

## Navy in Hawaii commemorates Battle of Midway



Ray Emory, president emeritus of the National Chief Petty Officer's Association and a Pearl Harbor survivor, bows his head for a moment of silence during a commemoration of the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway held June 4 aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial. (See more photos on A-8.)



A color guard attached to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam parades the colors during a commemoration of the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway.

Story and photos by  
MC2 Laurie Dexter

Navy Public Affairs  
Support Element West,  
Detachment Hawaii

The National Chief Petty Officer's (CPO) Association and CPO 365 sponsored a commemoration ceremony June 4 for the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, delivered a speech regaling the audience historical facts about the battle.

“Seventy-two years ago, our warfighters and our nation faced a challenge perhaps unparalleled in American history,” said Williams. “We faced determined and seemingly unstoppable enemies on both



Musician 2nd Class Rick Baty, assigned to U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet Band, plays Taps during a commemoration of the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

sides of the globe during World War II.”

On the morning of June 4, 1942, six months after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and one month after the Battle of Coral Sea, the Battle of Midway marked

the turning point of World War II in the Pacific when the U.S. was able to defeat the attack by the Imperial Japanese Navy.

“Today, on this fourth of June, we pause to remember when an earlier genera-

tion of Sailors gave our nation hope and started a path to victory across the Pacific,” Williams said. “That moment was the Battle of Midway. We did not have that hope initially.”

Williams bid the audi-

ence to consider what the Sailors were thinking during and after the Dec. 7 attack—the uncertainty, confusion and despair.

“Our next engagement was the Battle of Coral Sea in April—we lost the carrier Lexington,” said Williams, “Then there was Midway—an event that hits a little closer to home because the island of Midway is in our own backyard, just 1,300 miles from the very deck of this mighty ship.”

The Battleship Missouri Memorial was chosen to host the commemoration because it symbolizes the ending of the Pacific War. On Sept. 2, 1945, the Japanese Instrument of Surrender was signed aboard the Missouri.

“Standing here on the Mighty Mo, I'm reminded of the motto of the USS Missouri—‘Strength for Freedom.’ As a free people—like

those who went before us, those we honor today—we must be ready and willing to stand for our values and our interests in this vital part of the world,” Williams said.

“I think it's appropriate,” said JBPHH Command Master Chief Brian Ortega. “It shows the ability to take old foes and make them adversaries and partners.”

Jim Neuman, Navy Region Hawaii historian, explained the connection between the CPO 365 and their hosting of the event.

“We try to commemorate this every year just because those who don't learn from their history are doomed to repeat it,” said Neuman.

“We want to learn about our history because that's the legacy of the Navy. The idea behind the event is to pass that history on to the next generation,” Neuman noted.

## Japanese ships visit Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

MC2 Laurie Dexter

Navy Public Affairs Support Element  
West, Detachment Hawaii

Three Japanese training squadron ships, JS Asagiri (DD 151), JS Kashima

(TV 3508) and JS Setoyuki (TV 3518), arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) on June 3 for a port visit.

The ships' personnel conducted a traditional wreath laying ceremony in the Shrine Room of the USS Arizona Memorial on June 4.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 David Kolmel

Adm. Harry Harris Jr., commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, speaks with junior officers aboard JS Kashima (TV 3508), commending them and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force for contributing to security in the Indo-Asia-Pacific. Harris spoke about building relationships and trust with other nations and provided advice he learned throughout his career. Kashima is in Hawaii with JS Asagiri (TV 3516) and JS Setoyuki (TV 3518) during their overseas training cruise.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Laurie Dexter

Rear Adm. Rick Williams (center), commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and Air Force Col. David Kirkendall, 647th Air Base Group commander and deputy commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, greet Rear Adm. Hideki Yuasa (right), commander of Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force training squadron, during a port visit to JBPHH on June 3.



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# Naval District Washington honors Battle of Midway anniversary

Story and photo by Shawn Miller

Naval District Washington Public Affairs

Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and World War II veterans commemorated the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway during a ceremony held June 4 at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert issued a Navy-wide proclamation declaring June 4 Battle of Midway Commemoration Day and invited commands around the world to take part in celebrations honoring the event and the veterans who served.

The battle marked what is considered the turning point in the Pacific theater of World War II when only seven months after Pearl Harbor, the outnumbered and outgunned American fleet halted the Japanese advancement across the Pacific Ocean.

