

## Anti-terrorism exercise here next week



### Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) will conduct the anti-terrorism exercise Citadel Pacific 2014 from Aug. 25 to 29.

The five-day exercise is designed to enhance the training, readiness and capabilities of Navy security forces and other personnel in response to threats to Navy installations and units. Exercise Citadel Pacific 2014 is not in response to any specific threat, but is a regularly scheduled exercise conducted at Navy bases in Hawaii, Japan, and Guam.

As part of Citadel Pacific, JBPHH will hold field training drills on Aug. 26 and 27, when in-

creased exercise activities will take place at a few locations on base. Base personnel should expect to see and hear exercise announcements communicated via the giant voice mass notification system, computer desktop notification system, and other means. All announcements will be preceded and followed with, “Exercise, Exercise, Exercise.”

“We have taken measures to minimize any inconvenience and disruptions to normal base operations,” said Bart Robinson, JBPHH training and readiness officer. “No gates will close, and we expect minimal, if any, traffic delays resulting from the drills.”

On Aug. 26, the drill will take place at the Pearl Harbor Mail

Center located at NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor. The mail center will be closed from approximately 8 a.m. to noon on Aug. 26. Mail center patrons should plan accordingly.

On Aug. 27, drill locations will be at Naval Health Clinic Hawaii and Bravo Piers to test active shooter scenario response operations. Simulated gunfire will be heard, and increased security activity will take place in those areas on the morning of Aug. 27.

The exercise will not affect operations or limit visitations to the nearby WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, Battleship Missouri Memorial, USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Pacific Aviation Museum.

Photo illustration | U.S. Navy file photos



A U.S. Army Stryker combat vehicle is guided into a C-17 Globemaster III from the 535th Airlift Squadron.

## Joint effort validates ability to move Strykers

Story and photo by  
Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Public Affairs

Four Stryker combat vehicles were successfully loaded onto a C-17 Globemaster III on the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam flightline Aug. 13, marking the Army's first use of the Stryker Marshalling Pad and Hot Cargo Pad since their construction.

According to Glen Bailey, 15th Wing Plans and Programs chief of support agreements, the Stryker Marshalling Pad and Hot Cargo Pads were built specifically to support the 25th Infantry Division combat vehicles based at Schofield Barracks.

The Stryker, the Army's Interim Armored Vehicle, is used to provide quick response maneuvering capability, enhanced survivability and lethality and expand fight versatility.

“The beddown of the C-17s and

the 25th ID Strykers were linked from the beginning,” he said. “Early discussions by senior leadership identified the need for the joint training of Stryker movements through Hickam Field utilizing C-17 aircraft.”

Lt. Col. Jeff Howell, 25th ID future operations director, said it took a lot of coordinating to get the scheduling of the training timed just right due to the Army's high deployment tempo.

However, Howell said the training exercise was necessary because it is an important part of validating the unit's readiness.

“Having this capability means our unit is more prepared to respond to any contingency in the Pacific and that joint base is prepared to help push us out on those contingencies,” he said.

A large piece of that capability, he said, is having a place to conduct pre-flight inspections and load the aircraft, and that's where the Stryker Marshalling Pad and

Hot Cargo Pads come into play.

Howell said the first training exercise was an overwhelming success, due in large part to the working relationships between the services.

“This has been in the works for two months, and the biggest take away from today is the coordination between all of the organizations that made it happen,” he said. “We worked with joint base, 15th Wing and the 735th Air Mobility Squadron so it was truly a joint effort.”

Until recently, the Army relied on moving their Hawaii based Stryker vehicles via ships.

Acknowledging the C-17s critical support role, Howell said it was great having the Air Force integrate into their training exercise.

“The 15th Wing completely embraced their role as intra-theater airlift,” he said. “It's great training with those guys because they are really professional.”

## Guest speaker, special meal planned for Women's Equality Day

Navy Region Hawaii  
Public Affairs

A Women's Equality Day event will be held from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Aug. 26 at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel. The event is sponsored by Navy Region Hawaii.

