

JBP HH hosts safety standdown



Brandon Bosworth
Assistant Editor, Ho’okele

The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Safety Department held a safety standdown at Sharkey Theater on May 19, 20 and 21. The event featured presentations about subjects such as water safety, personal safety and recreational off-duty safety.

“We want to bring a safety awareness to your everyday person, so they can enjoy whatever festivities they have planned safely,” said Melody Sale, JBP HH safety supervisor.

Capt. Stanley Keeve, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, offered opening comments. He

drew attention to the fact that over the past few months, several members of the JBP HH community have been hurt off-duty, with one individual losing his life.

“People don’t anticipate the dangers,” he said. “It’s important to pause and think about what you’re doing. Even if you are in the backyard barbecuing, you can get in trouble.”

Keeve concluded his opening comments by encouraging those attending the event to make good use of the opportunity to learn more about safety.

“Make this time useful,” he said. “Learn at least one thing you didn’t know before you came in.”

During the standdown,



Capt. Stanley Keeve, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, offered opening comments during a safety standdown held May 19, 29 and 21 at Sharkey Theater.

the winners of the JBP HH safety slogan contest were announced.

The slogans offered ways to put an emphasis on good safety practices.

The third place prize went to Master Sgt. Oluseun Akande, 735th Air Mobility Squadron, whose slogan was “Cheat the Heat to Stay Fit.”

Kenneth Jones, Pacific Air Forces, won second place with “Safety is the Scene in 2015. Be seen!”

The first place winner was Damage Controlman 2nd Class Honolulu Mika, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, with the entry, “If you are hot and feeling slow, Drink H2O... Got Hydration? #Hydrate!!!

(Additional safety information on page A-6.)



Leadership of two top military commands in Hawaii to change

Ho’okele Staff

Leadership of two top Hawaii-based military commands, U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) and U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT), will change hands May 27 at a double change of command at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam (JBPHH).

Adm. Scott H. Swift will assume command of U.S. Pacific Fleet from Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr. at 9 a.m. at Kilo Pier at JBPHH.

Immediately following the U.S. Pacific Fleet ceremony, Harris will assume command of U.S. Pacific Command, headquarters at Camp H.M. Smith from Adm. Samuel J. Locklear III.

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert will also be in attendance.

The ceremony will be covered real-time on U.S. Pacific Command social media sites and streamed live at www.defense.gov.

He took command of PACOM on March 9, 2012 and is retiring.

He previously served as director, Navy Staff as well as ashore assignments as executive assistant to the



vice chief of naval operations. His career as a surface warfare officers includes command assignments as commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet; commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe; commander, U.S. Naval Forces Africa; and Allied Joint Force Command Naples.

Harris was promoted to admiral and assumed command of the U.S. Pacific Fleet on Oct. 16, 2013. He is the 34th commander since the fleet was established in February 1941.

Harris is the highest-ranking Asian American in the history of the Navy and the first to attain the rank of four-star admiral.

His career assignments have included assistant to the chairman of the JCS where he served as the chairman’s direct representative to the secretary of state, chief speechwriter for the chairman of the JCS, and three tours on the Navy Staff.

Swift comes to PACFLT from his position as director, Navy Staff, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon where he has been assigned since September 2013. He was previously the commander of U.S. 7th Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan.

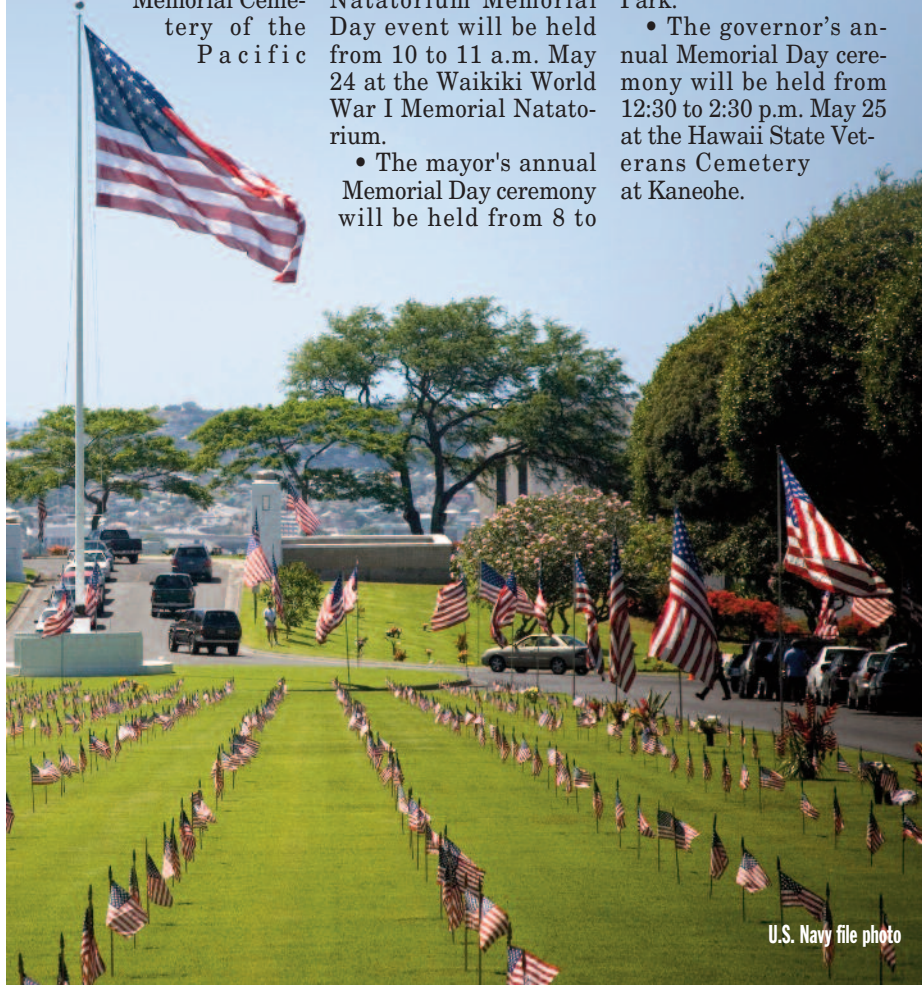
Memorial Day events announced

Several events to observe Memorial Day have been planned across Oahu. They include:

- The Roll Call of Honor in Remembrance ceremony will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. May 24 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl).
- A Veterans Candlelight Memorial Day ceremony will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. May 24 at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl).
- A Friends of the Natatorium Memorial Day event will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. May 24 at the Waikiki World War I Memorial Natatorium.
- The mayor’s annual Memorial Day ceremony will be held from 8 to

10:30 a.m. May 25 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl).

- The Bowfin SubVets Memorial Day ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. May 25 at the USS Parche Submarine Memorial Park.
- The governor’s annual Memorial Day ceremony will be held from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. May 25 at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery at Kaneohe.



U.S. Navy file photo



Joint service ceremony marks anniversary of West Loch Disaster
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USS Chafee leaves on deployment
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USS Michael Murphy returns home after successful seven-month deployment
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Summer safety
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Memorial ceremony concludes JBP HH Police Week
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MWR concert set for Memorial Day
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Joint service ceremony marks anniversary of West Loch Disaster

Story and photo by
Brandon Bosworth

Assistant Editor, Ho`okele

Afloat Training Group (ATG) Middle Pacific (MID-PAC) and the 8th Theater Sustainment Command held a joint service ceremony marking the 71st anniversary of the West Loch Disaster on May 21.

