



USS Michael Murphy arrives in Malaysia
See page A-2



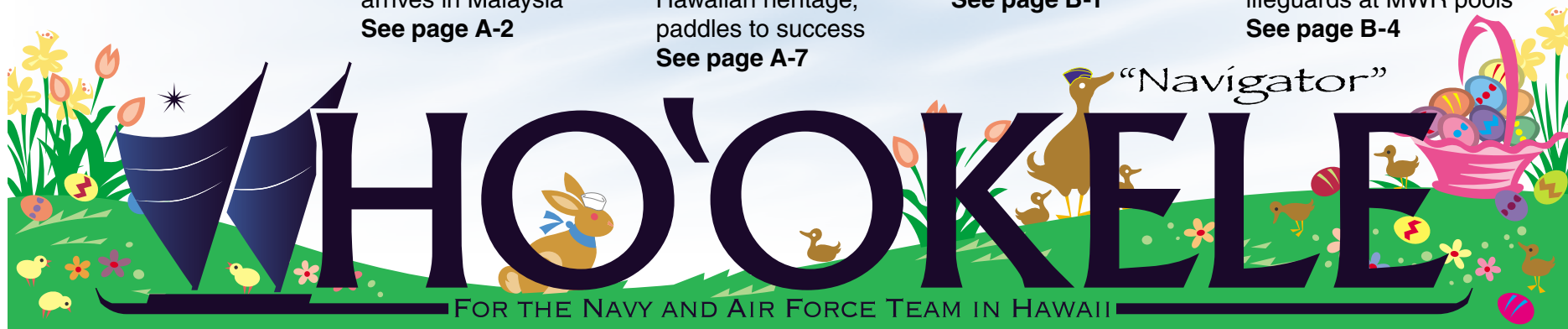
Local Airman shares Hawaiian heritage, paddles to success
See page A-7



Music at sunset
See page B-1



On-site hiring for lifeguards at MWR pools
See page B-4



April 7, 2017

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Volume 8 Issue 13

Proclamation signing honors military children

Anna General

Managing Editor,
Ho'okele

Leaders from Navy Region Hawaii and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) signed a proclamation poster in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month during a pinwheel planting ceremony at JBPHH, April 3.

The event was hosted by the Military and Family Support Center (MFSC). April is the month that celebrates the lives touched and those who have touched yours by honoring them with a pinwheel, which symbolizes the great childhoods all children deserve because our children are our future.

During the event, participants gathered around to listen to proclamation remarks, followed by the proclamation signing and pinwheel planting.

"This month, we wear blue to remember the children affected by child abuse and neglect, and as a reminder to make the commitment to end child abuse. We plant blue pinwheels as a whimsical and uplifting symbol of the childhood every child deserves," said Melanie D'Andrea, training instructor for personal and family life education at MFSC.

"As a community we can eliminate child abuse and neglect by taking



MFSC sponsored the JBPHH and Navy Region Hawaii proclamation signing outside the headquarter building at JBPHH, April 3. The proclamation is part of a national campaign designed to raise community awareness to eliminate child abuse and neglect

U.S. Navy by MC1 Corwin Colbert

a stand and getting involved by leading by example, demonstrate positive parenting, build up self-esteem of the children around us, and foster resiliency in families through strong commu-

nity support systems."

Adm. John Fuller, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, provided closing remarks and thanked the military and civilian community

in attendance.

"Recently the Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson reminded us there must be no bystanders when it comes to how we treat each other—and that in-

cludes our children. We don't stand by, we stand up to protect everyone in our ohana. Let's imagine a world with no bystanders, where everyone lives with honor, respect and courage—and with com-

mitment to do the right thing," Fuller said.

"The pinwheels stand as a reminder of the joy children should experience in childhood—our ongoing commitment to protect and defend our ohana."



Service members and families participate in the fifth annual Tsunami Awareness One-Mile Walk to Safety hosted by Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Office of Emergency Management, April 3.

JBPHH hosts Walk to Safety

Story and photo by
MC2 Gabrielle Joyner

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element
Detachment Hawaii

The Joint Base Emergency Management Office hosted the fifth annual Tsunami Awareness One-Mile Walk to Safety in tandem with the monthly tsunami siren test, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), April 3.

The event is held every year at the start of April, which is Tsunami Awareness Month in Hawaii. It is designed to raise awareness about the potential tsunami threat that Hawaii faces and to show the public that safety can be a less than a 30-minute walk away.

"We host the tsunami walk every year to raise awareness about how to prepare and be safe in the event of a major natural disaster such as a tsunami," Airman 1st Class Tyler Fleetwood said.

"The walk is significant because we are walking from the shore of the ocean, to well beyond the marked safe zones on base. We hope that it raises awareness to the community about how quickly they can get to higher elevation."

The Walk to Safety is hosted by the JBPHH Office of Emergency Management, in coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the American Red Cross.

"NOAA and the Red Cross are always extremely helpful when it comes to events we host that raises safety awareness in the community," Fleetwood said.

"For this event, they helped us get the word out to more people, as well as, setting up their own booth the day of the event."

The participants gathered at Aloha Aina Park, and started the short walk down Signer Boulevard

to the softball fields near the Hickam Fitness Center when sirens began to sound off at 11:30 a.m.

"We host the event with the monthly siren tests because we hope that people will be more prone to recognizing the sirens and know how to respond to them, instead of having to find out what they mean and wasting vital time they could be using to get to safety," Fleetwood said.

Michelle Pennington, whose husband is stationed at JBPHH, and her daughter, Grace, were among the several service members, contractors and family members participating the event.

"We are new to the island and saw the sign for the tsunami awareness walk," Michelle Pennington said. "We wanted to know more about tsunami safety and preparation after learning that we live in a tsunami

> See page A-3

SAAPM 2017 events announced

Don Robbins

Editor, Ho'okele

A series of events have been scheduled at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in April to highlight Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM). The events are in partnership with the Joint Base Military and Family Support Center. In addition, people are encouraged to wear teal-colored attire or a teal ribbon every Tuesday in April to raise awareness about the issue of sexual assault.

