

Bilateral U.S., Japan exercise promotes security

Capt. Justin Billot

Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

Personnel from the U.S. military and Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) engaged in the week-long “Integrated Air and Missile Defense Wargame V” at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to strengthen ties between the two nations and unite missile defense operations through bilateral training.

Representatives from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Japan Air Self-Defense Force and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force gathered on the shores of Oahu during the second week of February to participate in the bilateral and joint exercise.

Japan Air Self-Defense Force Maj. Gen. Yutaka Masuko, director of the defense plans and operations directorate at the air defense command headquarters, and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force Rear Adm. Ryo Sakai, commanding officer of Escort Flotilla One, led a team of Japanese air and missile defense planners during the exercise. The 613th Air Operations Center of Pacific Air Forces hosted the event.

“The goal of this exercise is to continue bilateral integration between our two nations to promote the security and stability of the Asia-Pacific region,” said Maj. Gen. Kevin Pottinger, mobilization assistant to the PACAF commander. “Integration and ally engagements are keys to the success of mutual defense of Japan and continued free access to the global commons.”

The event is a continuation of



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

Planners from the U.S. military and Japan Self-Defense Forces engage in missile defense planning during the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Wargame V on Feb. 13 in the 613th Air Operations Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

previous exercises that provide opportunities for service members from each nation to work together as well as enabling important joint U.S. training. Bilateral engagements are central to U.S. and Japanese shared goals of security and regional stability, according to Pottinger.

“We have made great progress working with our Japanese allies to enhance the integration of our air and missile defense opera-

tions,” Pottinger said. “This exercise strengthened our highly synchronized, bilateral control of integrated air and missile defense.”

The high fidelity, table top exercise was run by the Naval War College’s Gravelly Group and challenged Japan Self-Defense Forces and U.S. forces with a series of simulated events throughout a five-day period. Ultimately, these simulations pro-

vide realistic training opportunities for defense personnel while generating actionable and knowledgeable feedback for missile defense planning. For many military personnel, it was the first time working alongside allies in the Pacific.

One aspect that required no simulation was the effort required to coordinate defense training across two different languages. Even with the outstanding English skills of

the visiting JSDF officers, the fast pace of a missile defense exercise and its complex, highly technical vocabulary made the role of key language translators absolutely essential in the bilateral exchanges.

IAMD Wargame V is one of many bilateral exercises this year. These engagements ensure that when it comes to security and stability in the Pacific, Japanese and U.S. forces are speaking the same language.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Johans Chavarro

(Left) Capt. Carlyle Devoe (Navy ret.), Honolulu Navy League president, and Rear Adm. Robert Girrier, (right) deputy commander and chief of staff of U.S. Pacific Fleet, present a Sailor with a coin of appreciation during the sixth annual Honolulu Navy League-sponsored individual augmentee (IA) recognition luncheon at the Ala Moana Hotel.

Individual augmentees honored

MCSA Rose Forest

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West, Det. Hawaii

More than 62 Hawaii-based Sailors and Marines and their families were recognized for their service as individual augmentees (IAs) during the sixth annual “Boots on the Ground” IA recognition luncheon held Feb. 21 at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu.

Hosted by the Honolulu Council Navy League and presented by Partners in Patriotism, the luncheon recognized service members who deployed away from their command to regions in need of a unique skill that they possessed.

“This is an opportunity to call out individuals and recognize what they have done,” said Rear Adm. Robert P. Girrier, deputy commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet. “The name says it all; it was ‘individuals’ who came forward ... to ‘augment’ critical shortfalls in certain mission areas.”

“It’s the nature of our force. This volunteer force that we have created over the decades has some incredible talent at the individual level,” said Girrier. “This is what you get when you have a professional force.”

Since 2002, more than 114,000 active and Reserve Sailors and Marines have served on IA deployments. They leave their normal

military duties to fill critical jobs in locations around the world.

“It was a huge learning experience for me,” said Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Tara Myles. “That’s why I volunteered. I wanted to learn and see a different aspect of my rate.”

More than 1,400 IA Sailors have been awarded the Bronze Star, and nearly 20,000 have been awarded meritorious service awards of various types.

The Navy League is a civilian non-profit organization that hosted the luncheon to give the Marines and Sailors who served as individual augmentees recognition for their services.

USS Columbus underway



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Steven Khor

(Above) Chief Machinist’s Mate Darryl Jackson of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS Columbus (SSN 762) spends time with his son at a lunch for the crew before Columbus departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 19.

(Below) The Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS Columbus (SSN 762) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 19 for a regularly scheduled deployment to the western Pacific region. (See story and additional photos on page A-2, A-5).

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jason Swink



USS Columbus departs for western Pacific deployment
See page A-2



C-17 pilots train hard
See Page A-2



Navy Seabees, Air Force civil engineers join in ‘Olympics’
See page A-4



15th Wing gears up for 2014 AFAF drive
See page A-6



Honors
See page B-1



COLA survey
See page B-5

USS Columbus departs for western Pacific deployment

Story and photo by
MC1 Steven Khor

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

Families and friends bid farewell to the crew of the Los Angeles-class, fast-attack submarine USS Columbus (SSN 762) as it departed Feb. 19 from Joint Base Pearl-Harbor Hickam for a deployment to the western Pacific region.

Cmdr. David Youtt, Columbus' commanding officer, said the submarine and her crew are ready to get underway on a western Pacific (WESTPAC) deployment.

"The ship is in the best condition of my time on board, all systems are at 100 percent, and we are ready to execute our WESTPAC deployment," said Youtt. "The crew is definitely ready to get under way, and we are ready to professionally execute the mission."

Missions will include handling a multitude of taskings, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare and special operations in theater.

Youtt noted some of the challenges facing the crew include leaving their families, keeping the submarine operational for long periods, and continuing to qualify the Sailors in all facets of submarining.



Chief Electrician's Mate Derek Diener of the Los Angeles-class, fast attack submarine USS Columbus (SSN 762) spends time with his family at a lunch for the crew before Columbus departs to the western Pacific region. (See additional photo on page A-5).

However, he said he has an excellent crew and an excellent supply system to ensure continuous successful operations.

Youtt noted goals that include being ready for anything that Columbus is tasked to do, maximize qualifications of the submariners, and maximize the experience of the crew. He added

that the senior Sailors will train with the younger personnel to gain the experience of going on a western Pacific deployment and how to best represent the country.

Master Chief Machinist's Mate Herman Del Toro, Columbus' chief of the boat, added that the crew will also have the opportunity to experience foreign

ports of call.

"The crew has been training hard and even though it can be tough to leave the families, sometimes we get an opportunity to pull into some ports that some crew [members] will never experience if not for deployments," said Del Toro.

Columbus deployed with about

135 Sailors, many of them on their first deployment.

For Culinary Specialist Seaman Jose Hernandez, a first-time deployment brings feelings of anticipation and excitement.

"I'm pretty excited for this first-time deployment," said Hernandez. "It should be nice. I like the crew I'm working with, so I'm not worried about going under for so long."

Hernandez talked about the challenges he will face.

"I'm looking to experience challenges and how we handle them as a crew, or individually, how well I do in getting my qualifications," said Hernandez.

Hernandez added that despite any challenges, he looks forward to his first deployment, seeing new ports, and learning from his fellow shipmates to better prepare him for future opportunities in life.

Columbus is the 51st Los Angeles-class submarine and the 12th improved version of this class, which includes a vertical launch system for Tomahawk cruise missiles and an improved hull design for under-ice operations. It completed a post shipyard availability in June 1994 in Groton, Conn. after initial construction and shake-down operations. In September 1994, the ship conducted an inter-fleet transfer to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and joined the U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Force.



Lt. Col. Gregg Johnson, 535th Airlift Squadron commander, banks left in a C-17 Globemaster III simulator. (See additional photo on page A-5).

C-17 pilots train hard

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt.
Alexander Martinez

15th Wing Public Affairs

For C-17 Globemaster III pilots, training doesn't only occur in the sky. In fact, much of their training is done on the ground to ensure that when they fly, they're prepared to deal with any issue that may come their way.

Hickam C-17 pilots maintain their preparedness by conducting recurring training throughout the year. This includes computer-based training, monthly exams on basic flight knowledge, self-paced instrument simulator sorties for newer pilots, and quarterly phase training in a C-17 simulator, a 30-foot machine that gives pilots a realistic feeling of flight.

"Using [the simulator] gives us a great opportunity to practice our flying and improve overall," said Lt. Col. Gregg Johnson, 535th Airlift Squadron (AS) commander. "It really helps build our confidence, whether you're a pilot like me who's been doing this for a while, or a newer pilot. In fact, it's very important for our newer guys."

Johnson and copilot 1st Lt. Taylor Ragland, 535th AS, recently completed a phase 1-day 1 training together in the C-17 simulator.

