

# VETERANS DAY

Remember & honor those who served & sacrificed

## “Navigator”

# WHO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

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## Veterans to be honored at sunset ceremony on ‘Mighty Mo’

### USS Missouri Memorial Association

As daylight fades on Nov. 11, the Battleship Missouri Memorial will bring all veterans and Armistice Day observances around the world to a close with a special sunset ceremony at Pearl Harbor.

“It is a special privilege to conclude our nation’s commemorations of Veterans Day here in historic Pearl Harbor on the decks of the USS Missouri, America’s last battleship,” said Michael Carr, president and CEO of the USS Missouri Memorial Association. “Our ceremony will proudly honor all veterans for their unwavering courage, including our youngest generation of veterans who have served America over the past decade in the Middle East.”

Rear Adm. Rick Williams,

commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, will deliver the keynote address. Also speaking will be Retired Navy Vice Adm. Robert K.U. Kihune, former chairman of the board of directors for the USS Missouri Memorial Association, and Mark Marble, military adaptive sports coordinator for Schofield Barracks and founder of AccesSurfHawaii.

A portion of the program will be dedicated to remembering the Hawaii-based armed forces service members who gave their lives while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Representatives from the U.S. Armed Forces will toss more than 300 flowers into the waters of Pearl Harbor, each flower signifying a Hawaii Medal of Honor recipient who made the ultimate sacrifice.

As the ceremony draws to

a close, attendees will witness a vintage World War II airplane as it performs a fly-over of the retired USS Missouri, courtesy of Pacific Warbirds.

The ceremony will feature music by the U.S. Army 25th Infantry Division Band, the USPACOM Color Guard, and playing of Taps to honor all fallen veterans.

Attendance to the ceremony is free and open to the public. Complimentary round-trip shuttle service for the ceremony will be offered from the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Since opening in January 1999, the Battleship Missouri Memorial has attracted more than 6 million visitors from around the world. Located a mere ship’s length from the USS Arizona Memorial, the Mighty Mo completes a his-



torical visitor experience that begins with the “day of infamy” and sinking of the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and ends with Imperial Japan’s surrender aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2, 1945.

The USS Missouri had an astounding career over five decades and three wars – World War II, the Korean War and Desert Storm – after which it was decommissioned and donated to the USS Missouri Memorial Association, Inc.

Art Albert, a World War II veteran who served aboard USS Missouri from 1944 to 1947, reads a program during a ceremony Sept. 2 of the 69th anniversary of the end of World War II aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan

## Join *makahiki* celebration tomorrow at Hickam Harbor Beach

Lt. j.g. Eric Galassi

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) and Navy Region Hawaii will celebrate *Kapuaikaula Makahiki* beginning at 9 a.m. tomorrow at Hickam Harbor Beach.

Military and civilian personnel, their families and sponsored guests are invited to participate in *makahiki*, an ancient Hawaiian celebration known by some as a “Hawaiian Thanksgiving.”

Before the *makahiki* begins, paddlers in canoes carrying the Hawaiian de-

ity Lono will make a journey from Iroquois Point to Hickam Harbor. Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and Capt. Stanley Keeve, joint base commander, will take part as paddlers for this journey.

Additionally, Col. David Kirkendall, deputy joint base commander, will greet the canoe’s arrival while serving as *konohiki*. Once near shore, the blast of the *pu* (conch shell) will announce their arrival, ushering the start of the *makahiki* with a procession from the beach to the



U.S. Navy photo

A man tosses a wooden dart during the traditional *moa paha'e* competition at a previous *makahiki* festival. (See advance on page A-7.)

*makahiki* site in the grassy area near Sam Choy’s Seafood Grille.

The free event is organized by the Oahu Council of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in partnership with JBPHH. Families are invited to bring their beach chairs and mats to enjoy the festivities and take part in *makahiki* games, such as *maka ihe* (spear throwing) and *ulu maika* (stone rolling).

*Makahiki* was a season around the ancient Hawaiian New Year that spanned four months from October or November through February or March. The ancient Hawaiian people would cease all warfighting

during the first phase of the *makahiki* to give thanks to the deity Lono.

People would compete in traditional games of strength and skill during the second phase of the *makahiki* to gain recognition for their abilities. In the third phase, a canoe loaded with offerings to Lono would be taken out to sea and set adrift.

