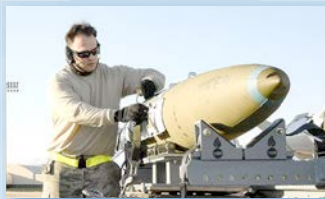




USS John Finn (DDG 113) coverage  
See pages A-2, A-3, A-5



Air Force reduces munitions tests at PMRF  
See page A-4



Understanding RFID  
See page B-3



Family Fitness Center to open next week  
See page B-4

# “Navigator” WHO'OKELE

FOR THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE TEAM IN HAWAII

July 21, 2017

[www.issuu.com/navyregionhawaii](http://www.issuu.com/navyregionhawaii) [www.hookelenews.com](http://www.hookelenews.com)

Volume 8 Issue 28

Maintainers from the 15th Maintenance Group and members from the 36th Squadron from Royal Australian Air Force Base Amberley, search the flightline for debris at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, July 12.



## Pacific Agility 17-0 enhances capabilities for two nations

Story and photo by  
Tech. Sgt. Heather Redman

15th Wing Public Affairs

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) teamed up with Airmen from the Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) to participate in Phase III of Pacific Agility 17-0.

This Pacific Agility exercise brought together the U.S. Air Force 15th Maintenance Group (15

MXG), from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and the 36th Squadron (36 SQN), from RAAF Base Amberley, Brisbane, Queensland Australia.

According to U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Bryan Bennett, command C-17 functional manager for PACAF, the training initiative will save time and money.

“The way we are positioned right now is, if one of our aircraft breaks down in Australia than

we have to send a team with parts to fix it and vice versa,” Bennett said. “Since the Australians also have C-17 maintainers, it makes sense to coordinate the repair locally and eliminate the additional travel cost and lost mission velocity. This would save both time and money for both of our countries.”

The universal availability of the C-17 has opened a door to building a mutually beneficial cooperation

between Australia and the U.S.

“Given the global nature of C-17 operations, this type of training allows 36 SQN to understand how other organizations like the 15 MXG operates,” said RAAF Flying Officer Dylan Banning. “This enhanced understanding enables greater flexibility and multinational integration for future exercises and operations.”

Banning also outlined

some of the goals of the training event.

“As a squadron we hope to gain an appreciation for how the 15th MXG maintains its C-17 fleet in line with the intent of Enhanced Air Cooperation training,” Banning said. “Working alongside the 15 MXG provides 36 SQN with the opportunity to observe the maintenance procedures of another organization with a similar C-17 fleet providing ideas for 36 SQN to improve its

maintenance efficiency.” According to Bennett, the maintenance piece of the training is the easy part.

“Maintenance is pretty standard anywhere you go.” “The next step will be with the maintenance data documentation. If we can get the system to work so both countries can input the maintenance activities we accomplish and sign off our own work, we will be golden.”

## USS Dewey visits Hawaii

Story and photo by  
MC3 Kryzientia Weiermann

U.S. 3rd Fleet  
Public Affairs

Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Dewey (DDG 105) is scheduled to arrive at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for the final port visit in their western Pacific deployment, today.

Dewey and embarked Helicopter Maritime Squadron (HSM) 78, along with USS Sterrett (DDG 104) and embarked HSM 49, deployed as part of the Sterrett-Dewey Surface Action Group (SAG) and departed San Diego for the western Pacific, March 31.

Under the operational control of U.S. 3rd Fleet, Dewey conducted routine patrols, maritime security operations and theater security cooperation activities with allies and partners to enhance regional security and stability throughout their deployment. Dewey participated in several multilateral exercises with Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and joint exercises with the U.S. Air Force.

“I am extremely proud of our Sailors for their hard work and dedication to the mission throughout deployment,” said Cmdr. Anthony Webber, Dewey commanding officer. “We are all excited to visit Hawaii once again and to welcome our friends and family

aboard for Tiger Cruise.”

While in Hawaii, the ship will be embarking riders for a tiger cruise. Tiger cruises provide family members and friends of the crew the opportunity to stay aboard the ship to experience the daily operations of a surface naval vessel.

As established during the three-ship Pacific Surface Action Group deployment in 2016, Sterrett-Dewey SAG remained under U.S. 3rd Fleet control, including beyond the international dateline which previously divided operational areas of responsibility for 3rd and 7th Fleets. Third Fleet operating forward offers additional options to the Pacific Fleet commander by leveraging the capabilities



Sailors aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Dewey (DDG 105) feed mooring lines into the ship.

of both fleets. This operational concept allows both numbered fleets to complement one another and provide the foundation of stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

U.S. 3rd Fleet leads naval forces in the Pacific and provides the realistic, relevant training necessary for an effective global Navy. Third Fleet constantly coordinates

with U.S. 7th Fleet to plan and execute missions based on their complementary strengths to promote ongoing peace, security, and stability throughout the Pacific

## Updated Hawaii COLA rates announced by USPACOM

Tech. Sgt. Micky Pena

Defense Media Activity  
Forward Center — Pacific

U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) announced changes to the 2017 Hawaii Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) effective Sept. 1, 2017.

COLA is a non-taxable supplemental pay allowance designed to equalize purchasing power so that service members stationed overseas can purchase the same level of goods and services as if they were stationed in the continental U.S. The rate a member receives is based upon their location, rank, years of service and number of dependents.

All members stationed in Hawaii will receive a decrease in COLA based

**Effective dates of reductions:**

2017 Sep 1st	Leave and Earning Statement (LES) for Oahu, Hawaii Island, and Kauai (4, 6-point decrease)
2017 Sep 1st	LES 6-point decrease for Maui
2017 Oct 1st	Remaining 2-point decrease for Maui

Infographic by Master Sgt. Todd Kabaian

on a point based index system.

For example, whereas Oahu was rated at 124 points in the year 2016, which reflected the average prices paid for items to be 24 percent higher, the island is now rated at 120 points for 2017, which reflects a four

point decrease with prices paid now only 20 percent higher.

Hawaii Island will also experience a four-point decrease, Kauai a six-point decrease, and Maui an eight-point decrease.

A change of one index point equates to approximately \$30 a month for

an E-6 with three dependents and 10 years of service or \$40 a month for an O-3 with three dependents and 10 years of service.

Beginning Sept. 1, members stationed on the islands of Oahu, Hawaii Island, and Kauai will see the decrease reflected in

their Leave and Earning Statement (LES). Those stationed on Maui will see an initial decrease also on Sept. 1, and the full amount on their Oct. 1 LES.

This update is the result of the Retail Price Schedule (RPS), which is conducted annually by the Defense Travel Management Office. The RPS collects and compares prices OS and Continental United States (CONUS) for approximately 120 goods and services. If average prices in CONUS are rising at a greater rate than those overseas, COLA will decrease. However, if prices rise or fall at the same rate, COLA will stay the same.

USPACOM quality of life and education analysts have stated

that the primary reasons for upcoming COLA decreases can be attributed to a reduced gap between Hawaii and CONUS prices for non-food items such as furniture, household items such as small appliances and internet services, and clothing.

USPACOM will collect new prices for the 120 COLA items in March 2018, which will be used to determine the 2018 COLA rates for Hawaii. Additionally, members are encouraged to participate in future living pattern surveys, which occur every three years and have a direct impact on COLA rates.

For more information and to calculate your COLA, visit [www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/colaCalc.cfm](http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/colaCalc.cfm).

The crew of the Navy's newest Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, USS John Finn (DDG 113) brings the ship to life during its commissioning ceremony.  
Photo by MC2 Aiyana Paschal



# USS John Finn commissioned in Pearl Harbor

MC2 Jeffrey Troutman

Navy Public Affairs Support  
Element Detachment Hawaii

The Navy's newest Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, USS John Finn (DDG 113), was brought to life and into the fleet July 15 at Pearl Harbor — a fitting commissioning venue, as the namesake's Dec. 7, 1941 heroic actions 30 miles away at Kaneohe Bay — are the stuff of Navy legend.

Chief Aviation Ordnanceman John Finn, was World War II's first Medal of Honor recipient who Adm. Chester Nimitz said displayed, "magnificent courage in the face of certain death" during the attack on Pearl Harbor and other Oahu military targets in 1941. Finn manned a .50-caliber machine gun while under heavy enemy machine gun fire. Although wounded, he continued to fight until ordered

to vacate his post to seek medical attention. Following first aid treatment, he returned to action and led the charge to re-arm aircraft returning from missions.

John Finn is the 63rd Arleigh Burke-class destroyer and was delivered to the Navy from shipbuilder Huntington Ingalls Industries on the 75th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 2016.

"I can't think of a more fitting place to commission this ship than right here at Pearl Harbor, where we can honor the legacy of John Finn and all Americans from the 'Greatest Generation' and reflect on the blessings and costs of liberty," said Adm. Harry Harris, Jr., commander, U.S. Pacific Command. "Thankfully, America has always been blessed to have strong women and men who find the will, and summon the courage, to endure against overwhelming odds, patriots like John Finn, who an-

swered the call to defend our nation in her darkest hour."

