



ALOHA RIMPAC 2014



“Navigator” WHO'OKELE

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Storms pose ‘one two punch’ for islands *Island residents cautioned to be prepared*



Photo illustration by Rico Onaha Hutter

Karen S. Spangler

Managing Editor, Ho'okele

With two storms poised to deliver a “one-two punch” to the islands, residents are cautioned to get their emergency kits ready and prepare to batten down the hatches. It’s a rare

event for Hawaii to be threatened by two tropical disturbances bearing down on the islands, and it’s also a rare event for one of the big storms to actually hit the state.

But it has happened. Remember Iniki? Emergency preparedness officials warn against complacency and

emphasize that it isn’t a matter of if—it’s a matter of when.

As early as Aug. 4, the Navy at joint base stood up an emergency operations center. Personnel at the center continue to monitor the hurricanes and to coordinate needed support for tenant commands.

Navy officials also announced Thursday that Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam would be closed Friday except for essential personnel.

With Hurricanes Iselle and Julio expected to affect the island chain, the National Weather Service predicts that Hawaii will be

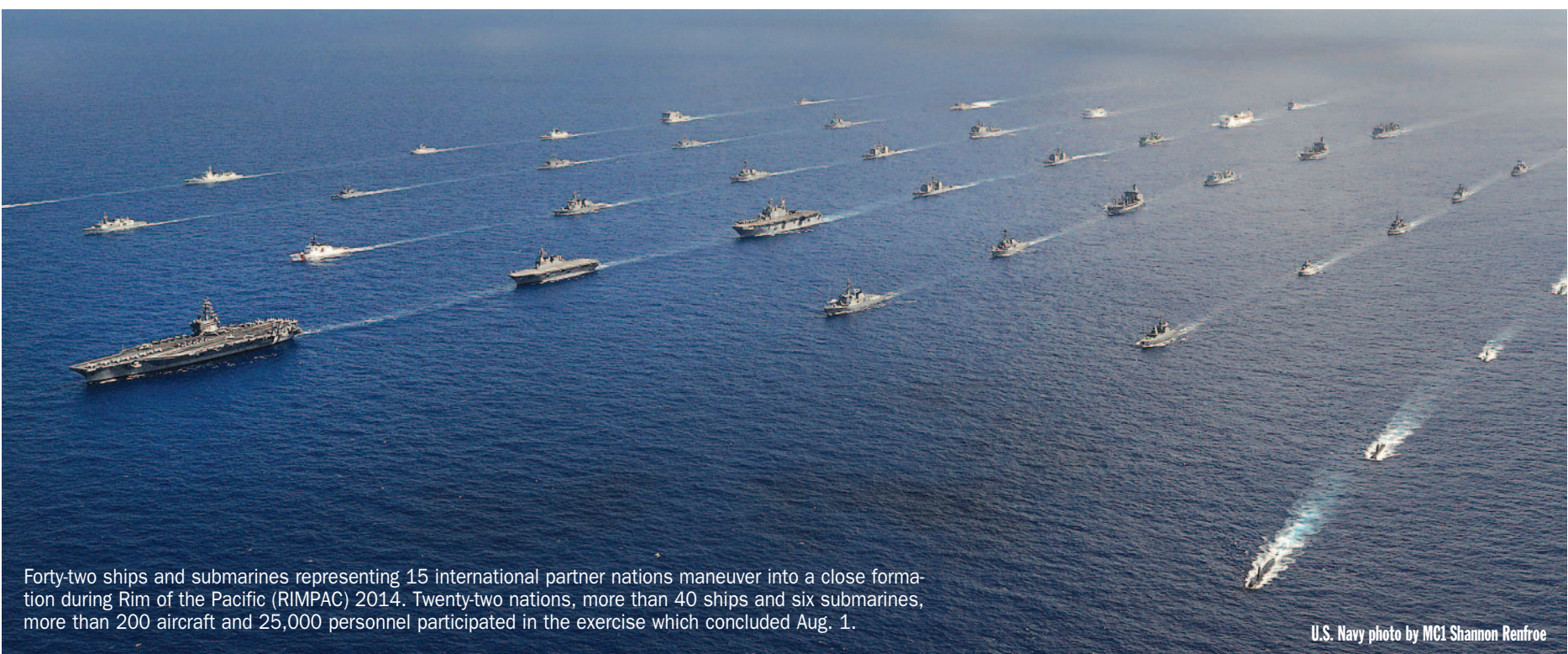
ravaged by high surf, flooding, heavy rains and higher than normal winds as the storms pass by.

“Although the actual impact from approaching hurricanes and tropical storms may vary greatly and be difficult to project, Hurricanes Iselle and Julio remind us of one sure thing—

the Hawaiian Islands can experience potentially destructive weather at any time, particularly during the hurricane season from 1 June to 30 November,” said Shawn Morrissey, deputy operations officer for Navy Region Hawaii.

See Storms, A-7

RIMPAC 2014 concludes with enhanced cooperation among 22 nations



Forty-two ships and submarines representing 15 international partner nations maneuver into a close formation during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2014. Twenty-two nations, more than 40 ships and six submarines, more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel participated in the exercise which concluded Aug. 1.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Shannon Renfro

MC2 John Sorensen

RIMPAC Combined Information Bureau

The world’s largest international maritime exercise, Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2014, concluded Aug. 1. Twenty-two nations, 49 surface ships, six submarines, more than 200 aircraft, and 25,000 personnel participated in the exercise, held in and around the Hawaiian Islands and southern California.

Hosted by U.S. Pacific Fleet, RIMPAC 2014 was led by U.S. Vice Adm. Kenneth Floyd, commander of the U.S. 3rd Fleet (C3F), serving as the combined task force (CTF) commander. RIMPAC is designed to

enhance cooperation of the combined forces and improve individual war fighting competencies.

“The relationships that are forged at RIMPAC span oceans and years,” said Floyd. “RIMPAC is a unique opportunity for us to get to know each other, to train together, and provide some level of trust when we are out on the high seas together in the future. It is the only exercise that can do so to this scale.”

