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“Navigator” HO'OKELE

FOR THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE TEAM IN HAWAII

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USS Oklahoma Sailor receives full military honors

**Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs**

Navy Machinist's Mate 1st Class Vernon T. Luke, 43, of Green Bay, Wisconsin, was buried March 9 with full military honors at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl).

Luke was aboard USS Oklahoma (BB 37) during Imperial Japan's attack of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. He was killed in action, but identification of his remains was delayed for more than seven decades.

Luke was a “common person doing uncommon things, and he made the ultimate sacrifice,” said Rear Adm. John Fuller, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

Luke's remains had been previously thought to be “unrecoverable” and “unidentifiable.”

But thanks to determined efforts of Pearl Harbor survivor and former Navy Chief Petty Officer



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Laurie Dexter

Ray Emory, the remains of Luke and other USS Oklahoma Sailors were disinterred for identification by the Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). Emory was stationed aboard USS Honolulu (CL 48) on Dec. 7, 1941.

“Chief Ray Emory works tirelessly to get his shipmates identified and properly honored,” said Fuller. “We owe Ray a huge debt of gratitude for his research, compassion and ongoing commitment to our Sailors and their families,” Fuller said.

Both Fuller and Emory attended Luke's funeral service and met with family members. The service included a flag detail, firing detail, bugler and military chaplain.

Sailors from the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Honors and Ceremonies carry the remains of Machinist's Mate 1st Class Vernon Luke during the reinterment ceremony. (Additional photos on page A-5.)

Seabees celebrate 74th anniversary of founding

**Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs**

On March 5, the Navy celebrated the 74th birthday of the Seabees, the 174th anniversary of Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) and the 149th birthday of the civil engineer corps. The name Seabees and its now iconic insignia were officially authorized on March 5, 1942.

The local Seabee Ball is this Saturday, March 12 at the Hale Koa Hotel.

Seabees from NAVFAC Hawaii, Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 303 Detachment (DET) Pearl Harbor, Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP), Marine Corps Base Hawaii and other areas of Oahu also took part in a Pearl Harbor boat tour, March 8.

“Listening to the history throughout the harbor here really provides the insight into all of the different pieces making up our heritage,” said Builder 1st Class (SCW) Seth Blair, assigned to Headquarters Battalion Marine Corps

Base Hawaii. “For me, it really brings it all back to where it all began.”

Lt. j.g. Frances Hunter of NAVSUP said, “I'll be attending the ball on Saturday. This harbor tour was a great way for some of us to get together and get an understanding of the stories surrounding the USS Utah, in addition to the USS Arizona and the USS Missouri.” Hunter said that she is also looking forward to next year's 75th “diamond anniversary” anniversary of the Seabees.

“There is so much history here, in one place, which basically launched the Seabees into the world, and the Navy Seabees are active across the world.”

Seabees Equipment Operator 2nd Class (SCW) Christina Chingman of CBMU 303 DET Pearl Harbor and her husband Builder 2nd Class (SCW) Joshua Vanblarcom, who is currently deployed to Greece, plan on sending each other photos from their respective Seabee Ball celebrations.

The Seabees, whose moniker derives from



U.S. Navy photo by Traci B. Feibel

Seabees assigned to NAVFAC Hawaii take formation and render morning colors following a uniform inspection aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial, in preparations for the events throughout March in celebration of the Seabee's 74th birthday.

the initialization of “Construction Battalion,” were formed in the aftermath of Japanese attacks on the United States and its territories in December 1941, including Pearl Harbor and Wake Island.

Rear Adm. Ben Moreell requested the authority to activate, organize and man Navy construction units on Dec. 28, 1941, and that au-

thority was granted about a week later by the Bureau of Navigation.

The earliest Seabees were recruited from the civilian construction trades and were placed under the leadership of the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps. Because of the emphasis on experience and skill rather than physical standards, the average age of Seabees

during World War II was 37.

During World War II, more than 325,000 men served with the Seabees on six continents and more than 300 islands, including in the D-Day invasion of France and the Marine invasion of Tarawa. Seabees landed soon after the Marines and built major airstrips, bridges,

roads, gasoline storage tanks, and Quonset huts for warehouses, hospitals, and housing. They often operated under fire and frequently were forced to take part in the fighting to defend themselves and their construction projects.

During WWII, Seabees built 111 major airstrips and 441 piers, miles of warehouses, hospitals for more than 70,000 patients, storage tanks for 100 million gallons of fuel and housing for upward of 1.5 million men.

There are seven source ratings for the Seabee community. They include Construction Mechanic (CM), Equipment Operator (EO), Utilitiesman (UT), Construction Electrician (CE), Builder (BU), Steelworker (SW) and Engineering Aide (EA).

The Navy ship USS Stethem (DDG-63) is named for a Seabee, Steelworker 2nd Class (DV) Robert Dean Stethem, who was shot to death after being tortured by terrorists in 1985.

See SEABEES page A-2

Stennis Strike Group wraps up routine operations in South China Sea

**John C. Stennis Strike
Group Public Affairs**

PHILIPPINE SEA— The John C. Stennis Strike Group (JCSSG) has completed routine operations in the South China Sea, and transited into the Philippine Sea through the Luzon Strait.

The strike group is comprised of Stennis with Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 9 and Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 21 embarked, Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93), (homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam), USS Stockdale (DDG 106), USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110), and Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Mobile Bay (CG 53).

CVW-9 consists of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 71, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 14, Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 112, Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 133 and Strike



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Andrew P. Holmes

(Above) USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) participates in a replenishment-at-sea with the fast combat support ship USNS Rainier (T-AOE 7) and the guided-missile cruiser USS Mobile Bay (CG 53) in the South China Sea, March 4. (Below) An E/A-18G Growler assigned to the Wizards of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 133 launches from USS John C. Stennis' (CVN 74) flight deck during routine flight operations in the South China Sea, March 4.

Fighter Squadrons (VFA) 151, 97, 41, and 14.

The JCSSG

operated in the South China Sea, March 1 through March 6.

It was the crew's first time operating there since their regularly scheduled deployment began Jan. 15. The JCSSG conducted daily flight operations and a replenishment-at-sea during their transit, receiving advanced

bio fuel, aviation fuel, and supplies from USNS Rainier (T-AOE 7).

While operating in the South China Sea, the crew sharpened their skills in one of the most heavily trafficked areas in the world. Roughly \$5 trillion in trade is shipped through the South China Sea every year.

The strike group is the centerpiece of the Great Green Fleet, a yearlong initiative highlighting the Navy's efforts to transform its energy use to increase operational capability. JCSSG will use energy efficiency measures, to include technologies and operational procedures, and alternative fuel in the course of its normal operations.

Senior Chief Quartermaster Henry Nicol, USS John C. Stennis' (CVN 74) navigation department leading chief petty officer, said it's essential to carefully monitor the ship's position and course, because of congested sea lanes.

Sailors working in Stennis' Carrier Air Traffic Control Cen-

See STENNIS page A-7



U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Tomas Compian

USS Paul Hamilton hosts inaugural ‘cross pollination’ initiative

Blair Martin Gradel

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public Affairs

In an effort to “cross pollinate,” military service branches across Oahu, a monthly networking initiative has been spearheaded in order to help integrate, educate and engage senior leadership among participating Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Army commands.

Each month, a different branch of service will host the initiative, which aims to facilitate team building among senior enlisted leaders in an effort to increase service culture understanding and effective working relationships in joint base environments.

On March 4, the Navy command leadership kicked off the event by inviting senior enlisted members (E-9) on a tour aboard the USS Paul Hamilton (DDG-60) currently moored at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

More than 20 participating chief master sergeants and master chiefs from the Coast Guard, Air Force and Navy service branches were given a comprehensive ship tour, including the combat maintenance center, cyber security management center, central control center, pilot house, Navy Chief’s berthing spaces and mess areas.

According to Navy Region Hawaii Command Master Chief (SW/AW/EXW/IDW/PJ) David Carter, the idea for bringing



U.S. Navy photo by Traci Feibel

Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class (SW) Anthony Jones briefs senior enlisted leaders from Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard on Navy culture and leadership methods aboard his ship, the USS Paul Hamilton (DDG-60) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

multiple service branch enlisted leadership chains together originated after a chance encounter with a senior Air Force leader at the Navy Exchange Autoport.

Carter, who at that time had only been on island for about a month, was getting his vehicle inspected when he ran into Chief Master Sergeant Bart Jingst, 15th Air Wing inspector general superintendent at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH).

“During our conversation we both mentioned the need to break down inter-service barriers and get the Senior Enlisted leaders engaged in some sort of joint environment,” he explained. “That is where the seed

for the cross pollination program was planted. Over the course of the next couple months we bounced ideas back and forth until we came up with the program as we have it [today],” Carter added. The program was later opened up to also include senior enlisted leadership members from Army and Coast Guard commands as well.

USS Paul Hamilton’s Command Master Chief (CMC) David Martinez said it was a wonderful recognition for his ship to host the inaugural event.

“A lot of people forget about the [Navy’s] mission and why we go out there and do what we do,” he said. “So this was a great way

for other branches to get to see a real working ship and begin to understand and know our purpose.”

Coast Guard Command Master Chief Derek Foster said he wanted to participate in the ship tour not only to learn about the Navy’s unique culture, but also as an opportunity to interact with his fellow Navy and Air Force counterparts.

“This [event] gave us to have a sense of what other services and enlisted personnel are doing,” he said. “You can always learn from anyone and use their personal experience when it comes to managing personnel or interacting with your crew and

commands. This gave us great insight into what the Navy is doing and how they are leading their Sailors,” he added.

For Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Christopher Hurst, from the 647th Security Forces Squadron, the event marked an opportunity to appreciate a new culture and set of operational tactics for accomplishing a similar mission.

“We all come from different environments and services,” he explained. “And we tend to think that our way is the best way of doing things but what we don’t always seem to take into account is that each service has their own level of ‘expertise’ that they can bring to the table.”

Hurst hopes this renewed sense of camaraderie between the military branches will not only continue to be encouraged, but also trickle down the chain of command.

“This is a great start but we can’t just leave it here at the top,” he encouraged. “We got to bring it down to the bottom—to the lowest Airman, the lowest Sailor, the lowest civilian. We have to keep this fusion going so when you get here to JBPHH it’s not such a culture shock.”

Every month, a different service branch will rotate turns in hosting the monthly venue and share their unique military culture with their senior counterparts. Currently, the Air Force is planning the next event to be held tentatively on an airfield in April.

Navy Region Hawaii’s Fire, Emergency Services personnel recognized

Ricky Brockman

Special contributor to Navy Installations Command public affairs

WASHINGTON—The Department of Defense Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES) community is on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at times putting their own lives on the line while “Protecting Those Who Defend America.”

Most go unnoticed, but each year the DoD recognizes outstanding accom-

plishments and honors its fire departments and firefighters through the DoD F&ES awards program.

Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Vice Adm. Dixon Smith recently announced the winners of the calendar year 2015 Navy F&ES Awards, including several for Navy Region Hawaii.

Regional winners are submitted to CNIC F&ES to compete for the Navy awards. CNIC convenes a panel to evaluate the

submissions and select the winners.

Sixty nominations competed across 11 competition categories for the 2015 Navy F&ES awards.

The following winners from Navy Region Hawaii will move forward as the Navy nominees for the corresponding DoD F&ES awards:

- Navy Medium Department of the Year—Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam District
- Navy Fire Prevention

Program of the Year—Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam District

The winners of these Navy-specific award categories do not have a corresponding DoD level award to compete for:

- Navy Fire Chief of the Year—Warren Ferguson, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam District
- “Bravo Zulu and congratulations to all of our Navy F&ES award winners and nominees. Competition at this level is

very fierce and selecting this year’s winners was extremely challenging. All participants should be very proud of their professional achievements and well-deserved recognition,” said Smith in his announcement.

The Navy F&ES awards program was instituted in 1997 to implement the DoD F&ES awards program. Nominees were selected based on criteria developed by the DoD F&ES working group, which is composed of the chiefs of the service

components’ respective F&ES programs.

Navy F&ES is just one of the more than 100 products and services managed by Navy Installations Command to support its mission of sustaining the fleet, enabling the fighter, and supporting families.

For the complete list of award recipients, see the article at <http://ow.ly/ZhhFh>.

For more information about the Navy’s F&ES program, visit <http://ow.ly/ZhhGR>

Seabees known for ‘Can Do’ spirit in support of Navy, nation

Continued from page A-1

“This year we celebrate the 74th anniversary of the establishment of the Seabees. During World War II the Seabees were established and performed now legendary deeds in both the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters of Operation,” said Rear Adm. Bret Muilenburg, commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Chief of Engineers.

Seventy-four years later the patch of the Seabees is still present throughout the Pacific and worldwide. What Seabees did seven decades ago, they continue to do today.

“The ‘Can Do’ spirit, of our fighting Seabees was certainly busy in 2015 in support of various component commanders such as U.S. Central Command, U.S. European Command, U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Africa Command. Seabees operated globally completing critical tasking and participating in named exercises and multi-national exercises in 2015 ranging from Flintlock, Saharan Express, African Lion, Baltops, Pacific Partner-

ship, Balikpapan, Cooperation Assistance Readiness and Training and Key Resolve,” Muilenburg said.

“Seabees also strengthened bonds among our Pacific regional allies, operating with the U.S. Marine Corps, Australian Army and United Kingdom’s Royal Engineers for Exercises Olgetta Warrior 2015 in Papua New Guinea and Exercise Harii Hamatuk 2015 in Timor-Leste,” Muilenburg added.

“If you know a Seabee, thank him or her for their service. Happy anniversary Seabees,” Muilenburg said.

Read Muilenburg’s entire message at <http://navylive.dodlive.mil/2016/03/05/celebrating-seabees-74th-anniversary/>.

Adm. J.M. Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations, also congratulated the Seabees on their anniversary.

“The unique skills and capabilities you bring to bear in support of our Navy and the nation have never been more important than they are now. Through your achievements and sacrifices, you build on your proud history, meeting today’s diverse and demanding missions around the world,” Richardson stated.

New logo, theme announced for Seabees 75th anniversary

Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Cragg

Navy Expeditionary Combat Command Public Affairs



WASHINGTON — The logo and theme chosen in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Seabees in 2017 was unveiled at the Seabee Ball in Washington, D.C., and Norfolk, March 5.

The logo and theme were selected by a diverse panel representing the Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) and the Naval Con-

struction Force.

In December 2015, NAVFAC launched the logo and theme contest encouraging active duty, Reserve components, retirees, civilians and everyone

else who supports the “Can-Do” attitude of the Seabee Force to enter the contest to show pride for the Seabees.

More than 70 different entries for both the logo and the theme were submitted to NAVFAC. Artists from around the world participated in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to pay homage to the rich history and heritage of the Seabees.

In the end, a logo and theme designed by a retired Air Force master sergeant and a chief musician were selected by the panel.

Diverse VIEWS



What woman, living or dead, do you most admire?



GSM3 Kyle Freer
JBPHH 1st Lt.

"My grandmother. She was a positive influence in my life and told me what the rights and wrongs were. She guided me to be the best I could be, whether it be sports or school work."

Lt. Cmdr. Brian Legendre
Naval Health Clinic Hawaii

"Ann Richards, former governor of Texas, because she pioneered a generation of liberal women in Texas and stated what she thought."



OS1 Rosena Lubin
USS O'Kane (DDG-77)

"Nancy Reagan. She just passed away but I think she lived a fulfilling life."

Seaman Recruit Gaibrell Pickney
JBPHH 1st Lt.

"Michelle Obama, mostly because she's encouraging kids to be more active and healthy. I think that's pretty important. She is one of the hardest working first ladies we ever had."



Jowanna Shutes
15th Medical Group

"I really admire Michelle Obama. I have never seen a first lady who is so approachable, graceful, and elegant. She is really passionate about what she does — especially with the kids. Also putting fitness in the spotlight is great."

April Twining
Air Force spouse

"Jackie Kennedy. I admire how she stayed strong when JFK was assassinated. She stayed strong for both her family and her country. She was able to approach it with grace in a situation where you would want to fall apart. She is an amazing woman to look up to."



Specialist Christina Williams
94th AAMDC

"I would say my mom. She put up with my brother and me through the hard times, and when my dad wasn't around she made sure we had everything we needed."

Capt. Eric Weilenman
CNSG MIDPAC

"That's easy. That would be my mom. She was born and raised in India and came to the U.S. in 1950 by herself. Culturally, most Indians stayed where they grew up through adulthood in those days. She moved to New York and worked at the embassy. For someone in her day and age to do that was remarkable."



Provided by Ensign Krystyna Nowakowski

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

Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com



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Commentary

PACAF projects power throughout the Pacific

Gen. Lori Robinson

Pacific Air Forces Commander

Airpower's greatest strategic strength lies in its speed, range, flexibility, precision and lethality. Airmen exploit the third dimension, and no one else can ensure rapid power projection at a time and place of our nation's choosing like the U.S. Air Force.

As tensions escalate across this vast region, due in large part to China's continued militarization of the South China Sea, the need to demonstrate credible combat power while leveraging our network of like-minded partner nations has only increased. PACAF airpower plays a crucial role in ensuring our nation continues to exercise the freedom to fly and sail in the international airspace and waters of this region so we don't risk losing it.

With the vast array of challenges that come with planning and executing air operations across 52 percent of the globe, it can be difficult to take stock of the impact PACAF Airmen are having in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. If you look, however, at the range of simultaneous operations we've conducted over the first two months of 2016, our contributions as U.S. Pacific Command's air component become very clear.

On Jan. 6, our Airmen were called to action after North Korea conducted its fourth underground nuclear test in clear defiance of UN Security Council resolutions. A few short days later, in a demonstration of the steadfast commitment to the U.S.-Republic of Korea alliance, a B-52H Stratofortress from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, conducted a low-level flight with a Republic of Korea Air Force F-15K Slam Eagle and a U.S. F-16C Fighting Falcon Jan. 10 in the vicinity of Osan Air Base, South Korea. This extended deterrence mission highlighted our ability to mobilize strategic bombers throughout the region in support of our allies.

At the same time, more than 200 Airmen with the 112th Fighter Squadron from Toledo Air National Guard Base, Ohio, deployed to Andersen AFB as the 112th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron in support of the U.S. PACOM's Theater Security Package mission. This routine deployment greatly strengthens our capability to project power throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

A few days later, PACAF airpower was on the move again; this time, 14 F-22A Raptors and approximately 200 personnel from Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska and 12 F-16Cs and nearly 150 personnel from Eielson AFB, Alaska spent several days training at Yokota Air Base, Japan, before flying to Kadena Air Base, Japan, to participate in our winter training cycle.

