

Pearl Harbor welcomes USS Buffalo

Story and photos by
MC2 Steven Khor

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

It was a clear sunny day at Pearl Harbor, with performers from the Polynesian Cultural Center dancing, the Pacific Fleet band playing tunes, and families and friends with lei in their hands, as the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Buffalo (SSN 715) arrived at her new homeport, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on Jan. 18. Buffalo just completed a homeport shift from Commander, Submarine Squadron 15 in Guam.

Buffalo, nicknamed “Silent Thunder,” departed Jan. 11 from Guam. At Pearl Harbor, she will be assigned to Commander, Submarine Squadron One.

“My crew and I couldn’t be more excited about Buffalo’s change of homeport to Pearl Harbor,” said Cmdr. Richard Seif, commanding officer of Buffalo. “My Sailors and families have heard so many great things about the islands, and we are looking forward to experiencing Hawaii’s world famous spirit of aloha.”

With only two families left to move, their arrival in Hawaii in the next few



(Right) Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Kekoa Ulep of the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Buffalo (SSN 715) hugs his mom Rose Silva, following the arrival of the submarine at her new homeport at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

weeks will complete the move from Guam.

Seif said Buffalo’s change of homeport has been a real team effort that began almost a year ago. He said that Buffalo’s Sailors had a lot of lessons learned from the USS City of Corpus Christi (SSN 705) and USS Houston (SSN 713) who made the move to Hawaii from Guam previously.

He also expressed his appreciation for the support he and his crew have received from Commander

Submarine Squadron One, Naval Submarine Support Command, the housing office and the personnel support detachment staffs from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam because they made the move easy for the crew.

“It was a little hard to move here at first, but the people are very kind, so it was OK,” said Paige Suh, a Buffalo spouse.

For Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Kekoa Ulep, Hawaii is home. The Hawaii native had been



smiling continuously since the crew got underway from Guam, and he entertained the crew with his ukulele. Ulep is very excited to see his family and go back to his church.

“It feels great to be here. I really miss my

ohana or “family,” and it’s a very overwhelming feeling. I love it,” Ulep said.

USS Buffalo is the second ship to be named after Buffalo, N.Y. and is built to seek and destroy enemy submarines and surface ships; project

power ashore with Tomahawk cruise missiles and special operation forces; carry out intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions; support battle group operations; and engage in mine warfare.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Hawaii honors volunteers

Story and photo by
MC2 Nardel Gervacio

Navy Region Hawaii Public
Affairs

HONOLULU, Hawaii – The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Hawaii hosted the 17th Annual Volunteer of the Year luncheon at the Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki Ballroom, on Jan. 22.

As a volunteer organization, the NMCRS relies on the dedication, efforts and commitment of its volunteers. The luncheon was held to honor the staff and volunteers of the NMCRS.

“This event is a great opportunity to recognize our volunteers from Pearl Harbor and Kaneohe offices for their outstanding work that they do as volunteers for this society,” said Paul H. Belanger, director of Pearl Harbor NMCRS. He praised the volunteers who attended the luncheon for all of the outstanding work they have done this past year.

The awards luncheon recognizes volunteers who exemplify Hawaii’s spirit of aloha and who embody the ideals of the NMCRS.

“Even though we are honoring four volunteers, they all represent the efforts of all our volunteers because it’s a team effort. No one can do it alone,” said Belanger. “It’s these volunteers that work together to provide ... excellent service for our service members.”

Belanger introduced Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, who spoke about



Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, presents the 2012 Volunteer of the Year award to Meredith Gaston during an award luncheon held at the Hale Koa Hotel Waikiki Ballroom on Jan. 22.

NMCRS and its volunteers.

“Thanks a lot for all you do. It’s amazing when you walk into an organization and see all the smiling faces. It makes you feel the warmth and that you’re wanted,” said Ponds.

“It’s these volunteers that work together to provide ... excellent service for our service members.”

- Paul H. Belanger

“This year is special. It’s special because you emphasize service and self-sacrifice, and I think the Navy and Marine Corps Society epitomizes that. When you give your time and hours in your day to help someone out, that’s priceless,” Ponds said.

Two awards were pre-

sented this year for the volunteers who went above and beyond, personally making a difference in the lives of many service members.

Meredith Gaston received the award as the 2012 Pearl Harbor NMCRS Volunteer of the Year, devoting 1,500 hours as a NMCRS volunteer and providing excellent service as a caseworker.

Rayna Glucksman, who was honored as the 2012 Kaneohe NMCRS Volunteer of the Year, gave more than 760 hours of service in assisting approximately 150 Marines and Sailors since November 2010.

“The event was nicely done. This is my first time I’ve been to a volunteer award event for the relief society. It was also nice to get the two offices together. We work separately but we have the same mission,” said Gluckman of Stamford, Conn., assigned to


NMCRS Kaneohe. “Receiving the volunteer award was a surprise. I don’t think I do any more than the other volunteers because every volunteer does their job well and they go above and

beyond,” she said. The Pearl Harbor Kokua Award was also given to two volunteers who presented a positive impact in helping service members in need. This year’s award was presented to

Heidi Krukowski of Pearl Harbor NMCRS, who donated more than 1,300 hours to the society, and Cedric Fonville of Kaneohe NMCRS, who

See VOLUNTEERS, A-2

Leading the way



U.S. Navy photograph by MC2 Daniel Barker

Rear Adm. Frank L. Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, along with his wife Carol participate in the 25th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in Waikiki. Ponds was selected to be the grand marshal for this year’s event.



Hawaii F-22 Raptors leave JBPHH for ‘Red Flag’ exercise
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Year-round safety—a destination, not a goal
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Hickam CGOs, UH cadets team up to serve
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Pro football’s brightest stars dazzle at Earhart Field
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Joint base tax center offers free tax services
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Hawaii F-22 Raptors leave JBPHH for ‘Red Flag’ exercise

15th Wing Public Affairs

A team of F-22 Raptors and support personnel from the Hawaii Air National Guard's 199th Fighter Squadron and the active duty Air Force's 19th Fighter Squadron departed Hawaii on Jan. 17 to participate in a Red Flag exercise at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The exercise will run through Feb. 1.

The exercise participation follows the F-22's initial operational capability that occurred in November 2012. Red Flag serves as the Hawaiian Raptors' first over-water deployment.

The F-22 is the Air Force's primary air superiority fighter providing



Video capture courtesy of DVIDS

An F-22 Raptor leave Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to participate in Real Flag.

unmatched capabilities for air supremacy and homeland defense. Positioning F-22s in the Pacific strengthens military-to-military relationships, promotes regional security, improves combined tactical air operations competence, and enhances interoperability of forces, equipment and procedures.

Red Flag is a realistic combat training exercise involving the air forces of the United States and its allies and conducted on the vast bombing and gunnery ranges of the Nevada Test and Training Range. It is one of a series of advanced training programs administered by the United States Air Force Warfare Center.

NMCRS volunteers make a difference

Continued from A-1

assisted in the operations of the NMCRS Thrift Shop at Pearl Harbor before joining the Kaneohe office in June 2012 and taking on the responsibilities as both client services assistance and a level II caseworker.

“We can never give back enough for our volunteers for they have chosen to invest themselves personally and professionally, not just in the society,” said Marine Maj. Gen. (ret.) Carl B. Jensen, executive vice president, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS).

