

## SECNAV launches Navy's largest solar project in Hawaii

Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
Pacific Public Affairs

Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus, along with Navy and Marine Corps senior leaders, announced the launch of the Navy's largest solar power generation system project in Hawaii during a ground-breaking and blessing ceremony July 24 at Hospital Point at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific awarded a \$334 million task order July 11 to Pacific Energy Solutions LLC, a small business in Boca Raton, Fla., for the procurement of electricity produced from renewable energy generation systems.

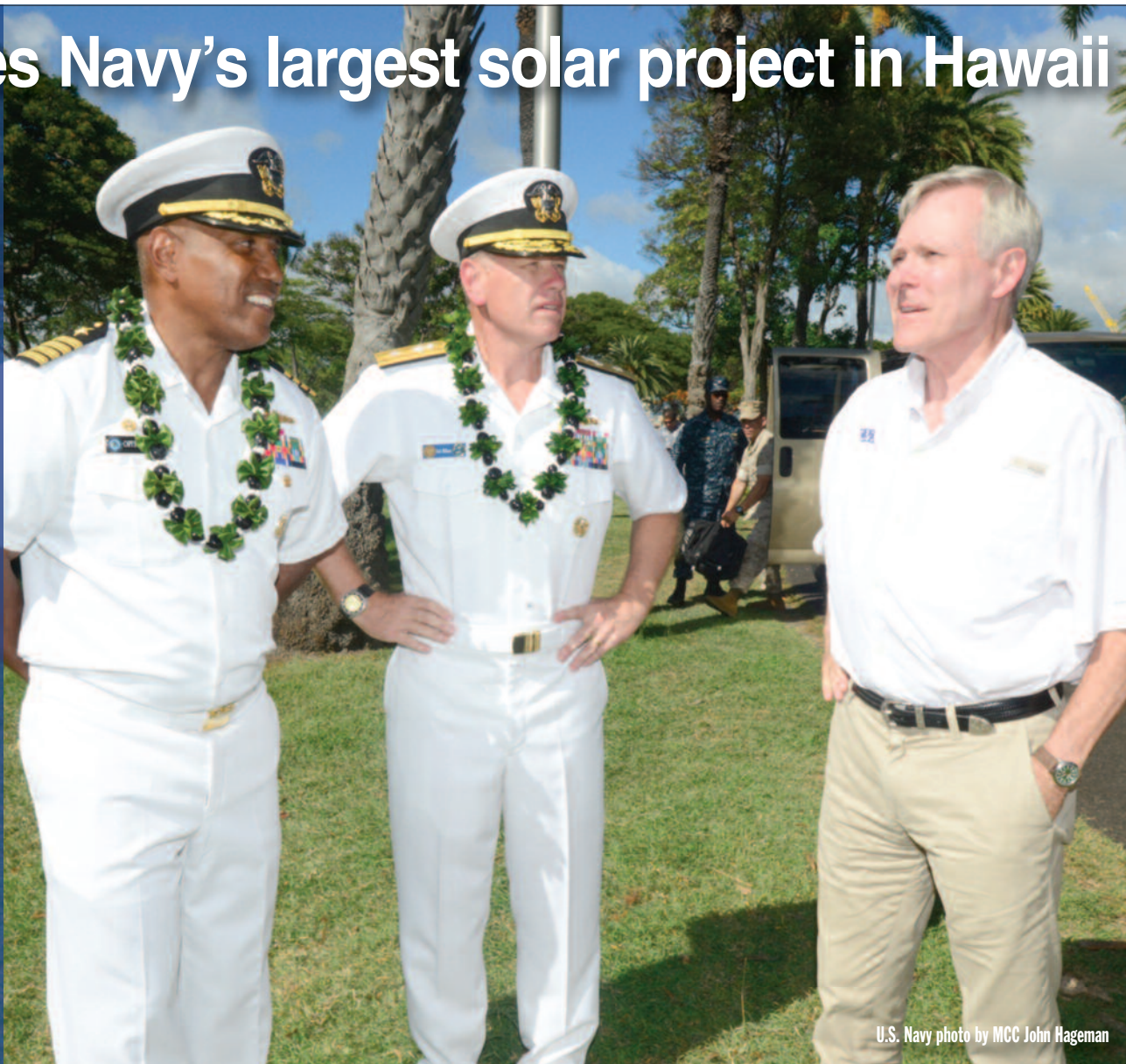
The work to be performed provides for purchase of reliable, locally generated, alternating-current power from solar power generation systems that are designed, constructed, owned, operated, and maintained by the contractor on government property.

Sites included in this task order are located on Oahu at Waipio Peninsula, Marine Corps Base Hawaii and Camp Smith.

(See page A-3 for Rear Adm. Rick Williams' commentary about energy.)

(Please see next week's Ho'okele for complete coverage of this event.)

(Left to right) Capt. Stanley Keeve Jr., commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), and Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, greet Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus as he arrives July 24 at Hospital Point at JBPHH for a ground-breaking and blessing ceremony for the Navy's largest solar power generation system project in Hawaii.