This year’s exercise included units and personnel from Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, People’s Republic of China, Peru, the Republic

of Korea, the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, Tonga, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The training syllabus included amphibious operations, gunnery, missile, anti-submarine and air defense exercises as well as military medicine, humanitarian assistance and disaster response, counter-piracy, mine clearance operations, explosive ordnance disposal, and diving and salvage operations.

Royal Australian Navy Rear Adm. Simon Cullen, CTF deputy commander, said RIMPAC helped international participants hone the skills that are critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world’s oceans.

“This was an opportunity for the participating nations to take advantage of the excellent training infrastructure and ranges that are available in the Hawaiian Islands,” Cullen said. “It enabled individual units to conduct training that they could not otherwise have in their own waters.”

RIMPAC 2014 marked the first time that Japan led the scenario-driven humanitarian assistance/disaster relief (HA/DR) response portion of the exercise. It facilitated training and certification for expeditionary forces to respond to foreign disasters as a crisis response adaptive force.

Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Rear Adm. Ya-

suki Nakahata served as commander of HA/DR operations.

“Through this exercise, we were able to show a well-coordinated effort similar to the United Nations or a civil/military coordination center and conduct our mission with all pertinence. This is a great step forward for all of Japan and a great impact to an international society,” Nakahata said.

RIMPAC 2014 had two new participants this year, Brunei and the People’s Republic of China. Additionally, RIMPAC participants who sent a ship for the first time to participate in RIMPAC 2014 included Colombia, India, Indonesia and Norway.

This year also marked the first time hospital ships participated in RIMPAC. The Chinese hospital ship, Peace Ark, and USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) conducted personnel exchanges, military medicine exchanges and medical evacuation and mass casualty training, further highlighting the valuable capability hospital ships bring to the Pacific.

With the theme of “capable, adaptive partners” participating nations at RIMPAC 2014 demonstrated the flexibility of maritime forces to meet regional and global challenges for mutual benefit.

For more news from Rim of the Pacific, visit www.navy.mil/local/rimpac/.



Japanese Sailors show appreciation through base cleanup
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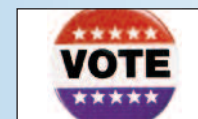
Norwegian Navy is going home as soccer champs
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Rules govern election-time behavior for military, civilian personnel
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Japanese Sailors show appreciation through base cleanup



(Above left and right): Sailors stationed aboard the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) helicopter destroyer JS Ise (DDH 182) and guided-missile destroyer JS Kirishima (DDG 174), in cooperation with Sailors stationed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), conduct a joint base cleanup Aug. 5. The cleanup was organized by Japanese Sailors to show gratitude for the hospitality provided by JBPHH during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2014.

Story and photos by MC2 Diana Quinlan

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West Detachment Hawaii

Sailors stationed aboard the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) helicopter destroyer JS Ise (DDH 182) and guided-missile destroyer JS Kirishima (DDG 174), in cooperation with Sailors stationed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), conducted a base cleanup Aug.

5 as a form of gratitude for the hospitality during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2014.

More than 30 Japanese officers and enlisted sailors along with U.S. Navy Sailors gathered together in the early morning outside of the Makalapa Clinic where Command Master Chief Kazuyuki Morita, senior enlisted aboard JS Ise, greeted JBPHH Command Master Chief Jack Johnson and service members of both navies.

“As a Japanese sailor, I

wanted to do something for a long time to show appreciation to the host country but was unsure how to make this happen,” said Morita, who provided his input through a translator.

“It is a Japanese tradition, or spirit, that wherever you go, you want to make sure to leave the place you have visited clean, so this is what we’ve decided to do.”

Morita reflected on the importance of building good rapport on a personal and cultural level.

“Showing this Japanese spirit not only helps strengthen the connection as part of [RIMPAC] exercise, but also, outside of the exercise—just people to people—it establishes good nature and trust,” he said. “Today, Japanese and American navies bonded together to build up a good relationship.”

Johnson described the events leading to the joint cleanup.

“I received a phone call from Command Master Chief Kazuyuki Morita of

the JS Ise and he asked if Japanese sailors could do a segmental base cleanup to show their gratitude for all the hospitality that joint base has provided during the RIMPAC,” said Johnson.

“I thought it was a great idea and suggested to make it a joint venture, so we can bond our relationships even more.”

Johnson also addressed the need for such events and gratitude for Japanese Navy’s outreach in building bridges between the two nations.

“Japan is always very hospitable to us when we pull into their ports and when our Navy has the opportunity to return that hospitality, we always do the best we can do,” he said. “Such event as today is a great opportunity to build bridges and friendships.”

Sailors from both navies intermingled as they covered both sides of North Road, continuing down Pearl Harbor Boulevard toward the shipyard. As they went, Sailors collected any trash left by the side of the road as they conversed about cultures and their families as well as places of interest in Hawaii.

Despite the cultural and language barriers, both sides found something in common and learned something new from each other as they went.

Upon reaching their final destination, Sailors came together to thank each other on cooperation and exchanged small mementoes and gifts of appreciation.

“This was a great opportunity, and this event leads to a good friendship between the U.S. and Japan,” said Lt. j.g. Tanji Sasabe, stationed aboard JS Ise. “I hope that we would do this type of events more often.”

The JS Ise is similar to light aircraft carriers operated by the world navies, and it is classed and operated primarily as anti-submarine warfare vessel, which utilizes an air wing of SH-60K helicopters to screen and escort convoys or maintain ocean areas clear of submarine threats.

Former Vietnam POW shares inspiration with junior leaders

MC1 Steven Khor

Pacific Submarine Force Public Affairs

Former Navy pilot and prisoner of war (POW), retired Capt. Jerry Coffee, spoke with service members at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and other regional commands during an Aug. 1 presentation at Sharkey Theater that was organized by local junior officers.

