

Pearl Harbor Day events set for Dec. 5-7

National Park Service

The National Park Service and the U.S. Navy will host a joint memorial ceremony on Dec. 7 from 7:45 to 9:30 a.m. commemorating the 73rd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The ceremony will take place on the main lawn of the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, looking directly out to the USS Arizona Memorial, at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

More than 2,500 distinguished guests and the general public are expected to join current and former military personnel, including Pearl Harbor survivors and other World War II veterans, for the annual observance of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

The theme of this year's historic commemoration, "Preserving the Memory," focuses on how to keep the story of the attack on Oahu and World War II alive for the nation and the world.

This year's Dec. 7 ceremony will be co-hosted by Paul DePrey, superintendent, WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, National Park Service, and Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific. The keynote speaker will be Gen. Lori J. Robinson, commander of Pacific Air Forces.

Highlights of the ceremony will include music by the Navy's U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, morning colors, a Hawaiian blessing, a cannon salute by members of the U.S. Army, wreath presentations,



echo Taps, and recognition of the men and women who survived the attack and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country on Dec. 7, 1941.

At 7:55 a.m., the exact moment the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor began 73 years ago, a moment of silence will be observed. A U.S. Navy ship will render honors to the USS Arizona and all Pearl Harbor survivors, and a fly-over will be conducted above Pearl Harbor.

The ceremony will conclude with a "Walk of Honor" by Pearl Harbor survivors and other World War II veterans through an honor cordon of military ser-

vice members and National Park Service men and women.

In conjunction with this year's theme and to connect Pearl Harbor survivors across the U.S. with the commemoration ceremony taking place at Pearl Harbor, the National Park Service is hosting a broadcast via live webcast of this year's event. Prior to the start of the ceremony, Pearl Harbor survivors and WWII veterans will be interviewed and viewers will get a "behind the scenes" look at the ceremony. Those who are unable to attend the ceremony in person will be able to watch the event in their hometown as it takes place.

Online registration to view the event is required. All those interested in watching are encouraged to visit the following link to sign up: <http://bit.ly/LiveBroadcastDec7>.

Public access to the Pearl Harbor 73rd Anniversary Commemoration ceremony

The commemoration ceremony is free of charge and the public is invited to attend. Seats for the general public at the commemoration ceremony are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. The visitor center will open at 6 a.m. Seating for the public will begin at 7:15 a.m.

Limited public parking at visitor center for ceremony

Additional parking will be available at Richardson Field and Aloha Stadium. Free shuttles will be provided from the stadium to the visitor center. The public is encouraged to arrive early to allow time to park and go through security at the visitor center.

Limited public tour schedule for USS Arizona Memorial

Due to the morning ceremony, public tours on Dec. 7 to the USS Arizona Memorial will operate on a special schedule. The first public tour will begin at 11 a.m. with the last tour beginning at 1 p.m. Tours begin every 15 minutes and include a 23-minute movie presentation followed by a short boat ride and visit to the memorial. Tickets are free and distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Security

Cameras are permitted; however, due to strict security measures, camera bags, purses, handbags and/or other items that offer concealment are not allowed. Bag storage is available at the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park.

Dress code

Military dress is summer whites or service equivalent. The civilian dress code for the commemoration is aloha business attire, long pants and collared shirts.

More information

For more information about the Pearl Harbor Day 73rd Anniversary Commemoration ceremony and special events, visit www.pacifichistoricparks.org.

See additional Pearl Harbor Day events on page A-4.

USS Mississippi is newest member of Pacific Submarine Force

Story and photo by MC1 Steven Khor

Submarine Force Pacific Public Affairs

The Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Mississippi (SSN 782) was welcomed to the Pearl Harbor waterfront at an aloha ceremony Nov. 25, as the newest submarine permanently assigned to Submarine Squadron 1 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The arrival of USS Mississippi makes it the fourth Virginia-class submarine to be homeported in Pearl Harbor, and one of 18 fast-attack submarines permanently homeported at the historic base.

"The general aura of the crew is that of excitement in becoming part of a great *ohana* (family) in Submarine Squadron 1 and Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet," said Cmdr. Tory Swanson, the ship's commanding officer. "Many were ready to set forth out west like the old frontiersmen, looking for adventure in the unknown of the Pacific. The crew is looking forward to the sunshine, warmth



Capt. Harry Ganteaume, commodore of Submarine Squadron 1, participates in a traditional Hawaiian blessing ceremony of the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Mississippi (SSN 782) upon the ship's arrival at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Nov. 25.

and aloha of Hawaii."