U.S. Navy photo by MCC John Mageman

## Coalition, joint diving teams complete dives at USS Arizona Memorial

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt.  
Christopher Hubenthal

Defense Media Activity-  
Hawaii

The USS Arizona Memorial marks the site where 1,177 crewmen lost their lives during World War II as a result of the Dec. 7, 1941 attacks on Pearl Harbor. Of those who lost their lives, 1,102 still remain in the wreckage. The memorial is dedicated to and honors the memory of those lost and celebrates the ultimate victory for the United States.

Divers from the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy and the Royal Australian Navy paid their respects to the historical site while sharing their knowledge and skill sets during an integration dive on July 17 as a part of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2014.

Royal Australian Navy Chief Petty Officer Drew Mitchell of Perth, Australia from Australian Clearance Diving Team 4 discussed the goal of conducting training with other countries during RIMPAC.

"What we want to achieve through our RIMPAC experience is the integration between services and militaries from different countries," Mitchell said. "We have the Australian navy clearance divers working with the U.S. Coast Guard divers and the mobile diving salvage unit for the duration of RIMPAC."

Navy Diver 2nd Class Aaron Jones of Mobile Diving Salvage Unit One, Team 1-3, explained the benefits of being able to dive with coalition counterparts.



Royal Australian Navy clearance divers, Australian Clearance Diving Team Four, leave the USS Arizona Memorial after completing integration dive training as part of the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2014. Twenty-four divers from the Royal Australian Navy, the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard shared equipment and dive knowledge during the coalition and joint exercise.

"We learn things from them; they learn things from us," Jones said. "It creates friendships and confidence within each other to work as one. We can formulate a plan, get it done, dive at the same time if we have to, and make things happen on a smooth and consistent basis."

Mitchell said that although learning from each other and becoming familiar with each other's equipment was the goal of the day, being able to train at the USS Arizona Memorial made it something very special.

"I think today was a great success," Mitchell said.

"My guys are very inter-

ested in diving wherever they can, when they can, and to be able to have the opportunity to dive on the USS Arizona Memorial is something that they will never forget. It's a once in a lifetime experience for us, so we're very grateful to our U.S. counterparts for organizing the dive for us today," he said.

Twenty-four divers were able to practice their skills in a coalition and joint environment within a one-hour timeframe. The day marked the end of a three-day long mission.

"Now that we've done the integration and we've seen the equipment that our U.S. counterparts have, it will be a lot easier for us to work together

very well if humanitarian aid was required by a country somewhere in the

world," Mitchell said. "I think it's been a great success and by doing that,

we will be able to achieve some good end goals if the situation came upon us."

### Former POW to speak Aug. 1 at Sharkey Theater

Capt. Jerry Coffee, a former prisoner of war in North Vietnam, will be the speaker from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Aug. 1 at Sharkey Theatre at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Coffee will address the Junior Officer Social Society of Hawaii (JOSSH) and members of regional commands in Hawaii.

The event is open to all interested personnel who have base access.

His message, "going beyond survival," delivers poignant lessons of leadership, resiliency and determination derived from his experiences as a seven-year POW in North Vietnam. For the past 20 years, Coffee has spoken to groups across the nation.

He was a former Navy pilot and retired from active duty after 28 years of naval service.

For more information, visit <http://ow.ly/zweRP>.



Capt. Jerry Coffee



15th MXS Munitions Flight helps bring air power to RIMPAC  
See page A-2



Son of fallen USS Utah Sailor pays respects  
See page A-7



RIMPAC visitors explore Hawaii  
See page B-1



RIMPAC photos  
See pages A-4, A-5



96th ARS refueling capability keeps planes flying high during RIMPAC 2014  
See page A-8



Renowned BMX stunt rider teaches joint base kids  
See page B-3

# 15th MXS Munitions Flight helps bring air power to RIMPAC

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Public Affairs

The 15th Maintenance Squadron (MXS) C-17 Munitions Flight is working around the clock to provide munitions support for Rim of the Pacific 2014.

Since the beginning of the exercise on June 26, the flight has checked in munitions for more than 60 aircraft and provided support and infrastructure for more than 100 tons of munitions and cargo.

Master Sgt. Michael Stephens, 15th MXS Munitions Flight chief, said his team puts the "force" in Air Force.

"We're a big part of the air components' involvement in RIMPAC because we enable the fire power for all the players," he said. "Without ammo, there would just be a bunch of flying observation platforms (aircraft) around without much to do."

However, Stephens said

playing host for all the Air Force munitions during RIMPAC exponentially increases the work load.

"We started preparing for RIMPAC months ago," he said. "Ammo normally has a huge logistical footprint, and it takes a lot of coordination to plan and execute what is required to make the mission happen. Moving personnel, cargo and munitions to a location and then providing ammo to the warfighter in quick succession takes careful orchestration."

Stephens said RIMPAC has brought a larger assortment of munitions to JBPHH.

