

USS Lake Erie completes western Pacific deployment

Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific Public Affairs

The Hawaii-based, Ticonderoga-class, guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) will return June 16 from a four-month deployment to the western Pacific.

“While on deployment, Lake Erie leveraged her accomplishments and proficiencies on the test range and defended the homeland and our allies on multiple ballistic missile defense (BMD) operations,” said Capt. John S. Banigan, Lake Erie commanding officer.

Lake Erie is expected to replace USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53) this summer as a rotational BMD deployer from San Diego, as John Paul Jones takes Lake Erie’s place in Hawaii as the nation’s BMD test ship.

During port visits, Lake Erie Sailors participated in several community relations projects that included visiting homes for children



U.S. Navy file photo

The guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) returns to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on July 6, 2011 after participating in the multi-national exercise Trident Fury and the joint exercise Northern Edge in the Gulf of Alaska.

and assisting the elderly.

“I’m looking forward to welcoming Lake Erie back to our waterfront,” said Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

“Capt. Banigan and his team have made a difference. The crew of Lake Erie stepped up and filled a critical need on this deployment. They represent the epitome of the CNO’s tenets: warfighting first, operate forward, be ready. I couldn’t be prouder,” Williams added.

Lake Erie promoted peace and security, preserved freedom of the seas and conducted theater security operations with partner nations.

U.S. Navy guided-missile cruisers are multi-mission surface combatants capable of supporting carrier strike groups, amphibious readiness groups, surface action groups or operating independently.

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

Wear testing begins for Lightweight Type I Navy Working Uniform

MC1 Amanda Dunford

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Sailors stationed in Bahrain, Guam and Hawaii are wearing the Lightweight Navy Working Uniform (LNWU) Type I as part of an eight-week conformance test focusing on performance, durability and appearance.

More than 230 Sailors received two prototype versions from May 28 to June 12. The uniforms have two different fabric configurations and include a front tab with rank insignia to identify the LNWU as a test version and will not be part of the final uniform design.

Sailors in warmer climates, who will remain at their command for more than a year, were chosen for the test.

“This is a really important step in the evolution of the lightweight NWU,” said U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief Marco Ramirez. “The direct feedback from these wear-testing Sailors will help determine the direction the Navy takes.”

Ramirez said it was important to be selective when



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 David Kolmel

Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Colette Davis from San Diego wear-tests the Lightweight Navy Working Uniform (LNWU) Type I aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) on June 11.

choosing participants like security forces and shipboard Sailors to fit test the LNWU to get accurate results.

Although the conformance test is still in its infancy, Sailors are already feeling the difference.

“They’re [LNWU] more

comfortable than the old ones,” said Seaman Autumn Cozzens aboard USS Chafee (DDG 90). “I’ve already noticed that they feel lighter and cooler when I’m working outside.”

Cozzens was also surprised with the durability of the LNWU and the ability to

get paint out of her uniform without difficulty or color fading.

Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Christian Mountain, also assigned to Chafee, noted an improvement in the comfort of the LNWUs.

“They’re [LNWU] significantly lighter. I carry boxes all day, and it helps a lot because I can literally feel the breeze through the uniform when I’m outside,” he said.

Sailors will make daily log inputs in a user evaluation booklet and complete a questionnaire at the midpoint and conclusion of the wear test via an on-line survey and will be required to participate in a unit level focus group.

“I want to thank the Navy for listening. That’s part of how we grow and assess what’s not working,” Ramirez said. “We heard the Sailors and here’s what we’re doing to make it better. It’s a win-win for everybody.”

According to CNP, they expect to have a decision on the way ahead in early 2015. CNP is sponsoring the evaluation by the Navy Clothing and Textile Research Facility.

Three pinholes found in Red Hill’s empty tank 5

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Navy contract workers found three small holes on tank 5 at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility on June 11 and 12. Not visible to the naked eye, the defects were discovered during an extensive examination of the empty fuel tank that includes vacuum box testing.