"In the midst of so many losses, it is no wonder that President Roosevelt became frustrated with the lack of any early naval victory," said Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mark Ferguson at the ceremony. "He had had enough of defeat."

Following the American victory at the Battle of the Coral Sea, the Japanese targeted Midway and sought to destroy the American fleet there. Naval intelligence broke the Japanese code and then sent out the message, "Many planes, heading Midway" as U.S. forces prepared for the coming attack, which took place June 4-7, 1942.

"It was a tremendous weight these men carried

with them the night of June 3, 1942," Ferguson said of the gathered veterans. "They carried the burdens of loss over six months, of wars raging off our own shores of America, and of a nation facing sacrifices at home."

On the morning of June 4, Japanese aircraft attacked the island, and U.S. Marine Corps fighter pilots, combined with anti-aircraft fire, mitigated damage but took heavy losses to aircraft and crews. Torpedo and bomber aircraft attacked the now-discovered U.S. carriers, inflicting heavy damage against the USS Yorktown, which stubbornly refused to sink. Air groups from the Yorktown and USS Enterprise bombed the Japanese carriers, destroying three of the four carriers within minutes.

Torpedo planes from the remaining carrier found the Yorktown once again and inflicted heavier damage as the crew abandoned ship. The ship still stayed afloat until June 7 when a Japanese submarine finally destroyed it. Meanwhile, American air crews located and destroyed the fourth Japanese carrier as well as a heavy cruiser.

The attack effectively halted the seemingly unstoppable Japanese advance across the Pacific and changed the course of the war.

"Fortunately as history has shown, in our darkest hours, leaders emerge," Ferguson said. "The victory at Midway teaches us many things—preparation, decisive action, the power of intelligence, trust in commanders, and, of course, the necessity of good fortune."

Ferguson joined leaders



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Pedro A. Rodriguez

(Left to right): Battle of Midway veteran retired Cmdr. Ellis Skidmore talks to Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mark Ferguson on June 4 at the Navy Memorial during a commemoration of the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway.



Retired Chief Gunner's Mate Henry Kudzik, a Battle of Midway veteran, renders a salute during a wreath-laying ceremony at the at the Navy Memorial to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway.

## Battle of Midway anniversary

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Tim Comerford



A sea of white uniforms greets visitors to the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C as Sailors gather to celebrate the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway. The celebration held host to Marines, Navy, and Coast Guard service members, Midway veterans and a gathered crowd of onlookers.

# Navy receives eight 2014 Historic Hawaii Foundation Awards



The new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Daniel K. Inouye Regional Center was blessed and dedicated on Dec. 16, 2013.

Story and photo by Denise Emsley

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii

The Navy in Hawaii won eight 2014 Historic Preservation Honor Awards at the

40th Anniversary celebration held May 30 at Dole Cannery Square, Honolulu.

"We are very pleased to be recognized for our efforts in preserving important historic elements that are located throughout Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH)," said Capt. Jeffrey W. James, commander JBPHH.

The special event included a dinner, the celebration of Historic Hawaii Foundation's 40th anniversary, and the presentation of numerous preservation honor awards which have been given annually since 1975. The awards are Hawaii's highest recognition for preservation, rehabilitation, restoration or interpretation of the state's architectural, archeological and cultural heritage.

"The Navy and Air Force understand its responsibility and the need to continue to work closely with our historic partners, making sure future generations have the means to appreciate what happened here in the past."

The Navy received honors in three of Historic Hawaii Foundation's award categories. Preservation Honor awards were presented for:

- Center of Excellence, building 76 rehabilitation, Ford Island.
- Building 155 rehabilitation, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility.

Preservation Commendations awards were presented for:

- Fort Kamehameha Historic American Landscape Survey/Cultural Landscape Report, Hickam.
- Fort Kamehameha Trail Plan, Hickam.
- Building 1102H phase two rehabilitation, Hickam.
- Building 1102H Cultural Landscape Re-

port/Tree Protection Plan, Hickam.

- JBPHH Area Development Plans/Installation Master Plan.

Under Citation for New Construction:

- National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Inouye Regional Center New Addition & Adaptive Use, Ford Island.

"I would like to thank the many individuals from various commands at JBPHH who work the historic process when projects are considered, planned and executed," said James. "However, there is one small, special group of five architects from Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii's Historic Preservation Division who live and breathe historic preservation actions on a daily basis I would especially like to congratulate. It is through their committed actions that we received these eight awards this year."

