

West Loch ceremony remembers disaster victims

Story and photo by
MC2 Laurie Dexter

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Military service members and civilians attended a ceremony for the victims of the West Loch disaster during a special boat visit to the site of the event May 20 and at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) on May 21.

The West Loch disaster was previously classified top secret as an American World War II maritime accident and now with this year marking the 70th anniversary of the event, it is only the fifth time an official remembrance ceremony has been held.

"West Loch is an event that happened 70 years ago, and it was classified until 1962 and so not a lot of people know about it," said Jim Neuman, Navy Region Hawaii historian.

"Even today, not a lot of people know about it because it happened during the war. We're just trying to use this opportunity to let people know about what happened here and, hopefully, educate people a little bit more."

One of the survivors of the disaster was able to attend this year's ceremony.

"We also have with us survivor Jack Sampson," said Neuman. "We wanted to make sure that he had an opportunity to come out here. This



Jack Sampson, survivor of the West Loch Disaster (left) shakes hands with Cmdr. Timothy Wilke, commanding officer of Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific, during the 70th Anniversary Remembrance Ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

is our chance to honor him."

Sampson was assigned to LST 222 (landing ship, tank) and was aboard the ship during the time of the disaster. He was a Pharmacist's Mate assigned to the 4th Marine Division.

On May 21, 1944, 34 ships were gathered in Pearl Harbor's West Loch to load ammunition and supplies in preparation for the invasion of Saipan. The LSTs, or ships

designed to land battle-ready tanks, were close together along six berths. At 3:08 p.m., an explosion occurred aboard LST 353. A chain reaction of massive explosions followed that left six LSTs sunk and several more severely damaged. In all, at least 163 men were killed and 396 wounded.

Sailors, Marines and Soldiers were preparing the vessels for the upcoming operation. Nearly one-

third of the casualties came from the Army's segregated African American 29th Chemical Decontamination Company.

Because of the tragedy at West Loch, the mission was delayed — but by only one day. In fact, the Northern Attack Force LSTs were able to make up that one day en route to the western Pacific. The invasion of Saipan was a major victory for U.S. amphibious forces, fur-

ther constraining the enemy and taking America closer to victory in the war.

The West Loch Disaster was Pearl Harbor's second greatest disaster in terms of casualties. The exact cause was never determined.

"It's up to each generation to remember the history of its country and its people and in particularly here, our military," said Hawaii State Sen. Will Espero. "All of the sacrifices and commitment and dedication that our Soldiers and servicemen had not only in World War II but all the years that we have been able to remember."

"May we continue to remember these Soldiers and these moments in our history so that future generations will never forget. We will always remember the courageous Soldiers—men and women—who died for our country and to have the freedoms that we have today," he said.

An official ceremony with military honors to remember the West Loch disaster was also held May 21 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). The event featured Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of U.S. Army Pacific, as the keynote speaker during the one-hour service. Participants conducted an ancestral libation pouring ceremony as well as a wreath laying, rifle salute and the playing of Taps.

The Punchbowl commemoration

See WEST LOCH, A-4

Military security forces, HPD hold joint active-shooter drill

Story and photo by
MC3 Diana Quinlan

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West,
Detachment Hawaii

Military members assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) security forces, Department of Defense civilians and members of the Honolulu Police Department conducted an active-shooter drill at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) on May 20 prior to the store's regular working hours.

The drill was designed to provide real-world practice and to establish a timely response to an emergency in addition to testing of proper evacuation procedures, medical assistance and apprehension of suspects. Evaluating communications between the multiple agencies participating was also a crucial component.

"Today we conducted a joint exercise on an active



Military security forces assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and Honolulu Police Department conduct an active-shooter drill at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange prior to normal store hours. (See additional photo on page A-5.)

shooter," said Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Clark, deputy security officer for JBPHH.

"It is a great training opportunity for the Honolulu Police Department, Navy security forces, Naval Criminal Investigative Services as well as the loss prevention and medical personnel,

our partners at the fire department and K-9 unit. It is a great exercise to bring everyone together and work with each other," Clark said.

