

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

“Navigator” HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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USS City of Corpus Christi returns to Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by
MC1 Steven Khor

Submarine Force Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs

The Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) returned to Pearl Harbor from a deployment to the western Pacific region May 6, with families and friends gathered at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to welcome them back.

“This is my final underway in command, and I cannot be prouder than to sail with the dedicated warriors that comprise my crew,” said Cmdr. Chris Buziak, City of Corpus Christi’s commanding officer.

“Their positive attitude, tremendous commitment, and overwhelming professionalism are a testament for why they are representative of the best young Americans they are today,” Buziak said.

He said that despite half of the crew being on their first deployment, they consistently demonstrated the flexibility to meet numerous unique tasks with great enthusiasm as they supported the operational commander’s priorities.

The crew’s efforts also directly enhanced relationships with key regional allies through community relations projects in Guam and



Electrician’s Mate 3rd Class Erik Duwe of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) hugs his girlfriend, Cate James, on the pier following the submarine’s return May 6 from deployment to the western Pacific region.

Yokosuka, Japan. In addition to gaining the experience of operating in the western Pacific, the deployment afforded Sailors the

opportunity to work on qualifications, Buziak explained.

Twenty-two Sailors became submarine-qualified and are now

entitled to wear the enlisted submarine warfare insignia. In addition, more than 100 watch stations were also qualified.

This was the submarine’s first deployment since changing home ports from Guam in 2011 and completing a 14-month maintenance availability period at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

“The crew handled themselves in the utmost tradition of honor, courage and commitment while conducting extended operations in the western Pacific region supporting both national tasking and fleet theater anti-submarine warfare requirements,” added Buziak.

City of Corpus Christi returned home to an excited crowd of families and friends on the pier. Many displayed signs and banners to welcome back crew members.

For spouse Shelbie McClain, having her husband, Sonar Technician (Submarines) 3rd Class Brandon McClain, back home after a long deployment meant they could take that long-awaited trip together.

“I’m just really that glad he’s home, and I’m looking forward to spending time with him and going on a vacation back home to California and Washington,” said Shelbie.

City of Corpus Christi is the second ship to be named after the Texas city and is capable of conducting both anti-surface and anti-submarine operations along with guided-missile strike operations using conventional Tomahawk land attack missiles.

Navy Region Hawaii conducts HURREX at joint base, PMRF

Story and photo by
MC3 Johans Chavarro

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West,
Detachment Hawaii

In preparation for hurricane season, Navy Region Hawaii conducted its annual hurricane readiness exercise, HURREX, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) May 5-9.

Navy Region Hawaii conducted HURREX to teach personnel and family members how to prepare for hurricanes and associated effects brought on by a major storm event. Although the exercise storm is fictional, the need to prepare is real. This year, Navy Region Hawaii and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam conducted both before and after landfall



Personnel check in a participant during the “safe haven” drill at Hickam Gym during the hurricane exercise at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

components to the exercise.

According to Angela Perryman, Military and Family Support Center site manager,

during an approaching hurricane personnel must be able to handle matters quickly and efficiently to more

smoothly ride out the storm.

“We can have a disaster at any point,” said Perryman. “Whether it’s a natural

disaster or whether it’s a man-made disaster or some other kind of threat, it’s important to have time carved out so everyone can come together and practice the exercise.

It’s important to see how we would go through processing service members and their family members in a real-world situation. Determining housing situations and additional services they might need are the kinds of things that are good to practice now before hurricane season,” Perryman explained.

Participants role-played emergency situations and visited representatives from multiple organizations including the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, Navy and Air Force medical groups and housing departments.

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Mishell Miyashiro, as-

signed to Naval Health Clinic Hawaii, explained how mock exercises like HURREX teach staff members how to remain flexible and think on their feet to accomplish the mission at hand.

“If something actually ends up happening, rarely will things ever go as planned,” said Miyashiro. “That’s when you need to learn how to improvise because maybe initially on paper, patients were supposed to go directly to medical, but as you go through the mock exercise you see that medical is being overwhelmed and patients are not actually being seen where they need to be seen, so then you may need to triage them at the door. Or maybe you realize checking in with social services should come first, or actually admin should come first, or some-

See HURREX, A-6

JBPHH implements hand-held scanners at gates, expect delays

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

Hand-held scanners are now being implemented at all entry control points to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and its annexes. Drivers can expect delays during the gradual implementation period, which began May 15 as the first week with one in 20 vehicles scanned. By the end of June, every vehicle will be scanned.

