

HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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Hickam Elementary hosts Sept. 11 remembrance

Story and photo by Sr Airman Christopher Stoltz

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

Hickam Elementary School hosted a Sept. 11 remembrance commemoration assembly and march to honor the victims who perished 13 years ago during the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers in New York City, the Pentagon and Flight 93 in a field in Pennsylvania.

The event included remarks from Rory Vierra, Hickam Elementary School principal, a performance of the Star Spangled Banner and state song of Hawaii from the Royal Hawaiian Band, and a moment of silence honoring the victims of Sept. 11.

The event continued with a march from Manzelman Circle to Eighth and Ninth Avenues and concluded



A Hickam Elementary School student waves his flag during the Hickam Elementary Sept. 11 Remembrance Parade, held Thursday at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. (Additional photo on page A-5.)

with a return to Hickam Elementary School.

Hickam Elementary faculty, students, the Royal Hawaiian Band, Radford

High School Band and JROTC color guard, representatives from Mokulele Elementary School, the Federal Fire Department

and JBPHH Security Forces participated in the march.

Approximately 700 participants were in attendance at the event and

march, including more than 630 students.

"To move forward does not mean we will forget," Vierra said.

"Today we honor the sacrifices of the men and women who protect us every day—the military, the police and fire departments alike. We need continue to remember and honor their sacrifices and to remember what it means to be an American," he said.

As the students and march participants looped back toward Hickam Elementary School to finish the parade, both spectators and participants alike could be overheard sharing their stories of where they were that day and how they will always remember it.

"We can easily remember what happened 13 seconds ago," said Vierra. "We can also recall what happened 13 minutes ago. Thirteen hours ago, we were probably eating dinner with our families. But as time goes on to 13 days, 13 months, our memories start to fade. But 13 years ago, we will never forget."



Rear Adm. Alma Grocki, director for fleet maintenance, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, serves as a reenlisting officer for service members based in Hawaii aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Ford Island at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. More than 30 service members took the oath of enlistment on the 13th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, commemorating their past and future service.

Service members commemorate 9/11 by reenlisting on 'Mighty Mo'

Story and photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Det. Hawaii.

Military service members based in Hawaii reenlisted during a mass reenlistment ceremony held Sept. 11 under turret one on the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Ford Island.

More than 30 service members took the oath of enlistment on the 13th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, paying tribute to the victims as well as commemorating their past and future service.

Navy Rear Adm. Alma Grocki, director for fleet maintenance, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, presided over the ceremony and was reenlisting officer. Command Master Chief Patricia Roebuck, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, served as master of ceremonies, and Lt. James Ragain, a chaplain attached to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, offered an invocation.

"It is amazing to have all the services together—

Army, Navy and Air Force—all in such a historic place and on such a meaningful day as today, Sept. 11," said Grocki. "It is a fantastic feeling to see all the people, these good Americans, come together and be willing to give more years of their lives to the country."

She stressed the importance of today's military, and servicemen and women who chose to continue to defend their nation. Grocki also gave advice to members of armed services who serve and will be serving in the future.

"There are probably things that you don't like about what you do or how things work [in the military], but you need to stay in the system and work in order to make a change," said Grocki. "Look for the opportunities to better your service for yourself and [improve it] for the people who are behind you and, by staying in, by reenlisting, you have a great chance to do that."

Commands, detachments and units, mentors, families and friends attended the ceremony in

support of their Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, covering the entire bow of the battleship.

Upon completing her address to the military members, Grocki raised her right hand and read the oath of enlistment as service members repeated after her in unison.

"I am proud to be able to do this, on this important day, Sept. 11, very honored that I can continue to serve for the next six years," said Chief Fire Controlman Clifford Emerson, stationed aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73).

"It is a major event, to reenlist on Missouri on anniversary of Sept. 11 attacks, and it brought everyone in the military together," Emerson said.

Chief selectees, stationed aboard USS Port Royal, came to the ceremony in support of their chief and were on hand to congratulate him and commemorate his future service.

Electronics Technician 1st Class William White, assigned to the guided-

See REENLISTMENT, A-7

USS La Jolla returns from its final deployment

Story and photo by MC1 Jason Swink

Submarine Force Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

The fast attack submarine USS La Jolla (SSN 701) returned home to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Sept. 3 following its final regularly scheduled deployment.

Cmdr. Kevin Roach, the Los Angeles-class submarine's commanding officer, said the crew was outstanding during their deployment to the western Pacific.

"I am honored to have sailed with them. I am inspired by their hard work and dedication they put in day in and day out," said Roach of his crew's performance. "They are motivated about doing the mission and doing what our country needs of us."

During the deployment, La Jolla's crew steamed more than 35,000 nautical miles. Theater security cooperation and friendship mission port visits were conducted in Okinawa and Yokosuka, Japan; Sattahip, Thailand, Singapore; and Sepangar, Malaysia.

"We had the opportunity

to do some things with the Malaysian submarine force," said Roach. "There is not a more professional group of men and women I have met in the submarine force."

Master Chief Fire Control Technician Edward Brennan, La Jolla's chief of the boat, said he was proud of his Sailors' performance during the different missions conducted in support of national security.

"The crew maintained the ship at sea and fought through all the ups and downs of being on deployment," said Brennan.