The military and civilian participants gathered outside the NEX before sunrise in preparations for the drill. A number of service mem-

bers in civilian attire simulated potential victims of an active shooter while acting as customers in the store. In addition, makeup and props were used to simulate weapons, gunshot wounds and other injuries. This helped to graphically represent victims in need of medi-

cal assistance and to monitor the team's response and performance.

"We are evaluating first responders on their ability to successfully move victims from the point of injury to the hand-off point where other first responders and medics are," said Air Force

Staff Sgt. Adam Hershey with the 15th Medical Group.

"Because of the threat level within the facility [during an active shooter event], the medics won't be able to go to the victims, so the police force will have to either secure the scene quickly or provide escort of the patient out of that threat level."

"They have to use both: the tactical movements of the security forces and knowledge of basic first aid in order to increase victims' chances of survival," Hershey added.

Once the training evolution began and the simulated active shooter entered the building, it took approximately two minutes for response teams to arrive in response to the emergency call and begin their work. They began sweeping the building and securing the area, evacuating unharmed customers, locating victims

See DRILL, A-4

15th Wing hosts SAPR down day to combat sexual assault

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt.
Alexander Martinez

15th Wing Public Affairs

In an effort to keep 15th Wing members informed and trained on sexual assault prevention and response (SAPR), Airmen and civilians participated in a SAPR down day on May 15.

The SAPR down day is part of a broader effort led by Air Force leadership to ensure everyone receives in-depth training on ways to prevent sexual assault and identify offenders.

The training day kicked off with a commander's call hosted by Col. Johnny Roscoe, 15th Wing commander.

Roscoe emphasized the importance of the day's training and shared ways in which everyone can prevent sexual assault.



Col. Johnny Roscoe, 15th Wing commander, hosts a commander's call to kick off the 15th Wing Sexual Assault Response and Prevention down day May 15 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"We need to, and must, act professionally on and off duty, and we need to make sure we create a climate of respect and dignity," Roscoe said.

In a powerful moment during

the commander's call, Roscoe spoke directly to sexual assault victims in the audience.

"I want to apologize to every single one of you," Roscoe said. "I can't imagine what you went through,

what you experienced, or what you will go through. Your courage is inspiring to all of us."

Following the commander's call, attendees gathered within their units for small-group training and team-building exercises that highlighted ways to identify and deter sexual assault offenders. "I think the day went very well," said Mabelle Terrell, 15th Wing sexual assault response coordinator.

"Wing leadership did a great job emphasizing the importance of this training. Efforts to prevent sexual assault starts with leadership, so we're on the right track here."

Terrell was a key organizer of the down day. She helped provide training for hundreds of SAPR training facilitators who led the day's unit events.

"The small group exercises were an effective training tool because it allowed people of all backgrounds

and perspectives to share their thoughts on ways to deal with sexual assault," Terrell said.

"This training was slightly different than training in the past because it put an emphasis on dealing with the sexual assault offenders instead of just concentrating on ways to not be a sexual assault victim. We've received positive feedback so far from the participants," she said.

There are several resources available for people seeking information on sexual assault-related topics. If you are a victim in need of immediate help, call 449-7272, which is a 24-hour hotline. For general SAPR information, call 448-3192/3193.

There is a Safety Awareness Resource Change (SARC) resource page link available at <http://www.15wing.af.mil>. Also, the SARC office is located in building 1113 for walk-in assistance.



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15th Wing vice commander flies final flight
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Island military musicians 'band' together for Military Appreciation Month
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15th Wing vice commander flies final flight

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

An F-22 Raptor piloted by Col. Terry Scott, 15th Wing vice commander, takes off for his "fini-flight," a ceremonial final flight for Air Force pilots at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Scott is retiring after 33 years of enlisted and commissioned service.



(Above) Col. Terry Scott, 15th Wing vice commander, greets friends, family and coworkers after his "fini-flight" at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



(Right) Col. Terry Scott, 15th Wing vice commander, is hosed down after his "fini-flight."