Recognizing the ship's motto to "stand fast and fight," Harris praised the ship's firepower and capabilities as a testament to its namesake's readiness in battle and determination in the face of danger. The Navy's newest ship and its crew are ready to deliver — just like Chief Finn did as he manned a machine gun while wounded and under intense enemy fire. "John Finn brings both the saber and the shield into the fight," Harris said. "Truly, the advanced combat systems, coupled with the innovative spirit and the killer instinct of her amazing crew, are powerful reminders of our readiness to fight tonight. This warship is the embodiment of America's resolve to protect our homeland and defend our allies."

Harris pointed out that the aegis-capable destroyers like John Finn expand America's

projection of power and leadership in the Pacific.

"We believe in peace through strength — smart power backed by hard power," Harris said. "And this ship, hard power personified, sends a clear signal to our allies, to our friends and to our adversaries — we will remain laser focused on the Indo-Asia-Pacific because what happens here matters to the United States."

Approximately 2,000 guests, including more than 50 friends and relatives of John Finn's family, attended the commissioning ceremony.

"I'm truly honored and humbled to be standing here today, not only because I'm in command of the Navy's newest destroyer, but because I've been given the opportunity to lead some of the finest Sailors I've ever met," said Cmdr. Michael Wagner, commanding officer of John Finn. "The men

and women manning this ship today are some of the finest service members society has to offer today. They come from all over the United States. Some even come from different countries. But make no mistake, they are all willing and enthusiastic about completing the mission. These are men and women of action, ready to go into action if required, just like John Finn exhibited."

The ship's sponsor, Mrs. Laura Stavridis, the wife of retired Adm. James Stavridis, gave the order to, "man our ship and bring her to life!"

The crowd then witnessed this time-honored tradition, as members of the crew ran aboard the ship and manned the rails, as the ship's systems came online — radars and weapon systems began to spin, the chaff launcher popped, and alarms sounded — all symbolizing the ship "coming to life."

## John Finn family tours Pearl Harbor, Kaneohe Bay

MC2 Jeffrey Troutman

Navy Public Affairs Support  
Element Detachment Hawaii

Family members and friends of Chief Aviation Ordnanceman John Finn, World War II's first Medal of Honor recipient, toured historic Pearl Harbor and Kaneohe Bay from July 13-17, culminating in a commissioning ceremony for the USS John Finn (DDG 113), the Navy's newest Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, July 15 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"It's been amazing to visit this beautiful place where such a historic American event happened and to see how recognized and respected John still is," said Dennis McCallister, Finn's oldest living nephew.

"His memory is everywhere at Kaneohe Bay; they still honor his bravery and courageousness to this day, so it was nice to witness that during our

family's time here."

McCallister said Finn was always humble despite his stature as a hero during the Pearl Harbor attacks and made it a point to venture to the island each year on Dec. 7 to pay his respects to those who lost their lives there.

"John never missed a Dec. 7 commemoration at Pearl Harbor. He felt it was his responsibility to make the trip out every year," McCallister said. "It was his dream to have his name on a U.S. Navy vessel, and I'm proud to say that dream is now a reality."

The tour of Pearl Harbor allowed Finn's family and friends to visit such sites as the USS Arizona Memorial, the Battleship Missouri Memorial and the site of the USS Utah

"It's a great honor for us to have you here with us in Pearl Harbor, during this historic week commemorating John Finn's legacy," said Jay Blount, Chief of Interpretation and In-



Photo by Ensign Britney Duesler

Members of Medal of Honor recipient Lt. John W. Finn's family toured the USS Arizona memorial on a harbor tour sponsored by Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, on the white boat John W. Finn (39-1).

formation for the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, to the Finn family and their guests prior to the harbor tour. "John Finn was an American hero and an amazing human being, and as you've seen, that legacy is very much alive and well here in Pearl Harbor."

Approximately 2,000 guests, including more than 50 friends and relatives of Finn's family, attended the USS Finn commissioning ceremony on July 15.

"As we gather here at Pearl

Harbor today, I can't think of a more fitting place to commission this ship, to honor the legacy of John Finn and all Americans from the 'Greatest Generation', and to reflect on both the costs and the blessings of liberty," remarked Adm. Harry Harris, Jr., commander, U.S. Pacific Command, during the commissioning ceremony.

Adm. Chester Nimitz said Finn displayed, "magnificent courage in the face of certain death" during the attack on Pearl Harbor and other Oahu military targets in 1941. Finn

manned a .50-caliber machine gun while under heavy enemy machine gun fire. Although wounded, he continued to fight until ordered to vacate his post to seek medical attention. Following first aid treatment, he returned to action and led the charge to rearm aircraft returning from missions.

USS John Finn is the 63rd Arleigh Burke-class destroyer and was delivered to the Navy from shipbuilder Huntington Ingalls Industries on the 75th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 2016.

## Builders proud of USS John Finn (DDG 113) construction

Don Robbins

Ho'olele Editor

For master shipbuilder Freddie O'Brien, the commissioning of the guided-missile destroyer USS John Finn (DDG 113) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam July 15 marked the culmination of a labor of love.

Since 2010, O'Brien has worked as the ship program manager for the USS John Finn, and in that position he was the person responsible for the overall actual construction of USS John Finn in Pascagoula, Mississippi. O'Brien is employed by Huntington Ingalls Industries, the company that built USS John Finn.

"It was an emotional feeling because I spent seven years of a 45-year career on that ship," O'Brien said.

O'Brien and other shipbuilders from the company who

worked on DDG 113 attended the commissioning events to watch the ship they created come to life.

O'Brien said that when it comes to building ships there is a lot of work involved, from launching the ship intact, doing sea trials and delivery. For example, the ship spent three days in the Gulf of Mexico for testing of the ship's main propulsion system and other ship systems.

The effort of creating a U.S. Navy ship involves the engineering, production and business side of the company, O'Brien said.

"I've spent two-thirds of my life doing that. Shipbuilding is not easy."

There have been tremendous changes through the years in the business of shipbuilding, in areas such as computers and welding, according to O'Brien.

"You still have the human element, but technology, test-



USS John Finn (DDG 113) undergoes sea trials.  
Photo courtesy of  
Huntington Ingalls Industries

Freddie O'Brien  
Master shipbuilder

ing and construction have changed," he said.

O'Brien said he and his wife, Jackie, arrived a week early to Oahu for the commissioning.

"We enjoyed it. We came early for the 17th anniversary of our wedding. It is the same day as the commissioning," O'Brien said.

"Our folks take a lot of pride in

what they do and this is the 29th DDG we have built for the U.S. Navy," said Bill Glenn, public affairs spokesman for Huntington Ingalls Industries.

"Workers on the shipyard represent people from a lot of the Gulf Coast states," O'Brien said.

The ship was named after Chief Aviation Ordnanceman John Finn, was World War II's

first Medal of Honor recipient who Adm. Chester Nimitz said displayed, "magnificent courage in the face of certain death" during the attack on Pearl Harbor and other Oahu military targets in 1941. Finn manned a .50-caliber machine gun while under heavy enemy machine gun fire. Although wounded, he continued to fight until ordered to vacate his post to seek medical attention. Following first aid treatment, he returned to action and led the charge to rearm aircraft returning from missions.

O'Brien said he feels another sense of pride about the ship's namesake.

"John Finn was an Irishman and I'm an Irishman," O'Brien said.

In addition, O'Brien noted that his own son, Freddie O'Brien II was stationed at Pearl Harbor during a career in the Navy during the late 1990s.

# Diverse VIEWS



Submitted by David D. Underwood Jr. and Ensign Makeedra Hayes

## What's the top thing to do on your summer bucket list?



**Capt. Stephanie Green**  
324th Intelligence Squadron

"Work, life, balance. Study for upcoming Defense Language Proficiency Test while camping on a beach on Molokai."



**Airman 1st Class Mario Lara Gutierrez**  
735th Air Mobility Squadron

"Experiencing the different types of surf. Going to shore break beaches and body surf or body board. Or just going to Waikiki with a long board and catch the waves over the reef break."



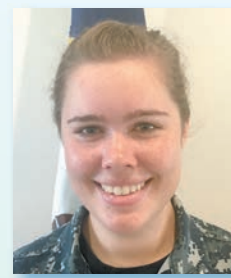
**Staff Sgt. Byron Patrick**  
735th Air Mobility Squadron

"This summer I'd like to visit all of the Hawaiian Islands. I've been stationed here since 2012 and only been able to knock off Oahu, Big Island, Kauai and Maui."



**Operations Specialist 2nd Class Brianna Hightower**  
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

"I want to take my daughter to Disney World. I am from Florida so it would be nice to take my daughter home to visit. It would be the dream vacation for both of us."



