

F-22 Raptors ‘fly high’ in first Red Flag deployment

Staff Sgt. Terri Barriere

15th Wing Public Affairs

A total force team comprised of F-22 Raptors, active duty and Hawaii Air National Guard personnel successfully completed the Hawaiian Raptors first over-water deployment when they returned Feb. 2 from Red Flag 13-2 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

“To the Hawaiian Raptors, this Red Flag deployment had significant meaning,” said Lt. Col. Mark Ladtchow, 199th Fighter Squadron (FS) commander. “This was the first full-scale deployment from the state of Hawaii in the F-22 Raptor. It was a true testament to our total force initiative (TFI) as well as our maintenance, operations and support personnel.”

Ladtchow said the mission substantiated the crew’s ability to mobilize, generate and deploy eight F-22s with their associated equipment and personnel. The F-22s were employed in highly complex day and night operations in nearly all of their mission sets and demonstrated the ability to redeploy and reconstitute within the allotted time and fiscal constraints.

Red Flag, the largest full-scale exercise that depicts wartime conditions, provided the perfect opportunity for the Hawaii Raptors to validate their training pro-



grams, unit employment capability and overall combat capability.

“We have been working relentlessly over the past two years on our conversion from the F-15 to the F-22,” Ladtchow said. “We have worked hard to make our TFI team one to be emulated throughout the Air Force.”

In order to prepare for the two-week-long Red Flag exercise, Ladtchow said the 199th and 19th Fighter Squadrons worked continuously, both as individual entities and as a team. There were 40 active duty Airmen, 101 Air National Guard Airmen and 11 contractors that came together

to make Red Flag 13-2 a success.

According to Ladtchow,

the years of preparation and sending his folks to attend other exercises, while continuing to hone their skills in the Air Combat Simulator, paid off. The Hawaii Raptors were the only unit at Red Flag 13-2 to not lose a single sortie to maintenance or support issues.

Ladtchow said this proves they are ready to deploy and fight when called upon.

Now officially past the “crawl, walk phase” of preparing the Hawaii Raptors to be combat ready, the team plans to lean on lessons learned at Red Flag and training to take them into the next phase—getting ready to deploy.

“The Hawaiian Raptors made a strong showing at Red Flag,” said Maj. Andrew Fessenden, 199 FS director of weapons. “It’s quite an

accomplishment to orchestrate each mission with more than 90 aircraft, over a dozen airframes and five different countries.”

“While we had our fair share of learning points, there’s some satisfaction in knowing that with those lessons learned, we are able to assemble a very formidable and lethal joint force product at the end of the day,” he said.

After successfully completing Red Flag 13-2, the Hawaii Raptors are on the fast track for real world deployments to the area of responsibility in the not-so-distant future.

Red Flag
1 3 - 2

Flight; Tech. Sgt. Sonja Kahawaii, 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Staff Sgt. Greg Myers, 154th Maintenance Group; Staff Sgt. Logan Stelle, 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; Senior Airman Sean Lum, 154th Wing; and Senior Airman Edward Siao, 199 FS.

Master Sgt. Carlos Diaz, 154th Operations Support Squadron received an honorable mention.

(Top) Col. John Roscoe, 15th Wing commander, along with Brig. Gen. Braden Sakai, 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard, commander and his wife, welcome Tech. Sgt. Jay Nishimura, 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron F-22 avionics systems specialist, back from Red Flag 13-2 on Feb. 2.

Air National Guard photo by Sr. Master Sgt. Kristen M. Stanley

(Left) A Hawaii Raptor assigned to the 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard, takes off from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., during Red Flag 13-2 on Jan. 23.

Courtesy Leading Edge Images photo by Glenn Bloore

(Below) Maintainers deployed from the 15th Wing and 154th Wing, Air National Guard, perform maintenance checks on F-22 Raptors at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

Courtesy photo by Ervin Booker



Navy divers, Waipahu students ‘walk tall’ to promote drug prevention

Story and photo by MC2 Nardel Gervacio

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Navy divers from Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) One, accompanied by local firefighters and police officers, walked with teachers and students Feb. 6 to raise awareness about drug prevention.

The Waipahu Elementary School Drug Free Walk is an annual event held within the Waipahu neighborhood to promote education, mentoring and healthy lifestyle choices with a focus on drug prevention awareness.

“MDSU-1 has sponsored the drug free walk for the past five years,” said Cmdr. Thomas Murphy, MDSU-1 commanding officer. “We have also continued our relationship with the school in weekly health activities through the Waipahu Elementary School keiki fitness program.”

Before the start of the walk, Gary Chun, principal of Waipahu Elementary School, thanked sponsors as well as the Sailors assigned to MDSU-1.

“This walk sends a message that we care about their lives and to let them know that drugs is not the answer to living,” said Chun.

“Drugs destroy so many lives. It is important that we teach children the dangers of drugs and help them to grow in the



Chief Navy Diver (DSW/SS/SW) Donald R. Acker of Waianae, assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) One, gives high fives to students at Waipahu Elementary School following the completion of their annual drug free walk.

right direction,” said MDSU-1 Construction Mechanic 1st Class Christopher Thorp.

“That’s why I am here every week leading the keiki fitness program, volunteering for the “Kindergartners Are Most Precious” program at the beginning of each school year and the “Read Aloud America” program every two years,” Thorp said.

The approximately one-mile walk started along Waialeale Road, continuing through Pupupuhi Street and Pupukahi Street and Farrington Highway, as the students shouted “be drug free” along the route. Many drivers honked as they drove by to show their support.

See PARTICIPANTS, A-2

‘Share’-ing the good news



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Chad Runge

U.S. Naval Academy Midshipman 1st Class Ashleigh Share celebrates after choosing the guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), homeported in Hawaii, during ship selection night. Ship selection is an annual event at the Naval Academy when future surface warfare officers of the senior class of midshipmen select their next assignment following their graduation and commissioning.



PACAF C-17 demo team departs for Aero India See page A-2



Tothero relieves Seif during USS Buffalo change of command See page A-2



USS Cheyenne visits Subic Bay page A-3



PACAF’s “Hana Hou” band performs at Vietnamese New Year celebration See page A-4



Celebrating Chinese New Year See page B-1



Sounds of Freedom to race in Great Aloha Run on Presidents’ Day, Feb. 18 See page B-6

PACAF C-17 demo team departs for Aero India

Staff Sgt. Terri Barriere
15th Wing Public Affairs

The Pacific Air Forces C-17 demo team departed Jan. 31 from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, en route to Bangalore, India, to showcase the diverse capabilities of the C-17 Globemaster III at the bi-annual international tradeshow Aero India 2013.

The team is scheduled to perform for the more than 250,000 expected attendees Feb. 6-10.

Maj. Kenneth Kirkpatrick, 535th Airlift Squadron (AS) and PACAF demo team lead, said the airshow will provide a platform to display the C-17 to the international community while also giving the host country's

government an opportunity to see its latest aircraft purchase in action.

The largest tradeshow of its kind in India, Aero India is expected to draw more than 29 different countries and 675 companies to the multi-day event.

"Ultimately, we attend Aero India to show support for India ... that's our main purpose," Kirkpatrick said.

In addition to capitalizing on the opportunity to strengthen relations with India, participating in the airshow also provides an excellent training opportunity for the demo team.

"This is a big deal ... huge," said Lt. Col. William Berck, 535th AS director of operations.



"This is more than just an airshow. It's a theater engagement for PACOM and allows us a chance to engage nation to nation. It's a fantastic opportunity for us to demo our capability to our allies and for us to engage with our nation's partners and build relationships."

The U.S. has been participating in Aero India since 2005.

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

Staff Sgt. Robby Richardson, 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron C-17 Globemaster III crew chief, secures tow straps for a trailer aboard a C-17 Globemaster III on the flightline at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Jan. 31.

Tothero relieves Seif during USS Buffalo change of command

MC2 Steven Khor
Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs Office

Cmdr. Brian L. Tothero relieved Cmdr. Richard E. Seif as commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Buffalo (SSN 715) during a change of command ceremony held Feb. 1.

The event was held at the submarine piers at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Rear Adm. James G. Foggo III., guest speaker, praised Seif for his exceptional performance while in command of Buffalo.

"Rick, in my humble opinion, there hasn't been a boat with a record of



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jon Dasbach
Cmdr. Richard E. Seif is piped ashore after being relieved by Cmdr. Brian L. Tothero as commanding officer of USS Buffalo (SSN 715).

achievement and performance like this in a long time. Well done," said Foggo.