For more information, contact Tom Clements, Navy Region Hawaii environmental public affairs officer, at 473-0662 or Patty Coleman, Navy Region Hawaii environmental outreach coordinator, at 473-0369.

## Military trains to defend against infectious diseases

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Hubenthal

Defense Media Activity - Hawaii

TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER, Hawaii — The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention official website states that this year’s ebola epidemic marks the largest number of confirmed cases of ebola in history. In order to efficiently respond to an outbreak, Soldiers here trained Oct. 30 to ensure they have the skill sets to properly don and doff personal protective equipment (PPE) to defend themselves and patients against further infection.

A team of experts from the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) instructed service members on how to use necessary equipment while working around an infectious patient.

According to the U.S. Army Medical Department official website, the USAMRIID has spearheaded research to develop medical solutions, in the form of vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, and information, to protect military service members from biological threats.

Army Lt. Col. Neal Woolen, USAMRIID director of bio security, explained why the training is necessary for service members.

“Probably one of the highest risks that a person can face in regards to ebola is rendering care to someone who is sick with the ebola virus disease because they are going to be in



U.S. Army Pfc. Kaiya Capuchino (left), United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) combat medic, helps a student don personal protective equipment during hazardous material training Oct. 30, at Tripler Army Medical Center.

a very virus rich environment and they’re going to be naturally very close, personally touching those individuals and coming into contact with body fluids and discharge from that sick individual,” Woolen said.

Service members at the training practiced donning and doffing PPE to prepare for the chance of a real world scenario.

“We want to be able to give them

the maximum protection, and this training is all geared towards helping them be able to don the correct protective posture to be able to work safely with an ebola patient,” Woolen said.

“[It’s] even more important, after they finish working, to properly take that protective equipment off without spreading virus from the contaminated area to what we want

to maintain as a non-contaminated area, a clean area.”

Army Col. Evelyn Barraza, Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) chief of preventive medicine, explained what the TAMC staff hopes to take away from the training.

“Because of the seriousness of ebola, we want to make sure our staff has been able to receive all the

training that we can provide them,” Barraza said.

“We want to make sure they understand how to wear the PPE. One of the lessons learned, at least from the CDC and the World Health Organization, is the proper sequencing of putting it on and taking it off is very important. Any misstep along the way can be a potential risk factor for a health care worker,” she explained.

Air Force Lt. Col. Chris Cieurzo, 15th Medical Group and 96th Aerospace Medicine Squadron chief of aerospace medicine, explained how his team was able to benefit from the training.

“We’re trying to get mandatory training that the Department of Defense has required of all military treatment facilities to prepare for possible infectious patients,” Cieurzo said.

“The requirement is for us to prepare and drill an event where an infectious patient may show up even at an outpatient treatment facility and in order to manage those folks, we need to use the proper protective equipment to protect our staff as well as the patient,” he said.

Cieurzo said that the training and knowledge gathered during the class is just a first step in readiness.

“Our take away is that there are definitely challenges in using this equipment, but there are ways to overcome it and our hope is to start training the remainder of our staff with what we learned here today,” Cieurzo said.



‘Misty’ Vietnam veterans visit Hawaii  
See page A-2, A-7



Pearl Harbor ships participate in California exercise  
See page A-2



Pearl Harbor survivor makes final return to Hawaii  
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Ibarra relieves Weilenman as Port Royal commanding officer  
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America’s veterans to be honored Nov. 11  
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Key spouses and military honored at Aloha Stadium  
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## 'Misty' Vietnam veterans commemorate 50th anniversary of Vietnam War at PAM

Story and photo by  
MC2 Diana Quinlan

Navy Public Affairs Support  
Element West Detachment  
Hawaii

"Misty" Vietnam War veterans, their families and guests attended a commemoration and dedication ceremony held Oct. 30 at the Pacific Aviation Museum (PAM) Pearl Harbor on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"Misty" was the call sign for the top secret squadron of Vietnam fighter pilots in the 1960s and 1970s. The pilots operated North American F-100 Super Sabre aircraft at high velocity and low altitudes, with the goal of disrupting the transfer of enemy supplies and equipment.

