

Welcome back USS Lake Erie

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

This is the last time the ship and crew of Lake Erie returns home to Pearl Harbor as they are scheduled to change homeports.

“Capt. Banigan and his team have made a difference,” said Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

“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.”

Capt. John S. Banigan, commanding officer of Lake Erie, spoke about the deployment and ship’s mission in the 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 Banigan.

“We were always begging to go forward-deployed and we got ourselves ready, and we were able to



Photo illustration by Rico Onaha Hutter

(Clockwise from top left): The guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) returns to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam from a four-month western Pacific deployment. Chief Culinary Specialist Alden Johansen reunites with his children upon the ship’s return to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Family members wait for their Sailors aboard the USS Lake Erie (CG 70) as the ship arrives at Pearl Harbor. Gunner’s Mate 2nd Class Haden Colvin kisses his wife Devin after the ship arrives at joint base.

Japan and Guam. Lake Erie Sailors were able to participate in several community relations projects including visiting homes for children and assisting the elderly.

The deployment was designed to promote peace and security, preserve freedom of the seas, and conduct theater security operations with partner nations.

“The mission was very successful,” said Operations Specialist 1st Class Hunter Taylor, assigned to Lake Erie. “The morale is high right now. Everyone is just so glad to be back in Pearl Harbor.”

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.

surge and prove that we aren’t just a test ship, that we are fully mission capable,” he said.

According to Banigan, he knows that regardless of homeport, Lake Erie Sailors will lead the way. “It’s bittersweet. We will miss Hawaii, but whatever the

mission, we will succeed,” he said. 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.

“Hawaii’s great,” said Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Andrew Wolk, assigned to Lake Erie. “This is our best port. Returning back to Hawaii is always beautiful.”

Port visits during the deployment included locations in Korea,

Region ‘Know Load’ team helps Forest City residents

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor, Ho’okele

In its ongoing efforts to help Forest City housing residents manage and reduce their electricity consumption, Navy Region Hawaii and Forest City organized a “Know Load” process in September 2013.

The strategy is simple: If residents know the electricity load their home is carrying each month, it can help them to reduce their monthly electricity consumption.

In March, Navy Region Hawaii announced that the electricity rate charged to residents in privatized housing would decrease, effective April 1, from 58.7 cents per kilowatt-hour to 41.8 cents per kilowatt-hour.

The announcement highlighted the Navy’s

effort to mitigate the impact of a high electricity rate on military families and also encouraged residents to continue using utilities wisely.

According to Darryl Nii, Navy Region Hawaii Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP) coordinator, the average payment for April was \$84, com-

pared to \$118 in March.