"The simulator gives us a chance to go through a problem in real time so if it happened in real life, we would be able to rely on our training to fix the problem," Ragland said.

Before entering the simulator, pilots go through a pre-brief with a pilot instructor to prepare for their simulated mission. While the pilots have a good idea what the training might include, they don't fully know, allowing the element of surprise to drive their training.

The simulator, sitting on hydraulic legs, moves with the motion of flight conducted inside to give a real sense of flying. The detailed landscapes and weather patterns challenge the pilots, but pilot instructors also inject different challenges and emergencies during training. Most emergencies that are practiced in the simulator can't be practiced in the air, such as engine fires,



A C-17 Globemaster III flight simulator sits ready for pilots to board.

hydraulic failure and enemy threats.

"The scenarios test our decision-making skills and ability to identify issues or emergencies," Ragland said. "We then run through our procedures to solve the problem using checklists."

According to Ragland, the C-17 simulator program saves the Air Force \$20,000 per flight hour as opposed to the pilots flying in-air missions for the same training. This doesn't include maintenance costs, manning and time. It costs \$25 million to construct the simulator and its facility, and it pays for itself every six months in fuel savings alone.

Additionally, the simulator has the ability to link up with C-17 simulators at other bases to conduct joint-mission exercises and can even link up with simulators for KC-135 Stratotankers to practice in-air refueling.

"The ability to link up with simulators from other bases gives us more of a real-time practice because there are other pilots you're interacting with, so you can't just press pause in the [simulator]," Ragland said.

The realistic training the C-17 simulator provides to pilots ensures Hickam's fleet continues to fly safely and effectively to accomplish the 15th Wing mission.

NAVFAC commands partner to support STEM outreach program

Naval Facilities
Engineering Command
Pacific Public Affairs

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific and NAVFAC Hawaii partnered to provide an educational science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) opportunity for Radford High School to visit the Navy Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) on Feb. 7.

Paul Carter of NAVFAC Hawaii gave a guided tour of the 11.61 acre facility located at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to the school's advanced placement environmental science (APES) class.

"Water was a big topic in the APES curriculum, and the tour was directly related to what the students were learning," said Jennifer Hall, Radford High School APES teacher. "The day before the tour, the students had just finished learning about water pollution, wa-

terborne diseases and the process of water treatment."

The tour consisted of a safety brief at the beginning of the plant, then onto sewer water intake, then through the different stages in the plant process, and finally to the lab where the water is tested.

"Very often students just read about what they've learned, but never have the opportunity to witness it," said Hall. "The students were glad to witness the process of water treatment and be able to view the samples of water under a microscope. The aeration tanks also piqued a lot of interest."

STEM-related sections of the tour included the overall plant water intake capacity of water flow in and out, flocculation formation, the different aeration basins, chemical reactions with the bacteria, pH of the water at the outfall and methane production.

"The students were thor-

oughly engaged in every part of the tour, asking questions and being intrigued about the entire process," said Lt. Brian Christner, NAVFAC Pacific aide to the commander and tour escort. "They enjoyed the tour and learned about the pivotal role NAVFAC and the plant serves to treat the waste water we produce."

The WWTP was built in increments starting in 1969 and is owned, operated and maintained by NAVFAC Hawaii. It provides advanced secondary treatment through the use of clarifiers, an activated sludge process, and effluent filtration for approximately 5.5 million gallons of wastewater per day.

The WWTP's primary, secondary and tertiary treatment, such as sand filtration and ultraviolet disinfection of both domestic and industrial wastewater is beneficial to the U.S. Navy and the state of Hawaii, keeping the island's ocean waters clean.



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Brian Christner

NAVFAC Pacific and NAVFAC Hawaii partnered to provide the Radford High School Environmental Science class with an educational tour of the Navy Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) on Feb. 7.

JBPHH launches Flickr, shares photos with Navy, Air Force community

Anna Marie General

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Public
Affairs

In addition to its presence on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest, on Feb. 21 Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) launched Flickr, an online photo sharing and management tool as part of their official social networking sites.

With Flickr's one terabyte of free space, this allows JBPHH to organize and share high-resolution photos with stakeholders and the Pearl Harbor-Hickam community.

Coinciding with the launch, JBPHH

leadership recognized Sailors, Airmen and civilians for a "job well done" during an awards ceremony held at the Hickam Memorial Theater. It captured the camaraderie of the joint base community that received more than 100 views on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Flickr during its first day online.

Social media has changed the way we communicate and disseminate information instantly over the last decade, which makes Flickr the Facebook of photography.

To view or download Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Flickr photo stream, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/pearlharbor-hickam>.

Commentary

Navy housing liaison shares energy saving tips

Todd Thom

Navy Region Hawaii
Housing Liaison

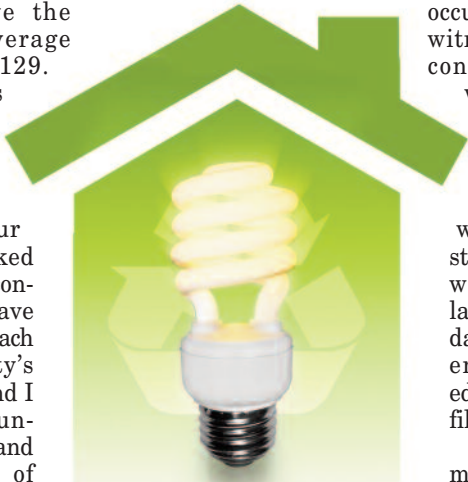
I serve as the advocate for residents living in Forest City's Navy public-private venture (PPV) homes and engage daily with Forest City Residential Management and its residents to help make living in a Forest City home a positive experience.

The Navy's Resident Energy Conservation Program (RECP) is part of living in a Navy PPV home and is crucial to long-term sustainability of the PPV program. Less electricity usage reduces costs to the project's operating budget, allowing funds to be spent on other uses like additional services and future home replacement.

In December 2013, 33 percent of Forest City's residents

were above the buffer with the average payment being \$129. Also, 32 percent of its residents were below the buffer with an average rebate of \$135.

For the past four months, I have worked with Forest City to contact residents who have had the highest bills each month. Forest City's property manager and I personally made hundreds of phone calls and conducted dozens of home inspections to aid residents in reducing their utility consumption. Through these outreach efforts, I have learned a lot and so have housing residents. I have reconfirmed my belief that some families are fully aware of their usage and are comfortable with their family lifestyle and energy consumption.



I have also engaged with a considerable number of residents who were unaware of preventable factors contributing to their high energy usage. Many have made adjustments after my visit and actually saw a decrease in their next monthly consumption (and often their bill). I want to share the knowledge that we have gained from these interactions.

The three most common factors are not surprises—they are at the top of every energy saver checklist: air conditioning, water heaters and plug load.

Air conditioning maintenance at the resident level is essential and two-fold. It can be significant in keeping costs down and in preventing mold from

occurring in a home. We witnessed numerous air conditioning systems with dirty or clogged filters.

A clogged filter suffocates the system and makes it work harder if not constantly. To better track when your filter was last changed, write the date down on your calendar and the filter edge that faces the A/C filter door.

Change your filter monthly at a minimum, more frequently if you have pets that shed hair. Filters are available free of charge at the self help center located on Nimitz Road.

OSHA recommends 76 degrees for an office environment; a home's recommended setting is 78 degrees. We noted that some residents have heat-generating items like televisions and entertainment systems placed near the A/C thermostat. This resulted in the A/C turning on when it wasn't needed.

It also helps to keep cooling boundaries closed and use light-blocking curtains on your windows to minimize the sun's heating effect in the home.

We found water heater timers with the incorrect time of day. A common cause of this is due to a previous power outage, so be sure to reset the timer any

time you lose power. The result was that electricity was turning on at the wrong time to heat the water, such as during the day when the sun should be heating the water.

Some families, based on their lifestyle, can have hot water available solely from the sun without ever using "on" and "off" timer pins. Only on cloudy days would these residents need to manually turn on the water heater by flipping the timer level to the "on" position (just remember to flip it to the "off" position when you have enough hot water. Operating the water heater using "only solar" can reduce monthly consumption by as much as 20 percent.

Residents can also benefit from checking their air conditioner and hot water heater weekly. Keeping the space dry and free of water leaks prevents humidity that may create mold.

We met residents who were not aware of how much plug load they had. Some chose to re-evaluate whether their extra freezer, refrigerator or beverage cooler was really needed for the few items that were in them, compared to the cost to run them.

Some residents had multiple items plugged in when not in use that continued to draw electricity. These items should be unplugged or turned off through the use of a power strip. Forest

City makes available one free advanced-power strip per household, so be sure to go to your resident service office if you have not received yours.

