

“Navigator” HO’OKELE

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PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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Hawaii-based surface Navy and other combatant units perform a break away formation in waters surrounding the island of Oahu during a previous Koa Kai exercise.

U.S. Navy file photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

Multi-ship exercise Koa Kai is underway today

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Seven Hawaii-homeported surface ships will participate in the integrated maritime exercise Koa Kai 14-1 near Hawaii starting today and continuing through January.

“Koa Kai,” Hawaiian for “Sea Warrior,” prepares independent deployers in multiple warfare areas, while also providing training in a multi-ship environment. Participating units will conduct

grated flight operations, anti-surface and anti-submarine training.

The San Diego-based ships USS Cape St. George (CG 71) and USS Lake Champlain (CG 57) will join Hawaii-based ships in the exercise, led by U.S. 3rd Fleet.

“Koa Kai provides an opportunity to exercise multiple warfare

disciplines to ensure our ships maintain warfighting readiness and the capability to operate forward on short notice,” said Rear Adm. Rick Williams,

commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific and Navy Region Hawaii.

“Koa Kai is integrated, challenging, state-of-the-art training for our sea warriors here in the Middle Pacific that helps us achieve full deployment readiness.”

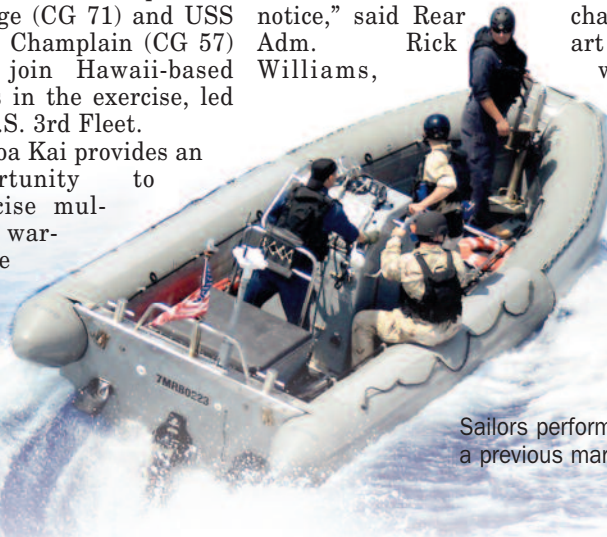
Williams added, “We will show, test and assess our capabilities in coordination

with the Navy’s premier testing and training range – Pacific Missile Range Facility.”

USS Cape St. George and USS Lake Champlain, both from San Diego, join the Hawaii-based guided-missile cruisers, USS Port Royal (CG 73), USS Lake Erie (CG 70) and USS Chosin (CG 65), and the guided-missile destroyers, USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112), USS Halsey (DDG 97), USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) and USS O’Kane (DDG 77) - along with the underway replenishment ship HMCS

Protecteur from Canada and assets from Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet; Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 37; Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2; Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224; Marine Aircraft Group 24; Hawaii Air National Guard; and 25th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Capt. Chris Bushnell, commander of Destroyer Squadron 31 (CDS-31), said, “We’re extremely pleased with the level of commitment from the



Sailors perform maneuvers in a rigid-hull inflatable boat (RHIB) during a previous maritime exercise Koa Kai.

U.S. Navy file photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

See KOA KAI, A-2

Drinking water remains safe after Red Hill leak reported

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Results of laboratory tests indicate that city and Navy drinking water sources continue to meet federal regulatory safe drinking water and state of Hawaii standards and the water is safe to drink.

Officials of the State Department of Health and the Navy are continuing to work closely to ensure the drinking water remains safe. Among their efforts is drawing up a comprehensive monitoring plan to ensure long-term safety. Meanwhile, water samples are being drawn frequently to detect any presence or movement of contaminants.

Test results from five drinking water wells in the vicinity taken by the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (HBWS) have shown no fuel contamination. HBWS is moving forward with its own monitoring plan of the drinking water that has been approved by the State Department of Health.

On confirmation of the test results showing no fuel contamination, the HBWS drinking water wells that were shut down as a precaution were brought back into service.

Laboratory tests were conducted on water samples taken from various wells in the area after a possible leak was detected on Jan. 13 by operators at the 70-year-old fuel storage facility. Best evidence indicates no more than 20,000 gallons – and possibly much less – of jet fuel leaked last week from one of the 20 large-capacity tanks at Red Hill.

Tests on initial water samples taken after the possible leak was discovered showed no presence of fuel in drinking water wells. Test results on samples taken since then are pending, and accelerated sampling is continuing.