Rotating these Alaskan forces



U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Raymond Geoffroy

Gen. Lori J. Robinson, Pacific Air Forces commander, addresses U.S. and Singapore Airmen in front of an F-22A Raptor during the Singapore International Airshow, at Changi International Airport Singapore, Feb. 17.

through Japan provides invaluable combined training opportunities with the Japan Air Self Defense Forces and demonstrates our flexible capability to mobilize the most advanced fighter in our fleet throughout the region. Additionally, maintaining credible combat power is about having the right capabilities in the region, including the F-22's fifth-generation capabilities. It is our F-22s and the F-35 Lightning II we will bring to the region in the coming years that will help to maintain security and stability by giving us an edge over potential adversaries.

As we made our way into February, PACAF Airmen continued to demonstrate their presence and build partnerships throughout the region. On Feb. 9th, a B-52 arrived in Darwin, Australia, to conduct training with the Royal Australian Air Force, advancing interoperability between our allied Airmen.

Meanwhile, the U.S. along with the JASDF, RAAF, Philippine Air Force, ROKAF and the Royal New Zealand Air Force kicked off exercise Cope North 2016 at Andersen AFB, Guam, on Feb. 10.

This exercise featured more than 900 U.S. Airmen and Sailors training alongside approximately 1,000 service members from partner nations. More than 100 aircraft participated in the exercise, which included both humanitarian assistance and disaster relief training and large-force employment training.

Concurrently, more than 150 joint personnel, eight U.S. airframes, and two PACAF demonstration teams showcased their capabilities at the Singapore International Airshow from Feb. 16-21. Included among them was the debut of the F-22 in Singapore, which not only highlighted U.S. Air Force fifth-generation capability to crowds of thousands, but demonstrated our enduring commitment to ensuring regional stability.

Of course, this was not the only location where F-22s operated that week. In response to continued North Korean provocations, a four-ship of F-22s from those rotating through Japan, joined ROKAF F-15s and U.S. F-16s in yet another formation of solidarity on Feb. 17, in the vicinity of Osan Air Base, South Korea, further demonstrating our ironclad commitment to regional stability.

Within mere days of this show of force, the Airmen providing our continuous bomber presence and flexible deterrence executed a B-52 mission flying through the South China Sea from Andersen AFB to conduct a fly-by during the final day of the Singapore International Airshow, afterwards conducting an exercise mission during Cope North.

As all of these missions were underway, PACAF also oversaw airlift operations in support of Operation DEEP FREEZE, the Department of Defense's support of the U.S. Antarctic Program and the National Science Foundation, which runs every year from September through March.

This list merely captures the wave tops of everything our PACAF Airmen have done in the last eight weeks. Behind the headlines are the tireless efforts of thousands of Total Force Airmen who, along with a network of like-minded allies and partners, work to ensure airpower is delivered whenever and wherever it is needed.

The past two months have demonstrated the regional demand for PACAF's unique blend of speed, range, precision, and flexibility. We live and work in a dynamic and increasingly tense region that is absolutely vital to our national interests and to the interests of our allies and partners in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. The scale and scope of the challenges we face are tremendous, but I have full faith that our Airmen will continue to deliver and make it all look easy.

Women Airforce Service Pilots 'soar'



U.S. Air Force photo

The Civilian Pilot Training Program created opportunities for women to fly. These Women Airforce Service Pilots, or WASPs, got their first aeronautical training through the CPTP. For example, Dr. Dora Dougherty Strother (top) flew a wide variety of missions during World War II, including reliability tests of the B-29 Superfortress bomber. She went on to a long career in flying and aircraft engineering, and set women's records flying rotorcraft.

HO'okele

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Hickam Elementary School celebrates Read Across America

Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Public Affairs

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Sailors and Airmen joined Hickam Elementary School students and faculty for a celebration of literature, imagination and reading during the Read Across America event at the school, March 1-4.

Read Across America is a national program that focuses on motivating students to read through events, partnerships and reading resources. In recognition of the week, service members, parents, teachers and members of the local community took time to celebrate reading by honoring renowned children's book author Dr. Seuss, whose birthday is March 2, and reading aloud to the students.

"Literacy is very important and it's nice to rally around Dr. Seuss' birthday and celebrate reading in a way that's so colorful and fun," said Alisa Estrella Bender, HES principal. "The bigger thing, of course, is highlighting how important literacy is."

Navy Capt. Stanley



Navy Capt. Stanley Keeve, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam commander, places a Cat in the Hat-style top hat on his head before reading to a group of sixth graders at Hickam Elementary School, March 3.

Keeve, JBPHH commander, volunteered as a reader and kicked off Dr. Seuss' birthday with a reading of one of his favorite Dr. Seuss books, "Oh, The Places You'll Go."

Keeve said Read Across America is a good program because it allows an opportunity for more interaction with the students.

"I volunteered be-

cause I wanted to be a part of a great opportunity to show appreciation for educators for the job they do, and also to connect with the larger community," he said. "Most of the students are military dependents and having folks like myself come to them show we appreciate who they are."

Keeve, who wore a Cat in the Hat-style top

hat while reading, said for him, reading to the students is calming and fun, yet much different than how he normally spends his time as commander.

"I think it was important for us to be here to set the right tone," he said. "Literacy is so important and we aren't just coming here to read because they need base personnel it's because

we believe in the importance of literacy."

After reading his book, Keeve spoke to the class of sixth graders about the life lessons discussed in the book and encouraged the students to always have a great attitude and keep a positive outlook on life.

"Your life is like a big book. Each chapter is something different," he said.

In addition to Keeve, more than 20 different volunteers read to the students throughout the week.

"Each reader is different, and each reader presents his or her book in a different way. That's what makes it exciting for the students," said Reva Dacanay, HES librarian.

Dacanay said the school celebrates Dr. Seuss during the Read Across America because he was the first author to place an emphasis on making it fun to learn to read.

Bender, whose personal motto is, "reading is thinking," said the experience of reading and being read to helps students develop critical thinking skills, which is a goal of the educators at HES.

"It's such a delight for us to see the children hear well-written books read aloud," she added. "You can really see them light up."

As Read Across America 2016 wrapped up for HES, Bender said she hopes the experience of reading and being read to is not just something that occurs when students are in school, but at home as well.

Dr. Seuss remembered at Mokulele Elementary School

Story and photo by
Brandon Bosworth

Assistant Editor, Ho'okele

A Read Across America event celebrating the work of children's author Dr. Seuss was held on his birthday, March 2, at Mokulele Elementary School, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Guest readers visited the school to share some of their favorite Dr. Seuss books with students.

Dr. Seuss's real name was Theodor Seuss Geisel. He was a winner of the Pulitzer Prize as well as three Academy Awards. As Dr. Seuss, Geisel wrote and illustrated 44 children's books. He died on Sept. 24, 1991.

One of the readers was Kimberly Crutchfield, Navy Region Hawaii

School Liaison, who read to a second grade class.

As a former teacher, Crutchfield expressed how she loves being back in the schools. "Meeting kids, teachers, and parents is one of the best parts of my job."

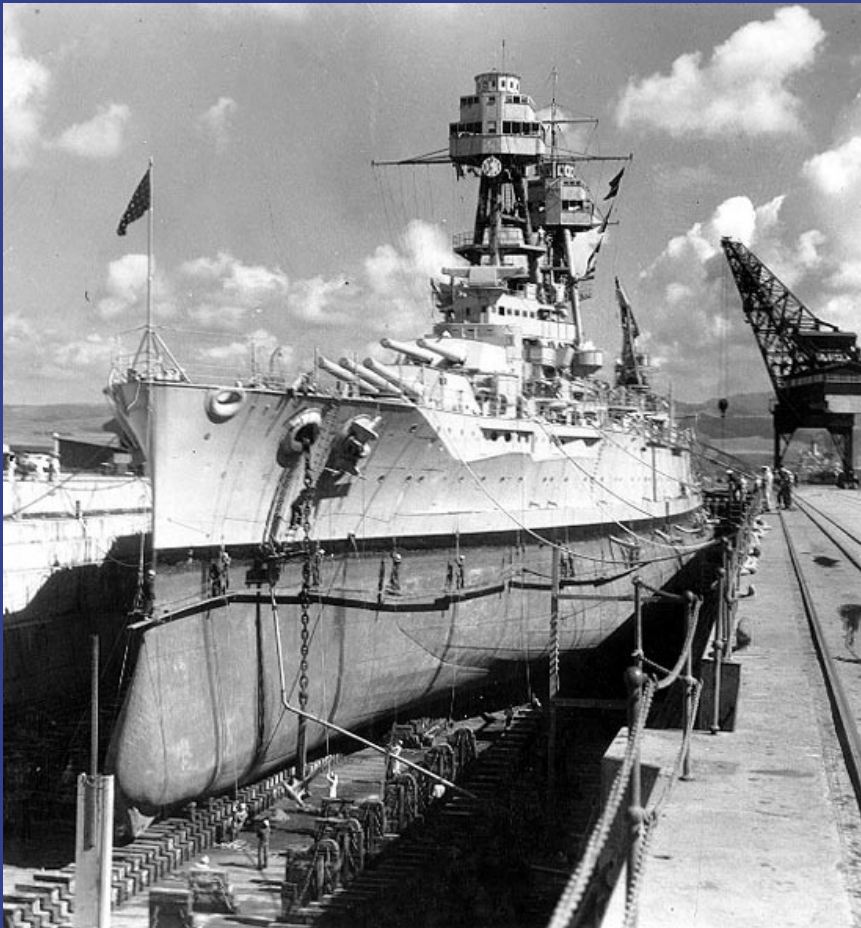
Bart Nakamoto, principal at Mokulele Elementary School, is a big supporter of Read Across America.

