

Koa Kai provides invaluable training

MC3 Johans Chavarro

Navy Public Affairs Support
Element West,
Det. Hawaii

The guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97) returned to its homeport of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 31 after a six-day underway in the Pacific Ocean.

Halsey was one of the ships that participated in Koa Kai 14-1, a semiannual exercise that prepares independent deployers in multiple warfare areas while also providing training in a multi-ship environment.

“In the last three months we’ve had about three or four opportunities to do week-long evolutions,” said Cmdr. Gary L. Cave, commanding officer of Halsey.

“But that doesn’t always allow someone to get into the rhythm of doing their job or get used to the sleep cycle. So, it’s a great opportunity for these guys who have never been out to sea to see what their job is and, more importantly, getting around and seeing what everyone else is doing on the ship.”

During the underway, Halsey conducted flight operations, anti-surface and anti-submarine training and dynamic ship maneuvers. According to Cmdr. Linda Seymour, executive officer of



Sailors participate in a simulated crash and salvage operation aboard guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97) during a training evolution as a part of Koa Kai 14-1. Koa Kai is a semiannual exercise that improves cooperation, readiness and the capability of forces to respond quickly to various crises, ranging from armed conflict to humanitarian assistance.

Halsey, it allowed many of the new Sailors aboard Halsey a chance to perform their job at sea.

“We’ve had a big turnover in our crew just from the last year alone, so we have a lot of new faces,” said Seymour. “The last deployment this crew did was almost two years ago. So, a lot of Sailors just haven’t been on deployment and gotten used to how much better it is to be out at sea working on their rates and doing their job.”

While ships in port routinely run scenario-based exercises to maintain the crew’s warfighting readiness, Seymour said, the experience of a Sailor doing his job at sea in a multi-ship exercise like Koa Kai is invaluable in preparing the Sailor to perform his or her rate.

“Koa Kai gives us the opportunity to work with a lot of other ships at the same time,” said Seymour.

“During the inter-deployment training cycle, we don’t have the

opportunity to [do that]. We’ll go out and work on whatever specific certification we’re working on, whether it’s engineering drills or navigation certifications. Also, in the Hawaiian operational area there just isn’t a lot of other traffic around, and our bridge watch standers don’t really get that experience in really seeing all those different lights out on the horizon and reporting them in. It just builds their confidence up a lot better

than any simulation can.”

According to Capt. Chris Bushnell, commander of Destroyer Squadron 31 (CDS-31), exercises like Koa Kai are geared toward building the confidence of the crew by certifying the crew in a multitude of different warfighting scenarios.

“Our ships are nothing without the people,” said Bushnell. “Koa Kai is used to certify the crew by familiarizing the watch standers, operation specialists, fire controlmen, or gunner’s mates on the types of events and procedures they will have to do when preparing to take their ship away from their homeport, whether to go perform theatre security operations, disaster response, or just patrolling on the scene in [U.S.] 5th or [U.S.] 7th fleet area of operations.”

Bushnell also said Koa Kai helps expose a Sailor to life at sea, allowing them to gain an understanding and mentally prepare for the daily routine one might encounter during longer periods of operation.

“Exercises like Koa Kai can also just be exposure to any day of the life of a Sailor on a ship underway,” said Bushnell. “And that means getting used to routine. Starting with the boatswain’s’ whistles, reveille in the morning, to ‘Hey what time do meals

See Koa Kai, A-7

AF, Navy police forces participate in active shooter response exercise

Story and photo by Staff
Sgt. Alexander Martinez

15th Wing Public Affairs

The scenario: A disgruntled ex-employee of the base exchange, with support from his active-duty wife, returns to the store after being let go and shoots his ex-coworkers. This is a nightmare scenario that could happen at any time. As real as an active shooter threat may be, the best way to protect against it is to be prepared for it, and that’s the mission of the joint exercise evaluation training team.

Recognizing this, they led coordination of an active shooter exercise at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 29.

Master Sgt. Robert Wooderson, non-commissioned officer in charge of the 647th Security Forces Squadron Standardization and Evaluations Team, led a team of evaluators, Navy police observers, actors playing the roles of shooters and casualties, and first responders from the Hickam and Pearl Harbor security and police forces.

Wooderson said the team learned a lot from the training exercise.



Navy Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Chris Rivera posts with his K-9 and provides security during a joint exercise evaluation training team active shooter exercise held Jan. 29 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

“The training went really well,” Wooderson said. “We were able to identify the areas in our training that we’re proficient in and areas

that we need improvement. Our security forces defenders had a lot of hustle. We’re always taught to go in and do what needs to be done as

fast and effectively as possible, and we did that well.”

Armed with training weapons, the two active shooters entered the

exchange, simulated shooting four people, killing two of them and injuring two others.

Hickam security forces first responders were notified of the incident via the regional dispatch center, which then coordinates response efforts with the joint defense operations center. Minutes later, the first patrol cars arrived and began their plan of action. Once inside, responders including 647th Security Forces (647 SFS) and Navy police forces were able to secure the building, eliminate the hostile threats, and save the surviving casualties. The casualties were prepared with moulage makeup in order to simulate real-life injuries.

Senior Airman Tiffany Biela, 647th SFS, said it is important for training such as this to be as realistic as possible.

“As much realism as possible helps the training because it gives the players a real understanding of what they may encounter and feel if they had to respond to a real-world incident,” said Biela, one of the exercise active shooters.

“We need to conduct realistic training in order to be prepared for incidents in

order to avoid confusion, injuries or mass casualties,” Wooderson said. “With our training now, we’re definitely taking care of a lot of those potential problems.”

Wooderson said this training exercise has another purpose for the joint base community.

“From an outside audience, they can see that we’re not only training within our own facilities, but we’re training in their common areas in order to be best prepared,” Wooderson said. “This also acts as a deterrent for anyone who would think of doing such a crime. They see us doing these exercises and our anti-terrorism measures, and they’ll think twice knowing we’re prepared,” he said.

Joint base security and police forces plan to conduct exercises like this more often in the future to keep training fresh in their mind and ensure they are always prepared to respond.

“Anybody who’s been here for a while knows that we’ve had a dividing line between base response forces,” said Senior Master Sgt. Christopher Hurst, 647th SFS manager. “We’re all working toward being on the same page and we’re getting there; we did that today.”

Personal Readiness Summit stresses importance of respect

Story and photo by
MC3 Diana Quinlan

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West,
Detachment Hawaii

Officers and senior enlisted personnel attended the annual combined U.S. Pacific Fleet and Navy Region Hawaii Personal Readiness Summit held Feb. 4-6 in the Ford Island Conference Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

“Respect” for all Sailors and civilians is this year’s theme. The summit offered coverage of various topics including physical readiness, command climate, fleet stressors and programs, sexual assault prevention and

response (SAPR), drug and alcohol prevention, and suicide prevention.

“Events like this summit will help us get ahead of these incidents so we can improve our readiness and allow us to get to the fight tonight,” said Adm. Harry Harris Jr., commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet. “Readiness to defend our nation is our top concern, and people are an important part of that.”

Harris stressed the importance of involvement at all levels of leadership as well as the power of intervention.

“It requires time and attention from all levels of the chain of command to get to these issues,” said Harris, who also presented positive

examples of Sailors stepping up, stepping in, taking charge, and preventing incidents from happening and resolving various issues that would otherwise negatively impact the fleet and individual readiness.

A speaker panel, consisting of experts and representatives for such programs as SAPR, suicide prevention, physical readiness and others, held a question and answer session where leaders could address potential issues, discuss solutions, and receive information, updates and brief counseling.

“This is an interactive training for target groups, leaders, command program



As part of the Personal Readiness Summit, Sailors stationed in Hawaii attend a program called “Comedy is the Cure” presented by comedian Bernie McGrenahan during an all hands call at Sharkey Theater, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

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15th Wing honors, memorializes fallen Tuskegee Airman
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Koa Kai exercise 2014
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Living history at PAM
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MFSC to celebrate Military Saves events
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15th Wing honors, memorializes fallen Tuskegee Airman

**Master Sgt.
Jerome S. Tayborn**

15th Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from the 15th Wing paid tribute to Romaine Horace Goldsborough, who was an aircraft mechanic of the Tuskegee Airmen, on Jan. 29 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The Binnicker Professional Military Education Center staff hosted the tribute along with wing leadership and the Tuskegee Airman Committee as they honored the life of Goldsborough and his service to his country.

Goldsborough and his wife Dr. Dorothy Goldsborough were longtime residents of Kaneohe, Hawaii. The Hawaii Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., the "Artis-Baham-Goldsborough Chapter" is named in his honor.

During the tribute, Col. Johnny Roscoe, 15th Wing commander; Chief Master Sgt. Les Bramlett, 15th Wing command chief; Master Sgt. Marquez, PME director of education; and original Tuskegee Airman crew chief Philip Baham, who is now the only surviving Tuskegee Airman living in Hawaii; helped Dr. Goldsborough to unveil historic memorabilia and artifacts.

Dr. Goldsborough donated the historical memorabilia and artifacts to the PME Center where they will be housed at the Grey Geese room at JBPHH.

"Goldsborough has been a real integral part of black history and military history," said Master Sgt. (retired) Chandra Mack, outgoing president of the local Tuskegee Airman Inc. chapter. "And now our Airmen will be able to read the history and see the artifacts that are a part of our American history."



An official military photo of Tuskegee Airman Romaine Goldsborough.

"I couldn't think of [a] better way to have my husband's legacy remembered," said Dr. Goldsborough. "I thank all of you for being here to honor my husband who was such an honorable man. He was a fine husband, father and grandfather. I hope that all of you will be the same gentlemen and gentle ladies that he displayed throughout his life."

"I wanted everyone else to have the opportunity to view and enjoy my husband's artifact. History is very important and must be passed down from generation to generation," she said.

Roscoe also thanked Dr. Goldsborough for her generous gifts and her husband's honorable service.

"This is an amazing moment for me," Roscoe said. "As each and every one of you comes here to view these gifts that were donated, I ask you to think about it and imagine the days when discrimination still existed in our Air Force."