Guests should be seated by 8:15 a.m. The guest speaker will be Coralie Chun Matayoshi, chief executive officer of the American Red Cross, Pacific Islands Region.

In addition, the Silver Dolphin Bistro Galley will also have a special menu from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Aug. 26 in recognition of Women's Equality Day.

The price of the luncheon is \$4.65. The special meal will be open to active duty military, Department of Defense civilians, retirees, and family members of active duty military with valid ID cards.

Attendees for the meal are asked to have exact change available.

The meal will include French onion soup, braised stuffed pork chops, herbed butter chicken and garlic shrimp. Other menu items include mashed potatoes, rice pilaf, country style gravy, glazed carrots and green bean casserole. In addition, there will be a garden salad bar, beverage bar, fresh fruit, pastries and ice cream.

For more information on the meal, call 473-2948.

The 2014 United Nations International Women's Day theme is “Inspiring Change.”

A joint resolution of Congress in 1971 designated Aug. 26 of each year as Women's Equality Day.

The annual event began as a commemoration of the passage of women's right to vote when the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was certified as law in 1920 and has since evolved to a broader recognition of women's equality in society and the workplace.

## Mini-health fair set for Aug. 27

A Coalition of Sailor Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) and Navy Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (NADAP) Mini-Health Fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 27 at Club Pearl, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The program is titled “Prescription for Discharge: Zero Tolerance. Infinite Risk.”

The event will discuss

topics on how Sailors can protect their lives and careers.

Discussion will include using prescription drugs the right way, such as taking them correctly, reporting promptly, disposing of them properly and never sharing them.

For more information, contact CSC Edwin Ebreo at 474-1930 or email Edwin.ebreo@navy.mil.



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# Local vendors offer their products at annual ALA Hawaii event

Story and photo by  
Brandon Bosworth

Assistant Editor, Ho'okele

The 17th annual American Logistics Association (ALA) Hawaii show took place Aug. 20 at the Pacific Beach Hotel in Waikiki. The annual business-to-business show provides Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) and Exchange officials the opportunity to taste-test local products and meet with Hawaii business owners before recommending products for commissary and exchange shelves.

More than 70 companies offered samples of products such as chocolate, coconut water, crackers, coffee, local-style noodles and baked goods to 38 buyers, directors and store managers.

"More than 166,000 military service members,



More than 70 companies offered samples of their products at the American Logistics Association (ALA) Hawaii show held Aug. 20.

retirees and family members live in Hawaii, making the commissary and exchange business a significant market for local companies," said Sharon Zambo-Fan, ALA Hawaii Conference chairwoman.

The first ALA Hawaii show was held in 1997.

"We only had about a dozen companies participating when we started," said Zambo-Fan. "This year we have about 74. Each year it gets larger."

After last year's ALA Hawaii show, 140 new items were selected for inclusion in Oahu's commissaries. The combined military exchanges also added 15 new companies and 150 new line items to

their selection. Over the course of the show's history, 2,232 local products have been added to commissary shelves. In 2013, commissaries in Hawaii purchased \$8 million from Hawaii-based brands and \$6.5 million in locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Eyvinne Umamoto, Pearl Harbor commissary store director, regularly attends ALA Hawaii looking for new products. He said he welcomes the opportunity to introduce local food items to service members and their families.

"When we do food demos and offer samples of local foods, it's sometimes the first time they've tasted something," he said. "Baked goods like butter mochi are really popular."

Many service members are quite curious and open to trying new culinary delights. The four Oahu commissaries all have

"Taste of Hawaii" sections to make it easier for patrons to try local foods.

"The military community has a diverse pallet," said David Carey Jr., area director (Pacific) DeCA West. "They visit their local commissary and go to the 'Taste of Hawaii' section to try something new."

The Navy Exchange is currently expanding its "Taste of Hawaii" section to offer an even greater selection of goods.