"This annual 'Read Across America' offers our Mokulele Elementary learners an opportunity to pay tribute to the beloved Dr. Seuss," he said. "It's another opportunity to bring our school community partners together to touch the lives of our children through their storytelling. Much thanks to Jamie Kawamura, our librarian, and her team for coordinating this fabulous event!"



Kimberly Crutchfield, Navy Region Hawaii school liaison officer, reads to second graders at Mokulele Elementary School during a Read Across America event March 2.

Centennial of USS Nevada commemorated today at Joint Base



U.S. Navy photo

The director of the Battleship Nevada Remembrance Project is holding a commemoration today to mark the 100th anniversary of the commissioning of the USS Nevada (BB 36) battleship in Carson City, Nevada, to include their top ranking government officials. A Nevada flag will be flown at 10 a.m. today at the USS Nevada Memorial at Hospital Point, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to coincide with their event. The Nevada was one of the battleships trapped when Pearl Harbor was attacked by Imperial Japan on Dec. 7, 1941. It was the only battleship to get underway during the attack, although it suffered a hit by a torpedo and bombs. The USS Nevada is shown in this photo in dry dock number one at the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard circa 1935.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam Highlights

Ray Emory, president emeritus of the National Chief Petty Officer's Association and a Pearl Harbor survivor, left, shakes hands with LeeAnn Michalske, the niece of Machinist's Mate 1st Class Vernon Luke, who was killed during the attack on Pearl Harbor, during a reinterment ceremony, March 9, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. Luke's remains were recently identified and he was buried with full military honors. (See related story on page A-1.)

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Laurie Dexter



Rear Adm. John Fuller, commander of U.S. Navy Region Hawaii, Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific, left, presents an American flag to LeeAnn Michalske, the niece of Machinist's Mate 1st Class Vernon Luke March 9, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. (See related story on page A-1.)

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Laurie Dexter

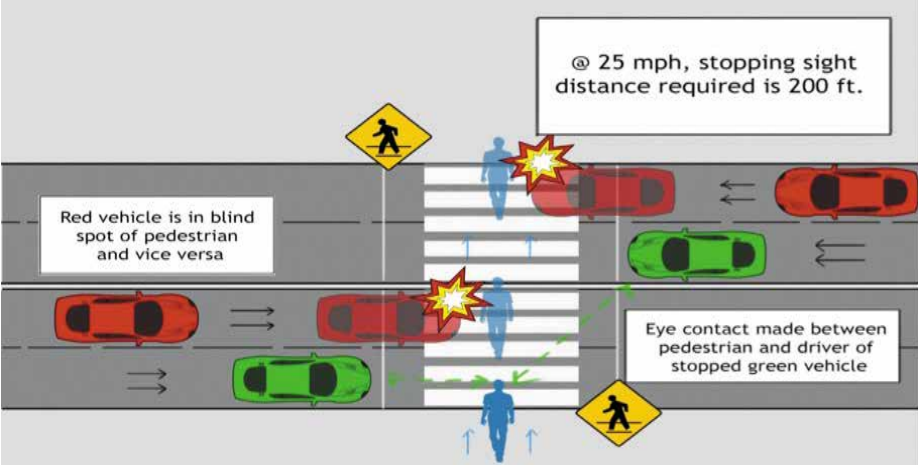
Adm. Harry Harris Jr. commander of U.S. Pacific Command, highlights the importance of the U.S.-India shared strategic vision during remarks at India's inaugural Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi, India, March 2. The Raisina Dialogue 2016 is designed to explore prospects and opportunities for integration within the Asia-Pacific as well as Asia's integration with the larger world to build a more stable and prosperous region.

Photo courtesy of Embassy of the United States of America-New Delhi



Capt. Stanley Keeve Jr., Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam commander (right), awards a Navy Achievement Medal (NAM) "on the spot" to MA2 Darryn Fiscus. Fiscus, a military working dog handler, was one of the first responders who rendered assistance and medical aid, including administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to a critically injured teen involved with the Feb. 18 civilian helicopter crash in the waters of Pearl Harbor.

U.S. Navy photo by Blair Gradel



Watching for blind spots can increase crosswalk safety

D.V. Bertubin

JBPHH Safety Specialist

In fiscal year 2015, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam had 15 pedestrian mishap incidents resulting in substantial loss of work hours and property damage. Almost all of the injuries occurred when pedestrians crossed or entered at or between crosswalks. Pedestrians should be aware of blind spots when using crosswalks, especially when crossing multiple lanes. (See figure above.)

What you can you do as a driver...?

- Be a better, safer driver by giving pedestrians a human dimension. After all, at some point, we are all pedestrians.
- Slow down. Use the

“what if” strategy since you can’t predict what a pedestrian might do.

- Yield the right of way to pedestrians in crosswalks. Be patient with elderly or disabled pedestrians. They may take longer to cross and may not be able to see or hear well.
- Never wave pedestrians across the street. In

heavy traffic areas and on multiple lanes, other drivers might not see the pedestrians crossing. Those vehicles could hit the pedestrians.

- In residential areas and school zones, watch for children especially on school days, holidays, or in summer. Remember, children are unpredictable.

SPAWAR brings IT NET OPS FAT training team to Hawaii Region

Cmdr. Eric A. Stoeckel

Naval Air Systems Command Systems, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Keyport, Wash.

nications Area Master Station Pacific.

Chief Information Technician Christopher Castillo, MIDPAC N6 helped organize the event, which provides free IT training to the fleet. A group of reservists from NetOps Support Team (NST) Fly-Away Team (FAT) provided classroom training in security and VMware virtualization.



At the end of each class those who passed the certification examinations were given CompTia designation for Security Plus class and VCA certification for VMware class.

For future training requests contact ITC Christopher Castillo at Christopher.castillo@navy.mil or Cmdr. Marty Riley at martin.riley@navy.mil.



NCIS Crime Reduction Program

The NCIS Crime Reduction Program (CRP) has focused this quarter’s efforts on Sexual Assault Awareness. The CRP is an awareness and education program which unites law enforcement and community service organizations with a shared goal of educating Sailors, Marines and Department of the Navy civilians about common threats to their safety.

With the increasing focus on sexual assault prevention, NCIS wants to remind you that no means no and to intervene if you are a bystander and foresee a situation where someone is about to fall victim to sexual assault.

For more information of the NCIS CRP, contact your local NCIS office at (808) 474-1218. Text tip info to 1-(800) 543-NAVY, text “NCIS” plus your tip info to CRIMES (274637), or contact the DoD Safeline at 1-(877) 955-5247.

Ohana Military Communities offers renter’s insurance

Billy Lawson

Ohana Military Communities, Navy Hawaii Director of Operations

In 2015 the Department of Defense announced a major change that affected Basic Allowance for Housing. The fiscal year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act eliminated renter’s insurance as a component of BAH.

Hunt Military Communities will continue to provide full renter’s insurance (including personal property coverage) for all current residents. The current policy will be effective through Feb. 1, 2017. Any future changes to renter’s insurance coverage will be in accordance with resident leases.

For residents who are under a 2015 or earlier lease agreement, coverage will simply switch from the current provider to a Hunt renter’s insurance policy.

To view the brochure visit <http://ow.ly/ZbtvZ>. For additional information, contact your resident services office.

USS Texas returns home from western Pacific deployment

Lt. j.g. Samuel Boyle

Submarine Force Pacific Public Affairs

The Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Texas (SSN 775) returned to its homeport of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, March 9, after the completion of its second scheduled deployment to the western Pacific.

During deployment, the boat steamed more than 27,000 miles and conducted four port-call visits in two foreign countries while conducting missions vital to our national interests, said Cmdr. Todd Nethercott of Riverton, Wyo., commanding officer of USS Texas.

“The ship and crew performed exceedingly well,” Nethercott said. “The ship’s motto, ‘Don’t mess with Texas’, accu-

ately depicts the ship’s capabilities and the crew’s spirit. Few Sailors aboard two years ago could even fathom that Texas would be pulling in today after having completed a highly successful western Pacific deployment.”

USS Texas had been in dry dock for 26 months before it deployed, which made guidance from senior crewmembers crucial.

“While the first-term Sailors brought an abundance of energy and enthusiasm to the boat, the seasoned Sailors brought the experience and the knowledge necessary to change Texas from a ship into a warship,” said Master Chief Machinist’s Mate Daniel Kloepper, chief of the boat aboard USS Texas.

During their deployment, 11 Sailors and



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael H. Lee

Lt. Cmdr. Sean Gray of Nampa, Idaho, the executive officer of the Virginia-Class fast-attack submarine USS Texas (SSN 775), meets for the first time, his 7-week-old daughter, Vivian, presented to him by his wife, Jennifer, on March 9, following the return of the submarine to Pearl Harbor.

three officers earned their submarine warfare qualifications and now wear the submarine

warfare insignia, or dolphins. Additionally, 11 Sailors were advanced in rank.

A number of objectives were accomplished during the submarine’s deployment, including participation in two exercises with the air, surface and subsurface components of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force. USS Texas set a new submerged endurance record for the ship while conducting missions vital to national security. Also, the culinary team was recognized as one of four finalists for the Captain Edward F. Ney award for culinary excellence.

The crew made the best of their port calls to Japan and the Philippines by sampling local culture, golfing, and going on safaris. A community outreach team spent time with youths

in Olongapo City, Philippines, where they learned some braille and sign language.