"Things are much different today, but it will bring us value in who we are and demonstrate how far we have come. Our non-commissioned officers today value and respect the people serving next to them, and I want

each and every one of you to remember this moment," he said.

The Tuskegee Airmen were men who enlisted in the Army Air Corps, stationed or trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field from 1941-1946. They became America's first black military Airmen. The keys to the success of these pilots, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff were that education was critical, and excellence was what they lived and breathed. They were in the military at a critical time period where desegregation was occurring and blacks were allowed to become pilots.

The Airmen fought two wars, one against a military enemy force overseas and another one against racism at home. During World War II, the 99th Fighter Group and the 332nd Fighter group trained at Tuskegee Field and served overseas.

The 99th went to Italy where they were named the "Redtails" and flew cover over Germany for the B-17s doing the bombing. To their credit, they flew as escorts in P-51s and never lost a plane to enemy fire.

The 99th Fighter Squadron earned two Distinguished Unit Citations, and the 332d Fighter Group earned one after the 99th Fighter Squadron was assigned to it. The 332nd Fighter Group is now the 332nd Air Expeditionary Squadron at Joint Base Balad, Iraq supporting Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

The Tuskegee Airmen are members of the 332nd Fighter Group and 477th Bombardment Group who helped pave the way for desegregation in the U.S. military. The group has received eight Purple Hearts, three Distinguished Unit Citations and 14 Bronze Stars.



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jerome S. Tayborn

Dr. Dorothy Goldsborough (right), wife of Tuskegee Airman Romaine Goldsborough, and fellow Tuskegee Airman crew chief Philip Baham addresses the men and women of the 15th Wing.

Goldsborough was one of the two surviving Tuskegee Airmen living in Hawaii, but

passed peacefully in his sleep on Aug. 14, 2013 in Hauula, Hawaii on Oahu's

North Shore.
(For the complete story, visit www.15wing.af.mil.)

Naval Inspector General to conduct area visit, climate survey in Hawaii

**Navy Region Hawaii
Inspector General**

The Naval Inspector General (NAVINSGEN) will conduct an area visit in Hawaii from March 13-21. Approximately 40 inspectors will visit various Navy commands, including Commander Navy Region Hawaii, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Pacific Missile Range Facility, Navy commands located at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, and others as determined by NAVINSGEN.

The main focus of area visits is quality of life and quality of work life for the

fleet, fighter and family members with a secondary focus on mission readiness and compliance with regulations. NAVINSGEN requests that all Navy personnel in Hawaii, including active duty military and Navy civilian employees (excluding contractors), participate in a short, anonymous, online climate survey to evaluate command climate and quality of work life. Maximum participation in the survey is highly encouraged.

"This is a great opportunity to let senior leaders know what you think about the various issues

affecting quality of Navy life in Hawaii," said Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific.

"Participating in this survey is time well spent, and I know your concerns and point of view will be heard by the Naval Inspector General's team."

The online survey began on Jan. 15 and will continue through Feb. 12 at <http://ow.ly/tmTmF>

For more information, contact Lisa Hill at 471-1953 or the Navy Region Hawaii Inspector General, John Cosson, at 471-1958.

Commentary

We take care of each other – as warfighters, as shipmates, as friends

Rear Adm. Rick Williams

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

Thanks to programs like this week's Personal Readiness Summit, sponsored by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, we are gaining an understanding of causes of stress, how to navigate stressors, and what we can do to improve quality of life, quality of work and, therefore, quality of service for ourselves and others.

Our lives are filled with stress. Our assignments can be filled with risk. And we have to deal with additional stressors even when we're not forward-deployed. We are constantly vigilant, always ready. Maintaining high levels of vigilance sometimes requires having



Rear Adm. Rick Williams

to work long hours.

One of the greatest causes of stress is uncertainty. There is always the unknown in life, and most people learn to accept it. However, if our shipmates have faith in a system that advocates for their interests and encourages confidence,

a process that they can be part of that provides resilience, this uncertainty becomes stability.

In a larger sense, personal readiness is all about fleet readiness. It is the ability of our Sailors to deliver credible combat power when called upon, while simultaneously managing the stressors that are a natural part of work and life.

The summit highlighted some of the important resources available to our Sailors and families to deal with the stress of military life - Fleet and Family Readiness Center, Chaplain Corps, Medical Corps, counselors, and Morale, Welfare and Recreational services, to name a few. All of these resources provide important tools and outlets for dealing with stress in positive ways.

Our families are an important part of our lives and an integral part of our readiness. But problems at home can also translate to problems at work, which equates to reduced readiness. Shipmates are family. We live, work, eat and laugh together. Sometimes we disagree or don't see eye-to-eye. But at the level of the day, we have each other's back.

Treat your shipmates just as you would your family. Be involved, provide support, redirect when necessary, intervene where and when it is required, keep each other safe.

We have identified and are controlling, where we can, stress on the job: lack

Help Resources

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Chain of Command | • National Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255) |
| • Military & Family Support Center: 808-474-1999 | • Military OneSource: 1-800-342-9647 |
| • Chaplains: Pearl Harbor: 473-3971, Hickam: 449-1754 | • Navy Suicide Prevention |
| • Medical Providers (PCM, IDC) | • Military & Family Life Consultant (MFLC) 808-221-1341 or 808-221-0238 |
| • NHCH Mental Health: 808-473-0650 | |

of adequate resources, long hours at work, being away from home and family, and the unpredictability of job demands, including unexpected maintenance.

But to help with these stressors, we need more. How do we cope? How do we overcome the stress that invades our lives?

As leaders we must also expand upon what the summit provided. We must take a more holistic approach at readiness to also get to the root causes of stress. In my conversations with Sailors, some of the biggest stressors in their lives are not having the correct manning, not having people with the right skill sets, not receiving the level of training necessary for the mission, and not having equipment that is in operational condition.

We continue to work hard to resolve these issues and make improvements in all of these areas. We must all do a better job of communicating with each other the challenges we are experiencing. As leaders we

must look for the ways and means of reducing these challenges. Sailors are smart — they get it — we must communicate openly and clearly.

Part of our job is to form a pact or trust by the way we lead and develop our shipmates and team build. We can't underestimate the importance of being a shipmate, friend or caring family member. Active engagement by our leadership as well as third party intervention can be important. While many family members and shipmates recognize problems with their spouses and shipmates, they are either afraid to step forward or don't know what to do with the information or who to turn to.

Another way that we can help to lighten the stress is by taking care of our Navy families, providing child care services, housing, exchanges, health clinics, MWR facilities and events, fitness centers and family support services—all of those things that can improve the quality of life for our military families

and in doing so, also lessen the stress.

Our ombudsmen team is vitally important. They are the critical connection between our commands and our Navy families—not only with newly arrived families but also with our millennial generation Sailors.

The command ombudsmen are at the heart of that pact or trust, the heart of the connection. We need their help in developing the talent, resilience and readiness of our Sailors, even in the most challenging of times.

As we continue to be vigilant and focus on our jobs, it is important that we are able to "navigate" the stresses of military life. It is essential that we promote mental and physical fitness to help us to better deal with stress. And we need to be ever mindful of doing our jobs safely and managing risk.

We are all in this together. This is our Navy. This is our community. We take care of our shipmates. We take care of each other.

Diverse Views



How do you cope with being separated from your spouse or significant other during deployment?

1st Lt. Cordell Crawford
647th Force Support Squadron



"Although I've never been deployed, the best way I cope with being separated is by constant communication via email, social media and Skype. Another great avenue of occupying any free time is by taking advantage of the many MWR, USO and force support squadron functions."



Tech. Sgt. Ruben Mindieta
766th Specialized Contracting Squadron

"It is never easy being away from loved ones. What I do is take time to write an email, a letter or send photos to my loved ones to stay in touch. I have even written a daily journal to provide insight to what is happening while I am away."

EM1 Jeremy Fedderly
USS Jacksonville (SNN 699)



"I haven't been deployed since I got married. But, pictures definitely help, being able to Skype when in port, email whenever you can. Being on a submarine makes it a little more difficult."



Tech. Sgt. Sarah Scott
Det 1, 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

"My husband and I are both active duty. Being away from your family can be very challenging. We try and record ourselves reading the kids favorite bedtime stories.

We like to watch recorded videos. Sending care packages is fun as well. You can always surprise the person on the other end with a good care package."

EM2 Houston Roof
Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard



"I cry myself to sleep in my pillow in my rack."



Senior Airman Michael LaFiura
15th Maintenance Squadron

"My wife and I set up dates along with planning a phone call if possible. Aside from sending care packages and emails, we kept reminding each other that everything will be O.K., talking about the future and about all the good times. She was there for me and was supportive through the entire deployment."

MM1 Jacob Cox
Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard



"Letters. We write letters out to each other before we deploy and write specific dates on them to be opened. We also write ones for 'if you need me'. Letters are always very good, especially before email came along."



FCC Louis Rodgers
ATG West Pac

"Exercise. Reminding myself what my overall mission is and why I'm on deployment: keeping my family and children safe."

Provided by Lt. j.g. Eric Galassi and David 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

Readiness

Continued from A-1

advisors and officers and senior enlisted, to provide opportunities to share best practices and lessons learned and ask questions of the OPNAV staff," said Linda Boswell, alcohol and drug control officer, education liaison officer, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and coordinator of the events.

Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and Lt. Cmdr. Kaarin Coe, suicide prevention coordinator at Military and Family Support Center Navy Region Hawaii, led fleet stressors and programs portion of the summit.

"Even when we're not forward-deployed, there are stressors in the mil-

itary. The impact is often hard for our Sailors, but it can be even harder for families who have to cope, adapt and overcome," Williams said. "How do we cope? We help each other. It's a pact, a trust. When Sailors know their families are cared for and supported, they are more able to focus on the mission."

Additionally, Williams strongly encourage communication up and down the chain of command. He stressed the importance of leadership support and need to eliminate any fear that may prevent subordinates to address stress-related issues to the chain of command and inspire service members and their families to step forth and get help.