“They invested themselves in our Marines and our Sailors and their families. How can we give them too much. We can’t thank them enough,

and this event we had this afternoon is just a small way we can pay them back our respects,” Jensen said.

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is a private, nonprofit, volunteer, service organization designed to provide financial, educational and other assistance to active duty and retired members of the naval services of the United States, eligible family members and survivors when in need.

Founded in 1904, the society established its first service center at the Washington Navy Yard with a staff of 19 volunteers helping widows and orphans. It is sponsored by the Department of the Navy. Today there are more than 250 service offices ashore and afloat. Volunteers are still the mainstay of the society’s workforce.

JPAC investigation teams search for missing service members in Philippines

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command

A specially trained investigation team from the U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command based at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam is conducting an extended investigation operation in the Philippines for about six weeks, searching for evidence of service members who remain unaccounted-for from World War II.

A nine-member investigation team will conduct back-to-back missions at numerous locations throughout the Philippines, searching for information about 20 sites and approximately 90 individuals who are unaccounted-for from World War II.

Investigation teams authenticate leads from eyewitnesses, conduct field research, and gather information throughout various locations to determine whether or not there will be an excavation at a later date.

Falling directly under the U.S. Pacific Command and employing more than 500 joint military and civilian personnel, JPAC continues its search for the fullest possible accounting of the more than 83,000 Americans still missing from past conflicts.

The ultimate goal of the JPAC, and of the agencies involved in returning America’s heroes home, is to conduct global search, recovery and laboratory operations in order to support the Department of Defense’s personnel accounting efforts.

Hickam Airmen listen to leader

Retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Frederick J. Finch speaks to Noncommissioned Officer’s Academy students during his visit to the Binnicker Professional Military Education Center at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Jan. 18. Finch shared personal stories and his past military experiences with the potential future senior NCOs.

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



Commentary

Year-round safety—a destination, not a goal

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

Recently I spoke with top senior enlisted leaders ashore and along the waterfront and told them how much I appreciated everything they do to keep our Sailors safe. Overall, Navy Region and MIDPAC have had an outstanding and longstanding safety record throughout 2012, and we can all be proud of that achievement. Of course it's a team effort, but it requires an individual commitment by everyone, guided by strong leadership. For the most part, each of our Sailors and their families made that



Rear Adm. Frank Ponds

effort and stuck to that commitment, and I am extremely proud of the results.

There have been innovative ideas and initiatives

across the shorefront and waterfront that enabled us to succeed. To name a few: grass roots organizations such as Chiefs On The Waterfront (COW), walking the beats of our communities and patrolling the piers, flight-line and the deck-plates spreading the word of good decisions and positive behavior; Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) out and about educating, promoting and encouraging the best practices and intervention tools for responsible behavior and safety; wardroom and senior leaders making safety and good behavior a matter of mission readiness and warfighting relevance; but

most of all, individual Sailors—especially the junior Sailors, having “Sailor talk” with each other and making commitments to each other to look out for one another. These are the things that truly make a difference. This is the personal involvement that brings about change. I am inspired by both and encouraged by all.

The work we do, whether at work, at home, or out and about, can put us at risk. Those risks must be calculated, the consequences in the choices acceptable.

In the vast majority of cases, our Sailors are making great choices, and I am very proud of the safety record you all,

along with our families and DoD [Department of Defense] civilians, have earned.

I encourage everyone in our housing areas to continue employing the VEST concept – Vigilance, Engagement, Speed, Together. If you see something potentially dangerous in housing, get involved quickly and let your neighbors know. We're stronger and safer when we act together.

Additionally, the Naval Safety Center – <http://safetycenter.navy.mil/> – offers strategies for being safe in any season on the road, at home or at work.

It's a great truth – an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure—

and a moment to pause and deliberate can truly prevent and avoid a lifetime of regret.

Whether you are a military service member, family member or civilian teammate, you are valued and valuable. You are part of our great team here in Hawaii. You maximized your efforts toward safety last year – Memorial Day, Labor Day, Christmas and into the new year. Let's rededicate ourselves to do the same this year. We need you to be safe in 2013; we need you to be ready. It's definitely an achievable goal.

It is an issue of relevance; it is an issue of readiness. We need you in our ranks for us to be both.

King's Roadmap: ‘Stride Toward Freedom’

Bill Doughty

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Five years after the start of his career, five years before his “I Have a Dream” speech (and 10 years before his tragic assassination by a gunman in Memphis), a great American gave us a roadmap to freedom and equality.

To read Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1958 “Stride Toward Freedom” is to see the birth of non-violence as a philosophy that would continue to guide the civil rights movement. King showed how conflict can be resolved through a rational and reasonable approach, why non-violence does not equal pacifism, and how peace is preserved through education, cooperation and strength of purpose.

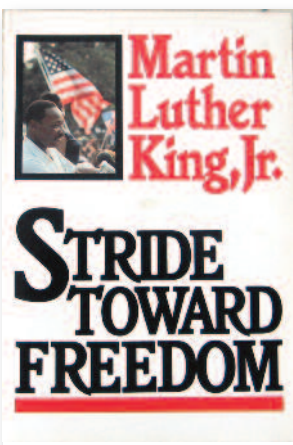
Putting the book in historical context, King's very personal and focused account of his Birmingham, Alabama bus “protest” (he preferred not calling it a boycott) was

written a century after the Civil War. He chronicled the struggles of African Americans to fight segregation and discrimination in what was known as the “Cradle of the Confederacy.”

Rosa Parks, Ralph Abernathy and dozens of other civil rights leaders—black and white—took a stand against white supremacists, corrupt local government officials, and people whose interpretation of the Bible justified their discrimination.

Like Frederick Douglass, who wrote in the mid-1800s about the hypocrisy of pious slave holders, King spoke out against indifference apathy, fear and passivity of religious leaders who accepted the status quo of the segregated south.

“He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetuate it,” King wrote. “Justice and equality, I saw, would never come while segregation remained, because the basic purpose of segregation was to perpetuate



injustice and equality.”

Ralph Abernathy with Coretta Scott King and Dr. King in Montgomery, 1956.

King credited the U.S. military for achievements in integration that had “an immense, incalculable impact.” His social action in Montgomery received support from service members, civilians and families from nearby Maxwell and Gunter Air Force bases, he said. After the media began covering the struggle, he and his movement received donations and support from people as far away as Tokyo and Singapore.

Despite threats, attacks and the bombings of the homes of King, Abernathy and others, Dr. King main-

tained his commitment to non-violence, though he admitted to an ambivalence toward guns at the time. In the pivotal chapter, “The Violence of Desperate Men,” he recounts how he turned away a crowd of people hungry for revenge after his home was bombed 57 years ago, Jan 30, 1956. “If you have weapons, take them home; if you do not have them, please do not seek to get them. We cannot solve this problem through retaliatory violence.”

“Stride” is the true story of the actions King and others took to end segregation of buses in Montgomery, with the strategic steps taken and roadblocks placed in the protesters’ way. It's a story about the triumph of the Constitution. And it's a behind-the-scenes look at how King's philosophy was developed.

King said his Christian faith, along with the teaching of world thinkers, helped him develop his philosophy of non-violence and peaceful social action. “Christ furnished the spirit and motivation, while Gandhi furnished the method,” he wrote.

King was influenced by “Mahatma” Mohandas

Gandhi, a Hindu leader for Indian independence in the early half of the 20th century. King said he was also greatly influenced by nature philosopher and abolitionist Henry David Thoreau, author of “Essay on Civil Disobedience.”