Vice Adm. Copeman hosts all-hands at Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by MC2 Laurie Dexter

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Det. Hawaii

Vice Adm. Tom Copeman, commander of Naval Surface Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, visited Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) during a tour May 14.

Copeman conducted an all-hands call in addition to visiting the guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) and guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93).

His visit comes in the wake of Chosin and Chung-Hoon being awarded the Battle "E" Efficiency award, which were presented in March 2014.

The visit gave Copeman an opportunity to talk with Sailors and address any concerns or issues they may have.

"It's always significant when you have a three-star admiral, our boss, coming aboard to address the



Vice Adm. Tom Copeman, commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, speaks to the crew of the guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65) during an all-hands call and Battle "E" Efficiency award presentation on the ship's flight deck during his visit to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

crew," said Cmdr. Troy Fendrick, executive officer of USS Chosin.

"It lets the crew know that our chain of command is engaged and that we do care about what it is we

do and our future. I think it is critical that he does come aboard to identify any issues and concerns that the crew has."

Copeman's main focus was train-

ing efficiency when he spoke with the crew of Chosin on the flight deck of the ship.

"I think the chiefs are the center of gravity in leadership, training and education," said Copeman. "At the end of the day, we can have the fanciest gear in the whole wide world and the most advanced weapon systems, but if the people that we have on these ships don't know how to operate it and maintain it, all is lost and we've wasted all our money."

The ship's hard work and dedication to proper training played a major role in its receiving the Battle "E" award.

"Being awarded the Bloodhound and Battle 'E' is recognition of Chung-Hoon's ability to live up to the CNO's three tenets by focusing on warfighting first, operating forward and being ready," said Cmdr. Ryan Collins, commanding officer of Chung-Hoon.

"Having Vice Adm. Copeman recognize that was extremely important to keep the crew focused on

those tenets as we conduct significant maintenance on the ship during a drydock period," he said.

Lt. Cmdr. Tom Ogden, executive officer of Chung-Hoon, added, "Chung-Hoon has a pride in ownership that is unmatched, and having the results of hard work recognized by senior Navy leaders validates our ship's readiness to respond to all tasking, from deployed operations to training and maintenance."

The Battle "E" can be presented to ships, submarines, aviation and other units, and is given only to those that achieve the highest standards of battle readiness.

To win the Battle "E," a ship must excel and earn excellence awards in maritime warfare, engineering/survivability, command, control, communications and information warfare, logistics management and ship safety.

"When the crew heard they were a Battle 'E' winner, the morale went up," said Fendrick. "Looking back at all the hard work they did, it just paid off. It was huge."

Forest City employees volunteer at Ford Island sites

Story and photo by Brandon Bosworth

Assistant Editor, Ho'okele

As part of Forest City's 11th annual community day, more than 160 employees from Forest City Residential Management spent May 9 volunteering on Ford Island.

Volunteers cleaned, painted, sorted, landscaped, and removed rust and debris from historical sites such as the Battleship Missouri Memorial, the Pacific Aviation Museum, the USS Utah Memorial and the USS Oklahoma Memorial.

Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, kicked off the event. He greeted the

Forest City workers, thanked them for volunteering, and talked about the importance of recognizing the sacrifices made by service members and their families.

"The superb service you—the Forest City Team—provide our service members and their families is first rate and is as much of a mission enabler as anything. When service members deploy, they do so knowing that their families are going to be well taken care of, thus enabling them to focus on the mission at hand and not worry about a leaky roof from afar," James said.

"I know this firsthand, having been a very happy and satisfied Forest City resident for nearly eight



Forest City employees clean helicopters at the Pacific Aviation Museum.

years," he said.

Forest City's annual community day is a day in which

Forest City donates thousands of employee hours as a way of giving back to

local communities.

"Besides providing quality homes, at Forest City we try to give back to those who have made sacrifices," said Marc Sibal, Forest City quality assurance manager.

In previous years, Forest City volunteers have worked at schools or at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). For 2014, it was decided to do something at JBPHH.