The event was held aboard a U.S. Army Logistics Support Vessel (LSV) stationed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, which sailed to the site of the tragedy.

The West Loch Disaster occurred on May 21, 1944. Thirty-four ships were in Pearl Harbor's West Loch to load ammunition and supplies for the impending U.S. invasion of Saipan. The LSTs (landing ship, tank), small ships designed to land battle-ready tanks, were close together along six berths. At 3:08 p.m., an explosion occurred resulting in a chain reaction of explosions that sank six of the LSTs and severely damaged several others.

There were 163 men were killed and 396 wounded. Nearly one-third of the casualties came from the Army's segregated African American 29th Chemical Decontamination Company. The West Loch Disaster was Pearl Harbor's second greatest disaster in terms of casualties. The exact cause was never determined.

Attending the ceremony were service members from the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard, as well as personnel from the National Park Service and guests from the African-American Diversity



Young service members place a memorial wreath into the waters of Pearl Harbor at the conclusion of a ceremony which marked the 71st anniversary of the West Loch disaster.

Cultural Center Hawaii. Lt. Cmdr. Kenneth Brown, ATG MIDAC, served as master of ceremonies, and chaplain Maj. Douglas Johnson, 647th Air Base Group, provided the invocation and benediction.

Maj. Gen. Edward F. Dorman, commanding general of the 8th Theater Sustainment Command, offered remarks at the event. With the wreckage of one of the sunken ships, LST 480, in the background, he stressed the valuable lessons learned from that fiery day at West Loch.

"The West Loch Disaster forced systematic changes in explosive safety," he said. "Having been in combat, I can attest to the rigorous requirements for handling

ammunition, explosives, and fuel."

Jim Neuman, Navy Region Hawaii historian, talked a bit about Pearl Harbor's history and the specifics of what happened at West Loch. He emphasized the actions of those responding to the disaster.

"There was a very quick response," he said. "Like on Dec. 7, the responders were very professional and will-trained."

The ceremony concluded with a rifle salute and the playing of "Taps." The youngest service members in attendance than placed a floral wreath in the waters of Pearl Harbor in honor of those who lost their life at West Loch 71 years ago.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan

Logistics Specialist 3rd Class Mark Manimtim, assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90), holds his child prior to the ship's departure from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for an independent deployment.

USS Chafee leaves on deployment

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

The guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) departed May 18 from Pearl Harbor for on an independent deployment to the U.S. 7th and 4th Fleet areas of operations.

Chafee deployed with its crew of more than 300 Sailors. The ship will conduct theater security cooperation and maritime presence operations with partner nations as well as participate in exercise Talisman Saber within the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations. It is expected to play an integral part in counter-illicit trafficking mission Operation Martillo (Spanish for 'hammer') in the U.S. 4th Fleet area of operations.

Along with the crew of Chafee, the drug interdiction team includes the ship's organic visit, board, search and seizure team, providing support for the embarked Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment. Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 37,

Detachment 6 will provide embarked air support.

Chafee will also participate in the Oceania Maritime Security Initiative (OMSI), a joint Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security and Department of Commerce program. The ship will support maritime law enforcement operations to administer U.S. and Pacific island nations fisheries laws and the suppression of illicit activities.

"This ship and crew are ready for any real world operations," said Cmdr. Shea Thompson, commanding officer. "There is no other team I would rather deploy with."

(Below) Sailors, assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90), wave farewell as the ship departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan



HO'OKELE Online

<http://www.hookelenews.com> or <https://www.cnmc.navy.mil/hawaii>

Commentary

Don't make this Memorial Day become your memorial

Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

How will you be spending Memorial Day? Most of us will be paying tribute to fallen heroes in some way, even in quiet moments alone.

One way to honor the men and women who gave their lives for our prosperity and ability to live free is to protect the gift they gave us and not put ourselves in unnecessary danger when off duty.

When we think of Memorial Day, we think of lives lost due to combat. The fact is for many people Memorial Day weekend is a time of sorrow because of off-duty mishaps.

Liberty is a mission. You have a responsibility to safeguard yourself and your shipmates—through good decision making on



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

and off duty. Practice operational risk management (ORM) at all times. ORM should be at the forefront in planning hikes, ocean sports, motorcycle rides and any situation where alcohol is involved.

A few facts to consider during the critical weeks between Memorial Day and Labor Day:

- Nearly 90 percent of fatalities last summer



U.S. Air Force photo

An Airman salutes a grave site at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in 2012.

were from E-3 to E-5.

- In eight of nine fatal motorcycle accidents, riders were at fault.
- Trip planning reduces risk: Access TRiPS at <https://trips.safety.army.mil/>

- Alcohol-related mishaps kill and injure Sailors and Marines every summer.

- Knowing your limits and respecting the ocean can keep you alive.
- Active bystanders can save lives—and careers—of their shipmates.

There are more facts and figures to consider during the critical days and weeks ahead. Everyone in uniform should be getting the training and getting the

message: Safeguarding yourself and your shipmates is a proper tribute to those who sacrificed to give us “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Safety is a leadership responsibility, and it's up to all leaders to ensure good ORM is considered on and off duty. It's a shipmate's role to be an active by-

stander and speak up or speak out when you see dangerous behavior that may put someone's life in danger.

The Navy Safety Center reports that we lost 13 Sailors and nine Marines last summer in the Department of the Navy. That's 22 young trained and ready warfighters no longer with us—and hundreds of shipmates, friends and families they left behind.

Those who were lost, including here in Hawaii, were in the same age range as the young men killed in Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

On this Memorial Day, as we remember those who died, we should commit ourselves to protect our Sailors from needless fatalities and injuries.

To all service members in our region, I ask for your self-discipline this summer. Be a good leader and take care of your shipmates and yourself.

Please be safe this summer and let's not make this Memorial Day your memorial day.

Diverse Views



How do you stay safe when engaging in physical activities outside of work?



Staff Sgt. Shameka Risch
647th Force Support Squadron

“When engaging in physical activities outside, I make sure to wear sunblock and have plenty of water available. I always have a buddy with me or someone with experience in the activities I'm about to do.”

BMCS Nathan McQuown
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

“The Navy teaches us to always use operational risk management in and out of work, so I apply it to outside physical activities.”



Master Sgt. Jason Zarudny
690th Cyberspace Operations Squadron

“I stay safe by knowing the dangers of the activities I participate in. I use all proper PPE, and I don't exceed my personal physical limitations.”

CTR2 Dmitriana Henry
NIOC Hawaii

“I make sure I am prepared to do the activity I have planned, make sure that I am hydrated for the activity and that I am aware of my surroundings.”



Tech. Sgt. Samuel Dykes
Defense Information Systems Agency Pacific

“I stay safe when participating in physical activities by first, staying hydrated. Secondly, I research the dangers associated with any new activity I engage in. Third, I always wear any protective gear needed for the activity. Lastly, I use common sense. If I think I could get hurt by doing something unsafe while engaging in an activity, I choose not to do it rather than risk getting hurt and endangering my career.”

LS3 Joshua Williams
Naval Supply Command Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor

“I am always aware of my surroundings while conducting any kind of physical activities so I don't get hurt and I make sure to look out for my shipmates to help ensure their safety.”



Tech. Sgt. Bret Talbott
613th Air and Space Operations Center

“I always ensure my equipment is properly functioning and I am properly hydrated.”

ENS Marcus Hayes
USS Chosin (CG 65)

“I make sure the location of my physical activity is a safe location, that no special advisories have been issued for the area of the activity and to use operational risk management while conducting the activity.”