Chief Parachute Rigger Jeremy Kelsey shared his personal story of an attempted suicide after facing ongoing depression and exhibiting destructive behavior. Kelsey spoke of possible rea-

sons that may lead Sailors to commit suicide and described types of behavior that may help determine and prevent suicidal tendencies.

Kelsey also used his personal story as an example of a role that leadership plays in lives of Sailors and how caring, understanding and early response can save lives, set an individual on the right track, and encourage to progress and succeed in naval career.

"This is my first seminar and I think it is priceless," said Cmdr. Ryan D. Collins, commanding officer of the guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93). "It is definitely worth taking the time out of the day to sit down [with program coordinators] and ask questions, to provide the feedback that they can take back, make adjustments to the Navy policy, and ultimately, provide a better product to the Sailor."

31st Bombardment Squadron at Hickam



Photo courtesy of Pacific Air Forces

The first bombardment unit based at Hickam, the 31st Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) arrived from Hamilton Field, California and was assigned to the 5th Composite Group on Feb. 8, 1938, 76 years ago this week. Four members of the squadron were killed in action on Dec. 7, 1941, nine members were wounded, and all of the unit's B-18 Bolo bombers (a B-18 is shown in this photo) were either damaged or destroyed.



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Koa Kai 2014

Photo collage illustration by Rico Onaha Rutter

The guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) operates in the Pacific Ocean during exercise Koa Kai.
U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Dustin W. Sisco

An AH-1W Super Cobra from Marine Light Helicopter Squadron (MLHA) 367.
U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mathew J. Diendorf

Seaman Marczon Estrella handles a line during a replenishment at sea operation with Canadian underway replenishment ship HMCS Protecteur aboard guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97).
U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro

Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Bobby Eick waits before entering a space during a class alpha fire drill aboard guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97).
U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro



Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Robert Titus salutes as Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific and Navy Region Hawaii, leaves from visiting guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97).
U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro

(Above): Information Systems Technician 1st Class George Ceria performs a pre-flight inspection on an SH-60B Seahawk aboard the flight deck of guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97).

(Right): Capt. Chris Bushnell, commander of Destroyer Squadron 31 (CDS-31), welcomes Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific and Navy Region Hawaii, aboard guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97).
U.S. Navy photos by MC3 Johans Chavarro



Sailors assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) prepare to engage in a visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) exercise.
U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Dustin W. Sisco

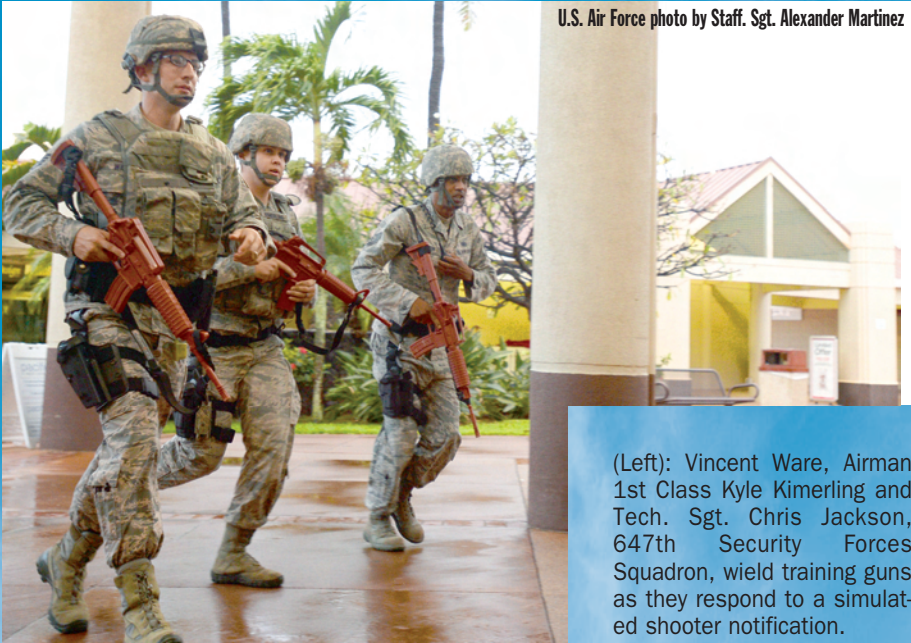


A Sailor assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) runs to attach chocks and chains to an Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.
U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Dustin W. Sisco



The guided-missile cruiser USS Cape St. George (CG 71) refuels with the Royal Canadian Navy auxiliary oil replenishment ship HMCS Protecteur.
U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Dustin W. Sisco

Pearl Harbor-Hickam Highlights



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff. Sgt. Alexander Martinez

(Left): Vincent Ware, Airman 1st Class Kyle Kimerling and Tech. Sgt. Chris Jackson, 647th Security Forces Squadron, wield training guns as they respond to a simulated shooter notification.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff. Sgt. Alexander Martinez

(Above): Vincent Ware and Tech. Sgt. Chris Jackson, 647th Security Forces Squadron, arrest Tech. Sgt. Cameron Wright, 647th SFS as he plays an active shooter during an exercise.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff. Sgt. Alexander Martinez

Senior Airman Tiffany Biela, 647th Security Forces Squadron, holds a training gun after simulating shooting Senior Airman Kevin Crone and Airman 1st Class Ashley Barajas, 15th Medical Group, during a joint exercise evaluation training team active shooter exercise at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 29.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro

Service members attend an African American History Month luncheon Feb. 3 at Silver Dolphin Bistro at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff. Sgt. Alexander Martinez

Tech. Sgt. Nakeysha Saddler, 15th Medical Group, hides under a display with her simulated baby during an active shooter exercise.

Houston Texans Pro Bowl player visits submarine USS Texas

Story and photo by
MC1 Steven Khor

Commander Submarine
Force U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs Office

Sailors of the Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS Texas (SSN 775) were showing smiles of excitement when they were visited Jan. 30 by J.J. Watt (No. 99), NFL Pro Bowl player from the Houston Texans at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"It's super exciting for the crew to engage with an NFL football player like J.J. Watt," said Cmdr. Andrew Hertel, Texas' commanding officer.

"Ninety-five percent of our Sailors are big fans of the NFL, and Watt is one of the superstars. It is very exciting to meet him and an honor for him to come down and thank the Sailors for their service."

Watt said he was glad to have the opportunity to come and meet the Sailors and learn about the ship.

"It is crazy to see how

tight the quarters are and how effective they use their space," said Watt, "how every single nook and cranny of the ship is used for something. How small the beds and ceilings are, it is very cool to see."

"Any chance that I get to come out and thank our military for what they do is a great opportunity. I play a game. I'm very fortunate to play a game. But it would not be possible without the men and women who serve and protect our freedom. It's great for me to come see them and show them that we support them," Watt said. Watt got a kick out of the "come and take it," and "Don't mess with Texas," mottos used frequently aboard the sub as well as the Texans' boots in their mess hall, the Texans' flags and Texans' memorabilia. He said the Texans spirit on the boat put a big smile on his face, and he was glad the Sailors supported Texans football just as much as he supported them.

Off the field, Watt continues to be an inspiration to

others. His charity, the Justin J. Watt Foundation, provides after-school athletic opportunities to middle school kids and will give back more than \$500,000 to others. Watt said his charity continues to provide 40 tickets to military members and their families during every home game.

Watt said he tries to be a good role model for Texas because they have treated him so well.

"I realize how fortunate I am, and it is because of the men and women of the military that helps me give back," said Watt.

For Machinist's Mate 1st Class Ryan Caroffino, a visit from J.J. Watt reaffirmed his "biggest fan" claim for Texans Football.

"I am the biggest Houston Texans fan," said Caroffino. "When I heard that J.J. Watt was going to be around, I was stoked. To be able to hang out and eat lunch with him was really cool. He showed a lot of support by asking about our daily lives, like a day in the life of what we do, and took



J. J. Watt, two-time National Football League Pro Bowl player from the Houston Texans, autographs a football for Electrician's Mate 1st Class Keith Ober of the Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS Texas (SSN 775) during a visit Jan. 30 to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

a lot of interest in our intramural football team and training. He is a very down to earth guy."

Commissioned Sept. 9, 2006, Texas was the second Virginia-class, fast attack

submarine constructed and the first submarine to be named after the Lone Star State.

The state-of-the-art submarine is capable of supporting a multitude of mis-

sions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike, naval special warfare involving special operations forces, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance.

USS Chung-Hoon Sailors enjoy Super Bowl at sea



U.S Navy photo by PS2 (SW) Domicia Humphries

Sailors aboard USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) support their favorite teams during the ship's underway Super Bowl party Feb. 2. Chung-Hoon was underway in support of anti-submarine training exercises.

CTR3 Amber Benoit

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93)

It was the day football fans wait for all year, Super Bowl Sunday, and USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) was underway in support of an anti-submarine exercise. Most Sailors can attest to

the fact that the nation's work cannot always be scheduled around holidays and sporting events.

This year, that meant that Sailors on Chung-Hoon were not able to be home to enjoy the "big game" with their friends and families. They were, however, able to have their own Super Bowl

party on the ship's mess decks. Sailors made signs and ate snacks provided by shipboard Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR), while Seahawks and Broncos fans alike congregated on the mess decks to watch the game.

The ship's culinary specialists provided a spread

worthy of the Super Bowl that included nachos with chili and cheese, buffalo wings, buffalo chicken cheese dip, guacamole and more.

Electronics Technician 2nd Class (Surface Warfare) Andrew McAfee summed it up, "Great football food! This is the kind of stuff I would have had at home."

The game itself was somewhat of a blowout. At halftime the score was 22-0 Seahawks, and final tally was 43-8 for the Seahawks. But football was not the only thing to think about. Many Sailors enjoyed the halftime show, which featured pop artist Bruno Mars and rock legends, the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

"I'm so glad the Seattle Seahawks won, but I wish Bruno Mars had played more songs," said Fire Controlman 3rd Class Casey Euells. Many people were disappointed that the Armed Forces Network (AFN) did not air the traditionally comical and sometimes controversial Super Bowl commercials. Instead, Sailors were shown AFN-specific ads and support-our-troops messages from Seahawks and Broncos players.