During his speech, Foggo announced that Seif received the Legion of Merit award for his performance as the commanding officer of Buffalo from April 2010 to February 2013.

Seif said he is proud of having the opportunity to command Buffalo and working with some fantastic Sailors.

"Men of Buffalo, your performance over the past three years has been nothing less than spectacular," said Seif.

"It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve with you and command this warship. I'm grateful to all of you."

As Tothero assumed command of Buffalo, he thanked Seif for turning over a great ship and an even greater crew.

"I am able to serve with a crew that has amassed a series of successes over its time while forward-deployed in Guam. To the man, they are truly the best and brightest of our nation's youth and young adults. It is an honor to serve with them," said Tothero.

While under Seif's command, Buffalo completed numerous bilateral exercises, received a Meritorious Unit Commendation, won two Battle "E" awards, completed three six-month deployments, and won the Navy's prestigious Arleigh Burke fleet trophy.

Participants in walk send message to 'be drug-free' to community, students

Continued from A-1

"This event is great for the community. It brings the military and the locals closer together," said Yeoman 2nd Class (EXW/SW) Andrew Linga of Los Angeles, Calif., assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One.

"By getting the students early with these events and the message it brings, the kids become aware that drugs are not a way to be, and we all see that with the flyers they're holding up this morning," Thorp said all children

deserve a safe and nurturing environment and to have positive role models in their community. "After all, they are our country's future leaders," he said.

Murphy explained the goals of the drug free walk for the neighborhood, led by Thorp and other members of the MDSU-1 team.

"When the community sees the Sailors involved, they know that we're here and we care. It's a big impact to them," said Linga.

At the conclusion of the walk, Sailors served healthy snacks

to the students.

"We hope to have a positive impact on the community and the students at Waipahu Elementary School. It is also important that the community sees that our Sailors care about the local community, the elementary school and, most importantly, its young students," Murphy said.

"We're proud of who we are and what we do, and we're proud to be supporting the students and local community," he added.

"First off what we're doing is planting seeds into the hearts

and minds of the young," said Chief Navy Diver (DSW/SS/SW) Donald R. Acker of Waianae, who welcomed every student with high-fives when they completed the walk.

"Drugs and alcohol all have bad effects on people when done improperly. For the neighborhood, I believe in a tipping point by us walking around like we did today. It gives them motivation and for hope and for something positive, something bigger and better than what they are by themselves," Acker said.

Nelda Soosenuu, a parent

whose son is in kindergarten, said, "The Sailors have been very supportive, and I know that the kids look up to them. It's important to teach our kids while they're still young to be drug free and as they get older, they'll understand. I'm grateful that they're all here today."

MDSU-1 provides combat ready, expeditionary, rapidly deployable mobile diving and salvage detachments to conduct harbor clearance, salvage, underwater search and recovery, and underwater emergency repairs in any environment.

Diverse Views



“February is African American History Month. What African American (living or dead) do you most admire, and why?”



Capt. Austin Gruber
735th Air Mobility Squadron

“Gen. (ret) Colin Powell who was born of Jamaican immigrants in the Bronx, New York and rising through the military ranks, overcoming adversity and holding the highest position in the military.”

Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Saranda Duckett
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam/Maintenance



“I would say Bill Cosby, because he is very supportive of African Americans, as long as they're supportive of themselves.”



Tech. Sgt. LaTonya Robinson
647th Force Support Squadron

“My mom, because she sacrificed so much for me. I wouldn't be the person I am without her.”

Gunner's Mate 1st Class Max Gassant
Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 1



“I would say Nelson Mandela because he spent a bunch of time in jail, and he fought against racism and still became president and is still doing things for his country.”



Senior Master Sgt. David Satchell
515th Air Mobility Operations Wing

“I most admire Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. because of perseverance and character that was tested all the time. Dr. King showed the unique ability to remain calm and compassionate even when facing the toughest challenges.”

Victor M. Flint
CPLO NAVFAC



“The one I most admire is Martin Luther King Jr. The reason is his statement ‘Never judge a person by the color of their skin, but the content of their character,’ and growing up here in Hawaii that is so true. For me, that is really important. I look at the person, not at their color.”



Sharon Allen Thurston
Hickam Commissary

“My dad, Richard Allen, USN (ret) because he was a strong Navy SEAL instructor and a Navy boxing champion for seven consecutive years. He instilled a strong work ethic and a sense of country over self in me and my siblings.”

Master Sgt. John Marquez
Binnicker PME Center



“The first name that came to mind when asked this question was Martin Luther King Jr. As we know throughout our history, he is best known for his role in the advancement of civil rights using nonviolent civil disobedience. I admire his character, leadership and passion for creating awareness for social injustices. He not only inspired hope to the African American race, but also to all generations of every race, religion and gender to become leaders of the free world today. Martin Luther King Jr. once stated, ‘Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.’ Without his efforts, our diverse military would not have the character and identity needed to preserve our freedoms of today and tomorrow.”

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

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Got opinions to share?

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

USS Cheyenne visits Subic Bay, Philippines

Lt. Cmdr. Lara Bollinger

Submarine Group 7 Public Affairs

SUBIC BAY, Republic of the Philippines (NNS) – The last of the improved Lost Angeles-class submarines, USS Cheyenne (SSN 773), homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, arrived in Subic Bay on Feb. 1 as part of its western Pacific deployment.

With a crew of approximately 150 Sailors, Cheyenne will be conducting various military exercises for training.

“It is our pleasure to visit Subic Bay. My Sailors and crew have earned this much deserved rest in this great town,” said Cmdr. Noel Gonzalez, Cheyenne's commanding officer.

“We have been out to sea for a while conducting lots of training, becoming proficient at our jobs, and employing the ship as she was designed to be used. My crew looks forward to building good relationships and reinforcing our partnerships in the Philippines,” Gonzalez said.

Cheyenne is one of the most capable submarines in the U.S. Navy. Its enhanced capabilities include



U.S. Navy file photo by MC2 Steven Klor

The Los Angeles class fast attack submarine USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a six-month deployment to the western Pacific region in Dec. 2012.

advanced sonar systems and a state of the art engine room. Its sophisticated design and highly trained crew enable Cheyenne to operate globally, ready for any mission.

“We enjoy our job and being out to sea, but every Sailor will tell you that visiting foreign ports is part of the reason many of us joined the Navy,” Gonzalez said.

“This visit to Subic Bay is well deserved,” said Chief of the Boat, Master Chief Electronic Technician Michael Hinkle.

“We are looking forward to

exploring the area and taking part in some community service projects during our time here.”

For crew members like Culinary Specialist Seaman Sheldon Alvarez, this is their first time visiting the Philippines.

“I am looking forward to exploring the area,” said Alvarez. “This is my first port visit ever, and I am happy to be here and have the ability to contribute in an area of the world I have never visited before.”

Some of Cheyenne's Filipino-American Sailors,

like Electronics Technician Seaman Teodorico-Dante Tapia, will have an opportunity to connect with their heritage.

“I am really looking forward to finding the food I grew up eating as well as dishes I've never tasted before,” said Tapia. “I can't wait for some liberty to explore the place my elders still call home. I am an American, but I am a descendant of the Philippines, and this is my first chance to see a place I've only dreamed of visiting,” Tapia explained.

Pearl Harbor survivor energetically embraces new technology

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Holding his iPhone with confidence, George Bennett can describe the evolution of modern communication technology in the United States as if he was there from the beginning—because he was.

Bennett, a retired chief aviation radioman, was 17 when he witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. He returned for a visit to Pearl Harbor and the Battleship Missouri Memorial from Feb. 1-4.

Bennett, born 24 years before the invention of the transistor and six decades before the start of the digital revolution, described how communication changed during his lifetime.

“I learned Morse code when I was a Boy Scout. In the Navy I had to learn international code, which was



U.S. Navy photo by Brandon Bosworth

Using his iPhone, retired Chief Aviation Radioman George Bennett, a Pearl Harbor survivor, discusses advances in technology with Navy Region Hawaii historian Jim Neuman and public affairs officer Agnes Tauyan.

much easier to learn. I still remember it,” Bennett said.

“When I left the Navy I went to work for the railroad and they used Morse code. Then I moved to Oregon where ‘Telegraphone’ and telephone technology was

taking over. With that equipment, you had to crank it so many times. It would ring, and people would answer it if it was their ring.”

Bennett saw communication technology improve quickly at Union

Pacific Railroad.

“They converted to two wires and different frequencies, then to a computerized telephone system and automation. It was really something,” he said.