Draining of the fuel tank was completed Jan. 18. Now it must be vented, a process that could take several weeks, before workers can enter it to try to find the source of the leak.

The Red Hill facility was built between 1940 and 1943. Each of its 20 cylindrical tanks is 250 feet tall and 100 feet in diameter. Each can hold up to 12.5 million gallons of fuel. For more than 70 years, the Red Hill fuels facility has been a national strategic asset. Red Hill continues to provide secure fuel storage for ships and aircraft of U.S. Pacific Fleet and other military branches.

2014 Pro Bowl players meet fans



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro

Indianapolis Colts' Quarterback Andrew Luck signs autographs for service members and their families at Earhart Field on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Players from the National Football League are in Hawaii for the 2014 Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium.

NFL Pro Bowl action to ‘touch down’ at Aloha Stadium this weekend

Don Robbins

Assistant Editor

NFL players from throughout the United States have arrived in Hawaii for the annual Pro Bowl game at Aloha Stadium. This year, the format of the game on Sunday has changed.

It is no longer an AFC vs. NFC matchup, but the event now includes a Pro Bowl draft that will diversify the rosters to

include both AFC and NFC players on a team.

NFL has shuffled the playbook this year by having Hall of Famers Jerry Rice and Deion Sanders serving as alumni captains and picking the teams.

Volunteers from the armed services, including Sailors and Airmen from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, will participate in the Pro Bowl festivities.

Other Pro Bowl activities this weekend include several options for families and single

military service members.

They include a free Ohana Day, which the NFL will hold from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Aloha Stadium.

Ohana Day is a family-friendly event open to the public. It will include prize drawings, contests, challenges, games and a sneak peek of the pre-game and half-time shows.

In addition, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam’s Liberty Program is again helping single Sailors and Airmen enjoy the

Pro Bowl. Every year when the game is played in Hawaii, the Liberty Program purchases tickets which qualifying active duty members are able to sign up.

Liberty also hosts a free tailgate party prior to the game. Food and beverages are provided for the attendees and Liberty provides transportation to and from the party and game.

The official Pro Bowl Tailgate Party will be held from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday at

Richardson Field. Pro Bowl opening ceremonies are scheduled to begin at 1:45 p.m. at Aloha Stadium and the game is set to kick off at 2 p.m.

For more information on Pro Bowl events, visit www.greatlifehawaii.com or the Facebook page “Great Life Hawaii.”

For Pro Bowl ticket availability, call Information, Tickets and Travel at 448-2295 and for the Liberty Program, call 473-2583.



11th Air Force senior leaders discuss top concerns with 15 Wing Airmen See page A-2



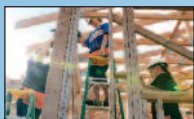
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Hickam comptrollers volunteer with Habitat for Humanity See page A-4



NFL all-stars spread message of fitness on JBP HH See page B-3

11th Air Force senior leaders discuss top concerns with 15 Wing Airmen

Story and photo by
Master Sgt.
Jerome S. Tayborn

15th Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from the 15th Wing had the opportunity to hear from 11th Air Force leadership during a base familiarization tour here at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan 21.

Lt. Gen. Russell Handy, 11th Air Force commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Jerry Moore Jr., 11th Air Force command chief, met with Airmen to discuss current issues affecting readiness and the future of the Air Force.

Handy encouraged Airmen of all ranks to think of new efficient ways to conduct their business. He urged Airmen to speak up about any issue, concerns or pitfalls that could hinder them.

"Never be shy about asking questions because there is no one who knows your job better than you," said Handy. "Your supervisors and commanders need your insight. That's what could get us through the turbulent times over the next few years."



Lt. Gen. Russell Handy, 11th Air Force commander, shares lunch with 15th Wing Airmen at the Hale Aina Dining Facility during a familiarization tour of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, Jan. 21. Handy thanked the Airmen for their continued service and dedication, and addressed issues concerning them and their families.

Handy and Moore also had the opportunity to sit down and talk with a few of the wing's most junior Airmen, where they discussed the outlook of the Air Force, career progression, and force reduction.

Moore highlighted the importance of maintaining a positive attitude.

"Not having a positive influence makes it hard to be good at what you do," said Moore. "You should be proud of opportunities that you have and always serve to best of your ability. Do what the Air Force expects you to do, and always doing your best."