"This year we decided to keep it closer to home and to those who have served and continue to serve," said Judy Durand, executive administrative assistant, Forest City.

"We reached out to the Battleship Missouri Memorial, the Pacific Aviation Mu-

seum and the [national] parks service to see if there was anything we could do for them."

Up to four hours were allotted to complete the work, but the volunteer teams managed to finish in less than two hours and do additional tasks as well.

"With a can-do attitude, we completed all the requested work and more," said Durand. "It was a huge success."

Forest City manages 6,788 housing units in 36 neighborhoods on Oahu and Kauai through a long-term public private venture (PPV) partnership between Forest City Military Communities and the Department of the Navy.

Commentary

Memorial Day: Opportunity for reflection, commitment

Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

This Memorial Day weekend is a time to give solemn reflection about service, sacrifice and devotion to country.

Memorial Day began in order to honor the fallen after the Civil War. Today commemorations reach back in remembrance also for those who were killed in the Revolutionary War and other early conflicts in our history.

From our nation's very beginning, men and wom-

en have been willing to fight and die for the ideals on which our nation was built. They have served in regional conflicts during the Cold War and in two world wars.

This year's Memorial Day comes less than two weeks before the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway — two big turning points in World War II.

Of course, here in Hawaii—especially here in Pearl Harbor—we are reminded daily of the bravery and commitment of Sailors, Marines, Soldiers and Airmen who deployed from here and fought across the



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Pacific to victory in that war.

At the same time, we must not lose sight of the other wars and conflicts in which our veterans paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Service members have deployed from, or via, Hawaii to Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan in past decades. When I meet survivors of those conflicts—along with the “living monuments” of WWII—on the joint base, at Pacific Missile Range Facility or out in town, it is a privi-

lege to thank them in person. Many of their shipmates and friends did not make it back from war.

Today, our nation is defended and kept strong because of our dedicated and resilient all-volunteer force. Our troops have been at war since 9/11. The all-volunteer forces who fought in Iraq and who are fighting in Afghanistan are combating terrorism in what is arguably an enduring fight and persistent threat.

The fact is, while we have fought terrorism, our military has also deterred and prevented other conflicts from threatening our national interests. Maintaining stability is a key mission that we cannot overlook or take for granted. That is why the CNO set Navy imperatives for “warfighting first,” “operating forward” and “be ready.”

“You can't surge trust” to assure our partners and deter would-be adversaries. Our Navy has to be postured at the potential source of trouble. Our security is our nation's leading export and sought out from our friends and allies.

When our Sailors deploy forward, stand the watch, or train to be ready—through their actions—they are honoring fallen veterans who have come before them.

Each May, Americans express their deep appreciation for the service, sacrifice and devotion of military service members and their families. During Military Appreciation Month here in Hawaii, we receive gratitude from the state, counties, cities and towns where we serve.

We are thankful for the strong support our service members and their families receive from the Chamber of Commerce and Navy League. These organizations, and the people of Hawaii, help us stay the course and operate forward knowing that our families are in good hands back home.

The people of Hawaii genuinely understand and appreciate why we are here—how we protect the homeland and preserve freedom of the seas.

This Memorial Day weekend in Hawaii offers opportunities to visit gravesites or other memo-

rials. There are a number of ceremonies at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), the Kauai Veteran's Cemetery, Hawaii State Veteran's Cemetery, USS Utah Memorial, USS Arizona Memorial, USS Parke Submarine Memorial Park, Ford Island, War I Memorial Natatorium, Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, and the Pearl Harbor Memorial Fountain here at building 150.

This weekend, let's think about the gift our fallen service members have given us over the decades and centuries. Let's consider one way to honor them—through a living memorial—a commitment to keep ourselves and our shipmates safe on and off duty.

Please do your part to make this a safe, healthy and happy summer for you, your family and your friends.

It is because of our veterans that we have the freedoms we enjoy today. Let's use their gift of freedom wisely and safely this weekend, this summer, and always—in their memory.

Diverse Views



What is your fondest memory of learning how to ride a bicycle or motorcycle?