“Texas enjoyed 37 incident-free liberty days during deployment. The fact that not one Sailor found themselves in a difficult situation is a perfect example of the professionalism, pride, and responsibility each member of Texas carries with them as a representative of the United States, both ashore and at sea,” said Nethercott. “Each and every member of the crew trained very hard to make our western Pacific deployment a success. The crew’s dedication to duty and pursuit of excellence is something every American can be proud of.”

Civilian Expeditionary Workforce sought

U.S. Central Command Civilian Expeditionary Workforce Program

Department of Defense (DoD) employees can use their experience and expertise to support DoD contingency operations by volunteering to deploy. The civilian deployment experience allows civilians to use their capabilities, experience, and knowledge as a crucial component of helping the Department of Defense accomplish its mission abroad.

U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) is seeking current, permanent DoD employees with strong technical skills, competencies, and abilities with the desire to deploy as part of the Civilian Expeditionary Workforce (CEW). It is an opportunity to serve in a dynamic environment alongside military, allies, and coalition partners to provide a stabilizing presence, build security and conduct humanitarian assistance operations across the USCENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR).

Working in a deployed environment while both mentally challenging and stimulating may also be arduous at times. Flexibility is the key asset of all deploying individuals to succeed in this very fluid

environment. The USCENTCOM CEW Program offers a career enrichment opportunity that allows participants to build on professional and interpersonal skills.

Beyond the individual personal and professional growth opportunities associated with deployment, participants may be eligible for multiple financial incentives. As a civilian employee, participants may be eligible for up to 35 percent post differential pay; hazardous duty pay; as well as overtime compensation. Entitlements vary by location and length of tour. It is recommended applicants research the specific entitlements when considering a deployment opportunity.

Deployable civilians are needed to fill critical vacancies across a multitude of occupational series, grades, locations and tours lengths. Duty locations vary in size and environment and each position provides for a slightly unique experience for which participants will be trained.

For more information, visit <https://cew.centcom.mil/Landing/Default.aspx> or send inquiries to: centcom.macdill.centcom-hq.mbx.ccj3-f-cew@mail.mil or francis.m.hoefflinger.civ@mail.mil.

Stennis hones skills

Continued from page A-1

ter (CATCC) also take on a more active role in controlling aircraft.

Lt. Jason Falk, from the Wizards of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 133, welcomes the challenge.

“It feels exciting,” Falk said. “I’m putting what I have learned to use.”

Falk said the crew remains on higher alert while operating in this congested area to identify contacts as early as possible to maintain awareness.

Additionally, People’s Liberation Army (Navy) ships remained in the vicinity of Stennis during its time in the South China Sea. All bridge-to-bridge interactions between the Sailors of both navies were professional.

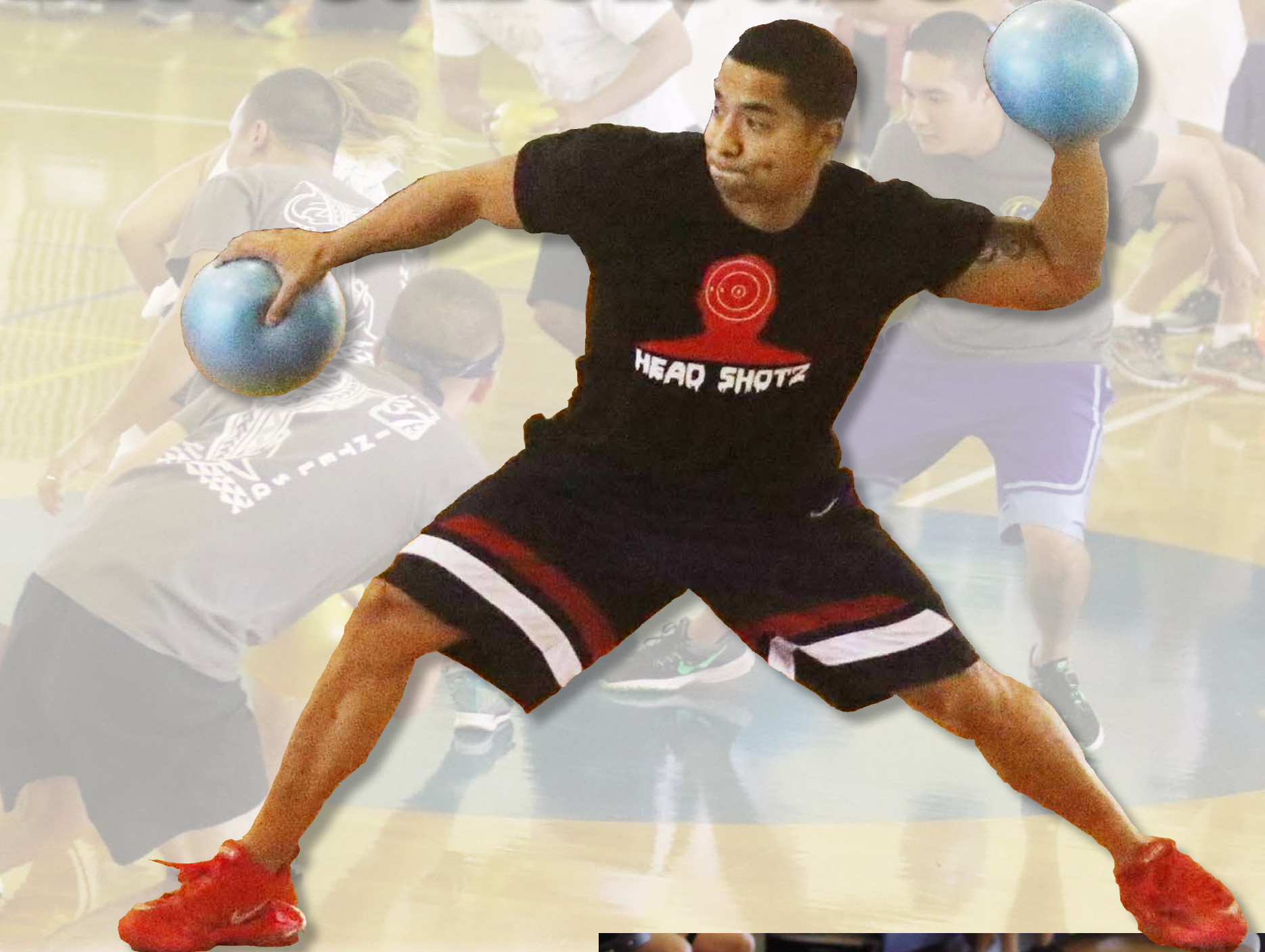
“Based on the bridge-to-bridge communications USS Chung-Hoon had with the PLA(N) ships, it is clear that the Chinese Navy prides itself on professional communications and interactions,” said Cmdr. Tom Ogden, commanding officer of USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93).

Rear Adm. Ronald Boxall, JCSSG’s commander, said he is not surprised by other countries’ interests in the strike group.

“We’re exercising our right to operate in international waters,” Boxall said. “Our presence here promotes peace and stability in the region.”

For more news on USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) visit <http://navy.mil/local/cvn74/> or <http://www.facebook.com/stennis74>.

Life & Leisure



Dodgeball spreads fun

**Story and photos by
Randy Dela Cruz**

Sports Editor, Ho'okele

A lively dodgeball tournament took place March 3 at the Hickam Fitness Center, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

As it turned out, dodgeball was the perfect venue to loosen up the troops

in some friendly competition that included just a touch of mayhem.

Thuds of balls crashing and ricocheting off bodies could be heard throughout the entire facility, but so could the hearty laughter of those either scoring a kill or being eliminated.

More than 200 participants attended the event. Tournament co-coordinator Master Sgt. Mike Alvares said the turnout was far more than they

ever anticipated.

"I think all of us are surprised that we got as much participation," Alvares said. "We went from maybe expecting eight teams to a total of 14. This is absolutely a success."

Alvares said that the main focus of the dodgeball tournament was to provide a moment of relief to JBPHH personnel from the daily rigors and pressure of serving the country.

"We just want to get people involved in the community and just enjoy each other as far as just building up fellowships and team building," Alvares explained.

Alvarez said that they decided on dodgeball because it attracts a lot of personalities and plus you get to see the costumes.

"It's very competitive and you get to see people be creative," he said.

The colorful array of costumes, which ran the gamut of Super Mario look-a-likes to the outrageous sight of participants decked out like rodeo clowns, only added to the boisterous atmosphere that held court at the event.

The action was nonstop as all of the teams were rotated in and out of the main floor until each was eliminated.

When it was all done, only Los Cholos remained as not only the champions, but as the only undefeated team in the entire field.

"I think it was the uniforms," said Los Cholos member Airman 1st Class Zack Johnson. "We're all friends. We all live in the same dorm."

In reality, Johnson said it was the team's overall youth that carried them through the tournament without a loss.

"You've got to be light on your feet," he said. "Some of these old guys just don't get it no more."

Once the trophies were handed out, Alvarez offered one final reflection on the tournament.

"For me personally, this was just phenomenal," he admitted. "The fact that we had people pouring in from all of the services, this was big. The fact that we can unite together as military services and have fun doing it, that to me, is pretty significant."

The Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) local chapter 1550 organized the dodgeball tournament.