"Ammo is ammo, he said. "There are differences in munitions, but safety, building and moving munitions are about the same worldwide, so we're basically doing more of what we normally do on a day-to-day basis including issuing, inspecting and storing munitions."

In addition to the nine Airmen and civilian per-

sonnel who typically man the flight, there are 62 additional munitions personnel deployed from six units at joint base in support of RIMPAC.

"Working with the visiting units for RIMPAC has been a great success," said Stephens. "The multilateral, international integration has been almost seamless."

Senior Airman Michael Riffe, 15th MXS Munitions Flight munitions custody account manager, said the limited amount of work space has brought the team closer as they work together to get the job done.

"RIMPAC has been great for networking with my peers," he said. "I've been able to meet new people, see how things function at other bases, and pick up knowledge about things I don't normally get to see here, such as how things work at fighter bases and how everyone works toward getting the same overall mission accomplished."



Staff Sgt. Travis Briese, 391st Fighter Squadron (FS) Munitions Flight equipment maintainer, holds a Captive Air Training Missile 9-M fin in place as Staff Sgt. Paul Rinehart, 391st FS Munitions Flight munitions inspector, uses a speed wrench to remove the fin from the guidance section of the missile head July 17.



Capt. Kevin T. Kalanta (right) relinquishes command of Naval Health Clinic Hawaii to Capt. Andrew L. Findley (left) during a change of command ceremony July 16. Rear Adm. Bruce L. Gillingham (center), commander of Navy Medicine West, was the guest speaker.

## Naval Health Clinic Hawaii holds change of command ceremony

Story and photo by Susan Schultz

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii Public Affairs

Naval Health Clinic (NHC) Hawaii held its change of command ceremony July 16 at the Hickam Officers' Club at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Capt. Andrew L. Findley, Medical Corps, assumed command of NHC Hawaii from Capt. Kevin T. Kalanta, Dental Corps, with more than 500 staff colleagues and friends in attendance.

Kalanta took command of NHC Hawaii on June 1, 2012. As commanding officer, he led a diverse team of more than 750 active duty and civilian personnel and oversaw six clinics that provide health care to 30,000 enrolled beneficiaries.

"It is all about people and memories. NHC Hawaii has been better than I could have ever imagined, and it is because of all of you, those who have truly made a difference," Kalanta said.

Kalanta reminisced fondly about the staff and memories made during his tour. "It is the interactions with the staff on a day-to-day basis that I'll remember," said Kalanta.

He also paid tribute to his father, Quartermaster 2nd Class Edward Kalanta. His father was stationed aboard the USS Missouri and steered the

battleship into Tokyo Bay for the signing of the Instrument of Surrender on Sept. 2, 1945.

Rear Adm. Bruce Gillingham, commander of Navy Medicine West, was the guest speaker and presented Kalanta with the Legion of Merit Award. Gillingham commented on Kalanta's many outstanding achievements consistent with Navy Medicine's strategic imperatives of "readiness, value and jointness."

Kalanta's focus on patient safety and process improvement was demonstrated by NHC Hawaii's performance on the joint commission survey and medical inspector general inspection in which no direct findings were identified and several best practices were cited.

NHC Hawaii's excellence was best demonstrated by the assistance they provided to a Canadian ship that sustained a catastrophic engine room fire shortly after departing from Pearl Harbor.

In addition, NHC Hawaii recaptured care previously provided outside the walls of Navy Medicine, bringing back more than \$2 million worth of care by expertly managing physical therapy assets.

"These are the actions of a high performance team led by a leader who clearly defined the way forward, empowered his staff to take the actions

necessary to excel, and who insisted on accountability. Capt. Kalanta has truly set the standard by which other clinics will be judged," said Gillingham.

Kalanta's next assignment will be as special assistant to the Hawaii Enhanced Multi-Service Market office.

Gillingham congratulated Findley on his assumption of command.

"Capt. Findley is a leader uniquely suited for command who has demonstrated by his outstanding performance in both the hospital and deployed settings that he understands and embraces the challenges inherent to Navy Medicine and the breadth of its mission," he said.

"His most recent assignment as deputy commander for clinical services at Tripler Army Medical Center has given him unparalleled insight into the forces shaping the future of medical care on the island and the unique challenges in the U.S. Pacific Command's area of responsibility," Gillingham said.

"I am very honored and humbled for the opportunity to be your next commanding officer. I pledge that, together, we will continue to build NHC Hawaii into the best health care team in the military health systems—able to deliver world-class care—anytime, anywhere," Findley said.



Commentary

# Energy Goals II: Focus on Navy Region Hawaii

Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Last week's commentary put a spotlight on how RIMPAC's Task Force Energy and Environment is meeting energy security goals for warfighters in the field and at sea—using new platforms, capabilities, strategies and tactics—as part of a greater U.S. 3rd Fleet strategy.

This week, I want to talk about our overall energy strategy here at Navy Region Hawaii.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus is in town this week

for the launch of the Navy's largest solar power generation system project in Hawaii. Actually, as this commentary goes to press

Thursday for Friday's Ho'okele, we are getting ready to conduct the ceremonial blessing for the 17-megawatt project, which will be located at Waipio Peninsula.