Coffee, who spent seven years as a POW in North Vietnam, shared his key message of keeping the faith before an audience of Navy, Air Force, Marines, Army, civilian personnel and families and friends from the local area.

For the past 20 years, Coffee has used his experiences as a POW to help inspire thousands across the nation and to deliver his life lessons of leadership, resiliency and determination in the face of overwhelming adversity.

Lt. Matthew Beaudette, foreign engagement officer at Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet and one of the event co-organizers, noted that a chance to hear from such an inspirational speaker was invaluable, as Coffee explained in detail the events that shaped his life and what it meant to be an American.

“All those years, the communists tried to break my spirit, my confidence and my faith, and they couldn’t,”

said Coffee.

“The reason they couldn’t do it? Believe me, a great part is right in front of me today,” he said, recognizing the hundreds of service men and women in the packed auditorium.

Coffee thanked the audience and stressed the importance of their leadership.

“Who you are and what you represent, what you symbolize – that is what came through to me every single day and has helped me survive day-to-day. Who you are and what you do—thank you for that commitment, thank you so much for volunteering to take good care of our country, and thank you for the sacrifices that you have prepared to make.”

Coffee divided his key message of faith into four aspects: keeping faith in one’s self, keeping faith in one another, keeping faith in America, and keeping faith in God. Coffee used these aspects of faith as his key to staying alive as a POW.

Coffee first talked about the faith in one’s self and discussed using humor as a tool to get him through his long days in prison, to survive, and to return with honor. He urged the audience to adopt an atmosphere of humor in their daily activities at work and at home. One way Coffee used humor to aid him in his struggles was by writing poems in his cell. He had the



U.S. Navy photo by MCI Jason Swink

Former Navy pilot and prisoner of war (POW), retired Capt. Jerry Coffee, spoke with service members from across Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and other regional commands during an Aug. 1 presentation at Sharkey Theater.

audience chuckling with his first poem about biting off the head of a bug in his sandwich while in prison.

“It was awesome, pretty inspirational, how he survived,” said Navy Chief Hull Technician Ryan Cooper, assigned to the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

Coffee spoke of keeping faith in one another and the challenges of communicating with fellow captives without actually talking to them. One of the main ways he and his fellow POWs communicated with each other was by using tap code. Using a series of knocks,

and random sounds they made, the former POWs were able to communicate and help each other get through years of confinement in the infamous Hanoi prison. Coffee believed that faith in one another and being able to communicate with each other while incarcerated was vital to survival.

The former POW talked about the value of keeping faith in America. He said that despite hearing a lot of bad news about America through loudspeakers in prison every day, he kept faith in the country and

used the “America’s fighting man” code of conduct to live by. It is these words that helped Coffee never give up hope.

“I will always remember, I am an American fighting man, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles that made my country free. I will trust in my God and the United States of America,” said Coffee in referring to the code.

The most personal aspect of his presentation is his faith in God. He talked about seeing the first two English words written on the wall in prison with an

equal sign between them. It meant “God equals strength.” Coffee drew strength and inspiration through those words because it meant that he was never ever totally alone.

Every Sunday, two knocks echoed in the prison walls early in the morning which meant church call, and every man stood in his cell and recited to himself the Pledge of Allegiance of one nation under God. Coffee said faith in God gave him the courage and strength to continue every day.

Capt. John Russ, chief of staff for Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, said it was great for Coffee to take time out of his schedule to talk to the military here in Hawaii.

“To get leadership training like this from a person who had this kind of experience is fantastic,” said Russ. “I know all the junior officers, like I did, learned some great lessons, and it is a great way to look at life.”

Midshipman 1st Class Adam Shamma, in Hawaii on temporary duty from the U.S. Naval Academy, said this was his second time hearing Coffee speak.

“He always does a good job of summing up his experience and making it relevant to the people in the audience,” said Shamma. “He makes his experience applicable to us and especially to someone like me in the Naval Academy.”

Hurricane Hunters fly into Hurricane Iselle for life-saving data

403rd Wing Public Affairs

Airmen with the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, also known as the Hurricane Hunters, deployed to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi on Aug. 5 to collect weather data in Hurricane Iselle as it approaches the Hawaiian Islands.

The team of Reservists flew into Iselle Tuesday evening and the morning of Aug. 6 to collect weather data to assist forecasters in determining the status of the storm, which at the time was a Category 1 hurricane. The data the Hurricane Hunters provide to the National Hurricane Center in

Miami and the National Weather Service’s Central Pacific Hurricane Center in Honolulu increases the accuracy of the forecast up to 25 percent, said Maj. Jon Brady, a 53rd WRS aerial reconnaissance weather officer, or ARWO.

“Measuring the conditions within the storm provides emergency managers with the best information possible to assist them with determining the impact, issuing evacuation notices, and saves lives by letting the public know what to expect,” Brady said.

The Category 1 hurricane was expected to reach the Big Island in the afternoon of Aug. 7 and impact the islands throughout the weekend, according to the NWSCPH. Hur-

ricane Julio is about two to three days behind Iselle and is expected to follow in the same path.

The Hunters plan to fly reconnaissance mission into Hurricane Julio once Iselle passes and is no longer the main threat to the island chain, Brady said.

People in the areas that could be affected by this storm are urged to monitor local weather reports, he added.

According to Lt. Col. Roy Deatherage, an ARWO and the mission commander for the squadron’s forward-deployed operation center, squadron personnel will continue to operate from the island until approximately Aug. 13.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Ryan Labadens

Members of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron participate in a recent mission. Airmen with the 53rd WRS, also known as the “Hurricane Hunters,” deployed to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam this week to collect weather data in Hurricane Iselle.

RIMPAC Exercise 2014: The evolution of cohesiveness

Rear Adm. Simon Cullen, Royal Australian Navy

Deputy Director of the RIMPAC 2014 Combined Task Force

(Editor's note: The following was taken from the Navy Live Blog.)

It has been an absolute honor and privilege to be the first Australian deputy director of the Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Combined Task Force. Holding a leadership role in an exercise involving around 25,000 professional service men and women from 22 nations is a career milestone that I'll always hold dear.