The submarine arrived at Pearl Harbor to a crowd of families, fellow submariners, veterans and

supporters, having left weeks earlier from Submarine Squadron 4 in Groton, Conn.

Swanson noted that Missis-

sippi and its crew started the transition nearly a year ago with assistance from Naval Submarine Support Command Pearl Harbor, Submarine Squadron 1, and several other organizations in the Pearl Harbor area.

"The chief of the boat and I have done four changes of homeports in our careers, and we were able to take lessons learned from our experiences to help make the transition fairly seamless for the families," said Swanson. "Our command philosophy centers on, 'mission first, Sailors always.'"

In January, the crew conducted a deployment night for all of the families to introduce Pearl Harbor staff, housing offices and answer questions families had well in advance of their arrival to their permanent homeport. Additionally, the family readiness group utilized social media to communicate with spouses and families at a moment's notice to answer any difficult questions that arose.

Swanson added that this pre-planning allowed most all of the families to move to Pearl Harbor seamlessly and have a great sup-

port structure already in place.

Swanson said Mississippi's ship technology, along with a focused and energetic crew on board the vessel, will provide a great variety and coverage for missions vital to national security and any tasking from the operational commanders. Mississippi offers the submarine force's newest technologies, along with accommodation for special operations forces and dry dock shelter operations.

"We are ready to demonstrate our prowess as WESTPAC (western Pacific) warriors and bring the great capabilities and stealth of the Virginia-class to the Pacific Fleet," said Swanson. "This is the newest submarine in the Pacific Fleet, and we are proud of her material condition and the hard work the crew put into it."

Interest was evident on the pier.

Allison Stiller, deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for ship programs and also the ship's sponsor, was present to welcome

See MISSISSIPPI, A-4

USS Fort Worth arrives at JBPHH

The littoral combat ship USS Fort Worth (LCS 3) arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled port visit. Fort Worth deployed for a scheduled 16-month rotational deployment to Singapore in support of the Navy's strategic rebalance to the Pacific.



U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Diana Quinlan



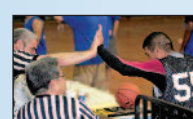
Officers and enlisted Sailors of the littoral combat ship USS Fort Worth (LCS 3) observe the ship's mooring operation as it arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled port visit.



USS Hopper holds change of command ceremony
See page A-2



USS Columbia returns from deployment
See page A-7



JBPHH hosts Hawaii Special Olympics
See page B-1



Additional events planned for 73rd anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day
See page A-4



Annual Festival of Lights to begin Dec. 8
See page B-3



Navy SAPR program to be held at Sharkey
See page B-3

USS Hopper holds change of command ceremony

**Ensign
Angeline A. Chounramany**

USS Hopper (DDG 70) Public Affairs

Cmdr. Jaja J.E. Marshall relieved Cmdr. Dave T. Snee as commanding officer of the Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) during a change of command ceremony held Nov. 21 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The ceremony marked the end of a successful 18-month command tour for Snee. He served as Hopper's 11th commanding officer and led "Hopper Nation" through a condensed training cycle and an extensive eight-month deployment to the U.S. 7th and U.S. 5th Fleet areas of responsibility.

Snee graduated from the University of Memphis in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in architecture. He also earned his master's degree in information systems and operations from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Snee will report to the Chief of



U.S. Navy photo by YN2 B.J. Oliver

Cmdr. Jaja Marshall (far right) relieves Cmdr. Dave Snee as commanding officer of USS Hopper (DDG 70) during a change of command ceremony held Nov. 21.

Naval Operations in Washington, D.C. for assignment in the N9I directorate as the naval integrated

fire control-counter air lead.

While Snee was in command, the ship received numerous

awards including the 2013 Retention Excellence Award, Incentivized Energy Conservation

Excellence Award, and the Commander Naval Surface Force Pacific Logistics Readiness Excellence Award – Medium.

"I am honored for the privilege to command at sea. I am excited to assume command of USS Hopper and her wonderful crew. I am really fortunate," Marshall said as he took command of Hopper.