We noted residents who liked to use air fresheners plugged into an outlet to heat oil or wax. The home smelled nice; however, many of the bulbs and elements in these fresheners can cost up to \$11 a month to operate. This becomes significant when several of them are plugged into a home, operating 24/7. We met residents who used less electricity by utilizing a liquid scent with wicks that they inverted every few weeks.

These are just a few of our most common findings that could have a significant impact on electricity consumption. For more tips and information, visit: www.livewithinthebuffer.com.

If there is a problem in your home or you would like assistance in how you can conserve energy in your home, contact a Forest City community manager for your location or me at 474-1804 for assistance.

Remember that conservation doesn't have to be a hardship but does require good stewardship.

(Editor's note: We will have more information soon about energy conservation and electricity rates. Watch this space.)

Diverse Views



Which African American historical figure do you admire the most and why?



Spencer King
Air Force Office of Special Investigations

"Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Sr., first black general officer, the reason I joined the military. His dedication and service inspired me."

MM1 Edward Cabansag
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

"Martin Luther King, of course, because he has had the most impact for us by far as far as minority rights."



Staff Sgt. Antonio Vazquez
8th Intelligence Squadron

"Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He showed millions of Americans and the world that any dream, no matter how big or small, is worth fighting for."

CTR2 Caleb Lovett
NIOC Hawaii

"George Washington Carver, because he invented peanut butter. I love peanut butter. Can't have PB and Js without it."



Master Sgt. Amy Mendonca
8th Intelligence Squadron

"Oprah Winfrey. She has overcome such adversity in her life, to become one of the most influential women in the world. She has inspired millions to better themselves and their lives."

CTRSA Roman Small
NIOC Hawaii

"Martin Luther King. Civil rights, that's what it should all be about."



Staff Sgt. Shawn Williams
647th Logistics Readiness Squadron

"Jackie Robinson. He showed great courage and overcame many obstacles. He also went after his dreams no matter what anyone said."

CTR2 Shane Hale
NIOC Hawaii

"Rosa Parks. She stood up for what she believed in."



Tech. Sgt. Mia Williams
56th Air and Space Communications Squadron

"Michael Jordan. Although there are many African American figures I admire, I admire Michael Jordan because there is a quote that sticks out to me he mentioned. 'I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games; 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.' Very powerful!"

*Provided by David D. Underwood Jr.
and Lt. j.g. Eric Galassi*

*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

Ship named after first African American naval aviator



U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph

USS Jesse L. Brown (DE-1089) is shown here being tied up at the Charleston Naval Base, S.C. as it returns from maneuvers in the Mediterranean Sea with other ships of Destroyer Squadron Four in 1974. USS Jesse L. Brown, a 3963-ton Knox-class escort ship built at Westwego, La., was commissioned in February 1973, 41 years ago this month. It was named in honor of Ensign Jesse LeRoy Brown, who became the first African American naval aviator in 1948.



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Navy Seabees, Air Force civil engineers join ‘Olympics’

MC2 Tiarra Fulgham

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West,
Det. Hawaii

Sailors from Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 303, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific and Air Force engineers competed in the Seabee Olympics held Feb. 22 at Quick Field at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The Seabee Olympics is an annual event held prior to the Seabee birthday ball to build camaraderie, esprit de corps and unit cohesion among Seabees, Civil Engineer Corp officers, and engineers from the U.S Air Force 647th Engineering Squadron.

“The way the teams have come together has changed over the years. Combining with the joint base has allowed us to invite the Air Force and have the 647th civil engineers,” said Lt. John Daly, resident officer of construction, Kaneohe Bay. “We call it the Seabee Olympics, but what we are really celebrating is the military engineers.”

Events included traditional competitions that deal with construction or the mechanic work that engineers do, such as pushing a Humvee, driving a nail relay race and a construction project, all which reflect the military engineering department. This year’s events also included ultimate frisbee, tug-of-war, tire flips and flag football.

“It’s pretty good being out here with the Navy. It’s good competition and a good morale builder,” said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jeremie Wilson of 647th Civil Engineer Squadron. “We don’t get to see this



Seabees assigned to Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawaii Self-Help participate in a tire flip race Feb. 21, at Quick Field on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Seabees assigned to Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303 and Airmen from the 647TH Civil Engineer Squadron (647 CES) participate in Ultimate Frisbee at Quick Field.



(Far left) Steelworker 1st Class David Banaszak assigned to Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303 participates in a nail and hammer relay race during the Seabee Olympics Feb. 21.

(Left) Seabees assigned to Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303, and Airmen from the 647TH Civil Engineer Squadron (647 CES) participate in Ultimate Frisbee at Quick Field on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Sean Furey

side often and they don’t get to see us, so it’s a good way to just get out here and realize we are all the same people.”

The Seabee Olympics this year takes place during the National Engineers

Week during which the Society of American Military Engineers recognizes the many achievements of military engineers.

“A couple of years ago, we switched it over to a trophy that gets passed back and

forth called the “Admirals Hammer,” which currently the Air Force holds,” said Daly. “The goal is to get it out of building 1200. Whether it comes to NAVFAC Hawaii or whether it goes to CBMU 303, we are

both trying to get the trophy back into Seabee hands.”

The USAF claimed the “Admirals Hammer” in both 2012 and 2013. This year the trophy was placed in the hands of NAVFAC Hawaii.

The official birthday of

the Seabee rate is March 5. Navy Seabees will celebrate March 8 at the Hale Koa in Honolulu. This year marks the 72nd anniversary of the Navy Seabees and the 162nd anniversary of the Civil Engineer Corps.

Service members can receive help filing income tax returns

Story and photo by
Master Sgt.
Jerome S. Tayborn

15th Wing Public Affairs

As of Jan. 31, active-duty, Reservists, family members and retirees can now have their 2013 income taxes prepared using the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam self-service tax center.

The tax service is free of charge and runs through the Internal Revenue Service’s deadline for tax return submissions April 15. Eligible reservists must be on active status and retirees’ annual income must not exceed \$58,000.

Last year more than 670 federal returns were filed by the JBPHH tax center.

The walk-in only and self-service process allows customers to electronically file their 2013 income tax returns at their own pace with the help of an on-staff volunteer tax preparer to assist with any questions and guidance.

“If service members have their taxes prepared by a professional business, it could cost anywhere from \$200 to \$500,” said Cryptologic Technician (Interpreter) 1st Class



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Edward Lim, 324th Intelligence Squadron linguist, assists U.S. Navy Cryptologic Technician (Interpreter) 3rd Class Mary Chamber, Navy Information Operations Center, as she files her 2013 income taxes Feb. 19 at the tax center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Dewayne Bell, assigned to Navy Information Operations Center, who is a volunteer tax preparer.

“The average cost to purchase the online software could range from

\$20 for a basic copy to \$80 for a more premium version,” Bell said.

Typically it only takes 30-60 minutes to file a tax return with minimal assistance utilizing the

services, unless a member has a more complex tax return.

“Depending on the ease of a return and how quickly the IRS can accept a return, it can be done

fairly quickly,” said Bell. “If filing an electronic return, it can take up to 21 days to receive a refund, but here we have seen it take as little as five working days in some cases.”

“We advise service members to bring all your tax papers with you including last year’s return taxes,” said Bell.

“This is my first time utilizing these services, and I think it’s pretty amazing,” said Cryptologic Technician (Interpreter) 3rd Class Mary Chamber, Navy Information Operations Center. “The process was pretty easy, and all of the volunteers here are very helpful and friendly.”

The tax center staff members are volunteers certified through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance office with the IRS and have completed all IRS required exams.

The tax center is located in the Navy College, building 679 at Pearl Harbor. Tax center office hours are from 8:30 a.m. through 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. For more information, call the JBPHH tax center at 473-4112.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam*Highlights*



(Left) Airmen from the 15th Medical Group struggle to drive as they take part in a driving simulation game while wearing goggles that replicate the effects of alcohol during the group's Wingman Day held Feb. 20 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The event highlighted the dangers of drinking and driving and the consequences associated with it.

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

(Right) Airmen from the 647th Civil Engineer Squadron help guide a fellow blindfolded Airman through a simulated land mine obstacle course during the 647th CES Wingman Day held Feb.19 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Wingman Day encourages teamwork and highlights the Air Force's focus on its most valuable asset: Airmen.