- A traveling photo booth emphasizing SAAPM themes will be at Naval Health Clinic Hawaii Makalapa location all day today.

- "Can I Tell You? And What Happens If I Tell You?" will be held at 10 a.m. April 10 at the Ford Island Conference Center. The event is presented by the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) office, Chaplain Corps and Diversity Action Committee. This will be an interactive exercise focusing on the

differences between reporting options within the SAPR program.

- Jill Loftus, director of the Navy's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO), will be in town next week. Loftus is traveling with Pure Praxis to provide training, awareness and tools. Pure Praxis, a Department of the Navy SAPRO event, will be held at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. April 11-12 at Sharkey Theater. Pure Praxis is designed to be an enjoyable, interactive and informative presentation by professional actors using improvisational theater to address sexual assault.

- The seventh annual SAAPM Ryde Against Sexual Assault with the Oahu Ruff Ryders will begin at 9 a.m. April 15 at Ke'ehi Lagoon Beach Park, Honolulu.

- A Full Sail Against Sexual Assault event at 9 a.m. April 19 will be an interactive activity that incorporates awareness about Victims' Legal Counsel services, as well as sexual assault prevention/awareness education. It will be hosted by the Navy Victims' Legal

> See page A-3



U.S. Navy file photo by MC2 Johans Chavarro

Sailors assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam display posters during a Sexual Assault and Prevention Response event at JBPHH in April 2016.

Airmen aid in Navy certifications

Tech. Sgt. Heather Redman

15th Wing Public Affairs

Two members from the 15th Aeromedical Dental Squadron (15th AMDS) teamed up with U.S. Navy personnel to perform air quality certifications aboard USS Preble (DDG 88) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, March 29.

U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Raphy Feolino and Airman 1st Class Derrik Fleton, bioenvironmental engineering technicians, supported the Navy Environmental and Preventative Medicine Unit 6 (NEPMU 6) by conducting ventilation surveys aboard the Preble.

“We had the opportunity to fill in for the Navy due to several members of NEPMU 6 being tasked on other missions,” Feolino said.

“We teamed up with one of the Navy’s industrial hygienists to test the ventilation systems inside the ship.”

Preble, an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, was docked for regularly scheduled maintenance. As part of its sea trials the ventilation system

had to be re-certified.

The Airmen spent two days checking several rooms to ensure there was a proper amount of air circulating in the rooms.

“There are multiple rooms in the Preble that house chemicals that can create an explosive atmosphere if the air is not circulating properly,” Feolino said.

“We performed ventilation surveys to measure the supply of airflow into the rooms to ensure proper airflow in order to mitigate any explosive hazards.”

This was not the first time the bioenvironmental engineering flight has stepped up to help out the other services. According to Felton, the 15th AMDS fills support requests from the Navy multiple times per year.

“We are always looking for ways to see how we can support the Navy,” Felton said.

“Working alongside one another increases cohesiveness between our units. This mission gave us the opportunity to learn from the Navy and allowed us to see the big picture of how the Air Force comes into play with other branches.”



Courtesy photo

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Derrik Fleton, bioenvironmental engineering technician, measures the air circulation aboard USS Preble.



PMRF chief petty officers pose for a group photo with commanding officer, Capt. Vincent Johnson.

Hau‘oli la hanau PMRF chiefs!

Story and photo by Robert Purdy

Pacific Missile Range Facility Public Affairs

Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Chief Petty Officers (CPO) Mess celebrated 124 years of CPO pride at a birthday luncheon and cake cutting ceremony at Shenanigans All Hands Club at PMRF, March 31.

Although there are only seven CPOs at PMRF, their combined years of Navy service, leadership skills, professionalism, expertise and pride totals 134 years.

Chief Hospital Corpsman Jessica Ramos shared her thoughts on what it means to her

to be a Navy chief.

“Personally it means having an impact on my Sailors, and what my Sailors do because of the leadership of the chief. Their success and failures, trials and tribulations are a direct reflection of us. It’s all about the success of my Sailors,” Ramos said.

“I believe that ever since I was coming up in the ranks, the Navy chief was someone who inspired, someone who carried a lot of respect, a subject matter expert in their job. You would look to them for guidance and mentorship. The role of the Chief was to lead from the front, to lead by example,” said Chief Boatswain’s Mate Said Esparza.

Esparza shared some advice for those setting their sights on the rank of chief petty officer.

“Stay motivated, professional and come in with a positive and hard-working attitude. Eventually someone will see you, take you in, and help you out. There are always people there who are trying to help you, trying to mentor you, trying to guide you to success.”

Chief Machinist’s Mate Desmond Latham added, “Stay humble. Once you get there, stay focused and always take care of your Sailors first. Sailors and family are always first. If you take care of your Sailors and you take care of your family, you’ll eventually get to the role

of chief. You won’t make it to chief by yourself; those are the people that will help you get there.”

During his remarks, PMRF commanding officer, Capt. Vincent Johnson, congratulated the chiefs on their special day.

“With a good chief’s mess anything is possible, but with a bad one, definitely nothing is possible. Chiefs turn commander’s intent into action. Happy birthday and congratulations.”

The luncheon ended with a traditional cake cutting ceremony where the youngest and oldest chief petty officers in attendance did the honors of cutting the ceremonial cake. Hau‘oli la hanau (Happy Birthday) chiefs!

USS Michael Murphy arrives in Malaysia

Story and photo by MC3 Danny Kelley

USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) Public Affairs

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) arrived in Port Klang, Malaysia for a routine port visit, March 4.

While in Malaysia, Cmdr. Robert A. Heely Jr., Michael Murphy commanding officer, met with First Adm. Hanafiah, the director of hydrography at the National Hydrographic Center.