Provided by Lt. Damall Martin and David D. Underwood Jr.

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

Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com or karen.spangler@navy.mil

Naval Safety Center cautions against drinking and driving

Naval Safety Center

Sailors and Marines are involved in more fatalities between Memorial Day and Labor Day than any other time of the year, according to the Naval Safety Center.

During that time period in 2014, the safety center reported that 13 Sailors and nine Marines lost their lives.

The center said that alcohol-related mishaps kill and injure Sailors and Marines every summer. The safety center urges military members never to drink and drive.

According to information from

www.thatguy.com, absorption of alcohol depends on a person's size, weight, body fat and gender. Other factors include the amount of alcohol consumed, the amount of food in a person's stomach and use of medications.

Here are some questions the center suggests military members ask themselves to see if they need help.

- Have you ever felt you should cut back on your drinking?
- Does your drinking ever make you late for work?
- Do you ever forget what you did while you were drinking?
- Do you ever drink after telling

yourself you won't?

- Have people annoyed you by criticizing your drinking?

- Do you ever need a drink first thing in the morning, to steady your nerves, or get rid of a hangover?

Those who answered yes, even to one question, may have a problem with alcohol.

TRICARE has information at www.tricare.mil/ProviderDirectory/http://www.tricare.mil/mtf and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment at 1-800-662-HELP can help find a local resource.

For more information on safety, visit www.public.navy.mil/commnavsafecen.

Hazel Ying Lee flew for U.S. military



U.S. Air Force photo

Hazel Ying Lee, the first Chinese American woman aviator, was also the first Chinese American woman to fly for the United States military. She joined the Women Airforce Service Pilots and was trained to ferry aircraft. She delivered transport aircraft, but she also flew more powerful fighters, such as the P-63 Kingcobra, to their destinations. She was killed in the line of duty ferrying the P-63, the last WASP to die in service to her country. May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.



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USS Michael Murphy returns home after successful seven-month deployment

Ensign Kelly Lorentson

*USS Michael Murphy
(DDG 112) Public Affairs*

After a successful seven-month deployment, USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) returned Thursday to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH)

Friends, families and fellow service members lined the harbor and gathered on the pier to welcome the ship home as it finished the last leg of its maiden deployment.

While deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR), Michael Murphy promoted security and stability throughout the western Pacific region. In total, the ship spent nearly 200 days underway and conducted more than 800 flight hours with the ship's attached helicopter squadron, Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 37, Detachment 4.

"Although time away from family and friends is hard, the most rewarding time in a Sailor's career is deployment when they have the opportunity to see the result of their hard work, from boot camp, to 'A' and 'C' schools, through the ship's training cycle," said Cmdr. Todd Hutchison, Michael Murphy's commanding officer.

"The crew performed magnificently and also had the



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan

The guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) returns to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam May 21 from its maiden deployment. *(See additional photos on page A-5.)*

opportunity to enjoy some liberty in places like Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong. We were proud to represent our nation and our Navy on deployment and are very thankful to be home," Hutchison said.

Michael Murphy began deployment by patrolling the western Pacific Ocean for illegal fishing and other crimes during a joint operation with the U.S. Coast Guard known as the Oceania Maritime Security Initiative (OMSI). From there, the ship continued operations in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, conducting security patrols and

normalizing U.S. presence in the region.

Focusing on building relations and strengthening alliances with foreign navies, Michael Murphy conducted several military exchanges with ships from the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), the Republic of Korea (ROK) navy and the French navy.

While operating in waters near the Korean Peninsula, Michael Murphy participated in Foal Eagle 2015, an annual defense-oriented training exercise with the ROK navy, designed to increase readiness and main-

tain stability in the Korean Peninsula as well as promote ROK-U.S. interoperability.

One of the more memorable events of Michael Murphy's maiden deployment was the successful execution of Multi-Sail 2015, a multi-day training exercise near Guam involving several U.S. 7th Fleet assets and special operations forces (SOF) working alongside several JMSDF ships.

While embarked aboard Michael Murphy, SOF combined efforts with the crew to conduct advanced maritime interdiction operations and visit, board, search and

seizure training to exercise the dynamic and far-reaching capabilities of U.S. 7th Fleet and SOF assets and operations.

In addition to underway operations, Michael Murphy made many port calls to foreign countries and cities, including Malaysia, Japan, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea and Hong Kong. While visiting these ports, Sailors enjoyed local attractions and activities through Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) sponsored tours and events.

Some of the more popular tours included white water rafting and elephant riding

in Thailand, hiking Mount Kinabalu in Malaysia, trips to Disneyland and Macau while in Hong Kong, a ride on the Singapore flyer and visit to the night zoo in Singapore, and trips to Nagasaki while in Japan.

"Hitting a new port can be overwhelming because of all the places to see and activities to do. It's nice to know MWR already has tours filled with great places to visit, so I can get the most out of my liberty," said Fire Controlman 2nd Class Jonathan Carrillo.

"Some of my best memories from deployment were from tours that provided an easy way to experience the local culture," he said.

Many Sailors also volun-

teered to participate in community relations (COMREL) projects coordinated prior to each port visit between the ship and the host country. Sailors cleaned a local beach in Malaysia, painted and landscaped for two local orphanages in Thailand, played sports with children at St. George's Girls home, and prepared meals at a soup kitchen in Singapore. They also visited with residents of the Korean Rehabilitation Center in South Korea and Po Leung Kuk Wong Chuk Hang home for the elderly in Hong Kong.

"For me, coordinating and participating in the COMRELs was a way to help project a positive image for our Navy and our country," said Fire Controlman Chief Ryan York, Michael Murphy's community relations coordinator.

"The best part of it was seeing all the smiling faces and appreciation from those that we interacted with and helped throughout the deployment," York said.

Michael Murphy is named for Lt. (SEAL) Michael P. Murphy, a New York native who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during Operation Red Wings in Afghanistan in 2005.

The ship is homeported at JBPHH, Hawaii.

Giving honu a helping hand

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) personnel and volunteers from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam help return a honu (sea turtle) to the wild at Keehi Lagoon on May 14. The turtle was found entangled in fishing gear by a Hickam marina staffer, who called the JBPHH "turtle phone" to report a sea animal in distress. NOAA's turtle research program determined the turtle was a 185-pound healthy male but in need of surgery. His flipper was severely damaged and was surgically removed. The turtle was cared for and spent time rehabilitating in a pool before being returned to the wild. For off-base sighting of marine species in need of assistance, call NOAA during business hours at 725-5730 or after hours at 288-5685. A story on the turtle rescue appeared on page 1 of the May 8 issue of Ho'okele.





Commissaries announce Memorial Day hours

In observance of Memorial Day, May 25, the Pearl Harbor Commissary will open at 9 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. The Hickam Commissary's hours on Memorial Day will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call the Pearl Harbor Commissary at 471-8402, ext. 101 or the Hickam Commissary at 449-1363.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam Highlights



(Left) Electronics Technician 1st Class Roel Cabales greets his daughter as the guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) returns May 21 to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam from its maiden deployment.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jeff Troutman

(Right) Fire Controlman 2nd Class James Masterson of the guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) proposes to his girlfriend Tiani as the ship returns to JBPHH.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jeff Troutman



(Left) Cmdr. Patrick Friedman, right, passes command of the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Columbia (SSN 771) to Cmdr. David Edgerton at a ceremony held May 15. It was overseen by Capt. Craig Blakely, commander of Submarine Squadron 7.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Steven Khor

(Right) Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Charles Beebe, assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90), says goodbye to his dog prior to the ship's departure from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for an independent deployment.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Diana Quinlan



Pearl Harbor Colors salute keeping fleet ‘fit to fight’



(Left) The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Honors and Ceremonies Guard renders honors to the U.S. flag during the playing of the national anthem during the Pearl Harbor Colors ceremony held May 21 at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. The theme for this month's event was "Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard: 107 Years of Keeping the fleet 'fit to fight.'"