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



(Left) Airmen from the 96th Air Refueling Squadron participate in a kayak race during the 96th ARS Wingman Day held Feb. 20 at Hickam Beach on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

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

(Right) Lt. Col. Mark Ladtkow, 199th Fighter Squadron commander, and Lt. Col. James Sage, 199th Fighter Squadron director of operations, provide a brief overview of the Hawaii F-22 Raptors to Sen. Richard J. Durbin (Dem.-Ill.), Sen. Brian E. Schatz (Dem.-Hawaii) and Sen. Mazie Hirono (Dem.-Hawaii) on Feb. 18 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Kristen M. Stanley



(Left) Lt. Americo Perez Jr. of the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Columbus (SSN 762) enjoys time with his family at a lunch for the crew before Columbus departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 19.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Steven Khor

USS Chung-Hoon ramps up for maintenance at shipyard

Lt. j.g. Augustus Karisch

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93)

The guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) will undergo a large overhaul of its physical structure and various mechanical and electronic systems at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

Though it is not uncommon for a ship to be in port for two weeks or even a month at a time while minor work is completed, this five-month extended period of maintenance is a new occurrence for most of the current crew. With its upgraded capabilities, it can provide the best possible support to U.S. Pacific Fleet.

“It’s easy to feel like we aren’t doing what we signed up for as Sailors when we’re just sitting next to the pier,” said



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Paul Kelly

The guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) underway during Talisman Saber 2013.

Cmdr. Ryan Collins, commanding officer.

“But really, we are investing in the future readiness of our ship and giving

her the cutting edge technology we need to meet any challenges we may face in the future,” he added. “This maintenance

period will go off safely and efficiently with proactive oversight by all hands, and soon we can get back to what we do

best – defending America’s interests over the horizon.”

To keep their skills sharp, Chung-Hoon Sailors will crossdeck to other ships on the waterfront as well as make use of the various shore-based simulators and training systems available in and around Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

There will be scaffolding and power tools on the ship, and many of the training systems that the Sailors rely on will be temporarily out of commission. To mitigate these risks, Sailors aboard Chung-Hoon will be required to undergo focused safety training and use additional personal protective equipment when moving about the ship.

Command Master Chief Chris Detje warned against complacency and a

lack of focus. “The ship will be in a vulnerable period where training and safety can easily be overlooked,” said Detje. “This maintenance period should be taken every bit as seriously as a deployment work-up phase, so that we remain safe and proficient and can hit the ground running as soon as we are out of the yards.”

Indeed, training and safety are emphasized at all levels and in all spaces.

“For the last two years, and really for most Sailors’ entire careers, our job has been to prepare for deployments and to focus on carrying out the Navy’s mission abroad,” said Lt. Cmdr. Tom Ogden, Chung-Hoon’s executive officer.

“Now it’s time to shift our focus and approach this maintenance period with the same intensity and commitment,” he said.

15th Wing gears up for 2014 AFAF drive

Staff Sgt. Alexander Martinez

15th Wing Public Affairs

In the spirit of giving back to the Air Force community, the 15th Wing is preparing its 2014 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign which begins March 3 and runs through April 11.

The AFAF is an annual fundraiser for charitable organizations that provide support to the Air Force community, including active duty, Reservist and Air National Guard Airmen, their family members and retirees.

The charitable organizations include the Air Force Villages, Inc., the Air Force Aid Society, Inc., the Gen. and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation, and the Air Force Enlisted Village, Inc.

The organizations help the Air Force community by providing aid during emergencies, support for educational needs, and assisting widows and widowers of Air Force members in need of financial assistance.

Master Sgt. Valorie Whitehill, 15th Maintenance Group, and Capt. Jeremy Tippey, 15th Operations Support Squadron, are the installation project officers for

this year’s campaign.

The six-week campaign begins with an AFAF kickoff reception on March 3 where the first official contributions from the 15th Wing will be given.

A key focus for this year’s campaign is getting as many Airmen as possible to donate, even if it’s only a small amount. Every wing unit will have an AFAF keyworker in charge of coordinating the collection of donations and ensuring 100 percent contact with their unit personnel.

“The key is to ensure all service members are contacted and accurately informed on what AFAF provides,” Tippey said. “We want everyone to know their whole donation goes directly to help other Air Force members.”

This year, Hickam’s monetary goal is to raise \$115,620.

Donors are encouraged to learn more about the charities the AFAF supports and can find their website links at <https://www.afassistancefund.org>.

“I believe that the more people understand what these four organizations are about, the more likely people are to give,” Whitehill said.

For more information on Hickam’s AFAF campaign, call Master Sgt. Whitehill at 448-6068 or email valorie.whitehill@us.af.mil

NMCRS fund drive to kick off March 3

The 2014 Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) “Be their Safety Net — Donate Today” fund drive for Navy activities will be held March 3 to April 4.

Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, will kick off the fund drive for all command key persons at 11 a.m. March 3 at Sharkey Theater, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Uniform is service khaki for E-7 and above, uniform of the day for E-6 and below. All commands are requested to send their NMCRS fund drive representative to this kickoff meeting. Commanding officers, officers in charge and command master chiefs are also invited to attend.

Command fundraising packages necessary to conduct the campaign will be distributed at 10:30 a.m. Key person training will also be provided.

NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor will provide overall fund drive coordination. Campaign collection updates will be reported to the NMCRS on March 14, 21, 28 and April 4.

For more information, contact Lt. Darian Wilder at darian.wilder@navy.mil or 473-7903.



The family of Pearl Harbor survivor Lt. Cmdr. Karl C. Gresowski commits his ashes to the sea near the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island.

U.S. Navy photos by MCSA Rose Forest

Photo illustration by Rico Onaha Hutter

(Above): Utilitiesman 2nd Class Jeremy Orndoff, assigned to the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Honors and Ceremonies Detachment, presents a flag to Brenda Gresowski-Judd, the oldest daughter of Pearl Harbor survivor Lt. Cmdr. Karl C. Gresowski.

Honors

MCSA Rose Forest
*Navy Public Affairs Support
Element West, Det. Hawaii*
Brandon Bosworth
Ho'okele Staff Writer

The ashes of Lt. Cmdr. Karl C. Gresowski, (Navy ret.), a Pearl Harbor survivor, were scattered in the waters near the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during a ceremony Feb. 25.

Among the more than 30 people in attendance were Gresowski's family, including his oldest daughter, Brenda Gresowski-Judd, and close friends. Jim Taylor, Navy Region Hawaii Pearl Harbor survivor liaison coordinated the ceremony. Chaplain Lt. James Ragain, Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel, presided over the services.

Gresowski was born Jan. 15, 1917 in St. Louis, Mo. He joined the Navy in April 1936 and served until his retirement in 1961.

During his military service, he was stationed at Pearl Harbor on the Sotoyomo-class auxiliary fleet tug USS Sunnadin (ATA 197), a seagoing tugboat. He saw action on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941 while on the Sunnadin.

"My father once told me that being here on Dec. 7, 1941 defined the rest of his life," said Gresowski-Judd. "He was on duty when those first bombs hit."

As warships attempted to get underway to search for the Japanese fleet, the Sunnadin was ordered to assist them as well as help fight fires and rescue Sailors from the oily waters. Later, the crew of Sunnadin kept the USS Raleigh from sinking by laying across the damaged ship for three days and nights before helping it into drydock.

During his 26 years of military service, Gresowski served in World War II, the Korean

Conflict and the beginning of the Vietnam War. He earned two Good Conduct Awards, the American Defense Service Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the China Service Medal and the World War Two Victory Medal.

After active military service, Gresowski began his civilian career by opening Hawaiian Polynesia Tours in 1964. He was one of the first group travel companies to offer scheduled weekly tours to Hawaii. Tours to Alaska, Mexico and the Caribbean followed.

Karl Gresowski died in December of last year.

"He was a hero to citizens of our great country and, of course, to all the family and friends who have made today possible," Taylor said.

"Because of his wartime experience that began on that infamous December day, and continued for four years fighting in the South Pacific, he decided he wanted his ashes to join his lost friends and shipmates in Pearl Harbor," added Gresowski-Judd.

Military honors included a rifle salute, the playing of "Taps," and the presentation of the burial flag to the family by the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Honors and Ceremonies Detachment.

Gresowski's wife Pearl was buried locally a few days earlier.

"By bringing mom and dad's ashes home to Honolulu, they have come full circle with completion of their 73 years of marriage. They were so close and committed to each other. It is ironic that they died within two months of each other. This is where they met, this is where they first loved, and this is where they chose to rest for all eternity," said Gresowski-Judd.

Gresowski is survived by four daughters, Brenda Gresowski-Judd, Vera Ann Gillespie, Tari J. Hazen and Cary Ross; two sons, Larry Gresowski and Ted Gresowski; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

(Right): Brenda Gresowski-Judd, oldest daughter, speaks during an ash scattering ceremony for her father, Pearl Harbor survivor Lt. Cmdr. Karl C. Gresowski, at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island. Gresowski's remains were scattered near wreckage of the battleship USS Utah (BB 31) wreckage which was sunk during the 1941 attack.



Members of the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Honors and Ceremonies Detachment participate in an ash-scattering ceremony for Pearl Harbor survivor Lt. Cmdr. Karl G. Gresowski.