The ship and crew of more than 300 Sailors departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a regularly scheduled deployment with the Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group as part of the U.S. Fleet-led initiative to extend the command and control functions of U.S. 3rd Fleet into the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, Jan. 13.

Since departure from Pearl Harbor, Michael Murphy conducted train-

Command Master Chief Ben Pierson, from Dallas, observes as USS Michael Murphy prepares to receive fuel lines from USNS Tippecanoe (T-AO 199) during a replenishment-at-sea.



ing as part of the Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group off the coast of Hawaii to improve readiness and cohesion as a strike group. Michael Murphy also conducted an 18-day joint mission with the U.S. Coast Guard in the Central and South Pacific under the Oceania Maritime Security Initiative (OMSI) to combat transnational crimes, enforce fisheries laws and enhance regional security.

U.S. Navy carrier strike groups have reg-

ularly patrolled the Indo-Asia-Pacific for more than 70 years and will continue to do so. Carl Vinson has deployed to the region several times, starting with a deployment to the Western Pacific in 1983, a year after commissioning. Most recently in 2015, Carl Vinson Conducted port visits and exercises with regional navies in the South China Sea.

Commissioned on Oct. 6, 2012, USS Michael Murphy is named after former U.S. Navy SEAL

Lt. Michael P. Murphy. Murphy was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during Operation Red Wings in Afghanistan, June 28, 2005. He was the first person to be awarded the medal for actions in Afghanistan and was the first member of the U.S. Navy to receive the award since the Vietnam War.

For more information, visit www.navy.mil, www.facebook.com/usnavy, or www.twitter.com/usnavy.

Diverse VIEWS



Staff Sgt. Sean Chang
204th Airlift Squadron, HIANG

“My favorite teacher growing up was Mrs. Nakamitsu, a math teacher at Aiea High School. Math was never a strong subject for me, but she made it fun and easy to understand.”



Lt. Cmdr. Karl Kraut
U.S. Pacific Fleet

“My favorite teacher was my old chemistry teacher, Tom Heckman. He went out of his way to ensure everyone was learning and found a way to make education fun.”



Lt. j.g. Krystyna Nowakowski
Navy Region Hawaii

“My favorite teacher was Mr. Stratton, and he taught high school English. I liked him because he hand wrote all comments in his papers and was a great instructor.”



Dennis Ruiz
37th Intelligence Squadron

“Mr. Morgan, He was a nice teacher and always made learning fun. He also was my basketball coach and led us to the city championships. We would also watch race car films of his personal friend, race car driver Tom Sneva.”



Chief Richard Sheard
Navy Cargo Handling Battalion Five

“My favorite teacher was Mr. Burke, my old U.S. history teacher. He served in the military and always found an interesting way to teach the students about our history.”



Tracy Simons
Defense Information Systems Agency Pacific

“Mrs. Hayashi from Kamiloiki kindergarten was my favorite. I'll always remember her taking extra time to play cards or read quietly while other kids napped. Just a few minutes of her time showed me how much she cared.”

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views? Got opinions to share? Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com

SAAPM 2017 events announced

< From page A-1

Counsel Office and the USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93).

- Honolulu Mayor’s SAAPM Proclamation Signing will be held at the Mayor’s Office at 1 p.m. April 19.

- A SAAPM information table will be located at U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. April 20. Information material and resources about sexual assault prevention will be available at PACOM atrium, building 700.

- A SAAPM JAMthon will be held at 7 a.m. April 21 at Ward Field. The event is designed as a high-energy, fun and interactive total body fitness workout integrating sexual assault awareness, prevention and intervention concepts. There is no need to register. Participants can just show up. The event is hosted by Navy Information Operations Command Hawaii and Joint Base.

- Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303 (CBMU 303) will hold a SAAPM sign and poster awareness drive from 2 to 3:45 p.m. April 27 showcasing messages of prevention and response at designated gates throughout Joint Base.

- A SAAPM Teal Frisbee Tournament will be held at 8 a.m. April 28. Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii will sponsor the

tournament to help promote awareness of sexual assault prevention and response.

- A SAAPM human SAPR ribbon and resource fair will be held at 9 a.m. April 28 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii Kaneohe Bay Navy tenant commands. They will assemble to form a human outline of the signature teal ribbon to encourage awareness of sexual assault.

Navy leaders announced that the 2017 Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) theme is “Protecting Our People Protects Our Mission.”

“It is up to all of us to root out destructive behavior, whenever and wherever we see it happen, in person and online. Preventing sexual assault relies on leadership and teamwork and its foundation is trust and respect,” said Rear Adm. Ann Burkhardt, director, 21st Century Sailor Office.

“We’re telling Sailors, the difference starts with you.”

The SAAPM 2017 Toolkit, as well as references and resources can be found online at www.navy.mil/saapm. The website also includes resources for victims of sexual assault to reach out and get help.

For more information on the JBPHH events, email CNI_PRLH_SAPRHa-waii@navy.mil.

JBPHH hosts Walk to Safety

< From page A-1

evacuation zone.”

The tsunami Walk to Safety event marked the 71st anniversary of the Aleutian tsunami.

On the morning of April 1, 1946, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.4 occurred in Aleutian trench area, about 90 miles south of Unimak Island.

The earthquake produced a large Pacific-wide tectonic tsunami, which reached Hawaii five hours later with waves as high

as 55 feet crashed across the entire island chain. The tsunami claimed the lives of 159 people in Hawaii.

Fleetwood stressed the importance of always taking a proactive approach to tsunami preparation, to minimize the threat.

“Tsunamis are a major threat to the island of Hawaii and can happen with very little warning,” Fleetwood said.

“Having a plan and knowing what you’re going to do beforehand increases the likelihood

of keeping you and your family safe, sevenfold. Being ready takes one less thing off of your mind in a crisis.

For more information about the JBPHH Walk to Safety, call the JBPHH EM office at 448-2744.