Vacuum box testing determines if air can flow through the tank wall, giving an indication that liquid would also be able to escape the tank.

The inspection of tank 5 is being conducted after the Navy announced a possible leak of up to 27,000 gallons of JP-8 jet fuel last January. Each of Red Hill’s 20 cylindrical tanks is 250 feet tall, 100 feet in diameter, and can hold up to 12.5 million gallons of fuel. The tanks are large enough to hold Aloha Tower. A national strategic asset, the Red Hill facility provides secure fuel storage for ships and aircraft of U.S. Pacific Fleet and

other military branches.

“The small holes were located in prior welding repairs and may explain the reason for the fuel loss,” said Capt. Mike Williamson, chief engineer for Navy Region Hawaii. “We’ve got the right experts working meticulously to determine the full extent of the leak as the inspection continues.”

Hawaii Department of Health officials have been updated on the latest findings. Meanwhile, laboratory tests continue to indicate that drinking water sources in the vicinity meet federal regulatory safe drinking water and state of Hawaii standards.

“The water continues to be safe to drink,” said Williamson. “We continue to work closely with all of our government partners from local, state and federal agencies. As a follow up to our January announcement, we are continuing to update the public on everything the Navy is doing to avoid future leaks.”

Navy releases name of Sailor who died June 8 at Maunaloa Bay

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs and

Brandon Bosworth Assistant Editor, Ho’okele

HONOLULU — Naval Aircrewman Mechanical 3rd Class Shannon Elizabeth Nunez from Whittier, Calif., assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 4 based at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, died June 8 in a recreational activity near the Spitting Cave at Maunaloa Bay, Hawaii, located approximately 10 miles east of Honolulu.

“This is a tragic loss for our Navy family,” said Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. “This tragedy reminds each of us of the need to heighten awareness and practice greater safety on

and off duty.”

“Hawaii is a beautiful and special place, but there are inherent dangers in the surf, cliffs and trails,” Williams said.

“I’ve called for service members and their families to refocus and practice ‘safety first’ — especially during the summer but throughout the year. We need to do everything we can to prevent another loss like this.” The Honolulu Fire Department responded to the scene at approximately 2 p.m. HST and recovered Nunez from the water. Nunez was subsequently pronounced dead by on-scene paramedics. The cause of the fatality is unknown at this time, and the Honolulu Police Department has the lead on the investigation in coordination with the department of the

medical examiner.

Nunez reported to VP-4 last February. She was previously stationed at VP-30 in Jacksonville, Fla. from 2012 to 2014 and attended training at several commands in Pensacola, Fla. and Great Lakes, Ill.

“Petty Officer Nunez’s loss is a devastating impact to the Skinny Dragon *ohana*,” said Cmdr. Brett Thompson, commanding officer of VP-4. “We share deeply in her family’s grief and extend our prayers and hearts to them.”

This is the second Sailor to die in similar circumstances in just over two months. Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Gregory Spillman, 19, of Alexandria, Pa. died April 5 in an incident near the “China Wall” in Maunaloa Bay af-

See Admiral, A-3

ROK submarine arrives at Pearl Harbor



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Steven Khor

Republic of Korea (ROK) submarine Lee Sun Sin (SS 068) and crew pull into Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to participate in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercises for 2014.



U.S. Pacific Fleet honors Battle of Midway
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Former Women Airforce Service Pilot visits Pearl Harbor
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Keiki ‘hooked’ on fishing
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Pearl Harbor Sailors donate more than \$400,000 to NMCRS
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USS City of Corpus Christi holds change of command
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Fourth of July celebration will include fireworks
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U.S. Pacific Fleet honors Battle of Midway

Story and photo by
MC1 David Kolmel

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Members of U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) staff and military commands throughout Hawaii gathered to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway during a ceremony June 6 at PACFLT headquarters.

The Battle of Midway, fought June 4-7, 1942, is regarded as a decisive engagement during World War II in the Pacific. A U.S. force of three U.S. Navy aircraft carriers — USS Enterprise (CV-6), USS Hornet (CV-8) and USS Yorktown (CV-5), and land-based bombers — dramatically defeated an Imperial Japanese force led by four veteran aircraft carriers.