The "Misty" pilots reunited for a panel discussion, a book-signing event, and dedication of a restored North American F-100 Super Sabre, marking the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

During the panel discussion, "Misty" pilots spoke of their operations in Vietnam, their service and sacrifice to the nation, the challenges they have



U.S. Air Force 'Misty' fighter pilots and Vietnam War veterans sign books dedicated to their service at the Pacific Aviation Museum.

faced, the type of combat they have witnessed, and the friends they have lost in combat and to the prisoner camps.

Veterans also spoke of the lessons they have learned and the advice they wish to give to future generations.

"There are things worth fighting for, but we better understand what they are before we do it," said Don

Shepperd, retired "Misty" 34 fighter pilot.

"When we go in, we ought to have the backing of the American people, and we ought to go in with overwhelming force, so we can get out because trying to occupy other countries and change their culture is not a core competency of Americans. I think we've learned that and should pass it on," he said.

## MDA, Navy complete successful intercept flight test

### Missile Defense Agency

The Missile Defense Agency, U.S. Pacific Command and Navy Sailors aboard the USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53) successfully conducted a flight test Nov. 6 of the Aegis ballistic missile defense (BMD) system, resulting in three successful near-simultaneous target engagements over the Pacific Ocean by the Aegis baseline (BL) 9.C1 weapon system configured ship.

One short-range ballistic missile target was intercepted by a standard missile-3 (SM-3) block IB guided missile, while two low-flying cruise missile

targets were engaged by standard missile-2 (SM-2) block IIIA guided missiles near-simultaneously.

At approximately 12:03 p.m. (Hawaii Standard Time, 5:03 p.m. Eastern Standard Time), one short-range ballistic missile target and two cruise missile targets were launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) on Kauai, Hawaii. Following the target launches, the USS John Paul Jones, in integrated air and missile defense (IAMD) radar priority mode, detected and tracked the missiles with its onboard AN/SPY-1 radar.

The ship, equipped with the Aegis BMD weapon system,

developed a fire control solution and launched one SM-3 Block IB guided missile to engage the ballistic missile target. The SM-3 missile maneuvered to a point in space and released its kinetic warhead. The kinetic warhead acquired the target's reentry vehicle, diverted into its path, and destroyed the target with the sheer energy and force of direct impact. The ship also launched two SM-2 Block IIIA guided missiles to successfully engage the cruise missile targets.

Program officials will evaluate system performance based upon telemetry and other data obtained during the test.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Aiyana S. Paschal

An MV-22 Osprey assigned to the Greyhawks of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 161 lifts off the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68).

## Pearl Harbor ships participate in exercise off California

### MCSA Kole E. Carpenter

USS Nimitz (CVN 68) Public Affairs

PACIFIC OCEAN (NNS) – Two Pearl Harbor-based ships, USS Chosin (CG 65) and USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), along with other U.S. and Canadian and Japanese ships, completed a two-week long task group exercise (TGEX) Oct. 31 off the coast of southern California.

The exercise, led by U.S. 3rd Fleet, gave Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 15 the opportunity to conduct and evaluate training across multiple warfare areas for Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 11, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 23, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 11, aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68), guided-missile cruisers USS Lake Champlain (CG 57) and USS Chosin (CG 65), guided-missile destroyers USS Milius (DDG 69), USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), USS Kidd (DDG 100), USS Pinckney (DDG 91) and USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110).

Littoral combat ships USS Independence (LCS 2) and USS Fort Worth (LCS 3), Royal Canadian Navy Halifax-class frigates HMCS Calgary (FFH 335) and HMCS Winnipeg (FFH 338), Kingston-class coastal defense vessels HMCS Brandon (MM 710) and HMCS Yellowknife (MM 706), and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JS) Teruzuki (DD 116) also participated.

"The U.S. Navy uses exercises like TGEX to strengthen maritime relationships with partner nations," said Capt. Patrick Keyes,

commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet, assistant chief of staff for plans, policy, training and readiness.

"Additionally, TGEX gave four independent deployers the opportunity to be assessed across multiple warfare areas and provided an opportunity for ships not getting certified to get valuable training, necessary during their training cycle," Keyes said.

Milius, Paul Hamilton and Fort Worth crews 103 and 104 used TGEX as their final opportunity to certify prior to deployment.

TGEX was a rare opportunity to cultivate partnerships across Pacific fleets.