Commentary

# Information dominance led to victory at Midway

**Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr.**

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet



Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr.

(Editor's note: Last week's commentary focused on the shipyard's role in the Battle of Midway. This week, we offer an excerpt of a speech by Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, to the joint Pacific Fleet Intelligence and Information Operations team. His speech, delivered this morning at U.S. Pacific Fleet headquarters, focuses on the role of information dominance.)

In the decade before Pearl Harbor, our nation cast a wary eye to the west.

As we studied the signposts, we watched with great concern the militaris-

tic rise of Imperial Japan. In 1940 we relocated the Pacific fleet from California to Hawaii, a move designed to give pause to a potential adversary — last century's rebalance to the Pacific.

Even so, on Dec. 7, 1941 the United States was strategically surprised when carrier-based aircraft of the Imperial Japanese Navy dealt an almost crippling blow to the fleet.

And brave men and women from across our country answered the clarion call to arms. They rose up to defend our nation and fought to victory. But it wasn't just the warriors who took to the skies or the warriors who sailed on or beneath the seas; [it was

also your] predecessors — men like Joe Rochefort, Edwin Layton, Jasper Holmes, 'Mac' Showers and others in the intelligence and cryptologic community, who worked diligently to study and ultimately break the Imperial Japanese Navy code.

It was a seemingly impossible task — to gather the right information, to making sense of it and to get that information to commanders so they could make the right battle plans.

The Battle of Midway was the turning point in the war, the first important step as we pushed across the Pacific and toward victory in Japan.

Over the preceding

decades, since our victory in Japan, the United States has become the indispensable nation, deploying the might of our naval forces abroad, committed to regional stability and security for peace and economic prosperity.

Now we often hear that those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it. Those who survived Pearl Harbor have warned us with their motto, "Remember Pearl Harbor... Keep America alert... Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

In peacetime we can use [decision superiority] to our advantage, to win the fight without fighting; and in times of war, well, we can use it to get the information,

the forecasts, and the assessments we need to fight and win decisively.

Winston Churchill once commented that, "To every man there comes a time in his lifetime when he is tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing unique and fitting to his talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds him unprepared for the work that would be his finest hour."

When fate tapped the men of Station Hypo on the shoulder in the early months of 1942, they were found more than ready for the task and I, for one, am thankful for all that they did for our nation and for the world.

## Diverse Views



**If you were stranded on a deserted island with one other person, who would you want that person to be and why?**

**Lt. j.g. Elliot Hoy**  
USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60)

"The Genie from Aladdin so I could wish myself off...and be a prince."



**Machel Terrell**  
15th Wing

"My husband, Lt. Col. Vincent Terrell. He is smart, resourceful and knows how to comfort me when necessary. Last but certainly not least, he is the love of my life and there is nobody else I'd rather be stranded with on a desert island."

**BM3 Zachary Fraser**  
USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60)

"Bear Grylls. His camera crew definitely has granola bars and food I could eat."



**GM1 Damian Urias**  
USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60)

"The professor off of Gilligan's Island. He's always going to be trying to get me off the island."

**Tech. Sgt. Tyler Casper**  
647th Security Forces Squadron

"My wife. Even if we don't have the best skills, we'll be in paradise together."



**SN Zachary Kindrick**  
USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60)

"Charlie Sheen because he's got Tiger Blood."

**FC2 Jonathan Palisoc**  
USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60)

"My sister. She always makes everything in my life better."



**STG1 William Gillum**  
USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60)

"STG1 Waters, FC1 Morris, and GM1 Urias because we could fashion together some cornhole boards and at least have a party."

(Provided by Ensign Ashleigh Share and David D. Underwood Jr.)

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

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

## Battle of Midway commemoration ceremony wreath laying



U.S. Navy photo by Shawn Miller

Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mark Ferguson lays a wreath June 4 at the Navy Memorial to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway. The Battle of Midway was the turning point in the Pacific theater of World War II and set the stage for the United States victory over Japan.