"Sometimes the commercials can add a lot to the Super Bowl experience, but personally I am more interested in the actual game, so I didn't mind the AFN ads too much," said Ensign William Hentschel.

"Also, we're lucky to be able to watch the game at all while we're underway, so I'm grateful for that," he added.

After the game, when Seahawks fan, Sonar Technician (Surface) 2nd Class (SW) Andrew Mason was asked about the outcome, he said, "Defense wins championships."

"The game was not worth watching. I'm going to cry myself to sleep," said Intelligence Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Darian Schleiss, a Denver fan.

Casual and diehard Seahawks fans seemed to enjoy the game thoroughly. Sonar Technician Surface 1st Class (SW) Neal Ward became a Seahawks fan years ago after working at the Seahawks' stadium in Seattle. "The fans are awesome. The stadium is loud. I've never seen a stadium shake like that. They really dominated tonight. I knew their defense was good, but I didn't know it was that

good. This has been a long time coming for a good fan base," Ward said.

Cmdr. Ryan Collins, Chung-Hoon's commanding officer and a Washington native himself, said he could not agree more.

"What a great way to watch the Super Bowl, underway on Chung-Hoon with 300 of our nation's finest. Our MWR committee, food service attendants and cooks put on an amazing spread for our Super Bowl party, and the crew had a great time.

As a lifelong Seahawks fan, I was especially excited and thrilled to watch the game. The 12th Man (Seattle's fans refer to themselves as the "12th Man") was well represented on Chung-Hoon with the 12th Man flag flying proudly from the mast during the game," Collins said.

"It's not every day that you get to watch the biggest game of the year with your friends and coworkers while serving on a Navy warship," said Hentschel, "If I can't be with my family, there's not a group I'd rather watch the game with. I'll remember this one for a long time."

Koa Kai

Continued from A-1

start and stop?" And then all the various things that happen like morning quarters. They have to learn whether they're going to get sea sick, or if they're a father, a mother, a sister, or a brother, they have to learn how to keep in touch with those loved ones, what do they need to bring with them so they have a little piece of 'home' with them."

"To some of our junior Sailors, that's very new and that routine is not something they normally do. So, a lot of it can be summed up

as conditioning and practice, like an athlete training for a race. This is practice so they can be ready to go do the race, the competition, the deployment," Bushnell said.

Master Chief Kenneth Nist, command master chief of Halsey, said time spent at sea also helps bring the crew together and build the cohesion and community necessary for the ship to accomplish its mission successfully.

"Whenever a new Sailor checks aboard the ship, I always tell them what they do is just as important as what everyone else does, regardless of what rank

they are, regardless of what rate they are," said Nist.

"On this type of platform, we all rely on each other. It's not just "our rate" or "our job." We're expected to do many other things, and participating in exercises like Koa Kai lets the Sailors experience that. It's all intertwined and each Sailor here brings a piece of that success."

And it's an experience that many Sailors are anxious for and find exciting, said Seaman Marczon Estrella.

"Being underway is more engaging with our ratings," said Estrella. "We get more practice and we actually get

to do what we have to, instead of reading what we have to do on power points. It's a lot more fun when we actually get to go hands-on and do our job."

Aviation Electrician 2nd Class Michelle Robbins, a Sailor attached to Halsey from Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 37 (HSM 37) at Marine Corp Base Kaneohe, said that being aboard Halsey for Koa Kai has helped the crew of HSM 37 gain insight into life on a ship and what it takes to perform their job at sea.

"My team is fairly new and fairly young with going to sea," said Robbins. "So, just the exercise itself has

taught us a lot about the ship and working together in a different environment, in more ways than one, like knowing how to work together and communicate in berthing to out on the flight deck. We also now have a better understanding of what extra tools and parts we'll need for the aircraft when we get attached to a ship for deployments and what personal items you're going to need for the long term."

In the end, Cave said opportunities to go on underway allow for the crew to build the bonds and relationships necessary to be successful during longer

times at sea.

"It's where the heart of a ship comes in," said Cave. "I talk a lot to my crew about life aboard a ship as being family-oriented. Right now we're sitting at about 290 Sailors and especially when you do a deployment, you're going to depend on every one of them and it does become very family-like.

"And like any family, you're going to butt heads with some and you're going to become tight with others. And having these chances to get underway for a time allows you to see how that interaction will be like and to build those bonds," he said.

Life & Leisure

B

LIVING HISTORY!



MCSA Rose Forest

Navy Public Affairs Support Element
West, Det. Hawaii

Visitors of the Battleship Missouri Memorial and the Pacific Aviation Museum had an opportunity to see history re-enacted on Feb. 2 during Living History Day on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The day was, in part, a celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Battleship Missouri's launch along with aviation history at the Pacific Aviation Museum.

The Battleship Missouri (BB 63) was launched Jan. 29, 1944 and was the site of the signing of the Terms of Surrender by Japan to end World War II.

"Living History Day is a celebration of all things historical," said Josh Stutz, coordinator, education department, Battleship Missouri Memorial. "It doesn't all have to do with the Battleship Missouri. A lot of it does, but we also have different pieces from the Civil War, World War II, up through the Gulf War that we have acted out by our re-enactors and even up through today with our active duty military."

Visitors to the Pacific Aviation Museum interacted with costumed interpreters who told the story of the Civil War, World War II, the Gulf War and the Vietnam era plus Pan Am (Pan American World Airways) flight and command veterans Amelia Earhart, Rosie the Riveter and other figures from history.

Historical characters, musical performances, swing dance demonstrations, hands-on activities, and film screenings were among the events.

"This is the second Living History

Day that we have done, and we are glad that the Missouri wanted to partner with us and so we have taken it in two different directions," said April Emerson, volunteer who also dressed as Rosie.

"They have been concentrating on their anniversary and the history going along with that, and then here at the museum we focused in on Pacific aviation history."

Thousands attended the event, including many children who were able to learn about history and meet people who have helped shape it.

"There is nothing like seeing a child and how wide their eyes get when they can jump in a helicopter or they can don a flight suit or they can talk to a Pan Am stewardess or they can talk to one of our vets," said Emerson.

"And what really gets me is when I see kids, that excitement on their face, and their parent coming up behind them and sharing that story of their own. This kind of event in this kind of museum gives parents and children or grandparents and grandchildren an opportunity, like a bridge, to share the stories that may not be shared every day."

The Pacific Aviation Museum and the Battleship Missouri Memorial showcase the important role of the United States military's history with emphasis on World War II.



PACOM/JIOC holds on to defeat HQ PACAF

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

Trailing by a point early in the second half, Pacific Command/Joint Intelligence Operation Center (PACOM/JIOC) went on a 13-0 run and then hung on to defeat Headquarters Pacific Air Forces (HQ PACAF), 38-32, on Jan. 30 in an intramural basketball Blue Division match up at Hickam Fitness Center, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Sparked by the play of guard Darius Richardson, a military family member, PACOM/JIOC slowly took control before Intelligence Specialist 2nd Class Rob Tievy connected on a 3-point shot to put the team out in front, 29-17, with 10:12 remaining in the contest.

“Overall, we knew we were better,” Richardson said. “It’s the first game of the year, so everybody is just trying to get used to each other. We just played better. We stepped up, played better defense, got a couple of steals and got a quick six points right off the bat.”

While PACOM/JIOC finally pulled away in the second half, the team played the entire first half with HQ PACAF hot on their heels.

Tied at 4-4, PACOM/JIOC went on a 5-0 run, but later in the same half HQ PACAF evened the



Senior Airman Ronnie Turner, shooting guard for Pacific Command/Joint Intelligence Operation Center (PACOM/JIOC), aims for the basket between two defenders from Headquarters Pacific Air Forces (HQ PACAF).

score at 12-12 after 1st Lt. Eric Griffin put down a shot with 2:23 remaining before halftime.

The teams traded 3-pointers as time wound down, but a free throw by Staff Sgt. Trevone Curry put PACOM/JIOC ahead, 16-15, at the break.

The lead was quickly lost at the start of the second half, but back-to-back baskets by Richardson seemed to light a fire under PACOM/JIOC.

Although the play of Richardson was the catalyst that eventually led PACOM/JIOC to victory, he said that all he was trying to do was get everybody on the same page.

“I’m not an individual player,” he admitted. “As I said, we came together and played better defense. I just happened to get the first two baskets after the break.”

Once Tievy’s trey put PACOM/JIOC ahead by double-digits, Richardson said he knew the game was in the bag.

“That was the turning point,” said Richardson about Tievy’s long-distance shot. “I told him to shoot it, so he hit that three, and we went up by double digits and evidently it was a wrap.”

A total of 11 players got on the scoreboard for PACOM/JIOC, while Master Sgt. Mark Sanchez led HQ PACAF with nine points, which

included a 3-point goal in the first half.

Sanchez explained that the team was hurt by having only eight players for the game but also pointed out that it was the turnovers in the second half that really cost them the most.

“We were not taking care of the ball,” Sanchez noted. “I think fatigue got us. We didn’t have a lot of players like they did. We had only three guys on the bench, so we were just running with the guys we had.”

Despite dropping their first game, Sanchez said he still believes that HQ PACAF would be far more competitive than they were last season, which ended with a 3-11 record.

“I played last year and I don’t think we had as much participation as we do this year,” he said. “I’m hoping that we do have a better year, but it’s all about having fun and just playing basketball.”

Meanwhile, this year it appears that the Blue Division will be up for grabs as several teams seem ready to make a run for the divisional crown.

Based on the team’s personnel, Richardson said he believes that PACOM/JIOC will be in the hunt for the title.

“We got the players, we got the skills to do that,” he pointed out.

NASA offers student internships at Pacific Missile Range Facility

Pacific Missile Range Facility Public Affairs

NASA is looking for three Hawaii college students to participate as interns in the planned low density supersonic decelerators project at Pacific Missile Range Facility this summer.