"Our goal was to improve tactical skill," said Lt. Cmdr. Kohei Sueki, Japanese foreign liaison officer. "We would also like to enhance regional understanding between the Japanese and the U.S. and Canadian Navies."

Sueki added that the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force sought to increase maritime war fighting capability and international relations through their participation in TGEX.

"Japanese, U.S. and Canadian ships coming together is not something that happens often," said Lt. Vincent Pellerin, Canadian foreign liaison officer. "We hoped to foster better international relationships and learn how to work well with other fleets."

Joint, interagency and international relationships strengthen U.S. 3rd Fleet's ability to respond to crises and protect the collective maritime interests of the U.S. and its allies and partners.

Commentary

# New COMPACAF shares focus, commitment to Airmen

**Gen. Lori J. Robinson**

*Commander, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces*

Last month, I was presented the greatest opportunity of my Air Force career — I became commander of Pacific Air Forces.

I want to tell you how honored and humbled I feel to be here. Standing in front of our Pacific Airmen and accepting the PACAF flag from Gen. Welsh was an incredible experience, and I can't tell you how proud I am to serve alongside you.

The sacrifice and dedica-



Gen. Lori J. Robinson

tion our Airmen make every day is daunting. I want you to know you make a

difference in everything you do. Although I will personally share this with you during my base visits in the coming months, I want to share some thoughts on what I believe.

Airpower brings a unique, asymmetric advantage, with speed, range and flexibility to this immense area of responsibility. In addition, our ability to put any adversary at risk, anytime, anywhere, is foundational to what we bring to the joint effort as Airmen. As U.S. Pacific Command's air component, we will continue to provide global vigilance, global

reach, and global power in defense of our nation and its regional allies. All of this starts with you.

I've only been here for a few days and already I am amazed by what I have seen. Our Pacific Airmen shoulder a tremendous burden, yet they make it look easy. This is a critical time for PACAF as regional and global events pose increasingly serious challenges to the international community and our own national security.

These challenges are compounded by tightened military budgets and a

shrinking force. While I expect these challenges to continue for the short term, I know we have the right people to get the mission done. Be assured that I will, first and foremost, support you, our amazing Airmen, and your families who serve this important command.

Your Air Force is powered by you. It is fueled by your innovation and strengthened by our diversity. You are our front line warriors. You and your families are the heart and soul of this command and are the reason why the United States Air Force re-

mains the best Air Force in the world.

I have full confidence that no matter what is asked, you will succeed and continue to make our nation proud. Our Air Force truly depends on each of us to win the fight, to strengthen the team, and to shape the future. I pledge to listen to you and to faithfully represent you.

My husband, David, and I are very excited to meet you and your families as we visit your bases and see firsthand your execution of the Air Force mission. Thank you in advance for everything you do, each and every day.

Commentary

## Standing with Veterans: The meaning of 'Thank you for your service'

**Rear Adm. Rick Williams**

*Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific*

"Thank you for your service."

Those of us who are privileged to serve in the military

have heard that phrase many times. In airports or while back in our hometowns, we hear those words from civilians who are truly grateful for the service and sacrifice of those who wear the uniform of our nation.

Particularly since Sept. 11, 2001, there has been a deeper appreciation for vet-

erans and their families. That's especially true for the wounded warriors among us.

"Thank you for your service" means, "thank you for the sacrifice, for the willingness to go into harm's way, for the long stretches of time away from home." "Thank you for defending us and defending freedom."

Veterans Day is an opportunity for all of us to offer a special thanks to the veterans. We are very grateful to our veterans from all conflicts — not only for their service, but also for their wisdom and willingness to teach us some of the lessons of history including vigilance, readiness, humility and cooperation.

Hundreds of veterans from across the country visit our historic sites in and around Pearl Harbor-Hickam each week. Many wear their ball caps or insignia to proudly display their ship's name, unit or the conflicts in which they served — World War II, Korea, Vietnam.

We work side by side with



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

veterans who served in Iraq/Afghanistan, during the Cold War or in Vietnam. For those living off base, there's a good chance you have a veteran as a neighbor. Most of us have veterans in our family. Veterans Day is a reminder to express our appreciation.

There was a time in the '60s and early '70s when many in our military did not hear words of thanks. Instead they were often vilified and verbally attacked.