He is a native of Queens, N.Y. He earned a bachelor of science in systems engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1997. Prior to taking command of Hopper, Marshall has served on USS McClusky (FFG 41), USS Princeton (CG 59), USS Stout (DDG 55) and Destroyer Squadron 15.

USS Hopper (DDG 70) is the U.S. Navy's 20th Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer commissioned on Sept. 6, 1997. It is named after Grace Hopper, a pioneering computer scientist who was also promoted to rear admiral in the U.S. Navy.

Hopper is homeported at Pearl Harbor and is assigned to Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 31.

Michael Murphy learns about local culture in Kota Kinabalu

CT2 Ryan Harris

USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) Public Affairs

KOTA KINABALU, Malaysia (NNS)—The Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) arrived Nov. 21 in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia for the ship's first international port visit of its maiden deployment.

Michael Murphy is homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam-Hawaii.

The ship's crew of approximately 300 Sailors will conduct community relations projects and visit some of the many cultural attractions offered in eastern Malaysia during the port visit.

"Both the people of Malaysia and our hosts from the Royal Malaysian navy have wel-

comed us with open arms," said Cmdr. Todd Hutchison, Michael Murphy's commanding officer.

"It's truly a pleasure to strengthen our partnership with Malaysia while at the same time allowing the crew to get some well-deserved rest and see what Kota Kinabalu has to offer," he said.

While in Kota Kinabalu, the ship's crew will participate in a beach cleanup project with the children of a local orphanage. Other opportunities provided through morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) will include climbing Mt. Kinabalu, a towering landmark in Southeast Asia, and whitewater rafting down the Padas Gorge. Other events to experience the local food and culture of the area will also be offered.

In addition, a local delega-



tion from the Royal Malaysian navy will tour Michael Murphy.

"The opportunity to see foreign countries and experience new cultures is one of the things that inspired me to join the Navy," said Seaman Michael Escobar. "Everyone is very excited about Kota Kinabalu and all of the amazing things it offers."

Michael Murphy is on deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility supporting security and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

The guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Oct. 20 for an independent deployment to the western Pacific Ocean.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Tiarra Fulgham

Commentary

Chosin and importance of perspective, reflections on namesake

Rear Adm.
Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region
Hawaii and Naval Surface
Group Middle Pacific



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Our recent change of command aboard USS Chosin (CG 65) was another occasion to reflect on the ship's namesake—Battle of Chosin Reservoir, 64 years ago this week.

In that battle, the Navy provided firepower support off the coast of Korea to assist Marines, Soldiers and other United Nations troops fighting ashore.

Those warriors, led by Marine Generals "Chesty" Puller and Oliver Smith, give us perspective for the present and a sense of purpose for the future.

Here at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on historic Marine Barracks property, stands the venerable old building known as Puller Hall, named after Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Lewis "Chesty" Puller.

Gen. Puller is a legend in American military history. His record of five Navy Crosses and an Army Distinguished Service Cross in a career that spanned nearly 40 years is unmatched in the annals of the U.S. Marine Corps.

His fifth Navy Cross was won during the Korean War as the commanding officer of the First Marine Regiment when then-Col. Puller led his Marines in the breakout from the Chosin Reservoir.

On Nov. 24, 1950 American forces began the final

drive toward the Yalu River on the border between China and the Korean Peninsula. Supreme Allied Commander Gen. MacArthur believed that this offensive would shatter the North Korean army and effectively end the Korean War. American troops looked forward to being home by Christmas.

But on Nov. 27, approximately 65,000 enemy troops began pouring over the border and 15,000 U.S. Marines found themselves surrounded in the Chosin Reservoir, with only a thin and winding mountain pass between them and escape through the port of Hungnam some 60 miles to the east.

Thoughts of Christmas carols and relaxing by the fire turned to simple survival and the relentless focus on keeping the road to Hungnam open allowing the Marines out of the suddenly perilous dilemma.

The weather didn't help



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Edgington

USS Chosin, a Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser, patrols the Gulf of Aden in support of counter-piracy operations.

the situation—with a Siberian cold front and 60-knot winds dropping temperatures to minus-35 degrees. Many of the casualties during the battle were a result of the exposure to what was considered the coldest winter Korea had seen in 100 years.

At this critical moment in the Korean War leadership, teamwork and courage won the day. On Dec. 6, the breakout from Chosin began. Maj. Gen. Oliver Smith, the commander of the First Marine Division, is quoted as saying, "It is not a retreat; we are attacking in a different direction."