With the help of Rear Adm. Bret Muilenberg, commander of Naval Facilities and Engineering Command Pacific, and his great NAVFAC team, we are putting the project in motion.

We estimate that:

- The 42-acre Waipio PV site expects to generate average savings of \$1.6 million for taxpayers during its first year of operation.

- We will avoid burning 54,000 barrels of imported oil and reduce CO2 emission by 20,000 tons.

- The PV will generate 33,400 MWH per year—enough energy for more than 5,000 average homes on Oahu.

- With this project we will generate about 14 percent of the region's electricity.

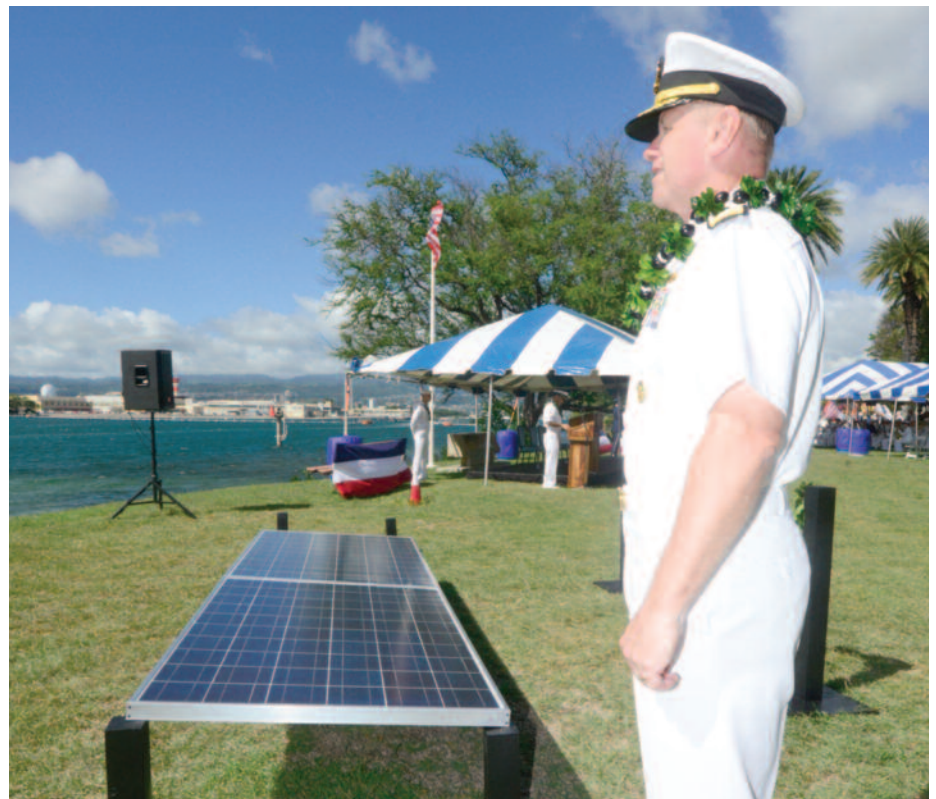
It's one of several solar fields and more photovoltaic panels for housing, all of which will help get us to our goal of 50 percent renewable energy by 2020.

That's one of our key goals.

Other goals are reducing energy consumption by 2020 and remaining in full compliance with federal mandates and executive orders—with an overarching goal of ensuring energy security as a strategic imperative.

We are on our way to achieving greater energy security on the waterfront, in our work spaces, in residences and in our facilities.

By the way, we are also



U.S. Navy photo by MCC John Hageman

Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, views one of the solar panels that will be part of the Navy's largest solar power generation system project in Hawaii. A ground breaking and blessing ceremony for the project was held July 24 at Hospital Point at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

exploring the possibility and potential for liquid natural gas and using more hydrogen fuel-cell technology, like the vehicles I drive.

Our success starts with leadership at all levels, so we have an energy conservation board with representatives from throughout the community.

More than 1,500 building energy monitors are helping us achieve a change in culture—a “new normal”—in how we consume and save energy and how we generate renewable energy.

“Know Loads” is a spe-

cially trained group that is the energy advocate for Sailors and families. The Know Load team is conducting assessments and evaluations and appliance inspections in privatized housing. They are helping determine what “a good energy day” should look like.

Technology is helping, too. Through advanced metering, improvements to the power grid infrastructure, new equipment and new ways of doing business, we are tackling challenges with innovative approaches.

Partnerships with our

community, Hawaiian Electric Company and other stakeholders are most important as we continue to reduce energy consumption and increase our use of renewable energy—especially harnessing the power of the sun.

When you know our energy goals and how you fit in, it helps you become part of the team. We can—and we will—achieve our Navy's goals here in Hawaii with everyone informed, involved and committed.

Thank you for doing your part.