Now, as we reflect on the 50-year anniversary of the

beginning of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, we have an opportunity to assist a grateful nation in remembering, recognizing and thanking Vietnam War veterans. It's also a chance to remember families, the fallen, the wounded, former prisoners of war, and those unaccounted-for warriors listed as missing in action.

Recently Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert issued the Department of the Navy goals and objectives for FY15. At the top: "Take care of our people." And one of the top initiatives under that goal and objective is, "Support veteran employment initiative and wounded warriors reintegration program."

So, one way to thank our resilient veterans from decades past—and from the years since 9/11—is to help them get hired.

I'm pleased to see so many veterans using their G.I. Bill benefits to further their education and get ahead after the military. At a recent re-

retirement seminar, veterans showed how engaged they still are, still serving, still involved as mentors. We will continue to conduct or support job fairs and help get the word out about hiring veterans. It's a good investment.

Speaking of investments — today dozens of service members are graduating from local colleges, some with master's degrees. No doubt these graduates were encouraged by leaders, colleagues and veterans to get their education, set their goals, and contribute to the overall mission. A good education and applied experience translates to success in and out of military service.

Next week at various Veterans Day events and next month at our Dec. 7 commemoration at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, I will have the pleasure of meeting veterans and renewing acquaintances.

I'll thank them for their service and sacrifice. And I'll thank them for inspiring me every day and for reminding us of the lessons of history.

### Commissaries announce Veterans Day holiday hours

On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, the Pearl Harbor Commissary will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Hickam Commissary will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information, call the Pearl Harbor Commissary at 471-8402, ext. 101 or the Hickam Commissary at 449-1363.

## Diverse Views



What does Veterans Day mean to you?



**AD3 Vanessa Gipson**  
VP-47

"Veterans Day is a day of remembrance and recognition for the people before us. I know I have family who served. It's a way of showing appreciation for what they've done."

**Senior Airman Andrew Ortega**  
647th Logistics Readiness Squadron



"Veterans Day is important to me because I have two brothers who are also currently serving, one who is a lieutenant in the Army and a tech sergeant in the Air Force. It is a day where we can all come together to pay respects for those who fight and those who have fought for our country."



**HT2 Josh Raub**  
X-Division

"It means honoring all those that have fallen for us so we can have all of the freedoms that we have."

**Airman 1st Class Malik Jones**  
647th Logistics Readiness Squadron



"To me, Veterans Day means giving up a piece of yourself to see others prosper. It means making the sacrifice to protect those you love."



**ETC William Sanford**  
USS Tucson (SSN 770)

"We have lots of different holidays and memorials, such as D-Day and Dec. 7, but there's a lot of people who serve their four years and get out, but still serve their country honorably. I think it's really about not just the people who served 20 years or during conflicts, but also those who haven't."

**Senior Airman Helen Solis**  
647th Logistics Readiness Squadron



"I served in the honor guard, and that experience allowed me to appreciate Veterans Day for what it is. To me, it is about honoring and respecting those who came before you and those who are serving now. It is also to pay respect to those who made the ultimate sacrifice."



**AM3 Fitzgerald Ihekwoaba**  
VP-47

"To acknowledge people for their service in the past and to try to represent them in the future."

Provided by Lt. j.g. Eric Galassi and SrA Christopher Stoltz

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

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

## Lt. Col. Horace Hickam left legacy



Hickam Field in Hawaii was named after Lt. Col. Horace Meek Hickam who died 80 years ago on Nov. 5, 1934 while practicing night landings on an unlit runway at Fort Crockett at Galveston, Texas. Hickam was killed when his Curtiss A-12 Shrike hit an embankment and flipped over. Hickam was born in 1885, graduated from West Point in 1908, and began his career in the cavalry before he transferred to the Army Air Service. As a pioneer advocate of air power, Hickam was pivotal in establishing the Air Force as a branch of the armed forces.

Photo courtesy of Hawaii Department of Transportation

## HO'OKELE

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# Pearl Harbor survivor makes final return to Hawaii

Story and photo by  
MC2 Tiarra Fulgham

Navy Public Affairs Support  
Element West Detachment  
Hawaii

An ash-scattering ceremony was held Oct. 30 for a Pearl Harbor survivor, Retired Navy Chief Warrant Officer Dallas C. Harvey of Highland, Ill., at USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

In attendance were Harvey's two sons, Edward and Steve, along with their wives and a close friend of the family, Retired U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Kate Broadhurst.