From left to right, Tech. Sgt. Jason Robinson, Staff Sgt. Inocencio Perez, Master Sgt. Mike Alvares, Tech. Sgt. Kosiasko Sullivan, Master Sgt. Rebekah Morris, Senior Master Sgt. Luis Reyes and Senior Master Sgt. Christina Wolfe participate in dodgeball.

NSSC sends Toon Squad reeling to first defeat

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor, Ho'okele

After suffering a loss at the hands of the 15th Medical Group earlier in the season, Naval Submarine Support Command (NSSC) was in danger of dropping further into the abyss, when the team squared off against division-leading Toon Squad on March 7 in a Gold Division intramural basketball game at Hickam Fitness Center, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Another defeat this early in the season could have all but washed away the team's chances of claiming the top spot in the division and No. 1 seed going into the playoffs next month.

Playing with their backs against the wall, NSSC stepped up with their most impressive game to date and turned back Toon Squad, 50-30, to improve their record to 3-1, while Toon Squad lost their first game of the season and fell to 4-1.

"This is a statement game," said NSSC team captain and coach Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Jerry Acosta. "The next time we play the team we lost to, it should be a rude awakening for them. We're excited for the rest of the season and hopefully we don't lose any more games."

While NSSC could point to a number of players that contributed big baskets and huge defensive stops en route to the win, one player in particular was the spark that ignited NSSC's attack.

Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Kali Pettigrew got the ball rolling and kept it going throughout the game with his slashing drives to the basket and sky-scraping rejections of Toon Squad shooters.

Pettigrew scored the first



Chief Yeoman Markus Howard slides past the defense of Senior Airman Shayne Jansma to score two of his eight points.

seven points of the game on a trey, a basket and two free throws to stake NSSC to an early lead.

"We wanted to come out hot, but we never treat any team different because of their record," said Pettigrew, who

scored a game-high 18 points. "Just because they were undefeated, it don't mean that they can't be beat."

Soon after Pettigrew's fiery start though, a short lull in the NSSC's attack allowed Toon Squad to come back with some

hot shooting of their own.

A three ball by Staff Sgt. Zac Enyart put Toon Squad in front at 17-13 with 6:32 remaining in the first half.

However, as the seconds ticked closer to halftime, NSSC picked up the pace, quickly erased the deficit and never trailed again.

A basket by Chief Yeoman Markus Howard put NSSC back in the lead at 19-18 at the 3:36 mark.

Then just as the horn was about to sound to end the first half, Pettigrew stole an in-bound pass and drove in for a lay-up to take a 28-20 lead into the break.

"One of my players whispered to me to go get it," Pettigrew said about his steal and basket. "I knew I could take it and I attacked him."

The final basket before the halftime seemed to place momentum squarely back into the hands of NSSC.

Howard opened up the second half with a trey to make it 31-18 and the route was on.

Pettigrew scored on a put-back at the 13:08 mark to make it 39-23, and later added another three-point bomb for a 42-23 lead that all but sealed the game.

"It's a possibility," Pettigrew affirmed when asked if he felt NSSC could finish the regular season without another loss. "It comes down who gets hot and who stays hotter."

Acosta said that the loss suffered early in the season by NSSC has turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

The game exposed a few weaknesses, which have been corrected, Acosta said.

"If we come to play our game, nobody can beat us," Acosta stated. "We had one game where we tried different things and we lost. We learned from that and we don't do that any more."

MWR connects you to installations with free mobile apps

Story and photo by
MC1 John Belanger

Navy Installations Command
Public Affairs

WASHINGTON—Have you ever wanted to know what movie or events are happening on your installation? Navy Installations Command's (NIC) Fleet and Family Readiness (FFR) marketing has developed iPhone and Android compatible apps to do just that.

Morale, Welfare and Readiness (MWR) has developed versions of several regional and installation mobile applications that are available for download on iTunes or Google Play for free.

"All these apps look the same except for the content," said Fleet and Family Readiness Marketing and Multimedia project manager Jay Whiteside. "The good thing is when a Sailor transfers or travels from base to base they get the same layout and knows exactly how to use the app."

To date, the user-friendly mobile apps have almost a quarter of a million subscribers, and content is refreshed in real time. Installation apps have the option of receiving information and push notices for that installation every time they open it.

"Everything is fed from a central content management system," said Whiteside. "The marketer at each base can manage and update information to keep the apps updated."

All developed apps will have the same look and feel to prevent the user from having to relearn how to use an app for a different location.

According to Whiteside, this is ideal for Sailors and their families during a permanent change of station or for Sailors reporting to schools or to temporary duty. This makes it easier to find updated and current information to assist with their assimilation.

"The apps are undergoing constant continuous improvement based on customer response and action," said Wh-



iteside. "Our analytics show us that events, movies, and jobs are the three biggest hits, and that's one thing that will keep them coming back to the app."

More than 25 additional mobile apps are slated for launch in 2016. Additionally, FFR marketing has launched 20 Navy MWR websites for Navy re-

gions and installations across the globe, and many more are in progress.

A list and link to the current apps and other quality of life mobile applications, such as Navy Life and Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System can be found at <http://www.navymwr.org/>.



Photo courtesy Brothers Osborne
Country music duo Brothers Osborne are scheduled to perform a free concert in the Paradise Lounge at Club Pearl on March 21.

Brothers Osborne to perform

Reid Tokeshi

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Morale, Welfare and Recreation

The Brothers Osborne will be performing a free concert at Club Pearl, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), on March 21. Presented by Navy Entertainment, the show will take place in the Paradise Lounge at 7:30 p.m.

The country duo, consisting of brothers John and T.J., released their debut album "Pawn Shop" on January 15 of this year. A song from the album, "Stay a Little Longer" reached the top of the country charts last year.

The brothers were nominated for Best Country Duo/Group Performance at last month's Grammy Awards and were nominated for Vocal Duo of the Year by the Country Music Association last year at the upcoming Academy of Country Music Awards. Next month, the Brothers Osborne are nominated for New Vocal Duo/Group of the Year and Vocal Duo of the Year.

Cat Rost of MWR Special Events said everyone who loves country music, and music in general, will enjoy the concert.

"The show is appropriate for everyone and families are welcome," said Rost.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and admission is first-come, first-served and no tickets will be issued.

The concert is open to all military-affiliated Department of Defense cardholders and their guests. No video/audio recorders are authorized. Large bags or backpacks are not allowed and all purses are subject to search. No outside food or beverages is permitted, with the exception of the purchases made at the Taco Bell and Pizza Hut located in the facility. Paradise Lounge at Club Pearl is not air-conditioned.

USS Halsey Sailor is Navy's first female wrestler

Story and photos by MC2 Cory Asato

*Navy Public Affairs Support Element
Det. Northwest*

SILVERDALE, Wash.—Since 2004, the Armed Forces have hosted women's Freestyle wrestling in their annual Armed Forces Championship (AFC).

Operations Specialist 3rd Class Abril Ramirez, an El Paso, Texas native stationed aboard USS Halsey (DDG 97), was the first female Sailor to wrestle for the All-Navy Sports (ANS) wrestling team Feb. 20. USS Halsey is homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Ramirez credits wrestling as part of her reason for serving, but had to wait through mission obligations to pursue her passion and wrestle.

"I decided to join the military so I could use the GI Bill to pay for my school and I could wrestle as a walk on," said Ramirez. "When I found out the Navy had an All-Navy wrestling team, that really pumped me up. I grew motivated when I got to my command and I started working out to prepare myself so I could try out, but qualifications as a new Sailor and a deployment kept me from wrestling the first two years."

Armed Forces Sports caters their wrestling styles to the Olympic styles of Greco-Roman and Freestyle wrestling. Women have their own wrestling divisions with the Armed Forces. The Army sponsors their World Class Athlete Program (WCAP), allowing soldiers to train year-round at Fort Carson, Colorado, near the U.S. Olympic Training Center. The Navy held their camp, beginning Jan. 20, at Naval Base Kitsap (NBK) leading into the 2016 AFC held at the NBK Bremerton Fitness Complex.

"I haven't wrestled in over three years so I'm starting to get more knowledgeable on it," said Ramirez during the second week of camp. "We're here to dedicate ourselves to wrestling full time, so on our off time I'm able to do things that will improve my performance on the mat."

Being the only female on the team, Ramirez did every practice, drill and wrestling match with her male counterparts.

"The guys are great. They keep me motivated, they teach me on things I need to improve," said Ramirez. "The guys don't treat me any different than the other guys so that's good, it makes me more comfortable. I like working with the guys, it makes me more aggressive, something I always had a problem with. Everything from my technique to my grips have improved from training with men because of their strength advantage."

Ramirez, along with every other prospective ANS athlete, applied with the endorsement of her chain-of-command and medical clearance.

"I am very thankful to my com-

mand and everyone that made this happen, because now I only have to focus on improving and pursuing my passion," said Ramirez.

Wrestlers often attribute their work ethic carrying over to other aspects of their lives as noticed by Ramirez's chain-of-command.

"OS3 Ramirez is an outstanding Sailor," said Lt. Major Singleton II, operations officer aboard Halsey. "She consistently excels as a member of Halsey's Combat Information Team. We were confident that she would perform well as a member of the Navy's wrestling team, but she even exceeded our highest expectations. She has set a new standard for excellence and we are proud that she was able to represent USS Halsey and the Navy."

Operational commitments are paramount for Sailors as Ramirez's twin sister was also unable to wrestle due to a deployment with USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74).