## Bridge to close temporarily Aug. 6

All lanes of the Ford Island Bridge will be closed from 9 to 11 a.m. Aug. 6 for quarterly maintenance.

All motorists and pedestrians should plan accordingly.

The small craft gate under the bridge will be closed to boat traffic.

## Diverse Views



July is National Ice Cream Month. What's your favorite flavor of ice cream and why?



SH3 Felecia Foisy  
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

“Rocky Road, because everything you could possibly want in ice cream is in Rocky Road.”

SrAirman Justin Beach  
15th maintenance Squadron



“Strawberry cheesecake because knowing that I'm eating strawberries, I might be eating something healthy. Who can say no to cheese!”



A03 Michael Galvin  
ACHB 14

“Orange sherbet, because my mom said my eyes would get better if I ate it because it was orange. She tricked me.”

Tech Sgt. Alina Hanson  
561st Network Operations Squadron, Det 1



“Red velvet ice cream is my fave! Nothing goes together better than cake and ice cream. Why not have them all in one.”



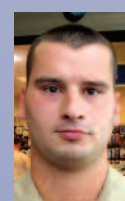
STS2 Scott Braun  
Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

“Butter pecan. It's like the ice cream standard. Screw up butter pecan and you can't make regular ice cream.”

Capt. Matthew Biga  
96th Air Refueling Squadron



“Mint chocolate chip. Can't go wrong with chocolate, and mint is so refreshing.”



YN2 Robert Raynor  
3rd Fleet

“Chocolate, because it's good.”

Nicole Pruitt  
15th Aerospace Medicine Squadron



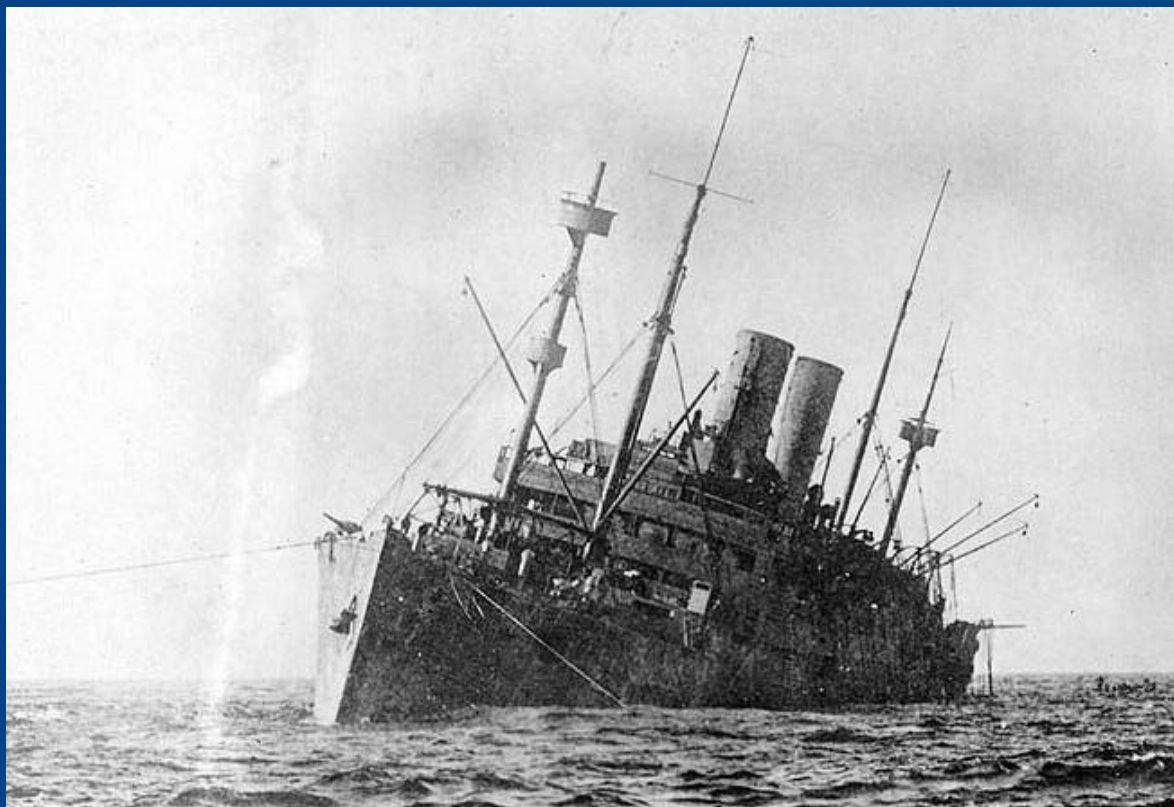
“Strawberry because it brings back memories of eating it with my dad!”

Provided by Lt. j.g. Eric Galassi and David D. Underwood Jr.

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

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

## USS Covington sinks in World War I



U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph

USS Covington (ID # 1409) is shown here sinking off Brest, France on July 2, 1918. The ship had been torpedoed the previous day by German submarine U-86 during World War I. Towing lines are shown rigged from her bow. World War I was a global European-centered war that began 100 years ago this week. The photo is courtesy of Navy Capt. William Baggaly.