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii holds heart health promotion

Story and photo by
Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii held a Healthy Heart Fair and Great American Spit-Out Awareness Day event on Feb. 20 at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange mall rotunda.

The event featured blood pressure screening, healthy eating tips, and information about cholesterol management. There were a variety of displays, including models of lungs and mouths that had become diseased through tobacco.

"We're trying to promote the Great American Spit-

Out and encourage people to stop tobacco use for just one day," said Eleanor Bru, a registered nurse with Naval Health Clinic Hawaii Health Promotion. "It's a start."

February is American Heart Month, and the Healthy Heart Fair and Great American Spit-Out Awareness Day emphasized how avoiding tobacco use is a part of good heart health.

"Heart disease is the number one cause of death in the U.S.," Bru said. "Using tobacco is a risk factor. Reducing tobacco use helps to reduce the risk of heart disease."

According to the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention, about 600,000 people die of heart disease in the United States every year. Heart disease accounts for one out of every four deaths in the U.S.

Cigarette smokers are two to four times more likely to develop coronary heart disease than non-smokers, and nonsmokers who are exposed to second-hand smoke at home or work increase their heart disease risk by 25 to 30 percent.

For more information about the Great American Spit-Out and tobacco cessation, visit the Department of Defense website www.ucanquit2.org.



Alexandra Stivers, Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class and Francis Paul Balisi, Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class answer questions from exchange patrons during the Naval Health Clinic Hawaii Healthy Heart Fair and Great American Spit-Out Awareness Day event on Feb. 20 at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange.

Wahine Koa upends Bombshells for 2nd straight win

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

Wahine Koa quarterback Dana Hester threw for three touchdowns and ran in for another to lead the team to a 30-18 win over the Bombshells on Feb. 23 in an Xtreme Flag Football at Keehi Lagoon Park.

The win improved Wahine Koa's record to 2-0, while the Bombshells have opened the new season by losing two straight games.

Both teams are filled with military-family members affiliated with Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"She's stepping up," said Wahine Koa head coach August Young about Hester's prowess at QB. "Her mobility in the pocket is really good, that and reading where her blockers are. She picked it up so much. We go over it in practice and she implements it."

Working with first-year offensive coordinator Lt.j.g. Gennaro Hawkins, Navy Computer Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific, Hester wasted little time in getting the team moving forward.

Starting at her own 20-yard line, Hester finished off a seven-play drive to pay dirt with a 13-yard scoring



Sandy Robinson, a Navy spouse, clutches the ball in the end zone to score a touchdown in an Xtreme Flag Football game between Wahine Koa and the Bombshells. Robinson's score was the first of Wahine Koa's four touchdowns in a 30-18 win over the Bombshells.

toss to Sandy Robinson, a Navy spouse who has recently enlisted with Navy and will be attending boot camp later this year.

The two-point conversion was good to give Wahine Koa the early upper hand at 8-0.

After the Bombshells

were stopped on downs on their first drive of the game, the team responded on the next possession by moving the ball 43 yards on nine plays for six points.

Bombshells quarterback Caryn Harman, a Navy spouse, came up big with

two long gains on a couple of keepers before handing the ball off to Staff Sgt. Sade Vasquez, 15th Wing, for a one-yard plunge into the end zone.

With their lead cut down to two points, Wahine Koa, behind the straight forward

running style of retired Army veteran Simone Davis, quickly got the lead back up to eight.

Davis started off the five-play drive with a strong 11-yard rush and then later picked up another five yards before catching an eight-yard scoring pass from Hester just prior to halftime.

Wahine Koa kept the pressure on in the second half by storming out of the break with their third scoring drive of the day.

Aided by a pass-interference penalty on Bombshells' defensive back Ashley Jenkins, an Air Force spouse, that placed the ball at the Bombshells' seven-yard line, Hester needed only two plays before completing her third touchdown pass of the game by lobbing a short one-yard toss to Fleming Belvilyn, who is a Coast Guard spouse.

The teams traded touchdowns, with Navy spouse Jessica Fama scoring on a one-yard run for the Bombshells and Hester taking off on a 22-yard scamper before Fama reached the end zone on a nine-yard pass from Harman for the final score.

While the Bombshells have now lost two games this season, which is something that didn't happen to the team until the final

championship matchup at the end of last season, Harman remained positive.

"Everything is possible," said Harman about winning the rest of the team's games. "Look, we're the only team that can score that amount of points on the Koa, so there's no reason we can't go out and blast everyone from here on out."

The Bombshells' slow start may have ultimately cost the team the game as Wahine Koa scored on each of their possessions except their last series, which they used to run out the clock.

In designing the team's attack, Hawkins said that the ladies did everything he asked them to do.

"We just try to take advantage of everything the other team has to offer," Hawkins explained. "A lot of teams come out aggressive and, of course, we're going to try and exploit that. There's some things we got to work on, but other than that, it felt great."

After winning the league championship two seasons in a row, Young said that anything short of a threepeat would be a disappointment.

"Undeclared championship. That's the goal," Young said. "Hopefully, we'll get there."

'Discover your future' at aviation museum

Story and photo by
Pacific Aviation
Museum Pearl Harbor

Young people interested in aviation as a career or hobby, schools, Scouts and families can attend Discover Your Future in Aviation from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 29 at Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor.

This is the fifth year for the special aviation day, which will feature hands-on workshops, a career fair, flight lab and interactive science exhibits. Guests

can venture into the open cockpits of some of history's greatest aircraft and learn to fly on the museum's flight lab simulators.

Participants can enter to win aviation prizes and take photos with historical re-enactors portraying Amelia Earhart, Rosie the Riveter, a Zero pilot and others. Girl and Boy Scouts also can fulfill objectives for badge programs.

In celebration of Women's History Month and the contribution of women in aviation, the mu-

seum will honor Capt. Sharyn Emminger Dey, the first female pilot to fly for Hawaiian Airlines, who captained the highly publicized flight of the first all-women flight crew of a United States scheduled air carrier. A special celebration of Emminger Dey's career will take place at the event.

The event is free with regular museum admission and to museum members. For more information, visit www.PacificAviationMuseum.org or call 441-1007.



The Discover Your Future in Aviation event on March 29 at Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor will include hands-on workshops and interactive exhibits.

'Navigate' to Ho'okele website

www.hookelenews.com or www.cnrc.navy.mil/hawaii

Joint base observes African American History Month



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Dustin W. Sisco

Master Chief Culinary Specialist Rory Bacon speaks at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during a African American History Month event.

MC3 Johans Chavarro

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element
Det. West, Hawaii

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-

Hickam (JBPHH) commemorated African American History Month with special events, including a luncheon at the Silver Dolphin Bistro and observances hosted by the

Hickam African American Heritage Association at both the Pearl Harbor and Hickam Air Force Base Memorial Chapel during the month of February. The national and Depart-

ment of Defense theme for this year's observance is "Civil Rights in America," highlighting the important milestones by African Americans and others in the battle for civil rights and equal treatment under the law.

The observances hosted by the Hickam African American Heritage Association featured guest speakers who spoke about the importance of recognizing and remembering those accomplishments and the efforts to bring together those from different backgrounds.

"Our Navy is more diverse today with the amount of people with different backgrounds that's coming in, and sometimes you have to think back and ask yourself, 'Why is that so important?'" said Master Chief Culinary Specialist Rory Bacon.

"Each of us has a different socialization based upon where you're from, your religion, your education, which is an enhancer, because when we come to-

gether and concentrate on those differences, that helps the mission, that's what makes us stronger. We are a stronger Navy today because of those differences we have amongst ourselves," Bacon said.

Service members who attended the luncheon at the Silver Dolphin Bistro were treated to a traditional southern menu and learned about the significance of African American History Month while spending time with service members from other commands.

To Sailors in attendance, the luncheon served as a reminder of the struggle and achievements of ancestors and the people who have made equal rights a reality today.

"Events like these are good because they bring people together," said Hospital Corpsman Seaman Robert Phillips, stationed at Naval Health Clinic Makalapa, Pearl Harbor.

"Shore commands, sea commands. It's a good opportunity to gather and not

just to honor one day, but to appreciate each other."

"With me being African American, it's not just the month of February that means a lot to me. Black history as a whole is important to me," Sonar Technician Submarine 2nd Class La' Marcos Rayford stationed with JBPHH Honors and Ceremonies.

"The contributions from the past that people have made to help the future and the present means everything. If it wasn't for the civil rights movement and movements similar to that, a lot of people in America would not have equal rights and I wouldn't even be in the military right now. So for me it means a lot," Rayford said.

According to NAVADMIN 016/14, African American Sailors comprise more than 17 percent of the Navy's active-duty force, participating in every facet of naval operations. That is nearly 54,500 active-duty Sailors, Reserve Sailors and Navy civilians who contribute to the Navy's efforts.