"Today's interaction with our 11th AF senior leadership was very educational," said Senior Airman Justin Beach 15th Maintenance Squadron aircraft structural maintenance apprentice. "It's great having the opportunity to address issues that are going on in today's Air Force with our senior leaders."

"They helped to give me a better understanding of what's going on, and what's to look forward to in our Air Force," said Beach. "It's reassuring to know that our leaders are mindful of the issues we face as Airmen."

Traps are set for coconut rhinoceros beetle

Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs

Efforts are underway to determine the extent of coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) infestation on Oahu. This is done with a combination of methods, including visually surveying for feeding damage in coconut trees and manila palms, searching through mulch and green waste piles for larvae, and by placing a variety of trap types that lure and capture adult beetles if they are in the area. Some of these traps may be placed in Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam communities.

Residents may see black cross-vein traps high in trees (as pictured) as part of the survey program. The traps are not harmful to people or pets. They contain a beetle pheromone patch that attracts the beetles which fall into the white container and are trapped there. These traps will be checked by crews every few days for adult rhino

beetles, which can fly.

Buckets may also be attached to trees, which operate in a similar manner. In addition, large barrel or garbage can traps are being constructed to trap beetles. The inside of these containers have composting material which is attractive to beetles looking to lay eggs. The same pheromone is also attached inside the lid of the container. There are no hazards regarding the contents of these traps, but it is important that they not be disturbed.

Residents can report any sighting of rhino beetles to the state pest hotline at 643-PEST (643-7378). If anyone finds a beetle and is willing to capture it in a bag or jar, place it in a freezer to kill it and contact the number above.

Black cross-vein traps have been placed in trees to catch the coconut rhinoceros beetles.

Photo courtesy of
State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture



Koa Kai is underway

Continued from A-1

joint commands on island to support Koa Kai 14-1. Hawaii Air National Guard (USAF), together with VMFA-224 (USMC), are providing our fixed wing component while MAG-24 (USMC) and 25th CAB (USA) are each providing variants of helicopters for surface, subsurface and air defense events throughout Koa Kai. The participation of all the supporting commands will add great value and depth to the exercise and promises to be a significant stepping stone for future Koa Kai exercises," he added.

Hawaii-based surface combatants regularly deploy to the Asia Pacific region and often train with international partners while on deployment. Koa Kai 14-1 marks only the second time San Diego-based ships will participate in this exercise. Koa Kai demonstrates support to U.S. Pacific Fleet's commitment to forward readiness and prepares middle Pacific ships to meet current and future challenges as part of the rebalance to the Indo-Asia-Pacific.

Leading the naval forces in the eastern Pacific from the west coast of North America to the international dateline, U.S. 3rd Fleet provides realistic, relevant training necessary for an effective global Navy.

Commentary

Koa Kai trains sea warriors, enhances readiness

Rear Adm.
Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region
Hawaii and Naval Surface
Group Middle Pacific

Koa Kai 14-1, now getting underway near the Hawaiian Islands, is an opportunity for our Sailors and their ships to participate in individual and integrated training to make them better sea warriors.

Koa Kai offers skill development and assessment in key domains – surface, air and undersea – that build the capabilities of our team. Our Sailors and other service members train in Koa Kai to be ready for any crisis, ranging from armed conflict to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Next week we will show, test and assess our capabilities in coordination with the Navy's premier testing and training range – Pacific Missile Range Facility.



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Seven of our MIDPAC ships are part of this first Koa Kai exercise for 2014. All services have representatives participating in some capacity, and we welcome our Canadian allies, who are an important part of our team.

We're fortunate to have a strike group staff and destroyer squadron integrated for this exercise, which further strengthens command and control and provides realistic training



U.S. Navy file photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

USS Tucson (SSN 770), USS Lake Erie (CG 70), USS Port Royal (CG 73), USS Russell (DDG 59) and USS Chafee (DDG 90) sail past Diamond Head during the Koa Kai exercise held in April 2011. Hawaii-based surface Navy and other combatant units participated in Koa Kai 11-2, an integrated training event with the goal of attaining deployment certificates and training.

in an operational environment. The result is more coordination with our joint partners when it's time to work together.

The positive opportunities for our individual warfighters participating in Koa Kai cannot be overstated.

Navy leaders are focusing increasingly on the importance and value of realistic and relevant training that builds our capability to conduct prompt and sustained combat operations at sea.

New techniques and platforms are coming on line, so

we need ongoing, adaptive training.

Our leaders are also committed to rewarding our Sailors—individuals and their unit commands—who demonstrate capability and adaptability. The rewards can translate to retention, promotion and more leadership career opportunities for those who demonstrate new skills and abilities.