La Jolla was underway for 150 of the 180 days deployed.

"My favorite memory of La Jolla is going to be the two western Pacific deployments and the hundreds of Sailors I have seen grow into submarine force leaders," said Brennan.

Over the course of the deployment, 35 Sailors became submarine-qualified and are now able to wear their submarine warfare insignia, or "dolphins," along with more than 30 Sailors moving up in rank, including three selections for chief petty officer, one for senior chief petty officer, and one master chief

petty officer.

La Jolla is scheduled for decommissioning later this year and subsequently will be converted to a moored training ship (MTS) that will be permanently placed at Nuclear Power Training Unit, Charleston, S.C.

Roach said he is proud of the second life La Jolla will have as an MTS.

"Most Los Angeles-class submarines will get decommissioned, and that's part of the life of a ship, but La Jolla will live on as a training ship," said Roach. "Well past 20, 30, maybe 40 years from now, she'll still be doing a mission—training students, and that's a great thing to be part of."

Families and friends showed off signs, banners and lei as the submarine came into view in the harbor.

Lisa Cortez was particularly excited about the return of her husband, Machinist's Mate 1st Class Nicholas Cortez, and looking forward to some quality time together with their children, including a new baby who is expected any day.

"I missed him terribly,"

See LA JOLLA, A-7



Friends and families watch the crew of the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS La Jolla (SSN 701) as they begin to tie to the pier at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after completion of its final scheduled six-month deployment to the western Pacific on Sept. 3. (Additional photo on page A-5)



Alarcon relieves Yutt at USS Columbus change of command See page A-2



Hawaii CPO selectees take on Kaneohe's FMF Challenge See page A-4



Remembrance run honors fallen service members See page B-1



9-11 See pages A-5, A-7



NIOC to host CPO Pride Day today See page A-6



CFC events See pages B-4, B-5



Cmdr. David Youtt is piped ashore after being relieved by Cmdr. Albert Alarcon as commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS Columbus (SSN 762).

Alarcon relieves Youtt at USS Columbus change of command

Story and photo by
MC1 Steven Khor

Submarine Force Pacific
Fleet Public Affairs

Cmdr. Albert Alarcon relieved Cmdr. David Youtt as commanding officer of USS Columbus (SSN 762) during a change of command ceremony Aug. 26 at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Youtt expressed how proud he is that he had the opportunity to be in command of the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine and working with some of the best Sailors in the submarine force.

"Thank you for your professionalism, thank you to the Columbus families for your sacrifice and support, and thank you to the crew of the USS Columbus for your hard work and dedication over the past three years," said Youtt.

In command for more than two years, Youtt maintained his ship and crew to the highest level of combat readiness. During Youtt's tenure in command of Columbus, more than 115 new submariners earned their warfare qualifications,

or "dolphins," the team executed more than 550 days at sea, and steamed more than 115,000 nautical miles. Youtt deployed to the western Pacific twice and conducted several missions vital to national security.

The ceremony's guest speaker, Rear Adm. William Merz, commander of Naval Mine and Anti-Submarine Warfare Command, praised Youtt for an amazing job in command.

"Dave, you have clearly done a superb job," said Merz.

Merz said he looks forward to seeing him in his next assignment as submarine operations officer for Task Force 74 at Yokosuka, Japan. "I could not imagine a more perfect leader for this incredibly important position," Merz said.

During the ceremony, Youtt was awarded a Legion of Merit for his successes in command of Columbus from September 2011 to August 2014.

As Alarcon assumed command of Columbus, he thanked Youtt for turning over a capable ship and a highly loyal crew.

"Columbus has sustained superior performance under

Capt. Youtt's leadership, and I am truly honored to share in our ship's legacy of excellence," said Alarcon.

Alarcon addressed the crew on their future under his command.

"Our job is to always be ready to answer our nation's calling," said Alarcon.

"Somewhere across the ocean, there is another crew waiting for the opportunity to compromise our freedom and our way of life. But little do they know that the bus will always be ready to respond. Gentlemen, we have work to do. Let's make our country proud," he added.

USS Columbus is the 51st Los Angeles-class submarine and the 12th improved version of this class, which includes a vertical launch system for Tomahawk cruise missiles and an improved hull design for under-ice operations. The ship completed a post-shipyard availability in June 1994 in Groton, Conn. after initial construction and shakedown operations.

In September 1994, the ship conducted an inter-fleet transfer to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and joined the U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Force.

COMPACAF recognizes 535th AS Airmen for humanitarian mission

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt.
Alexander Martinez

15th Wing Public Affairs

Gen. Hawk Carlisle, Pacific Air Forces commander, presented the Air Force Aerial Achievement Medal to Capt. Michael Hank and Edward Sutton, 535th Airlift Squadron, for their contributions to Operation Damayan during a medal presentation Sept. 9 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"I can't say it enough. Thank you for what you do, and thank you for stepping up for this mission and being absolutely incredible," Carlisle said. "Your whole crew did an amazing job, and you have a lot to be proud of."

Hank and Sutton were members of two C-17 Globemaster III crews who flew humanitarian sorties in and out of the Tacloban region of the Philippines, after Typhoon Haiyan devastated the area, killing more than 6,000 people.