The scanners will read the following types of identification: DoD common access cards, family member and retiree ID cards, and locally issued Rapid Gate (NCACS) credentials. The scanners will identify and grant access for all personnel who have these credentials. The rollout plan is designed so that the first time a card is read, it can take up to 30 seconds for it to be “registered” in the system. Once registered, the scanners will operate near real-time.

Also effective May 15, all Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) cardholders must first report to the pass and ID office prior to gaining entry to the installation. TWIC cardholders requiring long-term access should contact the JBPHH Pass and ID Office at 449-0865 for further instructions.

Sailors ‘pull together’ at fitness fair

Sailors assigned to the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) compete in a fire truck pull competition during a fitness and health fair outside the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Fitness Center. (See story and additional photos on page B-1).

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Daniel Barker



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Olympic medalists visit joint base on USO tour
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USS Chosin comes to rescue for blood drive request
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Focused on fitness
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Pearl Harbor NEX to hold series of events this month
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Navy in Hawaii combats sexual harassment, assault

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

The U.S. Navy is actively combating sexual harassment, sexual assault and reprisal. At Navy Region Hawaii the goal is to reduce sexual harassment and assault by creating a culture of prevention, education, response capability, victim support and accountability to enhance the safety and well-being of all personnel — civilian and military.

Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, has addressed the issue several times in the past six months in “all hands” meetings with

Sailors and civilians and in his region/base newspaper commentaries.

Williams ties prevention of sexual harassment and assault to fitness and readiness of his civilian and military workforce.

“Sexual assault is a major crime that tears apart commands wherever it occurs. Ending sexual assaults will increase our readiness and resilience as we become a more fit team,” Williams said.

“I am committed to creating the right conditions for a positive command climate and professional associations that enhance teamwork and support cooperation. These intangibles improve coordination and generate important wartime

readiness,” Williams said.

Studies show that sexual harassment, unchecked, can lead to sexual abuse as part of a full spectrum/continuum of harm.

Trained counselors, victim advocates and resources are available to assist military service members or civilians who have been harassed or assaulted. Every work space or common area posts information on where to report incidents of sexual misconduct.

Service members are assigned trained and certified sexual assault prevention and response (SAPR) advocates or counselors, and employees are provided professional referrals and access to equal employment

opportunity counselors.

In April, service members and Department of Defense civilians in Hawaii participated in a month-long awareness campaign: “Live Our Values: Step Up and Stop Sexual Assault.”

The campaign — which included community outreach at the University of Hawaii West Oahu campus and other venues — reinforced Navy core values of honor, courage and commitment. Service members and civilian employees learned about preventing, confronting, reporting and addressing allegations while supporting victims of harassment and assault.

Mandatory training on the prevention of sexual harassment is

conducted annually. In addition, Navy Region Hawaii participated last year in a Navy-wide SAPR stand-down, in which every service member and civilian received mandatory training.

“It is our responsibility to combat sexual harassment and sexual assault wherever it occurs,” Williams said.

Unrestricted allegations of sexual harassment and sexual assault are always investigated, and a full range of services or referrals are offered to every victim. Every employee and service member is provided with information on where to seek assistance.

To learn more, call 474-1999 or visit: <http://www.sapr.mil/>.

Hill replaces Weiss as VP-9 commanding officer

Ensign

Zachary Gorevin

Patrol Squadron Nine Public Affairs

Cmdr. Katrina L. Hill assumed command of Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9) from Cmdr. Brian D. Weiss in a ceremony which was held in flight on May 2. Hill became the 65th VP-9 commanding officer since the squadron's establishment in 1951.

During his tenure, Weiss led VP-9 through an intensive interdeployment readiness cycle (IDRC) and five months of a split site deployment with detachments operating successfully across three sites in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility.

Under Weiss' leadership, the Golden Eagles were recognized with the U.S. Pacific Fleet Arleigh Burke Fleet Trophy, the Jay Arnold Isbell Trophy for ASW and ASUW excellence, and surpassed a milestone 35 years and 200,000 hours of mishap free



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Amber Porter

Cmdr. Brian Weiss (right), commanding officer of Patrol Squadron (VP) 9 and Master Chief Kenneth Parker, maintenance master chief petty officer of VP-9, hold up the commanding officer plaque from the squadron's P-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft during a change of command ceremony May 2 at Naval Air Station Sigonella.

flying. Weiss' next assignment is at Commander Task Force 72.

“It has been a privilege and an honor to work with

the nation's finest Sailors every day at VP-9. The ‘Golden Eagles’ have answered every challenge, met every goal, and earned a

well-deserved reputation as the finest maritime patrol squadron in the Navy,” said Weiss.