Arriving in Hawaii in June, I hoped that my service history would hold me in good stead to make a valuable contribution to this, the biggest iteration of Exercise RIMPAC ever conducted. Having been fortunate enough to complete

several wonderful exchange and staff postings to the United States over the years, I believe myself to be fairly fluent in the local military dialect—and American-acronym savvy, so to speak. Thankfully, my experience did serve me well and assuming this important leadership position felt like a fairly seamless transition.

This has been my fourth RIMPAC, and the changes I have seen over the past eight years have been immense. For a start, I certainly didn't serve in such an esteemed position when I first came to Pearl Harbor as a young officer in the Royal Australian Navy.

The change that is most encouraging is the cohesiveness of the Pacific Rim coalition. The coalition has made extraordinary progress over the years and is now much more cohesive than it was when I first experienced RIMPAC. This cohesiveness is extremely important to us



The Royal Australian Navy Durance-class multi-product replenishment oiler HMAS Success (OR-304) departs Pearl Harbor for the at-sea phase of Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2014.

all, particularly as we work together in the future to promote security and stability in the region.

The focus on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief this year has been a great success, and this is a model that I would like to see grow in prominence at future RIMPACs. The serial represented a scenario that is relevant to all of us in the Pacific region, as all of the participating RIMPAC nations will no doubt be called upon to work together in a humanitarian assistance or disaster relief capacity again in the not too distant future.

The Pacific region has a history of natural and man-made disasters, and what defines us is how we pull together to respond.

For this reason especially, it was great to see China and Brunei participate in RIMPAC for the first time in 2014. Both are important nations in our region, and the chance to enhance our interoperability and friendships with the defense forces of these countries can only serve to give us confidence in our collective capability to respond to any challenging situation.

For me, and many mem-

bers of the Australian contingent, the close engagement enjoyed with officers from Chile was a rare treat and a great experience. Chile had a significant number of officers working in the Pacific Warfare Center throughout the course of the exercise, and their professionalism and skill ensured that all who they worked with held them in high regard. I would certainly encourage Chile to participate in the next iteration of RIMPAC, as their presence this year was certainly positive.

The inclusion of the hospital ships, USNS Mercy from the United States and PLA(N) Peace Ark from China, was also a very welcome inclusion in RIMPAC 2014, and I hope their participation continues in the years to come.

This year, as well as performing the role of deputy director of the RIMPAC Combined Task Force, I was also the commander of the Australian National Command Element. From an Australian perspective, we gained extraordinary benefit from our involvement in the amphibious aspects of the sea phase.

The Australian Defence

Force will soon commission our nation's first landing helicopter docks, and we will enjoy great advantage from the experience our people have gained through leading the RIMPAC Expeditionary Strike Force from onboard USS Peleliu and from the combined training our soldiers have conducted with infantry troops and Marines from across the Pacific Rim.

RIMPAC has grown and evolved into an extraordinary exercise and our hosts, the United States of America, deserve our sincere thanks for conducting yet another enormously successful and constructive iteration of the world's largest naval exercise. I believe every nation that participated in RIMPAC this year will leave with something of value that they didn't have when they arrived, be it knowledge, experience or new friendships.

Not only has it been a pleasure to see our military interoperability evolve over the four RIMPACs that I have attended, it has also been quite fun to watch the cultures of the various RIMPAC partner nations evolve as well. When I first attended an official function

aboard a Republic of Korea Navy ship during a RIMPAC harbor phase many moons ago, I enjoyed a display of traditional dress, drums and tambourines.

This year, I must report that times have changed. While I certainly still enjoyed the hospitality aboard ROKS Soeae Ryu Seong-ryong, I was rather surprised to see that the style had progressed from the more traditional affair to a *gangnam* style disco. Perhaps this anecdote shows my age, but it was great to see everyone having fun together before the sea phase began.

RIMPAC 2014 has been a great success, and I hope all of the participating nations take on board the lessons learned during the exercise and continue to strive for better interoperability with all of their partners in the Pacific region.

The ocean we share, the Pacific Ocean, is the world's largest, and all of our prosperity relies on our collective subscription to the RIMPAC theme: Capable, Adaptive Partners. Thank you to all of the participating nations for contributing to the success of RIMPAC 2014.

Diverse Views



What is the most exciting thing you've ever done?



LN1 Erica Keels
DSO Pacific

"Skydiving, just because I felt like I was testing myself."

Staff Sgt. Amanda Villa
15th Medical Operations Squadron



"One of the most exciting things I have done is shark diving off the North Shore. It was early morning. The sun was rising and it was us, a cage and a bunch of sharks in the middle of the ocean. Super awesome!"



Lt. Cmdr. Judy Hanhila
Naval Health Clinic Hawaii

"R and R after deployment. Going to Qatar, seeing other places, getting to see other cultures, and hanging out with friends."

Maj. Bertha MacMillan
PACAF



"In return for making ID cards after-hours for some of the members of the Golden Knights parachute team, they offered to give me and some of my staff an incentive tandem jump. It was amazing! My husband may be an Airborne Ranger, but on that day it was me doing something I said I would never do, jump from a perfectly good airplane."



MM1 Charles Gazda
Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

"Going to halfway nights. It's probably the most memorable stuff I'm allowed to talk about."

Master Sgt. Phil Edwards
613 Air and Space Operations Center

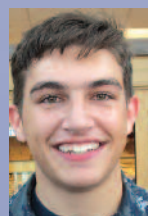


"The most exciting moment of my life so far was the moment I saw my new baby boy Dean for the first time. That one will be tough to beat."



Chief Master Sgt. Raymond Clayborne
692nd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group

"The most exciting thing that I have done since joining the Air Force is deploy to Italy, Iraq and Bosnia-Herzegovina. These deployments were defining moments in my career as a senior airman and staff sergeant. Worked closely with other U.S. sister service members and coalition forces."



FT2 Vince Johnson
USS Tucson (SSN 770)

"Skydiving."