According to NASA’s Range Services Management Office at the Wallops Flight Facility, Va., the program is hoping to attract college sophomores or juniors from STEM-degree tracks (science, technology, engineering, math) for the launch operations internship at PMRF.

The selected college interns will support day-to-day mission operations as part of the launch operations group, according to the internship opportunity posted at: <http://ow.ly/thPbL>.

Applicants can apply at the link. The interns will also become familiar with scientific ballooning, supersonic

decelerator technology, solid-fueled rocket motors, range operations, and countdown operations. Each intern will be assigned to a mentor who will be responsible for their detailed duty assignments. The goal of the internship is to introduce students to career possibilities within

NASA and the U.S. Navy.

Students must be U.S. citizens and residents of Hawaii. Students will be responsible for their own lodging and transportation on Kauai for the duration of the internship and, there is no relocation allotment associated with the internship.

JPAC Ballers come from behind to beat CE Bulls

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

Down by three points early in the second half, Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command (JPAC) Ballers went on an 8-0 run to overtake and then hold on to beat 647th Civil Engineer Squadron Bulls, 32-26, on Feb. 4 in an intramural Red Division basketball game at Hickam Fitness Center.

With the win, the Ballers are now 2-0, while the Bulls have opened the season with back-to-back losses.

JPAC entered halftime behind, 14-13, and saw the deficit grow by a basket, when Bulls guard Airman 1st Class Jurel Burton popped in three consecutive shots to put his team ahead at 24-21 with under 10 minutes to go in the contest.

However, at the 6:47 mark, Ballers guard Tech. Sgt. Jorge Verlejo pulled up at the top of the key and swished a trey to tie the score up at 24-24.

“That was huge,” said Ballers head coach Maurice Honeywood, a Department of Defense civilian. “I don’t know if it was the turning point because I don’t think it was just one play. It was



Tech. Sgt. Jorge Verlejo, guard for Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command (JPAC) Ballers, goes up for a shot against 647th Civil Engineer Squadron Bulls.

defense and a constant grinding. We just played hard.”

Three straight free throws by Ballers post-player Master Sgt. Rick June extended JPAC’s lead to three at 27-24, before the team added another basket to complete the 8-0 run and gain a comfortable 29-24 advantage with only 1:14 left on the clock.

Verlejo turned out to be the big gun for JPAC as the shooting guard tallied six points in the first half and finished with a game-high 16 points.

While Verlejo controlled the perimeter for JPAC, teammate June gave the team enough of a presence inside the paint and scored eight points.

“June is a tremendous player,” Honeywood said. “June has a lot of heart, a lot of hustle and is obviously blessed with ability. He’s pretty much our leader out there.”

After struggling in the first half, Honeywood said that he knew that the team had to turn up the heat after the break.

A few tweaks on defense seemed to do the trick, as the Ballers held the Bulls to only 12 points for the entire second half.

“We actually changed some of our defensive schemes to take away some of the drives they were getting,” he pointed out. “And it’s only the second game,

so it’s all about chemistry – players getting used to each other.”

Burton, whose energetic play for the Bulls seemed to give his team the early momentum, said that a few calls disrupted their offense.

“We were trying to run our offense,” he said. “I think we ran it to perfection, but some calls didn’t go our way. They made a lot of free throws and we were in foul trouble. I think that’s what sealed the game for them.”

Although the Bulls have opened the season with two straight losses, both defeats were against two of the top teams in the division.

In order to get things going, Burton said that they would have to leave the losses behind them.

“It’s one game at a time,” he offered.

With two wins in their pocket, Honeywood said that JPAC is right on target to achieve their season’s goal.

When he was approached to coach the team, Honeywood said that he would do it only under one condition.

“When the season started, I got these guys together and said that I’m here for only one reason,” he said. “I’m out here to win a championship. I have fun when I win.”

Fast-breaking Tigers race to second straight victory

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

The 324th Intelligence Squadron (324 IS) Tigers broke open a close game in the early moments of the second half to get past the 8th Intelligence Squadron (8 IS) Exploiters, 54-38, on Feb. 4 in an intramural basketball Red Division basketball showdown at Hickam Fitness Center, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Up 22-16 at halftime, the Tigers immediately opened the second half by scoring a basket on a long baseline-to-baseline pass from Tech. Sgt. Tim Harris to Tech. Sgt. Terrance Gist.

Moments later, Harris touched a lay-up off the glass for two more points to put the Tigers ahead by double digits for the first time at 26-16.

The win kept the Tigers tied for the division’s lead at 2-0, while the Exploiters dropped their first game of

the season and now hold a 1-1 mark.

“The coaches talked to us and told us to calm down,” said Harris about the team’s strong second half. “(We had to) move the ball like we know how to move the ball, run our plays, run our sets and switched from man to a two-three. They didn’t know what to do with the two-three.”

While the 324 IS was able to pull away in the second half, the game was a seesaw affair in the first half with the lead changing four times before the break.

Tied at 13-13, the Exploiters forged ahead at 16-13 on a 3-point shot from guard Airman 1st Class Juan Nunez.

However, two free throws from Airman 1st Class Brian Vanderpool cut the lead down to one before a basket by Harris regained the advantage for the Tigers.

Another lay-up by Harris gave the Tigers a 19-16 lead before Senior Airman A.J. Abdul sank a clutch 3-

point shot as the first half came down to a close.

“I think that was huge,” said Abdul about his long-distance bomb to end the half. “We came out and had to fight. They (Exploiters) made a big push and really tested us. I think it (shot) gave us the momentum.”

Although the Exploiters got big numbers from Nunez and Capt. Anwar Johnson, the tough 324 IS defense limited the damage from the duo by shutting down the rest of the team.

Johnson hit three 3-point shots, while Nunez connected on two from long distance and finished with 16 points.

With the Tigers defense smothering the Exploiters, the 324 IS started to get their fast-break offense in gear.

Harris said that at halftime he and his teammates all agreed to press the action whenever they got the ball.

“We definitely got conditioning,” Harris explained. “We kept running the ball and they got tired.”

For the game, Harris chipped in with 15 points, while Abdul also contributed 15 on two treys, two basket-and-ones and three free throws.

The strong inside play of the Tigers also played a big role in helping the team to its lopsided victory.

Abdul said that aggressive play by the Tigers gave them control of the boards.

“We noticed that they were sending three or four rebounders to the bucket,” Abdul noted. “So we told our guys, total group effort. They all got down on the boards, got down deep and out with the victory.”

Abdul said that getting out of the gates with two straight wins has given the Tigers a strong sense of confidence.

With the team running on all cylinders, he believes that the Tigers should keep the streak alive.

“We practice hard,” he said. “We have a lot of talent this year. We’re very deep and if we stay focused, stay injury free, we’ll be right there at the end.”



Senior Airman A.J. Abdul, guard for 324th Intelligence Squadron (324 IS) Tigers, floats in the lane for two-point shot against the 8th Intelligence Squadron (8 IS) Exploiters.

Forest City announces upcoming community events

Forest City Military
Communities

Upcoming Forest City military communities events at Navy housing in Hawaii include:

- Feb. 7, 2 to 3 p.m., Valentine’s Day card crafting at Pearl City resident services office. The event is open to all central residents. For more information, call 839-8670.

- Feb. 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Valentine’s treat day at Camp Stover Resident Services Office. The event is open to all central residents. Residents can stop into the office to pick up a bag of treats. For more information, call 839-8670.

- Feb. 12, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Valentine’s craft bags at Moanalua resident services office. The event is open to all west residents. Residents

can pick up a mini craft bag and create a Valentine’s gift for loved ones. For more information, call 839-8640.

- Feb. 14, 2 to 4 p.m., Valentine’s treat day at Pearl City resident services office. The event is open to all central residents. For more information, call 839-8670.

- Feb. 17, 8 a.m. to noon, “Who is your favorite president” at

Moanalua resident services office. The event is open to all west residents ages 5 to 12. Participants can write an essay saying who their favorite president is and why to win a \$25 gift card. For more information, call 839-8640.

- Feb. 19, 1 to 2 p.m., *keiki* game day at Hele Mai Playground off Savo Drive and Leyte Street. The event is open to all central residents. The

event will feature an hour with beanbag tossing and bucket ball in an effort to win a prize. Snacks and juice will be provided. For more information, call 839-8670.

- Feb. 17, 8 a.m. in honor of Presidents’ Day, stop by Halsey Terrace resident services office for some pastries. The event is open to all east residents. For more information, call 839-8620.

MFSC to celebrate Military Saves events

Military and Family Support Center

Military Saves, a component of America Saves and a partner in the Department of Defense’s Financial Readiness Campaign, is a nonprofit campaign that seeks to motivate, support and encourage military families to save money, reduce debt and build wealth.

The program encourages service members and their families to take the Military Saves pledge, a commitment to begin the journey toward financial freedom.

The campaign promotes positive changes in personal financial behavior through the notion that everyone can “Start Small, Think Big.” The theme this year is “Set a Goal. Make a Plan. Save Automatically.”

Upcoming events in support of Military Saves at the Military and Family Support Center (MFSC) include:

- Financial Planning for Retirement class, Feb. 13, 1 – 3 p.m., Hickam MFSC, 655 Vickers Ave, building 1105.
- Savings and Investment Basics, Feb. 14, 10

a.m. to noon, MFSC, 4827 Bougainville Drive.

- Million Dollar Sailor/Airman (spouses are welcome to attend), Feb. 18 and 19, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. MFSC, 4827 Bougainville Drive.
- Financially Savvy Retirees (wills and trusts) presented by Bank of Hawaii, Feb. 19, 9:30 to 11 a.m., MFSC, 4827 Bougainville Drive.
- Couponing, Feb. 24, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., MFSC, 4827 Bougainville Drive. This class will be presented by Ashley Dougherty, author of “Couponing in Hawaii.” Participants can learn to save 50 percent on their grocery bill with coupons.