## Battle of Midway took place June 1942



Official U.S. Navy photograph

Aviation Ordnanceman Second Class Clifton R. Bassett of Bombing Squadron Three (VB-3) is carried from the flight deck of USS Enterprise (CV-6) on June 4, 1942 during the Battle of Midway. The battle took place 72 years ago this week. Bassett had been wounded by Japanese aircraft while VB-3 was attacking Hiryu. Bassett was radioman/gunner of the SBD "Dauntless" scout-bomber flown by Ensign Bunyan R. Cooner, USNR, seen here at top center wearing an inflatable life jacket. The photograph is showing the area forward from the carrier's island. Flight deck details, including wooden decking, metal tie-down strips, palisade and flight deck distance markings can be seen in the photo. Aircraft wheel chocks are piled at the right.

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# Navy is 'spiritually' along for Hokule'a voyage

**Bill Doughty**

*Navy Region Hawaii  
Public Affairs*

After a stop at Hilo on the Big Island of Hawaii, members of the Polynesian Voyaging Society this past Friday began their journey around the world.

The first long leg of their trip aboard two Hawaiian voyaging canoes, Hokule'a and Hikianalia, is to Tahiti. The voyagers plan to not use modern instruments — no maps, sextants, clocks or GPS, only the sun, moon, waves, wind, sea life, and stars." No Harrison's chronometer.

Hokule'a was envisioned

by legendary artist Herb Kane, and voyages today were inspired by wayfinder and master navigator Mau Piailug and heroic Eddie Aikau, among others.

From Hokulea.com: "Our Hawaiian voyaging canoes are sailing across Earth's oceans to join the global movement toward a more sustainable future. Traveling through 47,000 nautical miles of Earth's oceans and visiting 26 countries, Hokule'a carries a message of *malama honua* (caring for island Earth and each other)."

Again from Hokulea.com: "As we voyage, we bring together tradition and technology, timeless values and

new visions, and the next generation of leaders that can build hopeful solutions for island Earth's and Hawaii's future."

The U.S. Navy is spiritually part of the journey. Sailors homeported in Pearl Harbor have worked with the Polynesian Voyaging Society over many years. They have helped refurbish canoes, offered advice on the dangers voyagers might face, and provided search-and-rescue training to navigators and sailors.

The Navy shares some of the same interests: a sustainable future, environmental stewardship, love for the ocean, cooperation and partnership-building,



Honolulu Star-Advertiser file photo

Nainoa Thompson, about to navigate the Hokule'a on a 1978 voyage to Tahiti, prepared by studying weather charts with Navy Lt. Bill Karch.

STEM and leadership through empowering the next generation.

On land, people around the world, especially young people in classrooms, can

witness how Hokule'a and Hikianalia navigate and follow the journey through the Web and via social media, including Facebook.

"That piece about the

navigation to me, it teaches perseverance," said master navigator Nainoa Thompson. "It teaches young people to be willing to take risks to train and prepare, to find their destination. It helps understand the power of vision, and it makes people work together. It teaches leadership."

*(Editor's note: A version of this commentary is part of an extended review of "Longitude." Read the complete post, "L'Attitude on 'Longitude' & Sailing Island Earth," at <http://navyreads.blogspot.com>. Navy Reads is a blog supporting reading, critical thinking, the CNO's professional reading program and related books.)*

## Military student valedictorians excel in Hawaii public schools

**David Tom**

*Navy Region Hawaii School  
Liaison Officer*

"Somewhere over the rainbow skies are blue, and the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true" from "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" describes the accomplishments of four military student valedictorians whose fathers are assigned to units at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Corey Snider, Samantha Peterson and Jessica Womack graduated from Radford High School (HS), and Kayla Heard graduated from Campbell High School. Despite the many moves, changing of schools, and adjusting to new cultures/environments, they all excelled and had some advice to offer to newly arriving military students.

Snider moved to Hawaii in the eighth grade school year and has attended schools in Washington State, Japan, Virginia and Hawaii.

"My main concern prior to coming to Hawaii was the education rigor—that it would be less than Virginia. However, I found that Radford has a lot of opportunities to succeed. I was able to take a lot of advance placement (AP)



Photos courtesy of Radford High School

(Left) Kayla Heard is a 2014 valedictorian at Campbell High School. (Right) (Left to right) Corey Snider, Samantha Womack and Samantha Peterson are 2014 valedictorians at Radford High School.

classes and participate in sports at Radford," Snider said.

He will attend Tufts University in Massachusetts to major in civil engineering and eventually he would like to become an architect. "Make friends, pursue opportunities, and follow what you are passionate about," Snider advised.