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

Bougainville Sailors celebrate surrender



Official U.S. Navy photograph

USS Bougainville (CVE-100) crewmen celebrate after listening to the announcement of Imperial Japan's surrender on Aug. 14, 1945, ending World War II. The surrender took place 69 years ago this month. Their ship was then transporting aircraft to the central Pacific.

HO'OKELE

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Teamwork is key to anti-submarine warfare for RIMPAC participants

MC1 Jason Swink

Submarine Force Pacific
Public Affairs

The recently held Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2014 exercise provided anti-submarine warfare force U.S. 3rd Fleet (CTF-34) with the opportunity to bring together a cooperative training environment for multinational anti-submarine warfare (ASW).

Liaison naval officers (LNOs) from Australia, Republic of Korea, Canada and Japan stood watch with CTF-34 staff, helping to coordinate various air, surface and subsurface assets taking part in the complex task of multinational anti-submarine warfare.

"Theater ASW requires a team and teamwork, not only among the surface, air, and subsurface warfare communities, but also with our coalition partners," said Rear Adm. Phil Sawyer, commander of Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

"During RIMPAC, we have benefited tremendously from working with ASW forces from Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, New

Zealand and the Republic of Korea, each of whom brings unique skills and perspectives to the table," said Sawyer.

"Exercising together has improved interoperability and has allowed us to build enduring relationships that will pay dividends well into the future," he said.

Lt. Cmdr. Tomoyuki Amanuma, Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) LNO, provided maritime patrol reconnaissance aircraft expertise while learning valuable interoperability and partnership concepts.

"The ability to work in coalitions is a very big deterrent to those who would use undersea warfare for aggression," said Amanuma. "Just one country or one navy cannot keep the peace for all nations. It is important for all nations to cooperate."

Royal Australian Navy LNO Lt. Martin Talbot said he appreciated the chance to rotate through various positions.

"It's all well and good to read about it in a publication," said Talbot. "To actually come here and see how it's done firsthand and see

what the jobs do and how the various watch captains input into the whole scenario really ties in the publications and doctrines."

As with the overall RIMPAC exercise, the ASW portion provides an important training opportunity to enhance interoperability between participating forces, improve readiness, and strengthen military-to-military partnerships.

Republic of Korea (ROK) LNO Lt. Jung Hoon Seo, who was participating in his first RIMPAC exercise, said he hopes more of his colleagues can participate in future exercises like RIMPAC and continue to build relationships that add to the peace and stability of the region.

"Each of the nations' submarines operate differently, and exercises like this help us come to a better understanding of each other's intentions," said Seo.

"RIMPAC's theater anti-submarine warfare exercise is all about gaining experience. Each different country brings a different set of skills," said Talbot.

"So tying it all in internationally, we can take various bits of information from



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Steven Khor

Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise participants, Command Master Chief Adam Powars (left) of undersea warfare operations; Flight Lt. Marty Young, future operations watch officer of Command Task Force (CTF) 174 for the Royal Australian Air Force; and Lt. Cmdr. Tomoyuki Amanuma, liaison naval officer for the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force; discuss operations for the exercise July 25 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The exercise concluded Aug. 1.

each country and come up with an international way of doing business."

Anti-submarine warfare is a core war-fighting skill used to counter any potential adversary submarine threat and is a component of a large-scale maritime

operation such as RIMPAC.

"It's very important; none of the surface ships can get to where they are going without the waters being clear of submarines, and that's what CTF-34 is all about," said Talbot.

The mission of CTF-34 is

to execute theater anti-submarine warfare and fulfill a training support role to plan and conduct theater ASW exercises, providing tactical command and control of assigned ASW assets during operations and exercises.

647th Force Support Squadron fuels RIMPAC personnel

Maj. Joe Blubaugh

15th Wing Public Affairs

The aircraft ramp at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam was noticeably busy throughout RIMPAC 2014. While it took a lot of extra fuel to keep the aircraft flying throughout the exercise, it also required a lot of extra effort to make sure all the personnel supporting those aircraft were able to get the fuel they needed. That was the job of the 647th Force Support Squadron (FSS).

Responsible for both the Hale Aina Dining Facility and the Mokulele Flight Kitchen, the squadron saw their ops tempo nearly double during the exercise. Through the two facilities, the squadron normally serves approximately 1,000 meals during a normal week, a number that doubled during the month-long exercise. All of those extra meals meant a lot more time in the kitchen for the staff at each facility.

"The managers of each facility have had to balance their force to accomplish the mission," said Master Sgt. Bud Wendel, section chief of food service.

That force is made up of a civilian contract team, 647th FSS military members and several members of the Hawaii Air National Guard.

Tech. Sgt. LaTonya Robinson, dining facility manager at the Hale Aina, said staffing her facility was the biggest challenge. "I had to push people a little harder, but everybody has maintained a positive attitude and understood the mission comes first."

It was a different challenge at the flight kitchen, said Staff Sgt. Leticia Anderson, the facility's store-room manager. The flight kitchen is responsible for providing meals for aircrews, duty passengers and space available passengers, as well as for the flight line workers who pick up lunch when they don't have time



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

Airman 1st Class Jaleesa Randle, 647th Force Support Squadron, prepares lasagna for lunch at the Hale Aina Dining Facility at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on July 25.

to leave their positions.

"Our biggest challenge is the uncertainty of how many people we will be serving day-to-day. It fluctuates drastically," said Anderson, who estimated the kitchen was serving approximately twice the number of meals as normal during RIMPAC.

"We know we have a mission that needs to get done and we push through it," said Anderson. "It can make for a long day, but we have the satisfaction of knowing the mission is getting accomplished."

Maj. Chris Hauver, 647th FSS Commander, said the exercise was a great tool for him as it stressed the system and provided outstanding training, all while showcasing his staff's ability to surge to accomplish the mission.

"No exercise happens without awesome support," said Hauver. "Through nutritious meals and excellent customer service, our food service team has fueled RIMPAC."