- Financial Evening for Single Sailors/Airmen, Feb. 25, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Beeman Center, building 711, Pierce St. Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

- The Art of Retirement Planning, Feb. 27, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., MFSC, 4827 Bougainville Drive. This class will be presented by presented by Roberta Lee-Driscoll, CFP.

Registration is required for the classes. Visit the website www.greatlifeohawaii.com or email debra.blunt@navy.mil to register to attend.

JBPHH Tax Assistance Center is open for military customers

Lt. Deni Baykan

Region Legal Service Office Hawaii

The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Tax Assistance Center is now open. The hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. through April 20. No appointments will be taken; walk-ins only are accepted.

The tax assistance center is located at the Navy College, first floor, classroom 11, 1260 Pierce Street (building 679).

Bring a photo ID for the taxpayer and spouse, Social Security cards for the taxpayer, spouse and all dependents, all tax forms (W-2s, 1098s, 1099s, receipts, etc., bank account and routing numbers and 2012 tax return.

VITA-certified tax volunteers can assist with questions as taxpayers file their return electronically using this year’s self-service program.

Active duty and dependents registered in DEERS can prepare federal and state returns online for free through <http://www.militaryonesource.com>. They must create a free account.

Retirees with AGI of less than \$58,000 may file for free using <http://www.myfreetaxes.com/JBPHHTAX>.

For more information, call Region Legal Service Office at 473-4717.





Live the Great Life

Moonlight excursions provide outdoor recreation

Reid Tokeshi

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Kayak excursions are some of the most popular activities offered by Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Outdoor Recreation Program.

A twist on these activities is available this month with MWR's moonlight paddle. Available when the moon is at its fullest, the moonlight paddle provides a different perspective to kayakers on the waters of Hickam Harbor. In stark contrast to the day, paddling at night means participants are limited to what they can see in front of them.

Guide Kyle Candilasa said it can create a small adrenaline rush because participants are surrounded by darkness. "It's sort of a rush seeing only what your headlamp show in front. It's a little eerie and fun at the same time," Candilasa said. The next moonlight paddle at Hickam Harbor will begin at 7 p.m. Feb. 14. Participants need to sign up by Feb. 10.

"You can watch the full moon rise, and if it's not cloudy you can see the stars over the ocean as you paddle out," Candilasa said.

Patrons who prefer land over water can take a moonlight hike instead. OAC will host a moonlight hike to Makapu'u light-house at 5:30 pm. Feb. 15. Participants need to sign up by Feb.12. This is a fami-



Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

A kayaker paddles at sunset.

ly-friendly hike and headlamps will be provided.

For more information, call Hickam Harbor at 449-5215 or OAC at 473-1198.

Your Weekly Fun with MWR

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



TRX Level 1 Training Course will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center. Patrons can visit txtraining.com to register. FMI: 1-415-640-6382.

Anime & Concept Art will be held from 3:45 to 5:15 p.m. on Wednesdays from Feb. 12 to March 12 at the Hickam Arts & Crafts Center. The class is for "tweens" and teens who like to draw manga/comic/cartoon art. FMI: 448-9907.

Intro to Illustration will be held from 5:45 to 7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays from Feb. 12 to March 12 at the Hickam Arts & Crafts Center. The class is open to youth ages 12 years old and older. Some previous basic drawing and painting experience is recommended. FMI: 448-9907.

Call for Crafters for Spring Craft Fair sign-ups begin Feb. 14. The 39th Annual Hickam Spring Craft Fair will be held May 3 on the

lawn of the Hickam Arts & Crafts Center and is open to the public. Interested crafters should sign up at the sales store to sign up. All items must be handmade by the crafter. FMI: 448-9907.

Free Advance Screening of "Pompeii" will begin at 7 p.m. Feb. 15 at Sharkey Theater. In the movie, a slave turned gladiator finds himself in a race against time to save his true love, who has been betrothed to a corrupt Roman senator. As Mount Vesuvius erupts, he must fight to save his beloved as Pompeii crumbles around him. The movie is rated PG-13. The ticket booth will be open at 5:30 p.m. for assigned seating. FMI: 473-0726.

Bottom Fishing at Hickam Harbor will begin at 2:30 p.m. Feb. 15 at Outdoor Recreation-Hickam Harbor. Participants need to sign up by Feb. 13. Fishing gear, bait and boat and some instruction will be provided. FMI: 449-5215.

Learn to Stand-up Paddleboard will begin at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. Feb. 16 at Outdoor Recreation-Hickam Harbor. Participants need to sign up by Feb. 13. An experienced guide will teach the basics. Participants must be able to swim without a lifejacket. FMI: 449-5215.

Fashion Illustration will be held from 3:45 to 5:15 p.m. on Mondays from Feb. 17 to March 17 at Hickam Arts & Crafts Center. The class is open to youth ages 12 years old and older. Participants will create stylized fashion sketches. Basic sketching and painting experience is a plus but is not required. FMI: 448-9907.

Beginning Adult Water Color will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays from Feb. 18 to March 25 at the Hickam Arts & Crafts Center. Students will apply practical elements of art to compose and paint pictures. FMI: 448-9907.

Hickam Library opens new world of knowledge for young minds

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Morale, Welfare and Recreation

The Hickam Library is not just for books any more. It offers audio and e-books, music, online learning and other ways to expand the mind.

Library know how is offered one Saturday a month. It is a free instructional session where adult and young patrons can learn how to get the most out of this resource on base. This month's session will be held Saturday.

The session includes a

refresher on the Dewey Decimal system, so customers can find the subject they are looking for within the rows of shelves.

Young children are shown the joy of reading through pre-school story time, which is held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Themes change each session, often matching the season, holiday or special occasion. Parents are encouraged to bring their children down to the library to be entertained through the stories.

The library also holds



MWR Marketing photo

Patrons learn how computers can enhance their library experience during a library know-how class.

special activities and events intended to not only encourage reading, but also other forms of expression.

A friendship book exchange will be held on Feb. 12. Children can bring a new, wrapped book and exchange it for another.

In March, the library will start a book club for fourth and fifth graders that will meet once a month. Also in March, the library will begin accepting submissions for the annual creative writing contest. Patrons from ages 6 to adult are encouraged to submit their original short story or poem.

All these activities are free. For more information, stop by to talk with the staff or call 449-8299.

Morale Welfare & Recreation

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

Preschool story time will be held from 9 to 10 a.m. Feb. 12 at the Hickam Library. The theme will be Valentine's Day." FMI: 449-8299.

FREE GOLF CLINIC

There will be a free golf clinic at the Navy-Marine Golf Course beginning at noon Feb. 13. FMI: 471-0142.

MWR SUPER GARAGE SALE

The MWR Super Garage Sale will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Feb. 15 at Richardson Field. Admission is free for shoppers. FMI: 473-0792.

KAYAKING THE MOKULUA ISLANDS

There will be a kayaking excursion to the Mokulua Islands at 9 a.m. Feb. 16. Departures are from the Outdoor Adventure Center at the Fleet Store. Transportation and gear is provided. The location is subject to change due to weather conditions. The registration deadline is Feb. 13. FMI: 473-1198.

FORD ISLAND HISTORICAL TOUR

There will be a Ford Island historical tour from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Feb. 19. Ford Island played a significant role in World War II, and this tour will visit often-overlooked historical battle sites. FMI: 448-2295.

MWR NEWCOMERS LUNCH

A free MWR Newcomers Lunch will be held beginning 11 a.m. Feb. 19 at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club. This event features lunch, MWR information booths, sponsor tables and activities for kids. This event is open to all military-affiliated personnel. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com.

YOUTH SPRING NFL FLAG FOOTBALL

Registration for NFL Flag Football for youths ages 5-15 runs now through Feb. 21. The season runs March through June. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com or 473-0787.

CHINATOWN FOOD, HISTORIC TOUR

A tour of Honolulu's Chinatown featuring a traditional dim sum lunch will be held from 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Feb. 22. The tour departs from Tickets & Travel-Hickam. FMI: 448-2295.

Community Calendar

NOW — The Cost of Living (COLA) Living Pattern Survey is now online and will be available through Feb. 28. Service members are asked to help the Department of Defense (DoD) determine what Hawaii COLA should be by taking the COLA Living Pattern Survey. The survey provides DoD critical information for determining rates for Hawaii. The survey takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. The data collected identifies the types of the local economy outlets where military members shop and the amount each of these outlets are used by military members. DOD then compares the prices in Hawaii to averages in the continental United States and the resulting COLA reflects the difference. Visit <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/lps-hawaii.cfm> to take the survey. This link is also available at www.pacom.mil by clicking on the graphic that says "COLA Living Pattern Survey Hawaii."

SATURDAY — Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor will hold a hangar talk titled "Tuskegee Airmen Then and Now" from 2 to 4 p.m. in the museum theater. Tuskegee Airman Philip Baham, Dr. Dorothy Goldsborough and a panel of experts will discuss stories and the legacy of the first African-American military aviators to serve during World War II. The event is free with regular museum admission and to museum members. FMI: FMI: 441-1000 or www.pacificaviationmuseum.org.

FEBRUARY

11 — An Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) luncheon event will be held at Hale Ikena Club, Fort Shafter. Check-in is at 11 a.m. and the buffet begins at 11:30 a.m. FMI: <http://afcea-hawaii.org> or call 441-8565 or 441-8524.

12, 18 — Tripler Army Medical Center Blood Donor Center has updated its schedule of upcoming blood drives as part of the Armed Services Blood Donor Program. Currently scheduled drives include Feb. 12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; Feb. 18, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., NEX, Tripler Army Medical Center. FMI: 433-6699 or 433-6148 or email michelle.lele@amedd.army.mil.

20 — Naval Health Clinic Hawaii will hold a Healthy Heart Fair and Great American Spit-Out Awareness Day from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange mall rotunda to promote health and tobacco-free living. FMI: 471-2280 or 473-2444, ext. 507.



WALKING WITH DINOSAURS (PG)

For the first time in movie history, audiences will truly see and feel what it was like when dinosaurs ruled the Earth. Recent discoveries and a breakthrough in technology will introduce new and unique dinosaurs that are more real than ever before and put moviegoers in the middle of a thrilling prehistoric adventure.