In “Stride Toward Freedom” King discussed the views of Aristotle, Nietzsche, Georg Hegel, Reinhold Niebuhr and Karl Marx, while clearly rejecting blind pacifism and communism. In doing so, King warned against “the dangers of false idealism.”

“While I believed in man's potential for good, Niebuhr made me realize his potential for evil as well. Moreover, Niebuhr helped me to recognize the complexity of man's social involvement and the glaring reality of collective evil,” King wrote.

King's thoughtful, balanced and diverse approach to problem-solving involved both education and legislation:

“Through education we seek to change attitudes; through legislation and court orders we seek to regulate behavior. Through education we seek to change internal feelings (prejudice, hate, etc.); through legislation

and court orders we seek to control the external effects of those feelings. Through education we seek to break down the spiritual barriers to integration; through legislation and court orders we seek to break down the physical barriers to integration. One method is not a substitute for the other, but a meaningful and necessary supplement. Anyone who starts out with the conviction that the road to racial justice is only one lane wide will inevitably create a traffic jam and make the journey infinitely longer.”

This review is posted on the eve of the second inauguration of the first African American president of the United States. President Barack Obama plans to renew his oath of office with his hand on a Bible that belonged to Dr. King. In his proclamation for Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2013, President Obama said, “By words and example, Dr. King reminded us that ‘Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle.’”

(Read more about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the post, “Deeply Rooted in the American Dream.”)

Diverse Views



In the upcoming Pro Bowl, who do you want to win: The NFC or the AFC?



Maj. Randel Gordon
HQ PACOM

“AFC, because everybody ‘hates’ Peyton Manning.”

Staff Sgt. Paige Wetherell
647th Security Forces Squadron



“NFC, because everybody ‘loves’ Peyton Manning.”



Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 1st Class (AW/SW)
Erwin Martin
Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Unit (CNATTU) North Island, San Diego, Calif.

“NFC because of the San Francisco 49ers”

Engineman 2nd Class (SW)
Olusegun A. Omoyungbo
USS Chafee (DDG-90)



“I want the NFC to win because of my team, the New York Giants; the NFC has a better offense and defense than the AFC.”



Gas Turbine System (Mechanical) 1st Class (SW) Toua Lor
USS Lake Erie (CG-70)

“I would say NFC, hopefully the 49ers take it this year.”

(Provided by David Underwood Jr. and MC2 Nardel Gervacio)

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

USS R-14 based at Pearl Harbor in the 1920s

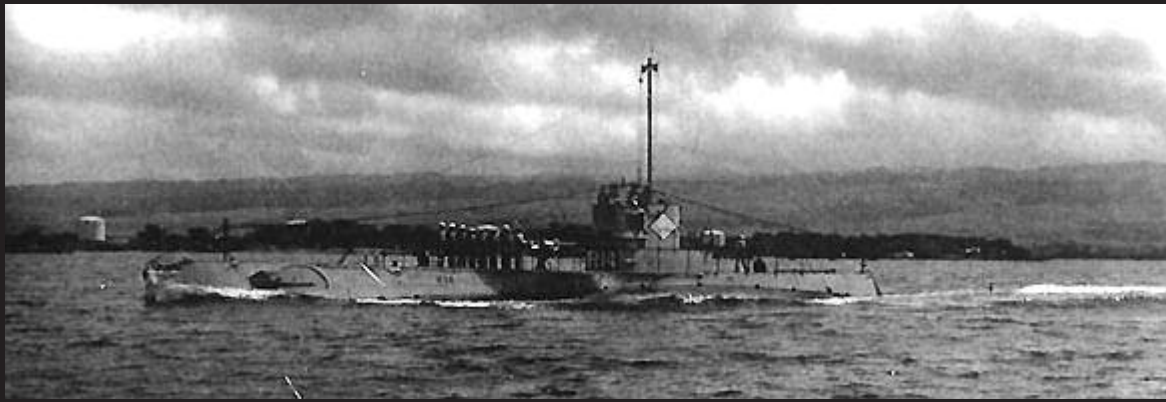


Photo by Tai Sing Loo, U.S. Naval Historical Center photograph

The USS R-14 (SS-91) submarine is shown here departing the former Pearl Harbor naval base around 1930. USS R-14, a 569-ton R-1 class submarine built at Quincy, Mass., was commissioned on Christmas Eve 1919. The sub went to the Pacific in mid-1920 and was based at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for the rest of the decade. Among its experiences was a perhaps unique, for a U.S. Navy submarine, use of improvised sails for propulsion in May 1921, when the sub ran out of fuel while searching for the missing tug Conestoga.



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Hickam CGOs, UH cadets team up to serve

Story and photo by
1st Lt. Ty S. Axson

Members of the Hickam Company Grade Officers Council (CGOC) and cadets from University of Hawaii Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps recently took some time out of their weekend to volunteer at the Judd Hill Ronald McDonald House to support families of ill children.

The officers and cadets worked side by side to clean the main living areas, kitchen and dining room and children's play area. Most of the effort was geared toward cleaning out and organizing the charity's two massive supply sheds.

"Our volunteers are the backbone of this entire organization," said Elvira Ajanovic, weekend relief manager for the Judd Hill House in Manoa. "Without them I don't think we could be the organization we are."

Capt. Kristopher Figueroa, 735 Air Mobility Squadron, spearheaded the event. "It's extremely humbling to see such an outpouring of support for the community from like-mind-

ed and service-driven military brothers and sisters," Figueroa remarked.

"The work of the volunteers was meaningful to the families of children undergoing critical medical treatment."

"The work of the volunteers was meaningful to the families of children undergoing critical medical treatment."

- Capt. Kristopher Figueroa

Figueroa was equally inspired by the response of the 20 ROTC cadets who showed up to lend a helping hand. "It was like being in an instant family setting. We worked extremely well together; we all wanted to get the job done and to do it well," she said.

The cadets were led by Capt. Edward Mantanona, operations flight commander for UH AFROTC Det 175 and Hickam CGOC member, who said it is important for cadets to



spend time with the lieutenants and captains they one day aspire to be.

"It shows them the spirit of giving and sacrifice which is what being an officer is all about—learning to give of yourself," said Mantanona.

Once the work was complete, the officers gathered the cadets around to offer advice and answer any questions the students had regarding the military and being an officer.

"These guys are volunteering their time to help those who are less fortunate than them," said Mantanona. "They'll be future officers one day, and the fact they are seeing other officers who are in the military here shows them that this is the right thing to do."

Members of the Hickam Company Grade Officers Council from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and cadets from the University of Hawaii Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps organize storage units at the Judd Hill Ronald McDonald House in Manoa.

Commentary

Navy navigates continuing resolution

Rear Adm. John Kirby

Chief of Information

For the last two weeks, like most Americans, our Sailors and Marines anxiously waited to see if the country would go over the fiscal cliff.

Thankfully, the automatic spending cuts required by sequestration were delayed while Congress continues to work toward a deficit reduction plan. While this renewed effort to find a healthy way forward is encouraging, we need to address a different, but more immediate, fiscal potentiality — the absence of an FY13 appropriations bill — forcing the Navy and Marine Corps to operate under a year-long continuing resolution (CR).

It is important to note our focus does not address the potential impact of sequestration, since the recent passage of the America Taxpayer Relief Act delays sequestration for the next two months.