**Interior Communications Electrician 3rd Class Alea Klepsteen**  
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

"I want to go sailing. I like taking pictures and the landscape here is beautiful, especially from the water."



**Cryptologic Technician Networks 3rd Class Paul Groce**  
NIOC Hawaii

"I want to go island hopping. I think it would be cool to see the volcanoes."

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views? Got opinions to share? Drop us a line at [editor@hookelenews.com](mailto:editor@hookelenews.com)

## COMMENTARY

# Lt. John Finn showed extreme bravery during Pearl Harbor attacks

Katie Lange

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

*Editor's note: This blog is part of a weekly series called "Medal of Honor Monday," highlighting one of the nearly 3,500 Medal of Honor recipients who have earned the U.S. military's highest medal for valor.*

Since the Navy commissioned its newest Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, the USS John Finn, this past weekend in Hawaii's Pearl Harbor, it's fitting to highlight the courage and sacrifice of its namesake — Navy Lt. John Finn.

Finn enlisted in the Navy in his hometown of Los Angeles, California, in July 1926, just before his 17th birthday. He eventually worked his way up the ranks to chief petty officer.

During the Dec. 7, 1941, surprise attacks that launched America into World War II, Finn was on shore duty at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. It's currently a Marine base on the southeast side of Oahu, but at that time, it was a naval air station. And it didn't escape attack by the Imperial Japanese Navy.

The 32-year-old Finn was at home with his wife when he heard low-flying planes and gunfire. When he realized what was happening, Finn, a chief aviation ordnanceman, quickly booked it to the naval air station.

He found a .50-caliber machine gun, mounted it where he could and began firing. He was in a completely exposed section of runway that was under fire, but he didn't care. He wanted to fight back.

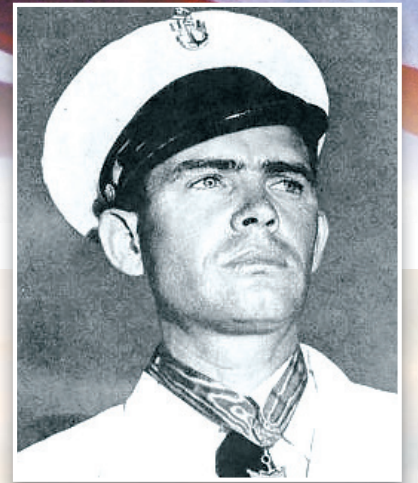
Finn returned fire at the enemy for more than two hours, suffering several bullet and shrapnel wounds in the process. But he kept manning the gun until he was ordered to leave his post to get medical attention.

He got treatment and was in a good amount of pain, but he wasn't ready to give up the fight. Finn went back to where his squad was and supervised the rearming of U.S. planes that were able to return to the station.

For his bravery and devotion to ser-



Illustration by Jim Laurier



U.S. Navy photo  
Navy Lt. John Finn

vice, Finn was awarded the Medal of Honor by Navy Adm. Chester Nimitz on Sept. 14, 1942, aboard the USS Enterprise. He was the first recipient of the medal during World War II.

In June 1942, several months after the attacks, Finn was commissioned as an ensign. Within two years, he rose to the rank of lieutenant, a position he continued to serve in until 1956, when he retired.

By 2009, the 100-year-old Finn was the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was also the oldest living recipient and the only aviation ordnanceman to have ever received the medal.

Finn didn't make it to see his namesake be commissioned this weekend, though. He died in May 2010, but his spirit will carry on in the Sailors aboard the USS John Finn.



Photo by Antonio D. Ramos

Above, This piece of art, called "The Warrior of Kaneohe," depicts Lt. John Finn and another Sailor battling the Japanese on Dec. 7, 1941. Below, Navy Lt. John William Finn shakes hands with well-wishes as he arrives at a celebration for his 100th birthday in La Posta, California, June 28, 2009. Finn received the Medal of Honor for his actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

## HO'OKOLE

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Commander,  
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam  
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## Liberators line up at Hickam hangar

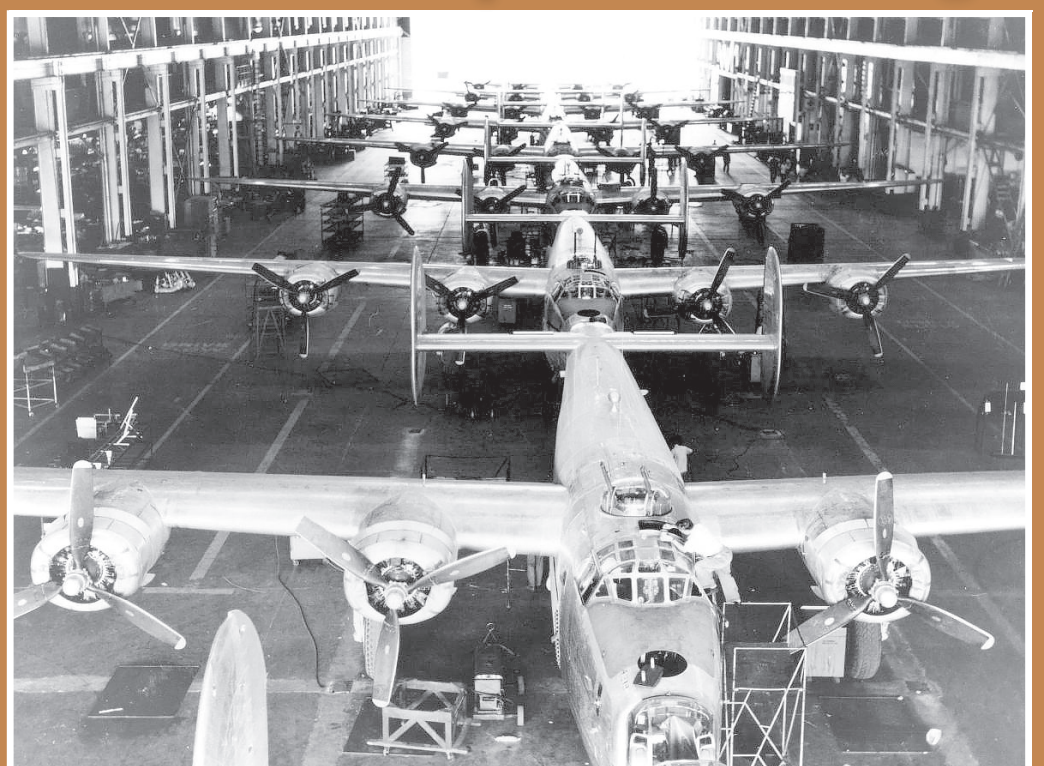


Photo courtesy of the state of Hawaii Department of Transportation

B-24J Liberators are shown here inside a maintenance hangar at Hickam Field, July 30, 1944.

# Air Force reduces planned munitions tests at PMRF

**Air Force Civil Engineer Center  
Public Affairs**

After re-evaluating its Long Range Strike Program mission requirements, the Air Force has significantly reduced the number of live munitions that will be used during military test missions at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) in 2017.

Instead of testing 106 live munitions, the Air Force will use up to eight during its 2017 Long Range Strike Weapons System Evaluation Program (WSEP) tests at PMRF. The planned test site is approximately 44 nautical miles north of the island of Kauai; 2017 test activity will primarily use non-explosive concrete munitions and take place in August.

The Air Force is also reducing the total number of live munitions used during the Long Range



File photo by Ronald Bradshaw

Weapons Airmen from the Hawaii Air National Guard prepare munitions for loading onto F-22 Raptor aircraft May 9 at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

Strike WSEP from 2017 to 2021 by almost 60 percent, using 220 live munitions instead of the 530 originally proposed. The Air Force still plans to conduct the same number of munitions releases — approximately 550 — at PMRF overall, but will

substitute non-explosive munitions for live munitions, as mission requirements allow.

“The Air Force is committed to the responsible use and protection of natural resources,” said Mike Ackerman, Air Force Civil Engineer

Center National Environmental Policy Act Division. “The changes to the Long Range Strike WSEP will reduce the potential for impacts to marine life and the environment.”

As a military readiness activity, the program ensures Air Force pilots

understand how to best employ their weapons systems and properly train with them just prior to a unit's real-world operational deployment. Non-explosive inert munitions will be substituted for live munitions in tests where mission requirements can

still be achieved.

The Air Force conducted an extensive assessment of impacts to marine species and is working with the National Marine Fisheries Service to mitigate, limit, and prevent any unnecessary impacts to marine life during the tests, Ackerman added. The Air Force will also collect acoustic monitoring data for future effects analysis, and conduct pre-mission visual flyover inspections prior to test activities.

“Missions will be postponed if the Air Force observes marine mammals or other protected species in the target area,” he said.