This is Hill's first tour in

Hawaii. She previously served with the VP-40 “Fighting Marlins” as a division officer from 2000-2003 and later joined the “Grey Knights” of VP-46 where she was a department head during 2009.

“I would proudly follow Skipper Weiss anywhere, but following him as commanding officer is a daunting task. He is the best skipper I have ever served under, and I am incredibly fortunate to assume command of a squadron that has benefited from his leadership over the past two years,” said Hill.

Hill said her main objective as commanding officer of VP-9 is to continue the “Golden Eagle” tradition of leadership, excellence and safety, successfully executing the remainder of the command's U.S. 6th Fleet deployment.

“I am incredibly proud of all we have accomplished on deployment,” said Hill. “We will continue to focus on our mission here on the front lines, protecting our nation

and getting better at our job every day. Golden Eagles accept nothing less.”

Assuming the duties of executive officer will be Cmdr. Gonzalo Partida of Los Angeles, Calif. He is joining VP-9 from a tour at the Joint Staff, Nuclear Command and Control Directorate. This is Partida's second tour in Hawaii. He previously served in VP-9 as a division officer from 1999-2003.

VP-9 is assigned to Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two, Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The squadron consists of 71 officers and 276 enlisted personnel who maintain and operate eight P-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft. The squadron is forward-deployed to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility and is currently assigned to CTF 67, responsible for tactical control of deployed maritime patrol and reconnaissance squadrons throughout the European and African areas of responsibility.

Memorial Day observances scheduled

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Upcoming Memorial Day observances and activities have been planned. They include:

- The National Park Service will conduct special white boat harbor tours at 2:45 p.m. May 23-25. Boat launches to the memorial after 2:45 p.m. will be suspended during this time. Reservations only will be accepted. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/valr.

- The Friends of the Natatorium Memorial Day event will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. May 25 at the Waikiki World War I War Memorial Natatorium. The event is open to the public. Speakers will include Air Force Gen. Herbert Carlisle and U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard.

- Roll Call of Honor in Remembrance ceremony will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. May 25 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl.

- Annual Veterans Candlelight Memorial Day Ceremony will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. May 25 at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl.

- Commander Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific Memorial Day ceremony will be held at a time to be announced May 26 at the USS Utah Memorial.

- National Park Service morning colors special joint-service flag raising will begin at 8 a.m. May 26 at the Pearl Harbor Visitors Center.

- Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremony will be from 8 to 10:30 a.m. May 26 at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl.

- Kauai Veterans Memorial Day Ceremony will start at 10 a.m. May 26 in Hanapepe.

- Pacific Fleet Band performance is planned from 10 to 11 a.m. May 26 at the Pearl Harbor Visitors Center.

- Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam will conduct a 21-gun salute at noon May 26 from the Ford Island saluting battery in observance of Memorial Day.

- Bowfin Sub Vets Memorial Day Ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. May 26 at the USS Parche Submarine Memorial Park.

- Governor's 2014 Memorial Day Ceremony will be held from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. May 26 at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery at Kaneohe.

- National Park Service Memorial Day Sunset Tour will begin at 3:45 p.m. May 26. The Pacific Fleet Band bugler and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Honors and Ceremonies flag detail will perform evening Taps on the Arizona Memorial. Attendance at the event is by reservation only.

Leptospirosis: Don't let it ruin your health

SrA Tiffanie Gaines and Kia Meadows

15th Medical Group Public Health

Leptospirosis is one of the most common infectious diseases in Hawaii, averaging 30 to 40 cases per year. While everyone is susceptible to the disease, tourists are the most at risk.

“Tourists tend to be more at risk because they have less awareness of the local hazards and have more free time to experience them,” said Lt. Col. Chris Cieurzo, 15th Medical Group chief of aerospace medicine.

Maunawili Falls in the Kailua area of Oahu is one area where leptospirosis is frequently found. The water becomes contaminated when rainfall washes the urine of infected rodents off of the rocks above the falls into the water.

After hiking up the rocky trail, many people like to swim in the falls to

cool off. If they consume the water, or if it gets into their eyes, nose or an open cut, they can become infected. Exposure can occur other ways, including coming into contact with food or soil that has been urinated on by infected animals.

“There are plenty of ways you can protect yourself against leptospirosis while hiking or swimming,” said Tech. Sgt. Patricia Scott, 15th Aeromedical Dental Squadron community health element chief.

“Research the area where you will be traveling to. If there have been a high number of reported cases or signs posted, you should definitely avoid swimming. Do not go in the water if you have cuts or abrasions, and you should never submerge your head or swallow the water.