NIOC goes into beast mode to rattle JPAC Ballers for 47-33 victory

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

The twin towers of Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Hawaii, reservist Senior Airman Sean Caddell and Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 2nd Class Quentin Leathers, dominated the paint to lead their team to a 47-33 victory over Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command (JPAC) Ballers. The match was played on Feb. 25 in a Red Division intramural basketball game at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center.

Caddell, a former Division II basketball player at giant killer Chaminade University (2006-07), scored 12 points in the first half and finished with a game-high 22, while Leathers controlled the

boards and chipped in with 15, which included a couple of slam dunks.

The win placed the back-to-back defending base champions in a tie for first place in the Red Division with the 324th Intelligence Squadron (324 IS) Tigers.

Both teams are undefeated with a record of 4-0 and will meet in an all-important battle on March 4 at the JBPHH Fitness Center starting at 6 p.m. to decide sole possession of the division's top place.

"We feel that we're the best team in the league," said NIOC head coach Senior Chief Cryptologic Technician (Collection) Christopher Webb about the upcoming showdown. "We're going to work hard and prepare for them. We will be ready. Our players have been in some tough games over the past two years, so we feel we're prepared."

Against the 324 IS, Webb

left no doubt that NIOC will count heavily upon the inside game, which the team used to devastate JPAC.

Tied at 12-12 with 1:04 left on the clock before halftime, Leathers put NIOC out in front on a steal that he finished off with a thunderous slam.

The dunk seemed to awake the defending champs as Caddell ended his stellar first-half performance with back-to-back lay-ups to give NIOC an 18-12 advantage at the break.

"That was important," said Webb about the team's 6-0 run at the end of the first half. "We rotate so many players that when they (the opposition) rotate to try and catch their break, we jump on them. We got that momentum going into the half and we carried that over into the second half."

While Caddell continued to play above the rim after intermission, Leathers really began to establish his presence under the hoop.

Held to only four points in the first half, Leathers threw down 11 close-range points in the second half, mostly on second and third shots.

"That's what we do," said Webb about the team's tough inside game. "We will always go to Leathers and Sean to take the lead. Through their offensive prowess on offense and the boards, we lead to them and push back outwards."

Although NIOC seemed to be in control for most of the game, JPAC, behind the shooting and rebounding of Master Sgt. Rick June, managed to hang around and even cut the lead down to four at 29-25 on a basket and trey by June with 9:20 on the clock.

June led JPAC in scoring with 17 points. Fourteen of his total game points came in the second half.

However, with time winding down, the duo of Caddell and Leathers made sure that there would be no coming back for JPAC.

Leathers tapped in a missed shot to give NIOC a 35-27 lead at the 5:15 mark and, after a basket-and-one from Caddell, Leathers scored on another putback to seal the game with a 40-27 lead and only 3:36 remaining in the game.

While Webb understands where his bread is buttered, he said that he would like more diversity in the team's offensive attack.

He said that he hopes to get it before NIOC's meeting against the 324 IS.

"We have to get better at hitting jump shots," he admitted. "Our jump shots haven't been where they should be. If we can make some jump shots and relieve some of the pressure in the middle, then we're going to be unbeatable."

Bremerton hangs on to beat Chafee to gain first win of season

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

USS Bremerton (SSN 698) got out to a 27-11 lead at halftime and then hung on to defeat USS Chafee (DDG 90), 40-34, in an Afloat Division intramural basketball game on Feb. 22 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center.

Bremerton used a full-court press to jumpstart their offense and go on a 10-0 run in the first half and then kept up the heat to win their first game of the season.

With the victory, Bremerton now holds a 1-3 record in the Afloat Division while Chafee fell to 1-2.

"It feels great," said Electronics Technician 2nd Class Mike Ortiz about getting the first win. "We were on a slump there, but we got our feet underneath us a little bit, we ran, learned from our mistakes from our losses and we came together today as a team."

Midway through the first half, the score was deadlocked at 8-8 after Chafee post-player Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 1st Class Petros Emmanouil sank one of two free throws at the 9:48 mark.

Momentum took a severe upswing for Bremerton right after Emmanouil's shot as the team dialed up its full-court press.

Electronics Technician 3rd Class Douglas Bacolini put Bremerton back out on top at 10-8 with a basket on the team's next trip down the floor.

Then Ortiz converted a steal into a basket-and-one for a five-point lead before Bacolini pumped in a trey, was fouled and then knocked down the free throw for a four-point play and a 17-8 advantage.

Bremerton got a free throw from Lt. j.g Bryan Ortiz to pick up their 10th straight point within a five-minute span.

"We like to run," Ortiz said. "We look for each other, so as soon as we get our hands on the ball, we try to turn the other way. Everyone's moving with it."

A trey from Chafee forward Electronics Technician 3rd Class Jonathan Miller finally broke the run for Bremerton, but back-to-back baskets by Bacolini and Ortiz with 2:36 remaining before halftime helped the team to a 16-point lead at the break.

"That was huge," said Ortiz about the team's big lead at halftime. "But at the same time, we knew in the second half they were going to come out at us with a lot of intensity."

After intermission, Chafee slowly chipped the



Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Thomas Chengcuenca converts a lay-up in an Afloat Division intramural basketball game on Feb. 22 between USS Bremerton (SSN 698) and USS Chafee (DDG 90).

lead down to 12 points. They fell back behind by 15, but a basket by Emmanouil with 5:02 remaining on the clock completed a 12-2 run to cut the lead down to five points.

However, that was as close as Chafee would get, as Bremerton guard Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Thomas Chengcuenca got a lay-up and two free throws with a minute left on the clock to secure the game.

A total of six players got in the scorebook for Bremerton with Chengcuenca setting the pace with 10 points, followed by Bacolini with eight points and Ortiz with seven points.

Chafee sank a total of four three-pointers with Miller connecting on two from long distance.

In gaining the first win of the season, Ortiz said that it took a lot of resiliency to pull away from Chafee each time the team made a run at Bremerton in the second half.

After putting an end to the team's losing streak, Ortiz said he now believes that Bremerton is finally back on track.

"We feel like we're going to have a good rest of the season," Ortiz said. "We got a lot of momentum going for us now and we feel good about it."



Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 2nd Class Quentin Leathers gets ready to throw down a dunk to put Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Hawaii ahead of Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command (JPAC) Ballers, 14-12, in the first half.



Live the Great Life

Spartan Sprint tests agility, strength, endurance

Reid Tokeshi

*Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Morale, Welfare and Recreation*

The popular international series Spartan Race will be held March 23 at Aloha Stadium. Organizers are bringing the Spartan Sprint version to the islands, a three-mile, 15-obstacle course race designed to test one's agility, strength and endurance through physical and mental challenges.

Traditionally a muddy race, this time the Spartan Sprint will have an urban twist, making use of the stadium structure for many of the obstacles. A similar format was used in 2012 at Fenway Park in Boston.

Participants from beginners to elite ath-

letes around the world test themselves on this obstacle course series. Different starting times are available, depending on preference and fitness level.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Information, Tickets & Travel (ITT) is offering discounted registration for the race. ITT's price of \$86 is cheaper than the online price of \$115 and includes the insurance fee (an additional \$14 charge). ITT's special pricing is available until March 17.

There is also a Spartan Kids race for ages 4 to 13 years old, which includes a variety of scaled-down obstacles. The price is \$35 at ITT.

Those who may not compete but want to learn more about the event can go as a spectator for \$1, paid directly at the stadium.



The Spartan Sprint will be held March 23 at Aloha Stadium.

MWR Marketing photo



This year's Ford Island Bridge Run will be held April 5. The application deadline is March 21.

Photo courtesy of Pictureman Hawaii

Bridge run deadline is March 21

Helen Ko

*Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam
Morale, Welfare and Recreation*

The application deadline for this year's annual Ford Island Bridge Run is March 21.

The run will begin at 7 a.m. April 5. Those who are competitive runners, leisure walkers or recreational runners can participate in this 10K run on Ford Island. Last year, 3,099 runners attended and this year even more participants are expected.

Applications are available online at greatlifehawaii.com, or entrants can regis-

ter online at <https://endurancecui.active.com/event-reg/select-race?e=5571552>.

Participation in the event costs \$20 for active duty, military family members, retirees, Department of Defense civilians and Reservists. The cost is \$25 for regular entry.

The fee will be \$45 for those who choose to sign up on the day of the run (accepted until 6:45 a.m.).

The MWR Athletics Department urges entrants to have a healthy breakfast prior to starting the run.

For more information, visit greatlife-hawaii.com or call 473-0784/2494/2437.