Additionally, environmental evaluations of other resource areas, including air quality, water quality, and cultural resources analysis indicated no significant impacts would occur. *For more information, contact AF-CEC at 210-925-0956.*

## Navy, Marine Corps to deploy F-35B

**MC1 Phillip Pavlovich**

*U.S. Pacific Fleet  
Public Affairs*

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) co-hosted a Joint Strike Fighter Sustainment Summit alongside Marine Corps Forces, Pacific at COMPACFLT headquarters, June 27-28.

Attendees focused on planning and preparing the logistical support for the F-35B Lightning II first deployment scheduled to happen within the next year.

“The summit was primarily built to maximize communication, elevate problems, and arrive at solutions. This aircraft has a unique maintenance and support structure, and it is unlike any aviation weapon system presently in the Navy and Marine Corps inventories,” said Rear Adm. John Palmer, U.S. Pacific Fleet's director of logistics, fleet supply

and ordnance.

A variety of organizations participated, including representatives of Lockheed Martin, who built the aircraft; Pratt and Whitney, who built the engine; Marine Corps Headquarters, Defense Logistics Agency, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Commander Naval Air Forces Pacific, Commander Naval Air Forces Atlantic, Commander Naval Surface Forces Pacific, and Military Sealift Command.

According to Palmer, deploying the F-35B will require focused efforts by all stakeholders to ensure logistics resources are available to support the fleet introduction to include funding, spares, tools, support equipment, information systems support, and training.

“The aircraft and engine are large and require keen planning for hangar and flight deck spotting and storage. The best strategy

for overcoming the Joint Strike Fighter roll-out challenge is to engage in continuous communications across all stakeholders,” Palmer said.

The U.S. Marine Corps' F-35B Lightning II aircraft reached initial operational capability July 31, 2015 with a squadron of 10 F-35Bs ready for deployment.

“The Marine Corps has been successfully operat-

ing the F-35B Lightning II in the western Pacific for almost seven months now with VMFA-121 at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in Japan,” said Brig. Gen. Brian C. Cavanaugh, deputy commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific. “Next year, we will make the first shipboard deployment for the squadron as part of a Marine Expeditionary Unit.

“The F-35B is a tremendous upgrade from the legacy AV-8B and these new capabilities will be demonstrated in future operations. This aircraft, unlike any others in the past, brings unique challenges due to the global logistic network associated with this platform,” Cavanaugh said.

The aircraft is a short takeoff, vertical landing (STOVL) variant, and is

the world's first supersonic STOVL stealth aircraft. It's designed to operate from austere bases and a range of air-capable ships near front-line combat zones. It can also take off and land conventionally from longer runways on major bases.

As the future of Marine Corps tactical aviation, the F-35B will replace the AV-8B Harrier and F/A-18 Hornet.

U.S. Air Force 353rd Special Operations Group, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron, and Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 refueling teams refuel a Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 F-35B Lightning II during a joint forward area refueling point joint training exercise June 27 at Kadena Air Base, Japan.

File photo by Senior Airman Omari Bernard



## Anytime, anywhere: KC-10 extenders display global reach in the Pacific

**Story and photo by  
2nd Lt. Sarah Johnson**

*60th Air Mobility Wing*

Three KC-10 extenders flew from Hawaii and Wake Island Airfield to refuel five C-17 Globemaster IIIs carrying over 300 coalition paratroopers across the Pacific Ocean, July 13.

Having received the gas they needed, the C-17s continued to Australia to successfully conduct Exercise Ultimate Reach, a strategic airdrop mission. The airdrop displayed U.S. capabilities throughout the region, reassured allies and improved combat readiness between joint and coalition personnel.

The aerial refueling also supported Exercise Talisman Saber, a month-long training exercise in Australia between U.S., Canadian and Australian forces that began once paratroopers landed Down Under. The training focused on improving interoperability and relations between the three allies. The KC-10s seamlessly refueled various aircraft over the Pacific Ocean supporting Talisman Saber. Some of those aircraft include U.S. Navy F/A-18 Super Hornets and U.S. Air Force KC-10s, among others.

“This is the bread and butter of what we do in the KC-10 world,” said Lt. Col. Stew Welch, 9th ARS commander and the Ultimate Reach tanker mission commander. “We're practicing mobility, air refueling and interopera-



A U.S. Air Force KC-10 Extender from Travis Air Force Base, California, refuels a U.S. Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet over the Pacific Ocean, July 14.

bility. This is practice for how we go to war.”

Though participation in such a large and complex exercise may seem like a unique occurrence for the aircraft and their aircrews, in actuality, this is done every day, all over the world. For members of the 6th and the 9th Air Refueling Squadrons at Travis Air Force Base, California, the global mission of the KC-10 is evident each time they step onto the tanker. For the rest of the world,

it was on full display at Talisman Saber. Ultimate Reach was the most prominent piece of the KC-10's efforts during Talisman Saber. Despite that demand, the crews continued a full schedule of refueling sorties after landing in Australia, allowing other participating aircraft to complete their missions.

“The KC-10 is essential to the Air Force because we can transport any piece of cargo, equipment and person-

nel to anywhere in the world...any continent, any country,” said Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Cook, 6th ARS instructor boom operator. “We're able to refuel those jets who have to go answer the mission whatever it may be, or (engage in) humanitarian response.” Additionally, the tanker's ability to switch between using an advanced aerial refueling boom or a hose and drogue centerline refueling system allows it to refuel a variety of U.S.

and allied military aircraft interchangeably, as it demonstrated during Talisman Saber. “When we refueled the C-17s, it helped them get to their location and drop those paratroopers so the world can see them flying out of the aircraft and see those angels coming down,” Cook said. Ultimate Reach and Talisman Saber highlighted the KC-10 fleet as a fighting force, demonstrating the aircraft's unique war-fighting capabilities over

a wide array of locations, receivers and flying patterns. “Not only does this kind of exercise demonstrate what we can do, it demonstrates how we do it,” Welch said. “Our own interoperability — not just with the Air Force and the Army but with our coalition partners as well — sends a great message to our allies and those who are not our allies that we can get troops on the ground where and when we please.”

# Pearl Harbor-Hickam Highlights



Photo by Ensign Britney Duesler

Above, A rainbow stretches across the brow of the newest destroyer in the US Navy, the USS John Finn (DDG 113). DDG 113 was commissioned on July 15 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. USS John Finn is named after Medal of Honor recipient Lt. John W. Finn, for his heroic actions during the Dec. 7, 1941 attacks on Oahu.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Heather Redman

Above, Senior Airman Chanel Holm, 647th Security Forces Squadron patrolman, checks M8 paper during a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear readiness class during a readiness exercise, at Base X at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, July 6. CBRNE training is a requirement for deployment preparation. The training teaches service members how to operate in a chemical environment.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Heather Redman

Above, Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Gradel, senior enlisted leader for the Defense Information Systems Agency Pacific, presents A1C Charlie Farris, 15th Aeromedical Dental Squadron dental technician, with a coin from the Chief's Group, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, July 12. The Chief's Group recognized Farris for her outstanding service and professionalism.



Photo by MC3 Randi Brown

Above, Micheal K. Wagner, commanding officer for the future USS John Finn (DDG 113), is interviewed by KITV 4 Island News and Pacific Stars & Stripes. DDG 113 is named in honor of Lt. John William Finn, who as a chief aviation ordnanceman was the first member of our armed services to earn the Medal of Honor during World War II for heroism during the attack on Pearl Harbor.



Below, The Navy's newest Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, USS John Finn (DDG 113) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam July 18 following its commissioning ceremony.

Photo by MC3 Justin R. Pacheco



Photos courtesy of Brian and Ashley Bugge



## From Gig to Pearl, Part II: Eventful encounters

**Anna General**

*Managing Editor, Ho'okele Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs*

*(Editor's note: This article is part II of "A Sailor's Pacific voyage – from Gig to Pearl," published in the July 14 edition. Brian Bugge is currently a U.S. Navy chief who will be promoted to a U.S. naval officer at Commander, Submarine Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet.)*

A close encounter with a sandbar...humpback whales a few feet away... Pacific white-sided dolphins in their wake... and that's just getting started! The journey to Pearl Harbor continues.

The idea to sail to Hawaii from Gig Harbor, Washington began when Brian and Ashley Bugge first purchased their boat in March 2016. Six weeks later, they learned they had to move to Pearl Harbor on military orders.

Brian's wife Ashley, who also has a love for sailing, was pregnant with their son at the time so she was and is unable to crew for the voyage.

"We had to decide if we wanted to sell the boat we had initially just purchased or figure out a way to bring it with us," she said.

While the thought of sailing to Hawaii crossed their minds, Brian Bugge called their cousin Beau who is always up for an adventure and asked if

he wanted to sail to Hawaii.

According to Ashley, Beau has never been sailing or been to Hawaii before — but as a teacher in San Diego, he has summers off...so after a few minutes of thinking about it, he said "I'm in."