Because sequestration was delayed, our focus must now shift to the impacts of the CR, which creates significant shortfalls in operation and maintenance, Navy (OMN) and Marine Corps (OMMC) accounts and the resultant steps we must take to maintain a minimum level of presence.

Unless a spending bill is passed quickly by the new Congress, we may be forced to operate under the same CR that has been sustaining us since the beginning of this fiscal year. This CR is set to expire at the end of March. Should Congress decide to extend the CR through the end of FY13, the Navy and Marine Corps would not have enough money to meet FY13 requirements in these accounts.

We expect to receive FY13 overseas contingency operations (OCO) funding; however, those funds are earmarked for support of critical warfighting requirements and would not provide any significant relief to our baseline operating accounts. We project a



Rear Adm. John Kirby

shortfall of \$4.6 billion in our O&M accounts which funds Navy and Marine Corps readiness.

Given the great uncertainty we face, we must enact prudent, but stringent belt-tightening measures now that will permit us to operate the Navy and Marine Corps through the rest of this fiscal year if the CR is extended.

This problem is not unique to the DoN. Each of the services are facing cuts to their operating accounts, albeit at different rates and in different areas. We realize the actions we are taking are not ideal, but we must slow the "burn-rate" of our operating dollars now.

Each of these steps are designed to be reversible, at least to some extent, should Congress pass an FY-13 budget.

Accordingly, Navy leadership has advised the Secretary of Defense of - and has been permitted by him to execute immediately - the following actions:

- Curtail administrative contracting support services.
- Reduce travel.
- Delay all decommissionings and disposals or lay-ups.
- Reduce information technology and administrative budgets.
- Curtail remaining facility sustainment restoration and modernization programs.
- Cut facilities sustainment, except for safety of life
- Reduce spending on base operating support.
- Cancel any planned facilities demolition.
- Terminate temporary

employees, except those supporting mission-critical activities supporting the warfighter.

- Implement a civilian hiring freeze.

With a year-long CR, the potential for furloughs exists, but all decisions in that regard will be made at the DOD level. We will follow whatever guidance we receive.

None of these decisions are easy to make, but make them we must if we are to continue to meet - this year alone - the demand for naval forces. Of course, should Congress pass an appropriations bill, we will adjust our spending accordingly. We will make reductions in a prudent way that is reversible and protects funding for our forces operating forward.

The ripple effects of these actions will be neither small nor short. The fiscal uncertainty created by not having an appro-

priations bill — and the measures we are forced to take as a result — not only place significant stress on an already strained force, it undermines the stability of a very fragile industrial base as well.

As Secretary Mabus told Congress back in March of 2011, when faced with a similar prospect, "The disruption to our fleet and to our shore maintenance and modernization schedules may take years to recover from and will come at a much greater cost."

We therefore urgently appeal to the new Congress to move quickly to pass an appropriations bill that fully funds the FY13 National Defense Authorization Act signed by the president last month.

The Navy's readiness to defend this nation, now and in the future, depends upon it.

Navy Inspector General visit deferred, online survey still open

Navy Region Hawaii
Inspector General

The Naval Inspector General (NAVINGEN) wants input.

Due to fiscal year 2013 budget adjustments, the NAVINGEN area visit to Hawaii originally scheduled for March 7 to 22 has been indefinitely deferred.

The online climate survey remains open until Feb. 8.

As the length of the deferral is unknown, NAVINGEN requests that all Navy personnel in

Hawaii, including active duty military, civilians (excluding contractors), and active duty spouses complete the online survey to assist in evaluating command climate and quality of work life.

Personnel can take a few minutes to complete the online survey at: <http://www.ig.navy.mil/Hawaii-AreaVisit.htm>.

For more information, contact John Cosson, the Navy Region Hawaii inspector general at john.cosson@navy.mil, or call 471-1958.



Pearl Harbor-Hickam*Highlights*

U.S. Navy Sailors carry state flags during the 25th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in Waikiki. Rear Adm. Frank L. Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, was selected to be the grand marshal for this year's event.

U.S. Navy photograph by MC2 Daniel Barker



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Sean Furey

First Class Petty Officers take the Navy-wide chief petty officer advancement exam at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



U.S. Navy photograph by MC2 Daniel Barker

Chief Musician Nathan Bissell participates in the 25th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in Waikiki.

Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Brandon Healy, assigned to the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), evaluates a Waimea Canyon Middle School student's science fair project. PMRF Sailors joined more than 20 volunteers as judges for the Waimea Canyon Middle School Science Fair.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mathew J. Diendorf



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Mathew J. Diendorf

Cmdr. Tom Mays, assigned to the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF), judges the science fair project of seventh graders Cody Argaho and Jayda Oyamoto. PMRF Sailors joined more than 20 volunteers as judges for the Waimea Canyon Middle School Science Fair.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Nardel Gervacio Gervacio

Carl B. Jensen, executive vice president, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) presents Rayna Glucksman (while holding her baby), assigned to NMCRS Kaneohe, with the 2012 Volunteer of the Year award during the 17th Annual NMCRS award luncheon held at the Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki Ballroom on Jan 22.



Kahu Kordell Kekoa conducts a Hawaiian blessing at the recent grand opening of the industrial shop store at JBPHH. Looking on (left to right) are Tom Noble, president and CEO of Noble Supply & Logistics; and Capt. Paul Verrastro, commanding officer of NAVSUP FLCPH. After the blessing, Capt. Michael Williamson, commanding officer of NAVFAC HI, joined Noble and Verrastro as they untied the maile lei to officially open the new store.

NAVSUP opens new shop store at joint base

‘Huge joint base success story’

Story and photo by Jim Murray

Naval Supply Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor

A new Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii (NAVFAC HI) industrial shop store that opened in December has drawn rave reviews from customers and vendors. Located in hangar 11 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, the shop store provides customers with a broad range of supplies and services.

“It’s been a long journey, but it was well worth the wait,” said Capt. Paul Verrastro, commanding officer of NAVSUP Naval Supply (NAVSUP) Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor (FLCPH). “When we first walked in and looked around, we all said, “Wow, this is tremendous! It takes joint basing to a new level.”

NAVSUP FLCPH oversees the store, which is operated by Noble Supply & Logistics, a leading provider of integrated supply, procurement and logistics solutions to government and businesses worldwide. NAVSUP previously operated a store in the old PWC compound, but the limited operation was far smaller and carried only 2,500 line items.

“A few years ago, our personnel had a vision to develop a new store, one that was larger, centrally located, and would markedly expand the line item inventory,”

said Verrastro.

“The new store carries 25,000 line items of common building supplies, has a catalog of 50,000 line items, offers online shopping with pick-up service, and has partnered with numerous local vendors. The cost savings are significant, and it has already become a huge Joint Base success story.”

The new facility, which is located in a roomy hangar alongside the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) flight line, can currently be used only by personnel from NAVFAC HI and NAVSUP.

Capt. Michael Williamson, the commanding officer of NAVFAC HI, said he was gratified to assist with the opening of the new facility.

“We’re working every day to keep Sailors, Airmen and Marines ready to fight,” said Williamson. “This store gives us the capability to execute excellently.”

In addition to the broader range of line items and services, the store allows customers to place orders electronically. Orders are packed and ready for pickup on the following day.