“The Battle of Midway was the turning point in the war,” said Adm. Harry Harris Jr., commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet. “[It was] The first important step as we pushed across the Pacific and towards victory in Japan.”

Naval intelligence played a crucial role in the victory. In May 1942, intelligence experts at the Combat Intelligence Unit at Pearl Harbor, known as Station Hypo, intercepted 500 to 1,000 Japanese radio messages a day, deciphering and translating roughly 25 percent. They provided Adm. Chester Nimitz with the vital information about the Imperial Japanese Navy's attack on Midway Atoll.



Adm. Harry Harris Jr., commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, addresses the audience during a ceremony June 6 at fleet headquarters to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Midway and honor the contribution of naval intelligence.

“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,” Harris said. “And I for one am thankful for all that they did for our nation and the world.”

Capt. James Fanell, director of intelligence for PACFLT, reiterated the importance of what the men of Station Hypo did for the intelligence community and how it affected the

outcome of the Battle of Midway.

“The herculean efforts in breaking the code known as JN25B is the very essence of why Joe [Ret. Capt. Joseph Rochefort] is so critically important to the victory at Midway,” Fanell said. “They knew the fruit of their labor rested in providing ultra-sensitive but operational relevant radio intelligence, as it was then called, to the fleet commander, who required this intelli-

gence to ensure our fleet was in the right position for that fateful battle.”

Harris emphasized the importance of continuing to look for threats to America.

“So as I look out at you all in formation today, I look with eager anticipation at this community of experts, a corps, one the Navy now calls the Information Dominance Corps, to drive the development of

systems and operational practices to ensure that our Navy retains the same decisive advantages that my predecessor Adm. Nimitz had at Station Hypo.

“I'm counting on each and every one of you to make sure that Pacific Fleet is prepared. That means not only are we ready to fight tonight, but that we're reading those signposts well enough to predict when and where that fight's going to be and how it will manifest itself,” Harris said.

Harris linked history to the Navy's current rebalance to the Pacific.

“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,” Harris said.

“Today we are mindful of the lessons from the past as we look for the signposts that will chart our future. We again cast a wary eye westward as we recognize the Indo-Asia-Pacific for its tremendous potential, and we see with clear eyes the tremendous risks, and again we are rebalancing to the Pacific.”

PACFLT also held a wreath-laying ceremony at the Station Hypo plaque at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The ceremony honored the work of the men at Hypo like Rochefort, Rear Adm. (ret.) Edwin Layton, Cmdr. (ret.) Jasper Holmes and Rear Adm. (ret.) Donald “Mac” Showers.

Pearl Harbor Sailors donate more than \$400,000 to Navy Marine Corps Relief Society

Story and photo by
MC3 Johans Chavarro

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West,
Detachment Hawaii

Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, presented Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) representatives with a ceremonial check during an NMCRS fund drive ceremony June 11 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

Commands throughout JBPHH raised \$439,264 through Sailor contributions and command-organized events like car washes, bake sales and similar activities.

Williams recognized the hard work of the fund's coordinators, attributing the success of the 2014 NMCRS fund drive to the publicity driven events, which helped raise awareness and reinforce the need for NMCRS.

“Raising \$439,000 during this tough fiscal environment is something truly noteworthy,” said Williams. “Today, more than ever, people are mindful of where their money is spent, and you've effectively communicated to them the benefit of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.”

Williams said that just as the Navy and Marine Corps responds to a call to action, the Navy-Marine Corps Society has been equally effec-



Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, delivers remarks during a Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) fund drive award ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

tive when called upon by Sailors and Marines, a sentiment echoed by Paul Belanger, director of Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Pearl Harbor.

“What's important is because it's a fund for the support for Sailors and Marines, then it stands to reason that the money comes from Sailors and Marines,” said Belanger.