SHARKEY THEATER

TODAY 2/7

7:00 PM 47 Ronin (PG-13)

SATURDAY 2/1

2:30 PM Walking with Dinosaurs (3D) (PG)
4:40 pm The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG)
7:00 pm Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones (R)

SUNDAY 2/9

2:30 PM Walking with Dinosaurs (3D) (PG)
4:30 pm The Legend of Hercules (PG-13)
7:00 pm Lone Survivor (R)

THURSDAY 2/13

7:00 PM American Hustle (R)

HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER

TODAY 2/7

6:00 PM The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (PG)

SATURDAY 2/8

4:00 PM Walking with Dinosaurs (PG)
7:00 PM Studio Appreciation Advance Screening
Free Admission – Rated PG13*. Tickets available at your local exchange food court. Seating open to non-ticket holders 30 minutes prior to show-time

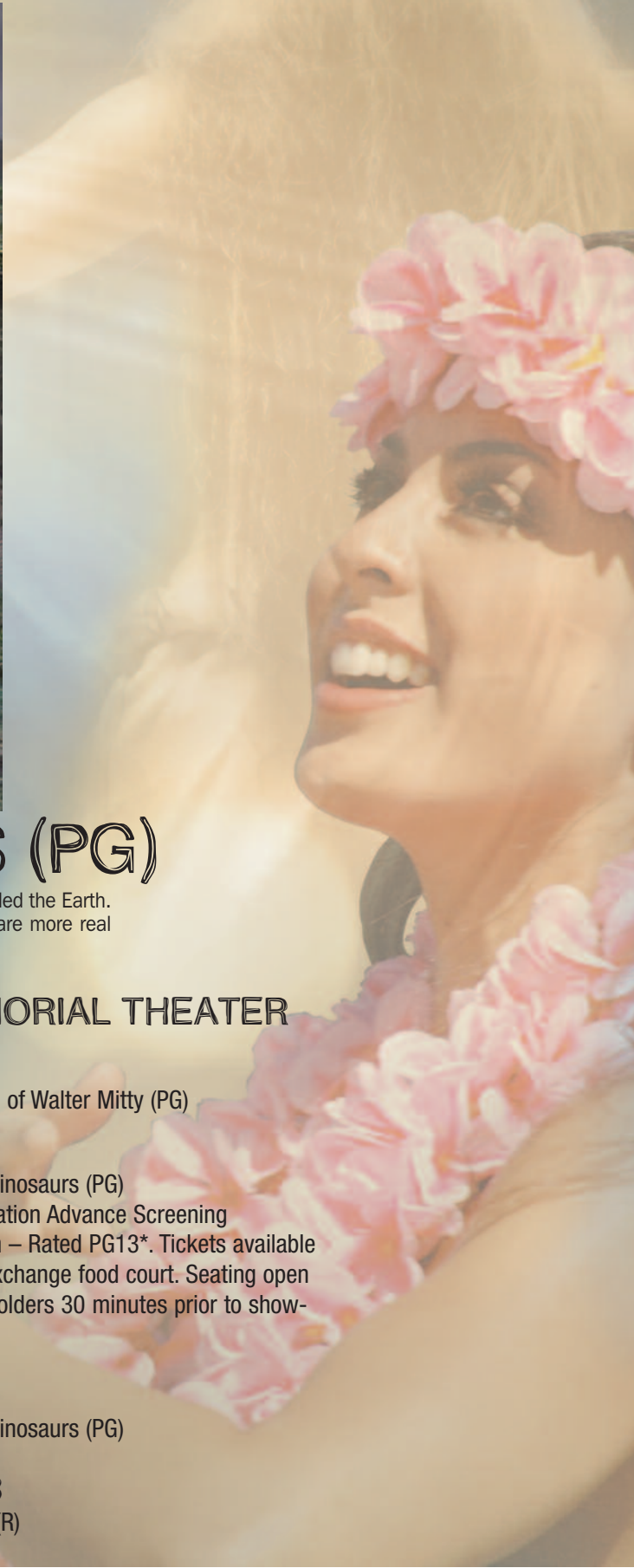
SUNDAY 2/9

2:00 PM Walking with Dinosaurs (PG)

THURSDAY 2/13

2:00 PM Lone Survivor (R)

Movie Showtimes



Football dreams of Navy's first black admiral

Review by Bill Doughty

Long before becoming Navy's first black admiral, Samuel L. Gravely Jr., had his sights set on becoming a football coach. He loved the game, but his father — “deathly afraid” about injury — didn't want him to play. Gravely Sr., a World War I veteran and pullman porter, thought his son's future lay with the post office.

Gravely's biography, “Trailblazer: The U.S. Navy's First Black Admiral,” is the heartfelt tale of how education, hard work, perseverance and luck came together for a remarkable and inspirational leader, whose training to become an officer actually preceded the Golden Thirteen (first naval officers).

Gravely played football despite his father's fears. He had to hide his uniform behind the refrigerator during high school — until his father found it.

After high school he attended the all-black Virginia Union University in his hometown of Richmond, Va. where football changed his life.

Gravely writes: “One difference from high school was that I was able to play football without my father knowing it. The college had a gym with lockers, so it was no longer a case of trying to hide my uniform at home. One of the football trips in 1940 had beneficial consequences down the road. At the time, my sister Christie was going to school at Virginia State College in Petersburg. I went over there once with a bunch of football players, and my sister introduced me to one of her roommates, Alma Clark. Several years later, Alma and I were married...”

One year later, World War II started in the Pacific with Imperial Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Gravely enlisted in the Navy after the Navy announced a new policy (April 7, 1942) to accept black Sailors into general service ratings.

It was a giant leap for the young man whose only life experiences were in the segregated south where every school he attended was all black and where he had to sit in the back of the streetcar or bus but in the front of the train, “which was the first place the coal hit.”

At Great Lakes Naval Training Station and Hampton Institute, Gravely excelled in study, but learned, “I wasn't as technically minded as I thought I was.” He came out as a nonrated fireman. The east coast would have seemed like a natural selection as a duty station.

“But I was influenced by one of



Image courtesy of Navy Reads

my roommates to look in another direction,” Gravely writes. “[Roger] Gibbons had been a schoolteacher. He'd been one of the great football players of Prairie View A&M, a black college in Texas ...” Gibbons suggested they take Horace Greeley's advice and “Go West, young man.” They asked for and got orders to San Diego, which at the time was even more segregated than Richmond, he writes.

Gravely studied at UCLA. He considered his future and began taking pre-med classes, temporarily questioning his childhood dream of becoming a football coach.

He followed opportunity back to New York and Asbury Park, N.J. and excelled as a midshipman, studying at Columbia University. He expresses regret that instead of an assignment at sea in 1944 he was assigned to teach back at Great Lakes.

Soon, though, Gravely was serving aboard PC-1264, a submarine chaser homeported at Staten Island, New York City and operating along the east coast, especially near Florida. PC-1264 and USS Mason were the only two combatant ships with black officers aboard during WWII.

When PC-1264 went to Norfolk for a shipyard period to prepare for deployment to the Pacific, Gravely struck up a friendship with a worker there and joined his semi-pro football team, the Brown Bombers. Sadly, while on liberty in Miami,

he was arrested for “impersonating an officer” because the white military policeman had never seen a “Negro Navy officer.”

After WWII, like a lot of his contemporaries, Gravely decided to leave the military and use the GI Bill to continue his education. He attended Virginia Union and got serious about his studies, majoring in history. And he played football. His coach was Sam Taylor, who had been the coach for his former roommate Roger Gibbons at Prairie View.

Another turning point came in 1949 when Gravely was invited to come back on active duty. The year before President Harry S. Truman issued an executive order (9981) which said, “It is hereby declared that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin.”

It was also a turning point for civil rights in the nation. (Like Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson and his father would ask in the next generation: “Why not me? Why not us?”)

Gravely became a coach and leader not of football players but of Sailors. He would go on from recruiter duty to serve aboard the battleship USS Iowa, heavy cruiser USS Toledo, USS Seminole and USS Theodore E. Chandler. He would serve throughout the Korean, Vietnam and Cold Wars.

He made history Jan. 31, 1962

when he became CO of USS Falgout in Pearl Harbor. “I guess it's been said that this was the first time a black had command of a U.S. Navy ship since Robert Smalls captured a small frigate out of the Charleston Harbor and turned it over to the Union forces during the Civil War,” Gravely writes.

In 1963 he was invited to the White House where he and Alma met President Kennedy and Vice President Johnson. He was in Washington, D.C. as part of the Emancipation Proclamation centennial celebration.

Gravely next served at the Naval War College and Defense Communications Agency. He commanded USS Taussig and then USS Jouett, a guided-missile frigate, later redesignated a guided-missile cruiser.

In 1971, Gravely was frocked to rear admiral, blazing another trail for naval officers. He served as director of naval communications and commander of Cruiser-Destroyer Group Two and then Eleventh Naval District.

In September 1976, back in Pearl Harbor, Gravely assumed command of U.S. 3rd Fleet, based in Hawaii. (Since then C3F has relocated to San Diego.)

Details of Gravely's assignments, new technologies, housing challenges, duty in the Pacific, “racial disturbances in the fleet,” and the profound influence of

CNO Adm. Zumwalt and his Z-grams are all included in “Trailblazer.”

In addition to his accomplishments, Gravely shares his challenges and personal tragedies. In 1978 his son Robbie was killed while driving on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor.

“Trailblazer” is written with Paul Stillwell, who in the preface notes that Gravely was born just 60 years after the Civil War. The afterward is a very personal account by Alma B. Gravely, written in 2010, of her life together with her “Sammie.” Adm. Gravely passed away in 2004.

In 2009, the Samuel L. Gravely Jr. Elementary School was dedicated in Prince William County, Va.. Inside the front door of the school is the motto that Alma says expresses the admiral's philosophy: “Success = Education + Motivation + Perseverance.”