## HO'OKELE

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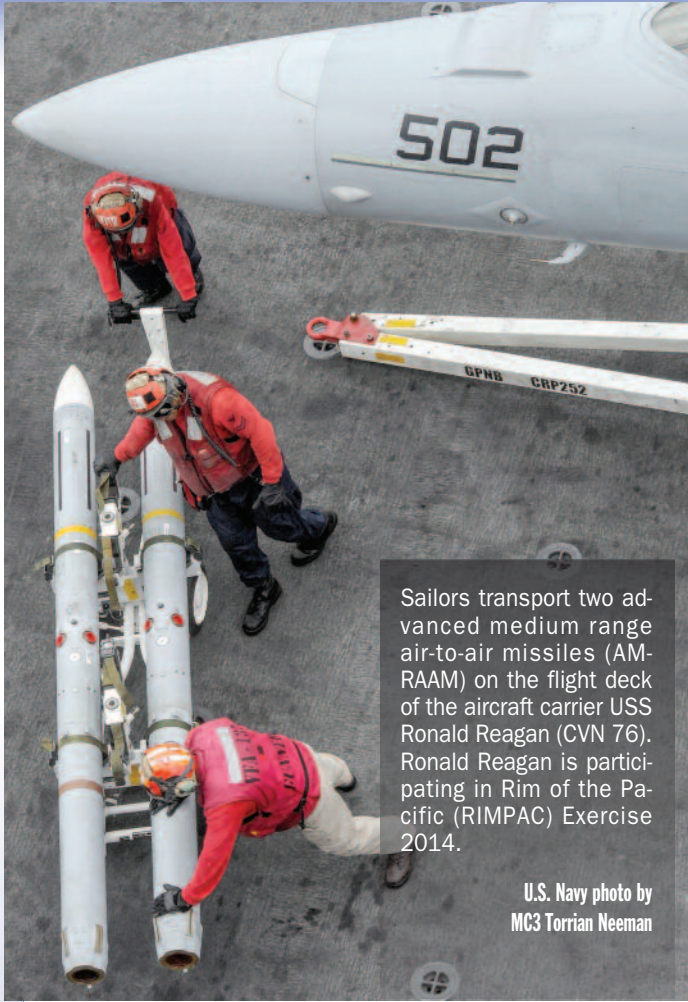
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Sailors transport two advanced medium range air-to-air missiles (AM-RAAM) on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). Ronald Reagan is participating in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2014.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Torrian Neeman



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Corey T. Jones

Republic of Korea special forces scale up the side of the littoral combat ship USS Independence (LCS 2) during a RIMPAC training mission.

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Fredelyne Delores (center) adjusts intravenous fluids and blood during a mass casualty drill aboard Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19).



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Pyoung K. Yi



A U.S. Marine Corps prototype half-scale ultra heavy-lift amphibious connector (UHAC), created by Navatek Ltd. and the Office of Naval Research, prepares to enter the dock landing ship USS Rushmore (LSD 47) in the Pacific Ocean for the first time on July 11. The Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory sponsored a UHAC demonstration during the at-sea phase of RIMPAC.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Amanda R. Gray

An MH-60S Sea Hawk assigned to the "Black Knights" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 4, embarked on the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), participates in a helicopter exercise off the coast of Kauai.

U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Joseph Pfaff



# Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*

Cmdr. Joseph Gagliano, center, commanding officer of the littoral combat ship USS Independence (LCS 2) describes state-of-the-art features of the bridge during a ship tour for Rear Adm. Ajendra B. Singh, right, and Commodore Alok Bhatnagar from the Indian navy during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2014.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Corey T. Jones



Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) and China's People's Liberation Army (Navy) hospital ship Peace Ark (T-AH 866) transit together during exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2014. This is the first year hospital ships have participated in RIMPAC.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Pyoung K. Yi

Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Dominique Jackson, from Jackson, Miss., signals to an MV-22 Osprey, assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 161, to take off from the flight deck of the amphibious dock landing ship USS Rushmore (LSD 47) during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2014.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Amanda R. Gray



Marines, assigned to the Assault Amphibious Vehicle (AAV) Platoon, Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, navigate AAV's past the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) through Kawaihae Harbor during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2014.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Amanda R. Gray



The Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG-65) launches a Harpoon missile during a live-fire exercise as part of Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2014.

U.S. Navy photo by FC2 Andrew Albin

# Ballistic missile defense briefed aboard Hopper

Story and photo by  
MC2 Diana Quinlan

Navy Public Affairs  
Support Element West  
Detachment Hawaii

The crew of the Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) welcomed Frank Rose, deputy assistant secretary for space and defense policy, bureau of arms control, verification and compliance (AVC), July 18 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Rose met with Cmdr. David Snee, commanding officer, aboard the ship where they discussed the future of BMD [ballistic missile defense] assets, its integration aboard naval ships, and toured various spaces including wardroom, combat information center and the bridge.