Customers with questions about particular items have been surprised to learn that the store has an on-site technical representative who is well-versed in the trades industry and can recommend the tools and materials necessary to accomplish large or tricky jobs.

Tom Noble, president and CEO of Noble Supply & Logistics, was also on hand for the Dec. 13 ceremony. “Our goal is to make this the best industrial supply store in the entire military,” said Noble. “I think we’re well on our way.”

Air Force honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**SrA Jaclyn Malbrough
SSgt Kendria Camp**

15th Aeromedical Dental Squadron

“Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day on, Not A Day Off!” The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Special Observance Celebration was a ceremony to remember. The African-American Heritage Association at Hickam hosted the event at the Hickam Enlisted Club on Jan. 18.

Col. James Golden, vice commander of the 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing, gave the opening remarks. He told the audience to remember at least one thing from his remarks, be willing, ready, and able to speak the truth to power.

Cmdr. Chaplain Brian Haley of 14th Coast Guard District offered the invocation. Airman 1st Class Steven Hernandez spoke about King’s devotion to service. Army Lt. Col. Mary DaSilva sang one of Dr. King’s favorite inspirational hymns, “If I Can Help Somebody.”

Chaplain Air Force Capt. Anthony Wiggins, guest speaker, spoke about “Living the Dream.” He reminded everyone of how King’s dream led to the unity that we have today.

While some dreams may seem small, he encouraged the audience to push past self-inflicted limitations and dream big. Wiggins



U.S. Air Force photo by A1C Shannon Ross

Chaplain Air Force Capt. Anthony Wiggins speaks at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. special observance event that was held Jan. 18 at the Hickam Enlisted Club.

said that as King’s dream affected the world, so can a mother’s, co-worker’s, friend’s and yours. He noted that our big dreams will shape the future.

Wiggins closed with this thought, “It’s never too late to live the dream.”

Other honored guests in attendance included Tanya Strauss, 647th Air Base Group deputy; Philip Baham, crew chief and original Tuskegee

Airman; Dr. Dorothy Goldsborough, wife of Romaine Goldsborough, a maintainer and original Tuskegee Airman; and Alphonso Braggs, president of NAACP HI and founder of the Hickam African American Heritage Association.

“This was one of the best MLK observances I have ever been to,” said Lt. Col. Mark Henry, 647th Air Base Group deputy CC.

Life & Leisure

B

Pro football's brightest stars dazzle at Earhart Field



Story and photos by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

For the second year in a row, the biggest names in the NFL treated fans at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam by holding practice Jan. 24 at Earhart Field in preparation for the 2013 Pro Bowl.

The annual event, which will be held Jan. 26 at Aloha Stadium, pits the best of the AFC against the top players in the NFC.

Last year, the AFC defeated the NFC in a shootout by the score of 59-41.

Despite a downpour of liquid sunshine, the packed crowd at Earhart Field showed no signs of dismay as shouts of approval from the stands echoed throughout the facility.

First up, the NFC all-stars took to the field for an hour's session of warm-ups and light drills before the players moved to the sideline to sign autographs and meet an enthusiastic public.

Then after a short intermission, the AFC all-stars, led by the likes of Denver quarterback Payton Manning, held their session of drills and fan interaction.

Although the crowd looked upon the Pro Bowl players with certain admiration and appreciation, the players also admitted that the feeling was mutual.

"I love it," said Green Bay Packers center Jeff Saturday. "When you come here, this is what's it all about. These men and women give their lives to helping our country and keeping us protected. These are true heroes for all of us. So to be able to come back and give back to them means a lot to us."

Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch agreed with Saturday

and said he uses the opportunity to learn about the men and women in the armed forces.

"You get to come out here and see the troops," he said. "We're going to go over and talk to some veterans, just to pick their brains about what's it's like to be family and go out there by yourself. It's good to see how they feel."

While professional football players are often referred to as warriors, both Saturday and Lynch said that no one in the NFL measures up to what members of the military have to endure.

"We're not warriors," Lynch said. "We're ballplayers. They are the warriors."

Saturday said that there is a huge difference between playing football and preparing for war.

He pointed out the people should never confuse playing football with being on the battlefield.

"You'll never want to mix those two terms up," Saturday said. "When your life is on the line, it's completely different. For us, we're athletes and entertainers. We have a good time doing what we do. These men and women, they're doing the real deal."

With the game slated to kick off on Sunday, both teams were using the practice at Earhart Field as a tune up.

While controversy surrounded the game last year, with fans complaining about a lack of effort from the players, Lynch said that he anticipates that both teams will put on a good show.

"I played in it last year and there were some suspect plays," Lynch admitted. "But it's been a long season and to come out here and go all out and try to take it out on your peers, that would be kind of silly. But at the same time, you at least want to see some effort."



Fitness Challenge highlights fun activities to get fit

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

Getting fit is always among the top resolutions for people entering a new year.

However, kick starting a fitness program can be a problem if you don't know what to do or even where to begin.

For the third year in a row, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) helped take the stress off fitness planning by introducing several workout programs at the annual Fitness Challenge, which was held Jan. 19 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center.

The challenge, which took place over the course of two hours, included a warm-up session before moving into kickboxing, Zumba, Shimmy Fitness, Hot Hula and yoga.

In coordinating the workout, Gaynor said that she looked for something that worked for both men and women, with the focus being on total body wellness.

"I think that's it's important that people don't think that a format is only geared for one gender," she said. "Today's formats ranged from formats to include flexibility, to getting a cardiovascular workout, to balancing and incorporating everything."

Aviation Electrician's

“This was pretty fun stuff. I’d like to come back for the yoga. It’s a much better stretch than you’d normally get.”

—AE2 Sonny Ducote

The event, which was planned by Lori Gaynor, MWR fitness coordinator, not only gave the nearly 100 participants a taste of a few fitness programs offered by MWR, but also showed that getting fit doesn't have to be a chore and can actually be fun.

"It was really a great opportunity to showcase what's available through MWR," Gaynor said. "I am very happy with the turnout. It just shows that people are really concerned about their well-being."

Mate 2nd Class Sonny Ducote, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, said that although he wasn't sure about some of the formats offered at the challenge, he was very glad that he tried them all.

An avid weightlifter, Ducote said that when it comes to staying fit, variety certainly helps.

"This was pretty fun stuff," he said. "I'd like to come back for the yoga. It's a much better stretch that you'd normally get."

In keeping with the format,



Capt. Karen McDonald leads a yoga class during the 3rd Annual MWR Fitness Challenge. This year's challenge was held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center and besides yoga, it also highlighted kickboxing, Zumba, Shimmy Fitness and Hot Hula. The event welcomed nearly 100 participants.

Capt. Karen McDonald, Naval Health Clinic Hawaii, closed the day's sessions with a round of yoga.

She said that after expending so much energy earlier in the challenge, yoga was the perfect finish to the day's event.

"A lot of the stuff that they were doing earlier did a lot of bending of the hips," McDonald explained. "Those big muscles that hold your hips get really tight. It's awesome at the end to have yoga to stretch

them out."

A spectator for all of the other formats last year, McDonald, who holds yoga classes at JBPHH Fitness Center every Monday and Thursday at 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday at 8 a.m., said that she wasn't going to be left out of the fun this time around.

"Last year I forgot my tennis shoes, this time I joined in," she said. "I can tell you that I would have never considered Hot Hula because to me it seemed

like I don't have any rhythm or ability to do that. I now look and see, hey, it's OK, there is no judgment. You can do anything, no matter what level you are. I think this was a great success."