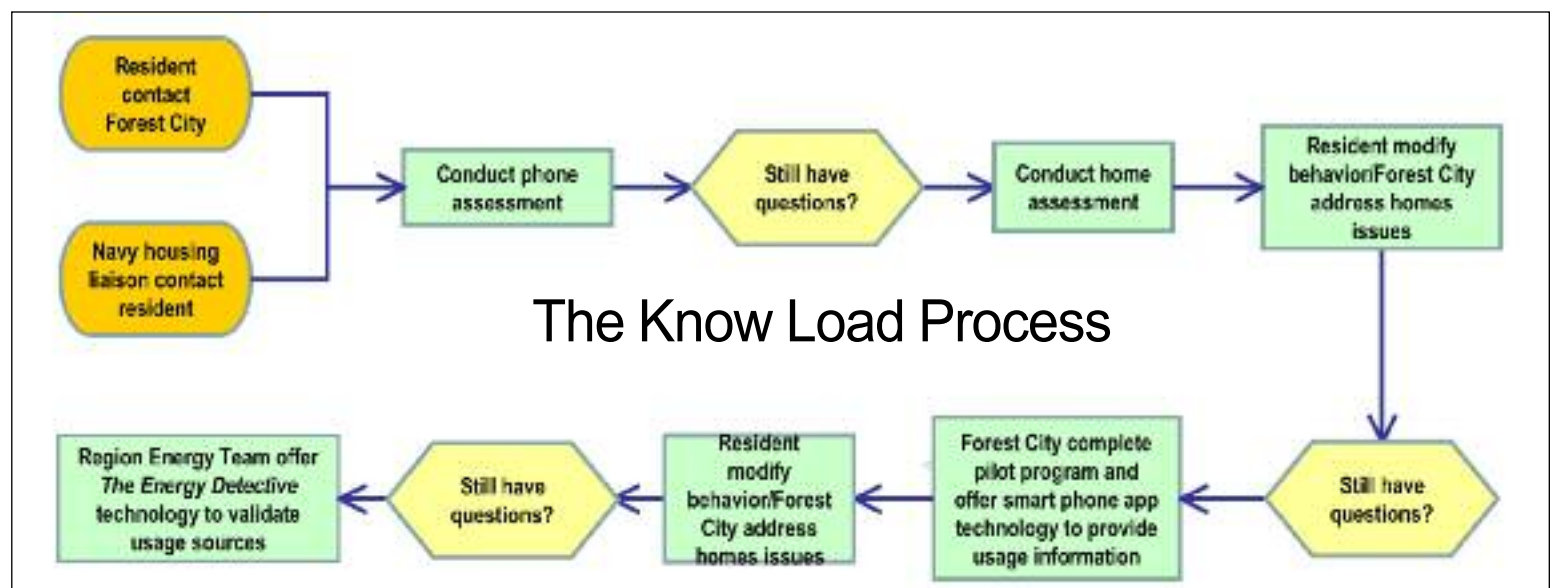
The average amount of electricity used per home in April was 1,057 kWh (kilowatt per hour), compared to 1,2014 kWh a year ago

(April 2013) and 1,409 kWh in April 2010—prior to RECP implementation.

“RECP’s objective is to conserve energy by transferring responsibility for utility

consumption to housing residents, and it’s definitely being achieved at Navy Region Hawaii,” Nii noted.

See Know Load, A-6



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jay M. Chu

Rendering honors at USS Arizona

Adm. Samuel J. Locklear, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, and Tony Abbott, prime minister of Australia, render honors during a wreath-laying ceremony at the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor.

RIMPAC 2014 begins June 26

U.S. Pacific Fleet

Held every two years by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT), RIMPAC 2014 is a multinational maritime exercise that takes place in and around the Hawaiian Islands.

This year’s RIMPAC exercise, the 24th in the series that began in 1971, is scheduled from June 26 to Aug. 1, with an opening reception scheduled for June 26 and closing reception Aug. 1. Twenty-three nations, 48 surface ships, six submarines,

more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel will participate.

Units from Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the People’s Republic of China, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, the United Kingdom and the United States will participate.

For more info: www.cpf.navy.mil/rimpac/2014.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 James Vazquez

The Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) prepares to depart Naval Base San Diego on June 16 for Rim of the Pacific 2014 in Hawaii.



Impact of RIMPAC, balancing the benefits
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New automated ESD help desk process cuts down wait time
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Hawaii blooms with ‘flower power’
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Battleship to host joint re-enlistment ceremony July 4
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Eagle Scout project helps improve fire safety
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Joint Typhoon Warning Center conducts change of command



U.S. Navy photo by AG3 Bristol Rigby
 Capt Ashley D. Evans (left), outgoing commanding officer of JTWC, and Capt. Steven P. Sopko (right), incoming commanding officer, salute to symbolize the official changeover of command.

Lt. Thai Phung

Joint Typhoon Warning Center Public Affairs

Capt. Steven P. Sopko relieved Capt. Ashley D. Evans as commanding officer of the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) in a change of command ceremony held June 5 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The ceremony started with the arrival of the official party, the presentation of the colors, the National Anthem, and "Hawaii Pono'i," the Hawaii state song, sung by the NSA Hawaii Choral Ensemble. Lt. Cmdr. Keith D. Plavnick offered the invocation.

Dr. William Burnett, the deputy commander and technical director of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, was the guest speaker and presided over the ceremony.

"In meteorology, there are two meccas where you want to work. One of them is the National Hurricane Center. For the military side, the mecca is the Joint Typhoon Warning Center. It is an honor to be with the men and women, the group of the Joint Typhoon Warn-

ing Center and certainly, the commanding officer. You cannot go any higher," Burnett said.