When hiking it's also important to wear closed-toe shoes to avoid getting cuts on your feet which can provide the bacteria an entry way into your

body,” Scott said.

There are a wide range of signs and symptoms including high fever, headache, chills, muscle aches, vomiting, diarrhea and rash. Without treatment leptospirosis can lead to kidney damage, meningitis, liver failure, respiratory distress, and in severe cases, death.

Prevention of leptospirosis is very simple. Do not swim or wade in the water if you suspect it might be contaminated, or if you see warning signs posted at the locations.

People who are at greater risk of exposure due to occupational or recreational activities should wear protective clothing and footwear. Contact your primary care manager if you suspect you may have leptospirosis, so treatment can begin as early as possible.

For more information on leptospirosis and ways of prevention, contact public health at 448-6240.

USS Michael Murphy celebrates birthday events

Story and photo by
Ensign
Joshua Flanagan

USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112)
Public Affairs

PACIFIC OCEAN — The guided missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) recently celebrated the anniversaries of two important events in its history: its namesake's birthday and the ship's christening.

The 510-foot Arleigh Burke-class, guided missile destroyer is named for Navy Lt. Michael Murphy, born May 7, 1976 in Suffolk County, N.Y.

A Navy SEAL [sea, air, land] of the Pearl Harbor, Hawaii-based Seal Delivery Team One, Murphy was killed in action leading his team of four during Operation Red Wings in the Hindu Kush mountains of Afghanistan.

Stumbled upon by a group of goat herders during a reconnaissance mission, the team, comprised of Murphy, Hospital



Sailors on USS Michael Murphy form the letters from the ship's motto, LTF (Lead the Fight).

Corpsman 2nd Class (SEAL) Marcus Luttrell, Sonar Technician (Surface) 2nd Class (SEAL) Matt Axelson and Gunner's Mate 2nd Class (SEAL) Danny Dietz, were soon involved in a fierce firefight with a massive, numerically superior force of Taliban fighters.

Suffering from multiple wounds, the squad of Sailors began a fighting withdrawal while

trying to call in reinforcements via radio. Due to the mountainous terrain, these broadcasts were not received by the quick reaction force awaiting such an eventuality.

Realizing the desperation of their situation, Murphy selflessly broke cover and exposed himself to enemy fire to make a satellite phone call for help to save his

men. Wounded several times during the call, Murphy successfully returned to his cover, where he continued fighting until he succumbed to his wounds. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

Unfortunately, upon arrival, one of the two quick reaction force helicopters, a U.S. Army CH-46 Chinook of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment Nightstalkers, carrying SEALs, was shot down by an RPG, killing 16 Sailors and Soldiers. The other helicopter was forced to return to base. Luttrell was the only surviving member of Murphy's team. The ill-fated operation is remembered in the book and movie, "Lone Survivor."

May 7 is also the anniversary of the christening of USS Michael Murphy. On May 7, 2011, Maureen Murphy, Murphy's mother, smashed a bottle of champagne against the bow of the ship at Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine. The ship was commissioned Oct.

6, 2012 at pier 88 in New York City and is now homeported in Pearl Harbor.

The crew of Michael Murphy, currently underway off the coast of San Diego, Calif. in support of training operations, celebrated the two events with a cake cutting, an ice cream social and watching the movie "Lone Survivor."

The evening was also marked by the pinning of five Sailors with the enlisted surface warfare specialist device.

"This ship has a proud heritage and tradition. We are honored to have such a worthy namesake as Lt. Michael Murphy and such a heritage as the bravery of the Sailors and Soldiers who gave their lives in Operation Red Wings," said Cmdr. Corey Turner, USS Michael Murphy commanding officer.

"Evenings like this allow our ship's company to reflect on this hallowed legacy as we live out the ship's motto: Lead the fight!" Turner said.

Olympic medalists visit joint base on USO tour

MC2 Laurie Dexter

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West,
Detachment Hawaii

Three-time Olympic medalist Kelly Clark, three-time Olympic medalist Steven Holcomb and two-time Olympic medalist Andrew Weibrecht visited Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam May 9 during a United Service Organizations (USO) tour on Oahu.

During the tour, the Olympians went aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) for a meet and greet with the Sailors.

One of the Sailors had the

chance to meet her childhood hero and inspiration. "I've been snowboarding since I was seven years old," said Operations Specialist 2nd Class Danielle Howard.

"I've watched Kelly Clark for years, and I can't believe I'm meeting her while being in the Navy. I've watched her since I was little, and she's probably the reason why I snowboard today," Howard added.