“So the fact that they're willing to contribute that much money speaks well for what NMCRS does and the services that they offer. It's a matter of pride to us that we must be addressing some serious needs.”

Belanger explained the significant role NMCRS

plays as a resource in the wake of an unforeseen event or emergency in a Sailor or Marine's life.

“I like to compare Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society to an insurance plan, but a very special one,” said Belanger. “It's an opportunity for Sailors and Marines to put some money aside in the event that there's an emergency they have a fall back and they have some place to go.”

The NMCRS workforce is comprised of about 90 percent volunteers who provide financial assistance and counseling, quick assist loans, education assistance, health education and post-combat support, advice on

how to budget for a baby, emergency travel assistance, disaster relief, and thrift shops for Sailors, Marines and their families.

NMCRS began in 1904 when several naval officers, wives of naval officers and civilian friends saw the need for more formal and organized assistance. NMCRS was incorporated on Jan. 23 of that year. Initial funding came from the proceeds of the 1903 Army-Navy Football Game. In its first year, the NMCRS gave \$9,500 to widows and families of enlisted men.

For more information about NMCRS and the resources they offer, visit <http://www.nmcrs.org>.

Commentary

15th Wing CO gives perspective on pride month

Col. Johnny Roscoe

15th Wing commander

We have learned over the years, in our Air Force, that diversity is one of our greatest strengths — no matter what a person's color, gender, sexual or religious orientation, ethnicity, or even where an individual comes from — it is our differences and uniqueness as individuals that when brought together make us even greater as a whole.

It is through respecting the combined perspectives of all our Airmen, and not focusing through the narrow lens of our own background and beliefs, that we will better foster mutual dignity and respect.

When we respect each other and listen to what others have to say, we often find the answers we need to more effectively accomplish our mission.

I can't possibly imagine a time (and there have been such times in our military) where people could have looked to their left or right and saw a per-



Col. Johnny Roscoe

son of color and hated them without even knowing them. Likewise, today I know I cannot imagine looking to my left or right and not fully embrace the diversity I see.

It is when we do not embrace our differences that we deny ourselves of our fullest potential. Simply put, without our incredible diversity we would be an incredibly mediocre Air Force and fall way short of who and what we can be.

GOT SPORTS

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Commentary

Tragic losses call for heightened awareness

Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Last weekend we lost another Sailor to an off-duty recreational activity in rough waters by the cliffs at Maunalua Bay on east Oahu.

This is a tragic loss for our Navy family, and it reminds us of the need for awareness, safety, prevention and—when warranted—bystander intervention.

When we're on duty, we train with operational risk management (ORM) in mind. Many of our jobs in the military are obviously dangerous, and when we're at work we never take risk for granted.

Liberty is a mission, too, and we need that same ORM mindset. We

need to be aware of activities that can cause injury or death and make better choices. We need shipmates to be shipmates and intervene when something is not right. That applies to a lot of off-duty incidents.

Hawaii is a beautiful and special place, but there are inherent dan-

gers in the surf, cliffs and trails. I've called for service members and their families to refocus and practice 'safety first'—especially during the summer but also throughout the year.

I'm directing our commanders, command master chiefs, tenant commands—everyone—to take a hard look at this issue. You'll be hearing more about a safety stand-down and other initiatives.

We will partner with State of Hawaii and city and county agencies, especially Honolulu's ocean safety and lifeguard division, to bring safety strategies and prevention tips to all hands.

Without necessarily relating to our most recent tragedies, there are some key points for our service members to think about:

- When you're young, it's natural to feel invinc-

ible and indestructible, but that feeling can be deadly.

- Alcohol, drugs and peer pressure can cloud a person's judgment. Knowing this is the first step in preventing accidents.

- Fewer incidents occur when people are aware, think ahead, and go with a friend, shipmate, swim buddy or wingman.

A "game of chance" can be a loss of life, and a "leap of faith" can be a fatal jump. No one wants to be a statistic.

We need you to be healthy, fit, safe and ready.