Heard attended Campbell High School for all four years. She came to Hawaii from New Jersey and had heard that the schools in Hawaii weren't good. She said she found the opposite to be true.

"Coming in, it was a culture

shock. Everything was so different coming from the mainland. But I really fell in love with this place, the people and the culture," Heard noted.

"I was able to take many AP classes, and I will be attending Vanderbilt University and double major in neuroscience and psychology. I want to eventually go to medical school to be a psychiatrist."

She offered advice to fellow students. "Seek out the many opportunities. If you don't like Spam, you'll learn to like it," she said.

Unlike Snider and Heard, Peterson transitioned to Radford in the second quarter of her 10th grade year.

"Prior to coming here, I was worried about the level I would be challenged at in school. But I found that I was challenged at Radford, able to take AP courses and really enjoying it," Peterson said.

"Take every opportunity offered, like sports and AP classes. It will be huge challenge but worth it," she said. After graduation, Peterson plans to get a job

and attend Brigham Young University Hawaii.

Womack moved to Hawaii prior to starting her senior year after three years at the same Florida high school. She was also attending her 10th school since kindergarten. She and her parents discussed attending private school in Hawaii but decided to stick with Radford.

Looking back, Womack remembered, "It (Radford) wasn't anything like I expected. It's been a unique experience and one of the most diverse schools I've ever been at. I was president of the student transition program at my last school in Florida and found that Radford's transition program is by far the most developed transition program I've ever experienced."

She has been accepted at Duke and Clemson Universities and is waiting to hear from Emory University. Womack offered the following advice to newly arriving military students: "Don't change your goals. Anything is possible no matter where you are."

Four military students—all with different yet similar education and life experiences in Hawaii—they are valedictorians for the class of 2014.

# Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

Members of the United Japanese Society of Hawaii and Noboru Hayase welcome the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force training squadron ship JS Kashima (TV 3508) as it arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on June 3.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Laurie Dexter



Senior Airman Riley Longbrake, assigned to 647th Civil Engineers Squadron, donates blood during the Armed Services Blood Program blood drive held May 22 at the Hickam Base Exchange, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by David Underwood Jr.

Adm. Harry Harris Jr. (left front), commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, walks with Rear Adm. Hideki Yuasa, commander of the Japan Training Squadron, aboard the Japanese training ship JS Kashima (TV 3508), during its June 3 port visit to Pearl Harbor. While aboard, Harris spoke with junior officers about building relationships and trust with other nations and provided advice he learned throughout his career. Kashima is in Hawaii June 3-6 with JS Asagiri (TV 3516) and JS Setoyuki (TV 3518) during their overseas training cruise.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 David Kolmel



The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force training squadron ship JS Kashima (TV 3508) arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on June 3.

U.S. Navy photo by Danielle Jones

# Fed Fire, Honolulu Fire team up at start of wildfire season

Anna Marie General

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

With the end of the rainy season in Hawaii and beginning of summer, the chiefs of the Federal Fire Department (FFD) and Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) met May 29 to provide wildfire prevention tips to the public, discuss overall cooperation between FFD and HFD, and show how the two departments fight fires as a team.

Wildfire season started June 1.

Fletcher Dahman, regional fire chief of the Federal Fire Department, gave advice on how to protect homes from grass fire as temperatures begin to rise in Hawaii.

"We want you to create what we call a defensible space," said Dahman. "For those of us who are in close

house proximity to our neighbors, anything 10 to 15 feet is ideal. This needs to go away if you've got it. Anything around a propane, a barbecue, obviously we need you to clear that as much as you can. Dry leaves, any dead branches that may extend to the top of your house, those need to go away."

Manny Neves, Honolulu Fire Department chief, asked for public awareness and vigilance.

"Most of our fires are started by human activity, usually accidental and in some cases we've seen a lot of malicious intent as far as starting our fires," Neves said.

"So when you are in and about the wild land, be careful when using smoking materials, lighters and matches. Also talk to your children about that as well."

"As far as the malicious intent, we have to be vigi-

lant in our community and if you see any suspicious activity, report that to the police by calling 911," he added.

Under a signed agreement, fighting fires is a team effort for FFD and HFD. Both departments are often called upon to respond at the same time.

"Our dispatch centers are the first line of defense. Once one of them calls the other under the mutual aid agreement that we have in place, we become a unified command," Dahman said. "We will respond together, and their team and my team have just seamlessly worked together on many incidents."