For his part, Col. Puller led his regiment in the rear guard of the withdrawal, defending the perimeter and keeping the vital supply main supply route open for the movement of the division. He is reported to have said to a journalist, "We've

been looking for the enemy for several days now. We've finally found them. We are surrounded. That simplifies the problem."

With the steady hand of leaders like Smith and Puller and the tenacity and courage of the troops under their command, the breakout was successful and the majority of the U.S. troops trapped at Chosin were able to reach Hungnam by Dec. 13.

In the final phase of the battle, Navy and Air Force aircraft flew missions to defend the Hungnam perimeter and ships like the USS Missouri off the Korean coast laid down covering fire for the Marines as amphibious craft sealed thousands of military personnel and civilians to safety.

Gen. Smith's quote about an attack "in a different direction" reminds us of the importance of perspective.

It has been said that, "Great opportunities are often disguised as impossible situations" and it requires perspective to turn the tide.

The epic Battle of Chosin, fought and won 64 years ago in the most adverse conditions and implacable odds, reminds us that adversity often requires leaders to keep a cool head, take a fresh look at a problem, and attack the issue from a different direction.

Retreat does not always mean defeat.

The withdrawal from Chosin may have led to a disaster and the destruction or capture of thousands of American troops. Instead they fought their way out of the impending catastrophe and inflicted as many as 25,000 casualties on the enemy while evacuating the bulk of their strength to rejoin the fight on another day.

As I said in my commen-

tary on NavyLive blog post last year: Looking back more than 60 years later, we know the Korean War preserved freedom and democracy for South Korea and provided a better way of life for millions of people over many generations. The U.S. Navy had a critical role in supporting Marines and UN Allies throughout the war.

Naval forces provided the key strategic advantage. Our surface ships, submarines and aircraft provided sea control, effectively blockading North Korea's coastlines and denying enemy shipments while ensuring mobility of sea lanes for our side.

Aircraft from Task Force 77 carriers and escorts provided strikes and support. Cruisers, destroyers and other ships put a barrage of fire between our troops and the enemy during the war. Pearl Harbor's own Mighty Mo, battleship USS Missouri (BB 63), added the weight of her 16-inch guns to the fight.

For our own perspective on what we fought for in Korea, just consider the powerful ally and friend we have today on the southern half of the peninsula.

The Republic of Korea navy regularly visits Pearl Harbor and was here for RIMPAC.

ROK sailors and marines work with their American counterparts as partners for a common defense. That perspective leads to our sense of purpose: building and maintaining cooperative partnerships as we support Adm. Harris and the U.S. Pacific Fleet in the rebalance to Asia-Pacific.

(Jim Neuman, Navy Region Hawaii historian, provided research assistance and input for this commentary.)

Diverse Views



What tip do you have to prevent thefts of personal property, especially during the busy holiday season?



AW03 Elise Laub
Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

"Make sure you lock your car and lock your house up and check your windows."

MMC Craig McHenry
NSTCP



"Lock your stuff up. Don't make yourself a target. You have to monitor your own stuff. Don't provide an opportunity."



Lt. j.g. Tom Purcell
USS Jacksonville (SSN 699)

"When you leave stuff in your car, make sure it's out of sight."

EM2 Dan Wacek
USS Buffalo (SSN 715)



"Lock your doors."



Maj. Reid Matsuda
647th Civil Engineer Squadron

"Keep valuables out of sight in your vehicle. Don't tempt the thieves."

Staff Sgt. Victoria Jensen
Defense Courier Service Honolulu



"Be aware of the trash you put out. Thieves may be tempted by empty high-dollar boxes left on the street."



Staff Sgt. Brandon McKellar
15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

"Be a responsible gun owner, and make it a habit to lock your doors."

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

Marines move in Battle of Chosin Reservoir



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

A column of troops and armor of the 1st Marine Division move through communist Chinese lines during their successful breakout from the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. The Marines were besieged Nov. 27, 1950 when the Chinese entered the Korean War by sending 200,000 shock troops against Allied forces.