According to Clark, inspiration and morale is what it's all about.

"I've been inspired—to say the least—and that's really what I hope to achieve in snowboarding," said Clark.

"I want to make sure I am

inspiring people to be their best. It's amazing to hear that maybe someone would dare to dream and be inspired by what I've done."

American 300 Tours founder and managing director, Robi Powers, explained a comparable connection between the Olympians and service members.

"Olympians and armed forces members work under the same premises: duty, sacrifice, commitment, honor and integrity, in everything they do," said Powers.

"What we have found is that by bringing Olympians out, we're really just bringing individuals from a parallel universe. The time away from home, the commitment to training, the ability to take directions from coaches, is so parallel to what our armed forces do," Powers said.

After their visit to the Chosin, the Olympians conducted a meet and greet with members of the Air Force and observed demonstrations at the joint-services



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro

Sochi 2014 U.S. Winter Olympics medalist snowboarder Kelly Clark meets with Sailors aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) during a United Service Organizations (USO) tour at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

military working dog kennels.

The Olympians also participated in a fitness and wellness fair at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center. The activities at the fair included a fire truck pull, bench press competition, aerobic workouts,

health evaluations and informational booths from various organizations.

The USO plans and creates events around the world designed to lift the spirits of America's troops and their families. A non-profit, congressionally chartered, private organization, the USO

relies on individuals, organizations and corporations to support its activities. The USO is not part of the U.S. government, but is recognized by the Department of Defense, Congress and president of the United States, who serves as honorary chairman of the USO.

Diverse Views



What is your fondest memory of prom season?



Capt. Nate Cavender
15th Wing

"I remember eating at the nicest restaurant I had ever been to and ordering steak. All my buddies used to make fun of how fast I ate and had bets on how fast I would finish my steak. My date

was not impressed, especially since I had no idea they even had a bet going on until they all started laughing. That was my first and last date with her."

YN2 Katrina Cromwell
Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

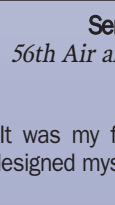


"I didn't actually go to junior or senior prom. I wasn't allowed to date in high school, no guys ever asked me to a dance, and I was taller than half the guys. The prom is a big milestone in a girl's life."



STSSN Benjamin Field
USS Columbia (SSN 771)

"Probably taking pictures at Pemaquid Lighthouse before prom. My date brought two French exchange students to prom. It's pretty awesome."



Senior Airman Lanita Jackson
56th Air and Space Communications Squadron

"It was my first time wearing a dress I designed myself, and I won prom queen!"



Staff Sgt. Adam Hershey
15th Medical Group

"I got out of surgery four hours before the start of prom. I didn't want to let down my date, so I manned up and went anyway. I later married her and have been happily married for over seven years now."

IT2 Casey McGuire
NCTAMS



"The party afterwards."

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 or karen.spangler@navy.mil

West Loch Disaster remembered



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army Signal Corps

On May 21, 1944, 34 ships gathered in Pearl Harbor's West Loch to load ammunition and supplies in preparation for the invasion of Saipan. The LSTs (landing ship, tank) or ships designed to land battle-ready tanks, were closely nested together along six berths. At 3:08 p.m., an explosion rocked the deck of LST 353. A chain reaction of explosions followed that left six LSTs sunk and several more severely damaged, including LST 480 shown in this photo. In all, 163 men were killed and 396 wounded. The official ceremonies with military honors to remember the disaster will begin at 3 p.m. May 21 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander, U.S. Army, will be the keynote speaker. The public is invited to attend this one-hour service.

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Navy Information Operations Command welcomes back 2014 SOY winner

CTRC (IDW/SW/AW)
Frank Migliaccio

Navy Information
Operations Command

HONOLULU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT — Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC), Hawaii, had much to celebrate when their command master chief, CMDCM Toby Ruiz, recently brought a team of chief petty officers to the airport baggage claim at Honolulu International Airport.

The team watched with anticipation as one of their Sailors came down the escalator and through the security doors. Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 1st Class Patricia Madigan's face lit up with surprise as she saw the sea of blue Navy working uniforms and chiefs in khakis waiting for her.

Madigan is the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Navy Shore Sailor of the



Chief Frank Migliaccio presents Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 1st Class Patricia Madigan, the 2014 CNO Sailor of the Year, with a welcome home lei at Honolulu International Airport.

Year for 2014 and was returning from her recent selection in Washington, D.C.

As one of four Navy-wide Sailors of the Year, she is now a "chief select" and

will be meritoriously promoted to chief petty officer in May.