Now that the challenge has gotten people excited about physical fitness, Gaynor said that no matter what your goal is, MWR has the instructors and facilities to help you stay on course.

She reminded that while

the challenge highlighted several workout routines, it was only a sampling of the many fitness programs offered by MWR.

"We have a class schedule at www.greatlifeohawaii.com," she said. "We have fliers here at the facility and our instructors and staff are always available to answer questions. If you're new to fitness, the important thing is to find an activity that you'd be interested in and get a buddy to work out with."

Hawaii Academy offering gymnastics at JBPHH

Story and photos by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

Since 1999, Hawaii Academy has been inspiring budding gymnasts, both young and older, to a lifetime of physical fitness and love for the sport.

In October, the academy, though an agreement with Morale, Welfare and Recreation, brought its family-friendly program to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and the union is turning out to be a great match.

Located at the former Bloch Arena annex, Hawaii Academy at Pearl Harbor is one of the many new programs offered through MWR youth sports and fitness.

And while it does teach gymnastics to toddlers from 18 months, the facility, said Hawaii Academy Director Max Vercruyssen, also serves adults as well.

“It’s all ages for all abilities,” Vercruyssen said. “We have one-year olds and our oldest (at its Kalihi location) is 99 this year. We have multi-generational families. It’s really lifespan fitness. Our principle interest is gymnastic-type activity for everyone.”

Open from Monday through Saturday, Hawaii Academy at Pearl Harbor has classes for pre-school (ages 3-5), trampoline, tumbling, gymnastics, fitness for all ages, adult gym fit (ages 19-49) and senior flex fit (50-99).

There is even a parent/child class that lets parents assist their children, ages one-three, for fun time on the facility’s padded workout floor and trampoline.

Vercruyssen noted that at Hawaii Academy, parent and child interaction is not only encouraged, but also recommended.

“The goal would be for the adults showing the kids, then the kids growing up to be adults that do it, too,” he said. “Then the grandparents and great



Two-year-old Alyssa Rafal bounces off the trampoline with the help of Hawaii Academy Pearl Harbor trainer Zach Moore during a parent/child session.

grandparents get involved, so that what you learn, you use your whole life.”

The Pearl Harbor facility is fully stocked with all of the state-of-the-art equipment and apparatus that you would expect to find in a top-class gymnastics-training center.

back for more.

“She (Alyssa) likes it,” Rafal said. “She’s always doing it at home like hanging on things. She likes the bouncing.”

Max added that while gymnastics is a great stand alone fitness program, the exercises in the sport are

“People are enthusiastic about having it on base as opposed to going into town. There is such a sense of community.”

—Max Vercruyssen

The former youth basketball and volleyball gymnasium has been totally transformed and features eight rectangular trampolines, a tumble tramp, double mini-trampoline, inflatable tumbling strip, parallel bars and still rings.

While the equipment may seem intimidating at first, Mia Vercruyssen, associate director, said that no one is ever expected to do more than they can handle.

“It’s definitely tailored to each individual,” said Mia, who also pointed out that the facility could be booked for birthday parties. “Some are more advanced than others, but it’s pretty much open to everyone. We’ve had all ability levels come through our program.”

Avigail Rafal brought her two-year-old daughter Alyssa to the parent/child class after noticing that she loved to do gymnastic-related activities at home.

Although it was their first time at Hawaii Academy Pearl Harbor, she said that they both enjoyed the experience and will be

also beneficial to other areas of life.

In fact, he said, it is a perfect fit for military training.

“Gymnastics is fundamental to all activities,” he said. “All the way back to its origin, it’s doing calisthenics, so it has a direct link to PT in the military.”

Since arriving at JBPHH, Max said that he is absolutely excited about the warm reception that he has received from base families.

Starting off with only 40 students in October, Max said that the enrollment has grown to over 300 participants in only four months.

“People are enthusiastic about having it on base as opposed to going into town,” he stated. “There is such a sense of community.”

For more information about Hawaii Academy Pearl Harbor, visit the MWR website at www.greatlifeohawaii.com or call MWR youth sports and fitness at 473-0789.

DOJ warns of scams targeting the military

How service members can fight for financial security at home

Stuart F. Delery

Acting Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division
United States Department of Justice

When service members board the plane to return to the United States from deployment overseas, their families and friends are not the only ones waiting for them. Scam artists are also busy setting up store fronts, phone lines and websites specifically targeting service members.

These consumer predators know that service members have to deal with unique pressures, such as spending extended periods of time abroad, moving to different cities multiple times, and being held to a higher standard for debt repayment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. In addition, service members are known for having a steady income and trying to do what is best for their families.

At the Department of Justice, we are working hard to protect consumers like you. The Civil Division’s Consumer Protection Branch has made fighting fraud aimed at service members and veterans a top priority. We are working internally with the Department’s Civil Rights Division to ensure

that businesses respect the rights of service members. And we are working externally with other agencies, such as the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, to identify potential fraud earlier.

We are also collaborating with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s Office of Service member Affairs, led by Holly Petreaus, to engage in a dialogue with military leadership about how we can prevent this fraud together. And we have joined forces with federal and state prosecutors—as well as the JAG Corps—to identify scammers and bring more cases against them.

We are committed to using all of the tools at our disposal to hold these swindlers responsible.

But the best way to fight them is to deprive them of customers. Service members of each military branch have told us about their experiences, and we are dedicated to getting their message out.

Here are a few tips on how to protect yourself and your family.

Be wary of up-front fees

- The sales pitch: “I can help you access benefits, get a good rate on a loan, and make a great investment. All you need to do is pay me an up-front fee.”

- The defense: The military offers legal assistance, interest-free emergency loans, and financial planning tools. Ask your military installation offices for details.

Always find out what the total price is

- The sales pitch: “I’ll sell

you this car, refrigerator or anything else you want. Just give me a little bit of money every installment.”

- The defense: Salespeople can offer misleading information about how much something really costs once all the payments and fees are added up. If the total price is too high, take your business elsewhere.

Don’t trust promises about the future

- The sales pitch: “Just buy the car with this higher interest rate, and I’ll call

you later once I get the lower rate interest for you.”

- The defense: Make sure that everyone agrees to the final terms of a deal before you hand over any money.

Find out who you are dealing with

- The sales pitch: “I’m a veteran of the armed forces. Sign up with my program to make sure that your family has everything they need while deployed overseas.”

- The defense: Ask your base community-service

office about the company or individual. You can also contact the Better Business Bureau.

And, if you have been the victim of a scam, we encourage you to come forward and complain. So often, financial fraud goes unreported because victims feel embarrassed or foolish. But only when you complain is it possible for you to get the help you need.

And only when we know there is a problem can we and our law enforcement partners work to stop it.

So, consult your military installation legal assistance office or your State Attorney General—and log your complaint at www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov or at the website www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint/.

With your help, we can continue to ramp up our fight against those who prey on the financial well-being of you and your families, and leave you free to focus on your invaluable work protecting the nation.

My Favorite Photo...

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

Kelly Slater (USA), 40, rides a Pipeline wave during his third round heat of competition at the recent 2012 Vans Triple Crown Title of Surfing Billabong Pipe Masters In Memory of Andy Irons.

How to submit

Send your (non-posed) photos to editor@hookelenews.com.