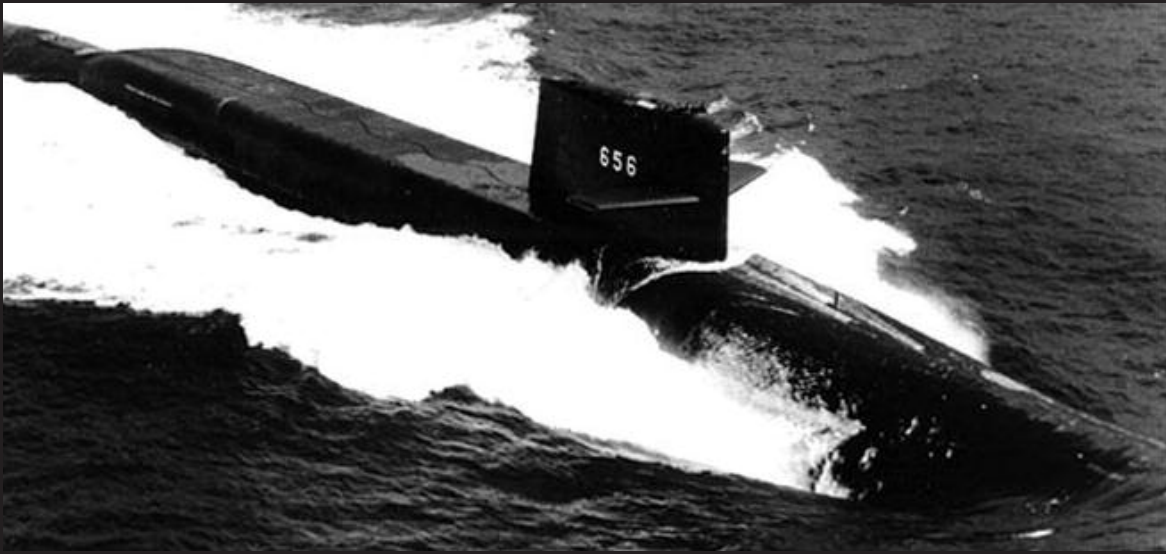
Bennett has seen similar advances in other areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and energy.

He is a proponent of photovoltaic (solar) arrays as an alternative to foreign oil and other fossil fuels, including at Ford Island and other locations at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

“I think it's a good idea,” said Bennett. “We have solar panels in Washington and in Hillsboro, Ore. It pays. It's quite a job security for people,” he added.

He said he believes in the benefits of new energy technologies, and he can show you the evidence on his iPhone.

Submarine named in honor of African American scientist



Official Navy photograph | Courtesy of Naval History and Heritage Command

The USS George Washington Carver (SSBN-656) is shown here underway at sea in June 1966. George Washington Carver carried out 73 patrols in the Atlantic before being transferred to the Pacific for final operations in mid-1991. The ballistic-missile submarine was named in honor of the African American scientist George Washington Carver. February commemorates African American History Month.



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All letters must be accompanied by the writer's name, E-mail address and daytime telephone number. Letters are subject to editing to meet space constraints.

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E-mail letters to: editor@hookelenews.com.

‘SPIDERS’ complete phase one at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

U.S. Pacific Command J81 – Energy Office

Denise Emsley
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii

Guests were invited to attend an operational energy security demonstration effort Jan. 25, co-sponsored by U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Northern Command, that is underway at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH). The effort is called Smart Power Infrastructure Demonstration for Energy Reliability and Security (SPIDERS) Joint Capability Technology Demonstration (JCTD).

“We’re extremely pleased with recent demonstrations of the SPIDERS cyber-secure microgrid at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam,” said Ross Roley, U.S. Pacific Command J81 energy office lead and SPIDERS operational manager.

“It’s the culmination of nearly

four years of effort by two combatant commands, five national labs, the Departments of Defense, Energy and Homeland Security, and the Office of Naval Research with tremendous cooperation from Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawaii and the contractor team,” Roley said.

The purpose of the demonstration is to gather operational data on the protection of cyber-secure smart microgrids with demand side management and integration of renewable energy and energy storage on military installations for enhanced mission assurance during prolonged outages of commercial power.

“We have completed phase one at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam,” said Ross. “The technical demonstration conducted in December 2012 exceeded expectations.”

In one test, the microgrid was synchronized to the Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) power



grid and “pushed” 1.2 MW of electricity to the utility, in essence slowing the meter down and acting as demand response. At another point in the testing, 90 percent of the required electricity

came from renewable energy sources.

The deployment of cyber-secure smart microgrids on military installations will not replace commercial power as a primary source,

U.S. Navy photo by Denise Emsley

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds (center), commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, learns about the Smart Power Infrastructure Demonstration for Energy Reliability and Security (SPIDERS) Joint Capability Technology Demonstration (JCTD) from Dave Barr (left), the integration contractor from Burns and McDonnell, and Dr. George Ka'iiliwai III (right), PACOM director of resources and assessment (J8), Jan. 25 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

but will enable secure and sustainable backup power for critical missions with enhanced reliability and endurance at installation scale.

In addition to providing enhanced energy security, the microgrid at JBPHH is expected to save \$43,000 per year while a subsequent SPIDERS microgrid planned for Camp Smith could save up to \$950,000 per year.

PACAF’s ‘Hana Hou’ band performs at Vietnamese New Year celebration

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen

Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

HONOLULU, Hawaii – Members of the U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific’s “Hana Hou” ensemble performed at the Vietnamese New Year celebration festival Feb. 3 to welcome in the Lunar New Year for Vietnamese-Americans on Oahu.

The 11-member band played several genres of music including disco, pop, rock, rhythm and blues, and old school Motown sounds as part of the celebration. Master Sgt. Gary Noel, Air Force Band of the Pacific director of operations, worked with Paul Nguyen, Secretary General of the Free Vietnamese Organization, to plan the band’s performance during the celebration.

“This year we felt we needed some Air Force involvement, and we heard (the Hana Hou band) was the best - they have the best reputation,” Nguyen said. “We wanted our celebration to be more entertaining to both locals and tourists. We felt the band was the right choice.”

Known to Vietnamese speakers by its shortened name, “Tet Nguyen Dan,” the celebration marks the first day of the Lunar



(From left) Senior Airman Devin Rivas-Martin, Master Sgt. Lara Murdzia, and Tech. Sgt. Tamiko Boone, vocalists from the Pacific Air Forces Band of the Pacific’s “Hana Hou” ensemble from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, perform Feb. 3 on the bandstand at Kapiolani Park in Honolulu, Hawaii, during the Vietnamese New Year celebration.

New Year, which officially begins Feb. 10. Many calendars, including the Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese calendars, are all based on the 12 lunar phases of the moon.

Many Vietnamese use this celebration as an opportunity to worship ancestors, be with family, and

forget the troubles of the past year, while hoping for a better new year. Nguyen said he could not think of a better way to bring together Oahu residents of all nationalities to join in the celebration.

According to Noel, Nguyen added the band to the celebration’s line-up based on its reputation and

ability to connect people bilaterally and generationally with music.

“A lot of (the band’s opportunities) are based on the reputation we have. We’re out in the public a lot and they know our product – they know we’re all professional musicians,” he said. “(Nguyen) wanted us because he wanted a mix of different kinds of acts to celebrate the fact that they’re not only Vietnamese, they’re American as well.”

Staff Sgt. Troy Griffin, a percussionist with the band, said that while locals who know of the band already think of them as “rock stars,” increasing financial restraints will likely cause the band to focus even more on expanding engagements through local outreach opportunities.

“With limited (temporary duties in the Asia-Pacific region) now, we’re really going to take advantage of playing out in the (Hawaii) community and making sure people know that we’re here,” he said. “We’ve noticed that when we go to other islands like Maui and Molokai, we see people fly-in to see us play because they are not aware we play here in Oahu.”

Concert attendee Lien Pham, a 16-year-old Vietnamese-American, said the performance was certainly one worthy of remembrance.

“They were super – really, really, really good. They were the best (band) I’ve heard all day,” she said. “It’s really cool to see them perform here integrating their culture with ours, celebrating with everyone. I’m videotaping it so I can watch it again later.”

The Hana Hou band supports the Pacific Air Forces Commander in expanding engagements through building partnerships and relationships throughout Asia-Pacific region by harnessing the universal power of music to inspire immediate, positive and long-lasting impressions of the U.S. Air Force and the United States of America in the hearts and minds of audiences worldwide.