She started her journey in January as the NIOC Hawaii Shore Sailor of the Year and then moved on to be selected as the SOY for U.S. 10th Fleet, then U.S. Fleet Forces Command before finally competing against several other outstanding Sailors to achieve the highest honor as one of the top four first class petty officers.

One of the chiefs couldn't let the moment go unnoticed by the other passengers at the luggage carousel. "Attention in the terminal! Out of 350,000 United States Sailors currently serving on active duty, this one here just won Navy Sailor of the Year," he shouted to cheers and applause by everyone.

"It's kind of a big deal," he added a little more quietly as everyone laughed and several civilians lined up to personally congratulate her.

Ruiz summed up how the chiefs felt. "I'm ecstatic. We

have one of the Navy's four Sailors of the Year at our command. So welcoming her home is a great start off to what, you know, her next four months are going to be and her future as a chief petty officer is going to be."

When asked how important it was to meet her at the airport, he said, "Very important because again, she is going to see from the very beginning that, as a future chief petty officer, we do this for all of our chiefs. She will soon be welcomed into our [chiefs] mess and she will understand what we all do here."

Madigan said she was equally excited. "I'm stoked! I'm really glad to see that there are so many chiefs here in support. It's kind of overwhelming. And I have so many flower lei around my neck right now, I think it has to be a record."

"I'm ready to learn. I'm ready to be part of this process," she said.

Navy Marine Corps Relief Society reopens thrift store, concludes fund drive

Story and photo by
Brandon Bosworth

Assistant Editor, Ho'okele

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Pearl Harbor Thrift Shop reopened May 15. The thrift store had been closed for cleaning and sanitizing since April 21 due to flooding from a water main break.

The thrift shop is located in building 1492 on the lower level of a barracks building near Utah Hall.

"We have lots and lots of new donations we want to sell," said Paul Belanger, director of NMCRS Pearl Harbor. "We need the space!"

The shop features separate rooms for men's and women's uniforms, household goods, toys, children's clothing, men's and

women's clothing, books, DVDs, CDs and many other items. Many items in the store is priced at \$1 or less. All of the thrift store merchandise is donated. Sales raise funds to be used to assist Sailors, Marines, family members and retirees in time of need.

The NMCRS Thrift Shop is open Thursdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Anyone with base access is welcome to shop there.

NMCRS Pearl Harbor also recently wrapped up the main portion of their annual fund drive.

"The fund drive is an annual event to raise money to continue to provide services such as loans and grants," said Belanger. "This year, we'll have raised a little over \$400,000. As usual, Hawaii Sailors and Marines



Volunteers sort donated merchandise at the NMCRS Pearl Harbor Thrift Shop.

did an excellent job of taking care of their own."

Even though the fund drive is officially over, NMCRS accepts donations all year long. For Sailors and Marines interested in having allotments taken out of their paychecks to go to NMCRS, the deadline for 12-month allotments is May 20. However, allotments for shorter time periods are available throughout the year. To set up allotments, service members can contact their command's fund drive coordinator.

Volunteers operate the NMCRS Pearl Harbor thrift shop, and additional volunteers are always needed at both the thrift shop and the NMCRS offices. Those interested in volunteering can contact Felix Navarro at 473-0282.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



(Above) Sochi 2014 U.S. Winter Olympics medalists downhill skier Andrew Weibrecht, snowboarder Kelly Clark and bobsledder Steven Holcomb board the guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) during a United Service Organizations (USO) tour at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.
U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro

(Right) Sailors meet with Sochi 2014 U.S. Winter Olympics medalists downhill skier Andrew Weibrecht, snowboarder Kelly Clark and bobsledder Steven Holcomb visit the guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) during a United Service Organizations (USO) tour at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.
U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro



(Above) The Noble Industrial Shop Store, in coordination with NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor's Installation Support Department, recently conducted a trade show at the shop store's location in hanger 11 at JBPHH. Twenty-two vendors representing 49 different manufacturers participated in the six-hour event. Hundreds of NAVFAC managers and end-users observed the displays, viewing cutting-edge technology available in the market.
Photo by Zosima Richards



Sonar Technician Submarines 3rd Class Brandon McClain of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) hugs his wife Shelbie following the submarine's return May 6 from a deployment to the western Pacific region.
U.S. Navy photo by MCI Steven Khor

USS Chosin comes to rescue for blood drive request

Michelle Lele

ASBP Blood Donor Recruiter, Tripler, Hawaii

The guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG-65) came to the rescue after a last-minute blood drive request to the U.S. naval ships was announced by the Tripler Army Medical Center Blood Donor Center in Hawaii.