DC1 James West
USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60)

“I think my fondest memory is going down H3. It's one of the most picturesque views on the island.”

Master Sgt. Louis Jones
15th Maintenance Squadron



“My favorite memory is when I learned to ride a bike. My oldest brother taught me. He never gave up on me, even though I crashed several times. It took a lot of patience on his part and I love him for it.”



Lt. Sam Fleming
NIOC Hawaii

“It would be just riding along the ocean.”

Staff Sgt. Veronica Tanner
15th Maintenance Squadron



“My favorite memory is the first time I rode a bicycle without training wheels. I remember feeling like a big kid and free.”



MM2 Kyle McCarthy
USS Asheville (SSN 758)

“Taking off my training wheels for the first time.”

Staff Sgt. Jordon Conn
64th Civil Engineers Squadron



“Riding my bike at an old car garage that had multiple driveways with big inclines. We would like to gain speed down the hill and then burn out into a 180 degrees turn on my GI Joe tricycle. It was a fond memory because it was time spent with my brother and father.”



CTRSN Imani Davis
NIOC Hawaii

“Riding around the neighborhood, mostly by the beach, no hands, acting like a little kid.”

George Hartzog
15th Maintenance Squadron



“I was riding on the handle bars of my older sister's bicycle. She hit a pothole and I went head over heels into the road. I wasn't hurt, other than some scratches, but learned to ride on the seat or not at all.”



CTT2 Ryan Topenio
NIOC Hawaii

“Falling off the curb and crashing into the bushes, only because I knew that was the biggest mistake to make and not to do it again.”

Tech. Sgt. Les Garon Ueda
561st Network Operations Squadron



“My earliest memory of riding a bike is when my mom pushed me down a hill but forgot to tell me how to brake.”

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

Commentary

Keep the ‘memorial’ in Memorial Day

Col. Johnny Roscoe

15th Wing commander



Col. Johnny Roscoe

When you first entered the Air Force, the thought that you could actually be killed likely felt as remote as winning the lottery, but inevitably through the years, some among us had their futures torn from them.

Every American generation has felt the loss of loved ones and, regrettably, future generations likely share the same fate. For hundreds of years and through difficult times for our country, despite the dangers, Americans have answered their nation's call.

Dating back to the Civil War, Americans have set aside a day in remembrance

of those who have died serving in uniform and we continue this honorable tradition today.

I implore you to never forget the personal misery and

loss that Memorial Day represents. From the open warfare of the world wars to standing the line during the simmering hostilities of the Cold War, our country's existence was paid for in the blood of ordinary Americans in extraordinary circumstances.

We are the living embodiment of the world created and defended by those whose lives were abruptly concluded, and it is our duty to remember our fallen and stand the line in their stead in order to prevent the loss of countless others.

I venture to say that very few people enter the armed forces with the firm intention of giving their life for their country. It is easy to say, “I'm

willing to fight and die for my country,” but you really think along the lines of Gen. Patton—the other guy's going to die for his.

Rarely did any of our fallen comrades have time to come to terms with, “Today's the day I die for my country.” Some begged for their lives to be spared, some cried and screamed with fear and anguish, some fought angrily until their last breath ... in the end, they died.

The battle against tyranny and oppression is likely to be never-ending, but I hope that years from now people will reflect on the lives that were lost and say it was worth the cost to ensure that our country and our values would still endure.

Maj. Horace Hickam participates in air tournament



Maj. Horace M. Hickam is shown here at a Bolling Field, Washington, D.C. air tournament with an SE-5 airplane in the background in May 1920, 94 years ago this month. After his death, Hickam Field (now consolidated into Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam) was named for him. Hickam Field was officially dedicated on May 31, 1935.

Photo courtesy of the Hawaii Department of Transportation

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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.cnic.navy.mil/Hawaii/ or www.hookelenews.com.

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Photo by Al Crossley

Fleet Sailors participate in the Surface Tactical Advancements for the Next Generation (TANG) working group held May 5 to 8 at Lockwood Hall at joint base.