Following his remarks, Burnett presented Evans with the Legion of Merit for his outstanding service and accomplishments as commander from May 2012 to June 2014.

During his farewell remarks, Evans praised everyone at JTWC for executing their duties with efficiency and precision, inside and outside the walls every day.

"You guys make it look easy. It, in turn, makes me look good. This award is truly a reflection of all you do."

Evans said he is proud he had the opportunity to command JTWC and thanked friends and families for a great journey. His farewell would not have been complete without sharing his philosophy with the command one last time: "To take care of yourself, families and shipmates; everything else is secondary."

Evans will be heading to the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet to serve as the fleet oceanographer.

After Sopko assumed command of JTWC, he

thanked Evans.

"I am honored and humbled for the opportunity to command an organization that has such a great history of service in the western Pacific and Indian Ocean. I do have very high expectation for what we can accomplish in the years to come and together, we can meet any challenge that comes our way over the next couple of years," Sopko said.

Sopko comes to JTWC after serving consecutive tours at the Pentagon on the staff of the assistant secretary of the Navy (research, development and acquisition) and the Chief of Naval Operations staff as deputy navigator of the Navy.

The mission of JTWC is to provide tropical cyclone reconnaissance, forecast, warning and decision support to the United States government agencies operating in the Pacific and Indian Oceans as directed by Commander, United States Pacific Command. It provides tsunami decision support services to Navy and other Department of Defense entities, as necessary, to ensure installation and asset protection at locations around the globe.

Impact of RIMPAC, balancing the benefits

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Dozens of ships from nearly two dozen countries are arriving in Pearl Harbor next week for the start of RIMPAC—Rim of the Pacific Exercise. RIMPAC 2014 will be held in waters and airspace in and around Hawaii for five weeks beginning June 26.

RIMPAC brings international participants together to foster and sustain cooperative relationships. Training during RIMPAC builds credible, ready maritime forces that help to preserve peace and prevent conflict.

RIMPAC is hosted by U.S. Pacific Fleet, which is headquartered here, and led by U.S. 3rd Fleet, which is headquartered in San Diego but will have most of its key staff here throughout the exercise.

The exercise will be based at Navy Region Hawaii, which includes Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and the Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai. Training will also be held at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Ka-

neoe and at several other locations in the state.

Some training will be held outside of Hawaii, but most of the exercise will take place in the waters around and near the islands.

The Hawaii operating area and ranges offer a realistic, relevant training opportunity like nowhere else in the world.

Among the land, sea and air training capabilities to be exercised are humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime security operations, sea control and complex warfighting.

Environmental stewardship and protection of marine mammals are top priorities at all times during the RIMPAC exercise.

In the weeks leading up to RIMPAC, crews receive training on sighting marine mammals and required protective measures. Participants follow established and approved procedures to minimize the potential impact on marine life.

The RIMPAC Combined Information Bureau will take calls from the public and answer questions about the exercise: 808-472-0235.

Some temporary noise and crowds

With 25,000 participants coming to Hawaii, there will be more noise, crowds and traffic expected in the last week of June and through most of July. But along with the inconveniences, there are tangible and intangible benefits to the state.

According to the State of Hawaii Department of Business and Economic Development and Tourism Research and Analysis division, the initial economic benefit for RIMPAC 2014 is projected to be \$52.5 million, based on the number of exercise participants and their number of days in port.

By the end of RIMPAC, officially Aug. 1, the overall economic benefit is expected to be tens of millions of dollars higher than \$52.5 after calculations are included for purchases of supplies, fuel and food or the spending by families and friends of participating personnel.

Also, after experiencing the aloha spirit of the people of Hawaii and seeing the natural beauty of the 'aina, the visiting spouses, children, extended family mem-

bers and friends of participants are expected to return home and "talk story" about the islands, extending the benefits for years to come.

Raising discussion of garage door openers

Remotely controlled garage door openers legally operate at a very low power on an unlicensed basis. Therefore, they can be affected by electromagnetic activity that is generated by Navy ships, civilian boaters or other sources.