The band has traveled throughout the Pacific supporting a number of airshows and exercises to enhance and lift the morale and esprit de corps of servicemembers and communities throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Some recent events the band has supported include the Singapore Airshow 2012, and the Chiefs of Defense Conference, where senior military leaders from 36 Asia-Pacific countries were in attendance. The band is scheduled to perform at the Australian International Airshow this year.

Pearl Harbor-Hickam *Highlights*



(Left, below) Maintainers deployed from the 15th Wing and 154th Wing, Air National Guard, crew conduct pre-flight checks prior to launching an F-22 Raptor in support of Red Flag 13-2 from Jan. 21 through Feb 1.

Courtesy photo by Ervin Booker



A Japanese buoy was found last week by Pacific Missile Range Facility's weapon recovery boat 102, two miles off the coast of Nohili Point, Kauai.

U.S. Navy photo by Dennis Rowley



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Cmdr. Al Unger

Bound for Wheeler Army Airfield, a United States Army Chinook helicopter lifts off from a helo pad on Pearl Harbor. On January 16-17, Ocean Terminals personnel from NAVSUP [Naval Supply] Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor offloaded 67 Chinooks, Blackhawks and Kiowa helicopters from USNS Benavidez (T-AKR-306). The helicopters, which were being redeployed from Afghanistan, belong to the 25th Infantry Division's Combat Aviation Brigade. The 950-foot Benavidez is named for Medal of Honor recipient Master Sgt. Roy Benavidez.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Class Nardel Gervacio

Sailors assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) One and students from Waipahu Elementary School walk along Farrington Highway during the annual Waipahu Elementary School Drug Free Walk.



U.S. Navy photo courtesy of Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific

USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) hosted a visit from staff delegates who are seen preparing to depart from the ship via helo. Paul Hamilton is currently on a regularly scheduled deployment.

15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron personnel prepare a C-17 Globemaster III for departure Jan. 31 on the flightline at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The Pacific Air Forces C-17 Globemaster III demonstration team will perform during Aero India 2013, showcasing the C-17 capabilities at one of Asia's most premier air shows.

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



Sailor connects with his long-lost grandfather

Story and photo by
Brandon Bosworth

Staff Writer

Engineman 2nd Class Ronald Kaopuiki, Navy Reserve Recruiting Station Honolulu, never knew much about his father's side of the family.

Born and raised in Honolulu, Kaopuiki was just two years old when his parents divorced and his maternal great-aunt and uncle Kaopuiki adopted him. After the divorce, he had no real contact with his father.

Yet as he got older, he became more curious about his own roots and where he came from.

"I had no sense of identity, and I wondered where my interests came from," he said. "Why was I drawn to the military? Why was I drawn to the sea? No one in my adopted family shared these interests."

Kaopuiki did know a little bit about his father. For example, he knew his father was a highly decorated Marine who served multiple



(Above) EN2 Ronald Kaopuiki made contact with his long-lost grandfather for the first time recently. Since then, the two have spoken on the phone nearly every day. (Top right) Kaopuiki's grandfather, Leo Dean Clouse, is a former Marine living in Chico, Calif. (Above right) Kaopuiki's father, Larry Dean Clouse, was a decorated Marine who served two tours in Vietnam.

tours during the Vietnam War. It was this small bit of information, along with his position at Navy Reserve Recruiting Station Honolulu, that would eventually allow him to reconnect with members of his paternal family.

While accompanying a Navy applicant to a local veterans affairs office a few months ago, Kaopuiki decided to look up his father and grandfather in the organization's database.

Unfortunately, it turned out his father had passed away in 1985 at the age of 34. However, his grandfather, Leo Dean Clouse, was listed as living in Chico, Calif.

Kaopuiki was worried that the information about his grandfather was out of date. "I wasn't sure he was still alive at 88 years old," he said.

Kaopuiki took a chance and placed a phone call to Clouse.

"I called him and said I was a veteran looking for another veteran," said Kaopuiki. "After talking a

bit he said, 'Ronnie, is that you? I've been looking for you and your sister for my whole life!' He was ecstatic."

Kaopuiki has spent lots of time on the phone catching up on lost time, talking with his grandfather nearly every day. These conversations have helped Kaopuiki better understand why he is the person he is.

"It fills big holes," he said. "Now I have reasons why I am who I am. I was blessed to find my lineage. If I never found my grandfather, there would have always been gaps."

Now Kaopuiki has two new goals. One is visiting his grandfather in California. The other is finding his long-lost sister.

Ronald Kaopuiki credits his position in the Navy with helping him to reunite with his grandfather.

"I took the job as a recruiter in Honolulu hoping to change people's lives," said Kaopuiki. "But I never knew that it would be my own life that would change so dramatically because of this job."

Sailors prepare for advancement exams taking place in March

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Sailors should prepare now to have an opportunity to move up in rank and earn more money by excelling on their March advancement exams.

The exams take place every March and September for Sailors trying to achieve the ranks of petty officer third class through petty officer first class.

The exam to become a chief petty officer takes place every year in January. The amount of Sailors who advance to the next rank varies every cycle, and it also varies between the different rates.

The best way to prepare for an upcoming advancement exam is

by utilizing resources, effective time management skills and keeping a positive attitude.

"The first thing a Sailor should do when preparing for their exam is make sure their eligibility requirements have been met," said Senior Chief Navy Counselor Tyrone Jiles, Navy career counselor for Navy Region Hawaii. "If you don't take care of your eligibility requirements, then you won't have a chance to take the exam."

Once Sailors have met all of the eligibility requirements, they can start preparing for the exam. One of the best resources available is the Navy Advancement Center page.

"You can find bibliographies with information on what you

need to study for your exam six months prior to taking the exam on the Navy Advancement Center page," Jiles said. "The Navy Advancement Center page can be found on Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) and has a lot of valuable resources to help you succeed when taking the exam."

Once Sailors know what resources and study materials are available to them, they can begin using their time management skills to help them prepare for exams. One way to manage time to help prepare for an exam is to develop a study plan.

"Everybody learns in different ways," Jiles said. "Some people learn more when they study in groups and some people learn better by studying on their own. It is

important to know what types of study methods suit you the best before you develop a study plan."

Another way to manage time is to begin studying as soon as the bibliographies are available. It is also important to maintain a positive attitude when taking the exam.

"Studying for the Navy-wide advancement exam is important because it is one of the top factors in the Perform to Serve algorithm. Always prepare at least three to six months prior to the exam, and do not wait until the last minute.

"Remember the key things in studying: preview-read-summarize-review. Develop a plan and stick with it. Consult with your mentor, find a study group, or dedicate two hours a day. Trust me,

this will pay off in the long run," Jiles said.

Senior Chief Jiles said it is important for Sailors to keep a positive attitude because it helps keep them motivated to work hard and do well when the day of their exam arrives.

Sailors can give themselves a better chance to receive a higher score the next time they take an advancement exam by utilizing resources, using proper time management, and keeping a positive attitude. Getting a higher score on the exam can go a long way in helping a Sailor advance in rank and continue to progress in the Navy.

For more information on the Navy Advancement Center, visit <http://on.fb.me/11WVBfl>.

Shipyard Sailor of Year dedicates his time to shipmates

Story and photo by
David Tomiyama

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility Public Affairs

For Gunner's Mate 1st Class (SW) Aaron Savoie, it is all about the Sailor. Whether it is leading Sailors at work, volunteering his time in their career development, supporting individual augmentees (IA), or coordinating community programs, the 2012 Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility's Sailor of the Year is involved with anything and everything that involves Sailors.

"Petty Officer Savoie is the top notch Sailor and the epitome of inspirational leadership," said Master Chief Machinist's Mate Rommel Paulo, code 200 master chief. "He is the very definition of



GM1 (SW) Aaron Savoie

the phrase "sustained superior performance.""

Savoie dedicates his time away from work to his shipmates. He voluntarily serves as the shipyard's First Class Petty Officer Association Secretary, chairs the Junior Sailor of the Quarter boards, runs the petty officer leadership course, conducts command development boards, and trains Sailors in their in-rate and basic military requirements continual training.

He is also the IA coordinator, communicating, training and tracking deployed shipyard Sailors and a member of the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam's (JBPHH) Sailors Against Drunk Driving program.

"I do this to support the Sailors," Savoie said. "It's important to me to help as many of them out as I can by setting a good example, challenging and pushing them to

advance in their careers and recognizing their achievements."

Savoie's spirit of service extends beyond the gates of the base. As the shipyard's volunteer coordinator, he has led 42 events that generated more than 2,000 man-hours of local community support.