HO'OKELE

PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM NEWS

Ho'okele is a free unofficial paper published every Friday by The Honolulu Star Advertiser 500 Ala Moana Boulevard Suite 7-500 Honolulu Hawaii 96813, a private firm in no way connected with DoD, the U. S. Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps, under exclusive contract with Commander, Navy Region Hawaii. All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the staff of the Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office: 850 Ticonderoga, Suite 110, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 96860-4884. Telephone: (808) 473-2888; fax (808) 473-2876; e-mail address: editor@hookelenews.com World Wide Web address: <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Hawaii/> or www.hookelenews.com.

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Additional events planned for 73rd anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day

National Park Service

Additional events have been planned in conjunction with the 73rd anniversary commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day which will be held Dec. 5 to 7. They are as follows:

Hawaii Pops Concert honoring USS Arizona Band, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5, Pacific Aviation Museum.

Table seating \$95, general admission \$45.

Join Hawaii Pops as they honor Band 22, the band of the USS Arizona. The performance will feature selections that were played in the Battle of Music on Dec. 6, 1941 and other selections of the era. Admission for Pearl Harbor survivors and Medal of Honor recipients is free. Tickets are available at www.hawaiipops.com or at the Honolulu box office at 550-8457.

USS Utah Sunset Ceremony and Interment, 5-6 p.m. Dec. 6, USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island.

Free admission—base access required.

Pearl Harbor survivors, military personnel and their sponsored guests are invited to attend a sunset ceremony at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island, honoring those lost aboard the USS Utah.

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor Anniversary Dinner Gala—"Destinations & Dreams", 6:30-10:30 p.m. Dec. 6, Ford Island hangars.



U.S. Navy photo

General admission \$250. The annual fundraiser for Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor. Capt. Chelsey B. Sullenberger will be this year's guest speaker. Emcee for the evening will be actor, journalist and TV host David Hartman. Honoree of the evening is the museum's past chairman of the board, Adm. Ronald J. Hays. The event will include cocktails, dinner, entertainment and prize opportunities to help support the museum's restoration and education programs. Event will be hosted in the battlefield hangars of Ford Island. For ticket sales, visit www.PacificAviationMuseum.org or call 808-441-1006.

Hickam Field Ceremony, 7:55-9 a.m. Dec. 7, Atterbury Circle, JBPHH.

Free admission—base access required.

The 15th Wing will host the Dec.

7, 1941 remembrance ceremony at 7:55 a.m. Dec. 7 at the Atterbury Circle historic flag pole on the Hickam side of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The event will honor the 189 killed and 303 wounded during the attacks. The ceremony is open to all military identification card holders, veterans, survivors of the attack, and guests of attending survivors. Base access is required. Attendees must be in place by 7:15 a.m.

Barbers Point Remembrance Ceremony, 7:45 a.m. Dec. 7, Barbers Point Golf Course.

Free admission.

The Aloha Chapter of the Marine Corps League and the Honolulu Council of the Navy League of the United States will observe the 73rd anniversary of the Japanese attack at Ewa Marine Corps Air Station to honor those Marines who fought and died there.

Blackened Canteen Ceremony, 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Dec. 7.

Free admission with USS Arizona Memorial ticket.

Dr. Hiroya Sugano, director general of the Zero Fighter Admirers' Club, will be here from Japan to conduct this annual commemoration of peace and reconciliation ceremony with a silent prayer and pouring whiskey from a World War II-blackened canteen into the water from the USS Arizona Memorial as an offering to the spirits of the fallen. A roundtable discussion will follow at Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor. Tickets will be available beginning at 6 a.m. Dec. 7 at the USS Arizona Memorial ticket desk.

USS Oklahoma Memorial Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance on Ford Island, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Dec. 7.

Free admission. Free shuttle to Ford Island departs every 15 minutes from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. from the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park shuttle stop.

The event will be hosted by the National Park Service in honor of those who served on the USS Oklahoma during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The USS Oklahoma (BB-37) Memorial was officially dedicated on Dec. 7, 2007. The memorial is located on Ford Island near Fox-5 Pier next to the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

The Battleship Oklahoma was berthed along Ford Island on Dec. 7, 1941 and suffered the second greatest loss of life during the attack. The memorial includes 429 marble columns symbolizing each of the crew members who lost their lives on that fateful day. Public wishing to attend the ceremony can catch a free shuttle departing every 15 minutes from the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum & Park, which is adjacent to the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade, 5-7 p.m. Dec. 7, Ft. DeRussy to Kapiolani Park.

Free admission.

The Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade committee will host the Pearl Harbor Parade featuring Pearl Harbor survivors, military and government officials, and marching bands and parade units from the U.S. mainland and Hawaii.

Families and friends give warm *aloha* to USS Mississippi

Continued from A-1

the submarine to the Pearl Harbor waterfront. She was also on hand to welcome the submarine into service at the commissioning ceremony on June 2, 2012 in Pascagoula, Miss.

"It is an exciting day," said Stiller. "I am so excited for them to finally make it here, and it's just a thrill for me to also be here, to be able to greet them when they come in. She's the best boat in the fleet and the best crew in the fleet!"

Stiller said it is an honor to be the submarine's sponsor, and she loves every minute of it.

"The fact that you have a relationship with the boat for its entire life is awesome," said Stiller. "You get to meet so many folks who serve on USS Mississippi, and I am glad to be part of milestones like this arrival today."

Named for the state of Mississippi, the submarine's keel was laid down on June 9, 2010. The ninth in the Virginia class of sub-

marines, Mississippi was christened Dec. 3, 2011.

"As with any warship, no matter how technologically advanced, it is the crew that sets us apart from others," said Swanson. "Everyone here is focused on the end goal, to take this marvel of modern technology on deployment at the tip of the spear and keep this great nation safe."

The crew of Mississippi was welcomed by family members with signs, banners and *lei* at the pier.

"I can't wait for my hus-

band to get here," said Kelly Holbrook, wife of Petty Officer 1st Class Shawn Holbrook. "We moved here to Hawaii 10 days after we got married, and I've had a blast living here; it has been amazing."

Along with families and friends, the crew was greeted with a special Hawaiian cultural ceremony in honor of USS Mississippi, from Hawaiian native Pohaku Stone, who offered sacred warrior chants and song.

The ceremony continued

as Stone led a blessing of the ship, which included participation from Capt. Harry Ganteaume, commodore of Submarine Squadron 1; Stiller; and the ship's leadership team.

"It is great that Mississippi is the newest submarine in the squadron," said Ganteaume. "We are looking forward to getting her ready to deploy. With all of her capabilities, she will be a strong contributor to our efforts overseas in the western Pacific and beyond."

The submarine is 377

feet long, displaces 7,800 tons, and can carry torpedoes as well as Tomahawk missiles and have features including a torpedo room that can be refigured to transport Navy SEALs.

Mississippi is the second submarine to newly arrive at Pearl Harbor this week, with the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Jefferson City (SSN 759) from San Diego arriving Nov. 24 for a scheduled two-year maintenance overhaul period at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



(Above) The Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Columbia (SSN 771) moors pierside as it returns Nov. 21 to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam following a six-month scheduled deployment to the western Pacific region. (See story on page A-7.)

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jason Swink



(Above) Lt. Dave Steinberger, right, communications officer aboard the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Columbia (SSN 771), is welcomed home Nov. 21 by wife Erica, as she presents to him for the first time their new baby daughter, at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam following the return of the submarine from a six-month scheduled deployment to the western Pacific region.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Steven Khor



(Above and right) Members of the Oahu Intertribal Council perform a traditional dance during the Native American heritage observance at Hickam Memorial Theater at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Navy Region Hawaii celebrated Native American Heritage Month by hosting a Native American presentation of dance, music and traditions. The theme was Native Pride and Spirit: Yesterday, Today and Forever.

Navy photo by MC2 Laurie Dexter



(Left) The Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Mississippi (SSN 782) arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Nov. 25 for a change of homeport from Commander, Submarine Squadron 4 in Groton, Conn., to Commander, Submarine Squadron 1. The arrival of USS Mississippi makes it the fourth Virginia-class submarine to be homeported in Pearl Harbor and one of 18 fast-attack submarines permanently home ported at the historic base.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Steven Khor

Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2 at work



U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Johans Chavarro

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class James Aldrich (left photo), Hospital Corpsman 1st Class James Aldrich (above photo) from Construction Dive Detachment Alpha, part of Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2 from Port Hueneme, Calif., prepare a pile jacket for concrete during an annual maintenance and repair procedure at the Sierra piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

USS Michael Murphy Sailors help preserve local treasure in Guam

Ensign Kelly Lorentson

*USS Michael Murphy
Public Affairs*

YIGO, Guam (NNS) -- Sailors aboard the Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) participated in a community relations (COMREL) project Nov. 8 to help preserve the natural beauty of the island of Guam and strengthen relations with the local community.