A month later, Chris, the navigator joined the crew. Just recently, Willy joined their team forming the four-man crew to sail the boat (Stay Gold) to Hawaii. As the crew prepared for their lifelong voyage; they stocked up on water, fuel and everything they needed enough for a three-week journey.

Their first day at sea begins:

"We made almost 120 miles, leaving Gig Harbor at 10:06 a.m. on July

6 and arriving at Seiku, Washington at about 1:30 p.m., Brian Bugge said.

"We have all been a little seasick, a little cold, and very much tired. There is something about being at sea that makes you only focus on the priorities at the time: keeping the boat moving and keeping yourself moving."

Even though the journey has been eventful, they kept their spirits high.

"It takes a lot to keep a sailboat running 24 hours a day, seven days a week, we sail nonstop," Bugge said.

To work successfully as a team, the crew selected a rotating watch shift where each team has two members on watch at a time.

"We have two teams, A and B. Willy and I are in A and Beau and Chris are in B," Bugge added. "We stagger the relief times so that there are always two on deck to sail and there are no gaps in turnover data."

With this system, the crew get four hours of time between shifts to sleep, eat, refresh and write blog posts.

"It can get tiring, but it's working well," Bugge said. "It's a good story to keep a guy humble and prove how it's important to work as a team."

During their first stop

to Seiku, the boat ended up cutting the corner around a breakwater too tight and ended up soft grounding on a sand bar.

"As soon as I felt the boat's motion change, I knew we had grounded and called out to the crew who was on deck," Bugge said. "I immediately put on a hard rudder to turn the boat toward open water and the crew got on the rail to heel the boat.

With the hard rudder and heeling, we were able to get her off the sand bar and back out to the bay."

Although they have faced some challenges

along the way, the crew encountered a wondrous sight as they sailed from Seiku to Cape Flattery, Washington at sunset.

"That night we passed through a massive pod of humpbacks, we even had two within a few feet of the boat! Yesterday, we had Pacific white-sided dolphins riding our bow wake for over an hour. Pretty amazing sight," Bugge said.

What did they see glowing in the dark? Read next week's installment... To follow their voyage visit [www.facebook.com/svstaygold](http://www.facebook.com/svstaygold).

Sailors assigned to amphibious dock landing ship USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) load supplies while moored at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during a port visit to its namesake, July 14, before returning to its homeport in San Diego.

Photos by MC3 Justin R. Pacheco



# USS Pearl Harbor visits namesake port

MC3 Tarra Samoluk

Commander, Amphibious Squadron 3 Public Affairs

The crew of the amphibious dock landing ship USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) arrived in Pearl Harbor for their first scheduled port visit of their 2017 deployment, July 14.

The ship's arrival at its namesake location marks the first time Pearl Harbor has visited Hawaii since completing Pacific Partnership in 2013, followed by a nearly two-and-a-half-year long maintenance period.

"It is only fitting that our first port visit after a major overhaul and work-up period should be to our namesake, Pearl Harbor," said Cmdr. Theodore Essensfeld, Pearl Harbor's commanding officer. "After a 25-month extended docking phased maintenance availability and a year of extensive training and certifications, Pearl Harbor has essentially been resurrected from the



ship she was in 2013."

The ship is arriving with various defense capabilities in its arsenal, to include .50-caliber Browning machine gun mounts, Phalanx close-in weapons systems, rolling airframe missiles, and more.

"If you look at the phoenix rising on our ship's crest, memorializing the rising of our fleet to power after the devastating attack of Dec. 7, 1941, you can see how appropriate the symbolism is for us now," said Essensfeld. "We're not a

new ship, but we feel like one. With all new systems, new capabilities, a new crew, it's like the ship is reborn and the crew is ready to flex their muscles, ready to do our nation's bidding. We're not looking for a fight, but we're ready for one if called upon."

The events following the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 represent the United States military's capabilities to recover from such a devastating attack and rally the troops to mobilize.

"As Sailors aboard this ship, we get the opportunity every day to represent the fighting spirit of Pearl Harbor," said Ensign Kris Rodriguez, Pearl Harbor's administrative officer. "To finally be able to bring her back to her namesake location, where so much history took place, is a very humbling experience. I know many of us are truly looking forward to seeing firsthand the place where so much history has happened."

While Hawaii is a working

port for Pearl Harbor, with departmental inspections, equipment onloads, and scheduled maintenance, Sailors and Marines will still be able to experience Hawaii and explore Pearl Harbor's history, such as the USS Arizona Memorial.

"We've put together a two-hour remembrance tour, which will consist of a harbor cruise that will most notably include the USS Arizona memorial," said Command Master Chief Thane Douglass, Pearl Harbor's command master chief. "This is an amazing opportunity for Sailors and Marines from the namesake ship to visit the memorial for the first time in almost five years. It's a great chance for our Sailors and Marines aboard to really soak up the heritage and history, and really take pride in being a part of Pearl Harbor."

After visiting Hawaii, Pearl Harbor will continue on her scheduled deployment as a part of the America Amphibious Ready Group (ARG).



# Life & Leisure

## PACFLT band inspires, mentors San Francisco sea cadets

Story and photos by  
MCI Corwin M. Colbert

Navy Region Hawaii  
Public Affairs

Then came the applause. This was the finale, the relaxing vibes of a woodwind quintet that incorporated mentorship, musical discovery and friendship.

"I learned so much from the band and they have been amazing. I learned things I didn't know about my instrument," said Band of the West, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Maya Wyr of San Francisco.

Myr was one of many sea cadets who shared a week at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam with the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band.

Navy musicians held a joint venture with the sea cadets as part of an advanced training program offering an enriched on-the-job training seminar with recently graduated San Francisco sea cadets.

"This is part of advanced training for sea cadets," said Lt. Jeff Dao, executive officer of the Band of the West, U.S. Naval Sea Cadets. "After cadets graduate from basic training, they are qualified to attend advanced training in different subject matters, usually around potential career opportunities."

"This was a rare opportunity not to just visit the Pacific Fleet Band, but to be embedded with them. They get a better understanding of the life of a professional musician and hone their skills with their counterparts specific to each instrument they play," Dao said.

Musician 1st Class Peter Sutorius said this was a win-win for both groups, because the sea cadets get valuable mentorship and training and the Sailors are able to express their passion for the arts.

"This is the first time we've done this in a while. It was great to have them here and be able to share our experience with them," Sutorius said. "I hope we were good stewards and they learn something this week and hopefully continue to pursue a career in music."

Wyr said it was an once-in-a-lifetime experience to come to Hawaii and continue her musical training.

"This trip has been absolutely fabulous. I feel like I am in a different world," she said.

The training ended with the woodwind quintet at the U.S. Pacific Band building that featured Mozart, Edelweiss and Irish tune from County Derry.

Training can be sometimes mundane. But for these young aspiring musicians the opportunity to be part of U.S. Navy history and tradition was right on their reed tip.

Following the completion of training, the cadets performed alongside the band during the USS John Finn commissioning ceremony.

"I am excited about playing for the commissioning ceremony. I never played for a ship or a commissioning so it will be something I remember for a long time," Wyr said.



# CSP keeps playoffs hopes alive with victory

Story and photo by  
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor, Ho'olele

Needing a win to try and secure the Red Division's final playoff spot, Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC) CSP used their bats to keep their hopes alive by thumping the 15th Operations Support Squadron (15 OSS) Trolls, 20-10, on July 18 in an intramural soft-

ball game at Ward Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"I think the guys were just feeding off of each other," said Senior Chief Electronics Technician (Submarine) Martin Franklin, who stroked two triples that drove in four runs. "We just had our bats today."

Batting in the top of the first, CSP started off their fireworks display with a rally that scored three runs.

Senior Chief Fire Control Technician Tim Kerns got

things going with an RBI single to drive in the first run.

Then with runners on second and third, Franklin came up with his first triple of the game to clear the bases and give CSP a 3-0 lead.

The Trolls responded in the bottom of the frame by scoring two runs on a sacrifice fly and an RBI double by Tech. Sgt. Lonnie Theriault.

No one scored in the second inning, but in the top of the third, the CSP bats awoke from

their short sleep and scored six times on seven hits.

CSP pitcher Senior Chief Sonar Technician (Submarine) Chris Purdam's single drove in the first two runs and, after loading the bases, Electronics Technician (Communication) 2nd Class Josh Pearson lofted a Texas-League single that drove in two more runs.

With runners at the corners, Cmdr. Rob Garis connected on a triple for two runs to cap off the six-run rally.

After both teams traded runs, the Trolls pulled to within four runs on a two-run double off the bat of Mike Catalano in the bottom of the fourth.

However, CSP just wouldn't be denied, as the team broke out for an eight-run eruption in the top of the fifth that put the game away for good.

Chief Logistics Specialist Jeff Bloch drove in the first run of the inning on a towering shot that dropped for a double.

Garis picked up his third RBI of the game on a single, before a ball hit by Electronics Technician 1st Class Kyle Longnecker was dropped in the outfield for an error and ushered in two more runs.