During RIMPAC, some remotely-operated garage door openers may be temporarily affected. This can occur if the device is a

type (FCC-regulated but unlicensed part 15) that operates on frequencies reserved for federal government systems.

Such devices may not work properly from time to time, especially if they aren't pointed directly at the door. If that happens, drivers may have to remove the opener from their sun visor and point it directly at the door. If the opener still doesn't work right, garage door owners may have to open and close their doors manually or consider other options for a short time.

The Navy is required to test commercial surface search radars in port prior to getting underway and as

part of scheduled maintenance. Surface search radars are readily available commercially, used by civilian boaters and not a safety issue. Exercising safety is a top priority for the Navy.

Just to be sure their garage door opener will function properly, owners may want to check with their garage door company. At least one company in Hawaii asks their customers to be patient in dealing with the inconvenience, "for a short bit of time, [but] for a lifetime of safety and freedom."

To learn more about RIMPAC, visit <http://www.cpf.navy.mil/rimpac/2014/>.

15th Wing announces change of command

15th Wing Public Affairs

Col. Randall Huiss will take command of the 15th Wing during a change of command ceremony scheduled for June 27 at base operations.

He will succeed Col. Johnny Roscoe, the current 15th Wing commander, who is retiring from the Air Force after a 26-year career. Roscoe has served as the 15th Wing

commander since July 6, 2012.

Lt. Gen Russell J. Handy, commander of the 11th Air Force, will preside over the ceremony.

The 15th Wing is composed of four groups with specific functions. The operations group controls all flying and airfield operations. The maintenance group performs aircraft and aircraft support equipment maintenance.

The medical group provides medical and dental care. The 647th Air Base Group provides more than 50 installation support functions for joint base operations, supporting more than 38,000 personnel and families. Additionally, the wing staff agencies provide support services to 15th Wing leaders and Airmen including but not limited to financial analysis, public affairs, and legal support.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Chelsea Kennedy
 Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 3rd Class Gary Armstrong from Rockford, Ill. signals the pilot of an F/A-18 Super Hornet to stop as it approaches a catapult aboard the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). Ronald Reagan is underway conducting carrier qualifications. It will participate in RIMPAC 2014 in Hawaii.

Commentary

Commitment to conserve: making a difference

Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

As summer heat arrives, we're making progress in energy conservation, thanks to some "cool" innovations and a strong commitment to saving energy and saving money for ourselves and the Navy. I want to thank our families, service members and civilian employees for helping us get closer to meeting energy security goals.

Of course, with this initiative the work is ongoing and constantly evolving.

Each year we see about a 30 percent turnover in our population, so we have to keep our residents informed. Technology contin-

ues to improve, so we have to update our techniques for assessing and conserving. And new innovative ideas arrive all the time, so there's a need to continue the dialog.

Today's energy topic for discussion is the Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP) and Navy Region Hawaii's "Know Load" program.

The Know Load group—energy conservation experts from our housing office, Forest City partners and Naval Facility Engineering Command, Hawaii—is bringing RECP support to residents' doorsteps.

Know Load, as in "know your energy load," is designed to provide advocacy for our residents, ensure residents are included in the management process, and give everyone a way to work on outstanding issues together. It's designed to put energy conservation in the hands of service members and their families.

The Know Load team developed checklists and is

conducting energy assessments for Forest City public private venture (PPV) residents. The goal is to identify ways to achieve greater energy efficiency and savings. Solutions to bring down residents' bills can be as simple as checking if air conditioner filters are clean or if water heaters are functioning properly.

In some cases, more work is needed to show why energy use is high. Residents can then use that information to make informed choices. At each step in the process, residents have a voice and can make their requests known.

Through the assessments and follow-up interviews, Know Load experts are able to identify where and when technology can be employed. Where it

makes sense we will make state-of-the-art computerized monitoring systems and an app available as long as we have resources available.

After we began our initiative to improve RECP as it is implemented in Hawaii—and again after electricity rates were lowered in April—we saw a significant positive impact. In October 2013, we had 50 residents with a monthly electricity bill higher than \$400. In March 2014 that number was down to 23, and in April it was down to just five residents with a bill over \$400.