Patrick Nixon, ALA president, believes the ALA Hawaii show is a real benefit to local vendors, especially small ones.

"ALA brings the companies and the government together," he said. "We help vendors navigate the workings of the government. It's a great opportunity."

Looking ahead to future ALA Hawaii shows, Nixon had one word to say. "Bigger!"

# Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard graduates 111 apprentices

Sarah Fry

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard  
Public Affairs

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY&IMF) graduated 111 apprentices from its apprentice program in a ceremony held Aug. 15 at the Hickam Officer's Club.

The graduating members, representing 22 shops and trades, each completed a four-year, full-time, paid apprenticeship that combined academic study with on-the-job work experience. The apprentices earned associate degrees from Honolulu Community College, as well as certification in their respective trades from the Navy and the U.S. Department of Labor. After the ceremony, graduates transitioned to



U.S. Navy photo by Danielle Jones  
Capt. Brian Osgood speaks to the audience during the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard apprentice program Class of 2014 graduation ceremony.

"mechanic" or "journey worker" status at the shipyard.

"We congratulate all of you on completing your four-year journey as apprentices and we wel-

come the Class of 2014 as members of our shipyard *ohana*," said Capt. Brian Osgood, shipyard commander. "As the future of the shipyard, we look to you

to lead us in the continuing effort to modernize our facilities and drive innovative improvement to meet the growing needs of the U.S. Pacific Fleet."

Hawaii State Gov. Neil Abercrombie was the featured guest speaker at the apprentice graduation ceremony. Shop 31 Machinist DonDee Reames delivered remarks on behalf of the apprentice class of 2014.

Eighteen graduates received outstanding craftsman awards from individual shops. Shop 56 Pipefitter Alden Kunimitsu was the recipient of the Outstanding Scholar Award from the Federal Managers Association's Chapter 19. Plastic Fabricator Charles Mattson of Shop 64 was presented the Superior Craftsman Award by the shipyard's National Association of Superintendents.

The first shipyard apprentice class graduated in 1924. Since then, more than 5,000 journey workers and future leaders have been graduated from the shipyard's apprentice program.

# USS Preble, USS John Paul Jones join JBPHH ohana

Story and photos by  
MC3 Johans Chavarro

Navy Public Affairs  
Support Element West, Det.  
Hawaii

The U.S. Middle Pacific Naval Fleet received two new additions as the guided-missile destroyers USS Preble (DDG 88) and USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53) arrived to their new homeport of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Aug. 14 and 15 from San Diego.

The move was orchestrated to provide updated advanced Aegis capabilities to Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific (COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC) in an effort to maintain the most robust and capable force possible.

Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface

Group Middle Pacific, welcomed both ships to Hawaii, noting the advanced capabilities they bring to the Middle Pacific Fleet.

"It is a privilege to welcome USS John Paul Jones and USS Preble to Hawaii," said Williams. "I know you will bring advanced capabilities in radar and weapon systems, including Aegis ballistic missile defense and Navy Integrated Fires, and I'm grateful you're joining our team."

USS Preble arrived at JBPHH as a replacement for the guided-missile frigate Reuben James (FFG 57), which was decommissioned July 18, 2013, and will serve as a MIDPAC surface combatant to reinforce maritime operations in the region.

Cmdr. Robert T. Bryans, commanding officer of USS Preble, said he looked forward to bringing USS Pre-

ble's advanced capabilities to the region and being a part of the MIDPAC team.

"The MIDPAC team has a great reputation," said Bryans. "The ships that are homeported here have the latest baselines, the most technological sophisticated equipment and weapons systems. This really is the tip of the spear."

As a new addition to MIDPAC, Sonar Technician Surface 2nd Class Chan Wakefield said the crew aboard USS Preble aims to answer the operational demands of the region, as well as take advantage of the rare opportunity of being homeported in Hawaii.

"As a crew we're really just aiming to uphold the operations tempo out here, but also bring the spirit we had in San Diego and infuse that with some of that island spirit," said Wakefield. "Few people get to experience Hawaii as a port visit, so getting to have it as a homeport has everyone excited."