A single by Master Chief Alan Lozier drove in the fifth run of the inning, which set the table for Franklin's second two-run triple of the game.

"I was just trying to be patient and wait for something to come across the plate," said Franklin, who was playing in his first game of the season. "We were in the grove tonight."

The Trolls scored four times in the bottom of the fifth and CSP topped off their outstanding day at the plate with two runs in the top of the sixth.

After dropping their last game due to forfeit and needing a win this week to stay alive for the playoffs, Franklin said that the team played without pressure.

If CSP qualifies for the post-season, the team could be a threat if they continue to smash the ball.

Franklin added he and his teammates could only take it one game at a time and hopefully things work out in their favor.

"We'll see what happens," he said. "We'll do the best we can, do the basics, keep the ball in front and we'll see where it takes us."



Senior Chief Electronics Technician (Submarine) Martin Franklin is about to hit his first of two triples in the game.

HO'OLELE  
SPORTS



# Great day at the plate propels 735th AMS to win

Story and photo by  
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor, Ho'olele

Just one week before the playoffs, the 735th Air Mobility Squadron (735 AMS) flexed their muscles at the plate to show that the team is a true contender.

In an impressive display at bat, the 735 AMS trounced the 690th Cyberspace Operations Squadron (690 COS) Cyber Koa by a score of 17-6 on July 17 in a White Division intramural softball matchup at Millican Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The win locked up a spot in the postseason for the 735 AMS, as the team notched their eighth win of the season against only three defeats.

"I think we're looking for syn-

ergy right now," said Staff Sgt. Luis Gonzales, who knocked in six runs with some clutch hitting. "Everybody has played together all season, everybody knows each other's habits. The team just seems more fluid."

Last week, the 735 AMS struggled at the plate in their loss to the Hawaii Air National Guard, but the team put that all in the past, as it racked up a couple of big innings to send Cyber Koa packing.

Gonzales got things rolling for the 735 AMS by cracking a base hit to drive in runners from second and third for a 2-0 lead.

The team was back at it again in the top of the second with four batters driving in five runs for a 7-0 advantage.

Senior Airman Troy Nolan got the rally going with a single that drove in a runner from second base.

Back-to-back walks ushered in another run and a fielder's choice putout plated run number five.

Then with runners on first and second, Gonzales picked up his third and fourth RBIs of the game by bashing a triple that gave the 735 AMS a 7-0 lead.

While the game appeared to be well in hand in favor of the 735 AMS, Cyber Koa began to rally for a comeback that cut the deficit down to a single run.

Starting in the bottom of the third, Tech. Sgt. Chase Swadley singled with the bases loaded to drive in the team's first run.

A fielder's choice added another run, but 735 AMS pitcher Master Sgt. Sean Wilson got out of the jam by inducing a fly ball that was caught in the outfield for the third out.

Neither team scored in the

fourth inning, but in the bottom of the fifth, Cyber Koa made another run at the 735 AMS.

Cyber Koa loaded the bases on a fielding error and two singles, before Swadley came to the plate and doubled to drive in two runs.

Airman 1st Class Kiefer Sullivan followed with an RBI single, as did Tech. Sgt. Ryan Martin to complete a four-run rally that drew Cyber Koa to within a run at 7-6.

However, whatever momentum Cyber Koa gained in the fifth was taken away by the 735 AMS, as the team put together its biggest inning of the game in the top of the sixth.

The big hits came off the Gonzales, who slammed his second triple of the night to drive in two more runs, and Chad Baldini, who crushed a pitch deep into the night and

over the left-field fence for a two-run shot.

"The runners on base, they do the work and I'm just trying to drive them in," Gonzales said about his huge game at bat. "There's always pressure. It's part of the game, but it's stuff that you strive for and look forward to."

As the 735 AMS closed out the regular season with a big win, Gonzales said that the team should have some momentum going into the playoffs.

While others may look at the 735 AMS as a dark horse to win it all, Gonzales said nobody should take his team lightly.

"We keep it going, we keep playing like how we did tonight, keep depending on each other and we'll definitely give everybody a run for their money," he said. "We're not as far out as everybody thinks we are."



Staff Sgt. Luis Gonzales slides safely into third after hitting his second triple of the night.

HO'OLELE  
SPORTS





Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Danny Meadow keeps his eyes on the ball before coming up with a grounder.

## Tennessee Patriots send Jefferson City home early

Story and photo by  
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor, Ho'okele

USS William P. Lawrence (DDG 110) Tennessee Patriots started the game with their bats on fire and scored 10 times en route to a 14-3 victory over USS Jefferson City (SSN 759) on July 15 in an Afloat Division intramural softball game at Millican Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The win all but assured a spot in the upcoming playoffs for the Patriots, who improved their record to 6-3, while Jefferson City fell to 4-5.

Patriots' pitcher Damage Controlman 1st Class Josh Hooper, who went the full five innings in the mercy-rule-ending win, said that the team's recent practices focused on hitting and it showed against Jefferson City.

"We came together as a group and decided that we needed to practice more often," Hooper said. "We got our core group of guys to the batting cages and worked on our mechanics. Even today, a lot of the guys went early to Ward Field and got some hitting practice."

Apparently, the team was already warmed up by the time the game started and in the Patri-

ots' first at-bat, the players were ready for a big inning.

With one out in the bottom of the first, back-to-back hits by Fire Controlman Aegis 2nd Class Travis Holleman and Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Danny Meadow put two runners in scoring position at second and third.

Hooper, who pitched a scoreless top of the first, then cashed in with double to drive in two runs.

Another run scored on a fielding error, then, with the bases loaded, Machinist's Mate 3rd Class LeKendrick Pettway slashed a single to drive in runs four and five.

Two walks with the bases loaded plated two more runners for the Patriots, before Holleman connected on a base hit that scored another two runs.

Like Holleman, Meadow picked up his second hit of the inning and drove in the Patriots 10th and final run of the inning.

"It's just a matter of catching on fire," Hooper said. "We did that in the last game. We just came out and our bats were on fire."

After Hooper tossed another goose egg in the top of the second inning, the Patriots were at it again in their next turn at the plate.

Showing that the first inning wasn't a fluke, the Patriots

opened the bottom of the second inning with three straight hits.

The third hit came off the bat of Fire Controlman 3rd Class Keith Vandiver, which drove in a run.

The Patriots scored again in the bottom of the second on an RBI single by Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Electrical) Seaman Emmanuel Duncan that made it 12-0.

Jefferson City, which was playing in their second game of a double header, probably felt the heat of the day after their first game went into extra innings.

Still, the team gave it their all and managed to score three times, with one of the runs being batted in by Jefferson City pitcher Electronics Technician 1st Class Richard Wheeler.

With only one more week before the start of the playoffs, Hooper said that he feels pretty good about their chances to make a deep run.

Hooper added that if duty takes away a few of their core players it could be a problem. But no matter what, the Patriots will play hard.

"Sometimes, we have issues with consistency due to duty," he said. "If that happens come playoffs, that might hurt. But we're getting hot at the right time and we're doing all the right things to be successful."

## Use of RFID can lead to fraud

Story and photo by  
Stephanie Lau

Pearl Harbor NEX  
Customer Relations  
Manager

Radio-Frequency Identification, otherwise known as RFID, is the use of wireless radio signals to read and capture information stored on a tag or chip attached to an object. RFID technology can be found in a variety of applications such as asset tracking and management, access control credentials, credit or debit cards, and government issued identification cards.

Nelson Toda, Pearl Harbor NEX Loss Prevention/Safety Department Manager, answers questions to help our military consumers understand RFID.

**How does RFID technology work?**

"RFID-enabled credentials contain a RFID chip which responds to certain wireless, radio signals. When these RFID-enabled credentials are within range of a "reading" wireless radio signal, the RFID-enabled credential automatically detects

the wireless read request and wirelessly sends back the requested RFID information from the RFID-enabled credential."

**What information does RFID hold?**

"The solicited response from the RFID-enabled credential may contain encoded personal identifying information (PII): card holder's name, address, Social Security Number, phone number, and pertinent account or employee information."

**What products have RFID technology?**

"Since the initial mainstream implementation of RFID technology being embedded into credentials and financial credit or debit cards, manufacturers have continued to evolve security measures implemented into the design of these RFID mediums. Most RFID-enabled credentials in use today issued from major financial institutions and government entities now transmit encrypted data when the credential responds to a wireless RFID read request."

**What can the military community do**



**to protect themselves from having their PII stolen?**

"Individuals who have been issued any type of RFID-enabled credential should monitor all associated accounts on a regular basis. For RFID-enabled credit or debit cards, individuals should check financial statements on a regular basis and enroll in a credit monitoring program. As an additional level of mitigating RFID fraud, the use of RFID blocking sleeves, wallets,

and other devices designed to block RFID signals from being transmitted or received by the RFID-enabled credential is strongly encouraged. Victims of RFID fraud should immediately contact the issuing entity of the RFID-enabled credential(s) and also contact local law enforcement for assistance."