TANG working group unlocks Sailors' creativity

Pete Scala
PEO-IWSSA

Lt. Dave Nobles
USS Benfold (DDG-65)

The Surface Tactical Advancements for the Next Generation (TANG) Team brought a wave of creativity to Lockwood Hall at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, assembling 30 young operators in the fleet to develop the future of anti-submarine warfare (ASW) for the surface Navy.

The working group, hosted by Destroyer Squadrons 31 and 15 and facilitated by Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab, PEO IWS and the innovation design firm IDEO, was held May 5 to 8. It used the tenets of design thinking and the collective intelligence of fleet Sailors to identify and refine new ways to display sonar information and improve processes and prototype systems to enhance the effectiveness of the ASW warfighter.

Participants in the TANG event came from every fleet concentration area in the world, representing seven destroyer squadrons and more than a dozen ships. This group of Sailors, ranging from E-4 to O-3, were hand-selected for their innovative spirit, subject matter expertise and enthusiasm for making the Navy better.

This is the first time that the TANG team has focused on surface ASW combatants with the design thinking process, a structured ideation process that employs an infinite number of notes, markers and display boards to unlock the creativity within participants.

In 2011, the first TANG forum brought a cadre of submariners together from across the Navy for a week to develop new combat systems displays for submarines. The ideas and prototypes that Sailors envisioned then were brought to life within six

months of the event, and those designs will be installed in submarines this year.

After several international and executive level events concentrating on submarines, the team hopes to replicate the success for the next generation of surface combat systems.

"The energy from this group has been the best we've ever seen," said Josh Smith, TANG director, from the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory.

"These Sailors are developing incredible concepts that are going to solidify the Navy's place as the premier anti-submarine warfare force for a long time," Smith noted.

The process allows the opportunity for Sailors to interact directly with not only the technical wizards that craft advance systems, but also experts in the field of design as well as leadership within the program offices who then field the improved sonar software on ships.

The TANG event also included a tech expo that was open to Department of Defense personnel each day. The tech expo showcased advanced new capabilities in the fields of information technology, augmented reality, virtual reality, gaming and more.

Sonar Technician (Surface) 2nd Class Aliesha Vaccaro from USS Benfold (DDG 65) in San Diego said the participants have been inspired by the process and are learning ways to brainstorm solutions to the myriad challenges that Sailors face on a daily basis.

"I can't wait to get back and show my division the tools that I've learned out here," Vaccaro said. "The experience has been amazing. With events like this, I feel like we can solve any problem."

The Surface TANG concluded May 8. The concepts developed will be coming to a ship near you in the near future.

Drill provides real world practice for timely response

Continued from A-1

in need of medical assistance, and locating the simulated perpetrator.

Each team consisted of four to five members from different agencies, including military service, joint base and Honolulu police and a JBPHH K-9 unit.

Teams stayed together through the facility, maintaining constant communication between each other in order to cover all of the areas, which allowed for quick location and disarmament of the perpetrator and location of all the victims.

During the drill, each team was evaluated on their procedures and performance, including proper medical response to the simulated victims, evacuating unharmed personnel, handling assigned firearms during search, and communication.

Upon completion of the drill, all participating members met for feed-

back from the observers as well as to convey personal observations and have a question and answer session.

"I think the evolution went very well. First teams were on scene in less than two minutes, and the shooter was taken down in less than four," reflected Clark upon completion of the exercise. "So I think in that respect it went very well, but we still gather lessons learned, and I still think we could have done a better job on responding to the injured and establishing a crime scene perimeter. This is something we have to work on, and that is why we conduct these exercises."

"Honolulu Police Department is our partner," added Clark. "They showed up with their tactical teams, fell in and merged with our current teams, and did an outstanding job."

Capt. Rudy Arsiaga of joint base security also spoke on military service members' performance during the exercise.

"Navy personnel, Air Force and a K-9 unit did an excellent job on their 'how to' response and integrated well with HPD," said Arsiaga.

"The way they have moved in — the communication was superb and that's the main thing, different agencies coming together without previous training together and conducted an excellent job," he added.