Submarine USS Houston changes command, welcomes McGinnis



Cmdr. Scott McGinnis addresses the crew of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS Houston (SSN 713) after relieving Cmdr. Paul Davis as commanding officer during a change of command ceremony held July 31.

Story and photo by
MC1 Steven Khor

Commander, Submarine
Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs

A time-honored change of command ceremony was held July 31 for the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS Houston (SSN 713) at the submarine piers

at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Cmdr. Scott McGinnis relieved Cmdr. Paul Davis as commanding officer of USS Houston.

Davis expressed how proud he is that he had the opportunity to be in command of the submarine and working with some amazing Sailors.

"It has been the highest

honor to have served alongside you and sailed in the briny depths with you," said Davis.

"Your tenacity, your perseverance and your skill has made this tour exceptional for me. In the face of insurmountable odds, you have refused to lose. You have steadfastly acknowledged that you won't be defeated and either found a solution

or forged one. I am, and will always remain, grateful for that."

In command for more than two years, Davis took his submarine and crew on a western Pacific deployment, conducting missions vital to national security and fleet exercises supporting the fleet commander's operational and engagement strategy.

The ceremony's guest speaker, Capt. Jeff Trussler, deputy director of maritime projects for research and development support activity, praised Davis for an amazing job in command.

"Well done, Paul Davis and the crew of the mighty warship Houston!" said Trussler. "Paul has proven himself to be one of those great leaders. He has taken

the toughest job the submarine force has to offer and done superbly."

During the ceremony, Davis was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his successes in command of Houston from February 2012 to July 2014.

As McGinnis assumed command of Houston, he thanked Davis for turning over a great ship and an even greater crew.

"I am honored by your presence here today and privileged to be USS Houston's commanding officer," said McGinnis. "To the Houston crew and families, I have been thoroughly impressed by your performance."

"There is no crew I would rather be leading into battle should the call come, and I cannot wait to put to sea with you, tackle our future challenges, and accomplish the country's tasking together," McGinnis said.

Houston is the fourth U.S. Navy vessel named in honor of the city of Houston, Texas. It is a Los Angeles-class submarine, 360 feet long and displacing 6,900 tons. It can be fitted with Mk-48 torpedoes and Tomahawk missiles.

The state-of-the-art submarine is capable of supporting a multitude of missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike, naval special warfare involving special operations forces, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance.

RIMPAC 2014 Highlights



The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) is underway in close formation on July 25 as one of 42 ships and submarines representing 15 international partner nations.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Shannon Renfro

A line handler from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam tosses a line to a Sailor aboard the littoral combat ship USS Independence (LCS 2) following the ship's return July 26 from participating in the at-sea phase.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Tierra Fulgham



U.S. Marines drive an amphibious assault vehicle ashore during a simulated beach assault July 28.

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

A landing craft air cushion assigned to Amphibious Craft Unit (ACU) 5 heads to the harbor on July 22 from the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5).

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Viramontes



The Military Sealift Command dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS Carl Brashear (T-AKE 7) holds course alongside the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) during a refueling at sea Aug. 4. Peleliu is scheduled for deployment to the western Pacific region.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Will Gaskill

Beetle causes removal of palm trees at Mamala Bay Golf Course

Lt. j.g. Eric Galassi

Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs

For the next several weeks, a contractor will remove palm trees on the grounds of Mamala Bay Golf Course at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

When the work is completed, approximately 180 trees will be removed from JBPHH. Seventy-eight trees have already been removed including 68 palms from the Fort Kamehameha housing area.

One hundred and four trees are being removed from Mamala Bay Golf Course due to damage from the invasive coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB).

The remainder of the trees were selected for removal because they are either dead or present a safety hazard.

It is necessary to remove these trees to prevent them from becoming food or nesting material for the CRB. The potential danger created by some of the trees comes from their height and the difficulty of removing their coconuts before they fall.

There are presently between 500 and 600 trees on Mamala Bay Golf Course. While the number of trees being removed is significant, it is necessary to

protect the remaining trees from CRB infestation.

JBPHH intends to plant trees to replace those being cut down, but the first priority is to remove the existing threat. The trees that will be planted will not be coconut palms, as that is the preferred food of the CRB, presents a safety concern, and is costly to maintain--but instead will likely be evergreen trees. There is also a proposed Eagle Scout project to contribute to the replanting effort at JBPHH.



A ribbon signifies this coconut palm is scheduled for removal from Mamala Bay Golf Course.

U.S. Navy photo by Brandon Bosworth

15th Maintenance Operations Center is eyes and ears of flightline during RIMPAC

Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Public Affairs

Many joint base units played a hand in the success of Rim of the Pacific 2014, working tirelessly to ensure the more than 200 participating aircraft and personnel had adequate parking, fuel and access to maintenance equipment and facilities. However, one unit in particular worked around the clock to coordinate and manage the actions needed to keep the mission going.

The 15th Maintenance Operations Center (MOC) typically works its coordination magic for the C-17 Globemaster IIIs assigned to joint base but stepped up for RIMPAC to handle the requests for maintenance servicing and job control for most of the aircraft involved in the exercise.

"We are the central point for maintenance, so we had to orchestrate a lot of moving parts for RIMPAC," said Master Sgt. Richard Montano, MOC NCO in charge.

Though dealing with transient aircraft is a part of the MOC's day-to-day operations, Montano said the amount of transients in-

creased from an average of 10 aircraft per day to nearly 50.

"It was intense," he said. "We had times where we really had to struggle for parking and at times the wait for maintenance actions was a little longer than usual due to the volume of aircraft, but luckily all of the aircraft flew very well."

In addition to juggling the workload, Montano said the exercise proved to be an educational experience for him.

"The most interesting thing was the diversity in the units we had here," he said. "We had to make sure they understood our processes and our airfield operating procedures but we also had to understand their needs. I learned something new every day about a different aircraft and what it needed to fly."