**Where can a consumer find RFID products?**

Any retail store including the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange.



## Red, White and Blue 10K Run set for July 22

● **Glow ball and barbecue** will be held at 7 p.m. July 21 at Ke'alo'hi Golf Course. Participants can play golf at night with glow-in-the-dark golf balls. They can also get glow necklaces and bracelets. The cost is \$20 for adults, and \$15 for juniors and includes hot dogs and hamburgers. For more information, call 448-2318.

● **Free movie in the park** will begin at 7:45 p.m. July 21 at Hickam Beach. Patrons are invited to bring chairs and blankets. For more information, call 449-5215.

● **Free Red, White and Blue 10K Run** will begin at 6:30 a.m. July 22 at the Hickam Fitness Center. Sign ups will be taken on the morning of the event. This event is open to all base-eligible patrons. For more information, call 448-2214.

● **Missoula Children's Theatre will hold open auditions for Rapunzel** from 10 a.m. to noon July 24 at Makai Recreation Center. If selected, youth will take part in a free weeklong rehearsal camp and present the play on July 29 at Hickam Memorial Theater. The cost of the audition is free and is open to children in first through 12th grade. Space is limited and there are no guarantees of being cast. For more information, call 449-3354.

● **Summer craft camps** continue from 10 a.m. to noon July 25 to 28 at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Arts and Crafts Center. The cost is \$60 per child ages 7 and up. For more information, call 448-9907.

● **Free pau hana concert in the park** will be held from 4:45 to 7 p.m. July 28 at Hickam Harbor Marina. Patrons can listen to a free concert on the lawn featuring the Piranha Brothers Trio. The concert begins at 5:30 p.m. Food trucks will be on site. For more information, call 449-5215.

● **Chill and Grill plus Nine-Ball Challenge** will be held at 5:30 p.m. July 28 at Club Pearl Brews and Cues. The event will include free pupus for participants. The event is open to 18 years and older. For more information, call 473-1743.

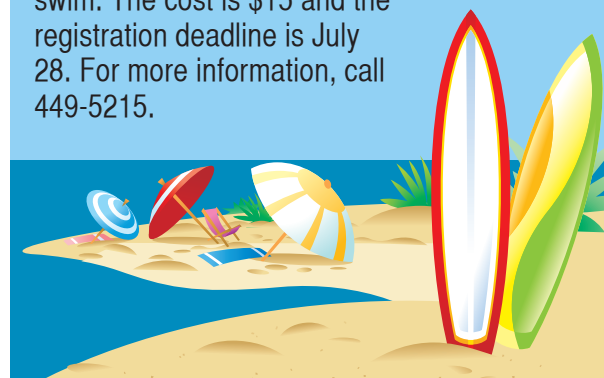
● **Free movie night** will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. July 28 at Pool 2. This event is open to all base-eligible patrons. For more information, call 260-9736.

● **Eat the Street Shuttle** departs at 6:30 p.m. July 28 from the Hickam Information, Tickets and Travel (ITT) office. Patrons will be brought back to the base at 9:30 p.m. This event is open to all base-eligible patrons and does involve a bit of walking. For more information and prices, call 448-2295.

● **Chinatown food and historical tour** will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 29 departing from the Hickam Information, Tickets and Travel (ITT) office. The cost is \$35 for adults and \$30 for children 3 to 11 years old. For more information, call 448-2295.

● **Spearfishing excursion** will be held from 9 a.m. to noon July 29 at Hickam Harbor. Participants need to have taken the learning to spearfish to participate. The cost is \$20 and deadline to sign up is July 26. For more information, call 449-5215.

● **Snorkeling at Hickam Harbor** will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. July 30 at Hickam Harbor. Participants need to know how to swim. The cost is \$15 and the registration deadline is July 28. For more information, call 449-5215.



# Family Fitness Center to open next week



MWR Marketing photos

The Family Fitness Center is set to open July 28 at building 1681 near Bloch Arena.

Helen Ko

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam  
Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Parents looking for a place to work out and still be able to watch their little ones will soon have a place just for them. The new Family Fitness Center is set to open July 28 at building 1681 near Bloch Arena, located between Ward Field and the Youth Sports Center.

The new center is in approximately 2,500 square feet of space and will feature treadmills, ellipticals, upright bikes, five-to-50-pound dumbbells, mats and Bosu balls. Amenities include a unisex bathroom and locker room with three showers and two stalls and a water refill station. However, patrons will need to bring their own towels.

The kids area will be separated by age groups of newborn to 2 years old and 3 to 9 years old. It is open to all eligible patrons. However, it is primarily for family members with children ages newborn to 9 years old looking to get a workout with a space to accommodate their child. Command fitness leaders will have priority to use the machines during peak physical fitness assessment season cycle one and two.

"Parents who bring their children will need to supervise and keep an eye on their own kids as it will be unmanned. We hope the patrons will use the honor system when using the center. This is a great space for moms and dads to work out with their kids," said Mark McFarland, JBPHH fitness training director.

Hours of operation for the Family Fitness Center will be Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and closed on weekends and holidays.



## What to do if there is a hurricane

### Ready Navy

Emergencies happen. By taking action and getting information, you can be prepared for an emergency such as a hurricane. Some tips from Ready Navy if there is a hurricane are as follows.

- Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies.
- Listen to the radio or TV for more information and further instructions.
- Create a supply of water for sanitary and household purposes by filling bathtub and large containers.
- Turn your refrigerator to the coldest setting and keep the door closed.
- Turn off propane tanks and utilities, if told to do so.
- Moor your boat if time permits.

### You should evacuate under the following conditions:

- If you live in a temporary structure—such shelters are particularly hazardous during a hurricane no matter how well fastened to the ground.
- If you live in a high-rise building—hurricane winds are stronger at higher elevations.
- If you live on the coast, on a floodplain, near a river, or on an island waterway.
- If told to do so by local authorities, following their instructions.

### If you are told to evacuate:

- Never ignore an evacuation order.
- Follow instructions and the guidelines

given regarding times and routes.

- Take only essential items and your emergency kit.
- Turn off gas, electricity, and water if you have not already done so.
- Disconnect all appliances.
- Make sure your car's gas tank is full.
- Do not walk in moving water.
- Do not drive in high water. (As little as six inches of water can cause loss of control and stalling of a vehicle).
- Follow the designated evacuation plan and expect a high volume of traffic.

### If you are not told to or cannot evacuate:

- Stay tuned to emergency stations on TV or radio.
- Listen for further instructions.
- Avoid elevators.
- Seek shelter in a small interior room on the lowest level such as a bathroom, closet, or basement.
- Stay away from glass, windows and doors.
- Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.
- Do not go outside until instructed to do so even if the storm is over and it seems calm. This could be the eye of the storm passing, and winds will pick up again.
- Once you are in a safe place, muster with your command if you are military or civilian personnel or a member of the selective reserves.
- When given the all clear, prepare to evacuate to a shelter or neighbor's home if your home is damaged.

### What to do after a hurricane:

- Listen to news reports to make sure water supplies are not contaminated.
- Stay clear of flood waters (standing and moving) as they may be contaminated or deeper than expected.
- Beware of downed power lines.
- Avoid any roads where flood waters have receded as they may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Be extremely cautious when entering buildings and homes as there may be unseen damage.
- Clean and disinfect everything that was touched by flood water, as it can contain sewage and other contaminants.
- After a declared emergency, register your needs with the Navy through the Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS) at <https://navyfamily.navy.mil> or call 1-877-414-5358 or 1-866-297-1971 (TDD).

### Where to find additional information:

- National Hurricane Center (NHC)—<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>
- National Hurricane Center (NHC) Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale—<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/aboutsshws.php>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—[www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/)
- Department of Homeland Security (Ready.gov) and FEMA—[www.ready.gov/hurricanes](http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes)

## Pothole work planned

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam  
Public Affairs

There will be scheduled potholing operations from July 24 to Aug. 11 at the Center Drive intersection, between H-1 Interchange and Radford Drive, near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Lane closures will affect up to two lanes town-bound (east) from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and up to two lanes Ewa-bound (west) from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Work will include intermittent closures around the Center Drive intersection. Various left-turn and right-turn pockets along Kamehameha Highway may be closed for short periods of time.

Special duty officers will be on-site to assist with traffic movements, and motorists should obey posted work zone signs. Bike lanes, bus stops and sidewalks may be impacted by the work.

For traffic or noise concerns, call the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) hotline at 566-2299 or email [info@HonoluluTransit.org](mailto:info@HonoluluTransit.org).