"Petty Officer Savoie's selfless dedication in coordinating, organizing and participating in community and local school events had a positive, significant impact to the public and the people of Hawaii," Paulo said.

The code 210 fleet technical support division leading petty officer and weapons technician is responsible for the day-to-day activities of 18 Sailors.

"The only reason we're able to coordinate the work and inspect and maintain the surface ship's weapons systems is due to the hard work and dedication of my fellow

Sailors," Savoie said. "They're self-motivated in knocking out tasks and extremely knowledgeable about their work."

Savoie was born in Houston but moved to Dardanelle, Ark. at an early age. He enlisted in the Navy in 1998 to see the world and continue his education. His first assignments were USS O'Bannon (DD-987) in Naval Station Mayport, Fla., Shore Intermediate Maintenance Facility Norfolk and USS Anzio (CG-68) at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., before arriving at the shipyard in October 2010.

Of all the assignments, Savoie said his time at the shipyard has been the best.

"Being able to help out my fellow Sailors here has been so rewarding," he said. "Plus the mentorship I've received from so many senior Sailors has been priceless."

USS Olympia makes port visit in Singapore

Lt. Cmdr. Lara Bollinger

Submarine Group 7 Public Affairs

CHANGI, Republic of Singapore (NNS) – The Los Angeles-class fast attack submarine USS Olympia (SSN 717) arrived at Changi Naval Station, Singapore for a visit Feb. 2 as part of its deployment to the western Pacific.

Olympia is homeported at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

With a crew of approximately 140 Sailors, Olympia will conduct a multitude of missions and showcase the latest capabilities of the U.S. Submarine Force.

"The crew of Olympia is excited to enjoy the sights and culture of Singapore," said Cmdr. Michael

Boone, Olympia's commanding officer.

"They each look forward to enjoying the great shopping, food and hospitality that Singapore offers."

For Olympia crew members like Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Michael V. Atkinson, this is their first time visiting Singapore.

"I am looking forward to exploring the culture, people and food in this wonderful country," said Atkinson. "My friends who have been here before always talk about the great times they had while here."

"I'm very excited to finally have a chance to see Singapore," added Yeoman 2nd Class Victor Diaz-Incle. "I've heard so many great stories about this country."



U.S. Navy file photo by MC1 Ronald Guttridge

The Los Angeles-class submarine USS Olympia (SSN 717) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for a scheduled western Pacific deployment in August 2012.

STORY IDEAS?

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

Phone:
(808) 473-2890

or email:
editor@hookelenews.com

Half-day tours will focus on Pearl Harbor historic sites

Provided by McNeil-Wilson

Three new half-day tours have been launched at Pearl Harbor Historic Sites. Starting at \$15 for adults (\$11 for children 4 to 12), these packages allow visitors to experience the USS Arizona Memorial Audio Tour along with a tour of the Battleship Missouri Memorial, USS Bowfin Submarine or the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor.

From the sinking of the USS Arizona (BB-39) to Imperial Japan's surrender aboard the USS Missouri (BB-63), Pearl Harbor brings the story of America's involvement in World War II full circle. Guests can experience the solemn reality of war at the USS Arizona Memorial, explore the USS Bowfin Submarine – nicknamed the Pearl Harbor Avenger, discover how the



Photos courtesy of McNeil-Wilson

air war was won in the Pacific Aviation Museum or stand in the spot where World War II ended aboard

the Battleship Missouri.

Tour options include:

USS Arizona Memorial Audio Tour/USS Bowfin

Submarine Tour, \$15 for adults and \$11 for children (4-12)

USS Arizona Memorial

Audio Tour/Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor Tour, \$24 for adults and \$17 for children (4 to 12)

USS Arizona Memorial Audio Tour / Battleship Missouri Memorial Tour, \$27.50 for adults and \$17 for children (4 to 12)

The Pearl Harbor half-day tours provide more flexibility for guests. For those looking for the complete Pearl Harbor experience, the passport to Pearl Harbor offers one-day access to all four historic sites for \$55 per adult and \$30 per child.

For those who need a little more time, two-day passports are also available for \$10 more. Two-day passport holders can return to Pearl Harbor within seven days of their initial visit at no additional charge.

For more information about these packages or to book reservations, visit the website PearlHarborHistoricSites.org, visit recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777.

Navy increases alcohol education, awareness efforts across fleet

U.S. Fleet Forces Command Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) – The Navy announced plans Jan. 23 to promote safety and provide education and awareness on the dangers of irresponsible alcohol use and the negative impact it has on mission accomplishment by introducing the use of alcohol detection devices (ADD) across the fleet.

As part of the Secretary of the Navy's (SECNAV) 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative, SECNAV approved the use of ADDs as another tool available for

commanders to deter irresponsible use of alcohol and assist in identifying service members who may require support and assistance with alcohol use decisions.

U.S. Fleet Forces conducted a "pilot test" on ADDs with 13 sea and shore commands during the 100 days of summer from May 24 through Sept. 30, 2012. The data collected fleet-wide was used to develop the processes and policy for how best to implement a program Navy-wide.

The office of the Chief of Naval Operations approved OPNAV Instruction 5350.8 Jan. 22, which established

policies and procedures for the use of the hand-held devices Navy-wide.

"Fleet feedback was instrumental in the development of this policy," said Adm. Bill Gortney, commander of U.S. Fleet Forces. "The test verified that the majority of our service members, who choose to drink alcohol, do so responsibly. It also verified that our commanding officers need a flexible program that serves to increase the Navy's awareness about the impacts of alcohol."

Gortney and Adm. Cecil Haney, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, in a joint mes-

sage to commanders, said the new program will complement current command efforts to educate service members on the responsible use of alcohol.

The program also promotes standards of safety, education and training, and awareness.

According to the instruction, the objective of ADD is to promote safety and education on the effects of alcohol use decisions and enhances leadership awareness and understanding of their unit's alcohol use culture.

"Deterring irresponsible use of alcohol is essential to

the readiness of our fleet and ensuring the health and safety of our service members and units," said Gortney.

"Fleet Forces, in partnership with Pacific Fleet, will remain engaged in providing service members the tools and resources to make these responsible choices. The ADD is one of many tools commanders have to educate service members," Gortney said.

Focused on those in a duty status and during normal working hours, the device is not intended to test those in an authorized leave or liberty status.

Commanding officers may also use ADD results as a basis to further evaluate a service member's fitness for duty through use of a competence for duty examination.

The instruction applies to all active duty, reserve and personnel from other services assigned to Navy units in any capacity.

Alcohol detection devices will begin arriving to commands in February.

A copy of OPNAVINST 5350.8 is available at www.npc.navy.mil.

For more news from U.S. Fleet Forces Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/clff/.

CELEBRATING
蛇 Chinese New Year 新

Don Robbins

Assistant Editor

Although Chinese New Year officially falls on Feb. 10 this year, a festive parade to preview the Year of the Snake navigated through the streets of Honolulu's Chinatown on Feb. 2.

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, marched in the parade. So did the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band.

The parade was the fourth in a series of tours offered last weekend by Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) to commemorate the new year.

The first tour on Feb. 1 began with a Chinese-style dinner, followed by the official Year of the Snake opening ceremony, Narcissus Queen and court appearance, lion dances, firecrackers and the street festival.

The second tour included a trip to First Friday, a Chinatown block party centered on the area's art galleries and unique shops.

The third tour, on Feb. 2, celebrated Chinese food and history, including a new year street festival, samples of traditional treats and a dim sum lunch.

According to the Chinese zodiac, focused around the characteristics of 12 animal symbols, 2013 is the Year of the Snake. The festival also heralds the beginning of springtime and is based on the Chinese calendar and the lunar new year.

Traditionally, Chinese New Year includes a feast of delicacies with family members, and the receipt of money in red paper envelopes for good luck. Popular themes surrounding the festival include wishes for longevity, wealth, happiness and good fortune.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

According to the Chinese zodiac, focused around the characteristics of 12 animal symbols, 2013 is the Year of the Snake. The festival also heralds the beginning of springtime and is based on the Chinese calendar and the lunar new year.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker



U.S. Navy photo by LT. Cmdr. Allen Unger



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

Port Royal ‘A’ proves too much for Lake Erie ‘B’

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

Point guard Seaman London Waldon pumped in three long-range jumpers from beyond the arch and finished with a game-high 20 points to lead USS Port Royal (CG 73) “A” past USS Lake Erie (CG 70) “B”, 41-26, on Feb. 2 in an Afloat Division intramural basketball game at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center.