After another ship unexpectedly had to cancel a scheduled blood drive, crew members aboard USS Chosin were ready and eager to roll up their sleeves to support the Armed Services Blood Program.

"We have a great crew onboard the USS Chosin," said Chief Hospital Corpsman Ryan De La Cruz, USS Chosin surface force independent duty corpsman.

"Our Sailors are always willing to lend a helping hand any way they can. Despite our busy workload, our Sailors are happy to support (the ASBP)," De La Cruz said.



U.S. Navy photo courtesy of USS Chosin

Service members aboard the guided-missile, cruiser USS Chosin (CG-65) recently came to the rescue after a last-minute blood drive cancellation left the Tripler Army Medical Center Blood Donor Center in need of donors. The crew donated 58 units of blood to the ASBP over the course of the four-hour blood drive.

Because the Tripler Blood Donor Center does not have a blood mobile, the blood drive was set up in a hangar of the ship.

This required some extra work to get the blood drive equipment where it needed to be. With some help from Chosin Sailors,

all of the equipment had to be carried from the pier, up two flights of stairs, across the ship's brow — with a stop to

salute the American flag — down a narrow passageway, up a narrow ladder and finally through the hangar doors.

Despite the limited amount of space, 80 Sailors lined up to donate over the course of a four-hour blood drive. Some potential donors were deferred for various reasons, but the ASBP was still able to collect 58 pints of blood. All of the donors who were able to roll up their sleeves said they were excited to be given the opportunity to save a life.

One such donor was Gas Turbine Systems Technician 1st Class Clayton Wheeler. He said he is a proud regular donor and was the first in line to donate.

"Whether it goes directly to the frontlines or is stored for use later, knowing I have saved another life is a very humbling feeling," Wheeler said. "When the subject of blood donation comes up, there are always a lot of people with excuses not to donate. The

fact is that once you donate and (are able to) see the professionals at work making sure you are taken care of and how very grateful and appreciative they are of your lifesaving donation, well that should be enough to wash away any fear, doubt or hesitation."

"I hope to generate as much awareness as possible about the value of donating blood to ensure that it is available for those in need," Wheeler added.

The Tripler Blood Donor Center is currently searching for local commands to host mobile blood drives for the ASBP. For more information about sponsoring a blood drive, call the donor center at 808-433-6699.

For more information about the Armed Services Blood Program or to schedule an appointment, visit www.militaryblood.dod.mil. For more news and photos visit www.facebook.com/militaryblood, www.flickr.com/militaryblood and www.twitter.com/militaryblood.

HURREX held at joint base, PMRF, helps increase readiness

Continued from A-1

thing else. So whenever you get to do hands-on, you see the pros and cons which helps you prepare better for the next time," Miyashiro added.

Perryman echoed Miyashiro's sentiments, noting, how the mock exercises gets staff members engaged with people, something that a structured classroom setting can never fully replicate.

"When you have actual players coming in with situations already in their heads or with given scenarios and you have the staff engage with them on that level, it takes them away from that classroom training situation and puts them in a real-world event where they actually have to think through on how they would respond to that person

and what organization they would refer that person to," said Perryman.

Lt. Evelyn Palm, assigned to Naval Health Clinic Hawaii, said events like HURREX help to teach and improve operations at the command level as well.

"Participating in this real-world exercise, we are looking at our current capabilities and the services we can offer, be it tending to both active-duty service members and civilians or any other situation we might be presented with. In the case of an emergency, we understand that our plans need to remain flexible and allow for changes where necessary as the situation changes. So this is a fine way of learning where to make those changes and also how to imple-

ment them, so we can expand our capabilities," Palm said.

In the end, Perryman said the goal of HURREX is to set a stage where participants can rehearse, learn and teach what channels are available in the case of emergency situations.

"It's an exercise for a reason," said Perryman. "So it gives us an opportunity to look at ways to improve things we need to do differently, communications that may need to happen differently, and to prepare ourselves for when a real-world event was going to happen because you never know what an event is going to be.

"We just have to remember to be flexible and have everybody trained so the roles are easily interchangeable. That way, anybody here can pick up a role and

know exactly what it is they are supposed to do," she said.

According to emergency management experts, personnel should have a number of things ready in case of an emergency, especially one that may require evacuation like a hurricane. Individuals and family members should have a firm plan in place of where to go, what to do, and what to take if they need to evacuate during a hurricane.

Emergency kits should include enough food and water to last several days, necessary medications, and other items such as maps, tools, flashlights and a first aid kit. Evacuees should also stay informed of up-to-date information regarding road and base closures, unsafe traveling conditions and weather warnings.