Lt. Col. Gregg Johnson, 535th AS commander, presented the Air Force Aerial Achievement Medal to five other crew members at the presentation: Capt. Jason Birdsall, 1st Lt. Gavin Walter, Tech. Sgt. Robert Wyman, Staff Sgt. Dylan Porras, and Senior Airman



Gen. Hawk Carlisle, Pacific Air Forces commander, shakes hands with Air Force Aerial Achievement Medal recipients during a medal presentation Sept. 9 in Hollister Auditorium at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Samantha Holley. "It was amazing today to have our crews get the Aerial Achievement Medal," Hank said. "It's the result of the hard work everyone put into completing the mission and helping others."

Their crews were the first U.S. C-17s to land at Clark Air Base, Philippines, to provide humanitarian relief for the operation.

"What an honor and a humbling experience to be presented the Aerial Achievement Medal," Sutton said. "Sometimes it just feels like it's another day in the office, but then you look back and see the impact your work had on the overall mission and on helping others—it's amazing."

When the crews arrived, more than 20,000 people

were waiting for humanitarian aid and evacuation, many grieving due to missing family members and the devastation in the area.

"The moment that stands out for me was when we had that first load of 674 passengers," Walter said. "To see these people finally having a little hope on the plane after going days without food and water is something I'll never forget. We were able to take them to safety and that was an amazing feeling."

The 674-passenger sortie set a record for the most number of passengers on a single C-17 sortie.

In all, the two crews airlifted more than 2.5 million pounds of life-saving cargo and rescued more than 2,000 people.

Navy Community Service Awards deadline Sept. 18

Lt. j.g. Eric Galassi

Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs

The Navy Community Service Program is currently open for nominations from commands in Navy Region Hawaii.

All Navy commands that have demonstrated significant volunteer participation from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 are invited to submit nomination packages to the geographic region coordinator (GRC) for the awards.

The five flagships to submit separate packages for are: Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship; Health, Fitness and Safety Flagship; Campaign Drug-Free Flagship; Project Good Neighbor Flagship; and Environmental Stewardship Flagship.

Any command submitting nomination packages to three or more of these flagships can also submit a package for the USS Bain-

bridge (CGN 25) Award for Overall Excellence. A fillable PDF submission data sheet and guidelines are available through the GRC.

Nominations cannot exceed 10 pages in length and must include the commanding officer's letter of endorsement. The deadline for submissions is Sept. 18 to Lt. j.g. Eric Galassi. For more information and to submit nominations, contact the GRC at eric.galassi@navy.mil or 473-0660.

Commentary

The role of chief: Backbone of our Navy, providing leadership

Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Last year at around this time, I shared some thoughts in a commentary about the hard work, perseverance and strong commitment it takes to become a chief petty officer.

Some of those thoughts are worth repeating and expanding upon this week as chief-selectees participated in "phase II" and the Legacy Academy.

We saw—and often heard—groups of Sailors running in formation, training and communicating. Chief-selectees also received intense mentoring about leadership and teamwork at the next level.

Pearl Harbor is rightly one of the sites for the Legacy Academy, where enlisted leaders learn about the history and heritage of our Navy. Other Legacy Academy sites include aboard USS Constitution in Boston and aboard the USS Midway

(CV 41) Museum in San Diego, among others.

Here in Pearl Harbor, Sailors learn about cornerstone history of our Navy. They visit USS Arizona Memorial, which represents the beginning and end of World War II in the Pacific. And they learn aboard Battleship Missouri Memorial. "Mighty Mo" was the location for the signing of the Instruments of Surrender on Sept. 2, 1945.

Through phase II and the Legacy Academy, Sailors turn into leaders and find the passion to make the Navy a career.

To paraphrase President John F. Kennedy, who was a Navy veteran who served in World War II, now is the time Sailors stop thinking about what the Navy can do for them and instead think about what they can

do for the Navy.

The good news is our chiefs and selectees want this challenge. It defines them. It is their calling. There is no longer a transactional relationship of bonuses or duty station assignments. It is instead transformational.

This year's Legacy Academy in Pearl Harbor included participants from MSC Far East in Singapore and the American Embassy in Fiji. Here in Hawaii, Sailors who are selected to become chief petty officers learn about the importance of our mission as part of the rebalancing to Asia-Pacific. Perhaps they learn a little about themselves, too.

In the Legacy Academy, chiefs-to-be learn from other chiefs and former enlisted leaders—Navy veterans—about teamwork and

placing others over self. They learn that becoming a chief is not the end but another beginning. We all count on our chiefs as the backbone of our Navy.

When I think of the importance of our chiefs, I am reminded of the famous quote by Adm. William "Bull" Halsey, namesake of our guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97) now deployed forward in the western Pacific.

Adm. Halsey once spoke to a journalist about the importance of chief petty officers to the development of his own career and the careers of all Sailors. "You see those battleships sitting there, and you think they float on the water, don't you? You are wrong," Halsey said. "They are carried to sea on the backs of those chief petty officers."

Master Chief Petty Offi-

cer of the Navy MCPON Stevens talks about how chiefs are passing on their legacy—not only through Phase I and II and the Legacy Academy but also through CPO 365, Navy Ethos and Navy Core Values as well as CNO's tenets of warfighting first, operate forward and be ready.