For more information on preparing for disasters, visit FEMA’s Ready.gov website, the American Red Cross website, and Navy and Air Force “Ready” websites at www.ready.navy.mil and www.beready.af.mil/disasters&emergencies/

Submitted by David D. Underwood Jr. and Staff Sgt. Christopher Stoltz

April is the Month of Military Child: Who was your favorite teacher as you were growing up, and why?



Dennis Ruiz
37th Intelligence Squadron

“Mr. Morgan, He was a nice teacher and always made learning fun. He also was my basketball coach and led us to the city championships. We would also watch race car films of his personal friend, race car driver Tom Sneva.”



Chief Richard Sheard
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“My favorite teacher was Mr. Burke, my old U.S. history teacher. He served in the military and always found an interesting way to teach the students about our history.”



Tracy Simons
Defense Information Systems Agency Pacific

“Mrs. Hayashi from Kamiloiki kindergarten was my favorite. I'll always remember her taking extra time to play cards or read quietly while other kids napped. Just a few minutes of her time showed me how much she cared.”

COMMENTARY

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright

Stopping sexual assault — Not just in April

The truth is, the vast majority of Airmen we serve alongside have never — and will never — sexually assault another person in their lifetime. The vast majority of our Airmen have never and will never harm another person.

But the ability and the responsibility to stop sexual assault does not begin and end here. Every survivor, and every Airman who has ever served in a unit impacted by these acts, can tell you first hand it has the same effects as a natural disaster. It's very real, very devastating and leaves a trail of total destruction in its wake.

Airmen are the heart of our Air Force. With Air- men, the mission will never fail; without them, the mission will not succeed. And sexual assault deeply and severely impacts our ability to perform the mission.

Every Airman, on their own or together in a group, has the ability to stop this behavior in its tracks. April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, but putting an end to this devastation within our ranks requires each of us to be engaged, every day, all year round.

Every Airman who demands professionalism in their workplace and in their unit, who insists their fellow Airmen treat each other with dignity and respect, and who enforces professionalism through their words and their deeds is taking action to eliminate assault.

Every Airman who embodies our core values every day, on and off duty, in and out of uniform, is supporting a survivor, whether they realize it or not.

Our Airmen are the best the world has ever seen. They're the best at what they do — from fighting fires to calling in air strikes to defending our bases.

Our Airmen are also our best asset for stopping a sexual assault before it happens. Their professionalism and dedication is what generates airpower and allows us to fly, fight and win.

That same dedication, when applied to taking care of their fellow Airmen, is what will eliminate these damaging behaviors from our ranks.

People sometimes define integrity as “doing what's right when no one is looking.” Integrity is also doing what's right when everyone is looking. Understanding how to recognize opportunities for intervention is what stops unsafe or unacceptable behaviors. That can be learned, and it's fairly easy. Speaking up when no one else has —that's the hard part.

But I promise you, when a situation arises that just doesn't “feel right” or when someone isn't doing what's right, there are other Airmen hoping someone will speak up. That someone is you. Your fellow Airmen are looking to you to have the courage to speak up, to do the right thing when no one else will.

The vast majority of Airmen will never sexually assault another person. But every Airman can be the one to make sure it never happens within our ranks. Today, tomorrow and every day. I'm counting on you — and the Airmen to your left and right are counting on you — to be the one who puts an end to sexual assault in our Air Force. I have your back in this fight and I'm asking you to have mine ... not just in April.

“Navigator”

Commander,
Navy Region Hawaii
Rear Adm. John V. Fuller

Commander,
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Capt. Stanley Keeve Jr.

Director, Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs
Agnes Tauyan

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World War I centennial remembered

Photo courtesy of Rear Adm. (ret.) Samuel Cox, Naval History and Heritage Command

At the conclusion of World War I, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt stands with the painting “Return of the Mayflower,” depicting the arrival of Taussig’s destroyers, hanging in his office (and which later hung in the White House Oval Office). With Roosevelt in this undated photo is Rear Adm. William S. Sims, who was vice admiral in charge of U.S. naval forces in Europe in WWI, and Rear Adm. Josiah McKean, acting CNO.

‘Remember the fallen, honor the living’

**Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Heather
Redman**

*15th Wing Public
Affairs*

Members of the 25th Air Support Operations Squadron organized and participated in a 24-hour run challenge during the 6th annual Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) Association’s remembrance run at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, March 30.

The TACP association seeks to “remember the fallen, honor the living, and aid brothers in need,” by providing support to TACPs who were wounded and assisting the families of those killed in action. The event was held world-wide, with every TACP unit starting the run at noon local time.

Volunteers jog on the running path overlooking Pearl Harbor during the 6th Annual Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) Association’s Remembrance Run at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, March 30.

Photo illustration by Michelle Poppler



Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



An F-22 Raptor from the 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard, approaches a KC-135 Stratotanker, for refueling during a sortie while participating in Sentry Aloha 17-03, April 1. Sentry Aloha is an ongoing series of combat exercises hosted by the Hawaii Air National Guard and involves a variety of fighter and support aircraft.

Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. David J. Loeffler



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Lauren Falk

Above, Yeoman 2nd Class Joanne Underwood, assigned to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), renders honors during a disinterment ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, April 3.



The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) transits the South China Sea, March 31.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Danny Kelley



At left, Members of the 535th Airlift Squadron gather together to show their support for National Child Abuse Prevention Month at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, March 29.

U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Heather Redman

Below, An MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the "Eightballers" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 8, flies over the guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) during a strait transit training exercise with the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) in the Pacific Ocean, March 31.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Samuel Bacon





Veterans Talk Story: Master Sgt. Alfred Van Gieson

Local Airman shares Hawaiian heritage, paddles to success

Tech. Sgt. Brandon Shapiro

Airman Magazine

Born into a family enmeshed in the “waterman” tradition of Hawaii and raised by an entire community built on a foundation of mutual support and responsibility, Master Sgt. Alfred Van Gieson has become an ambassador of Hawaiian culture through his success as a champion paddler.