In case of a hurricane or tropical storm, residents are advised to avoid using the phone except for serious emergencies. They should listen to the radio or TV for more information and further instructions, secure their home by closing storm shutters and bringing outdoor furniture inside, ensure a supply of water for household purposes, turn the refrigerator to the coldest setting and keep the door closed, and turn off utilities, if told to do so.

If an evacuation order comes, residents are advised not to ignore it but to follow the guidelines given regarding times and routes and take only essential items and their emergency kit.

For more information on emergency preparedness, visit <http://ow.ly/wQYOR>.

U.S. Coast Guard JRCC watch standers coordinate Pacific rescue efforts

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt.
Christopher Hubenthal

Defense Media Activity Hawaii

JOINT RESCUE COORDINATION CENTER, Honolulu – U.S. Coast Guard watch standers operating out of the joint rescue coordination center (JRCC) coordinated a rescue operation after receiving a distress call May 2 at approximately 8:30 a.m.

U.S. Coast Guardsmen Lt. Jason Hagen, JRCC command duty officer; Lt. Craig Dente, JRCC command duty officer; and Operations Specialist 1st Class Andrew Lincoln, JRCC operations unit controller; were on watch during the distress call.

Falcon, a Venezuelan fishing vessel, reported that a Chinese fishing boat had caught fire and was sinking approximately 1,500 nautical miles east of the Big Island of Hawaii. Two of the 11 crew members suffered from second and third degree burns and, on its own, the Venezuelan ship's crew was not properly equipped to handle the situation.

The JRCC's search and rescue capability allowed the watch standers to react and provide assistance in the effort despite the distance.

"The JRCC has an expansive area of responsibility (AOR) that covers a little more than 12 million nautical square miles," Hagen said.

"We rely on a lot of DOD resources such as aircraft and vessels and merchant vessels in the area who belong to the automated mutual-assistance vessel rescue (AMVER) system."



U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Craig Dente, 14th Coast Guard District Command Center command duty officer, and Operations Specialist 1st Class Andrew Lincoln, 14th Coast Guard District Command Center operations unit controller, monitor vessel traffic with the automated mutual-assistance vessel rescue (AMVER) system.

The AMVER system is a voluntary partnership involving foreign and U.S. vessels. The names of the ships and their positions are tracked in the system so those who work in the JRCC can see who may be near a distress scene to help.

After communicating with Falcon, JRCC members were able to evaluate the next steps to take in the rescue.

"An immediate medical evacuation was required with this mass casualty that [Falcon] found," Hagen said. "We called

our duty flight surgeon and got some medical advice and passed that along to the fishing vessel Falcon."

The flight surgeon identified what treatment was required and what steps should be made to help provide medical aid to the Chinese fishing vessel's crew.

"The duty flight surgeon offered a treatment plan, everything from how to dress the wounds to offering intravenous hydration, O2, pain relievers, and antibiotics, all of which the fishing vessel Falcon had in very

limited supply on board," Hagen said.

The JRCC Coast Guardsmen used the AMVER system capability to see what other vessels were in the area to provide support to the situation.

"Luckily we found a nearby tanker vessel that was about 100 miles away that had a surplus of supplies on board," Hagen said. "[The vessel] later rendezvoused with Falcon and passed along some additional medical supplies which helped stabilize the situation."

The JRCC helped coordinate the U.S. Air Force deployment of Airmen from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. as part of a pararescue search and rescue effort to help with the extraction of the injured.

"It's definitely an inter-service and interagency coordination," Hagen said. "We can't do it alone and, in this case, it was a great use of not only international engagement with the Falcon that was a Venezuelan fishing vessel, but also with the U.S. Air Force. It was a solid partnership."

Dente attributes training he received to the mission's success.

"Watch standers in JRCC Honolulu complete nearly four months of dedicated training prior to qualifying at their watch station," Dente said. "This training conditions us to be able to manage and respond to any conceivable event of maritime distress in JRCC Honolulu's expansive SAR [search and rescue] region."

Hagen gave praise to the Venezuelan crew who were the first on scene.

"The Falcon crew did a fantastic job," Hagen said. "A lot of credit goes to them; they were the first on scene. Had the Falcon not been there, it's hard to say how this case would have turned out."

Nine crew members that were aboard the burning Chinese fishing vessel survived the event but two succumbed to their injuries underway. The survivors were able to receive further medical aid once transported to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

"We offer our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of those who lost loved ones," Hagen said.

STORY IDEAS?

Contact the Ho'okele editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements

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