Stevens said, "This is your success story, brought to life by creatively blending ... prominent tradition with a passionate commitment to provide the leadership our Sailors demand and should expect from the chief petty officers' mess."

These last few weeks—and especially next week's pinning ceremony—should be a reminder to the rest of us of the importance of our Navy and the "Goat Locker" where Sailor life is truly defined and where the legacy continues.

Service members, civilians discuss way ahead for education at JVEF meeting

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal

Defense Media Activity—Hawaii

Service members and civilians attended the 13th Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) annual meeting held Aug. 28 at the Salvation Army: Ray and Joan

Kroc Corps Community Center at Ewa Beach.

The JVEF provides continuous coordination through partnerships and open dialogue in order to promote understanding and implement initiatives toward the needs of military children and families.

They also facilitate educational support for military-connected public schools

within the Hawaii public school system.

Air Force Col. Jaimie Pease, director of manpower and personnel at Headquarters Pacific Command (PACOM), provided opening remarks during the event.

"This year our theme is 'dedicated partners in education,'" Pease said. "It is that dedication that keeps us united in our common goal of providing the best educational opportunities for our children."

Dennis Drake, JVEF military co-chair, explained how partnerships have increased within the military and education have increased this year.

"For the last three years, communicating messages to our education community and our military have been really challenging," Drake said.

"We're very excited that this year the board recreated the strategic communi-



U.S. Air Force Col. Jaimie Pease, director of manpower and personnel at Headquarters Pacific Command, provides opening remarks during the 13th Joint Venture Education Forum (JVEF) annual meeting.

cation and information group. We have all of the services represented: PACOM, Department of Education, schools, principals, administrators, parents, school liaison officers and the Chamber of Commerce," he said.

Education representatives

from the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard and students spoke about the volunteer opportunities that service members and their families are offered in Hawaii to help bolster education quality. The forum was also an opportunity to

thank those who had already committed time to volunteer work.

"Today we are here to recognize and thank our volunteer honorees," Pease said. "These are military men and women who devoted their time and effort to mentor, read to our children, and volunteer in numerous ways to make our schools a better place."

Air Force Maj. Gen. John Dolan, PACOM chief of staff, and Kathryn Matayoshi, Hawaii Superintendent of Education, presented coins to 11 Airmen, 30 Soldiers, 16 Marines, 44 Sailors and six National Guardsmen who distinguished themselves in their volunteer work toward advancing the education quality in Hawaii.

"The real reward lies in the difference you have made in each of these children's lives," Pease said. "When you lead by example, young eyes take notice."

Diverse Views



September is National Preparedness Month. How do you stay prepared for a natural disaster or other emergency?



Master Sgt. Sean Murphy
PACAF/A4

"I ensure we have enough food and water to get through for a week, as well as secure the outside of the house; windows, lawn furniture, etc."

FCSN Ricardo Soltren
USS Lake Erie (CG 70)



"I keep updated with current news and when my command sends me updates. I am from Florida, so I'm familiar with natural disasters. I try to stay prepared for when anything comes."



Tech. Sgt. Courtney Stanton
647th Air Base Group/EO

"I'm prepared by remaining abreast on local news and weather and keeping a kit on standby."

CTR1 Chris Rodriguez
CID Hawaii



"NFAAS. (Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System.) I make sure everything we need is in disaster preparedness kits."



Lisa Jones
PACAF/A4

"I prepare by keeping a supply of non-perishable food on hand, making sure we have plenty of flashlights and batteries, and we purchased a 'water bob' which stores up to 100 gallons of water."

LN2 Amber Ambrozich
RLSO



"I always make sure I have water in the trunk of my car for one thing. And I always make sure I have a weather app on my phone."



Capt. Toni Merhar
535th Airlift Squadron

"Learning about the specific threats to your location and preparing a family emergency plan."