Currently the most technologically advanced ship within the Ballistics Missile Defense (BMD) program, USS John Paul Jones will operate as a rotational BMD deployer, and testing ship, as part of a long-range U.S. commitment to the security and stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

The move also allowed the guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70) to proceed to San Diego for a scheduled, extended docking ship repair availability (EDSRA).

Cmdr. Andrew Thomson, commanding officer of USS John Paul Jones, said his crew has proven that they are ready to assume the role as the Navy's Integrated Air and Missile Defense test ship. In the coming years, the ship is expected to test newer and more advanced systems that will be used to defend the nation and allied forces overseas, Thomson said.

Sailors stationed aboard USS John Paul Jones wel-



Sailors stationed throughout Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) gather pier side to welcome the guided-missile destroyer USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53) to its new homeport following a homeport swap with the guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70).



Traditional Hawaiian dancers greet the crew of the guided-missile destroyer USS Preble (DDG 88) upon the ship's arrival at its new homeport Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

comed the challenge and responsibility, along with the opportunity to settle down family members and experience the Hawaiian scenery.

"It was a long process with the move and with families, so to finally be here is a huge relief," Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Steven Zupko. "I've never seen Hawaii and before the Navy I had never even seen the ocean. It's just

beautiful. I never thought I'd be able to see anything like this."

USS Lake Erie is scheduled to replace USS John Paul Jones as a rotational BMD deployer out of San Diego once the EDSRA is complete.

COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC is a U.S. Navy command responsible for the maintenance and train-

ing of the surface ships homeported in JBPHH.

In May 2008, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31 assumed duties as immediate superior in command for all Pearl Harbor-based destroyers and frigates under an operational alignment to increase force presence and surge capacity in the Western Pacific under COMNAVSURFGRU MIDPAC.

## Diverse Views



What is your favorite type of sandwich?



**Lt. Daniel Cook**  
C-26 Pilot, Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF)

"Pulled pork sandwich. I grew up in the mid-south where barbecue is king, and there is nothing better than a pulled pork sandwich."

**ASC Ryan Gillig**  
PMRF Air OPS LCPO



"Twelve-grain honey oat bread, butter, peanut butter and bananas. You can even add bacon but it has to be crispy."



**Susan Munley**  
PMRF Child Development Center

"Turkey and bacon, because it's simple and I'm a simple person."

**Senior Airman Colin Peterson**  
735th Air Mobility Squadron



"The mesquite chicken with bacon from Quiznos is, in my opinion, the best sandwich. The toasty bread, smoked chicken, everything! Wonderful stuff."



**Erin Ross**  
PMRF Fitness Center

"Club. Who doesn't love bacon?"

**Chief Master Sgt. Melanie Sternod**  
HQ PACAF



"The chicken chipotle panini from Jagers Café is the bomb! They make it fresh when you order it, and the bread and sauce is divine, in addition to the other ingredients."



**AS2 Henry Seegar**  
PMRF Aviation Support Equipment

"My hometown special (Cumberland, Wis.), sliced beef, mozzarella cheese, au jus sauce, loaded with sliced jalapenos."

**Capt. Kelly Womble**  
15th Maintenance Squadron



"Crawfish pobo. My first job was at a local Cajun café when I was 15. Everything was from scratch and delicious."



**Lt. Wally Tegegne**  
PMRF Legal Officer

"Turkey cheddar pesto, because it's awesome. It's hard to explain why I like a taste, it's just good."

Provided by Stefan Alford  
and David D. Underwood Jr.

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

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

## Ships pass through the Panama Canal



U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph

The USS Missouri (BB-11), at left, and the USS Ohio (BB-12), are in the lower chambers of the Miraflores Locks, Panama Canal on Aug. 31, 1915. The view looks north, with USS Wisconsin (BB-9) in the distance. The Panama Canal had its 100-year anniversary on Aug. 14 of this year. The USS Missouri (BB-11) is believed to be the first battleship to have passed through the canal.