But the Know Loads are not just looking at the highest energy consumers. Any Forest City residents concerned about their energy use can call the housing office or Forest City to begin

the process of requesting an energy assessment.

The Know Loads concept has been so successful we are expanding it to assist the region energy conservation board to offer innovative ideas, techniques and strategies in other areas and facilities.

We are also enlisting assistance from the Naval Post-Graduate School and other educators in a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) approach to this initiative.

The ultimate goal is to achieve energy security goals while still maintaining a balance between comfort and efficiency. Working together, we're making a difference. To learn more about energy security initiatives in our region, go to <http://go.usa.gov/KGMT>.

Diverse Views



What do you think the most exciting invention in the future will be?



HMC Crystal Ingram
Naval Health Clinic Hawaii

"Some stem-line cancer curing agent, I guess, to detect cancer on the front end instead of waiting to get sick before you find out."

Airman 1st Class Daniel Gonzalez
647th Force Support Squadron



"I am looking forward to the day when there is affordable, sustainable, permanent-alternative fuel. Gas prices are insane, and having a stable energy source like this would be used to power not only cars but homes as well. Everyone could have power and means to transport themselves."



LS2 Rena Wright
USS Chafee (DDG 90)

"Robots and electronics taking over the work that people have to do, like the driverless car."

Lt. Pete Lesaca
PACOM



"Transporters, like Star Trek. No commuting, no airline costs."



Simone Davis
647th Force Support Squadron

"I'm actually looking forward to an invention that will make people's lives more difficult. Technology as is makes everything far too easy for society as it is, which in turn I believe has led us to being a lazier generation. I'm all for advances and new inventions for medical technology, but for the most part, it is just sad to see how these innovative products we have created are being relied upon more than ever."

OSC Barry Fredericks
CSCS DET Pearl Harbor



"A cure for cancer. Or for people losing limbs, the ability to grow limbs back. We're slowly getting there."



Valerie Radford
15th Medical Group

"I am looking forward to the day when some type of teleportation device is invented. It would make it extremely easy to visit family, friends and loved ones. No lines at the airport and no traffic jams. I understand there could be negative affects to this type of technology but I believe the good would outweigh the bad."

(Provided by Lt. j.g. Eric Galassi and SrA 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

Hanks relieves Thompson as CO of VP-4

Lt. j.g. Alexandra Lewis

Patrol Squadron Four Public Affairs Officer

Cmdr. Eric M. Hanks relieved Cmdr. M. Brett Thompson as commanding officer of Patrol Squadron Four (VP-4) on June 18 at hangar 104 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Thompson, originally from Charleston, S.C., reported to VP-4 in March 2013 and became the squadron's 64th commanding officer in August 2013.

Thompson led the "Skinny Dragons" and ensured maximum operational readiness during a dynamic inter-deployment readiness cycle in preparation for a multi-site U.S.

6th Fleet deployment. Under his direction, the squadron conducted a flawless fleet response training plan, executed 750 sorties encompassing 3,366 flight hours with a 95 percent mission completion rate, surpassing 41 years and 250,000 hours of mishap-free flying.

Thompson will continue his career at U.S. Pacific Command. When asked about his time serving as commanding officer, he said, "This has been the absolute most rewarding tour in my entire 19-year career. The men and women of VP-4 are professional, hard-working Americans. I am beyond proud of each and every one of them. The Skinny Dragon ohana are the greatest Sailors I have ever served with."

Hanks reported to VP-4 in August 2013 as the executive officer. A native of Jennings, La., he graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1997 and earned his "Wings of Gold" in August 1999. His previous flying tours included assignments to VP-16, VT-35 as an advanced maritime instructor pilot, and VP-9 as a department head.

His additional tours included a tour on the USS Theodore Roosevelt and the U.S. Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany where he served in J3-operations.

"I am thrilled for the opportunity to lead the Skinny Dragons into this upcoming deployment. I have the utmost confidence in their ability to excel and masterfully complete the mission," he said.