Accidents can happen despite our best efforts, and nothing is certain no matter how safe we try to be. But when we think about possible consequences of our actions, all of us are better positioned to make the right decisions for ourselves and our families.

Admiral discusses dangers

Continued from A-1

ter being swept out to sea by strong currents. Spillman was rescued, given life-saving aid, and rushed to the hospital where he was pronounced dead despite continued efforts to revive him.

In March 2005, Navy Operations Specialist 3rd Class Zachary Ryan Johnson died at Spitting Cave. Johnson, who was assigned to the USS Lake Erie (CG-70), was swimming and got caught in strong currents. He was unable to make it to shore.

Spitting Cave is located in Hawaii State Rep. Gene Ward's district. Ward believes the signs leading to the scenic lookout should be upgraded

to read "no jumping," and he supports a fine for leaping into the ocean at Spitting Cave.

"This is one of the most beautiful and dangerous places in Hawaii," Ward said. "I'd like to see that sign say 'no jumping' and the penalty is such and such... I want people to pay with their wallets, not their lives."



Proclamation

Flag Day and National Flag Week 2014

Barack Obama

President of the United States of America

Over farmlands and town squares, atop skyscrapers and capitol buildings, the American flag soars. It reminds us of our history—13 colonies that rose up against an empire—and celebrates the spirit of 50 proud states that form our union today. On Flag Day and during National Flag Week, we pay tribute to the banner that weaves us together and waves above us all.

For more than two centuries, Americans have saluted Old Glory in times of trial and triumph. Generations have looked to it as they steeled their resolve, and an unbroken chain of men and women in uniform has served under our flag. From the banks of Baltimore's Inner

Harbor to European trenches and Pacific islands, from the deserts of Iraq to the mountains of Afghanistan, they have risked their lives so we might live ours.

When we lay our veterans to rest, many go draped with the stars and stripes upon them, and their families find solace in the folds of honor held tightly to their chest. Because of their sacrifice, our nation is stronger, safer and will always remain a shining beacon of freedom for the rest of the world.

With a familiar design that has evolved along with a growing nation, our flag stitches the ideals for which America was born to the reality of our times. It reminds us that fidelity to our founding principles requires new responses to new challenges. As we prepare to meet the great tests of our age, let every

American draw inspiration from this symbol of our past, our present and our common dreams.

To commemorate the adoption of our flag, the Congress, by joint resolution approved Aug. 3, 1949, as amended (63 Stat. 492), designated June 14 of each year as "Flag Day" and requested that the president issue an annual proclamation calling for its observance and for the display of the flag of the United States on all federal government buildings.

The Congress also requested, by joint resolution approved June 9, 1966, as amended (80 Stat. 194), that the president annually issue a proclamation designating the week in which June 14 occurs as "National Flag Week" and call upon citizens of the United States to display the flag during that week.

Now, therefore, I, Barack Obama, president of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 14, 2014 as Flag Day and the week beginning June 8, 2014 as National Flag Week. I direct the appropriate officials to display the flag on all federal government buildings during that week, and I urge all Americans to observe Flag Day and National Flag Week by displaying the flag.

I also call upon the people of the United States to observe with pride and all due ceremony those days from Flag Day through Independence Day, also set aside by the Congress (89 Stat. 211), as a time to honor America, to celebrate our heritage in public gatherings and activities, and to publicly recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Diverse Views



What's the best piece of advice your parents ever gave you?



CT13 Alisa Morrow
NIOC Hawaii

"If you show up on time and do what you're supposed to, you're doing better than 85 percent of the people around you."

MCC Donald Randall
NOSC Pearl Harbor



"Never, ever be without health insurance. It has saved me grief on many occasions."



OS2 Zi Wang
CPF

"Join the military, just to see a different lifestyle."

Technical Sgt. Brian Hendrix
766th SCONS



"If something is worth doing, do it right. So for me that has transpired into making sure I finish what I start, and follow through with my work. I believe it is especially important in the military to put forth maximum effort in any task that you take on and make sure it's done right."