Your Weekly Fun with MWR



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

A free advance screening of "300: Rise of an Empire" in 3D will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday at Sharkey Theater. The ticket booth and doors open at 5:30 p.m. The screening is free to the first 400 authorized patrons. Viewers must be age 17 or older to attend. Military ID cardholders can receive up to six tickets. Department of Defense and retiree cardholders can receive up to four tickets. FMI: 473-0726.

The "Created Equal" series documentary "Slavery by Another Name" will be shown for free at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Hickam Library, with historian Jon Davidann from Hawaii Pacific University. Series information is at <http://createdequal.neh.gov>. FMI: 449-8299.

Call of Duty Black Ops II voice actors who bring real-life action to Raul Menendez and Sgt. Frank Woods will be at Brews & Cues at the Club Pearl complex March 7. Kamar de los Reyes and James C. Burns will answer questions at 5 p.m. followed by a meet-and-greet for gamers and fans at 5:20 p.m. The free event is open to military-affiliated personnel and their sponsored guests. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com.

The Annual Creative Writing Contest will be held by Hickam Library. Submissions will be accepted from Saturday to April 5. There are two divisions, poetry and short story, and three age groups: child (6-10 years), young adult (11-18 years), and adult (19 years and up). Prizes for both divisions will be awarded in all age categories. Winners will be announced April 19. Entry is free. FMI: 449-8299.

Ko Olina Whale Watching Cruises will be held on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 3:45 p.m. from Saturday through April 6. The activity includes round-trip transportation from Information, Tickets and Travel-Hickam. Bottled water will be provided. Participants should sunscreen protection. The cost is \$45 for adults and \$40 for children up to age 11. FMI: 448-2295.

ThreePoint Shoot Out will begin at 11 a.m. March 7 at the Hickam Fitness Center Gym. Participants can sign up for the free challenge from Saturday through March 6. Prizes will be awarded to top winners in male and female categories. The event is open to active duty and family members 18 years and older affiliated with Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Department of Defense civilians. FMI: 448-2214.

Pearl Harbor Valor Tour will be held on Tuesdays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. March 4 to 28 starting from Information, Tickets and Travel. The tour includes the USS Arizona Memorial, a stop at USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island, the USS Oklahoma Memorial and the Navy Club Memorial. The cost is \$25 per person and free for children ages 2 and younger on an adult's lap. FMI: 448-2295.

Hawaiian Quilted Pillow class will be held on Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. at the Hickam Arts & Crafts Center. The cost is \$35 plus the cost of supplies. FMI: 448-9907.

Wilton Basic Cake Decorating will be held on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon March 4 to 25 at the Hickam Arts & Crafts Center. The cost is \$45 plus the cost of supplies. FMI: 448-9907.

Basic Digital Photography will be held on Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. March 4 to 25 and Wednesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. March 5 to 26 at the Hickam Arts & Crafts Center. The cost is \$60 plus the cost of supplies. Lighting, framing and composition will be discussed to achieve quality images. FMI: 448-9907.

Junior Lifeguard/Ocean Safety Registration ends March 7. Spring session runs from April through May. Registration is open to youth ages 11 to 17. The cost is \$95. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com or 473-0789.

Hickam Historical Tour will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 7 through Information, Tickets and Travel. The cost is \$45 for adults, \$40 for children ages 3 to 11, and \$10 for each addi-

tional person for Hale Koa pickup. The tour includes lunch. Due to the nature of the tour, it is not recommended for children under age 6. The tour departs from ITT-Hickam office and Royal Alaka'i Lodge. FMI: 448-2295.

Basic Drawing Techniques: Still Life will be held on Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. March 5 to 26 at the Hickam Arts & Crafts Center. Students will use a variety of drawing media and exercises, including working from still life setups and eventually photographs. The cost is \$60 plus the cost of supplies. FMI: 448-9907.

Beginner Sewing class will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays from March 6 to 27 at the Hickam Arts & Crafts Center. The cost is \$60 plus the cost of supplies. Participants must have their own sewing machine. FMI: 448-9907.

A free Ladies Golf Clinic will begin at 9:30 a.m. March 5 at Barbers Point Golf Course. FMI: 682-1911.

Crochet Basics class will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays March 5 to 19 at the Hickam Arts & Crafts Center. Students will be taught how to hold the hook properly, read patterns, do a foundation chain, change colors and work with two colors at once. The cost is \$20 plus the cost of supplies. FMI: 448-9907.

The Patriot Tour will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursdays March 6, 13, 20 and 27 through Information, Tickets & Travel. The tour will include USS Arizona Memorial, USS Utah Memorial, the USS Oklahoma Memorial, the Navy Club Memorial and the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. The event includes buffet lunch. The cost is \$55 for adults, \$45 for children ages 3 to 11, and \$10 per additional person for Hale Koa pickup. FMI: 448-2295.

Pastel Landscapes class will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Fridays from March 7 to 28 at the Hickam Arts & Crafts Center. The cost is \$60 plus the cost of supplies. FMI: 448-9907.

Morale Welfare & Recreation

MILITARY BOWL FREE

Active duty military service members can receive up to two free games of bowling (shoe rental not included) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the Hickam Bowling Center and the Naval Station Bowling Center. A military ID is required. FMI: 448-9959 or 473-2574

WOOLLY WEDNESDAYS

Woolly Wednesdays will be held from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. March 5, 12, 19 and 26 at Hickam Arts & Crafts Center. Participants of all skill levels may participate, including beginners. Patrons can bring their current project to knit and crochet. FMI: 448-9907

LIBRARY KNOW-HOW

The Hickam Library will hold a free educational tour beginning at 2 p.m. March 8, 15, 22 and 29. The staff will demonstrate how to find e-books, audiobooks, music, online foreign language training, as well as explaining the Universal Class for online continuing education and the Dewey Decimal system. FMI: 449-8299.

STAND-UP PADDLEBOARD

Learn the basics of paddle boarding beginning at 9:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. March 9 at Outdoor Recreation-Hickam Harbor. March 6 is the last day to register. Participants must be able to swim without a lifejacket. FMI: 449-5215.

SPRING CRAFT CAMP

Spring craft camp for children 7 years and older will be held from 10 a.m. to noon March 11-14 or March 18-21 at the Hickam Arts & Crafts Center. Registration is required. FMI: 448-9907.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

Preschool story time will be held from 9 to 10 a.m. March 12 at the Hickam Library. The theme will be “clap, trap, and drum.” FMI: 449-8299.

GROUP SURF LESSON

There will be a group surf lesson beginning at 8 a.m. March 15 at White Plains Beach. The registration deadline is March 12. Shuttle service is included via the Outdoor Adventure Center at the Fleet Store. Participants must be able to swim without a lifejacket. FMI: 473-1198.

Community Calendar

FEBRUARY

TODAY — The online Cost of Living (COLA) Living Pattern Survey ends today. 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. 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.”

MARCH

4, 5, 11 — 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 March 4, 7:30 a.m. to noon at Makalapa Clinic, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; March 5, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Club 14, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Honolulu, Sand Island; March 11, 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 or visit www.militaryblood.dod.mil.

8 — In celebration of Women’s History Month, a hangar talk and book signing will be held with Donna Knaff at Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor. The talk will begin at 2 p.m. and the book signing will begin at 3 p.m. Knaff is the author of “Beyond Rosie the Riveter: Women of World War II in American Popular Graphic Art.” She will examine the role of women during World War II, including a discussion of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). The event is free with museum admission and free to museum members. FMI: 441-1007 or email Education@PacificAviationMuseum.org.

10 — The Hickam Officers’ Spouses Club is currently accepting scholarship applications from all college bound military family members, including high school seniors, current college students and spouses. Family members from all branches of service are eligible. The deadline is March 10. FMI: <http://www.hickamosc.com/> or email scholarships@hickamosc.com.

13 — A “space available” brief will be held at 11 a.m. at Hickam Memorial Theater, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Air Mobility Command Passenger Terminal will host the briefing. FMI: 449-6833 or <http://www.facebook.com/HickamAMC>.



THE NUT JOB (PG-13)

An incorrigibly self-serving exiled squirrel finds himself helping his former park brethren raid a nut store that is also the front for a human gang’s bank robbery.