"I had the privilege to meet Dallas in 1997 right after I retired from the Army," said Broadhurst. "I had the honor of taking him to a lot of school functions and talking to the children. In fact, one of the first ones was my son's class who was



Sailors from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Honors and Ceremonial Guard participate in an ash-scattering ceremony held at the USS Utah Memorial for Pearl Harbor survivor Retired Chief Warrant Officer Dallas C. Harvey.

12 at the time. Dallas always captured these kids' attention, and he had first-hand knowledge of everything that hap-

pened [Dec. 7], and he had their undivided attention for hours at a time," Broadhurst said.

Harvey was serving aboard

USS Argonne (AG 31) as a hospital corpsman on the morning of the 1941 Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor.

Harvey retired in 1967 following 30 years of honorable service. During his retirement, he was one of the three members to start and work with the Military Ministry for Campus Crusade for Christ until his passing on April 27 at the age of 95.

"This [ceremony] was beyond anything that we could have imagined," said Harvey's youngest son Edward.

"My dad was proud of his 30 years of service and then serving alongside the military even beyond that for another 35 years, working as a chaplain in the ministry, bringing everything together for our Sailors everywhere. I am just grateful for all those who serve and keep us safe," Edward said.

Harvey's sons said that their father's last wishes was to make a

final trip back to Hawaii and have his ashes scattered in Pearl Harbor alongside his shipmates who lost their lives during the attack.

"A few years ago, he just thought about being buried in one of the national cemeteries and then he decided on being buried here," said Harvey's son Steve. "I guess you had to have been here on Dec. 7 to know how you would feel about what it was so long ago and what it is today."

Pearl Harbor Survivors Liaison and Retired Navy Master Chief Jim Taylor said Harvey was one of the first 40 modern Navy Sailors to "climb the enlisted ladder" and to be commissioned as a U.S. naval officer.

Military honors included a rifle salute, playing of Taps, and presentations of American flags by the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Honors and Ceremonial Guard to both sons in attendance. (See additional photo on page A-5.)

# Ibarra relieves Weilenman as Port Royal commanding officer

Story and photo by  
MC3 Johans Chavarro

Navy Public Affairs  
Support Element West,  
Detachment Hawaii

Sailors, families and friends gathered aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial to bid farewell to Capt. Eric F. Weilenman as commanding officer of the guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73) during a change of command ceremony Oct. 31 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

After three years as commanding officer of Port Royal, Weilenman was relieved of command by Capt. Adolfo H. Ibarra.

Presiding over the ceremony was Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, who remarked on Weilenman's devotion to excellence and leadership.

"He is the consummate leader who exudes confidence, and that experience and wisdom comes from sacrifice and commitment and taking on the hard challenges and the hard jobs," said Williams.

"So when you see him and the tough challenges he's had to address, he's very calm and very deliberate, and that confidence inspires others to do better," Williams said.

Before being relieved of command, Weilenman thanked those in attendance as well as the ship's crew for their unwavering dedication and commitment to accomplishing the Navy's mission.

"Today's a day of thanks, of reflection and, most importantly, an opportunity to pause for a moment to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to those who have had a hand in Port Royal's success," said Weilenman.

"To the crew of Port Royal, you have excelled in every opportunity and have exhibited extraordinary resilience in the face of adversity and uncertainty these past three-and-a-half years," said Weilenman.

"The Port Royal crew epitomizes self-sufficiency and pride and ownership of this great warship. Beyond the operational achievements, what I will forever remember is the spirit of *ohana* that is alive and well today within our lifelines," Weilenman said.

Williams presented Weilenman with the Meritorious Service Medal during the ceremony.

Under Weilenman's command, Port Royal completed a successful deployment to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operation in 2011 where it executed maritime interception operations, ballistic missile defense (BMD) and aircraft



Rear Adm. Rick Williams (left), presents Capt. Eric F. Weilenman with the Meritorious Service Medal.

carrier support. After approximately two months in port, Port Royal surge de-

ployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area in support of emergent BMD tasking in 2012.

Weilenman also led Port Royal through two Rim of the Pacific exercises (2012 and 2014) in addition to numerous other multi-national exercises.

After official orders were read, Ibarra assumed all duties and responsibilities as commanding officer and addressed his crew for the first time.