Photo by David Tomiyama

(Below) Sailors from Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY&IMF) pay their respects to the national anthem during the Pearl Harbor Colors Ceremony at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, May 21. More than 300 Shipyard Sailors participated in the monthly ceremony and nearly 1,700 civilian visitors viewed or attended the ceremony.

Photo by Danielle Jones



Safety centers offer Memorial Day holiday tips for Sailors, Airmen

Don Robbins

Editor, Ho'okele

As the summer season begins, Sailors, Airmen and their families will gear up to celebrate the Memorial Day holiday this weekend.

Here are some tips on ways to keep safe throughout the entire year, including during the upcoming holiday weekend (which begins the Critical Days of Summer campaign).

Driving

- Are you careful at intersections? It may not be safe to assume that others are going to do the right thing.

- Are you focused when operating a vehicle? Staying focused (not distracted), keeping your eyes on the road, and being aware of other drivers, can help prevent accidents.

- Do you ever drink and drive? It is wise to plan your transportation in advance, if you drink. And if you drink, don't drive!

- Do you drive if you are tired? It is advisable to drive when you are well-rested instead.

- Do you use your turn signals to avoid making any sudden moves?

Beach safety

- Do you protect your skin? Do you limit the amount of direct sunlight you receive between 10

a.m. and 2 p.m. and, wear a sunscreen with a sun protection factor containing a high rating such as 15?

- Do you drink plenty of water regularly and often even if you do not feel thirsty? Your body needs water to keep cool.

- Do you watch for signs of heat stroke? Heat stroke is life-threatening. Signs include hot, red, and dry skin; changes in consciousness, rapid, weak pulse, and rapid, shallow breathing.

Grilling food

- Do you keep your grill at least three feet away from your house, porch, shed, trees or bushes?

- Do you use starter fluid that is made especially for barbecue grills? Do you follow the instructions about how to apply and light it?

- If you have a gas grill, do you make sure you read and follow the instructions about how to use and store it and remember never to leave lit grills unattended?

Swimming pools and kids

- If you're at a pool with children who are either very young or who can't swim, do you make sure they are never left alone, even if they aren't in the water?

- If you are taking care of an infant or toddler, do you make sure to keep them within arm's reach?

- Have you learned about rescue swimming and taken a CPR course? You never know when you might have to rescue someone.

- Do you make sure you have life preservers handy?

Boating

- Have you learned to swim?

- Do you make sure you are not drinking while boating?

- Do you wear an approved life jacket, and make sure your passengers do, too?

(For more information on safety, visit Naval Safety Center at <http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil> or the Air Force Safety Center at <http://www.afsec.af.mil/index.asp>.)



Online

<http://www.hookelenews.com/> or visit

<https://www.cnmc.navy.mil/Hawaii/index.htm>





U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Charles E. White

The Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) visits Pearl Harbor in 2014.

USNS Mercy departs for Pacific Partnership

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO—The hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) departed May 17 for a four-month deployment in support of the Navy’s Pacific Partnership 2015.

The 10th iteration of the U.S. Pacific Fleet’s annual Pacific Partnership mission will take place in the Southeast Asia and Oceania regions over a four-month period beginning in late May.

Host nations will include Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Philippines, Solomon Islands and Vietnam.

Working at the invitation of each host nation, U.S. Navy forces will be joined by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and regional partners that include

Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Canada, Timor Leste, Fiji and France to improve maritime security, conduct humanitarian assistance, and strengthen disaster response preparedness.

Born out of the devastation wrought by the 2004 tsunami that swept through parts of Southeast Asia, Pacific Partnership began as a military-led humanitarian response to one of the world’s most catastrophic natural disasters. Building on the success and goodwill of this operation, the hospital ship USNS Mercy returned to the region in 2006 for the inaugural Pacific Partnership mission.

The mission staff expanded to include partner nation militaries and NGOs working to increase the disaster relief capabilities of

Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines and East Timor. Since then, Pacific Partnership has grown in scope and size.

Navy Capt. Christopher Engdahl, commander of the Everett, Washington-based Destroyer Squadron 9, will lead this year’s mission from Mercy. Also deploying for the Pacific Partnership mission for the first time will be the Joint High Speed Vessel USNS Millinocket (JHSV 3), with embarked elements of the 30th Naval Construction Regiment.

Partner nation militaries and government agencies, NGOs and host nation planning efforts have focused on collaborative efforts with professionals in the fields of medicine, dentistry, veterinary, public health services, engineering and disaster response.

Life & Leisure



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden
Airmen from 647th Security Forces Squadron and Sailors began their Police on Patrol Parade before making their way through Hickam Communities to kick off Police Week, May 11, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Aaron Oelrich
Personnel from 15th Wing and Joint Base leadership, enforcement officers from JBPBH and local community as well as Airmen, Sailors, Coast Guardsmen and civilians, look on as members of the honor guard raise the flag to half-staff in honor of National Peace Officers' Memorial Day at JBPBH on May 15.

Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden
15th Wing Public Affairs

In the spirit of commemorating Peace Officers' Memorial Day, Col. Michael Florio, U.S. Pacific Command anti-terrorism/critical infrastructure protection division chief and ceremony guest speaker, spoke May 15 in detail about what it means to be a peace officer.

"There is no greater love than this, to lay down one's life for his friend," he said.

In 1962, President Kennedy declared May 15 as National Peace Officers' Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls as National Police Week. Since then, Police Week has served as a time to pay special recognition to law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

"Your presence today pays tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice," Florio told the crowd of 15th Wing and Joint Base leadership, joint law enforcement officers and Airmen, Sailors and Coast Guardsmen in attendance.

Florio said it's both a great privilege and responsibility to serve and protect and encouraged the group of law enforcement officers to never become complacent.

"We are called to mourn those who gave their lives in the line of duty," he said.

In addition to the closing ceremony, the 647th Security Forces Squadron defenders hosted several community events throughout the week, which began May 11 with a 5K ruck march. A parade through Hickam Communities and a police fair at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange also gave the defenders an opportunity to interact with the local community while demonstrating some of their unique capabilities.

"This is about building relationships in the community," said Tech. Sgt. Burt Tagaloa, 647th SFS police services NCO in charge.

"We're out there for them every day, but a lot of times people don't know that because they don't see us. We wanted to celebrate the state and federal officers who wear the badge and who have worn the badge, raise awareness, and thank the community for their support," he said.

Lt. Col. Juan Silva Jr., 647th SFS commander, said there are more than 900,000 law enforcement officers within the United States, each serving within their own communities and throughout the nation, and police week is about honoring their heritage.

"We take time out to thank our communities as the relationship between a citizen and a law enforcement officer is critical," he said.

"We know that we police our communities together. At the end of police week, we recognize Peace Officer's Memorial Day as a day we pay tribute and honor

those law enforcement officers across the nation who lost their lives in the line of duty as we remember them for their bravery and willingness to protect and serve the innocent."

Silva said though law enforcement can at times be a thankless profession, those who wear the badge understand that it's not about the recognition, but the service.

