submitted in time to meet the May 30 submission deadline. Interested students should contact Eric Petran at 473-8000, ext. 2560, or [eric.petran@navy.mil](mailto:eric.petran@navy.mil) to obtain the application form and details of the submission criteria.

The 10 STEM Award winners will be announced in late June.

## Holocaust remembrance event to be held April 28

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

A Holocaust Days of Remembrance commemoration will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 28 at Aloha Jewish Chapel, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The guest speaker will be Seymour Kazimirski, sharing his mother's story of surviving the Holocaust.

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii invites all members of the base community to attend the event. Transportation from building 150 to the chapel will be provided.

The Holocaust was the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of approximately six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.

"Holocaust" is a word of Greek origin meaning "sacrifice by fire." The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in January 1933, believed that Germans were "racially superior" and that the Jews, deemed "inferior," were an alien threat to the so-called "Aryan master race."

For more information, email [megan.steffy@navy.mil](mailto:megan.steffy@navy.mil) or call 474-0302.

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# Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



Service members from 15th Medical Group partner with the 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Detachment 1, and Army and Navy medics for patient transfer movement training April 17 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Andrea Dykes

Airmen from the 15th Medical Group and Navy medical corpsmen practice carrying a patient litter on the Hickam flightline during a joint training session April 17 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez



(Left) Military and civilian personnel from NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor (FLCPH) spread out across the FLCPH compound to stencil environmental notices alongside storm drains on April 18. Everything that flows into a storm drain eventually finds its way into the harbor or the ocean, so it is important to prevent plastics and harmful substances from entering the drains. Shown stenciling a storm drain on Kilo Pier 11 are (left to right): Logistics Specialist 2nd Class (LS2) Jeremiah Edwards, Logistics Specialist Seaman Dexter Brown and LS2 Alex Alvarez. In addition to its stenciling efforts, NAVSUP FLCPH held its 5th Annual Earth Day Fair on April 22.

U.S. Navy photo by Jim Murray

(Right) Sailors and Airmen utilize the newly opened satellite vehicle registration office at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 22.

U.S. Navy photo by Brandon Bosworth





# 15th MDG Airmen take Army medic course at Schofield

**Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden**

*15th Wing Public Affairs*

Four Airmen from the 15th Medical Group (15th MDG) recently had the opportunity to attend the Army's Expert Field Medical Badge course at Schofield Barracks.

The two-week course, held March 31 through April 11, tested an attendees' medical aptitude through a series of rigorous mental and physical tests. Upon completion of the course, students are awarded the highly sought-after Army Expert Field Medical Badge and ultimate bragging rights.

The award has a passing rate of five to 25 percent, making it one of the most difficult badges to earn in the U.S. Army and most definitely the most difficult in the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

To successfully complete the course, students must demonstrate their proficiency at tactical combat casualty care, standard and non-standard evacuation operations, take a written test, execute U.S. Army Warrior communications and chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosives tasks, perform day and night



U.S. Army photo courtesy of 25th Infantry Division

Two Soldiers in the Expert Field Medical Badge course extract a simulated casualty from a HUMVEE during the EFMB course at Schofield Army Barracks from March 31 through April 11.

land navigation, and complete a 12-mile road march.

Senior Airmen Christopher Bowlds and Justin Stinson, as well as Airmen 1st Class Devon Garvin and Steven Hernandez, were hand-picked to represent the Air Force along with the 241 Soldiers attending the course.

Senior Master Sgt. Keith Scott, 15th Medical Operations Squadron superintendent, said this was the first time Airmen from the 15th MDG had been invited to attend the course, and they couldn't have picked a better set of Airmen.

"It's all about attitude,

motivation and representing the Air Force well in the joint environment," he said. "We wanted to make a good impression, so we vetted the volunteers to send the 'best-of-the-best' first."

Scott said the Airmen performed so well the Air Force has already been invited back to attend the next class.

"The interaction and exposure to the joint environment this class offers is priceless," he said. "Our Airmen desire operational experiences, so the invitation to participate in this training gives us an opportunity to give them a taste of that."