His heritage and upbringing has not only been instrumental in leading teams of paddlers to success on the ocean, but also in leading and motivating Airmen on the flightline at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Growing up in Nanakuli, Van Gieson was told story after story about his father—a legendary outrigger canoe paddler. He heard of the many victories his father had amassed and the philanthropic good deeds that the Van Gieson name was known for.

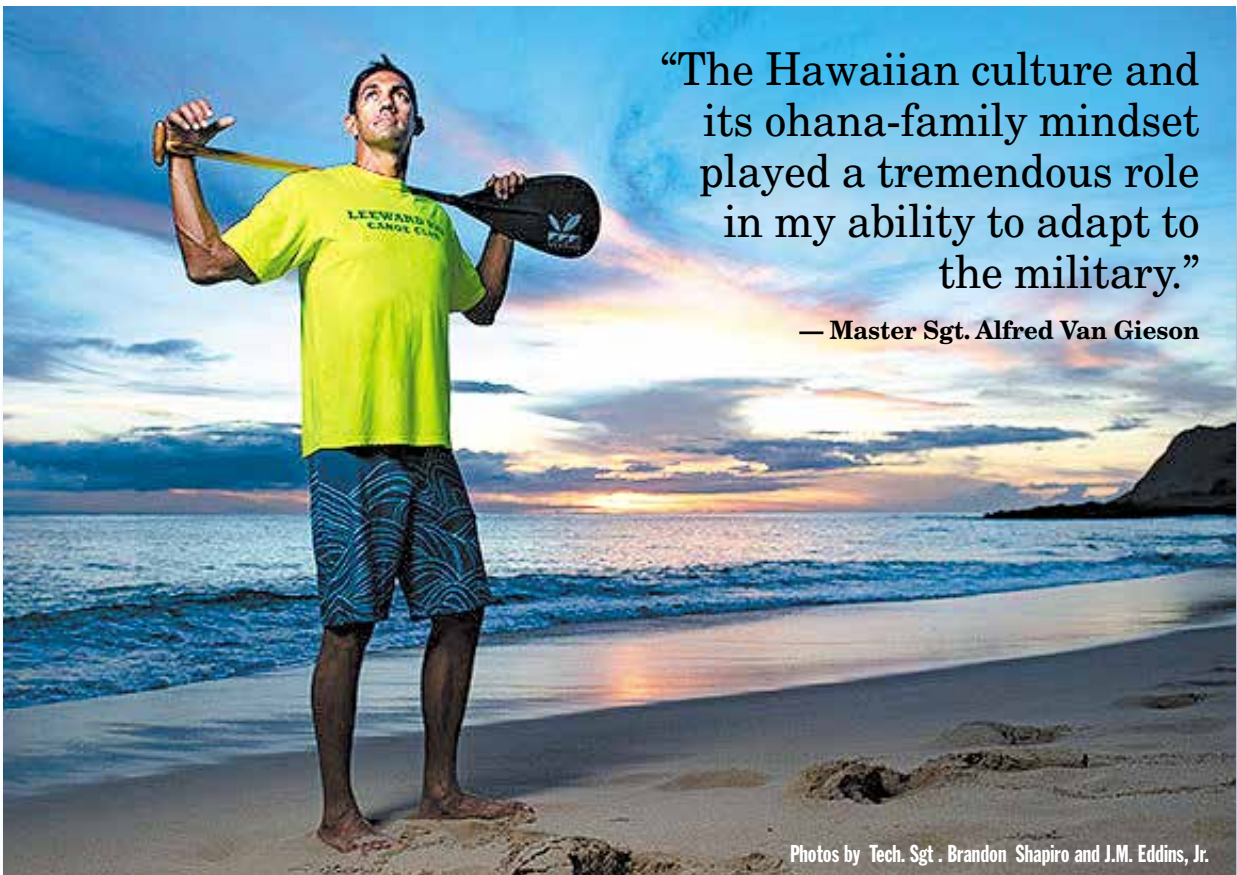
Young Al quickly learned that being a Van Gieson meant that there was never a lack of great friends, great family, great stories and great waves.

His father ensured that he and his son would share a bond with the ocean by giving Van Gieson the middle name Paeikanalu, meaning catch a wave to shore. For Van Gieson, this name became his identity.

It was during his early years that Van Gieson really began to grow spiritually through lessons in life and started to understand that ohana, the Hawaiian word for family, and aloha, the Hawaiian salutation, were actually philosophies and not just common nouns.

“I remember walking home from the beach with my good friends one day. Van Gieson said.

“It was that day when an old man came outside from a nearby house



“The Hawaiian culture and its ohana-family mindset played a tremendous role in my ability to adapt to the military.”

— Master Sgt. Alfred Van Gieson

and handed us a few mangoes. He then told us ‘don’t climb the tree, I don’t want you guys to get hurt.’ He said, ‘you are more than welcome to use the picker, just don’t leave a mess.’ It’s that kind of aloha and hospitality that you come to appreciate living in small Hawaiian community.”

Throughout his school years, Van Gieson began to make a name for himself, standing out among other high school athletes by showcasing an innate talent for competitive paddling.

One of Van Gieson’s big-

gest fans, Grandma Edie, was quick to recognize his talents. When not in school he was helping her and his Grandpa Henry at the family-owned and operated canoe club.

“Al’s personality and talents made him quickly stand out amid the others at his high school, both on the water and amongst his friends,” said Edith “Edie” Kaleilani Van Gieson.

Then, shortly after graduating from high school in 1999, Van Gieson decided to join the military—a place where that, “something special,”

would play a big part.

“The Hawaiian culture and its ohana-family mindset played a tremendous role in my ability to adapt to the military,” Van Gieson said.

After a trying, seven-year stint as an Army infantryman during the height of the Iraq War, Al decided he needed a more stable lifestyle for his two children, Makoa, and Lilinoe. Though he loved being a scout, he realized that during the course of his combat tours, he had

missed some of the most memorable moments in his children’s lives.