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# NMC EAD holds change of command aboard 'Mighty Mo'

Story and photo by  
MC2 Diana Quinlan

Navy Public Affairs  
Support Element West, Det.  
Hawaii

Navy Munitions Command East Asia Division (NMC EAD) held a change of command ceremony on Aug. 14 aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

Capt. Edward M. Galvin relieved Capt. Michael J. Singleton as commanding officer during the official ceremony.

During the ceremony, Capt. Mark Springer, commander NMC and NMC Pacific, served as the guest speaker and Navy Chaplain Cmdr. Jeffery Logan, commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, provided the invocation. JBPHH Honors and Ceremonial Guard presented the colors.

Singleton took command of NMC EAD Hawaii in April of 2012. As a commanding officer of the East Asia Division, he oversaw operations in support of fleet units and operational forces in the U.S. Pacific Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR) with subsidiary detachments in Sasebo and Yokosuka as well as units in Guam, Okinawa, Atsugi and Misawa and Diego Garcia annex.

"I did not have this vision for myself, it was a dream I didn't dare to dream — leading a major command on my final leg of my soon-to-be-ending 38-year naval career," Singleton said. "But once I got in the seat, I realized it was unquestionably the best job I ever had, and I don't know if I will ever top it."

Singleton spoke of his duties and the importance he placed on making sure that his Sailors and civilians were taken care of.



Capt. Mark Springer, (right) commander of Navy Munitions Command (NMC), awards the Legion of Merit Medal to Capt. Michael Singleton, commanding officer of NMC East Asia Division (NMC EAD) during a change of command ceremony aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH). Capt. Edward Galvin relieved Singleton as commanding officer during the ceremony.

"It was very important for me to keep the command operational, keep the staff manned at proper numbers and provide outstanding service throughout our units and detachments," said Singleton about his time at the command.

"I made sure I was always available. And seeing my Sailors being promoted or commissioned, and civilian employees being promoted and recognized is most memorable to me. This position was not about me, it was about the people I worked with."

Singleton began his career in the Navy in October 1976 as an enlisted Sailor, advancing in the service to a high-ranking officer. Over the years he actively participated in the Mustang Round-Up Limited Duty Officer and Chief Warrant Officer recruiting drives, leading by example, helping and guiding Sailors to

success in their military careers. Sailors under his command praised him for his leadership.

"We have probably the most supportive chain of command a Sailor can ask for," said Information System Technician 2nd Class Derek Pebler. "We are a small command, so we saw Capt. Singleton every day and he always showed utmost care for his personnel, always making sure we are safe and secure and enjoy our work. I cannot think of a better CO."

Singleton is planning to retire later this year, making NMC EAD Hawaii his last tour. "I feel that I accomplished everything I could. [There are] few more things that I would have liked to accomplish but it is time for me to go and Capt. Galvin can take charge and carry on."

According to Singleton, his relief is more than capable of doing the job, "I be-

lieve, Capt. Galvin is a great leader and I have no concerns in passing the command to him. He is a great officer and I fully expect him to lead and exceed every expectation. He will have a great staff to support him and he will be successful."

During presentation of awards, Springer presented Singleton with a Legion of Merit Medal for outstanding services and achievements.

Upon receiving his award, Singleton, as his final act as a commanding officer, surprised two of his

Sailors by awarding Logistics Specialist 1st Class Alvin Norman with the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and Yeomen 2nd Class Ciatta Tucker with the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

In his farewell remarks, Singleton thanked his command and his Sailors and civilian employees, emphasizing their importance to success of the command and the Navy as a whole.

"I thank you all for your support and dedication," said Singleton. "But also for the goodwill with which you have performed your duty. Fair winds and following seas to you all."

After the reading of official orders, Galvin said he was honored to relieve Singleton as commanding officer and promised the unit would continue to build on his legacy.