CNO Adm. Greenert is challenging all of us to improve quality of service. We can achieve that goal by focusing on improvements in quality of life, work and training. Koa Kai does

that for sea warriors here in the middle of the Pacific, center-point of the Navy's strategic rebalance.

This training is close to home for our Hawaii-based ships, so there is less time away from home and more predictability for service members and their families. Preventing weeks away from home – whenever possible – directly supports quality of life for us, and when mainland-based Sailors visit Hawaii it improves quality of life for them!

Koa Kai provides the type of disciplined, relevant

training we need not only to support the fleet but also to assist type commands now and over time in what is becoming a progressively more complicated warfighting environment. That links directly to improved quality of work/service for our shipmates and our ability to defend America at all times.

The bottom line: Koa Kai gives Sailors the tools to help them become better sea warriors now and build their skills over time. Our ultimate goal is to be warfighting-ready to operate forward where, history shows us, presence matters.

Diverse Views



What have the words and works of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. meant to you?



Master Sgt. Nicholas Gomez
15th Operations Group

"Dr. Martin Luther King's words and works set the standard for what it means to dream and achieve. Civil rights continue to be fought for today, and if it weren't for him, who knows where we would draw inspiration from?"

Ship's Serviceman 2nd Class (SW)
Ernest Johnson
USS Halsey (DDG 97)



"One of his favorite quotes, 'The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.' I guess your true character shows whenever you are between a rock and a hard place. It builds character and makes you a stronger person, whenever you can overcome controversy and hard times."



Senior Airman Laneshia Smith
324th Intelligence Squadron

"The words and works of Dr. King are a reminder that anything is possible. In hours of desperation and hopelessness, we must strengthen our resolve, just as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. did when he rallied a nation, and we can conquer the seemingly insurmountable."

Dr. Christine Hansen
Navy College Pearl Harbor-Hickam



"Dr. Martin Luther King to me is the embodiment of courage. What he shows for me is somebody who believes in an ideal. Even if it's not completely accepted in this society around them, they can step forward and try to bring change and succeed. That takes tremendous courage and dedication to do that."



Halisa Sowash
Military spouse

"In a time of turmoil, tolerance and acceptance are the key to peace. No matter who a person is or their physical/mental state, everyone has something to offer the world."

Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SW)
Charles Gaudin
Transient Personnel Unit (TPU)



"To me it means equal opportunity and having a chance to actually be judged equally with all sorts of personnel. I love it."



Staff Sgt. Christian Gallagher
647th Force Support Squadron

"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. changed the landscape of the world today. Nobody should be judged just by the color of their skin. His vision has led to me being able to marry the love of my life, a black woman, without any type of judgment."

Provided by MC1 Nardel Gervacio
and David Underwood Jr.

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

Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

PACAF aircraft observe missile tests



Photo courtesy of Pacific Air Forces

On Jan. 20 and 22, 1960, Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) employed KC-135, C-130 and RB-69 (shown in the photo) aircraft to observe and gather data on Soviet missile tests. Soviet tests on their R-7/SS-6 Sapwood, the world's first ICBM, were planned to impact within a 44,800-square mile area in the Pacific, only 1,000 miles southwest of the Hawaiian Islands. PACAF and the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet cooperated to observe these tests, which took place 54 years ago this week.

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Hickam comptrollers volunteer with Habitat for Humanity

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt.
Alexander Martinez

15th Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from the 15th Comptroller Squadron (15th CPTS) volunteered Jan. 15 with the Honolulu Habitat for Humanity.

The Airmen spent the day assisting construction professionals and other volunteers with building homes for Waimanalo families in need.

Senior Airman Justin Simpkins, 15th CPTS, said he feels the day went "extremely well" with the help of a good turnout.

"The more hands you have, the lighter the work is, and trying to build six homes is no easy task," Simpkins said.

Staff Sgt. Nichole Rush, 15th CPTS, organized the day for her squadron and said volunteering for Habitat for Humanity is something she has always wanted to do.

"I figured it would be something others in my squadron would be interest-



From left: Staff Sgt. Angela Parker, Maj. Amanda Evans, 15th Comptroller commander, and Staff Sgt. Nichole Rush work on the wood frame of a house while volunteering with a group of Airmen at a Honolulu Habitat for Humanity project in Waimanalo on Jan. 15.

ed in," Rush said. "I asked leadership and they said they would support us."

The volunteers, equipped with tools and personal protective gear, hammered and sawed away at the wood-framed homes.