"To the crew of this ship, you're my heroes. Our Navy cannot do its many missions without you," said Ibarra.

"This great warship that we're standing upon served many years with distinction, thanks to many great Sailors that were just like you. Let's make Port Royal the envy of future generations."

Ibarra was previously assigned to the director of operations staff at U.S. Africa Command.

Weilenman's next assignment will be at Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

# Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



(Above) Capt. Eric F. Weilenman, commanding officer of the guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73), delivers remarks to Sailors, families and friends during a change of command ceremony Oct. 31 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro



(Left) U.S. Air Force 'Misty' fighter pilots and Vietnam War veterans place their hands on the North American F-100 Super Sabre during a traditional Hawaiian blessing of the aircraft held at the Pacific Aviation Museum (PAM) Pearl Harbor on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Diana Quinlan



(Right) Seaman Vicent Sheetz, instructs Kinoshi Ta from Tokyo and Yugji Ogawa from Yokosuka, Japan on how to control the helm of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68).

U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Eii K. Buguey

(Below) The San Diego-based guided-missile destroyer USS Sampson (DDG 102) arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Nov. 6 for a scheduled port visit. USS Sampson departed for an independent seven-month deployment to the western Pacific Ocean.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro



(Below) Family and friends scatter the ashes of Pearl Harbor survivor Retired Chief Warrant Officer Dallas C. Harvey over waters near the USS Utah Memorial at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during an ash-scattering ceremony held in his honor.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Tierra Fulgham





# Vietnam-era pilots visit POW/MIA Accounting Command

Story and photo by  
MC2 Vladimir V. Potapenko

Joint POW/MIA Accounting  
Command

A group of former "Misty" F-100F pilots and family members toured the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Oct. 28 to witness first-hand the efforts the command makes to locate, recover and identify unaccounted for service members from America's past conflicts.

"Misty" was the call sign for F-100F fast forward air controllers' aircraft used in the Vietnam War. There were 157 full-time pilots attached to the aircraft and its mission to conduct reconnaissance and find targets well behind enemy lines in Vietnam and Laos.

More than 50 "Misty" pilots and family members toured the central identification laboratory and an overview of the command's mission by Air Force Maj. Gen. Kelly McKeague, JPAC's commanding general.

Of the 157 pilots assigned to the "Misty" unit, four are currently unaccounted for, giving the visiting pilots a significant tie to JPAC and its work to return home the missing "Misty" comrades.

Air Force Col. Lawrence Whitford, Col. Michael McElhanon, Lt.



Dr. Rebecca Taylor, an anthropologist with the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, conducts a tour for former "Misty" F-100F pilots and their families as part of their visit to JPAC Oct. 28. Currently, there are four unaccounted-for "Misty" service members located in Vietnam and Laos.

Col. John Overlock and 1st. Lt. Patrick Carroll all went missing while conducting forward air controller operations. McElhanon and Overlock were assigned to "Misty" 11 conducting a single-plane mission in Vietnam at the time of their

loss, losing radio contact early the morning of Aug. 16, 1968.

Whitford and Carroll's aircraft went down in an enemy controlled area along the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos on Nov. 2, 1968. While still currently

unaccounted for, the group of "Misty" pilots believes that JPAC's efforts to return their wingmen will be successful.

"Knowing that there are really good, serious Americans [conducting JPAC's mission],

and seeing people go about it in a scientific way gives us hope that we will find these guys," said Retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Donald Shepperd, a former "Misty" pilot who flew 58 forward air controller missions during the Vietnam War. "[It] is very heartwarming to see the dedication and expertise that goes into this.

While the teammates of the missing men understand the burden of losing a comrade, it is the families of these men that bear the greatest burden. According to Doris Day, wife of Medal of Honor recipient and "Misty" pilot, Retired Air Force Col. George Day, it is with the closure that proper burial provides where JPAC has its greatest significance.

Day, who has seen the effect of having a spouse either missing or a prisoner-of-war through her own experiences, believes that the accounting mission is integral in providing families. "I appreciate what JPAC does," said Day.

A relatively short tour considering the scope of JPAC's mission, those who were in attendance were left with the reassurance that their fellow "Misty" comrades and their families would not be forgotten and that JPAC would always strive to live up to its motto, "Until They Are Home."

## STORY IDEAS?

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