The active shooter scenario was a planned exercise that had the look and feel of a real world event and was not held in response to a specific threat. The Department of Homeland Security website describes an active shooter as an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area, typically through the use of firearms.

A link to Homeland Security's website provides a "what can you do" course for the public and can be downloaded at <http://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness>.

West Loch remembered

Continued from A-1

was hosted by the African-American Diversity Cultural Center Hawaii (AADCCCH) to honor the service members who died during the West Loch disaster.

The AADCCCH was founded in 1997 as a museum repository to archive 200 years of African American history in Hawaii, to share the collections by displaying and exhibiting artifacts and educating the people in Hawaii about the cultural heritage of African Americans in the U.S.

Memorial Day commissaries announce holiday hours

The Pearl Harbor Commissary will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Memorial Day, May 26.

The Hickam Commissary will be open from 10 a.m. to

6 p.m. on Memorial Day.

For more information, call the Pearl Harbor Commissary at 471-8402, ext. 101, or the Hickam Commissary at 449-1363.

Opening for HI-5 Redemption Center at joint base delayed

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii

The Navy Region Hawaii Recycling Program had planned to reopen its HI-5 Redemption Center, building 1715, near Kuntz Gate on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on May 6. However, due to voucher issues this action was delayed and the center is not open at this time.

The center has been closed since October 2013 due to financial adjustments

of the program, requiring moving redemption from Morale, Welfare and Recreation to the Navy Exchange.

Plans to have vouchers issued at the center and redeemed at the Navy Exchange customer service desk in the main atrium for cash are still pending. Once it is resolved, a reopening announcement will be made so that personnel with old vouchers can redeem them, and those who wish to restart delivering HI-5 items to the center can do so.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam Highlights



Airmen dressed in their most creative "uniforms," battled each other in an epic water fight and enjoyed some food during the 2014 Hawaii Air Force Combat Dining-In at Vosler Park, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on May 9.

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

Military security forces assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and Honolulu Police Department conduct an active-shooter drill at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange prior to normal store hours.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan



U.S. Navy photo by David D. Underwood Jr.

Cmdr. Richard A. Paquette, outgoing commander of Defense Logistics Agency Distribution, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, speaks during a change of command ceremony held May 16.

(Right) Airmen observe a moment of silence in front of a memorial honoring fallen Security Forces Airmen on May 12 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The memorial was placed in the Courtyard of Heroes in the Pacific Air Forces Headquarters Building in honor of National "Police Week" — a time of observance proclaimed in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy in which he designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as National Police Week.

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



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Tiarra Fulgham

Sailors assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) assist sailors aboard the Republic of Korea (ROK) navy ship Soaeo Ryu Seong-Ryong (DDG 993) in mooring the ship as it arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



Island military musicians 'band' together for Military Appreciation Month

Kristen Wong

Hawaii Marine

HONOLULU — In celebration of Military Appreciation Month and Armed Forces Day, military bands from the four main branches stationed in Hawaii, as well as the Army National Guard, merged into a musical group of more than 60 service members, providing an evening of free entertainment to the public. The 29th annual joint-military service band appreciation concert was held May 17 at Hawaii Theatre in Honolulu.

Hosted by the Hawaii Theatre Center and the Honolulu Navy League, the concert included performances by the 25th Infantry Division Band, 111th Army Band, U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Band and the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band.

"These men and women (literally put their lives) on the line for us," said Burton White, the artistic director and general manager of Hawaii Theatre. "(Because) we have a month and a day that's dedicated to (military appreciation), we should pool our resources together and sponsor an event that highlights the month and reminds everybody at least once a year that the freedoms that we enjoy (come) at a great cost."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael J. Smith, the band officer and officer in charge of the MarForPac Band, said that while the Hale Koa Hotel (where the concert was hosted for a few years) may be good for summer concerts, the Hawaii Theatre provides good acoustics and a backstage musicians can use to easily transition from piece to piece. Smith, of Terre Haute, Ind., said the venue also has multimedia equipment to add to the presentation. For example, the con-



U.S. Navy photos by MC3 Johans Chavarro, Kristen Wong

cert included slideshows of historical artwork to complement a Civil War piece.