"I do not think you could find a better place to hold a naval change of command than on the mighty Missouri," said Galvin in his address.

"Capt. Singleton, I would like to thank you for the full support you have provided me through my transition here at East Asia Division. I know I have big shoes to fill, however, I am confident that NMC EAD will continue to excel based on the high standards, good example and leadership you have provided during your tenure."

Galvin also addressed the men and women of the

command as their new leader.

"I am proud to have the opportunity to lead this command. I look forward to working with each of you as we support the extremely important mission of providing fleet ordnance support to our warfighters based throughout our area of responsibility," said Galvin.

"Based upon the professionalism, competence, determination and drive that I have witnessed throughout the command, I am confident that we will not only handle any challenges that may come over the horizon, but excel at the important mission we have been entrusted to carry out."

Galvin plans to dedicate his first steps as commanding officer to familiarizing with command functions and learning about its challenges, as well as establishing good rapport with Sailors and civilian employees under his leadership.

NMC EAD Hawaii is responsible for ordnance delivery to ships, submarines and aviation squadrons based in Japan, Hawaii, Diego Garcia and Guam. Command's mission is to provide command, control and administrative support to NMC EAD units and detachments, which provide quality and responsive logistics, expert technical and material support of ammunition management and ordnance system components to the Fleet customer.

## Pearl Harbor Commissary temporarily closed

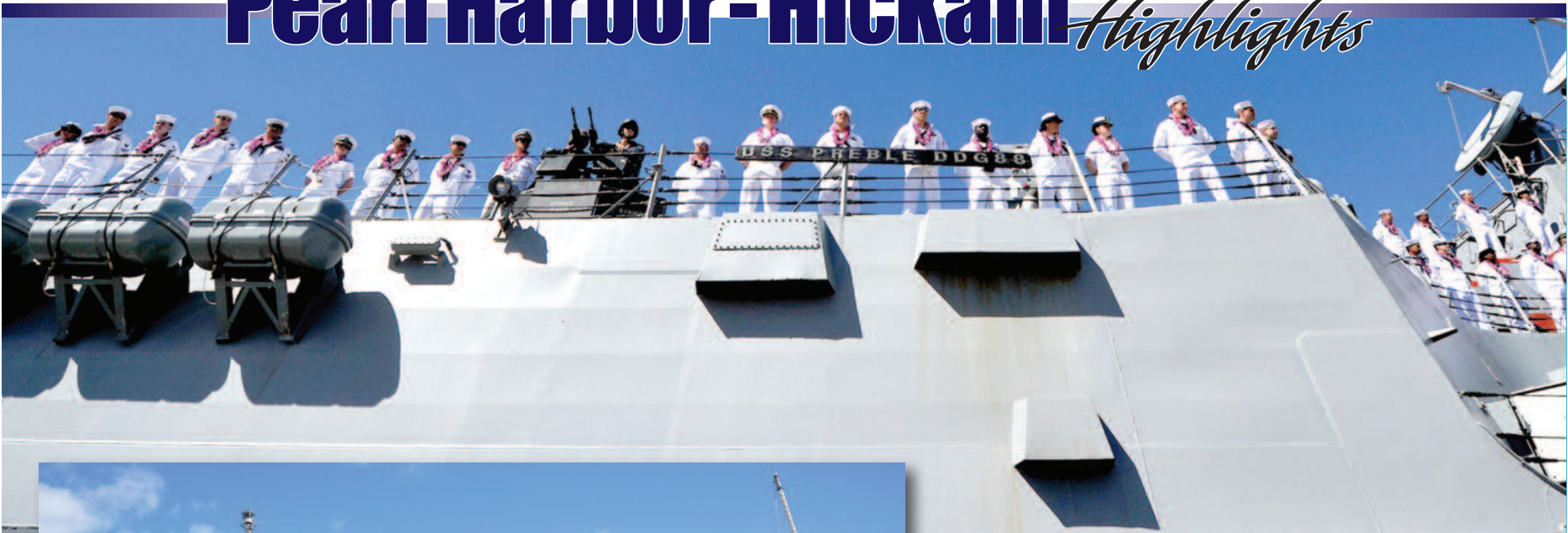
Pearl Harbor Commissary is temporarily closed for a total store "reset" as part of the Defense Commissary Agency's effort to enhance the shopping experience.