The dust jacket of “Trailblazer,” published by the Naval Institute Press, notes: “The U.S. Navy commissioned the guided-missile destroyer USS Gravely (DDG 107) in 2010 in tribute to a man who relished destroyer service and set an example for generations of Navy men and women.”

(Doughty writes and posts to Navy Reads – www.navyreads.blogspot.com – on weekends, even on Super Bowl Sunday. The Navy Reads blog supports the CNO's professional reading program and related books.)

Celebrate love with MWR Valentine-themed events

Emily McNulty

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Love is in the air and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam's Morale, Welfare and Recreation has activities to help patrons sweep their special one off their feet.

Joint Base Catering, located at the Hickam Officers Club, will host an "XOXO Valentine's Day Dinner" where Chef Robert will prepare a five-course meal for \$45 for members, \$40 for non-members and an extra \$25 per person for wine pairings. Patrons of all ranks can sign up, but reservations are required before Feb.12. For more information, call 448-2271.

Patrons can also stop by Sam Choy's Island Style Seafood Grille, located on Mamala Bay Drive just past Hickam Harbor, for a four-course dinner on the water for \$89.99 per couple. The dinner includes a bottle of wine. For reservations, call 422-3002.

In addition, Seven Palms Bar and Grille can also be a part of patrons'

Valentines Day. They can share a romantic dinner and a bottle of champagne with their special someone. For reservations, call 421-7267.

Schooners Restaurant, located down the road from the Arizona Memorial, will host a family Valentine's Day seafood and prime rib buffet at \$29.95 person, \$15 for children ages 6 to 12 and free for children 5 years and younger. For reservations, call 423-0790. All of these dinners occur during normal dinner hours on Feb. 14.

Visit www.greatlifehawaii.com to view Valentine's Day menus and hours.

Hickam and Naval Bowling Centers can also help with Valentine's gifts this year. Patrons can stop by between now and Feb. 11 during open bowling times and receive an entry to win a dinner or lunch for their love. The first prize is a dinner date for two at Schooners or lunch for two at Seven Palms. Second prize winners will receive a box of chocolates. The winners will be notified Feb. 11.

For more information, call call 448-9959 or 473-

2574. Patrons who can't get enough of bowling can also bring their date to the Naval Station Bowling Center from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 14 and receive one free game of bowling for them and their beloved. For more information, call 473-2574.

Hickam and Wahiawa Annex Fitness Centers will also hold Valentine's-themed athletic events. Patrons can run a 5k beginning at 8 a.m. Feb. 8 starting and ending at the Hickam Fitness Center or beginning at 7 a.m. Feb. 13 at the Wahiawa Annex Fitness Center.

Both runs are free, with no registration required. The top three male and female finishers will receive prizes. For more information, call 448-2214 or 653-5542.

The Hickam Teen Center will hold a Valentine's Day social from 6 to 9 p.m. Feb. 14 for teens ages 13 to 18. The cost of the event is \$5 per youth with current registration.

Teens will be treated to a night of food, games, music and a photo booth.

Registration forms can be downloaded from www.greatlifehawaii.com.



MWR Marketing photo

Chef Robert Souza will provide a five-course Valentine's Day Dinner at the Hickam Officers Club.

For more information, call 448-0418.

Hickam Fitness Center Spa can also bring couples

together. Throughout February the Valentine's

special is a couples massage. For \$130 per couple

(\$65 per person), patrons can treat themselves and their significant other to a 60-minute massage. A 24-hour cancellation policy applies for all appointments. Call 448-2214 for more information.

Patrons can also bring their children to the Hickam Arts & Crafts Center from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 8 for Valentine origami. The cost of the session is \$10 per person and includes supplies. For more information, call 448-9907.

For those who love the movies and bowling, Sharkey Theater will give away a small bag of popcorn at the 7 p.m. movie Feb. 14. Then they can bring their movie ticket to the Naval Station Bowling Center and receive a free game of bowling for each movie ticket purchased. The offer is good only on Feb. 14 until the bowling center closes at 11 p.m. For more information, call 473-0726.

For more information on all events, visit www.greatlifehawaii.com or [facebook.com/greatlife](https://www.facebook.com/greatlife) hawaii.

Hickam Officers' Spouses' Club

HOSC accepting scholarship applications

The Hickam Officers' Spouses Club (HOSC) is currently accepting scholarship applications from all college bound military dependents, including high school seniors, current college students and spouses. Dependents from all branches of service are eligible.

Scholarship applications can be found on line by visiting <http://www.hickamosc.com/>. The deadline for applications is March 10.

Last year, the HOSC awarded dependent high school seniors, current college students and spouses more than \$30,000 in scholarships.

For more information about HOSC scholarships and eligibility, visit <http://www.hikcamosc.com/> or email the scholarship coordinator at scholarships@hickamosc.com.

MFSC announces upcoming classes on finances, communication, interviews

JBPHH Military and Family Support Center

The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Military and Family Support Center (MFSC) offers free programs to help Air Force and Navy service members, their families and Department of Defense civilians to develop skills, improve relationships, and handle the military way of life. Upcoming classes include:

- Acing the interview

class, 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 11 at MFSC Pearl Harbor. This workshop provides knowledge and skills training to help prepare participants for an effective interview. It identifies various interview scenarios, different question types, how to prepare effective answers, what to bring and how to dress for the interview.

- Good communication with your children class, 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 12 at MFSC Pearl Harbor. This seminar is designed to show participants how to

talk to their children on their level of understanding, learn how to listen to and connect with their feelings and learn the gentle art of active communication.

- Financial planning for retirement class, 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 13 at MFSC Hickam. Topics will include how to calculate what is needed to live a life of financial freedom at retirement age.

Register online at www.greatlifehawaii.com under the MFSC class calendar.

DoD advises service members to prepare for tax season

Terri Moon Cronk

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Tax season is here and service members should gather documentation to file their 2013 taxes. In an interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel, Barbara Thompson, the director of the Pentagon’s office of family policy/children and youth, suggested visiting the Military OneSource website for tax filing resources and to learn what will be necessary to file, such as W2 forms, Social Security numbers and



receipts for deductions such as child care, education, medical expenses and donations, among other write-offs. Tax preparers at Military OneSource will do short-form tax filing free of charge for service members and their families, Thompson said. Relocations and deployments have tax implications, Thompson noted. For example, deployed service members can receive an extension to file taxes after the normal April 15 filing date, she said. “It’s very helpful to have someone who is experienced to help you through the cumbersome issue of taxes and

tax returns,” she added. The tax preparers at Military OneSource are up to date on changes in tax laws and can answer military-specific questions, Thompson said. Installations also offer volunteer income tax assistance to service members and their families, while certain banks and credit unions provide education and training on tax preparation, Thompson said. She advised that service members organize their taxes by starting a file beginning each Jan. 1 for the following year’s tax papers, such as receipts and other write-offs. “You don’t want to wait until the last minute,” she said.

Service members and families who prepare long-form taxes with deductions such as mortgages and rental properties might want to consider hiring a tax expert to file for them, Thompson said. “It’s best to get advice to make sure you have everything covered,” she added. People who do their own taxes need to stay on top of current tax information, Thompson said. “Sometimes tax laws change, so you have to be really smart about doing your own taxes,” she added. States’ tax laws often vary, too, she said, and because of relocations, some service members have to file local taxes in more than one state. “That’s where [tax consul-

tants] can really be of great value to make sure you know what the requirements are for states,” Thompson said. Filing federal and state tax returns usually results in either a tax refund or money owed back to the government. Expecting to receive a tax refund, but instead finding out that money is owed can be a shock, Thompson said. Looking at W2s to determine how much money in taxes is being withheld is a good indicator of whether or not one will owe money, she suggested. Service members who receive a tax refund face important decisions on what to do with the money, Thompson said. “Do you use it to buy down

debt, or put it in a savings account?” she asked, advising people to not blow their tax refunds in a spending frenzy of unnecessary purchases. A tax refund also can be deposited into a retirement savings account, she added. “It’s important to think about what you’re going to do with that money and how you can best utilize it for your financial well-being,” she said. Meeting with a financial planner to learn the “lay of the land,” and what tax deductions might apply to a service member’s finances is a good idea, Thompson said. “It’s really important to be savvy about that.” *For more information, see page B-3.*

Federal Voting Assistance Program website provides information on voting

Lt. Cmdr. Jason Ayeroff

Regional Voting Assistance Officer



In order to vote in a federal primary or special election in March, April or May 2014, service members can visit www.FVAP.gov for information on registering to vote and requesting an absentee ballot according to state deadlines and requirements. States must provide requested ballots 45 days before an election. If the requested state ballot is not received at least 30 days before an election, prepare, print and sign the backup Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) at www.FVAP.gov. All uniformed service members residing outside of their voting jurisdiction, their eligible family members and citizens residing outside the U.S. who are residents of these states and would like to participate in these elections should submit a Federal

Post Card Application (FPCA), which acts as a request for voter registration and a request for an absentee ballot. FVAP recommends using the online assistant to prepare, print and sign an FPCA at FVAP.gov. Service members should include an email address, phone number and/or fax number on the FPCA in the event a local election official must contact them. Many states allow submission of the FPCA electronically and are required to deliver the blank ballot electronically by email or fax or provide online ballot access. Go to FVAP.gov or your state’s election website to see how you can return your forms. The FWAB is a backup ballot. If the requested state ballot has not been received 30 days before the

election or you think you will not receive your state ballot in time to return your ballot, prepare and print

the FWAB at FVAP.gov. Sign and submit the FWAB to the local election official. The FWAB is also available in embassies, consulates and military installations around the world. The state’s election website can be checked for specific information on candi-

dates, elections, contact information and links to local election offices. For more information on the Federal Voting Assistance Program or help with the absentee voting process, call FVAP at 1-800-438-8683 or DSN 425-1584 and visit

www.FVAP.gov for the complete 2014 primary election calendar. Unit or installation voting assistance officers can also provide information or assistance. Visit the Facebook page DoDFVAP or Twitter @FVAP.