Local ukulele artists, Jodie and Kody Kiyokawa, took the stage first, providing pre-concert entertainment. Then Air Force Capt. Haley Armstrong, the commander of the USAF Band of the Pacific, kicked off the event conducting "Masque" by Kenneth Hesketh. Armstrong said she particularly enjoyed the moment when she began the piece.

"(One of) my favorite moment(s) of the evening was when the curtain came up and I turned around to conduct and saw all of our joint service dress uniforms on stage," Armstrong said. "It (was) impactful to know that what we did this week from a joint-service perspective is so reminiscent of how we are fighting in the deployed environment. It gave me chills."

Each year, one military branch serves as the lead

band for the concert. This year, the Air Force took charge of the program. The branches managed to fit in three rehearsals before the concert.

"It works because all of the services employ amazingly talented musicians who are dedicated professionals," Armstrong said. "Chief Master Sgt. Laura Noel and I have been working (out) the details all year."

The concert featured pieces from various eras, from "In the Mood" by Wiggy Manone, Andy Razaf and Joe Garland, to "None So Beautiful as the Brave" by Gino Vannelli. The bands paid tribute to the 150th anniversary of Arlington Cemetery, which was established in May of 1864 in Virginia, by performing "American Civil War Fantasy" by Jerry Bilik. Part of the concert also included a short video made in Afghanistan, giving the audience a brief taste of a mili-

tary musician's experience on deployment.

"(Bringing the services together for a concert is) a great way to show a small island community like Oahu how many services are represented on their island," Armstrong said. "The community can't (access) our bases, so this is a chance to really demonstrate our presence and thank them for their support. (Joint-service concerts are) good for our military musicians because it gives us a chance to work and train together and learn from each other. Each service is very different in its mission and goals but music is universal. It is great we can use music to get together and share what our service is unique," Armstrong explained.

The concert also featured active-duty vocalists, Senior Airman Devin Rivas Martin, Air Force Staff Sgt. Courtney Clifford, Air Force Master

Sgt. Lara Murdzia and Musician 3rd Class Steven Lamonica. The four sang various songs, including modern ones like "Happy" by Pharrell Williams and "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey.

"(Active-duty musicians) have to do the same training during the year as well as being professional musicians and it's terrific," said retired Lt. Gen. Hank Stackpole, who attended the concert. "We hear sometimes from Congress why (does the military) need musicians? That's our spirit, our song. It brings us together and it's all for America. It's just tremendous."

Stackpole added that active-duty musicians honor fallen service members.

"We wouldn't have memorials, and we wouldn't have veterans if we didn't have musicians," he said.

During the second half of the concert, Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps musicians gathered at the

front of the stage to sing each branch's official song. Audience members who served or are currently serving stood when their branch's song was played.

"(Another of my) favorite moment(s) is when I saw all of the service members and veterans standing for their service song toward the end of the show," Armstrong said. "It is one of the best parts of my job to recognize the service of others and I was immensely proud."

Armstrong also asked the military family members to stand and be recognized, dedicating "Hero for Today," performed by Lamonica, for them.

"We know that it isn't easy when (service members are) gone for months (or) years at a time," Armstrong said. "(Family members are) taking care of everything behind the scenes and so we appreciate everything that our family, our friends and our community do for us."

As the last song finished, the crowd gave a standing ovation, shouting Hana Hou to the stage, hoping for an encore. Armstrong smiled and agreed to play one more, "Stars and Stripes Forever."

"The interaction and the integration of these four branches all working together toward a common goal is obviously something that the military reinforces and makes the message really (artistic)," White said.

White said the theatre center plans to host the concert again next year, and the public is invited to attend.

"Whether it's free or it costs \$20, people want a break from the stresses of the day," Smith said.

"They're making time in their evening to spend it with us. We owe it to them to give them the break that they came for and to re-instill the trust in the military that we're good stewards of what they're paying us to do."