CTT3 John Nipper
NIOC Hawaii

"If you use the knowledge you have to help people instead of cheating them, you'll do a lot better in life."

Senior Master Sgt. Robert Adams
766th Specialized Contacting Squadron



"I didn't tell my parents I was joining the Air Force. However, my father had a piece of advice that worked for me: just do what you're told and keep pressing forward and you'll be okay. It was a useful bit of advice because it translates to success in the military, at least for me. Whether it is supporting the command or my fellow Airmen, you just have to press forward sometimes regardless of how frustrating or difficult a situation can be."



Lt. Cmdr. Crystal Bryant
NHCH

"Never be afraid to dream bigger. Don't ever let anyone tell you that you can't do something."

Senior Airman Jose Rivera
647th Force Support Squadron



"The most useful piece of advice my parents gave me was to not have children at an early age. I don't think I could have had the experiences I've had in my life so far by having children at an early age. I also think by waiting until I'm older to have children, I'll be more mature and a better father to them."

Provided by Lt. j.g. Eric Galassi and Senior Airman Christopher Stoltz

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

647th ABG command staff moves to building 150

Effective today, the 647th Air Base Group commander/deputy joint base commander and his staff will move from building 1110 on the Hickam side of joint base to building 150 (room 224). Building 150 is the

joint base and Navy Region Hawaii headquarters building and is located just inside Nimitz Gate, adjacent to Merry Point Landing and Ward Field.

Parking is available across the

street at the Ward Field parking lot.

New phone numbers are as follows: 647 ABG/CC, 473-1508/473-0801; and 647 ABG/CCC, 473-1531. Email addresses will remain the same.

Bomber formation flies over Hickam



A formation of Martin B-12 and Douglas B-18 bombers is shown in this historical photo over Hickam Field. The Diamond Head extension of the taxiway was begun by grading equipment and the railroad is in place to the left of the taxiway in the photo taken on June 18, 1938, 76 years ago this month.

Photo courtesy of the Hawaii Department of Transportation

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Former Women Airforce Service Pilot visits Pearl Harbor

Staff Sgt.
Christopher Hubenthal

Defense Media Activity - Hawaii

Kathryn Miles, former Women Airforce Service Pilot (WASP), visited areas of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and met aspiring women pilots during a tour June 6 that was hosted by the 747th Communications Squadron Spouses Group.

More than 70 years ago, Miles was studying to become a teacher like her parents, but the sky above was too enticing for her to ignore.

"I was offered a job in teaching typing in some little western town," Miles said. "I said, 'Thank you very much but no thank you.' I think my poor mother and dad must have shriveled up because I didn't have a job. I turned it down because I wasn't interested in that. I wanted to fly."

The WASP program consisted of civilian volunteers trained to fly a variety of aircraft during WWII. They performed non-combat missions to enable male pilots to fill combat roles in the war effort.

Out of 25,000 applicants for the WASP program, only 2,000 women were accepted for training. Miles was one of them. She traveled to Avenger Field, located in Sweetwater, Texas, and began her journey as a cadet where she became one of 1,078 women to earn their wings in this endeavor.

"My first Army plane was a Stearman PT-17 and that's a bi-plane open cockpit," Miles said. "We did our primary training in that and it was really exciting."

After qualifying in the PT-17, Miles flew a variety of other aircraft including co-piloting the B-17 bomber to flying the P-40 Flying Tiger during missions focused on towing targets for training to the instruction of new pilots.

"I had a pupil and this young man came to the airplane and said, 'Are you my instructor?'" Miles said. "Yes I am," I said. Then he



Kathryn L. Miles

said, 'Well I'm not flying with any woman,' and he looked around and stalked off."

Miles simply shrugged at the cadet and decided to speak to her chain of command.

"I went back to the commanding officer and reported what had happened and he said, 'You go back tomorrow and he'll be there,'" Miles said.

"I went back and the same student came up and didn't say a word, got in the plane, and we flew for the lesson. We came back and he got out of the plane, turned around and said, 'Well, I'll say one thing. You're the best pilot I ever flew with.'"