Waldon scored nine points in the first half, then topped off his strong effort with back-to-back three-pointers in the second half to close out the team’s second victory in two tries.

“As a leader, you’ve got to be able to step up at anytime,” he said. “I had to step up as a teammate and as a captain. If everybody else is going to put forth, I got to step up and do what I got to do.”

Although Waldon provided a huge offensive punch for Port Royal, it was Electronics Technician 3rd Class Anthony Hawkins who got the team out of the gates and running in the opening minutes of the game.

Hawkins scored the first six points of the game on a free throw, a three-pointer and a dunk while Waldon tossed in a lay-up for an early 8-0 lead.

Another basket by Waldon extended the lead to 10-0 before Lake Erie guard Boatswain’s Mate Seaman Thomas Burnley finally got his team on the scoreboard after being shut out for the first 10 minutes of the game.

“We got to give everybody a different look, rather than just a two-three (defense),” said Waldon about shutting down Port Royal. “We can’t be like everybody else. We



Guard Seaman London Waldon goes up for a lay-up to score two of his game-high 20 points and lead USS Port Royal (CG 73) “A” past USS Lake Erie “B”, 41-26.

got to be unique. We got to show something different.”

Four minutes later, Waldon sank the first of his

three-point shots to give Port Royal a double-digit lead at 18-8 with 4:32 remaining before halftime.

“It’s a statement that we got to put out here,” said Waldon about the team’s 22-13 advantage at inter-

mission. “We just got to come out, forward, with a better effort.”

While Lake Erie picked up the pace in the second half, Port Royal continued to put the pressure on their opponent and never lost their double-digit lead.

Nine minutes into the second half, Waldon all but sealed the deal by finishing a fast break with a lay-up to put Port Royal ahead by a commanding, 32-15, with 11:36 on the clock.

For Port Royal, six players got their names in the box score with Waldon and Hawkins leading the way.

Meanwhile, Lake Erie was led by Burnley with 10 points, Damage Controlman Seaman Alvin Brown with eight and Seaman Shanderick Tatum with six.

Burnley attributed the loss to first-game jitters and promised that Lake Erie will be competitive from here on out.

“We have a lot of new guys,” he said. “This is a brand new team. We were just scared. It won’t

happen again.”

Although Lake Erie fell behind by 10 points early in the game, Burnley said that he was very encouraged by the way the team fought back and refused to give up.

“We started clicking at the half,” he said. “We’re small, but we’re fast and we box out. If we play like we did in the second half, we’ll be fine. We’ll play a lot faster next time. This was a warm-up game.”

After easily dispatching Lake Erie, Waldon said that it’s only the beginning for Port Royal.

Falling short in the playoffs last year, Waldon stated that the team is on a mission to set things right in 2013.

“We can be way better than this,” he said. “Everybody knows us on the waterfront. Everybody wants us, but we’re taking every game one by one. We can lose at anytime. We just got to stay humble and we’ll be fine.”

Talent show, gospel festival, soul food competition planned for African American History Month

Hickam African American Heritage Association has scheduled the following events for February:

- An “Apollo-style” talent show will be held at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club at 6 p.m. Feb. 16. There will be a cash prize of \$200.

For more information and to sign up for the show, email: aahatalentshow@gmail.com or call 449-8612.

- A GospelFest and Taste of Soul will be held at 6 p.m. at the Hickam Main Chapel. All local

choirs are invited to sing in the GospelFest and anyone can submit dishes for the Taste of Soul, which is a soul food competition. For more information, email april.gaines.1@us.af.mil.

- An African American History Month luncheon will be held at 11 a.m. at the Hickam Officers’ Club. Chief Sgt. Leslie Bramlett, 15th Wing command master chief will be the guest speaker. Tickets will be available by sending an email to brence.jenkins@us.af.mil.

Defending champs NIOC turn up heat on DISA-PAC

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

The starting five for Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) began the game against Defense Information Systems Agency Pacific (DISA-PAC) sitting on the bench, but once in the game, it didn't take long for the first squad to make an impact.

Down by a score of 6-5, NIOC's big five outscored DISA 15-1 to close out the first half and cruise to a 41-15 win Feb. 4 in a Blue Division intramural basketball game at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center.

Led by the twin towers, Navy Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 2nd Class Quentin Leathers and Senior Airman Sean Caddell, the defending champions NIOC turned up the heat to score 11 points in four minutes to take their first double-digit lead at 16-6.

Leathers was especially tough inside the paint as he threw down six points in just over a minute on a lay-up and two thunderous dunks.

"We started off with a 1-3-1 defense and that picked up the intensity," Leathers said. "That gave everybody confidence and boost everybody's defense up."

After the outburst by Leathers, it was Caddell's turn to run wild and dominate under the basket.

Caddell scored on an assist by Leathers and then went on to convert two free throws, a basket-and-one and another free throw to give NIOC a 20-7 lead at halftime.

In the second half, Leathers went back to work and scored the first six points for NIOC to raise the lead to 26-9.

Two minutes later, with 12:48 remaining on the clock, Caddell all but put



Navy Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 2nd Class Quentin Leathers scores on back-to-back dunks in the first half.

the game away with a basket for a commanding 30-9 advantage.

Of the team's 41 points, Leathers led the way with 13 points, with Caddell adding 11 and Cryptologic Technician (Maintenance) 3rd Class Michael Lyles following with seven points.

"I started playing the other guys, give them playing time because there's going to be tough games down the road," said NIOC returning head coach Master Chief Yeoman Darrin Bobbitt, who took note of the mismatch before game time. "Once they (starting five) started playing, I pulled the ball out a couple of times, good sportsmanship because we're already up."

While Leathers and

Caddell scored more than half of the team's total points, Bobbitt was quick to point out that it was a team effort that produced the win.

Bobbitt said that one player in particular, Cryptologic Technician (Technical) Seaman Brittany Thomas, was the spark that kept the team focused and on track.

"She gets in the game, plays hard defense and that made everybody else play hard defense," he stated. "This girl right here, you see how she plays defense, that made the team play better."

Thomas also contributed with a bucket late in the second half.

Leathers, who was deployed last year and missed out on the team's championship celebration, said that

with so many pieces coming together, he likes what he sees out on the floor.

Just a little tweaking here and there, Leathers said, and NIOC will be ready to defend their title.

"We still have a lot to jell," he acknowledged. "We got to believe in each other to take it to the next level."

Bobbitt said it's too early to tell if NIOC will repeat. At this point, the head coach just wants to focus on playing good basketball.

"We're not on the eye of that (repeat), we're just on the eye of playing good ball," he stated. "We don't even want to focus on the championship or another undefeated season. We just want to play good ball and represent NIOC."



Cryptologic Technician (Maintenance) 3rd Class Michael Lyles, guard for Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC), puts up a shot from the perimeter.

Quick assist loans now available from relief society

Sailors and Marines serving on active duty can apply for a quick assist loan (QAL) for up to \$500 at all 51 Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) full service offices located on Navy and Marine Corps installations worldwide. Most QALs can be processed on a walk-in basis in about 15 minutes. Active duty Marines and Sailors must apply in person.

QALs are short-term, interest-free loans available to service members facing a family emergency or other urgent financial situation. QALs are available to Sailors and Marines who:

- Are on active duty.
- Have no outstanding loans with NMCRS.
- Need help with basic living expenses or family emergencies.

"This program is our best defense against questionable pay day lenders who create a cycle of debt with triple-digit interest and short-term repayments that adversely impact our service members and their families," said Maj. Gen. Carl Jensen, USMC (ret.), executive vice president, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. Last year, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society provided more than 43,000 QALs to active duty Sailors and Marines.

The Pearl Harbor office is in building 1514 next to the Makalapa Gate at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

For more information, visit www.nmcrs.org/QAL or contact the NMCRS office at 473-0282.

Defense leads Reapers to win

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

A tough full-court defense helped the 8th Intelligence Squadron (8 IS) Reapers break up a close game and defeat Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBPAC), 46-35, Feb. 5, in a Gold Division intra-mural basketball matchup at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Fitness Center.

Up by only three points with less than nine minutes on the clock, the Reapers turned two turnovers into back-to-back, fast-break hoops by Lt. Col. James Weaver and Master Sgt. Josh Gerrish to go up by a score of 32-25 en route to the win.

"The defense is really what set that up," said Gerrish, who led the Reapers with 11 points. "The pressure defense is what we said at halftime."

Down twice early in the first half, the Reapers tied the score at 7-7 on a lay-up by Gerrish at the 13:16 mark and then tied it again at 11-11 on another shot by Gerrish.