Nevada fires during Normandy Invasion



The forward 14-inch/45 guns of USS Nevada (BB-36) fire on positions ashore during the landings on "Utah" Beach in the Normandy Invasion, which took place on June 6, 1944. The invasion took place 70 years ago this month. The Western Allies landed in Normandy, part of northern France. The invasion, commanded by U.S. Army Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, opened the long-awaited "Second Front" against Adolf Hitler's Germany.

'Navigate' to Ho'okele website



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Pacific Partnership enhances relations, environment with beach cleanup



Service members from Australia, New Zealand, Timor-Leste and the U.S. participate in a cleaning event June 14 on the beaches of Dili.

Story and photo by MCI Stephen Oleksiak

Pacific Partnership Public Affairs

DILI, Timor-Leste—In an effort to build community relations and improve the local environment in Dili, Timor-Leste, participants from Pacific Partnership 2014 conducted a beach cleanup with local environmental youth groups on June 14.

Local youth, embassy officials and service members from Timor-Leste, Australia, New Zealand and the United States walked together along a stretch of city beach in Dili, helping to promote community and a clean environment.

According to U.S. Army

Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Howlett, assigned to the 84th Civil Affairs Battalion and event coordinator, it's not just about a clean beach, but also enhancing relationships.

"Events like these bring everyone a little closer together," said Howlett. "It shows that there are all kinds of people who care about environmental stewardship and will offer assistance, and we enjoy getting to do this in partnership with local youth who also care about the issue."

Naza Santos, 19, and a native of Dili, is a testament to that example.

"I don't think people here are really concerned about the environment as much as they should be," said Santos.

"It was kind of inspiring to see all these foreign people out here helping our community."

As the crowd grew larger with people who were just passing by, participants felt a sense of professional and personal accomplishment.

"It was very moving and rewarding to be out here, especially when all the little kids started joining in," said Australian Air Force Leading Aircraftswoman Teagan Walker. "The best part was having all the nations come together to help out."

Pacific Partnership is in its ninth iteration and is the largest annual multilateral humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Asia-Pacific region.

New automated ESD help desk process cuts down wait time

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Public Affairs

The 690th Network Support Squadron (690th NSS) Detachment 3 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam recently streamlined their enterprise service desk (ESD) trouble ticket process.

Information Assurance Officer (IAO) Express was brought online to assist the ESD with the large volume of trouble tickets sitting in backlog as well as to expedite the support process for new customers.

According to Tech. Sgt. Michael Conedy, 690th NSS mission area team lead of directory services, the ESD deals with two types of computer issues—requests and incidents. Requests are tickets for account requests, such as new account provisioning, being added to an organization account and security group requests, whereas incidents are tickets for problems which could cause work stoppage such as login errors or problems

loading applications.

Previously, the two types of issues were handled by the same people, leading to potentially longer wait times due to the extra time required to resolve incidents, but now IAO Express is equipped to handle the less complicated requests.

As an example, in the past customers had to submit trouble tickets through the unit IAO, then wait for their tickets to move through the queue before having work done on their computer. Now tickets are vetted immediately upon submittal into the IAO Express. The system automatically works on request tickets on a first in, first out basis, leaving only incidents for the ESD staff to handle.

Conedy said the system is also able to work on more than one request at time, a feat which was nearly impossible for his staff to do.

"Basically, the process helped cut a backlog of approximately 1,600 tickets down to nearly 1,000 in the first month that it was brought online," said Staff

Sgt. Brett Walker, 690th NSS senior crew chief.

"The system closed out about 20,000 tickets in the month of May. That means there were 20,000 tickets automatically handled without being touched by a person, and tickets which may have otherwise taken weeks to get to were handled on the spot. This allowed ESD technicians to focus on the backlog of tickets, drastically reducing a backlog of more than 13,000 tickets in February to 163 post-Memorial Day weekend," Walker explained.

Though automating the process eliminated the need for ESD personnel to work on "simple" tickets, Walker said what it really comes down to is better customer service. The new process now provides a more direct route for customer support.

"The new system frees up the manpower needed to work on more complicated issues," said Walker. "We want to shift our focus to eliminating the wait times on the phone calls that come in.