"The primary purpose of my visit is to consult with my Navy colleagues on cooperation in missile defense," said Rose. "And I received a fantastic and informative visit aboard USS 'Amazing Grace' Hopper."

During his visit, Rose dis-

cussed the operations of the Pacific-based destroyers such as USS Hopper, their capabilities, and role with the current defense systems as well as possible upgrades to newer systems.

"It was an opportune visit, and we were fortunate to host Mr. Rose and give him a brief on what we did on our most recent deployment to the Arabian Gulf," said Snee.

"We talked about our collection missions and BMD missions as well as high-visibility Missile Defense Agency (MDA) tests conducted last month," Snee added.

He also discussed the importance of a naval presence in the Pacific that is capable of conducting defense missions with proper support and training of the crew.

"In the Pacific theater, we not only conduct BMD missions but also air defense, submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare—we bring all the capabilities in this one ship to the region," he explained.

"We are in a 'no fail' business. When the ships are called to do a BMD mission



Frank Rose (center), deputy assistant secretary for space and defense policy, bureau of arms control, verification and compliance, discusses use of the ballistic missile defense (BMD) assets with the officers of the guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70).

we cannot fail in what we do, and that requirement is near and dear to the crew onboard. It trickles down to all the jobs on the ship, from cooking to engineering. The crew members all understand how important our mission is. You get only one opportunity to track a ballistic missile and shoot it down, and if you have missed that opportunity a lot of people can die," Snee said.

The U.S. presence and its future in the Pacific were a crucial part of Rose's visit to Hawaii.

"It is critical to our defense posture in this region. We currently have ships with Aegis BMD capability in the Pacific," said Rose.

"Given the importance of capabilities to the mission in the region, Secretary of Defense Hagel has directed that

additional ships be sent here in the next couple of years."

"Creating the new strategic environment depends on strong cooperation with our allies and partners. In order to make this vision a reality, President Obama has made international cooperation on missile defense a key priority, and we are pursuing a region-by-region approach," he said.

Upon completion of his visit, Rose shook hands and thanked the Sailors stationed aboard USS Hopper for the important job that they do in the service of their nation.

USS Hopper is named for Rear Adm. Grace Hopper, a naval officer and a pioneering computer scientist. The ship is assigned to Destroyer Squadron 31, deploying to the U.S. 5th and U.S. 7th Fleet areas of responsibility.

The Aegis BMD system was developed by the MDA in cooperation with the Navy. It is a sea-based element and provides warships with the capability of intercepting and destroying short and medium-range ballistic missiles.

Rose's primary task is advising on key issues related to arms control and defense policy. These issues include ballistic missile defense (BMD), space security policy, and conventional arms control. His responsibilities also include liaison with the U.S. intelligence community on issues related to the verification of arms control treaties and agreements.

## F-16 Fighting Falcons support Rim of the Pacific 2014



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Mario Dorado

Pilots from the 457th Fighter Squadron at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base Carswell Field, Texas, walk toward the F-16C Fighting Falcons parked on the flightline at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, in preparation for a training mission in support of Rim of the Pacific 2014 on July 15.

# Son of fallen USS Utah Sailor pays respects

Story and photos by  
Brandon Bosworth

Assistant Editor, Ho'okele

Lt. j.g. John G. Little III wanted nothing more than to be there when his first child was born. Unfortunately, Little's wife was on the mainland, and he was unable to make it back home to witness the birth of his son, John G. Little IV.

It would be three months until Little was able to secure leave and return home to see and hold his infant son for the first time. It would also be the last time.

The year was 1941. Lt. j.g. John G. Little III was stationed aboard the USS Utah in Hawaii. His son was born in May of that year. Little held his son for the first time a few months later. On Dec. 7, Lt. j.g. Little was killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

John G. Little IV never knew the man who gave him his name. But that didn't stop him from taking time out of his Hawaii vacation to visit the USS Utah Memorial on July 17 and pay respects to his fallen father.

Though he never knew him, over the years Little has learned a bit about his late father's life. It wasn't always easy.

"My mother wouldn't talk about him," he said. "She just dearly loved him. It wasn't until she passed away that I started to get information



John G. Little IV and his wife, Mary, look at the wreckage of the USS Utah during a visit to USS Utah Memorial on July 17. Little's father served aboard the Utah and was killed during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

John G. Little IV talks with Jim Taylor, Pearl Harbor survivor liaison.

from other family members."

"My father was raised by his grandmother after his parents died of an influenza epidemic in Memphis," Little said.

Little also learned a little about his father's death at Pearl Harbor.

"When the attack happened, he went on deck to check on his men," he said. "As he came up to topside was when the strafers hit."

Of USS Utah's crew, an estimated six officers and 52 enlisted men were killed during the Dec. 7 attack. The USS Utah Memorial was officially authorized by the 91st Congress in October 1970, and dedicated on Memorial Day 1972. It is located on Ford Island, near the sunken wreckage of the ship.