"Let us not forget, we have lost security department Navy civilians, Navy master-of-arms and USAF defenders in the line of duty, and we offer our deepest sympathy and respect to their families and friends," he said.

"They will always be remembered."



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech Sgt. Aaron Oelrich
Staff Sgt. Matthew Zantene, 647th Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, dressed in a dog training personnel protective outfit, runs from a 647th Security Forces Squadron military working dog during a National Police Week fair demonstration May 13 at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech Sgt. Terri Paden
Airmen from 647th Security Forces Squadron took to the streets of Earhart Village for their Police on Patrol Parade through Hickam Communities to kick off Police Week, May 11 at JBPBH.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech Sgt. Terri Paden
Airmen from 647th Security Forces Squadron hand out candy during their Police on Patrol Parade through Hickam Communities at JBPBH.



U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Aaron Oelrich
Airmen from the 647th Security Forces Squadron participate in a 2.5-mile ruck march May 11 to kick off Police Week.

Photo Illustration

Division-leading Pound Town thumps 15th MXG

Story and photos by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor, Ho'okele

The showdown between the top two teams in the White Division turned out to be a one-sided affair as 647th Security Forces Squadron Pound Town scored the first 11 runs and then cruised to a 15-2 victory over the 15th Maintenance Group (15 MXG) on May 19 at Millican Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Pound Town, the defending intramural softball champions, raised their current record to a perfect 6-0 while the 15 MXG lost only for the second time against four wins.

“We thought this would be a tougher game, but we jumped on them early,” said Pound Town pitcher Eddie Silva. “We scored the first 11 runs and then put the pressure on them.”

There was nothing fancy about Pound Town’s decisive victory as the team went to basics to build up a huge lead.

In the top of the first inning, Pound Town led off with three straight singles to score the first run of the game.

The RBI single came off the bat of Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Cameron Bowman, who laced a liner to center field for the first run.

Then singles by Master-at-Arms 2nd

Class Dennis Lewis and Senior Airman Joe Szczech plated runs two and three before Senior Airman Jace Henry blasted a triple to drive in two more runs and take a 5-0 lead after the top of the first inning.

In their next turn at-bat, Pound Town picked up right where they left off by marching eight batters to the plate to score three more runs.

The big hit in the inning was a shot by Staff Sgt. Jordan Locke that handcuffed the second baseman and allowed two runs to score.

“When I step up to the plate, my number one priority is to hit the ball hard,” Locke said. “I’m not looking to do anything crazy with it. If you hit the ball hard, you’re going to get hits.”

Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Devyn McNeil made it 9-0 with an RBI single in the top of the third, and in the next inning Locke picked up RBI number three with a single en route to a three-run fourth and a 12-0 lead.

The MXG finally got on board with two runs in the bottom of the fourth, but Pound Town, behind two more RBIs by Locke, scored three times in the top of the fifth to put the game away for good.

Although the game was played with first place at stake, Locke said that no matter who they play, Pound Town just comes to win.



Staff Sgt. Jordan Locke lines a single to drive in two of his five RBIs to help Pound Town defeat the 15th MXG.

“We approached this game like any other game,” Locke said. “It doesn’t matter if they’re 0-5 or 5-0, we approach the game the same way. We come out here to win. Our number one goal is base hits. Base hits win games and defense as well.”

Silva, who has been a part of the Pound Town’s amazing four-year run that saw the team win two intramural championships and reach the finals three out of four seasons, said that although there are many new players on this year’s squad, the team is just as competitive as in previous seasons.

“I want to say that we’re just reloading, but I don’t want to sound too cocky,” Silva said. “We’re very loose. It’s a very good bunch of guys. I think we’ve got the most speed that we’ve ever had and good camaraderie.”

Locke agreed with Silva and added that if Pound Town just does what they know they can do, then the team should be in for another stellar season.

“We just come out here and do our thing,” said Locke, who also remarked that the team doesn’t mind playing with a bulls-eye on their backs. “Hit after hit, that stuff is contagious. After a couple of hits, we all get in the groove and those hits turn into runs.”



Pound Town second baseman Senior Airman Brian Jurek catches 1st Lt. James Johnson in a rundown for an out.

STORY IDEAS?

Contact the
Ho'okele editor
for guidelines
and story/photo
submission
requirements

Phone:
(808) 473-2890

or email:
editor@hookelenews.com

 **HO'OKELE**

Our Community Salutes recognizes U.S. Armed Forces enlistees

Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt.
Aaron Oelrich

15th Wing Public Affairs

Oahu's high school seniors planning to join the U.S. Armed Forces were honored by the local community during the Our Community Salutes (OCS) recognition ceremony May 17 at the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

Our Community Salutes is a community-based initiative to recognize and honor graduating high school seniors who plan to join the Armed Forces

after graduation. Our Community Salutes is made up of military members, veterans, community leaders, educators and businesspersons who value the importance of the young men and women who have volunteered to serve their country.

Enlistees joining the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force and Air National Guard were recognized during the ceremony. Each enlistee received a certificate of appreciation and an OCS coin for their dedication to the country.

U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Finis A. Dodson,

94th Army Air Missile Defense Command, provided the enlistees with his advice as a military member and guest speaker at the event.

"Lead from the front. Don't expect your Soldiers to do something that you are not willing to do yourself," Dodson said. "Remain mentally and physically fit. Execute orders in your own name," he said.

"Become the expert in whatever you are doing. Trust but verify. Take care of Soldiers by making sure they are ready to fight. Dream big, but focus small. It's not time to reach for the senior grade yet. Most of all have fun."

Hawaii State Sen. Fred Hemmings also addressed the enlistees, sharing these thoughts.

"I want you to leave here optimistic and knowing that you have the full support of this nation," Hemmings said. "You have great men and women who have gone before you who will reach back and help you along. Your officers, sergeant majors, and all those in the military are eager to have you become a part of their band of brothers and sisters."



U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Finis A. Dodson, 94th Army Air Missile Defense Command, speaks during the Our Community Salutes recognition ceremony.

Many of the enlistees had different reasons for joining the military.

Theodore Hayashi, a U.S. Navy enlistee from Kailua High School, said he had an interest in the military from a young age.

"I have wanted to join the ROTC since I was little, so when I got into high school, I tried it out and liked it," said Hayashi. "I climbed through the ranks of cadet, lieutenant colonel, group commander.

It gave me many experiences and shaped what I was going to do after high school to serve the country."

For Curtis Colipano, a U.S. Air Force National Guard enlistee from Damien Memorial School, military runs in the family.

"I chose the Air Force National Guard because my dad is in the Air Force National Guard," said Colipano. "I grew up watching him and knew

that is what I wanted to do."

This was the second year the OCS recognition ceremony has been held in Hawaii. The OCS ceremony started in southern New Jersey in 2009 and has now spread across the nation.

"I think the event is cool," said Auggieray Alvarez a U.S. Army enlistee from Farrington High school. "It is nice that they are recognizing us for joining the military."

NSSC picks up third win with rally over Coast Guard

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor, Ho'okele

Down by a score of 3-0, Naval Sea Systems Command (NSSC) Longshots overtook U.S. Coast Guard Base Honolulu in the bottom of the fourth inning and then hung on to a 13-10 win on May 18 in a Red Division intramural softball game at Ward Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The win drew the Longhorns one game closer to .500 at 3-4 while the Coast Guard lost for only the second time, now two in a row, to fall to 4-2.