Miles served as a WASP from Dec. 6, 1943 until the disbanding of the program on Dec. 20, 1944. With the increase of male pilot availability and political pressures, the need for these female service pilots were thought to be unnecessary and they were released from service. They were granted no benefits.

"We had to pay everything," Miles said. "Thirty-eight of the girls died flying in the WASP and because we weren't militarized, they wouldn't pay to send the bodies home. Sometimes their families didn't have the money to send the bodies home, so we took up collections to do that but we always sent a WASP with the body."

In 1977, more than 30 years after the program was disbanded, the



Kathryn L. Miles, World War II Women Airforce Service Pilot (WASP), tours the USS Arizona Memorial on June 6, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (See additional photos on page A-5.)

WASPs were granted military status and became eligible for veterans benefits.

Miles was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal as a member of the WASP on March 10, 2010, honoring her service as one of the first women to fly military aircraft for the armed forces.

Having paid for her own uniform items and travel expenses, to dealing with inequalities as a woman during her time of service, Miles is pleased to see the opportunities women receive today.

"What I have noticed most and am most thrilled about is women are able to go in and become pilots now," Miles said. "They're now accepted, and I have the greatest respect for these women pilots today who work hard. They had to be the best or they couldn't have done it."

Her tour of Pearl Harbor gave Miles a chance to commemorate those who serve in the armed forces.

"I've been to Pearl Harbor many times and, to me, it's an honor every time I go," Miles said. "I like to remember and show my respect, admiration and sorrow for those who died there."

As Miles stepped off the tour boat to show her respects at the Arizona Memorial, Cathy Macatangay, a Ninety-Nines International Organization of Women Pilots Diamond DA40 pilot, and Kathy Custer, an R22 Robinson helicopter pilot in training, introduced themselves and thanked Miles personally for paving the way.

"I didn't even realize that they had women pilots back then and so to come here today and see some-

one who flew 400 hours as a target for target practice is a real inspiration," Custer said. "She is amazing."

"If it wasn't for her and all the other female pilots that flew at that time, who knows if we would be flying today," Macatangay added. "They practically paved the way to allow women to be allowed to become pilots. It was very inspiring to meet her."

When Miles meets young women who are interested in flying or joining the armed forces, she has one piece of advice that she always encourages them with.

"If you have a goal and want to do it badly enough, it's my theory that you can do that but you have to give everything to it and try," Miles said. "Don't think your dreams are inaccessible because they're not."



Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



(Left) Kathryn L. Miles, World War II Women's Airforce Service Pilot (WASP), and her daughters, Beth Tillinghast and Anne Miles, tour Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on June 6. WASPs performed non-combat missions to enable male pilots to fill combat roles in the war effort. Members of the 747th Communications Squadron Spouses Group hosted the tour.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal

(Right) U.S. Air Force Col. David Kirkendall, 647th Air Base Group commander and deputy commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, tours the USS Arizona Memorial with Kathryn L. Miles, World War II Women's Airforce Service Pilot (WASP), and her daughters Beth Tillinghast and Anne Miles on June 6.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal



(Above) U.S. Pacific Fleet Band members perform with Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) band members during a joint concert at the Ala Moana "Centertainment" Stage on June 5. The JMSDF band is visiting along with the training ships JS Kashima (TV 3508), JS Asagiri (TV 3516) and JS Setoyuki (TV 3518), which arrived in Hawaii on June 3 as part of an overseas training cruise.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Amanda Dunford

(Right) Machinist's Mate Fireman Garrett Minsky from Huntington Beach, Calif., wears a mark 10 safety suit aboard the Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS North Carolina (SSN-777). North Carolina is visiting Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan during a routine deployment to the Indo-Asia-Pacific.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Liam Kennedy





Cmdr. Christopher Buziak, outgoing commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705), is piped ashore after being relieved June 6 by Cmdr. Travis Petzoldt during a change of command ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

USS City of Corpus Christi holds change of command

Story and photo by
MC1 Steven Khor

Submarine Force Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs

Cmdr. Travis Petzoldt relieved Cmdr. Christopher Buziak as commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) during a change of command ceremony held June 6 at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Buziak said he is proud he had the opportunity to be in command of City of Corpus Christi and work with some amazing Sailors.