"Our goal is to have zero wait times for customers call-



Staff Sgt. Brett Walker, 690th Network Support Squadron Detachment 3 senior crew chief, checks the Information Assurance Officer (IAO) Express for completed trouble tickets.

ing in for support. Someone will be able to pick up an incoming ticket and work on it immediately. This means customers spend less time waiting on the phone and less time waiting to have their ticket worked on," he said.

Conedy said the program has had overwhelmingly positive feedback. Initially

created as an avenue to send information directly to users, IAO Express has evolved into a workhorse.

"We encourage IAOs to utilize this," said Conedy. "Some people get stuck in the old way of doing things, but this is a faster, more direct and efficient way of doing things. I think as

members realize the efficiency garnered by IAO Express, usage will increase, which will be a huge win for all.

For more information about IAO Express, visit ESD self-help site link: <https://esd.us.af.mil> or speak with a unit information assurance officer.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) and Carrier Air Wing Two departed from the Southern California operating area June 18 to participate in the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise scheduled June 26 to Aug. 1 in and around the Hawaiian Islands. In this file photo, USS Ronald Reagan transits the Pacific Ocean with ships participating in the RIMPAC 2010 combined task force.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Dylan McCord



The guided missile cruiser USS Cape St. George (CG 71) departs San Diego on a deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR). Cape St. George is scheduled to participate in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), the world's largest international maritime exercise and then proceed to the 7th Fleet AOR to conduct theater security cooperation missions.

U.S. Navy photo by MCCS Donnie W. Ryan



Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 3rd Class Harris Michael directs a CH-53E Super Sea Stallion helicopter assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 465 during flight operations June 17 aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5). Peleliu will participate in exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), a large multinational naval exercise, as the command ship for the expeditionary strike group and is scheduled to conduct a follow-on deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Katarzyna Kobijak



The Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) transits the San Diego Bay on June 16 for Rim of the Pacific 2014. Rim of the Pacific provides a unique training opportunity that helps participants foster and sustain cooperative relationships that are critical to ensuring the safety of the sea lanes and security on the world's oceans.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Huey D. Younger Jr.



A landing craft cushion, assigned to Assault Craft Unit (ACU) 5, approaches the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) on June 17. Peleliu will participate in exercise Rim of the Pacific 2014. Peleliu is the command ship for the expeditionary strike group and is scheduled to conduct a follow-on deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Katarzyna Kobijak



(Left and right): Retired professional football player Adalius Thomas participates in a guided tour aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97) on June 12. Thomas was aboard USS Halsey as part of a visit to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Tiarra Fulgham





Force Master Chief Russell Mason (left) relieves Force Master Chief Cash Caldwell as the senior enlisted advisor to Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC).

Mason is new SUBPAC force master chief

Story and photo by MC1 Steven Khor

Submarine Force Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

The senior hands of deckplate leadership changed June 6 with the arrival of the 15th force master chief to Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Force Master Chief Russ Mason relieved Force Master Chief Cash Caldwell in a change of office and retirement ceremony as families and friends gathered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for the event.

"I am very excited about this responsibility and look forward to working with the finest men and women the United States has to offer," said Mason.

In his new assignment as the force master chief for the Pacific Submarine Force, Mason highlighted three key objectives.

"First, we need to get a better handle on the chief petty officer sea billet gaps in Guam and Hawaii," said Mason. "Our chiefs run the submarine force, and we need to do a better job of filling gapped billets by getting reliefs on board at the periodic rotation dates

(PRD) of those chiefs that have completed a full sea tour.

"We are doubling our efforts to notify chiefs and prospective chiefs of the boat at least one year prior to their PRDs to allow them to prepare their families for the moves. We are doing too much just-in-time detailing, and that is not fair to the Sailor, their family, the submarine or the Navy. Sailors work hard while on sea duty, and they deserve a full shore tour when the time comes so we need to fix that," Mason said.

As a second key objective, Mason identified a need to create quality shore duty opportunities for first-term Sailors. "We are looking at ways to provide more opportunities for petty officers that have completed their first sea tour to be able to go to shore duty in their field of expertise, to better prepare them for their second sea tour which is typically their leading petty officer tour," he explained.

Third, Mason wants to increase the visibility of Sailors doing great deeds and empower Sailors to be active bystanders to stop their shipmates before they make bad choices that re-

flect negatively on their shipmates and the submarine force.