The Reapers took their first lead of the game moments later when Master Sgt. Michael McCarty scored on a put-back off of a miss by Gerrish to go up 13-11.

A basket by 1st Lt. Anwar Johnson upped the Reapers by four points, but COMSUBPAC came back to tie the score at 18-18 on a lay-up by military family member Nick Lenover.

The stalemate was short-lived however as Weaver connected on his second trey in the first half to take a 21-18 advantage before the Reapers went into halftime ahead at 23-19.

While the back-to-back baskets put the Reapers up by seven midway through

the second half, COMSUBPAC, despite only having five players on their squad, put together one last run after falling behind by nine points.

A splashdown from beyond the arch by Fire Controlman 2nd Class Frank Lofton narrowed the gap down to six at 36-30 with only 6:19 on the clock.

However, the Reapers came back to take their first double-digit lead at 40-30 on a lay-up by Gerrish before a basket-and-one by Johnson all but put the game away at 43-30 with 3:38 remaining in the game.

A total of seven Reapers posted points in a balanced attack that was led by Gerrish, who was followed by Weaver with 10, Johnson with nine and McCarty with six.

Lofton led COMSUBPAC with 12 points, which included three long-range treys, and was followed by Electronics Technician 2nd Class Jesse Gauf with 11 points. Lenover also chipped in with eight.

"We got tired," explained Lofton about falling short against the 8 IS. "We only got five people. They (Reapers) had like 12, 13 people, so they were just subbing in people."

Although the trey late in the game by Lofton pulled COMSUBPAC back to within six, he said that the team just ran out of gas after that.

"We just went downhill from there," Lofton said. "We're going to do better the next time. Hopefully, we'll have more people. When we have our full team our here, we got a pretty good team."

With the advantage in numbers, Gerrish said that the Reapers knew it would only be a matter of time before COMSUBPAC would begin to tire.

The pressure worked for



Swing player 1st Lt. Anwar Johnson, 8th Intelligence Squadron (8 IS) Reapers, goes up for a basket.

the Reapers, which scored numerous baskets on fast breaks and lay-ups.

"It was just that tight D, anticipating the passes and playing the lanes," Gerrish said. "And we had a lot of bench players too, so we could bring people in to give us some rest."

The win raised the record of the Reapers to 3-0 in the

Gold Division.

Although off to a good start, Gerrish said that it's only the beginning.

"We're doing pretty good," he acknowledged. "We actually have two of our starters that aren't back yet. Once we get everybody playing, we're going to be tough to stop."



EARTH TIP

Steps can be taken to protect biodiversity in Hawaii

Rebecca Hommon

Navy Region Hawaii
Environmental Counsel

Strong species, sometimes ones imported to a location for something that seemed like a good idea at the time, become weeds that choke out other species' ability to survive, creating a monoculture of the dominant plant or animal.

For example, mangroves were brought to Hawaii in the 1920s to stabilize muddy shorelines, and blackchin tilapia were introduced as a food source. Both have now spread so that their existence

threatens the ability of native waterbirds, such as Hawaiian stilts and ducks, to find food, jeopardizing their ability to survive.

To keep the plant and animal worlds interesting and diverse, be very cautious of what you import to Hawaii.

Dumping aquarium water into streams can spread organisms into native habitats, while participating in volunteer efforts to remove invasive species from a particular plot may give a few birds a chance to survive.

For more on biodiversity in Pearl Harbor's streams and wetlands see the website: <http://bit.ly/VmtIL4>



Honored guests commence the Hawaiian tradition of untying the maile lei at the grand reopening of the USO Hawaii's Honolulu Airport center.

USO Hawaii celebrates grand re-opening

**Story and photos by
MC3 Dustin W. Sisco**

*Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West
Det Hawaii*

HONOLULU – The Honolulu International Airport (HIA) hosted the grand re-opening of the United Service Organizations Inc. (USO) on the same day as the USO's 72nd birthday on Feb. 4.

The ceremony recognized the efforts that volunteers and contributors have made not only in renovating the HIA's USO center, but also in supporting the USO's mission in the past. Carly Harris, vice president of USO Pacific, spoke to members from all branches of the military and others in attendance at the ceremony.

"In 2012, we've touched more than 69,000 lives in our two USO centers and more than 85,000 through your programming efforts," said Harris. "Thank you for your selfless contributions."

USO Hawaii first opened its HIA center in a location



Henry Kapono sings a dedication song.

near the Japanese garden and, as the airport expanded, the USO has moved twice. Currently, the USO lounge and administrative office are located at the street level between baggage claim areas E and F.

Military members and their family members can visit the USO which offers free pastry and coffee, Internet services, shower facilities, vending machines and a room for children that

is equipped with toys, books and games.

Karl Kiyokawa, USO Hawaii Advisory Council president, gave special remarks about the mission of the USO.

"The mission of the USO Hawaii advisory council and the USO is very pure. It does not get any purer than this. Those of us in business, the mission is to support the troops and their families, end of story."



U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Daniel Barker

Vertical Horizon performs a free concert Feb. 4 for Sailors, Airmen and other military members at Club Pearl on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The recording artists were hosted by Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) in coordination with Navy Entertainment.

Hickam Officers' Spouses' Club offers meetings, scholarship opportunities

Those who are new to the island, the military lifestyle, or interested in making new friends or having fun are invited to check out the Hickam Officers' Spouses Club (HOSC). The club is a non-profit, private organization.

HOSC has monthly socials and smaller group activities. Participants who are interested in volunteering can stop by the Hickam Thrift Shop.

Proceeds from the Hickam Thrift Shop go back to the club's educational, military and local communities.

Dues are now half-price for the remainder of the 2012-2013 board year. For more information, visit the website at www.hickamosc.com or email info@hickamosc.com.

In addition, The club is currently accepting scholarship applications for spouses

es and high school seniors who are dependents of U.S. military members of all ranks, who are stationed in Hawaii.

Applications are available online at www.hickamosc.com. Applications must be received no later than March 15.

For more information, contact Katherine Gibson at hoscscscholarship2013@gmail.com.

Morale Welfare & Recreation

VALENTINE'S 5K RUN

A Valentine's Day 5K run will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Hickam Fitness Center. This is a free event. FMI: 448-2214.

FREE GOLF CLINIC

The Navy-Marine Golf Course will host a free golf clinic at 1 p.m. Saturday. FMI: 471-0142.

DIAMOND HEAD HIKE WITH LIBERTY

There will be a free Diamond Head hike with Liberty on Saturday. Departures are from Liberty Express at 8 a.m., Beeman Center at 8:30 a.m., Instant Liberty at 8:45 a.m., and Makai Recreation Center at 9 a.m. This activity is for single, active-duty Sailors and Airmen only. FMI: 473-2583.

HICKAM HISTORICAL TOUR

Tours of historic Hickam will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Fridays throughout the month of February. The cost is \$45 for adults, \$40 for children ages 3-11 years old, and free for children 2 years and younger. Departures are from Information, Tickets and Travel (ITT)-Hickam and Royal Alakai Lodge. FMI: 448-2295.

KO OLINA WHALE WATCH TOUR

There will be whale watching tours to Ko Olina from noon to 3: 45 p.m. on Feb. 9, 16, 17, 23 and 24. The cost is \$40 for adults, \$35 for children ages 3-11, and includes round trip transportation from ITT-Hickam. FMI: 448-2295.

OAHU HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

There will be a tour of Oahu from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursdays throughout the month of February. The tour features major sights of Oahu. The cost is \$45 for adults, \$40 for children, and free for children age 2 and under who sit on an adult's lap. Lunch is included. Departures are from ITT-Hickam office. FMI: 448-2295.

PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

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

ALL-AIR FORCE AND ALL-NAVY BOWLING TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the All-Air Force and All-Navy bowling leagues are scheduled for next week. All-Air Force tryouts will take place at 10 a.m. Feb. 13 at Hickam Bowling Center. All-Navy tryouts will take place at 10 a.m. Feb. 14 at the Naval Station Bowling Center. The top six men and top four women from each branch of service will advance to the All-Military Bowling Tournament in April. This event is open to all active-duty personnel. The cost is \$16 per person. Sign up sheets are available at the front desk at either bowling center. FMI: 473-2651.



PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG)

Old school grandfather Artie (Billy Crystal), who is accustomed to calling the shots, meets his match when he and his eager-to-please wife Diane (Bette Midler) agree to babysit their three grandkids when their type-A parents (Marisa Tomei, Tom Everett Scott) go away for work.