Shipyard sets new contribution record with CFC donations

David Tomiyama

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Public Affairs

Helping one another is a common trait in military communities. However, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility civilians and Sailors took the practice to another level, raising \$723,953 for the 2012 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), a new record for the command.

“I’m absolutely impressed by our final CFC numbers,” said Capt. Brian Osgood, shipyard commander. “Setting a record in donations with as much financial uncertainty that exists today shows the true *aloha* of the shipyard *ohana*. I’m proud to serve with those who give so much of themselves and are so willing to help others.”

According to their website, CFC is the world’s largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign with more than 200 CFC campaigns throughout the country and internationally to help to raise millions of dollars each year. Pledges made by federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season (Sept. 1 to Dec. 15) support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world.

The shipyard surpassed its 2012 goal by \$10,262. This comes on the heels of breaking 2011’s contribution of \$715,451, then a record total for the shipyard. Brendan Cravalho, shipyard CFC coordinator since 2001, said, “Even through personal adversity (i.e., shrinking budgets, lack of pay raises, etc...), shipyard employees contin-



U.S. Navy photo by Marshall Fukuki

Machinist’s Mate 1st Class (MM1) (SS) Tim Hanley (left), MM1 Nickolas Miller and Electronics Technician 1st Class Jesse Holland of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility grill hamburgers and hot dogs at a lunchtime fund-raiser to support the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The barbecue, organized by the shipyard’s First Class Petty Officer Association, raised \$383, contributing to the shipyard’s record final total of \$723,953.

ue to demonstrate a willingness to help out others who are less fortunate. The

ohana spirit is alive and well here at the shipyard.” Monetary goals are now

being replaced each campaign season by communication and awareness goals. Contacting each and every worker on the options of how to give and the charities that stand to benefit are now being stressed over amounts raised.

For the shipyard, 100 percent contact was made with the more than 5,000 civilian and military personnel throughout the command on the CFC drive.

That communication paid off with the rise of online donations. This past CFC season was the second in which people could contribute online. The shipyard saw a 416 percent increase from a year ago of online donors who raised

\$58,166, said Cravalho.

The hard work and dedication of shipyarders is what makes each CFC campaign a success.

“*Mahalo* to the unit project officers and key persons whose personal dedication and involvement is the key ingredient to the shipyard’s CFC success,” said Cravalho. “I would like to recognize Yvette Flynn, code 1140 administrative officer, who worked diligently behind the scenes and helped me keep track of all CFC material, audited each packet for completeness, and verified amounts raised prior to submitting them to CFC headquarters for final processing. Her efforts have been invaluable over the years.”

For its CFC contributions, the shipyard was presented with a silver level award at an awards and recognition ceremony Jan. 16 at the Battleship Missouri Memorial. The tiered award is given to organizations based on CFC participation and amount given.

“I’m absolutely impressed by our final CFC numbers. Setting a record in donations with as much financial uncertainty that exists today shows the true *aloha* of the shipyard *ohana*. I’m proud to serve with those who give so much of themselves and are so willing to help others.”

—Capt. Brian Osgood



U.S. Navy photo by Marshall Fukuki

Chief Gas Turbine System Technician (Mechanical) Virgilio Martinez (left) a Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) coordinator for PHNSY, adds a hot dog to the plate lunch of Crane Operations Supervisor Clayton Silva during a CFC fund-raiser at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility.

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM Maniawa Nanea LEISURE

Morale Welfare & Recreation

Movie Showtimes

Community Calendar

POWERLIFTING COMPETITION

The annual powerlifting competition will be held Saturday at the Hickam Fitness Center. Weigh-ins start at 7:30 a.m. and the competition begins at 10 a.m. Event consists of bench, squat and deadlift. There will be men and women's divisions. Registration is \$30, and the competition is open to ages 16 and older. Entry forms are available at the Hickam Fitness Center front desk. FMI: 448-4640.

KO OLINA WHALE WATCH TOUR

There will be whale watching tours to Ko Olina from noon to 3:45 p.m. Saturday. The cost is \$40 for adults, \$35 for children ages 3-11, and includes round trip transportation from Information, Tickets & Travel-Hickam (ITT-Hickam). FMI: 448-2295.

FREE BEGINNERS GOLF CLINIC

Mamala Bay Golf Course will host a free beginners' golf clinic at 9 a.m. Saturday. Space is limited. FMI: 449-2300.

AFC-NFC PRO BOWL 2013

Club Pearl's Brews & Cues will broadcast the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl 2013 on Sunday. There is no cover. The game starts at 2 p.m. FMI: 473-1743

PRO BOWL TAILGATE PARTY, GAME WITH LIBERTY

There will be a free Pro Bowl excursion and tailgate party on Sunday. Departures are from Liberty Express at 10:45 a.m., Beeman Center at 11:30 a.m., Instant Liberty at 11:45 a.m., and Makai Recreation Center at noon. The game starts at 2 p.m. This event is for single active-duty Sailors and Airmen only. FMI: 473-2583.

FORD ISLAND HISTORICAL TOUR

There will be a Ford Island historical tour from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Jan. 30. Ford Island played a significant role in World War II, and this tour will visit often-overlooked historical battle sites. The tour departs from Rainbow Bay Marina parking lot. The cost is \$25 for adults, \$20 for children 3-11, and is free for children two and under who sit on an adult's lap. Free pickup is also available at lodging (call for times). FMI: 448-2295.

OAHU HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

There will be a tour of Oahu from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 31. The tour features Oahu sights including Hanauma Bay, Pali Lookout and National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) . The cost is \$45 for adults, \$40 for children, and free for children 2 and under on adult's lpa. Lunch is included. Departures are from ITT-Hickam office. FMI: 448-2295.

YOUTH SPRING NFL FLAG FOOTBALL

Registration for NFL Flag Football continues through Feb. 22. The season runs March through June. The cost is \$65 and is open to ages 5-15. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com. For more information on events, visit www.greatlifehawaii.com.

January

26 ~ NFL Pro Bowl Ohana Day is a free family-friendly event from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Aloha Stadium. The event is hosted by the NFL Pro Bowl and is open to the general public. A special package available to military families includes seating near the action; a chance for kids to get out on the field for contests, challenges and games; a sneak peek at the pregame and halftime shows; and chances to participate in prize drawings throughout the morning. FMI: 473-0789 or www.greatlifehawaii.com.

27 ~ The NFL's all-star Pro Bowl game will take place at 2 p.m. at Aloha Stadium. Information, Tickets and Travel is selling tickets to the game. Tickets are also being sold to the Official NFL Pro Bowl Tailgate Party happening from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. before the game. FMI: 473-0792 or www.greatlifehawaii.com.

February

1 ~ The City & County of Honolulu will conduct the monthly statewide outdoor warning siren test at 11:45 a.m. The Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam "Giant Voice" works in conjunction with Honolulu's outdoor warning sirens and will sound a steady tone for 45 seconds.

4 ~ Navy Entertainment and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Morale, Welfare and Recreation will present the alternative rock band Vertical Horizon at Club Pearl's Paradise Lounge. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the free show begins at 7:30 p.m. The Great Life Hawaii Facebook page will hold a giveaway contest to win backstage passes. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The event is not recommended for children. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com.