"It was my greatest honor to serve with you and be called skipper over the last three years," said Buziak. "You are submariners, a different breed of man than all others. There is stress involved in being the best, in meeting the expectations of the American people, of being a defender of freedom, of being a master of your trade. I only give you one last order as your com-

manding officer: carry on."

During his nearly 36 months in command, Buziak took his submarine and crew through a 14-month maintenance period, a western Pacific deployment, and numerous shorter underway periods.

Retired Adm. Tom Fargo, the ceremony's guest speaker, praised Buziak for a job well done, considering that 87 percent of the crew had never been on a western Pacific deployment.

"It's been a great personal pleasure for me, Chris, to follow your career, which has led to the very best job our Navy has to offer—command at sea," said Fargo, the former commander of U.S. Pacific Command.

"You made a highly effective team that clearly enjoyed what they were doing. You built a powerful atmosphere that empowered your people and, as always, when you're running a good ship, they grow in their jobs, have confidence in their abilities, and perform to an exceptionally high standard," Fargo said.

During the ceremony, Buziak was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his command of City of Corpus Christi from August 2011 to June 2014.

As Petzoldt assumed command of City of Corpus Christi, he thanked Buziak for turning over a great ship and highly enthusiastic crew.

"Thank you, City of Corpus Christi crew, for your warm welcome, and for all of the hard work you have done and I know you will continue to do," said Petzoldt.

"You are the life of the ship I am standing on. Without you, it's just an expensive hunk of steel. I look forward to working with each and every one of you."

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

For more news from Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, visit <http://www.cs.p.navy.mil/>.

USS Hopper hosts Easter Seals Hawaii visit

Story and photo by
Ensign Angeline A. Jones

USS Hopper (DDG 70) Public
Affairs

The guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) provided ship tours for more than 30 guests from Easter Seals Hawaii on May 29.

The guests were provided with tours of the technologically advanced warship from the wardroom and crew of the ship.

"The crew was eager and honored to be hosting a tour like this, and, I believe we gained just as much, if not more, from the experience than our visitors," said Lt. Sean Davis, Hopper's operations officer.

Additionally, they were briefed by Lt. Meredith Manuel, Hopper's navigator, on some of the ship's missions and capabilities.

"It was a real honor to have the men and women of Easter Seals Hawaii onboard. It was touching to see their eyes light up hearing about the capabilities of Hopper. We are all flattered that they chose our ship to come visit and [we] would be eager to host the Easter Seals again," said Lt. j.g. Joshua Armour, Hopper's training officer.

The Easter Seals organization was founded in the spring of 1934 in the state of Ohio. Over the last 100

years, the Easter Seals have provided a helping hand to individuals with disabilities and special needs and their families to help them live better lives.

The history of the Easter Seals Hawaii dates back to 1946 when Edward and Olga Sultan founded the Sultan Foundation Nursery School. The school was the first of its kind to offer early intervention programs, which is now used as an example at the national level. Eventually, the school was expanded to the Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and later renamed Easter Seals Hawaii.

The mission of Easter Seals is to provide a variety of services to help individuals with disabilities and special needs live more independently, learn and work through life's challenges, and achieve personal goals. This includes child development centers, medical rehabilitation, camping, recreation, employment, and job training.

USS Hopper (DDG 70) is assigned to Destroyer Squadron 31 and is part of Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific and U.S. 3rd Fleet. The ship is named after Rear Adm. Grace Hopper, a pioneering computer scientist, also affectionately known as "Grandma Cobol" after co-inventing COBOL (common business-oriented language).



Lt. j.g. Meredith Manuel gives Easter Seals Hawaii guests a tour of the pilot house.

STORY IDEAS?

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

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