Movie Showtimes

SHARKEY THEATER

TODAY 2/28

7:00 PM Labor Day (PG-13)

SATURDAY 3/1

2:30 PM The Nut Job (PG-13)

7:00 PM Advance Screening of 300: Rise of an Empire (R)

SUNDAY 3/2

2:30 PM The Nut Job (PG-13)

4:30 pm Vampire Academy (PG-13)

7:10 pm That Awkward Moment (R)

THURSDAY 3/3

7:00 PM Lone Survivor (R)

HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER

TODAY 2/28

6:00 PM The Legend of Hercules (PG13)

SATURDAY 3/1

4:00 PM The Nut Job (PG)

7:00 PM Ride Along (PG13)

SUNDAY 3/2

2:00 PM The Nut Job (PG)

THURSDAY 3/3

7:00 PM The Legend of Hercules (PG13)



Aliamanu Elementary teacher wins presidential award



Photo courtesy of Aliamanu Elementary School

Laura Fukumoto, Aliamanu Elementary School fifth grade teacher, is honored at a surprise assembly Feb. 14 as one of two Hawaii recipients of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

David Tom

*Navy Region Hawaii
School Liaison Officer*

“You have taught us to be the best that we can be, and we will be your students forever,” said the student em-

cee at the Feb. 14 Aliamanu Elementary School surprise assembly to honor fifth grade teacher Laura Fukumoto. She was one of two Hawaii recipients of the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science

Teaching by President Obama.

Two winners are chosen from every state, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Department of Defense Education Activity.

“These teachers are inspiring today’s young stu-

dents to become the next generation of American scientists, mathematicians, and innovators,” Obama said. “Through their passion and dedication, and by sharing their excitement about science, technology, engineering, and math, they are helping us build a promising future for all our children.”

Fukumoto, her husband, and three sons are all about service. Her husband, Dennis, is a retired master sergeant. from the Hawaii Air National Guard (HI-ANG). Son Danny is a teacher at Aliamanu Elementary; son Jonathan is a technical sergeant. C-17 crew chief in the HI-ANG; and son Michael is a CWO2 Chinook helicopter pilot in the Hawaii Army National Guard deployed in Afghanistan.

She has taught at Aliamanu for more than 40 years and said she absolutely loves the school’s diversity with more than 60 percent military students coming from Doris Miller, Halsey Terrace, Maloelap and parts of Moanalua Terrace housing communities.

Fukumoto started as a language arts teacher in 1967 and did not like teaching math. However in 2003, she attended the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference and was exposed to Singapore Math.

“I realized that I had been teaching arithmetic, not mathematics,” she said. She embraced this program and made it her own, designing lessons to incorporate strong visual strategies that help students see, touch and learn abstract math. She uses four models in her math teaching: cause and effect, part-whole, comparison-contrast and sequences.

Her students learn to solve difficult math problems such as: “Andy and Barry saved a total of \$368. Cindy and Daisy saved a total of \$246. Andy and Daisy had the same amount of savings, while Barry saved five times as much as Cindy. How much did each person save?”

“The math makes my son Christopher think a lot and connect with difficult math ideas,” said Navy spouse,

Carronda Alexander.

“The math challenges my daughter Hallie to higher levels of math at an early age – much more advanced than I experienced in fifth grade,” said Master Chief Electronics Technician Steven McKee.

Her students love math. “At first I didn’t like math. Then, although the problems were getting harder, I felt like it was getting easier,” Hallie McKee said.

“Sometimes it’s hard, but when Mrs. Fukumoto teaches it, it becomes easy,” Demetrius Fulwiley added.

“In the beginning math was sooooo hard. Now I’m third in my class with Cross-matics (7-12 grade math), Mackenzie Young said.

Several former students of Fukumoto were at the assembly to honor her. Chad Ullery, a student of Fukumoto during school year 2004-2005, remembers all the challenging lessons and said, “You definitely left an impact on me.”

For Fukumoto, it is a labor of love. “I see a genius in every child, and my job is to spark it,” she said.

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii joins nationwide effort to promote Patient Safety Awareness Week campaign

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii

In an effort to raise awareness and encourage the engagement of patients, families, health care providers and the public, Naval Health Clinic Hawaii at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam has announced its participation in the 2014 Patient Safety Awareness Week campaign, “Navigate Your Health...Safely.”

Patient Safety Awareness Week from March 2 to 8 is an annual education and awareness campaign for health care safety led by the National Patient Safety Foundation (NPSF). Each year, health care organizations around the world take part in the event, creating awareness in their community and among their staff.

This year’s theme highlights the need for health care providers to ensure that patients and consumers are more engaged in the health care process, whether visiting the doctor for a routine exam or entering the hospital for surgery.

“Health care today is extremely complex,” said Tejal K. Gandhi, NPSF president. “All of us will be patients at some point in life, and we should approach that experience the way we would approach any important journey — with careful planning and communication. “Navigate Your Health...Safely” reminds us that that providing safe patient care can best be achieved when patients are a key part of the team and take an active role in their care.”

This year’s campaign is also stressing greater awareness of diagnostic errors, an area

that has not been widely studied in the medical literature. A diagnostic error can be defined as a wrong, delayed or missed diagnosis, and while not all diagnostic errors result in patient harm, they represent the leading cause of malpractice cases for many organizations.

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii will engage staff, patients and the community through educational and awareness-building activities specific to patient safety science and practice.

“I am proud of the work our staff does every day delivering safe, high quality, patient-centered care to make Naval Health Clinic Hawaii the healthcare team of choice,” said Capt. Connie Stamateris, organizational performance improvement coordinator.

For more information on Patient Safety Awareness Week, visit www.npsf.org.

Story Ideas?

Contact Ho‘okele
editor for guidelines
and story/photo
submission requirements.

473-2890 /
editor@

hookelenews.com



MiCare increases provider, patient interaction

Tech. Sgt. Terri Paden

15th Wing Public Affairs

The 15th Medical Group at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam launched MiCare, the online secure messaging service, in September 2013. Though the program is currently thriving, the 15th Medical Group continues to encourage patients to sign-up and take advantage of the new system, which is giving patients more control over their medical care.

“MiCare gives patients a secure means to access their healthcare team via the Internet,” said Capt. Scott Cook, 15th Medical Group MiCare lead. “It can save the beneficiary time by not having them come into the clinic for something simple like requesting prescription refills or test results. It also allows them to ask their healthcare team medical questions through a secure electronic message without an appointment.”

Additionally, after patients are registered, the Air Force-wide service will follow them wherever the Air Force takes them, so they will never have to sign-up again.

Cook said MiCare was created to give patients increased access to medical care as well as align the Air Force Medical Service with the secure messaging trend in civilian healthcare facilities. Patients using MiCare are able to contact their healthcare team directly.

“It eliminates ‘phone tag’ with our medical staff,” he said. “MiCare has been shown to reduce the number of phone calls between patients and providers, which increases patient satisfaction and saves time for both the patients and the MDG staff.”

Currently, about 30 percent of 15th Medical Group beneficiaries are using MiCare, but Cook said he expects that to increase as patients find out how easy and convenient it is to use the system.

Senior Airman Sharlene Kelm, 15th Wing knowledge operations management office, said she has used MiCare a few times since it came online and would recommend it for anyone looking to skip the middle man and go directly to their healthcare team.

“The system is definitely easy to use and navigate,” she said. “I used it for lab results, but I know that you can also use it to make appointments and send e-mails directly to your doctor, and I would think using MiCare would be much better than waiting around on the phone to schedule an appointment.”

Kelm said she heard from her doctor within 24 hours on an initial result request via MiCare.

“Of course the success of the program really depends on how fast they are able to get back to you, but not having to go back in or make tons of phone calls to get my lab results was really convenient,” Kelm said.

Sign-up for MiCare is ongoing, and the 15th Medical Group plans to enroll as many patients as possible into the system and begin using secure messaging as the primary form of communication between patients and their healthcare teams.

To register, patients should visit the 15th Medical Group to initiate the face-to-face registration process. Patients will need to show their military identification card and provide basic information such as name, social security number, birthday and email address. An email will be sent for patients to finish enrollment and begin confidential messaging with their healthcare team. For more information, visit <http://www.afms.af.mil/micare>.

New enrollment options available for qualified TRICARE beneficiaries

A new enrollment policy for non-active duty TRICARE beneficiaries on the island of Oahu allows enrollment to any Hawaii Military Treatment Facility regardless of the beneficiary’s service branch affiliation.

Under the new policy, for example, an Army or Air Force beneficiary (active duty family member, retiree, their family member, survivor) living on the windward side of Oahu now has the option to enroll to the Naval Health Clinic Hawaii-Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe instead of having to drive to Tripler Army Medical Center or the 15th Medical Group, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

“The intent of this market-wide policy is to allow our beneficiaries access to military health care where it is most convenient,” said Brig. Gen. Dennis Doyle,

enhanced multi-service market manager and commanding general for Pacific Regional Medical Command and Tripler Army Medical Center. “This creates a patient-centered approach to healthcare delivery while optimizing the MTF resources throughout the Hawaii market.”

As part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013, governance of the Military Health System (MHS) has resulted in the consolidation, integration, and standardization of shared services and functions within the MHS.

For more information on enrollment, primary care manager changes or other TRICARE information, beneficiaries can call UnitedHealthcare Military & Veterans at 1-877-988-WEST (1-877-988-9378) or visit online at <https://www.uhcmilitarywest.com>.