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

Mass awards ceremony honors Midway fliers

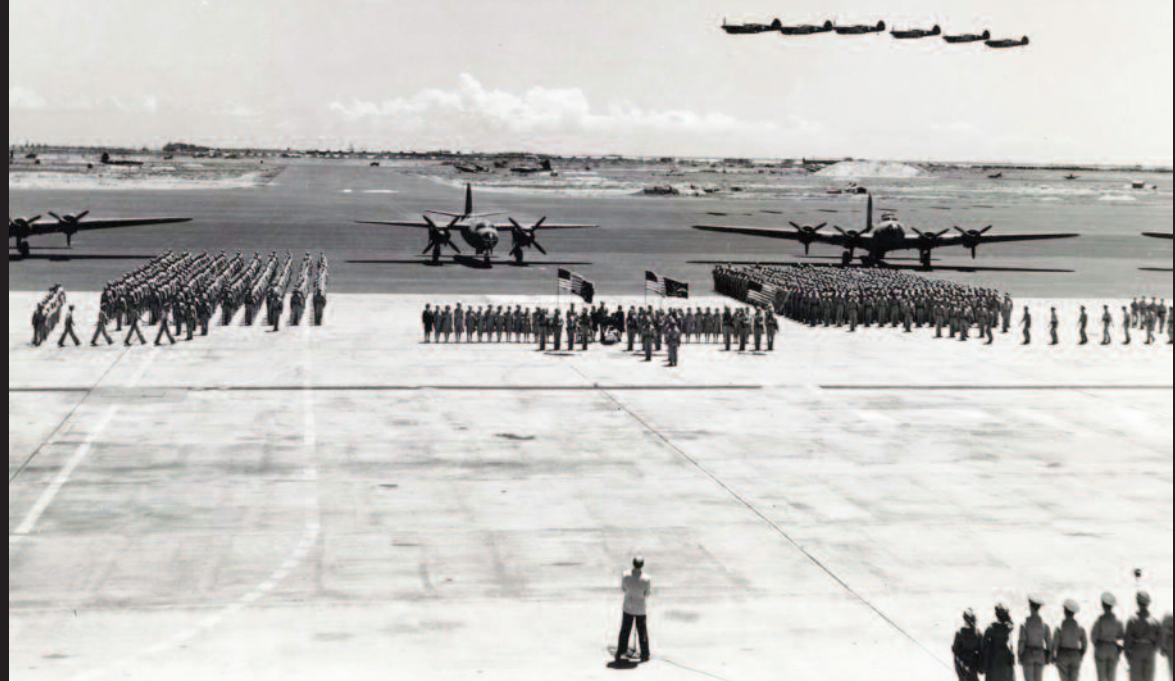


Photo courtesy of the Hawaii Department of Transportation

A mass awards ceremony is shown here on Sept. 17, 1942 (72 years ago this month) at Hickam Field in which the 7th Air Force awarded medals to fliers who participated in the Battle of Midway. Flying overhead are P-40E aircraft. Parked on flight line are B-17s on each side of a Martin B-26.

HO'OKELE

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Hawaii CPO selectees take on Kaneohe's FMF Challenge

MC3 Amber Porter

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

"Are you a lifter or are you a leaner?"

These were the words Command Master Chief Christopher Aldis, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, bellowed at hundreds of eager chief petty officer (CPO) selectees the morning of Aug. 28, setting the tone for the 14th Annual Fleet Marine Force (FMF) Challenge in Kaneohe, Hawaii.

Aldis' words resonated a thought that left the chief selects ponder whether they were a "lifter," a take-charge leader that can impact the Navy and the mess, or a "leaner," unreliable and only looking out for oneself.

Chief selectees are first class petty officers who have been selected for promotion to CPO but not yet actually promoted or "pinned." This challenge is designed to build companionship and teamwork for the chief selectees and to help integrate them into the Chiefs Mess, referred to as the Goat Locker.

The challenge is based on the physical fitness and tactical proficiency FMF corpsmen must have to embed with Marine platoons.

"The FMF Challenge started 14 years ago as a way to show what Sailors training with the Marine Corps experience," said Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman Lorenzo Branch, a coordinator of the FMF Challenge.

"Corpsmen stationed here are passed along the heritage of hosting and creating this event. We take a lot of pride in what we do and we want the selectees to feel proud of themselves after the experience."

Each team shouted marching commands and hoisted its guidon as the



U.S. Navy photos by MCI Amanda Dunford

Chief petty officer selectees participate in team-building events during the Fleet Marine Force Challenge on Marine Corps Base Hawaii Kaneohe Bay.

Sailors maneuvered themselves on Landing Zone Boondocker's Field for warm-ups before a 3.5-mile run.

"This is an island-wide event," said Branch. "Other commands have different events but the FMF Challenge is specific to Kaneohe Bay. The course is designed as a teambuilding experience. One of the primary focuses is for the selectees to learn how to work through problems."

An average of 220 Sailors stationed in Hawaii are tested on the course each year, competing in events such as an obstacle course, an endurance course, tug-of-war, and a memory portion.

Eleven teams competed this year with the ultimate goal of conquering the obstacles in the shortest time, relying on strategy and trusting their teammates to finish as a group.

"Teamwork is imperative to the completion of the course, enabling individuals to come together as a unit," said Command Master Chief William Reed, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 2.

"Everyone has weaknesses and strengths, and just like the obstacle course, you have to make it over obstacles in your job and obstacles in your life. The selectees have to be able to recognize their weaknesses and then capitalize on ev-

eryone's strengths so everyone finishes together."

"You test yourself while providing support to your teammates at the same time," said Chief (select) Legalman Erica Keels, Defense Service Office Pacific. "Before today, we discussed each other's strengths and weaknesses and made a plan on how we would compensate or who would be better for certain events."

Chief selectees participate in coordinated events like the FMF Challenge during the CPO 365 Phase II portion that tests them physically and mentally, urging them to apply what they learned in Phase I as a first class

petty officer (FCPO).

"Phase I and II of CPO 365 challenges the FCPOs and, after the CPO selection results are published, continues to challenge the chief selects both physically and intellectually and teaches them to develop their teamwork ability to confront any task that they are presented with," said Reed. "Events like this challenge the CPO selectees in the same way that camaraderie team events during Phase I challenge all FCPOs."

"I think this helped bond us together," said Chief (select) Intelligence Specialist Ryan George, a member of the Navy Information Operations Command/U.S. Pa-

cific Command winning team.