Airman 1st Class Aron Wing, 15th CPTS, highlighted the importance for Airmen to volunteer. "I think it's important to have the opportunity to volunteer for events like this," Wing said. "It's a great team-building

experience and it improves morale."

Rush worked directly with Honolulu Habitat for Humanity to schedule the event and said it's easy to sign up if others are interested.



Senior Airman Justin Simpkins hammers in a connector while Staff Sgt. Angela Parker holds his ladder.

"Anyone interested in volunteering as a group can email Connie at connie@honoluluhabitat.org," Rush said. "She will provide

all the required paperwork and help you set a date."

For more information on volunteering, visit www.honoluluhabitat.org.

Tax assistance center to open Jan. 31

The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Tax Assistance Center will open Jan. 31 at the start of the tax season.

The center will be located at the Navy College, 1260 Pierce St., building 679, classroom 11, first floor.

The tax center will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This year, the JBPHH Tax Assistance Center has fully transitioned to the self-service model. With the self-service program, service members will still be able to electronically file their returns and receive assistance from IRS-certified tax personnel.

In doing so, service members can learn how to prepare taxes on their own using free, Internet-based software.

Beginning Jan. 31, members who wish to prepare their taxes from home will be able to do so by visiting www.myfreetaxes.com at the following url: www.myfreetaxes.com/jbphhtax. The adjusted gross income threshold for free use of www.myfreetaxes.com is \$58,000 for tax year 2013.

Members can also electronically file their own returns using H&R Block at home through Military Onesource. The website is <http://www.militaryonesource.com>.

For more information, call the Navy Region Hawaii Legal Service Office at 473-4717.

Traffic improvements near Porter Gate to take effect Feb. 3

Beginning Feb. 3, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam will implement traffic modifications to aid traffic flow in the vicinity of Porter Gate, located between South Avenue and Porter Avenue.

The improvements will result in better flow of traffic between the Hickam and Pearl Harbor sides of the joint base through Porter Gate.

Traffic improvements are along

11th Street, from Beard Avenue to South Avenue. Four stop signs have been removed to make 11th Street free flowing.

Drivers shall continue to heed the 15 mph speed limit in the residential area and exercise caution when driving in the proximity of the school zone. Pedestrians have the right away at crosswalks, and drivers must stop for pedestrians.

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Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



Adm. Harry Harris, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, addresses Sailors and Navy personnel assigned to commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific, Navy Region Singapore, and various tenant commands during an all-hands call. Harris visited Singapore as part of a routine visit to Southeast Asia.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jay C. Pugh

(Right) NFL Pro Bowl players practiced at Earhart Field on Jan. 23 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Players from the National Football League are in Hawaii for the 2014 Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium.

U.S. Navy photo



(Right) Service members and their families wait to have keepsakes autographed by professional National Football League players during a practice Jan. 23 at Earhart Field on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro



Waimea High School math instructor Jerry Nishihira (far right) monitors a student's recent model rocket launch at the Pacific Missile Range Facility.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mathew J. Diendorf

MCPON talks future force at Surface Navy Association Symposium

Story and photo by
MC2 Sean Hurt

Defense Media Activity

CRYSTAL CITY, Va. (NNS) -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Mike Stevens outlined his key concerns about the future force of the Navy during a speech Jan. 16 at the 26th Annual Surface Navy Association National Symposium.

Stevens said the future force he envisions would be built upon strength through diversity, which includes opening more combat roles to women.

"We've made a lot of progress in that area," said Stevens. "The Navy's been



MCPON Mike Stevens

working on this a long time. In 2016 we plan on putting [female] enlisted Sailors on our Virginia-class submarines. This is an exciting time for women to serve in the Navy because of all the

opportunities that are out there."

Stevens also talked about the drawdown in Afghanistan and the impact it would have on the individual augmentee program.

"In 2012, we had 6,812 Sailors in individual augmentee billets," said Stevens. "In 2013, that number dropped to 4,300. That's a 48 percent reduction over the last three years. Right now, the Navy as a force is 324,000 strong. The good news is there's no plan right now to draw the Navy down any smaller."

Stevens also spoke about suicide and its impact on the force.

"[Suicide] is a tragic event when it occurs. It impacts readiness; it impacts the morale of our units," said Stevens. "The good news is we're seeing the trends come down. We've seen our numbers drop from last year [2012]

to this year [2013] by 18."

Stevens also condemned the prevalence of sexual assault in the military.