"I knew they (Coast Guard) were good," said Chief Cryptologic Technician (Maintenance) K.C. Knopik. "I think it's just staying confident. Just thinking base hits mainly because if you go out there and try and kill it, you're just going to pop up or something."

While NSSC was thinking small ball, Coast Guard, with a lineup stocked with power hitters, including All-Armed Forces player Storekeeper 2nd Class Niko Langas, put their muscle on display in their very first at-bat.

In the top of the first inning, with one out, Yeoman 3rd Class Taylor Femmer stepped into the batter's box and put the hammer on a pitch.



Machinist's Mate 1st Class Adam Zimmer makes contact for a hit. Zimmer and his teammates scored six times in the bottom of the fourth to help the NSSC Longshots defeat the Coast Guard.

The ball continued to rise and finally descended past the left-field fence and dropped onto North Road for a 1-0 lead.

Femmer's blast traveled approximately 340 feet and is one of the few softballs ever parked outside of the spacious Ward Field.

"I knew it was gone right when I hit it," Femmer said. "The wind helped me a little and it just kept going."

Teammate Electrician's Mate

1st Class Micah Curimao topped off the first inning with a two-run single to take a 3-0 lead.

The Longshots got a run back in the bottom of the second on an error that allowed Electronics Technician 1st Class Kyle Longnecker to round the bases, but the Coast Guard got it back in the top of the third on an RBI single from Machinery Technician 3rd Class Rocky Recio.

Back down by three runs, the Longshots got out to a great start in the bottom of the third by loading up the bases with no outs.

A run came home on an infield hit by Longnecker and then Chief Electrician's Mate Mike Reuss lofted a fly ball for a sacrifice fly to drive in another run, but a throwing error back into the infield allowed the Longshots to clear the bases and take their first lead

of the game at 6-4.

The Coast Guard came back in the top of the fourth to retake the lead with a three-run inning, but that would be their final advantage of the game.

In the bottom of the fourth, the Longshots scored six times to go up by a score of 12-7.

The big hit in the inning came off Knopik, who smashed a drive over the top and rolled to the outfield fence for a three-run inside-the-park homer.

"I was just thinking base hit," Knopik said about his long drive. "I was trying to get it off the ground, like a line drive over second base. I started to burn it, when I saw it (the ball) go over him (the outfielder)."

The fourth-inning rally proved to be big enough to hold off the Coast Guard and raise the Longshots to victory.

While the Longshots have been on a rollercoaster ride throughout the first seven games of the season, the win over a tough Coast Guard team seems to bode well for the squad's fortunes in the second half of the year.

Knopik said that if the Longshots show up with a full lineup each time they take the field, the team should be hard to beat.

"We got a good squad," Knopik pointed out. "If we all show up and play like we know we can, that's the main thing."

Shipyard comes from behind to oust 15th MXG 'B'

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor, Ho'okele

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard (PHNSY) fell behind late in the second half, but ultimately prevailed over a tough 15th Maintenance Group (15 MXG) "B" squad, 4-2, on May 16 in an intramural soccer semifinal playoff game at Quick Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The win ushered the defending Summer Soccer League and current Red Division champs into the intramural championship against Blue Division title-holder Pacific Command/ Joint Intelligence Operation Center/Pacific Fleet (PACOM JIOC/PACFLT) which will be May 23 at Earhart Field starting at 9 a.m.

"We're going to take advantage of this, and we're going to come strong next week," said PHNSY team captain Moussa Niang, who is a Department of Defense civilian. "Hopefully, we'll take the trophy home again."

To win it all, PHNSHY will have to bring their "A" game

against a very loaded and talented PACOM JIOC/PACFLT team.

While Shipyard was able to overcome a slow start against the 15th MXG, things might not turn out so well if they falter out of the gates next time around.

"Shipyard does not play well when we're down," Niang admitted. "We just have to get out and play our game."

Although Shipyard got the first goal on a penalty kick by Gas Turbine Systems (Electrical) 3rd Class Terry Gross, the team struggled in the first half to maintain a consistent press on offense.

Then, after a scoreless first half by the MXG, the team finally broke through early in the second half on a goal by Staff Sgt. Jason White to tie the score at 1-1.

"I don't think the goalie was expecting a shot," White said. "I took a quick peek, and I think I might have caught him off guard."

The score remained tied for the next few minutes, but then White struck again to put the MXG ahead at 2-1.

"That one was just good positioning," said White about his second kick for goal. "I just hap-

pened to be in the right place at the right time."

White's second goal seemed to put the MXG in a prime position to defeat Shipyard, as the team seemed to be controlling most the action.

Just when things looked to be going all of the MXG's way, Shipyard managed to finally break through to the top of the box for a shot at goal.

Although the first shot missed the mark and ricocheted off the right upright, Fire Control Technician 2nd Class Christopher Pesantes followed the caromed ball and booted it into the net for the tie.

"I was just trying to get it to the goal," Pesantes said. "I just took the rebound after it (the ball) bounced off."

With approximately three minutes remaining on the clock, it appeared that the game was headed for a shootout, but Gross had other things on his mind.

Chasing down a free ball, Gross caught up with the ball and made an incredible off-balance header for a goal and a 3-2 lead.

Moments later, Gross put the game away for good by completing a fast break with a goal on a



Gas Turbine Systems (Electrical) 3rd Class Terry Gross sneaks the ball past the reach of goalkeeper Senior Airman Trevor Gibbins on a penalty kick.

one-on-one opportunity against the goalkeeper.

"That guy is selfless," said Niang about Gross. "If there is a way to score a goal, he can do it. Any way he can score a goal, he'll get it for us. I don't know how he does it, but he's amazing."

With everything on the line next week, Niang said that he hopes that Shipyard will be able to field a full lineup and that

defense will be the key.

Another factor in the game, Niang admitted, will be the new turf that was installed at Earhart Field.

"It's been a long time since I've played on an artificial field, so yeah, it will make a difference," he noted. "If we see we're struggling, we'll make adjustments. But again, we're just going to come out hard and play to win."



Live the Great Life

‘Read to the Rhythm’ at library

Justin Hirai

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Morale, Welfare and Recreation

The Department of Defense and Joint Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation 2015 Summer Reading Program will be held from May 27 through July 18 at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Library.

The program will begin with the summer reading kickoff from 10 a.m. to noon May 27 at the library. Attendees can receive online registration help and a goody bag. Those who are unable to attend the kickoff event can stop by the library during normal business hours and ask for registration assistance

The theme this year is “Read to the Rhythm,” which encourages participants to explore music via reading, hands-on crafts, activities and entertainment.

Those who participate in the reading program can earn prizes by completing reading goals and logging them during the allotted time frame.

The age group the reader falls into determines their spe-

cific reading goals and prizes. There are four age groups: “read-to-me and beginner” readers from birth to age 7; “I can read chapter book readers” from ages 8 to 12; teens from ages 13 to 18; and adults ages 19 and older.

“The core purpose of the summer reading program is to introduce very young children to the library and reading, to keep school age kids and ‘adult kids’ of all ages engaged in a lifetime love of reading,” said Phyllis Frenzel, JBPHH Library director.

“The main programming purpose is to achieve an optimal blend of independent learning via reading, hands on craft activities and even enter-

tainment to create happy reading memories,” she said.

Weekly activities like the hands-on crafts and entertainment take place throughout the duration of the program.

Making playable instruments with recycled materials and a family or group rap recital are a few examples of what is scheduled. A performance and instrument demonstration by the Pacific Fleet jazz and pop combo is also planned.