"It feels good to win, but more importantly, it was a good opportunity to get out here and meet other chiefs from different commands. It was less about competition and more about networking and working together and having fun. I didn't want to let my teammates down and that helped with staying strong and doing well."

As the challenge courses came to a close and lunch was served, chief selectees carried their CPO charge books and sat with chiefs to receive written entries and words of wisdom. With each animated story, little-by-little, the inclusion of the chief selectees into the Chiefs Mess developed.

"Events like these challenges build a sense of camaraderie, unity and teamwork that nothing else we do in the Navy has done," said Chief Naval Aircrewman (Mechanical) Matthew Meadows, U.S. Pacific Fleet's 2014 Sailor of the Year, who was meritoriously promoted to E-7 in May.

"The true idea of leadership is not sitting behind a desk and listening to someone speak. Leadership, in my opinion, is going out on the deck plates, or field in this case, and helping each other over obstacles like you would in real life. The FMF Challenge is unlike any other leadership course I've seen in my career."

For the final event of the day, the tug-of-war, chief selectees showcased friendly competitive teamwork, pulling the line to enthusiastic and rhythmic shouts of "heave ... heave ... heave." Losing teams were inevitably pulled into a puddle of muddy water. But those Sailors didn't seem to care, and, in fact, seemed to embrace the brief moment to splash mud on their fellow chief selectees.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



Photo by Gregg Moriguchi
Fire inspectors from the Federal Fire Department (FFD) Fire Prevention Division worked to complete the 9/11 memorial fence design on Sept. 5. FFD is located off Center Drive near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The fence design is in remembrance of the attacks that took place 13-years ago on the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Arlington, Va, and Flight 93 which crashed near Shanksville, Pa. In honor of the 343 first responders, the fence reads "We Will Never Forget." (See the banner at the top of page A-1 for photo of the fence design.)



Naval Aircrewman Helicopter Chief Matthew Meadows views the Fisher House remembrance display representing fallen service members prior to a ceremony in honor of those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and those service members who gave their lives since.
U.S. Navy photo by MCC John M. Hageman



U.S. Navy photo by Sr Airman Christopher Stoltz
Second graders from Hickam Elementary School hold a banner as they march during the Hickam Elementary Sept. 11 Remembrance Parade, held Thursday at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Navy Region Hawaii chief petty officers (CPO) and CPO selectees hold a remembrance ceremony in honor of those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and those service members who gave their lives since. Boots containing photo identification of each fallen service member cover the field for the ceremony.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Brian Wilbur



Lt. Col. Rusty Evers (right), 96th Air Refueling Squadron operations officer, highlights the capabilities of the KC-135 Stratotanker to Navy Capt. Stanley Keeve Jr., commander, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, during an immersion tour on the JBPHH flightline on Sept. 4. Keeve was briefed by 15th Wing leaders and visited numerous squadrons to become familiar with the wing mission and operations.

U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Andrea Dykes



(Right) Machinist's Mate Nicholas Cortez kisses his wife at the submarine piers at JBPHH following the return of the Los Angeles class, fast attack submarine USS La Jolla (SSN 701) from its final scheduled six-month deployment to the western Pacific on Sept. 3.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jason Swink



Donald Schregardus, the deputy assistant secretary of the Navy (installations & environment) presents the Secretary of the Navy Natural Resources Award (small installation) to Lt. Cmdr. Mark A. Johnson, Pacific Missile Range Facility executive officer, and the environmental team on Sept. 9. He also toured environmentally significant areas at PMRF including Nohili Dunes, Turtle Cove and the shearwater seabird nests and sanctuary.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Matthew J. Diendorf

15th Wing hosts Caring for People Forum at joint base

Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Public Affairs

The child development centers (CDC) were the focus of the Caring for People Forum that took place Aug. 28 at the Earhart Community Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

During the forum, members of the community had an opportunity to voice their opinions and talk directly to CDC leadership and subject matter experts about issues which directly impact their families.

Dr. Kimberly Moore, child and youth programs (CYP) regional manager, said the goal of the forum was to make sure parents are ulti-



Master Sgt. Michael Stephens, 15th Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight chief and Caring for People Forum facilitator, leads a group discussion.

mately happy with the quality of service their children receive from the CYP.

“Our mission is to make

sure your children are safe so you can focus on and do your mission. That's why we're here,” Moore said.

“We're here to make sure parents have peace of mind when they go to work. If they are worried about their children or what's going on at the CDC or with their family, they won't be able to put 110 percent of themselves into their job,” she said.

Now that the forum is over, the top six issues will be

channeled up through the CDC, 15th Wing and JBPHH leadership for resolution.

“I hope attendees walked away from the forum today with questions answered and myths dispelled and that our staff walked away with new ideas for programs and services,” Moore said.

She explained that larger issues brought up during the discussions could result in policy changes, Air Force instruction changes or even Congressional consideration, hearings and new legislation.

“I think that this forum is so helpful and different than other grievance processes because of its structure,” she said.

“It's a guided discussion, has tangible results, and a positive focus which really allows us to look at what people really need and want.”

According to Moore, another benefit of the Caring for People Forum is that it could give

parents answers to questions they may not have known they had.