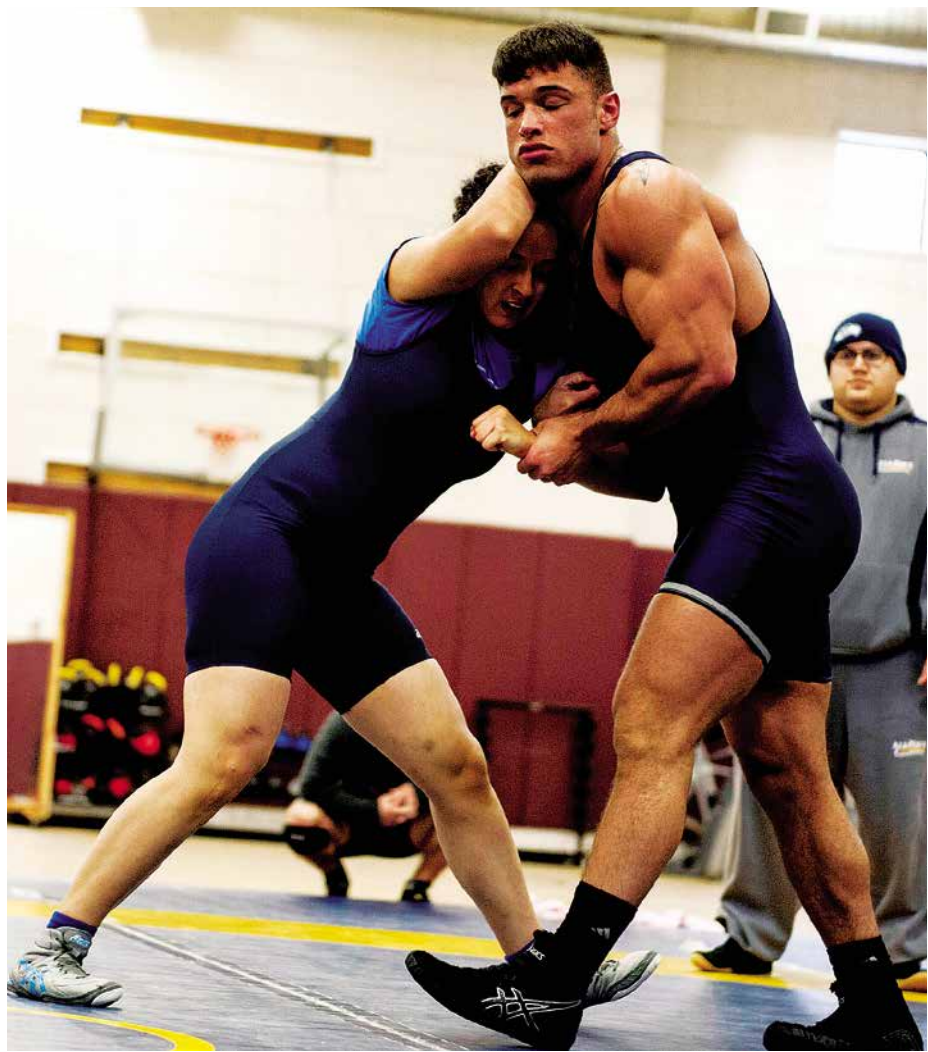
"My sister and I started wrestling our freshman year in high school," said Operations Specialist Seaman Genesis Ramirez, also an El Paso, Texas. "We were obsessed with the sport. During our free time we were in the mat room. That means before school, during lunch and after practice. Wrestling was pretty much our life."

Dan Gable, an American Olympic gold medalist, is credited with saying, more enduringly than any other sport, wrestling teaches self control and pride. Some have wrestled without great self control—none have wrestled without pride.

"I put a lot of effort in everything I'm passionate about," said Ramirez. "That way I am never left with regrets and make people proud of my work and accomplishments. Wrestling is one of the main things I'm so passionate about, I strive to put as much dedication to the sport as I can."

Ramirez earned silver at the 2016 AFC after wrestling against Army Sgt. Sally Robers, a Colorado Springs, Colorado, native, Army WCAP athlete and 2003, 2005 U.S. World Team member.

"I want to leave a mark in women's wrestling and although I was the first female on the All-Navy wrestling team



Operations Specialist 3rd Class Abril Ramirez (left), an El Paso, Texas native stationed aboard USS Halsey (DDG 97) wrestles a grind match against Machinist's Mate 3rd Class James Souza (of Puyallup, Washington) stationed aboard USS America (LHA 6), at Naval Base Kitsap.

I don't think it's enough," said Ramirez. "Continuing to set milestones and earning Olympic gold is what I am striving for."

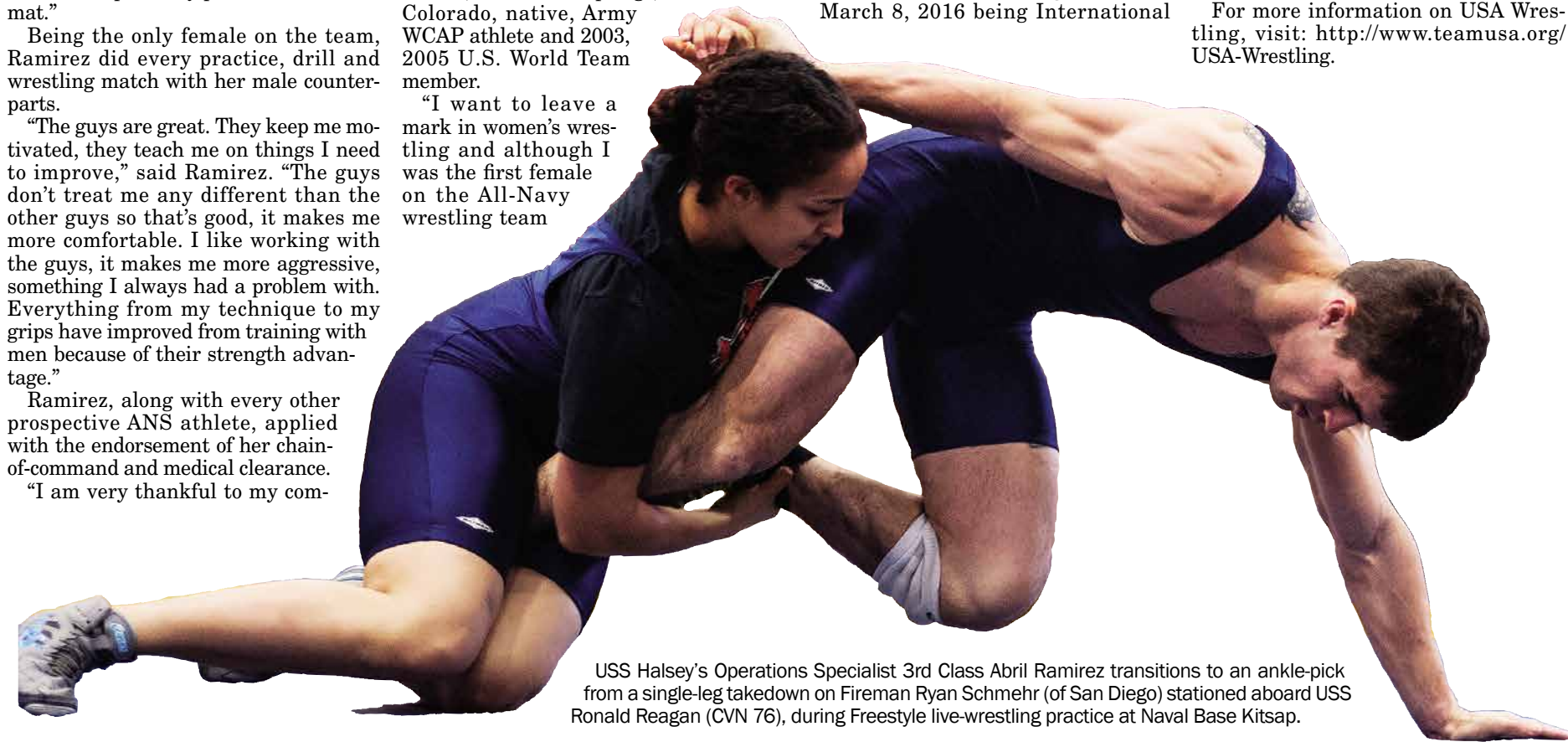
The story was released in conjunction with USA Wrestling declaring March 5 – 13 Women's Wrestling Week and March 8, 2016 being International

Women's Day.

For more information on All-Navy Sports, visit: <http://www.navyfitness.org/all-navy-sports/>.

For more information on Armed Forces Sports, visit: <http://armedforcesports.defense.gov/>.

For more information on USA Wrestling, visit: <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Wrestling>.



USS Halsey's Operations Specialist 3rd Class Abril Ramirez transitions to an ankle-pick from a single-leg takedown on Fireman Ryan Schmehr (of San Diego) stationed aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), during Freestyle live-wrestling practice at Naval Base Kitsap.

Minimum of players doesn't keep 647th SFS from top

**Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz**

Sports Editor, Ho'okele

What do you do if you're playing for the No. 1 spot with no reserves and your top scorer is having an off night?

If you're the 647th Security Forces Squadron (647 SFS) you do what you've doing for the entire season: win.

In a battle of the top two teams in the White Division, Above 30 League, the 647 SFS arrived with the bare minimum of five players, but at the end of the 40-minute intramural basketball game, the team was still good enough to outlast the Old Bulls, 76-71, to claim sole possession of first place in the division.

The win gave the 647 SFS a division-leading record of 6-1, while the Old Bulls fell for only the second time this season and stand at 5-2.