9 ~ Registration has begun for the Seabee Run, which will be held at 7 a.m. Feb. 9 at Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Registration closes Feb. 4. Participants will receive a T-shirt. Awards will be given for the top three male and female runners in each division of the 5K and 10K races. The best couple's run time will receive an award. Register online at www.active.com. FMI: Lt. j.g. Chris Hoggan at christopher.hoggan@navy.mil or call 449-3105.

22 ~ HQ PACAF Maintainers will hold a Mardi Gras lunch and golf scramble. Lunch will be from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Foster's Point. The golf tournament will be held at Mamala Bay with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. Sign up deadlines are Feb. 8 for the golf tourney and Feb. 15 for lunch only. FMI: Jeffrey.wurn@us.af.mil or 449-8678, or michael.shannon.4@us.af.mil or 449-8591.



Skyfall (PG-13)

Daniel Craig is back as Ian Fleming's James Bond 007 in Skyfall, the 23rd adventure in the longest-running film franchise of all time. In Skyfall, Bond's loyalty to M is tested as her past comes back to haunt her. As M16 comes under attack, 007 must track down and destroy the threat, no matter how personal the cost.

SHARKEY MOVIE THEATER

TODAY
6:00 PM The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13)

SATURDAY
2:30 PM Monsters, Inc. (G)
4:45 PM Red Dawn (PG-13)

SUNDAY
2:30 PM Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away (G)
4:45 PM Playing For Keeps (PG-13)
7:00 PM Killing Them Softly (R)

HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER

TODAY
6:00 PM Skyfall (PG-13)

SATURDAY
4:00 PM Hotel Transylvania (PG)
7:00 PM Playing For Keeps (PG-13)

SUNDAY
2:00 PM Skyfall (PG-13)

*\$1 for 3-D Glasses Rental



Joint base tax center offers free tax services to military

Sarah Courageous

*Navy Region Hawaii
Legal Service Office*

The tax season will soon arrive with its promise of generous tax refunds for many military personnel.

The Joint Base Tax Center, run by the Region Legal Service Office (RLSO) Hawaii, officially opens on Jan. 30. Historically, the tax center has provided an important service to the military and their dependents with free tax return preparation and e-filing.

Last season, the tax center processed 1,559 federal and state tax returns with tax refunds totaling over \$2.7 million.

The tax center offers “self-service” preparation by setting up computers and software for the clients to use directly, with the help of a trained tax volunteer to assist in the preparation of the returns.

Learning to prepare one’s own taxes can be fun, educational, and benefits the service member monetarily. It is a great way to spend off-duty time.

Members learn to take responsibility for their financial futures and

become self-sufficient, so that they will not become beholden to professional tax preparation services when they get out and incur fees down the road.

Joint Base Tax Center volunteers are trained at basic, intermediate and advanced levels on how to correctly identify filing status, and how to prepare returns with wages, interest, dividends, social security, and retirement income, as well as self-employed income for schedule C-EZ.

Volunteers are also taught how to handle issues unique to the military such as PCS moves and combat zone exemptions.

“Each tax season, we spend much of the month of January assembling and training a quality team of tax preparers,” said Katherine Lake, the center’s tax officer. Training includes instruction from JAG Corps instructors and IRS training.

The Joint Base Tax Center is located on the first floor of the Navy College Building (building 679) located at 1260 Pierce St. as you enter the submarine base area.

The Joint Base Tax Center, which is free, should

not be confused with commercial vendors, which, during the last tax season, operated tax preparation businesses in the parking lot of the NEX and on base across from the ship channel near the Scott Pool.

Unlike these commercial vendors, the Joint Base Tax Center does not charge tax preparation fees. Any tax services offered in portable trailers are commercial and not part of the Joint Base Tax Center.

The Joint Base Tax Center allows members to file their returns electronically and, by selecting direct deposit, receive their refunds in as little as one week.

Some commercial tax preparers offer “refund anticipation loans” (RAL). A RAL is a high-profit, short-term consumer loan secured by a taxpayer’s expected tax refund, and designed to offer customers quicker access to funds than waiting for their tax refund.

Within recent years, one could expect to pay about \$100 in order to get a RAL for the average refund of about \$2,150. RALs are issued too often to individuals who are made to believe the wait for their refund is

longer than it really is, who do not realize they are taking a loan, do not understand the high interest rates charged by the loan, and who do not actually need the funds immediately.

Because a member filing electronically can receive a refund in as little as a week, RLSO strongly discourages RALs as an unnecessary and costly expense. Taxpayers themselves will continue to have access to information about their refund through the “Where’s My Refund?” feature at the www.irs.gov website.

RLSO Hawaii is announcing openings for volunteer tax staff. Free tax preparation training is provided to volunteers by the IRS. Volunteers become tax counselors under the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program capable of preparing federal and state income tax returns. Participants in the course may be active duty, reservists, dependants, or civilians, and must have the time, ability and desire to help clients at the Tax Center.

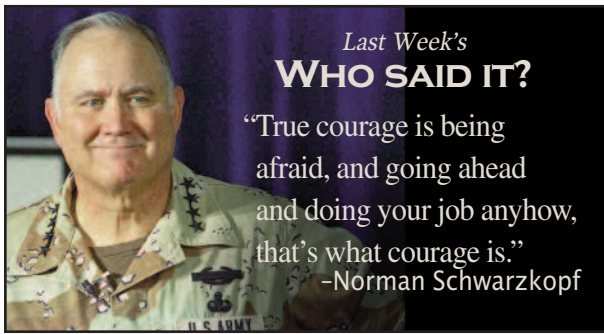
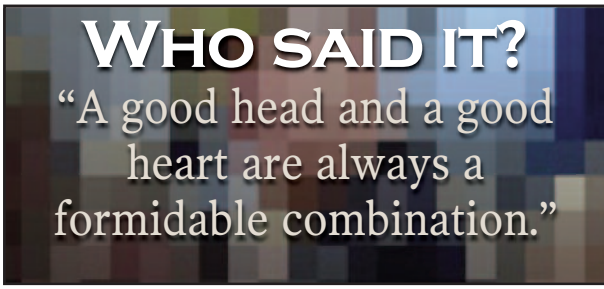
No prior tax preparation experience is required to be a successful volunteer.

environment.

For information, see <http://1.usa.gov/cXtgfa> or <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>.

If interested in participating in this program, email Lake at katherine.lake@navy.mil. You may

also call the Region Legal Service Office at 473-4717 for further information about free tax preparation.



This Week's Trivia

What is the naval origin of the term “chewing the fat?”

Last Issue's Question: Which new United States air commanders took duty on Jan. 9, 1917?

Answer: Capt Henry H. Arnold was ordered from aviation school duty at San Diego to Panama to organize and command the 7th Aero Squadron. Capt John F. Curry was ordered to Fort Kamehameha, Hawaii to command the 6th Aero Squadron.

Welcome back whales at Jan. 26 event

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, in partnership with the North Shore Ocean Education Coalition and Turtle Bay Resort, will sponsor a “Welcome Back the Whales” community celebration from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 26 at the resort.

The event will feature lectures from scientists on Hawaii’s marine mam-

mals and a whale observation station where participants can learn about humpback whales and how to collect shoreline data about the whales. The event will also have education booths, children’s activities, naturalist-led wildlife walks and a hula presentation by children.

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is ad-

ministered by a partnership of NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the state of Hawaii through the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The sanctuary works to protect humpback whales through research, education, conservation and stewardship.

NOAA’s mission is to understand and predict changes in the earth’s