“This is a chance for us to educate our parents,” she said. “Someone may ask a personal question that gives someone else information also. The forum allows for a behind the scenes look at the program which may not be apparent to some people when they're just dropping off and picking up their children.”

Tiffany Dailey, one of the forum attendees, said she found having the CDC leadership present for the discussion to be particularly beneficial.

“People were actually here to listen to our issues and ask our opinion,” she said. “It was different than just voicing our concerns into a dead end process because people who work at the CDC were actually here to hear them and answer questions ... [it] makes me feel like my concerns matter.”

NIOC to host CPO Pride Day today

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

“Navy Chief, Navy Pride!” will echo across Pier Foxtrot-5, where the Battleship Missouri Memorial is berthed, as hundreds of chief petty officers (CPOs) and newly selected Navy chiefs gather today from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. to participate in the second annual CPO Pride Day.

The event, hosted by Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Hawaii, is expected to include participation from seven CPO messes and approximately 300 to 500 active duty and retired chiefs in attendance.

CPO Pride Day is a time-honored tradition that will assemble chief selectees from across the island and give them the opportunity to showcase the skills they've learned during their Navy and chiefs' heritage training. Chiefs and selectees from across the region will come together to build camaraderie, share knowledge, and inspire one another to share the CPO's legacy and Navy's heritage with the world.

“It's an honor to bring back the Hawaii Chief Petty Officers' Pride Day for a second year in a row,” said Toby Ruiz, NIOC Hawaii command master chief.

“While our goal for this event is for chief selectees to show off what they've learned in their Navy and chiefs' heritage training during their CPO 365 seasons, it's also an

opportunity for chiefs and selectees to assemble and come together to build camaraderie, share ideas with and motivate each other, which are some of the true strengths of the CPO mess,” Ruiz said.

He added, “It's also very important to remember that all chiefs remain the keepers of our CPO legacy and our Navy's heritage, so the Hawaii CPO Pride Day allows us the chance to demonstrate that for all, and where better a place to do that than at the USS Missouri Memorial on Ford Island.”

The day's exercises will include a pride drill competition, which calls for the demonstration of spirit, pride, skill and creativity through marching and cadence. Modern maneuvers not specifically listed in the official drill manual are permitted during this competition, allowing naval humor and antics to shine through in these performances.

An additional competition during the day is centered on the guidon, which is a military standard flag used as a form of mess identification. Each group of CPO selectees carries a guidon that they have crafted to represent themselves and their respective chief messes. One CPO selectee is required to explain the significance of their guidon to a panel of judges.

The Navy Region Hawaii 2013 winning performance from last year's competition can be viewed at the following link: <http://ow.ly/BoTKz>

JBPHH 'Feds Feed Families' campaign collects food for local community

Story and photo by
SrA Christopher Stoltz

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-
Hickam Public Affairs

The 'Feds Feed Families' program has wrapped up its two-month campaign throughout the islands of Hawaii.

Feds Feed Families is a charitable campaign led by the United States Department of Agriculture that collects canned goods and nonperishable food items for those in need. The campaign began in June and ran through the end of August.

Since the campaign be-



RP2 Ryan Porch and RP1 Alex Vinluan load more than 1,500-pounds of food during one of many "drops" during the "Feds Feed Families" campaign held June through August at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

gan in 2009, military service members and federal workers have donated and collected 24.1 million

pounds of food and other non-perishable items to support families across America. Nearly 9 million

pounds of food were collected in 2014 alone.

Navy Chief Religious Program Specialist (SW/AW) Kimberly Bell was the coordinator for Feds Feed Families at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and said military bases stationed throughout the islands of Hawaii donated approximately 30,000 pounds.

"We are very fortunate," she said. "I am, along with many other servicemembers, are lucky enough to have a steady income. However, who am I to not share what I can and help those less fortunate than me? I would hope that if I were in the same situation as some

of these individuals, there would be people willing to do the same thing."

Bell said one of the main goals of the program was to help struggling people and families in the local community. Hawaii has more than 6,000 homeless individuals, according to a 2013 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development study.

"We didn't want to just donate and provide to service members," she said. "A Sailor, Airman, Marine, Soldier or Coast Guardsman usually have plenty of options and plenty of people looking out for them. There are various assistance programs within the military to

help a service member out. In the civilian world, unfortunately, it is not the same scenario. Many people go to bed every night with their stomachs growling, and you see it here a lot in Hawaii."

Although this is not a permanent solution to the issues of homelessness and hunger, Bell said she hopes the program will leave a few more stomachs full and a few more people happy.

Although the Feds Feed Families campaign is over, the Hawaii Food Bank accepts donations all year. For more information, visit www.hawaiifoodbank.org. The campaign is slated to return next year in June.

Reenlistment

Continued from A-1

missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112), shared Emerson's excitement and pride.

White was stationed aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Gonzalez (DDG 66) in Portsmouth, England when the attacks on America occurred, and his ship was almost immediately recalled for support. Today he wanted to commemorate the anniversary of Sept. 11 with his continued service to the nation.

"It's chilling; it really gets you down deep inside to stand on Missouri today. I was really happy that Rear Adm. Grocki was able to do this ceremony. It's not very common to have an admiral to reenlist you," said White.