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hubbard, MOC weapons system coordinator, who participated in RIMPAC for the second time, said working during RIMPAC was much like his day-to-day operation but on a much larger scale.

"RIMPAC is really busy," he said. "You don't know how to plan for the amount

of work the surplus of jets brings. I was more prepared this time because I knew what to expect, but it doesn't change the amount of work or the amount of calls for support you'll take in a day. You just have to plan to be busy."

Though RIMPAC came with its fair share of hard work, Hubbard said he is just happy to know at the end of the day it pays off.

"We can see the results of our work," he said. "Every time there's a plane taking off, you know something's going right because you did something right."

Memorial sites closed due to storms

Due to the two impending storms, the USS Arizona Memorial and Pearl Harbor Visitor Center is reducing visitor services for the next few days.

Both sites will be closed today.

For updates, visit www.nps.gov/valr/index.htm.

In addition, the USS Missouri Memorial announced that it is closed today due to Hurricane Iselle.

Ronald Reagan receives replenishments



An MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the Black Knights of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 4 transports ammunition from the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) during a vertical replenishment on Aug 4 with the Military Sealift Command dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS Carl Brashear (T-AKE 7). Ronald Reagan departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after participating in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2014.

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Cody Hendrix

Training and safety were key for 647th EOD during RIMPAC exercise

Maj. Joe Blubaugh

15th Wing Public Affairs

One impact of having a multinational force participating in a large-scale exercise like RIMPAC—a maritime exercise involving 22 nations and 25,000 personnel—is the diverse types of ordnance that is brought to the host location.

That challenge has been met by the 647th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight, which is responsible for any ordnance that comes onto the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam flight line.

Ordnance covers a wide range of items such as munitions, but it also covers other hazardous items on an aircraft such as ejection seats. During the RIMPAC planning phase, EOD received a list of all ordnance that would be brought to the exercise, from both U.S. and foreign military. Staff Sgt. Giselle Compton, EOD equipment section NCOIC,

said it was critical to get the information in advance.

"We had to research every item we weren't familiar with, so we would be able to support the units when they arrived," Compton said.

In addition to researching unfamiliar ordnance, EOD also covered the responsibilities of their on-base Navy EOD counterparts while they were off-island participating in the exercise.

In addition to the additional workload, RIMPAC gave flight members ample opportunity to train with their U.S. and foreign counterparts as well as local civilian authorities. Senior Airman Vincent Irr, EOD flight training manager, said the time spent with those counterparts was time well spent.

"The perspective we've received from other countries and other services has been invaluable," Irr said. "We have our way of doing

things, and it's good to get a fresh perspective. It's also great to get other contacts within the EOD community for future collaboration."

One training the flight attended was a post-blast scenario that focused on collecting evidence and the proper way to hand the evidence over to the proper authorities. The training also focused on collecting evidence at an unexploded ordnance cache.

"We were able to get our counterparts ranges, facilities and aircraft so they could conduct realistic training," Irr said.

Flight personnel were also able to train with local airport authorities and Hawaiian Airlines at the Honolulu International Airport. Additional EOD teams from the Navy, Australia, Canada, South Korea and the Netherlands participated in the training that included aircraft familiarization and use of bomb equipment on an aircraft.

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Storms

Continued from, A-1

"Although it is important to be prepared throughout the year, it is especially important to have an emergency plan and kit during the hurricane season. Visit the 'Ready Navy' website for tips on preparing for disasters and building an emergency kit," he said.

As Ho'okele went to press Thursday, Hurricane Iselle was about 150 miles off the coast of the Big Island with the island starting to feel the outer winds and rain bands from the storm. Landfall was expected Thursday evening for the Big Island. By Friday morning, the island of Oahu will feel the onset of tropical storm force winds and rain from Hurricane Iselle as it moves across the island chain.

Still about 1,100 miles from Hawaii on Thursday afternoon, Hurricane Julio was a Category 2 storm. On its current forecast track, it is expected to move north of the Big Island late Saturday into Sunday.

As the storms approached the island chain, local retailers reported that store shelves were quickly depleted of basic supplies as anxious, hurricane-watching shoppers attempted to collect such items as bottled water, food staples, paper supplies, flashlights and batteries.

Capt. Stanley Keeve, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, advised residents to remain vigilant and listen to local news for updates.

"With the impending high winds as the storms approach, it's important to gather your belongings around the exterior of your house. Things like your lanai furniture, propane tanks and grills, children's

toys and bikes, garbage cans and doormats should be removed from the outside of your house during the high winds," Keeve said.

"Also ensure that you, your family and your pet(s) are prepared for the upcoming severe inclement weather," he advised.

Storm preparations were also ongoing at the Navy installation at Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands, Kauai as the storms approached.

"Heavy weather preparations are in full force here at PMRF," said Capt. Bruce Hay, commanding officer at PMRF, Kauai.

"The team here is very seasoned with lots of experience from past events like Hurricane Iniki, and we are ensuring we do not relearn the lessons of those past events," he said.

"Even with the forecasts showing a weakened storm when it gets to Kauai, we are not taking any chances. We are stopping operations Wednesday evening to complete all of our preparations. High value equipment is being moved to safe storage, emergency equipment is being tested, and readied and post-storm recovery options being discussed," Hay explained.

Hurricanes have directly hit Hawaii only three times since 1950 although the state has been affected by more than 100 tropical disturbances during that time.

The last time a hurricane directly hit the islands was in 1992 when Hurricane Iniki struck the island of Kauai. Six people were killed and more than 1,400 homes on the island were destroyed. The storm caused more than \$2.3 billion in damages in its wake.

Another victim of the storm was the famed Coco

Palms resort where scenes from the Elvis Presley movie, "Blue Hawaii," were filmed. The resort has been closed since then.

Disaster preparedness officials caution that allowing yourself to believe that, "it won't come here" or "there hasn't been a hurricane here in years so why worry," or buying into the "it can't happen to me" philosophy could be dangerous. They advise that the best thing is to be aware and to be prepared.