"It's really tough coming here and playing 40 minutes with only five people," 647 SFS point guard Tech. Sgt. Chris Jackson said. "We tried to get out and run early and conserve energy, but at the end of the game, it got close. We did what we had to do to get a win."

With no substitutions, the 647 SFS had to rely on everyone to provide a little extra, not only

to get the win, but also to stay competitive.

The situation was compounded even further by the cold shooting of the team's leading point-getter Staff Sgt. Corey Doss, whose perimeter game has been Steph Curry-ish at times.

Held to only seven points in the first half, it's a good thing that Jackson and others were there to step up and pick up the slack.

Jackson was especially lights out as the slender point man attacked the basket from all angles to finish up the first half with 21 points, with 12 points coming from beyond the three-point arc.

"I knew that we were going to need my scoring a little more," Jackson admitted. "Plus my parents are in town and I couldn't let them down. Jackson said the shots were falling for him that night."

Another difference maker in the first half was the strong inside play of Staff Sgt. David Arline, who chipped in with 10 points on a variety of post shots under the basket.

However, it wasn't until only 25 seconds remained before halftime that the 647 SFS got their first double-digit lead of the game at 41-30 on a steal and basket by Jackson.

While the 647 SFS got points from inside and outside, the Old Bulls kept the game within

striking distance by throwing them down from beyond the arc.

In the first half, the Old Bulls got a total of eight treys, with four coming off the hot hand of Master Sgt. John Redmond.

In the second half, the Old Bulls tried to pull closer, but each time they crept to within a basket or two, the 647 SFS would somehow come up with a clutch shot to answer the challenge.

"Every time they (the Old Bulls) would make a run, we would get a decent shot," Jackson pointed out. "We would get down low, go to our big men or we would hit a big three. That kept them off of us."

The Old Bulls did make one final push and cut the lead down to six on a basket by Staff Sgt. Chris Miranda at 59-53 with 6:45 on the clock.

But for one final time, the 647 SFS went back to the well, got the points they needed and ran out the clock for the win.

Jackson led all scorers 27 points and got support from Arline with 18, 13 from Tech. Sgt. Dion Moore and even Doss found his range for 15 points.

"It feels good," Jackson said about being at the top of the division. "We had that one loss because of a forfeit, so technically, we've never been beat on the court. Hopefully we can keep it going through the playoffs."



Power forward Staff Sgt. David Arline drives in the lane for two of his 18 points.

Hickam Elementary students ‘abuzz’ with success at spelling bee

Hickam Elementary School

On April 1, two Hickam Elementary School students will challenge other students from public and private schools to take home the title of Hawaii Spelling Bee champion.

“I’m a little nervous because (the state bee) will be on TV and so many people will be watching,” said fourth grade student Taryn Long. “I’m excited since it’s the first year of doing a spelling bee,” she said. Long added that she decided to participate just for the experience.

Long and sixth grade student Chelisea Fernandez took home first and second place respectively at the Central District Spelling Bee held Feb. 5.

They competed against older

students, since competitors ranged from fourth grade to eighth grade. In the final round, Fernandez misspelled “epidrill” and Long spelled “tarantula” to become champion.

To prepare, Long has been studying every day after school and during her free time. She studies words found on spelling-bee.com.

“My mom quizzes me every night, 36 words a day,” Long said.

Long and Fernandez attend Hickam Elementary School, which is on Manzelman Circle at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Hickam Elementary School received recognition status, which is the highest on the Hawaii STRIVE HI reports, for three years in a row since the STRIVE

HI inception.

It remains a military-impacted school with a current enrollment of 558 students. To address the diversity of students, the school remains committed to ensuring programs like physical education, music, gifted and talented, STEM and technology.

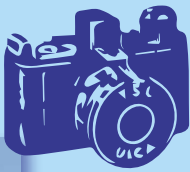
“We were proud of our students’ bravery and skills, and mostly how they represented our school and community in the district competition,” said Alisa Bender, principal of Hickam Elementary. “We’re looking forward to both of them competing in the states,” she said.

Bender urged people to attend the state bee on April 1 at New Hope Auditorium on Sand Island Road, to support Hickam Elementary students.



From left, Alisa Bender, principal, Chelisea Fernandez, (second place) sixth grade, Taryn Long, (first place) fourth grade, and John Erickson, complex area superintendent for Central District South, attend the district spelling bee.

MY FAVORITE PHOTO



Walter T. Ham IV, public affairs officer for the Office of Navigation Systems (CG-NAV-3) U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters took this photo of the Makapu'u Lighthouse.

Do you enjoy taking pictures and have a favorite photo? Would you like to see it featured in Ho’okele? Here is your opportunity. Along with your photo, please send a little bit of information about the photo, such as where it was taken or any interesting details. Also include the name of the photographer and contact information. *How to submit: send your non-posed photos to editor@hookelenews.com.*

MARCH

BRIDGE RUN REGISTRATION

NOW — Applications are now available for the 19th annual Ford Island 10K Bridge Run which will begin at 7 a.m. April 2. Applications can be downloaded at www.greatlifehawaii.com or picked-up in person at all Information, Tickets & Travel (ITT) locations on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH). The early registration fee is \$20 for active-duty military, military family members, retirees and Department of Defense civilians and \$25 for other civilians. The deadline for early entry is March 16. The entry fee after that date is \$35. Signups on the day of the event will be \$45.
FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com or call 473-2494/2437.

O'MALLEY BOULEVARD LANE CLOSURES

NOW — From now through March 16, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., single lane closures will take place in the vicinity of O'Malley Boulevard and Atterbury Circle for underground telecommunications installation. Vehicle and pedestrian traffic control will be provided during the lane closures by the contractor, including signs, cones and flag personnel. All personnel should seek alternate routes during this time and plan for delays.

SHAMROCKFEST

TODAY — #weownitfriday: Shamrockfest will be held from 4:30 to 8 p.m. at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Teen Center for ages 13 to 18 years old. #weownfriday is a monthly event run by the center's Keystone Leadership Club. Participants can attend dressed in green, play games and have green food. This is a free event.
FMI: 448-0418.

PRE-TEEN ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

SATURDAY — Pre-Teen St. Patrick's Day Party will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Makai Recreation Center for ages 9 to 12 years old. The cost is \$5.
FMI: 448-0418 or www.facebook.com/JBPHHpreteens.

CRAIG KARGES ILLUSIONIST SHOW

SUNDAY — Craig Karges Extreme Mind-Blowing Illusionist Show will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Sharkey Theater. This free show presented by Navy Entertainment is open to Department of Defense ID cardholders and their guests, ages 10 and over.
FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

15 — Military volunteers can participate in a Fitness Day event from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Kapolei High School gym.
FMI: Lisa Hockenberger at 221-7957 or [Lisa_Hockenberger/LEEDO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:Lisa_Hockenberger@LEEDO/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us).

HELLO KITTY EASTER EVENT

19 — Authorized patrons can hop in to the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange mall children's department from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for an Easter celebration with Hello Kitty. There will be free balloons for authorized children while supplies last.
FMI: 423-3287 or email stephanie.lau@nexweb.org.

KEIKI FISHING EVENT

19 — A keiki (children's) fishing event will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange children's department. This is a free event for authorized patrons. There will be no live fish involved with this family-friendly game.
FMI: 423-3287 or stephanie.lau@nexweb.org.

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

19 — Authorized patrons can enjoy food and games this year with the annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange Food Court lanai. The event will include glitter tattoos, balloon art, arts and crafts and prizes. In addition, the event will include a pancake and ham breakfast. The price is \$12 for children and \$8 for adults.
FMI: 423-3287 or stephanie.lau@nexweb.org.

TECHNOLOGY EXPO

22, 23, 24 — The Tactical Advancements for the Next Generation (TANG) expo will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 22-23, and 8:30 a.m. to noon March 24 at the Lockwood Hall lanai, 1075 North Road, building 662. The event will feature hands-on demonstrations of emerging technology solutions influencing the future of the fleet. The expo is open to the Department of Defense community. No registration is necessary for this free event. The expo is sponsored by Missile Defense Agency AEGIS Ballistic Missile Defense, Program Executive Office – Integrated Warfare Systems 1.0, and the Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Command. FMI: Kathryn.moore@cgifederal.com or 571-283-9992.



DEADPOOL

Based upon Marvel Comics' most unconventional anti-hero, DEADPOOL tells the origin story of former Special Forces operative turned mercenary Wade Wilson, who after being subjected to a rogue experiment that leaves him with accelerated healing powers, adopts the alter ego Deadpool. Armed with his new abilities and a dark, twisted sense of humor, Deadpool hunts down the man who nearly destroyed his life.

Movie showtimes

SHARKEY THEATER

FRIDAY - 3/11
7:00 PM Deadpool (R)

SATURDAY - 3/12
2:30 PM Kung Fu Panda 3 (PG)
4:40 PM The 5th Wave (PG-13)
7:00 PM Hail, Caesar! (PG-13)

SUNDAY - 3/13
2:30 PM Kung Fu Panda 3 3D (PG)
4:40 PM The Choice (PG-13)
7:00 PM The Finest Hours (PG-13)

HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER

FRIDAY - 3/11
6:00 PM Kung Fu Panda 3 (PG)

SATURDAY - 3/12
3:00 PM Kung Fu Panda 3 (PG)
6:00 PM Dirty Grandpa (PG)

SUNDAY 3/13
3:00 PM Kung Fu Panda (PG)
6:00 PM The Finest Hours (PG-13)