The store is closed today and Saturday. It is scheduled to reopen on Sunday with normal operating hours of 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Navy Exchange hours of operation are not impacted.

For more information, call the commissary at 471-8402, ext. 101 or email [eyvinne.umemoto@deca.mil](mailto:eyvinne.umemoto@deca.mil).

# Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



(Above) Sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Preble (DDG 88) man the rails as the ship prepares to moor at its new homeport Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro



(Left) The guided-missile destroyer USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53) prepares to moor at its new homeport Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam following a homeport swap with the guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie (CG 70).

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro

(Right) The crew of the amphibious transport dock ship USS Denver (LPD 9) debarks the ship during the ship's decommissioning ceremony at JBPHH.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Laurie Dexter



(Above) A U.S. Army Stryker combat vehicle is guided into a C-17 Globemaster III from the 535th Airlift Squadron during a 25th Infantry Division training exercise on the JBPHH flightline on Aug. 13.

U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden

(Below) 25th Infantry Division Soldiers escort a U.S. Army Stryker combat vehicle on the JBPHH flightline.

U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden



# USS Denver 'Gator' decommissions at joint base ceremony

**Brandon Bosworth**

*Assistant Editor, Ho'okele*

After five decades of service, USS Denver (LPD 9) was decommissioned at a ceremony held Aug. 14 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

With 46 years of service, Denver was the oldest deployable ship in the U.S. Navy, earning the nickname "Oldest Gator in the Swamp."

Launched on Jan. 23, 1965 and commissioned on Oct. 26, 1968, it was the third U.S. Navy ship to bear the name of American pioneer James William Denver and the capital of the state of Colorado.

Over its history, the ship played a significant role in several operations, most notably Operation Frequent



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Laurie Dexter

Capt. Michael P. Donnelly, commanding officer of the amphibious transport dock ship USS Denver (LPD 9), passes through ceremonial sideboys at the conclusion of the ship's decommissioning ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Wind, the evacuation of Saigon, Vietnam in April 1975. Denver also participated in many humanitarian missions, and recently offered assistance to the

Philippines in the aftermath of 2010's Typhoon Megi.

The ship has been part of the forward-deployed Bonhomme Richard Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), which

reports to Commander, Amphibious Force U.S. 7th Fleet, headquartered in Okinawa, Japan

The guest speaker at the decommissioning ceremony

was Rear Adm. Hugh D. Wetherald, commander of Expeditionary Strike Group Seven.

"On this day, we will bid farewell to one of our workhorses of the Navy," said Wetherald. "She is as ready now as she was at her launch in 1968 to go to sea."

Addressing Denver's crew, Wetherald said, "You are truly among the best I've seen and served with in my Navy career."

Denver's commanding officer, Capt. Michael Donnelly, also spoke at the decommissioning.

"The 46 year service life of Denver is unique for a warship," Donnelly said. "The ship has seen five decades of service, 15 crew cycles, 31 commanding officers, and has crossed the International Date Line 46 times. The Denver has always been a mile

high and a mile ahead."

Jim Hyden of the USS Denver Association presented Donnelly with a proclamation from the mayor of Denver, which was read at the ceremony. Also present at the event were three former Vietnamese refugees who escaped the fall of Saigon aboard Denver as well as several former crewmembers.

After Wetherald and Donnelly spoke, the decommissioning directive was read aloud. The ceremony concluded with the ship's company filing ashore, and eight bells were struck terminating the final watch. The colors, pennants, jack and ensign were hauled down and the USS Denver ceased to be a commissioned U.S. Navy warship.

The next destination for Denver is the Navy's deactivated fleet at West Loch.