“After a long and mentally exhausting tour to Iraq in support of OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom), I realized that my deployment really took a lot out of me,” Van Gieson said. “It was at that point, I knew that I needed a break, a chance to regroup, refocus—so I transitioned to the inactive reserves.

“However, a short while later and after some much needed time

away, I realized that I missed the military. Immediately I felt that it was a good gig for me—I went straight to the recruiter’s office and enlisted in the reserves.”

Van Gieson was back in military, but now as an air transportation specialist with the 48th Aerial Port Squadron, 624th Regional Support Group at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

It was the transition out of the Army and into the Air Force that set Van Gieson on a path to accomplish one of his ultimate goals—becoming a world champion paddler.

With his new career offering a stable schedule, Van Gieson was finally able to focus his efforts on racing outrigger canoes.

Less than four years after joining the Air Force, he achieved a feat never accomplished by a Hawaiian in the history of the competitive paddling—becoming V-1 International Va’a Federation World Champion.

The accomplishment established Van Gieson as a premier outrigger canoe paddler and brought great pride to his native community. Likewise, he excelled as an air transportation specialist and supervisor for the Air Force.

To learn more about his story, visit <http://airman.dodlive.mil/2017/03/pulling-together/>.

Life & Leisure

Music at sunset

Story and photos by Robert Purdy

Pacific Missile Range Facility Public Affairs

Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), Barking Sands welcomed music fans from all across Kauai to join PMRF and Navy Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) for an evening of live music on the beach at the second annual Sunset Music Fest II, March 25.

The free-and-open-to-the-public event featured music from some of Kauai's best performers, such as Shashamon and Kimie Miner.

Local food trucks, military support organizations and PMRF's own Shenanigans served up a wide variety of food and beverages for the nearly 1,000 guests who attended the festival.

"We are so happy to be able to open the base up today and invite you all to come out for our second annual Sunset Music Festival," said Capt. Vincent Johnson, commanding officer.

"When we do base events, we really enjoy bringing the community out here. For my active duty sailors and for my staff here, it's a workday for us but we truly love doing it and put in a lot of work to make this happen."

PMRF routinely holds open base events, welcoming the community of Kauai to participate in concerts, Independence Day celebrations and sports events held at PMRF.

For photos of the Sunset Music Fest and more information on PMRF, visit www.facebook.com/PacificMissileRangeFacility/ or on the web at www.cnic.navy.mil/PMRF



Above, closing act Kimie Miner performs. Below, Shashamon entertains the crowd.



Special guests at the PMRF Sunset Music Fest II pose for a photo with Capt. Vincent Johnson. From left are Ken Morikawa, Rep. Dee Morikawa, Johnson, Monica Kawakami and County Councilmember Derek Kawakami.



NCTAMS PAC West continues to set the pace

**Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz**

Sports Editor, Ho’okele

Judging by their standings in the Red Division, the outcome of the game wasn’t in question for the Naval Computer Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific West (NCTAMS PAC West) basketball squad.

Still, anyone who saw the team’s matchup against the 647th Civil Engineer Squadron (647 CES) B team had to be impressed by the way NCTAMS PAC West unraveled and ran away from their opponent in a 66-28 rout on April 5 at Hickam Fitness Center, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The victory kept NCTAMS PAC West’s season-long winning streak going at 10 and kept them in first place by a half game over Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Hawaii.

Meanwhile, the 647 CES B continues to struggle as they have lost nine out of 10 games.

The only defeat of the season for NCTAMS PAC West came at the hands of NIOC in the first game of the season.

NCTAMS head coach Master Chief Patrick Walker said that the loss by only five points to NIOC was so long ago that no one on the team even thinks about it.

“We don’t even remember it,” Walker said. “We focus on one game at a time. We lost the first game of the season, but we’ve been winning ever since and we just want to keep that momentum going.”

Against the 647 CES B, NCTAMS PAC West showed just how far the team has improved. Walker had his players running and gunning from the very beginning.

By the time the clock hit the two-minute mark in the first half, NCTAMS PAC West opened up a 20-point lead on two free throws by Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Miltuan Williams.

The onslaught continued and as

both entered halftime, NCTAMS PAC West led by a score of 41-14.

With the game well in hand, Walker said that his attention shifted from winning the game to keeping his players focused.

“I’ve got to focus on who I see on the court, get some fresh legs in and keep everything moving,” he said. “After that, things just get contagious and keeps on rolling.”

One player who seemed to have benefitted from the extended playing time was Information Systems Technician Seaman David Trevino.

The seaman stepped back to sink two shots from beyond the arc and his putback with 11:00 remaining in the game raised NCTAMS PAC Wests lead to 40 at 59-19.

According to Walker, Trevino has been building his game on both ends of the court and because of that, he has no choice but to reward him with more playing time.

“Trevino is just a smidgen away from starting,” Walker said. “He’s been shooting well the last few games and I got to keep him going. So I play him as much as I can. That is just going to benefit us going down the stretch.”

While NCTAMS PAC West knows how it feels to be looking up at another team in the standings, Walker said that being in first place doesn’t change how the team has approached the season.

In fact, the coach said that he doesn’t share much with members of the team about the division’s standing.

“I’ll be honest, I get the standings emailed to me and I don’t share them with anybody,” he said. “I don’t think they really know, but I know where we’re at and how I want to keep them focused.”

It has been awhile since the team has tasted defeat and Walker said he believes that they may not taste defeat again this season.

“If they stay focused and want it,” he said. “They have to want it on the court. I can only do so much as their coach. It’s up to them to execute.”



Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Marcus Jenkins breaks free inside the lane for a lay-up.

NEX celebrates puppies



Photo courtesy of Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange

Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) participated in National Puppy Adoption Day March 24. Military families received information about adopting from Oahu SPCA. There were 12 puppies and two adult dogs at the event for adoption or fostering. Two puppies found homes the day of the event and the rest had multiple families fill out applications that will be screened before they are adopted into their final homes.