"We've been lucky so far. So we just need to really take this threat seriously and make sure everybody is prepared," said Eric Lau, meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Honolulu.

For more information about evacuation shelters, visit the Hawaii State Civil Defense website at www.scd.hawaii.gov and review closest shelter locations.

JBPHH personnel and their families should monitor the Navy Region Hawaii and JBPHH Facebook and websites for updates, listen to recorded messages on the JBPHH Straight Talk Line at (808) 421-4000, and tune in to Joint Base Television (Oceanic Ch. 2) on base.

Residents should remain vigilant and listen to local news for updates.

For more weather information, visit the National Weather Service Forecast Office at <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl/>.

Additional information is available by checking the pullout of hurricane preparedness information which was published on pages A4 and A5 of the May 30 edition of Ho'okele at <http://ow.ly/A5A2m>

Disaster preparedness information is also available at <http://go.usa.gov/NV7B>.

Where to find hurricane preparedness information:

Get emergency updates on Facebook:

- Navy Region Hawaii - www.facebook.com/NavyRegionHawaii
- JBPHH - www.facebook.com/JointBasePearlHarborHickam

Navy Region Hawaii website: www.cnic.navy.mil/hawaii

JBPHH website: www.cnic.navy.mil/PearlHarbor-Hickam

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam TV (Channel 2): Hurricane information on Joint Base TV 2 will be on the text crawl 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Department of Emergency Management (DEM): Information is available on the DEM website at www.honolulu.gov/dem or by calling 723-8960. Residents can also call the DEM office and request a free packet of hurricane readiness information.

FEMA: ready.gov

JBPHH Office of Emergency Management: Call 421-4000 or 448-2741 for emergency preparedness information.

CNIC Ready Navy: http://www.ready.navy.mil/build_a_kit/emergency_kits.html

Important telephone numbers:

Emergency, police, fire ambulance – **911**

State Department of Emergency Management – **723-8960**

Hawaii State Civil Defense – **733-4300**

National Weather Service (weather advisories) – **973-5286**

Military and Family Support Center – **474-1999**

Navy Marine Corps Relief Society – **473-0282**

Air Force Aid Society – **449-0300**

JBPHH Straight Talk Line – **421-4000**

HECO Service Center – **548-7311**

(to report power outages, downed power lines, trees on power lines)

Board of Water Supply trouble line – **748-5000**

Hawaiian Telcom repair service – **643-6111**

Hawaii Gas emergency service – **526-0066**

Street lights out - City – **768-5300**, state – **831-6714**, state (after hours) - 485-6200

Time Warner Oceanic – **643-2100**

NAVFAC Hawaii emergency desk – **449-3100**

JBPHH Storm Advisory

- No evacuations are planned for JBPHH housing areas at this time. Off-base residents should be aware of locations of nearest evacuation shelters in the event that evacuation should be necessary.
- The Nimitz Gate and O'Malley Gate will remain open 24 hours. Other gates may be closed as conditions warrant.
- If wind speeds exceed 40 knots, access to the Ford Island Bridge will be limited to privately-owned vehicles and may be closed to vehicles such as buses and trailers.
- The USS Arizona Memorial and USS Missouri Memorial will be closed Friday.
- Residents may call NAVFAC Hawaii emergency department at 449-3100/3101 or the emergency operations center at 449-2583/3262/2570 to report immediate hazards to property, roads or utilities.

Commissary and NEX to be closed Friday

The Navy Exchange (421-3513 for updates) and Pearl Harbor Commissary will be closed Friday and will reopen for normal hours Saturday.

Pacific Partnership completes Philippines mission

MC2 Karolina A. Oseguera

Pacific Partnership 2014

With wind and rain from the outer bands of Typhoon Rammasun pelting the area, Pacific Partnership 2014 (PP14) held its closing ceremony in a local establishment that still bears the scars from Typhoon Haiyan.

Although the weather was less than ideal, those in attendance were determined to give Pacific Partnership a proper ceremony.

"I'm amazed at the resiliency of the people here," said U.S. Navy Capt. Brian Shipman, Pacific Partnership's mission commander. "Even after all they've been through, they continue to persevere, they continue to rebuild, and they continue to smile."

Among the speakers at the ceremony were the Philippine Army's Maj. Gen. Lysander Suerte, deputy chief of staff for civil-military operations; Brig. Gen. Rolando Malinao, assistant division of the 8th Infantry Division; and Alfred Romualdez, Tacloban's mayor. The three thanked all involved with this year's PP14 mission and expressed the importance of continued engagements with partner nations.

"The Philippines has been the most enjoyable and successful engagement because not only are we passing on subject matter expertise with our Filipino colleagues, but given the devastation of the typhoon, we have been able to help the community with our

medical and engineering engagements," said Australian Army Lt. Col. John Cronin, Pacific Partnership 2014 chief of staff.

The 10-day PP14 Philippines mission conducted professional medical exchanges, provided basic medical, dental and optometry clinics, medical knowledge exchange seminars and veterinary surgical and vaccination services, as well as four engineering projects.

"We had veterinarian technicians working to prevent rabies illness, preventative medicine specialist that helped promote public health, and we also gave lectures on different topics," said Cmdr. Steven Romero, the PP14 medical officer in charge.

Symposiums and subject matter exchanges addressed emergency medicine, infectious disease, cardiology, pediatrics, microbiology, occupational medicine physical therapy and biomedical engineering.

"I have seen a really grateful response," Cronin said of the local community and the mission's Philippine hosts. "I am grateful that we have been working with them and for them in projects that they needed."

This was the last phase of PP14, which also provided assistance in Vietnam and Cambodia, operating from the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ship JS Kunisaki (LST 4003). A simultaneous airborne phase took

place earlier in Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

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.



U.S. Navy photos by MCC Greg Badger



(Top right): Petty Officer 2nd Class Yasuhito Sieke of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force checks the vital signs of a child during a Pacific Partnership medical project.

(Right):The U.S. Pacific Fleet Band performs in Tacloban during Pacific Partnership.