Firefighters are frequently the first responders, but the two fire chiefs encouraged everyone to take responsibility and help protect homes, property and the community from wildfire.



Photo by Angela Sanders, Federal Fire Department  
Ron Mizutani of KHON (FOX) 2's Wake Up 2Dday discusses wildfire prevention with Fletcher Dahman, Federal Fire Department regional chief, and Manny Neves, Honolulu Fire Department chief on the May 29th Navy news segment on the television program.

## Col. Roscoe gets 'paws'ative reinforcement at 647th Security Forces Squadron



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

Col. Johnny Roscoe, 15th Wing commander, visits the 647th Security Forces Squadron military working dogs section at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, May 21. Roscoe experienced firsthand the power of a K-9 take down. With their powerful sense of smell, military working dogs can detect illegal and dangerous substances including drugs and bombs. Additionally, their strength can help their human partners detain criminals.



## Elective surgery for Airmen requires prior approval

**Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez**

*15th Wing Public Affairs*

Are you an Airman seeking a nip here or tuck there? Not so fast—the Air Force has rules and regulations that govern off-base elective surgery.

“Airmen should know that while it’s not prohibited to get elective surgery, they must follow the proper approval process,” said Chief Master Sgt. James Smith, 15th Wing command chief. “This keeps them safe and ensures there are no negative impacts on their mission or workplace.”

According to AFI 44-102 section 6.2, “Elective surgery on active duty members performed off-base and not coordinated or approved by the medical treatment facility (MTF)/Tricare (such as surgery at the member’s expense), is prohibited without prior written approval of the member’s squadron commander and the MTF/CC.”

Examples of elective surgeries include, but are not limited to, breast augmentation or reduction, other cosmetic surgeries, or laser eye surgery performed by a non-military provider. Surgical procedures for weight reduction are not authorized.

For active-duty Airmen, it is prohibited to get elective surgery without following the approval process. There are several signatures on the 15th Medical Group’s checklist that are

required for approval. The process starts with setting up an appointment with a primary care manager and then going to the benefits counselor (BCAC) for a required counseling.

An important part of the request packet produced by the BCAC involves a letter to the Airman’s surgeon. This letter allows the commander to know the potential duty impacts of the surgery, but does not list the type of surgery being performed.

Once cleared by a PCM and BCAC, the request must be approved by the requestor’s squadron commander and further approved by the medical group commander or equivalent medical treatment facility commander.

Airmen must pay for their own elective surgery. In addition, annual leave, not convalescent leave, must be taken for the recovery time.

Any elective surgery within six months of retirement, separation or discharge requires Air Force Personnel Center approval.

“What it all comes down to is integrity,” Smith said. “We all need to be aware of the right way to do things and, in this case, there is a clear process that must be followed in order to avoid any negative repercussions.”

More information on elective surgeries can be found in Air Force Instruction 44-102 Medical Care Management, or call 448-6125.

## 96th Air Refueling Squadron change of command



U.S. Air Force photo by David Underwood Jr.

Lt. Col. Jason Work, 96th Air Refueling Squadron (ARS) commander, takes the guidon from Col. Michael Merritt, 15th Operations Group commander, during the 96th ARS squadron change of command ceremony May 22 on the flightline at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

## It’s time to register to vote

**Lt. Cmdr. Jason Ayeroff**

*Navy Region Hawaii  
Voting Assistance Officer*

June 30 to July 7 is Armed Forces and Overseas Citizens Voters Week. The Nov. 4 general election is quickly approaching, so now is the time to register to vote. Voting is one of the fundamental rights enjoyed by all of us, and it is a freedom that we all defend.

All personnel and their family members who want to register to vote absentee in their home state can complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) online at [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov). For those who require addi-

tional assistance, please contact the region voting assistance officer.

The following three additional resources can also provide helpful information:

- Voting assistance by state: <http://www.fvap.gov/map.html>.
- Federal write-in absentee ballot (SF 186): <http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fwab.pdf>.
- Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Request (SF 76): <http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fpca.pdf>.

For more information, contact Lt. Cmdr. Jason Ayeroff, Navy Region Hawaii voting assistance officer at 473-1793.

## Mulch bioreactor to be installed at joint base

**Denise Emsley**

*Naval Facilities Engineering  
Command Hawaii*

From June through September, a Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii contractor will install a permeable mulch bioreactor on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) at the Mamala Bay Golf Course, Hickam side.