While he never knew his father, Little has met many of his father's shipmates.

"I go to USS Utah survivors' reunions sometimes," he said. "They all want to tell me their stories. One of them was the mess attendant who served my father's coffee the morning of the attack."

While Little was fortunate to have a stepfather he dearly loved, standing at the USS Utah Memorial, he can't help but think about the parent he lost at a very early age.

"I was six months old when he died," he said, looking out at the wreckage of the Utah. "I wish I'd known my father. He's still down there."

**GOT SPORTS**  
Phone: 473-2890  
editor@hookelenews.com

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# USS Paul Hamilton supports Operation DEFY

Ensign Ashleigh Share

USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) Public Affairs

Twenty-six Oahu children participating in Operation DEFY (Drug Education for Youth) visited the Pearl Harbor-based, guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) on July 16 for a guided tour that included five interactive stations.

Operation DEFY is a leadership and mentorship program sponsored by the Department of Defense and hosted by US Pacific Command. Their mission is, "to provide commanders with a drug demand reduction program that facilitates and enhances family readiness to promote mission accomplishment. The program develops youths through drug education, leadership and character development, pos-



U.S. Navy photo by ISI (SW/IDW) Jarrod A. Fowler  
A child throws a heaving line from the forecastle to the pier on USS Paul Hamilton during an Operation DEFY visit to the ship.

itive role model mentoring, and community outreach to enhance the quality of life of military personnel and their families."

The DEFY visitors and chaperones were greeted onboard by Paul Hamilton crew members and led through an introduction and safety walk-through before beginning the interactive demonstration and training tour.

The children visited five activity stations, each with a different area of operational focus across the spectrum of surface warfare capabilities. These included damage control and engineering; visit, board, search and seizure; crew-served weapons; the bridge and the forecastle.

"The thing that struck me most about these kids was that they were so excited about the things we sometimes take for granted on the ship," said Lt. Erik

Guiremand, the ship's navigator, who welcomed the group aboard.

The children were able to visit a main engineering space, learn about the .50 caliber and M240 weapons, touch and use various navigation instruments on the bridge, and even toss heaving lines from the forecastle, all while interacting with Sailors who volunteered to run the training stations.

While sitting in the captain's chair on the bridge, one participant remarked, "I could get used to this. I could do this my whole life."

Upon the completion of the activity tour, the children were awarded honorary introduction to surface warfare stickers and certificates of completion to commemorate their successful completion of all the training events during their time aboard USS Paul Hamilton.

## 96th ARS refueling capability keeps planes flying high during RIMPAC 2014

Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Public Affairs

With more than 200 aircraft participating in Rim of the Pacific 2014, the 96th Air Refueling Squadron is playing an integral role in this year's exercise.

The 96th ARS is partnering with the Hawaii Air National Guard's 203rd Air Refueling Squadron, as well as the 465th Air Refueling Squadron from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., the 909th Air Refueling Squadron from Kadena Air Base, Japan, and the 117th Air Refueling Squadron from Forbes Field Air National Guard Base in Topeka, Kansas to provide air refueling support to all RIMPAC air assets.

"The KC-135 Stratotanker plays a very essential role in RIMPAC," said Lt. Col. Reese Evers, 96th ARS operations officer. "The projection of air power is vital, especially in the Pacific theater, and that couldn't happen without the

air refueling capability."

With so many aircraft involved in the exercise, Evers said the KC-135s are needed on a daily basis since the versatile aircraft can be reconfigured to refuel most airframes.

"If it happens that a foreign aircraft ends up on our tasking order for the day, then we will refuel it," said Evers. "That is our mission and we know the procedures to safely get our mission accomplished, regardless of what kind of aircraft it is. If we do have the opportunity to refuel a foreign aircraft, I would also consider that to be another RIMPAC success."

In addition to providing the unit with the opportunity to strengthen their total force relationships and the chance to refuel a number of different airframes, flying training missions for RIMPAC also gives pilots in the 96th ARS the opportunity to upgrade their flying status.

"We're going to use RIMPAC flying hours to upgrade a few copilots to aircraft commanders,"



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. James Richardson  
A U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker from the 96th Air Refueling Wing at joint base refuels a F-22A Raptor from the 199th Fighter Wing during the Rim of the Pacific exercise July 18 over Hawaii.

said Maj. Kelly Church, 96th ARS assistant director of operations. "We're using this opportunity to cultivate our young captains and grooming them to command a jet."

Church said RIMPAC is an opportunity for pilots to get a broader training experience than they might get doing their daily training missions.

"This is a really good experience for them," he said. "Flying during RIMPAC, the airspace will be busier than anything they've ever experienced due to the number of aircraft that are here now."

Extra flying hours aside, Evers said RIMPAC is really about the 96th ARS doing their part to support the mission.

"During the largest Navy exercise in the world, it would be easy for the Air Force aspect to get overlooked, but every day there is a KC-135 launching in support of RIMPAC, and this is just an extension of what we do every day, which is projecting combat airpower throughout the Pacific region," he said.