He said it is the Sailor's personal responsibility to determine how successful they will be in the Navy and in life.

"Most Sailors don't have success without some setbacks, and the successful Sailors are always the ones who don't let those setbacks define who they are," said Mason.

"Sailors will never go wrong if they remember Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Mike Stevens' mantra of working hard, staying out of trouble, and being good and decent people."

Mason would like every Sailor to ask themselves two questions every day.

"In the morning, ask yourself, 'How am I going to improve on the legacy already established.' In the evening, ask yourself, 'What did I do today to improve myself, my command and the Navy.' When each Sailor can answer these questions positively and honestly, Sailors' quality of life will improve exponentially and the submarine force and Navy will get better as a whole," Mason said.

Battleship to host joint re-enlistment ceremony July 4

USS Missouri Memorial Association

The USS Missouri Memorial Association will host a joint re-enlistment ceremony July 4. The ceremony will take place at 9 a.m. under turret one.

Service members from all branches of the military are invited to participate in this event. Following the ceremony, those who have re-enlisted are welcome to fly their personal United States flag

from the Tomahawk Deck. Certificates for flags will be provided by the Battleship Missouri. Flags will be the responsibility of the re-enlistees. It is requested that paperwork be signed by the service member and chain of command prior to arrival at the USS Missouri.

Guests are welcome to attend this event which will be open to the public. Participants should plan to arrive by 8:30 a.m. and will form on the pier prior to

boarding the ship. Uniform of the day is as follows:

Navy: Summer whites; Marine Corps: Class "C"; Army: Class "B"; Air Force: Service Uniform; and Coast Guard: Tropical Blue.

Re-enlistments should be scheduled no later than June 27 via the following link: <https://battleshipmissouri.memorialmil.acuityscheduling.com/schedule.php>.

For more information, contact Jenny Moss at jennym@ussmissouri.org.

Know Load

Continued from A-1

The first step in the "Know Load" process encourages residents to contact their Forest City resident services office to schedule a phone assessment. During the phone assessment, residents can address questions or concerns about RECP and discuss why they believe their usage is higher than it should be.

If the phone assessment doesn't resolve all questions or concerns, Forest City will schedule a home assessment. Forest City's energy team will visit the home to address reasons for excess energy consumption, including resident energy habits, as well as efficiency of the central air conditioning and solar water heater systems.

The region housing office also conducts outreach to residents who have the highest electricity bills each month and offers a phone assessment and subsequent home assessment, if necessary. This proactive effort uses the same checklists as Forest City's assessments. Whenever home deficiencies are found, Forest City will also

complete those existing work orders.

One of the residents who saw some benefit from the "Know Load" program was Cori Shields and her family. Shields, whose husband is active duty Navy, and three children live in a four-bedroom home in the Halsey Terrace neighborhood.

"They came in and did an energy audit. It was a big help and our bill did come down. That was really beneficial," Shields explained.

She offered some additional tips that has helped her family reduce their electricity bill. "We have everything set to run in the morning and at night. We also try to use more electricity during the day when the solar is kicking in," she said.

Shields recommended setting the hot water heater for hours when residents are at home and for whatever suits their family. Another strategy her family uses is to set a higher temperature for the air conditioner when they are not at home.

Forest City is also engaged in a pilot program with a private energy-savings company that, if successful, could offer smart

phone app technology to residents to give them immediate information on where electricity is being used.

The Navy Region Hawaii energy team will use other new technology where possible, too. The Energy Detective (TED) connects to a home's electricity breaker panel and can provide instant electrical data in both dollar and kilowatt per hour amounts. This technology helps residents to determine how to lower their electric bills.

Information regarding TED is at: <https://www.theenergydetective.com/downloads/HowTED-proWorks.pdf>. Although these resources are limited, this initiative could be helpful when questions remain after the previous assessments.

Other initiatives are underway to communicate the Navy's interest in helping residents. The region's monthly energy conservation board meetings will invite residents to offer their suggestions on how to improve RECP and the energy conservation program.

(See Adm. Williams commentary on managing electricity consumption on page A-3.)