## HO'OKELE PEARL HARBOR - HICKAM

COMMUNITY  
CALENDAR

JULY

**OPERATION HELE ON  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**NOW** — Volunteers are needed for Operation Hele On, a mock deployment for children. The event will be held Aug. 18 at Bloch Arena. Volunteers are needed for the following positions: registration table, trained medics, general floaters, team leads, set up and tear down, food tables, recruit division commanders/training instructors E-6 and up, photographers and more. A mandatory training session prior to the event is planned. FMI: email MFSC Hawaii@navy.mil or call 474-1999.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

**TODAY** — Volunteers are needed to help distribute food to low-income families at noon at 2243 Kalaunu St. in Honolulu. Volunteers should wear closed-toed shoes. FMI: email CS1 Alyssa Crowder at Alyssa.crowder@navy.mil.

**RAPUNZEL CHILDREN'S CAMP**

**JULY 24-29** — The Missoula Children's Theatre will host a free week-long camp for children at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The camp will end with a production of Rapunzel. They will host open auditions for children in first through 12th grade. FMI 449-3354 or www.greatlifeohawaii.com.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMELIA**

**JULY 24** — A birthday celebration to honor Amelia Earhart will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor. Visitors can have free cake and juice, while looking at the museum's "Amelia Earhart in Hawaii" photo exhibit. Admission will be free to families with at least one person dressed in Amelia Earhart or historical aviation attire. FMI: 441-1000 or www.pacificaviationmuseum.org.

**CFS TRAINING**

**JULY 24-28** — Command Financial Specialist (CFS) training will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at Military and Family Support Center Pearl Harbor. This is a five-day workshop offered to Navy command-sponsored service members who will be assigned this collateral duty. In accordance with OPNAVINST 1740.5B members

**JUMPING JACK CHALLENGE**

**JULY 22** — The second annual free Jumping Jack Challenge will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) mall. The event is for children ages 12 and under of authorized patrons. Each participant will receive a certificate indicating the number of jumping jacks completed and a chance to win a \$100 NEX gift card. FMI: 423-3287 or email Stephanie.Lau@nexweb.org.

attending class must be E-6 and above with a minimum of one year left on their projected rotation date. FMI: www.greatlifeohawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or 474-1999.

**ANGER MANAGEMENT**

**JULY 25** — An anger management class will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Military and Family Support Center Pearl Harbor. FMI: www.greatlifeohawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or 474-1999.

**FRG LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

**JULY 25-25** — Family readiness group (FRG) leadership training will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. at Military and Family Support Center Pearl Harbor. This skill-building training is designed to generate ideas that will assist in making family support groups inviting and productive. To register, call 474-1999. FMI: www.greatlifeohawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule.

**ACING THE INTERVIEW**

**JULY 26** — A class on acing the job interview will be held from 4:30 to 6:30

p.m. at Military and Family Support Center Pearl Harbor. Participants can learn how to position themselves as the best candidate, explore different interview styles and techniques, practice traditional and behavioral interview questions and learn about common pitfalls to avoid. FMI: www.greatlifeohawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or 474-1999.

**SOOTHING YOUR BABY  
AND LOVING TOUCH**

**JULY 27** — A class on soothing your baby and loving touch will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Hickam Medical Building. This class captures the behavioral characteristics of excessive crying during a normal developmental phase. It also aims to help parents find ways to soothe their baby and build resilience during this challenging period. FMI: www.greatlifeohawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or 474-1999.

**AFTER GPS**

**JULY 28** — An After GPS (Goals, Plans, Success) workshop will be held

from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Military and Family Support Center Hickam. This is a follow up to the five-day Transition Goals, Plans Success workshop. Topics will include survivor Benefit, Tricare, Veterans Affairs, Workforce Development Office, and Capstone preparation. This workshop also includes an employer panel to assist participants in understanding the civilian hiring process and how to be the best candidate. FMI: www.greatlifeohawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or 474-1999.

**SAFETALK WORKSHOP**

**JULY 28** — A "safeTALK" workshop will be held from 8 to 11 a.m. at Military and Family Support Center Pearl Harbor. Trained suicide alert helpers learn to move beyond common tendencies to miss, dismiss or avoid suicide, identify people with thoughts of suicide, and apply the TALK steps (Tell, Ask, Listen, Keep Safe) to connect that person to suicide first aid caregivers. FMI: www.greatlifeohawaii.com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or 474-1999.



## MOVIE SHOWTIMES

**SHARKEY THEATER****TODAY — JULY 21**7:00 PM • Transformers:  
The Last Knight (3-D) (PG-13)**SATURDAY — JULY 22**2:30 PM • Cars 3 (G)  
5:00 PM • Transformers: The Last Knight (PG-13)  
8:00 PM • The House (R)**SUNDAY — JULY 23**2:30 PM • Cars 3 (3-D) (G)  
4:50 PM • Megan Leavey (PG-13)  
7:20 PM • Transformers:  
The Last Knight (3-D) (PG-13)**THURSDAY — JULY 27**7:00 PM • Transformers:  
The Last Knight (3-D) (PG-13)**HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER****TODAY — JULY 21**

7:00 PM • Cars 3 (G)

**SATURDAY — JULY 22**3:00 PM • Captain Underpants:  
The First Epic Movie (PG)  
6:00 PM • Wonder Woman (PG-13)**SUNDAY — JULY 23**

3:00 PM • Cars 3 (G)

**THURSDAY — JULY 27**

7:00 PM • All Eyez On Me (R)

**Transformers: The Last Knight**

Humans are at war with the Transformers, and Optimus Prime is gone. The key to saving the future lies buried in the secrets of the past and the hidden history of Transformers on Earth. Now, it's up to the unlikely alliance of inventor Cade Yeager, Bumblebee, an English lord and an Oxford professor to save the world.

# Vouchers available to accelerate officer graduate education

**Ed Barker**

*Naval Education and Training Professional Development Center Public Affairs*

Naval officers unable to pursue full-time graduate studies now have an additional education option with the FY-18 Graduate Education Voucher (GEV) program, announced July 11.

Detailed in Naval Administrative Message (NAVADMIN) 160-17, the GEV program offers eligible officers the opportunity to receive funded graduate education during off-duty hours. Through GEV, unrestricted line (URL) officers can apply to receive funding for Navy-relevant graduate education meet-

ing the requirements of at least one sub-specialty code as specified by the Navy Sub-specialty System.

"It can be challenging for many officers to maintain their career progression and simultaneously schedule full-time education at Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) or other institutions," said Dr. Cheral Cook, graduate education coordinator for Naval Education and Training Command (NETC). "The GEV program offers an accelerated funding path to an off-duty master's degree with financial support of up to \$20,000 per fiscal year, with a total limit of \$40,000 for the entire course of study."

All required fees normally charged by the uni-

versity relating directly to student application and enrollment, including mandatory health fees and health insurance, laboratory fees, vehicle registration, identification cards, and computer fees, are reimbursable. Other reimbursable expenses include the cost of textbooks and course materials, and limited expenditures for transcript and entry fees, and final thesis production.

Lt. Stephen Watson, a pilot and instructor at Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 12 (HM 12) in Norfolk, re-



cently completed his Master of Business Administration degree with Syracuse University. He will soon be returning to the fleet in an operational MH-53E squadron.

"In my opinion, education is everything. If you're enlisted, it can help you receive a commission or promote. If you're an officer, it will help you hone your skills and promote," said Watson.

"For both officers and enlisted, it opens up new doors and offers higher compensation upon your entry into the civilian

workforce."

GEV applicants select a regionally accredited school and choose a specific course of study meeting their community's sub-specialty requirements.

Education plans are reviewed and approved for the Navy sub-specialty code by NPS.

The GEV program is targeted at officers with demonstrated superior performance and upward career mobility who are transferring to or have recently reported to shore duty, in order to allow sufficient time for completion of a graduate program.

The GEV program is open to URL active-duty officers in pay grades O-3 through O-5, in designators 111X (Surface Warfare), 112X (Submarine Warfare), 113X (Special Warfare/SEAL), 114X (Special Operations), and 13XX (Naval Aviator/Naval Flight Officer).

Details of quotas by degree program and warfare areas are listed in the NAVADMIN, and additional information can be found on the Navy College Program's GEV Web page at <http://www.navycollege.navy.mil/resources/gev.htm>.

Interested officers should submit written requests to their detailer per the current NAVADMIN and OPNAV instructions.

Program-specific GEV questions should be addressed to GEV Program Manager Bryan Gromer at 850-473-6061, DSN 753 or via e-mail at [bryan.gromer@navy.mil](mailto:bryan.gromer@navy.mil).

## MY FAVORITE PHOTO



Michelle Poppler, Ho'okele graphic designer, took this photo of keiki having a great time dancing in front of the stage at an Air Force Small Kine Band concert. The band rocked a packed crowd last weekend at Foster Botanical Garden's Midsummer Night's Gleam event. *How to submit: Email photos and information to [editor@hookelenews.com](mailto:editor@hookelenews.com)*