But when 21st century problems collide with Artie and Diane's old school methods of tough rules, lots of love and old-fashioned games, it's learning to bend - and not holding your ground - that binds a family together.

SHARKEY MOVIE THEATER

TODAY 2/8

7:00 PM The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13)

SATURDAY 2/9

2:30 PM Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away (G)

4:45 PM The Guilt Trip (PG-13)

7:00 PM The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13)

SUNDAY 2/10

2:30 PM Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away (G)

4:45 PM Parental Guidance (PG)

7:00 PM Jack Reacher (R)

*\$1 for 3-D glasses rental

HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER

TODAY 2/8

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

SATURDAY 2/9

4:00 PM Rise of the Guardians 3D (PG)

7:00 PM Jack Reacher (PG-13)

SUNDAY 2/10

2:00 PM Rise of the Guardians 3D (PG)

Community Calendar

FEBRUARY

NOW — the Joint Base Tax Center, run by the Region Legal Service Office, is now open. The tax center offers "self-service" preparation, with the help of a trained tax volunteer. Volunteers for tax staff are also being sought. FMI: email Katherine.lake@navy.mil or call 473-4717.

12 — The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) buffet luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ft. Shafter Hale Ikena Club. This month all military and business professionals in information technology, communications, cyber security or STEM are invited to attend this networking roundtable. FMI: www.afceahawaii.org or call Ken at 441-8524.

13 — A family fun run will be held in the grassy mall area between the 15th Wing Headquarters building and Freedom Tower. Units should assemble no later than 6:55 a.m. Families, children and adults with strollers are welcome, but pets are prohibited.

15 — A Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation Golf Tournament will be held at the Kaneohe Klipper Course at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The tournament will be "captain's choice" format with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. The foundation provides scholarships to any dependent associated with naval aviation: officer, enlisted, retired and deceased. FMI: www.wingsoveramerica.us.

16 — The annual Swamp Romp run will begin at 7 a.m. at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. This is a six-member team event. The cost is \$140. FMI: http://www.mccshawaii.com/swampromp.

18 — Feb. 9 is the deadline to enter the 29th annual Great Aloha Run, will be held Presidents' Day, Feb. 18 starting at 7 a.m. Participating in the race will be Sounds of Freedom, which is the military component of the Great Aloha Run. The cost is \$15 to register to run in formation as part of Sounds of Freedom. Runners can register by going to: http://www.eventsonline.ca/events/GARSOF/ and typing in your information for the point of contact. The cost of entering the run as an individual is \$40 per person. FMI: www.greataloharun.com. (Details on page B-6.)

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 Point. The golf tournament will be held at Mamala Bay with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. Sign up deadlines are today 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.

26 — The 15th Wing annual awards breakfast will be held from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club on the Hickam side of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The cost is \$15 for club members and \$17 for non-club members. The buffet breakfast includes sausage, eggs, biscuits and fruit. The RSVP cut off date is Feb. 20. FMI: Master Sgt. Dwayne Graves at 449-2222 or dwayne.graves@us.af.mil or Tech Sgt. Vi Tu at 448-4043 or vi.tu@us.af.mil.

Movie Showtimes

Sounds of Freedom to race in Great Aloha Run on Presidents’ Day, Feb. 18

Feb. 9 is the last day to register as a member of Sounds of Freedom for the 29th annual Great Aloha Run, which will be held on Presidents’ Day, Feb. 18, starting at 7 a.m.

Participating in the race will be Sounds of Freedom, which the military component of the Great Aloha Run.

Sounds of Freedom is comprised of active duty

and Recreation (MWR) programs while also promoting health and fitness.

The Air Force is putting together its own formation of about 100 runners in the Air Force PT uniform.

The cost to run in the race as a member of Sounds of Freedom is \$15, compared to the cost of running in the race as an individual, which is \$40

The race raises money for charitable organizations such as Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs, while also promoting health and fitness.

service men and women from all branches of service, running in formation in PT gear, and calling out cadence.

The 8.15-mile course starts at Aloha Tower in downtown Honolulu, winds its way along Honolulu Harbor, down Nimitz Highway, Kamehameha Highway and to Aloha Stadium.

Aid stations are at miles 2, 3, 5 and 7 and at the finish with restrooms at the end of every aid station. More than 28,000 runners and walkers participated in last year's event.

The race raises money for charitable organizations such as Morale, Welfare

per person. In addition, a portion of that \$15 is being donated back to Friends of Hickam.

Runners can register as members of Sounds of Freedom by going to: www.eventsonline.ca/events/GARSOF/ and typing in their information for the point of contact.

For more information about Sounds of Freedom, contact 1st Lt. Daniel Montilla at Daniel.montilla@hickam.af.mil or call 448-8385.

For more information about registering as an individual in the Great Aloha Run, visit www.greataloharun.com.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Eric Cutright

An Army detail participating in the “Sounds of Freedom,” military formation, begins the 8.15 mile Great Aloha Run in downtown Honolulu, 2012. Last year’s “Sounds of Freedom,” was made up of approximately 3,500 active duty service members from all five military branches.

Gate closures to occur Feb. 18 for Great Aloha Run

Gate closures will take place at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Presidents’ Day, Feb. 18, in support of the Great Aloha Run.

Borcher’s Gate will be closed during the race, and Luapele Gate will be open from 4 a.m. to noon.

In addition, Center Drive and

Radford Drive will not be accessible by Kamehameha Highway, to include Makalapa Gate, which will be closed from 4 to 9:45 a.m.

Several water aid stations will be available along the route, including a water aid station on Kamehameha Highway near Borcher’s Gate.



School quality survey seeks parent feedback

Hawaii State Department of Education

The Hawaii State Department of Education (DOE) is encouraging parents to complete a survey to help schools set priorities for improving programs and services.

Survey results will also be used to measure strategic plan goals for the DOE. Beginning this month, schools will mail or ask students to bring the surveys home. Parents whose children are enrolled in grades 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 11 will be asked to complete the survey and return it in a pre-paid envelope by Feb. 28.

“Parent feedback is critical for schools to evaluate their services and ensure students’ needs are being met,” said Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi.

“Their valuable input also plays a key role in our success and helps track progress of the strategic plan,” she added.

Last year, about 25 percent of participating parents statewide responded to the survey. The DOE has prepared public service

announcements and partnered with grassroots organizations to raise awareness about the survey and increase return rates.

Survey results provide schools with data on everything, ranging from parent satisfaction with course offerings, support services and availability to discuss their child’s progress to whether students feel safe and are meeting their goals.

In addition to the parent survey, teachers and students from the selected grades will fill out separate surveys at school. Survey responses are confidential. Overall survey results should be available to schools by the end of the academic year.

The reports will also be posted on the Internet at <http://arch.k12.hi.us>. An informational video about the survey is available online at <http://vimeo.com/57619187>.

Questions about the survey may be emailed to sqs@notes.k12.hi.us. Parents may also call 808-733-4008 (Oahu) or 1-855-276-5801 (toll-free *Neighbor Islands*) from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Fall in love with Valentine’s Day events at JBPHH

Valentine’s Day is next week, and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Morale, Welfare and Recreation will be holding several events on Feb. 14 to mark this romantic holiday.

The Hickam Enlisted Club will host a Gourmet Club Valentine’s Dinner at 6 p.m. There will be champagne pairings as well as jazz entertainment. The cost is \$45 for members, \$50 for non-members. The reservation deadline is Feb. 10. For more information and reservations, call 448-2271.

The Hickam Officers’ Club Valentine’s Sweet-

hearts Dinner also takes place at 6 p.m. This event will feature a four-course menu and sunset dining overlooking the water. All ranks are welcome. The cost is \$89.95 per couple, and reservations are required. For more information and reservations, call 448-4608.

The Valentine’s Day Party at the Country Bar starts at 8:30 p.m. and goes until 11 p.m. There will be music and dancing, and the first 50 ladies will receive one long-stemmed rose. There is no cover. This event is open to patrons 18 years or older. For more information, call 473-1743.

WHO SAID IT?

“It’s not whether you get knocked down, it’s whether you get up”



Last Week's

WHO SAID IT?

“A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination.”

—Nelson Mandela

This Week’s Trivia

When did the first flight of a TF-102A of the Hawaii Air National Guard's 199th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron occur?

Last Issue’s Question:
What is the naval origin of the term “chewing the fat?”

Answer:
In centuries past, salted beef was the staple diet aboard ship. This tough cured beef was suitable only for long voyages and required prolonged chewing to make it edible. Men often chewed one chunk for hours, and the practice was referred to as chewing the fat.