"Sexual assault is going to be the challenge of our time," said Stevens. "It's a tragedy, it's a crime, and it undermines the very fabric of who we are as an organization. Stevens said that although the problem will not be fixed overnight, he is optimistic about the steps leaders are taking to correct sexual assault in the ranks.

"What we can hope for and work towards is continuous progress every single day," said Stevens. "We're doing that first and foremost through awareness. Our Sailors know what sexual assault is and they

know how to report it."

Stevens emphasized good leadership is the best weapon against these challenges.

"I believe whether it's suicide, sexual assault or any of the other challenges that we face, the best weapons system against that enemy is good, sound, solid leadership," he said.

The Surface Navy Association was established in 1985 to promote greater coordination and communication among those in the military, business and academic communities who share a common interest in naval surface warfare and to support the activities of surface naval forces.

Pacific Missile Range Facility program to reduce bird fallout is success

Stefan Alford

Pacific Missile Range
Facility Public Affairs

PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE FACILITY -- The Shearwater Fallout Season, Sept. 15-Dec. 15, concluded at PMRF with an impressive achievement: a 100 percent reduction in fallout of the Newell's shearwater and Hawaiian petrel seabirds.

"No fallout of birds in 2013 is the first season in over 10 years that we have not recorded a single bird down," said John Burger, PMRF range complex sustainment coordinator, who attributed the success to "the net result of physical changes, combined with an educational outreach program to PMRF's 'ohana' and guests on Barking Sands, that resulted in over 80 percent reduction in fallout in 2012, and now zero fallout this season."

The physical changes included full implementation of a "dark sky" program here that improved lighting

conditions so that the birds would be less distracted.

"Because these birds leave the nest, or fledge, for the first time at night, they have no practice flights," explained Burger.

"It's all or nothing, and the inland-dwelling species may have to fly several miles to reach the ocean where they can land and rest. Their navigation systems utilize moon and starlight, and the presence of unshielded and intense coastal lighting along their flyways results in confusion and disorientation.

"Similar to moths around a light, the fledglings circle the area until becoming exhausted or striking an object. Once on the ground, they are unable to fly because their legs are adapted for swimming, and guests on Barking Sands, that resulted in over 80 percent reduction in fallout in 2012, and now zero fallout this season."

Lighting improvements were coordinated with energy conservation initiatives,

converting from conventional lamps to LEDs using full-cutoff fixtures to prevent viewing of the light source from above. This resulted in a "dark sky" combined with energy savings, said Burger.

Solar-powered fixtures are also full-cutoff design and horizontally mounted. Where high-wattage fixtures mounted above the horizontal are required for safety or security, they are equipped with "green" lamps.

"Kauai has the largest population of ground-nesting seabirds in the main Hawaiian Islands," said Burger. "Both Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and ESA-protected species of shearwaters nest on Kauai, as well as petrels."

Both the Newell's and Hawaiian petrel are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as "threatened," just one step above "endangered" and two steps above extinction, explained Burger.

"This issue has always been about lights, poles,



Photo by Jim Denny

A Shearwater positioned outside of a burrow at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge.

towers and wires distracting, injuring, or killing inexperienced, fledgling seabirds dropping out of their nests, typically between Sept. 15 and Dec. 15 each year," added Burger.

PMRF has been leading the effort to follow what has already been determined to be "best management practices," while concurrently testing potential strategies to further reduce fallout.

"Anyone who has driven on Barking Sands after dusk

has observed the various locations where 'green lights' are installed," said Burger. "First tested in 2010, we found that while the green spectrum may be less distracting, the single most critical factor in protecting against fallout was to have the lamps at or above 175 watts installed in recessed fixtures such that the lamp was not visible from above the horizontal plane of the fixture, flat with the ground and recessed inside."

With its reduction in the

2012 season, PMRF environmental specialists applied the lessons learned to correct problems that contributed to the 100 percent success rate in 2013.

"Of the three fallouts we experienced in 2012, none were fatal and all could be attributed to high-wattage light sources (400-1,000 watts)," explained Burger. "Two were from a portable generator at Kokole Point that was immediately extinguished, and one was from improperly aligned full-cutoff fixtures. Following immediate corrective action, there were no more fallout events during the 2012 season."

The information and techniques employed at PMRF have been presented to conservation groups on Kauai, a conference on Oahu, and formally to the Kauai County Council to help spread awareness of PMRF's effective conservation and resource management, both electrical and biological. PMRF has also shared its lessons learned with DoD partners in Hawaii.