Patrons who would like to self-register online can do so at EVANCED: <https://usaf.evanced.info/hickam/sr/homepage.asp> beginning May 27. They can also call the library at 449-8299.



The annual summer reading program from the Department of Defense and JBPHH Morale, Welfare and Recreation is designed to encourage reading from a very young age up to adulthood.

MWR concert set for Memorial Day

Reid Tokeshi

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Morale, Welfare and Recreation



Courtesy of Kristian Bush

Morale, Welfare and Recreation’s Memorial Day concert, featuring Kristian Bush, will be held Monday at Ward Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The outdoor concert is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. Country music performer Kristian Bush will take the stage on Memorial Day at Ward Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Admission is free and is open to all of those with base access and their guests.

Country music fans know Kristian Bush as half of the musical duo Sugarland. The group garnered multiple Grammy, Academy of Country Music and Country Music Association awards over the last decade.

Bush released his first solo effort, “Southern Gravity” last month, and Monday’s concert will feature songs from his album, including the hit song “Trailer Hitch.”

DJ Bryan Gray will entertain the crowd from 3:30 to

5:30 p.m. with music, prize giveaways and more.

For the safety and security of patrons, the following guidelines have been established. Authorized items include small clutches, blankets and folding chairs. All items are subject to search. Outside food and beverage, pets, backpacks, bags/totes, purses, umbrellas, video/audio recorders and tents are not authorized.

For a complete list of authorized and unauthorized items, go to www.greatlifehawaii.com.

Your Weekly Fun with MWR

Visit www.greatlifehawaii.com or subscribe to MWR’s digital magazine Great Life Hawaii.



Memorial Day Softball Tournament will be held today through May 25 at various fields. There is no admission fee for spectators. FMI: 473-2494, 473-2437.

Free Golf Clinic will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday at Mamala Bay Golf Course. FMI: 449-2304.

PeeWee Flag Football Registration period opens May 25 and closes June 19 for youth ages 3 to 5 years old. The season runs July 11 through Sept. 29. The registration fee is \$35, and registration is available at www.greatlifehawaii.com. FMI: 473-0789.

Preschool Story Time will begin at 9 a.m. May 27 at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Library. The theme will be “rhythm band.” FMI: 449-8299.

Intramural Volleyball Coaches Meeting will begin at 1 p.m. May 27 at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center. The league runs June 24 through September and is limited to commands from JBPHH. Any additional active-duty members not belonging to a command team will come from a players’ pool. There is no registration fee. FMI: 473-2494, 473-2437.

Mongolian BBQ will be offered from 5:30 to 8 p.m. May 28 on the

lanai of the Historic Hickam Officers’ Club. A variety of meats, vegetables and sauces will be available. Rice, noodles, soup, beverages and fortune cookies are included. FMI: 448-4608.

All-Military Surf Classic Registration deadline is May 30 for a meet to be held June 6 at White Plains Beach, Kalaeloa (Barbers Point). The meet is open to active-duty, Reservists, retired, Department of Defense civilians and family members only. “Sponsoring” someone into the event is not allowed. Participants may enter one division only, with the exception of active-duty members, who may enter two

divisions. The rules and entry form are available at www.greatlifehawaii.com. Entry fees are to be determined. FMI: 682-4925.

Spearfishing Excursion will begin at 9 a.m. May 30 at the MWR Outdoor Recreation-Hickam Harbor office. Participants need to have taken MWR’s “Learn to Spearfish” course, as the skills needed for this activity are moderate to difficult. The cost is \$20. Sign-up deadline is May 28. FMI: 449-5215.

Biking the North Shore excursion will begin at 9 a.m. May 30. MWR Outdoor Adventure Center staff will

lead participants on a seven-mile round-trip ride on level terrain from Waimea Bay to Sunset Beach. The cost is \$25 including a bicycle or \$20 without. The sign-up deadline is May 28. FMI: 473-1198.

Chuck Milligan Comedy Hypnosis Shows will be held May 30-31 at Sharkey Theater. The adult-themed show (18 years and older) will be held May 30 at 7 p.m. The all-hands show will be held May 31 at 5 p.m. Participation on stage is limited to those ages 14 years and older, and seating is limited to the first 300 patrons. The show is free, and no tickets are needed. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com.

Community Calendar

**MAY
MFSC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
NOW** — The JBPHH Military and Family Support Center is seeking volunteers. FMI: Susan Hodge at 474-1999.

**KEIKI ID EVENT
SATURDAY** — A free keiki (child) ID event for authorized patrons will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange mall children’s department. The Honolulu Police Department will provide photos for the children’s IDs. FMI: 423-3287.

**MOVIE NIGHT
SATURDAY** — The movie “Big Hero 6” will be shown at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange lower parking lot. Patrons can pick up their admission tickets from the NEX aloha center concierge desk prior to movie night. Seating is limited to the first 150 authorized patrons who should be prepared to present an authorized patronage ID. Seating starts at 6:30 p.m. and the movie starts at 7 p.m. FMI: 423-3287.

**STAR WARS CHARACTERS
SUNDAY** — Star Wars characters Luke Skywalker, a Jedi knight and Storm Troopers will make an appearance and greet fans at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange mall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event is free for authorized patrons. FMI: 423-3287.

**FINANCIAL SEMINAR
27** — A financial seminar titled Financially Savvy Retirees will be held from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Military and Family Support Center Pearl Harbor. Financial experts will discuss topics such as estate planning, wills and trusts, protection against fraud and long-term care. Visit www.greatlifehawaii.com to register. FMI: 474-1999.

**HICKAM RADIOLOGY CLOSURE
28** — The Hickam radiology department will be closed from May 28 to July 15 for major construction and equipment upgrades. The closest military radiology facility is Naval Health Clinic Hawaii Makalapa clinic, JBPHH. FMI: 473-1880, ext. 2200.

**CULTURAL SHOWCASE
29** — A cultural showcase for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Sharkey Theater on the Pearl Harbor side of the base, followed by a special lunch until 12:30 p.m. at the Silver Dolphin Bistro galley. The cost of the lunch is \$5.55 per person. FMI: kon.lee@us.af.mil or 449-3639.

**COLOR YOUR SUMMER
30** — A Color Your Summer 2.0 event will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. at the JBPHH Teen Center, building 1859. The event for teens ages 13 to 18 will include a variety of “color games,” so teens should wear white or black and be ready to get dirty. The colors are similar to what are used in 5K color runs. The cost is \$5. Food will be provided. Shuttle service will be provided from Hickam Memorial Theatre leaving at 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. to Sharkey Theatre. It will leave Sharkey Theatre at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 1 p.m. FMI: 448-0418 or www.greatlifehawaii.com.

**CHUCK MILLIGAN COMEDY HYPNOSIS
30, 31** — Chuck Milligan will perform a free adult-themed comedy hypnosis show for patrons ages 18 and older from 7 to 9 p.m. May 30 at building 628, Moore St. In addition, Milligan will perform a show for teens from 5 to 7 p.m. May 31 at 1859 McChord St. Shows are open to military-affiliated personnel, Department of Defense cardholders and their sponsored guests. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com.

**JUNE
BATTLE OF MIDWAY COMMEMORATIONS
4,6** — Marking the 73rd anniversary of the Battle of Midway, two special programs will be held at Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor. The events will feature Craig L. Symonds, one of America’s leading naval historians and an award-winning author. A free presentation for military families will begin at 3 p.m. June 4 in the museum theater, followed by a reception and book signing by the author in the museum gallery of hangar 37. In addition, a presentation for the public will begin at 1:30 p.m. June 6 in the museum theater, followed by a book signing in the museum gallery of hangar 37. FMI: 441-1000, or www.PacificAviationMuseum.org.