"In training, we tend to simulate a lot but this training is not like that. It's more realistic. Some of these guys will never see situations like this again in their career unless it's the real thing, so for some, this could be what gives them the experience they need," he said.

For Bowlds, attending the course was not only the most challenging thing he has ever done, it was also one of the most rewarding.

In addition to having to retain the knowledge and demonstrate their ability to use the skills they were being taught, course participants were expected to do so under

extremely stressful conditions such as simulated attacks, gun fire or explosions.

"This was not necessarily physically challenging as much as mentally challenging," he said.

"The amount of attention to detail and all the little things you're expected to do is way beyond what I've had to do before. Most of the tasks are timed and the pressure's always on. This was something I hadn't been exposed to as a junior Airmen and definitely one of those experiences I will take and learn from."

Bowlds said the best part of the training for him was the joint peer-to-peer interaction.

"A lot of these medics are assigned to infantry units, so they don't do the same thing I do every day," he said.

"I definitely have a new respect for my Army counterparts. Those guys are no joke, hard-core medics. It was definitely an honor to learn from them and get their perspective. I enjoyed getting to pick their brains about things and see how they operate in a field or combat environment."

Though the course provided an opportunity for the Airmen attendees to pick up

an immense amount of field knowledge, it also sparked a bit of healthy competition.

"I wanted to take this course just to see how Air Force medics stack up against Army medics," said Bowlds. "Army medics have the experience. They get this type of training often, but that doesn't mean we are any less of a technician."

"We're okay getting dirty, too, and it was good to be able to show them that we could do that. Just to stand next to them, training side by side and earning their respect was a good feeling, and I think any technician would jump at the chance to do that," Bowlds said.

Although only one out of the four Airmen attendees walked away with the EFMB, Scott said they are all victors in his eyes.

"It's an honor just to be selected for this course, not just for themselves, but for the chance to represent the Air Force, and these guys went above and beyond," he said.

"It's a challenge. This course is a real challenge and they didn't have to go do it, but they did and they excelled at it. I'm proud of the way they represented the Air Force."

## Pearl Harbor course enhances global naval shipyard management skills

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Four naval officers from the Philippine Navy and Royal Thai Navy completed a six-week-long International Shipyard Management Course (ISMC) held in Hawaii from March 3 through April 11.

Since its inception 16 years ago, 148 international naval officers have graduated from the course man-

aged and executed by Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY&IMF).

This year's attendees, officers from Thailand and the Philippines, learned about shipyard project management, capabilities, docking and undocking processes, security, quality assurance, safety and how to establish analysis programs. The last week of the course involved selected subjects requested by the international students and generic ship maintenance processes.

"Pearl is proud to continue

its great tradition of teaching shipyard management fundamentals to international maritime leaders from allied and partner nations," said Capt. Brian Osgood, shipyard commander.

"The shipyard is uniquely suited to teaching the ISMC, and we are the only naval shipyard designated to conduct this course."

"ISMC is a shining example of how this shipyard supports the theater security cooperation program of not just U.S. Pacific Command, but also other U.S. geographic commands around

the world," Osgood said.

This year's ISMC class visited the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) in Waikiki, a first for the course.

Osgood explained that the ISMC students benefit from the opportunity to see first-hand how a U.S. Navy shipyard operates, from hands-on-training to classroom lectures by shipyard subject matter experts.

"The students leave with valuable management skills and the knowledge they can use to improve upon their own processes back home,"

he said. "While they learn how we (the shipyard) do business here at Pearl Harbor, they also learn about other shipyard models they can compare and contrast."

The ISMC students said they were grateful for the opportunity to learn from the shipyard and the U.S. Navy. "We learned a lot, especially in the planning and estimating portion of the course," said Philippine navy Cmdr. Mac Raul Raca-

cho. "We're absorbing everything we've learned from the shipyard to bring back

to our country and apply those best practices to our shipyard. It's been a real privilege to learn from the U.S. Navy and the shipyard. It's been a wonderful experience and we're very lucky to have attended.

Thailand navy Lt. Siratol Rungratanaubol agreed. "It's been a good experience, attending this course," he said. "The importance of the chain of command, how to repair ships, and how to train people are some of the biggest takeaways I've gotten from ISMC."