“The bioreactor will accelerate bioremediation efforts affecting the breakdown of the chlorinated solvents and dioxins in the soil,” said Kelly Akamine, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii remedial project manager. “When completed, the underground treatment system will interact with the material to be remediated.”

This action is necessary due to what is contained in an old military landfill site located within the current Mamala Bay Golf Course between the Honolulu International Airport’s reef runway and runway 26R.

The landfill operated from the late 1940s to 1965 and received up to 55,000 tons of waste annually, primarily composed of building materials and municipal waste. However, some hazardous substances have been identified in the landfill, such as chlorinated solvents which need special remedial treatment.

NAVFAC Hawaii has coordinated the installation of the bioreactor with golf course personnel. All clean soil excavated at the site will remain within the golf course boundaries and used as top soil covering the facility.

Precautions will be taken to ensure the safety of the golfers as well as the contractors during the installation of the system from typical construction activities as well as any stray flying golf balls.

The bioreactor will operate with clean mulch brought on-site. To avoid any infestation of the coconut rhinoceros beetle present in the area, the mulch layer shall be immediately covered by the next layer of the bioreactor system. The contractor’s vehicles traveling to and from the site will be swept to prevent any accidental movement of beetles from the golf course.

Work is estimated to occur during the week and not on weekends between the months of June and September.

“Once the bioreactor has been installed, golfers and course visitors will only see a mound of grass with a control shed and solar panels next to it,” said Akamine. “The solar panels will provide energy for the bioreactor which is a self-sustaining system.”

It is anticipated that the bioreactor will begin operations in September.



(Above left): Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, gives a speech to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway. (Above right): Michael Carr, president and chief operating officer, USS Missouri Memorial Association; Jim Taylor, Pearl Harbor survivors' liaison; Ray Emory, president emeritus of the National Chief Petty Officer's Association; Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Command Master Chief Brian Ortega; and Capt. Eric Weilenman, chief of staff, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, listen to a speech during a commemoration of the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial. U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Laurie Dexter

## USS Chung-Hoon hosts command luau in Kaneohe

**Ensign Caleb Robinson**

*USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) Public Affairs*

The Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) committee of USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) recently hosted a command luau at He'eia State Park in Kaneohe.

The ship is currently undergoing a major maintenance period but took the evening to recognize the efforts of the crew while many of Chung-Hoon's systems and components are being completely overhauled.

The luau, arranged by crew members of Chung-Hoon, provided a cornerstone Hawaiian experience to the crew for less than half the price of many well-known luaus around the island.

"I feel that a lot of the time, the fact that we live in Hawaii and the endless number of activities to be done around the island are overshadowed by the amount of work that needs to be done on the ship," said Chief Intelligence Specialist Matt Siemanski, the primary organizer of the event. "I hope that this evening was able to provide the crew of Chung-Hoon, at all levels, with an experience that they may have not otherwise had while stationed in Hawaii."

The evening offered traditional forms of entertainment, such as a fire-breather, hula dancers, and a wood carver. The meal for the evening was prepared and served by

the ship's culinary specialists. There was a buffet consisting of pork, chicken, Okinawan sweet potatoes and various other side dishes. There was also a *poke* bar and a beverage bar.

"The luau offered everything that I've received at other luaus around the island and more," said Ensign Celeste Bergey, the electronic warfare officer on Chung-Hoon.

"I was even able to bring two of my friends from the mainland to the event, and they were amazed at the quality of the event that was put on entirely by crew members," Bergey said.

The evening ended with door prizes, such as shark cage-diving tours, skydiving, and hiking tours. The winners of the prizes were invited to take up to three of their crew member friends with them on these tours. The wood carver offered some of his authentic work, customized with Chung-Hoon's crest, as additional prizes for winners.

"The luau provided the crew with an opportunity to unwind in what has been an arduous few months of maintenance activity," said Lt. Cmdr. Tom Ogden, the executive officer of Chung-Hoon.

"It's important to recognize the efforts that both the crew and their families are making on a daily basis to help sustain the effectiveness of Chung-Hoon in the years and decades to come," he added.



U.S. Navy photo by PS2 Domicia Humphries  
A fire breather performs at a luau hosted May 23 by USS Chung-Hoon at He'eia State Park in Kaneohe.