"The falling of the towers, the attacks on the Pentagon, and fallen commercial aircraft—it is something that is going to stay with me for the rest of my life. And through the memories of my family, fallen shipmates and comrades throughout the armed forces who were affected by those events is what made me want to reenlist on this day and will take me to my 20-year mark," White said.

Upon completion of the ceremony, members of the armed forces were invited to raise their flags aboard the Missouri to commemorate their service.



(Above) Service members based in Hawaii prepare to reenlist on Sept. 11 aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Ford Island at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

(Left) Rear Adm. Alma Grocki, director for fleet maintenance, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, congratulates Electronics Technician 1st Class William White, assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112), on his reenlistment aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial on Sept. 11.

U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Diana Quinlan

La Jolla

Continued from A-1

said Lisa. "It feels amazing to have him back."

Laura Dillard flew from Oklahoma to surprise her son, Chief Electronics Technician Shaun Blouin.

"His service is unbelievable. No mother has been more proud of her son than I am for him," said Dillard, choking back tears. "Going a year without seeing him has been rough. He is a rock star."

Surprised by his mom and surrounded by family, Blouin said he is looking forward to spending time with them in Hawaii before La Jolla leaves permanently.

USS La Jolla is named for La Jolla, Calif. and is the first warship named after the township. Commissioned Oct. 24, 1981, La Jolla is the 14th ship of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarines. The submarine is 360-feet long, displaces 6,900 tons, and can be armed with sophisticated Mark-48 ADCAP anti-submarine torpedoes and Tomahawk guided cruise missiles.

Halsey warriors lead healthy lifestyles in 'Sail into Shape' challenge

Story and photo by
Lt. j.g. Rochelle Perry

USS Halsey (DDG 97)
Public Affairs

PHILIPPINE SEA — Maintaining a physically fit lifestyle for Sailors aboard a deployed U.S. Navy warship can be challenging. For Sailors aboard the Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97), participation in the command-wide "Sail into Shape" weight management challenge program encourages wholesome eating, healthy lifestyle choices and solid exercising habits.

The more than 70 Sailors participating in the weight loss challenge choose teams, and an assistant command fitness leader serves as their coach to assist them in safely meeting weight loss goals. During the competition, participants are encouraged to track caloric intake, log their workouts, and record their workout progress. The challenge lasts a total of 90 days with weigh-ins conducted every two weeks.

"My goal as a coach is to make fitness a lifestyle, not just a 90-day challenge," said Operations Specialist 1st Class Darius Mitchell.

"I will show them the science behind burning fat while, at the same time, showing them how to eat healthy and make good food decisions. Teams should be having fun with fitness," he said.

The program is designed for recreation and enjoyment but also plays an important role in helping maintain Navy physi-



Information Technician 1st Class Denino Yelverton takes helpful pointers while observing proper pushups from Chief Operations Specialist Marcus Allen, command fitness leader (CFL) and fitness coach.

cal fitness standards to ensure the command's overall mission readiness.

Chief Operations Specialist Marcus Allen, Halsey's command fitness leader, said focusing and understanding healthy eating habits is the key to success in maintaining a fit and active life.

"We're hoping to change lifestyles, build self-confidence, and give people healthier habits they can use for the rest of their lives," said Allen. "Keeping good health is important in performing your job and carrying out your duties as a Sailor."

The fitness teams have come up with motivating and interesting ways to stay in shape. From running laps around Halsey's gun deck to group exercises on the aft missile deck, Halsey Sailors are determined to keep a fit and active routine during deployment.

"My personal goal is to lose 23 pounds and being

part of a team really builds the camaraderie and motivation I need to lose weight," said Yeoman 1st Class Margaret Royal, who has already lost six pounds.

"I can't wait to do our next weigh-ins. Overall, this program encourages teamwork and based on the 17 teams we have, it's awesome that the command is coming together to achieve their goals," Royal added.

On Nov. 10, the competition ends, and closing ceremonies will be held at which time winners will be announced. The winning team will receive special liberty and fitness equipment prizes, courtesy of the ship's morale,

welfare and recreation program.

Cmdr. Linda Seymour, Halsey's commanding officer, said the "Sail into Shape" program is a great morale booster and motivator for Sailors during deployment.

"Achieving physical fitness helps us maintain our mental and spiritual fitness, making us sharper warfighters," said Seymour. "I am amazed at the enthusiasm for the competition and inspired by the innovative workouts our teams do at sea every day to stay fit to fight."

Halsey is deployed in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations, supporting security and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

JPAC to host national POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony Sept. 19

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command will host a commemoration of National POW/MIA Recognition Day beginning at 10 a.m. Sept. 19 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl).

The ceremony is free and open to the public. Appropriate attire for the event is military class B or service equivalent, or civilian casual or aloha wear.

The keynote speaker, former Navy Captain (Ret.) James Hickerson, was a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. A member of the first A-7 squadron to go into combat, Hickerson was the first A-7 pilot to be shot down on Dec. 22, 1967. After enduring five years of torture and deprivation, he was ultimately released as part of Operation Homecoming in 1973.

Other ceremony highlights will include wreath presentations by veterans' groups and a reading of former missing in action service members whose remains were identified in the last year. Organizations are welcome to participate in the floral presentations by laying a wreath or flowers.