Author to speak April 10

NOAA and Navy Region Hawaii will host a leadership and professional development opportunity with geobiologist and New York Times best-selling author Dr. Hope Jahren on April 10 at the NOAA Inouye Regional Center Auditorium at Ford Island from noon to 2 p.m.

Jahren is the author of the book “Lab Girl” (Alfred A. Knopf, 2016), which is part autobiography, part science essays. The book explores many themes, including self-awareness and self-acceptance.

The event is open to NOAA employees, Department of Defense CAC holders with base access, and their guests.

For more information, call 473-1173. Please RSVP at <http://evite.me/jttYDHwRy6>. Space is limited.

Teen represents Joint Base in state competition

Story and photo by Zachary Pigott

Joint Base Teen Center

Alexis Goodwin, a Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam teen, represented Joint Base in the annual Boys and Girls Club of America (BGCA) Military Youth of the Year competition at the State Capitol, March 30.

Youth of the Year is a BGCA recognition program, celebrating the extraordinary achievements of club members. The Youth of the Year serves as an advocate for young people.

Goodwin was tasked with presenting a three-minute speech to a live audience and was interviewed by a panel of judges for a chance to be named Hawaii Military Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year.

Goodwin has been a



Alexis Goodwin is recognized at the state Senate for her Youth of the Year achievements.

member and integral part of the Joint Base Teen Center for two years. She is the president of Keystone (leadership) Club, the coordinator of Chapters (a pro-

gram that helps ignite the imagination of school-age youth through reading), and has accumulated more than 170 hours of community service.

“Ms. Alexis is a great leader and a genuinely compassionate role model for her peers,” said Darien Newton, Child and Youth Program assistant.

During the last month and a half, Goodwin has been working with Toastmaster Adrienne Reece of 647 Force Support Squadron, to hone her public speaking confidence and projection.

Although Goodwin did not bring home the award of Military BGCA Youth of the year, she said she enjoyed participating in the competition.

“This experience has been phenomenal! It is absolutely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I am so grateful for everything,” Goodwin said.

For more information about the Teen Center, call 448-0418 or visit www.facebook.com/jbphhteen-center.

Event volunteers needed this month

Several volunteer opportunities are available in April.

- Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii (NAVFAC Hawaii) will hold a cleanup event from 9 a.m. to noon April 13 at Ahua Reef.

Volunteers can help restore a native Hawaiian wetland by removing invasive weeds, cleaning up trash and creating habitat for native plants and birds. Volunteers should wear closed-toed shoes and bring sun block, water, a hat, gloves and snacks. Expect to get wet and muddy, so boots and long sleeves/pants are recommended.

For more information, contact Corrina Carnes at 471-0378 or email Corrina.carnes.ctr@navy.mil or contact

Aurelia Gonzales at 471-0378 or email Aureliag@hawaii.edu.

- In preparation for the Easter Sunrise Service, the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel is asking for volunteers to help set up and conduct the event. Those who help will receive a letter of appreciation.

There are two available volunteer assignments. On Saturday, April 15, from 9 to 10 a.m., volunteers are needed to set up chairs at the Battleship Missouri Memorial in preparation for the service. Event organizers are seeking 15 volunteers and five stand-by volunteers. The PT uniform should be worn.

On Easter Sunday, April 16, from 5:15 to 11 a.m. at the Battle-

ship Missouri Memorial parking lot organizers, ushers and rovers are needed. Event organizers are asking for 30 volunteers and five stand-by volunteers. The uniform depends on the assigned location.

For more information, email RP3 Kamau Daa-Ja-Ra at kamau.daa-ja-ra@navy.mil

- The Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor is looking for 15-20 volunteer event escorts each day on April 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 from 5 to 7:45 p.m. Volunteers will be escorting the event guest on the motor coaches to the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor from the Bowfin Shuttle area.

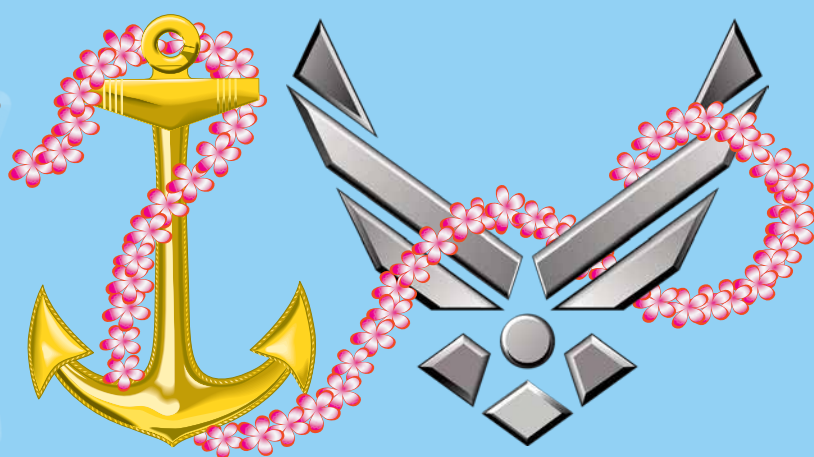
Each escort will ride on the motor coaches with the roster forms ap-

proved by the Navy for guest base access. Once they are done escorting, they will need to return the roster forms to the museum. Military Identification Cards will not be used to escort the individuals to the museum.

Volunteers need to meet at the Pacific Aviation Museum, 319 Lexington Boulevard, on Ford Island. Business attire, or a museum polo if a regular volunteer, should be worn. Please no jeans, hats or logos. A nametag will be provided. A letter of appreciation and two museum admission passes will be provided.

For more information, contact Consuela Rodriguez by email at Consuela.rodriguez@pacificaviationmuseum.org or call 445-9189.

APRIL

HO'OKELE
PEARL HARBOR - HICKAMCOMMUNITY
CALENDAR**BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY**

APRIL 8 — Breakfast with the Easter bunny will be held from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange food court lanai. The cost for children is \$12, and for adults is \$8. The event is for authorized patrons only. FMI: 423-3287 or email stephanie.lau@nexweb.org.