THE AGE OF ADALINE (PG 13)

After miraculously remaining 29 years old for almost eight decades, Adaline Bowman has lived a solitary existence, never allowing herself to get close to anyone who might reveal her secret. But a chance encounter with charismatic philanthropist Ellis Jones reignites her passion for life and romance. When a weekend with his parents threatens to uncover the truth, Adaline makes a decision that will change her life forever.

Movie Showtimes

SHARKEY THEATER

TODAY 5/22
7:00 PM Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2 (PG)

SATURDAY 5/23
2:30 PM Little Boy (PG 13)
4:40 PM The Age of Adaline (PG 13)
7:00 PM Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2 (PG)

SUNDAY 5/24
2:30 PM Little Boy (PG 13)
4:40 PM Furious 7 (PG 13)
7:20 PM Unfriended (R)

THURSDAY 5/28
7:00 PM The Age of Adaline (PG 13)

HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER

TODAY 5/22
6:00 PM Home 3-D (PG)

SATURDAY 5/23
4:00 PM Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2 (PG)
7:00 PM Furious 7 (PG 13)

SUNDAY 5/24
2:00 PM Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2 (PG)

THURSDAY 5/28
7:00 PM Unfriended (R)

Combined Military Band Concert honors military service

Story and photo by
MC2 Jeff Troutman

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West,
Det. Hawaii

The 30th Annual Combined Military Band Concert kicked off Military Appreciation Month and Armed Forces Day as military musicians played a free concert May 16 at the historic Hawaii Theatre in Honolulu.

The Navy League of the United States Honolulu Council sponsored the free concert, which featured 60 musicians from all four branches of the U.S. military including the Army National Guard.

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr. opened the concert with remarks about the important tradition of musicians serve in the military and their role in helping maintain peace and prosperity.

“It’s most fitting that we’re here tonight to celebrate National Military Appreciation Month, as we honor both current and former members of the U.S. armed forces who have defended our honor and freedom for the past 239 years,” said Harris.

“For as long as there’s been a U.S. military, there’s

been a military band. Tonight’s concert is a tribute to those who have served, who currently serve, and to the loved ones who support us while we serve.”

The performance lasted more than two hours and featured an array of both traditional music and popular jazz and country songs of the past 50 years.

Navy Lt. Patrick Sweeten, a conductor of the Combined Military Band, said the performance signified not just a group of musicians sharing a stage together, but a symbol of unity across our country’s military branches.

“What you saw on stage tonight, collectively, is nearly 900 years of military service to our great nation,” said Sweeten. “All five bands who came together for this show feature outstanding musicians, and it was evident in their performance here tonight.”

Many of the audience members routinely attended the annual performance each year, and several spoke of both the professionalism and the proficiency of the musicians’ performance.

“I make it a point to come every year to support these young men and women, and I’m never disappointed,” said Ann Ruby, an Army

veteran currently living in Honolulu.

“The music, combined with the historical videos and photos displayed on the projector screen behind the musicians, makes for an incredibly moving experience. I’m already looking forward to next year’s show.”

One of the highlights of the evening’s performance belonged to the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band Pacific Partnership acoustic trio, led by Musician 3rd Class Steven LaMonica, who performed an acoustic cover of 2012 American Idol winner Phillip Phillips’ hit song “Home.”

“That young man’s performance of that song was unbelievable,” said Donald Bloss, an attendee from Kaneohe. “I looked around after that last note rang out and the people around me — including myself — had tears in their eyes. It was an awesome performance and such an honor for these military members to share their talents with us here tonight.”

National Military Appreciation Month encourages U.S. citizens to observe May as a symbol of patriotic unity, to honor current and former members of the U.S. armed forces, as well as those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace.

Heritage month luncheon set

A special meal in honor of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month will be offered from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. May 29 at the Silver Dolphin Bistro.

The price is \$5.55 and the meal is open to active duty military, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and family members of active duty military with valid ID cards.

The meal will include pork sinigang

soup, lechon roast pork, huli huli chicken, beef and broccoli, shrimp pancit miki, vegetable fried rice, steamed jasmine rice, stir-fried vegetables, seasoned green peas, fried lumpia with sweet sour sauce, hot pandesal, pan de coco, Asian style macaroni salad, haupia cream pie, chocolate chip cookies, coconut bread pudding and assorted ice cream. For more information, call 473-2519.



U.S. Navy Lt. Patrick Sweeten, conductor for the 2015 Combined Military Band, leads musicians during a performance at the Hawaii Theatre in Honolulu.



Traditional Japanese swords were on display at JBPHH Library on May 16.

JBPHH Library hosts swords event

**Story and photo by
Brandon Bosworth**

Assistant Editor, Ho'okele

The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Library hosted a presentation about the history, construction, terminology and etiquette of traditional Japanese swords as part of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month on May 16. Sword collector Mike Nii was the guest speaker at the event, and several examples from his own collection were on display.

Nii, a retired U.S. Army Soldier who served in Vietnam and the first Gulf War, began collecting Japanese swords in 1985. His father was a Nisei (first generation Japanese American) who served in the famed 442nd Infantry Regiment, and as he got older Nii started getting more interested in his family's Japanese history.

As part of that growing interest, he started looking into swords that could have belonged to his grandfather as well traditional Japanese swords in general. Nii has been collecting and learning about swords ever since.

One of the first things Nii spoke about was sword terminology, specifically "samurai sword" versus "Japanese sword."

"People use the term 'samurai sword' a lot because of movies," he said. "But the samurai pretty much ceased to exist during the Meiji Restoration [1868].

Nowadays, Japanese swords are essentially works of art."

Nii also spoke at length about maintaining

Japanese swords. Polishing swords is a highly refined skill, requiring years of practice. Certified polishers have to undergo a 10-year apprenticeship, versus a five-year apprenticeship for swordmakers. They often use natural whetstones for sharpening, and a petroleum-free clove-based vegetable oil for polishing. It can be a slow process, and dangerous, he said.

"I ususally cut myself about three times when polishing a sword," said Nii.

Polishing is important for the upkeep of the swords, which can pick up rust quite easily. To prevent rust, swords need to be oiled at least once a month.

Japanese sword craft dates back more than 1,500 years. Nii said it is possible to estimate the age of an antique sword based on its shape and metal composition. The oldest sword in his collection dates from 1436, and still looks new.

Swords are still made in Japan using authentic, traditional methods. Their manufacture and sales are strictly regulated, and swordmakers are limited to making three swords a month. New swords can easily sell for \$40,000 or more.

When asked why he remains fascinated by Japanese swords, Nii said, "It's in my blood. I want to keep the family traditions alive."

Nii has noticed that many people who don't have roots in Japan are also interested in these swords.

"It's the word 'samurai,'" he said. "It has a big appeal to people."

Blood drives announced

- May 26, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., NEX, Tripler Army Medical Center.
- May 28, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Club 14, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Honolulu, Sand Island.
- June 1, 8 a.m. to noon, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, building 375, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.
- June 9, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., SEAL Division Team-1 SDVT-1 classrooms.
- June 10, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Naval Submarine Support Command, 822 Clark St. suite 400, JBPHH.
- June 15, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Camp Smith Pollack Theatre, Camp Smith.
- June 16, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Makalapa Clinic, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. For more information, call 433-6699 or 433-6148 or email michelle.lele@amedd.army.mil.