Michael Murphy is homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Eleven crew members volunteered for the project which involved cleaning and picking up trash in and around Marble Cave. Marble Cave is naturally

filled by rain water and is a local favorite spot for swimming and picnicking.

"When we arrived at the cave, we were simply amazed," said Chief Fire Controlman Ryan York, lead organizer of the community relations project. "It was such a beautiful sight. Neatly tucked away was this scenic cave filled with fresh, clean water."

Upon arrival at the site, Sailors grabbed gloves and trash bags and went to work cleaning up trash around the cave.

"There were mounds of full garbage bags, a rusted air conditioning unit, and a wheelbarrow with no wheels thrown in the woods around the cave," said York. "We pulled it all out and made a nice pile so

that it could be picked up later."

Volunteers spent nearly three hours removing all the trash from the cave and surrounding area. After Sailors finished cleaning, some enjoyed the fruits of their labor by taking a swim in the newly cleaned pool.

"We wanted to do something good for the community and help have a positive impact during our visit," said York. "It was a great opportunity to help keep such a treasure maintained for others to enjoy for years to come."

Michael Murphy is deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility supporting security and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

USS Columbia returns from deployment

Story and photo by
MC1 Steven Khor

Submarine Force Pacific
Fleet Public Affairs

Families and friends lined the submarine piers of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, for a warm *aloha* welcome as the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS Columbia (SSN 771) returned Nov. 21 from a scheduled deployment to the western Pacific.

The excited crowd cheered and waved signs, banners and *lei* as the submarine came into view in the harbor.

The submarine's commanding officer, Cmdr. John Friedman, said the crew was outstanding and productive throughout the deployment.

"The ship and crew performed extremely well during our deployment to the [U.S.] 7th Fleet," said Friedman. "I am very proud of their accomplishments and consider it an honor to have served with them."

Columbia successfully completed several missions vital to national security and participated in several multinational exercises, which supported ongoing security theater objectives, and improved the overall warfighting readiness of U.S. and allied forces in the western Pacific.

In addition to gaining the experience of operating in the western Pacific, the deployment afforded Sailors the opportunity to work on qualifications.

Over the course of the deployment, 16 Sailors of the 150-man crew became submarine-qualified and are now able to wear their respective submarine warfare insignia, also known as the "dolphins."

Ashore, the crew enjoyed visits to Sasebo and Yokosuka, Japan; and Singapore.

"Singapore was an especially exotic place with a



Machinist's Mate 1st Class Christopher Brohammer of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS Columbia (SSN 771) is welcomed home Nov. 21 by his daughter at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam following the return of the submarine from a six-month scheduled deployment to the western Pacific region.

very different culture from America," said Sonar Technician (Submarines) Seaman Angelo Cosentino of Winchendon, Mass. "There were many different customs, and it was a very diverse population with different tastes."

Friedman commended the crew on their conduct while in other nations as well. "They were exemplary ambassadors of the United States and represent the best the country has to offer," said Friedman.

The submarine's chief of the boat, Master Chief Machinist's Mate Wayne Fetterly, said the crew performed exceptionally well considering many were on their first deployment, noting that the crew is now ready to wind down and enjoy some much needed rest and relaxation.

"Having successfully completed several missions on deployment, the crew is now looking forward to being home in Pearl Harbor and spending time with their loves ones," said Fetterly.

Corey Lambert, fiancé of Columbia Sailor Yeoman

2nd Class David Copeland, said she is looking forward to seeing his face and giving him a big hug.

"We are getting married in a couple of weeks, and I'm so excited!" said Lambert.

Also among the excited crowd were newborn children, waiting to see their dads for the first time.

Patty Ranger, wife of Machinist's Mate 2nd Class David Ranger of Haines City, Fla., said she can't wait to introduce their newborn baby boy to her husband.

"He is so excited. We have been waiting for this day," said Ranger.

USS Columbia, commissioned in 1995, was the last Los Angeles-class submarine to be built at Electric Boat Shipyard in Groton, Conn. One of the most versatile ships in the world, the submarine is capable of numerous types of missions in myriad regions including long-range Tomahawk strike operations, anti-submarine and surface ship tracking operations, surveillance and intelligence gathering, and special forces insertions.