YMCA HEALTHY KIDS DAY APRIL 8

APRIL 8 — YMCA Healthy Kids Day 2017 will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu. Admission is free for kamaaina and military families with valid ID and includes entry to all of Bishop Museum's exhibits, Planetarium and Science Center. The Polynesian Voyaging Society and Department of Natural Land and Resources and other environmental agencies will be offering activities along with the launch of the www.ConservationConnections.org website. Free tickets are available online in advance to save time at www.ymcahonolulu.org.

STRESS MANAGEMENT CLASS

APRIL 10 — A stress management class will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Military and Family Support Center Pearl Harbor. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or 474-1999.

PARENTS: YOUR TEENS AND DATING

APRIL 10 — A class titled "Parents: Your Teens and Dating" will be held from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at Military and Family Support Center Pearl Harbor. The class is designed to provide participants with information to help guide their teen in building positive dating relationships and keeping their teen safe. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or 474-1999.

BLENDED RETIREMENT SYSTEM APRIL 10

— A class on the Blended Retirement System will be held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Military and Family Support Center Pearl Harbor. The class is an overview of the system benefits. Spouses are encouraged to attend. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or 474-1999.

SAPR EXERCISE APRIL 10 — The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Office/Chaplain Corps/Diversity Action Committee will present an interactive exercise focusing on the differences between reporting options within the SAPR program. The event will be held at 10 a.m. at the Ford Island Conference Center. The exercise is called "Can I Tell You? And What Happens If I Tell You?" FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or 474-1999.

RESUME WRITING CLASSES APRIL 11

— A class on navigating USAJOBS and federal resumes will be held from 8 to 11 a.m. at Military and Family Support Center Wahiawa. In addition, a class on writing resumes for civilian jobs will be held from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the same location. Registration is highly encouraged. It's also helpful to bring along your own laptop as well as a job announcement that you may be interested in pursuing. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or 474-1999.

MILLION DOLLAR SAILOR/AIRMAN

APRIL 11, 12 — The two-day Million Dollar Sailor/Airman class will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day at Military and Family Support Center Pearl Harbor. This class is designed for junior Navy and Air Force personnel to learn about proper budgeting techniques and all aspects of finances. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or 474-1999.

PURE PRAXIS APRIL 11, 12 — Department of the Navy Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office sponsored events called Pure Praxis will be held at 9:30 a.m. and at 1 p.m. each day at Sharkey Theater. Pure Praxis is designed to be a highly enjoyable, interactive and informative presentation by professional actors utilizing improvisational theater to address sexual assault. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or 474-1999.

PUPPET SHOW APRIL 12 — A puppet show will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Library. The event is a partnership between the library and Military and Family Support Center in recognition of April

as the Month of the Military Child. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or 474-1999.

PCS WORKSHOP APRIL 13 — A workshop called Smooth Move will be held from 8 to 11:30 a.m. at Military and Family Support Center Pearl Harbor. The workshop features speakers from several departments to give participants a better understanding of the permanent change of station (PCS) process. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or 474-1999.

SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS

APRIL 13 — A suicide prevention awareness workshop will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. at Military and Family Support Center Hickam. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or 474-1999.

AHUA REEF CLEANUP APRIL 13 — Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii (NAVFAC Hawaii) will hold a cleanup event from 9 a.m. to noon at Ahua Reef. Volunteers can help restore a native Hawaiian wetland by removing invasive weeds, cleaning up trash and creating habitat for native plants and birds. Volunteers should wear closed-toed shoes and bring sun block, water, a hat, gloves and snacks. Expect to get wet and muddy, so boots and long sleeves/pants are recommended. FMI: Corrina Carnes at 471-0378 or email Corrina.carnes.ctr@navy.mil or contact Aurelia Gonzales at 471-0378 or email Aureliag@hawaii.edu.

PASSOVER, EASTER EVENTS APRIL 14, 15, 16 — Passover and Easter religious events have been announced at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. On April 14 at 7:30 p.m., a Jewish Shabbat Pesach Service will be held at Aloha Jewish Chapel at Joint Base. On April 14 at 5 p.m., a Protestant Good Friday Service will be held at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel. On April 14 at 7 p.m., a Catholic Good Friday Service will be held at Hickam Chapel Center. On April 15 at 7 p.m., a Catholic Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass will be held at the Hickam Chapel Center. On April 16 at 6:30 a.m., a Protestant Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Battleship Missouri Memorial. FMI: email [ITCS Carrie Allen](mailto:ITCS.Carrie.Allen@navy.mil) at carrie.allen@navy.mil.

SHARKEY THEATER**TODAY — APRIL 7**

7:00 PM Before I Fall (PG-13)

SATURDAY — APRIL 8

2:30 PM Rock Dog (PG)

4:30 PM Kong: Skull Island (3-D) (PG-13)

7:00 PM Logan (R)

SUNDAY — APRIL 9

2:30 PM Kong: Skull Island (PG-13)

5:00 PM The Great Wall (PG-13)

7:10 PM The Shack (PG-13)

THURSDAY — APRIL 13

7:00 PM Logan (R)

HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER**TODAY — APRIL 7**

7:00 PM Logan (R)

SATURDAY — APRIL 8

3:00 PM The LEGO Batman Movie (PG)

6:00 PM Logan (R)

SUNDAY — APRIL 9

3:00 PM The LEGO Batman Movie (PG)

THURSDAY — APRIL 13

7:00 PM The Shack (PG-13)

MOVIE
SHOW/TIMES**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**

This is the fantastic journey of Belle, a bright, beautiful and independent young woman who is taken prisoner by a beast in his castle. Despite her fears, she befriends the castle's enchanted staff and learns to look beyond the Beast's hideous exterior and realize the kind heart and soul of the true Prince within.