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Airmen from the 15th Wing, 154th Wing and 647th Air Base group stand in formation at the consolidated unit inspection (CUI) outbrief Feb. 17 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

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

Team Hickam celebrates success

Maj. Alysia Harvey

15th Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from the 15th Wing, 154th Wing and 647th Air Base Group (ABG) gathered Feb. 17 on the lawn in front of the Sea Breeze restaurant at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to celebrate the successful completion of several inspections

that were held Feb. 4-10.

More than 180 major command evaluators selected from across the Air Force, under the direction of the Pacific Air Forces Inspector General, conducted five major inspections: a consolidated unit inspection (CUI), logistics compliance assessment program (LCAP), standardization and evaluation program for weather operations,

airfield operations compliance inspection, and aircrew standardization/evaluation visit.

"This has been a very dynamic and interesting year, and we have had our fair share of opportunities and challenges, but I could not be more pleased with the inspection results. This was an absolute homerun," said Col. Sam Barrett, 15th Wing

commander. "As you all likely know by now, the 15th Wing and 154th Wing earned ratings of satisfactory, but that doesn't begin to describe the excellence that we represent as a whole."

Col. Dann Carlson, 647th ABG commander, then took the stage and shared the results of his group's inspections.

"Our Logistics Readiness

Squadron scored 'excellent' on their LCAP inspection, and the 647th Security Forces, Force Support and Civil Engineer Squadrons also scored 'excellent' in the CUI," he said. The Communications Squadron scored an overall 'outstanding.' This is quite an accomplishment, and I could not be more proud standing here in front of this group."

He said that in addition to celebrating that success, he and the Team Hickam leadership had called the group together to recognize some Airmen who were identified as top and outstanding performers by the inspectors.

Approximately 50 personnel were presented with coins from the 15th Wing

See Team Hickam, A-4

NOAA opens new world-class marine science facility on Ford Island

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) opened a new state-of-the-art marine science and storage facility (building 130) during a facility blessing ceremony Feb. 21 on Ford Island near the USS Utah Memorial.

Senator Daniel Inouye, Hawaii Rep. Mazie Hirono, Hawaii Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie, Dr. Jane Lubchenco, NOAA administrator, and Rear Adm. Kate Gregory, commander of Naval Facilities Engineering



Photo by Dennis Oda, Honolulu Star Advertiser

A blessing ceremony was held on the state of the art Marine Science and Storage Facility. The ceremony took place near the USS Utah Memorial, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Ford Island. The facility will enable NOAA and scientific partners to conduct critical marine research and provide a site to rehabilitate endangered Hawaiian monk seals and various green sea turtles.

Command Pacific, participated in the ceremony to commemorate the opening of the 37,000-square-foot marine science and storage facility, which is the second phase of the NOAA Pacific Regional Center.

The new facility includes a 1,500 foot deep salt water well for cooling needs as well as support of 15 marine tanks. It will enable NOAA and its scientific partners to conduct critical marine research, study and monitor data gathered throughout the Pacific region, and provide a site to rehabilitate endangered Hawaiian monk seals and various green sea turtles.

The Pacific Regional Center consolidates 15 NOAA offices from around Oahu and is designed to the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Standard.

At the blessing of the new marine science and storage facility, Lubchenco announced the establishment of a new partnership with the Hawaii Visitors Bureau and the Waikiki Aquarium to integrate the Pacific Regional Center into an ocean education experience program.

JBPHH Airmen selected for Tops in Blue

Senior Airman Lauren Main

15th Wing Public Affairs

Two Airmen from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam were selected for the Air Force's premier performing arts group, Tops in Blue.

Airmen 1st Class Briana Hofreiter, a financial services journeyman with the 15th Comptroller Squadron, and Jonathan Leak, a knowledge operations manager with the 692nd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing, were selected as vocalists during the January auditions.

Hofreiter, who considers herself a dancer at her core, initially sent in her choreography DVD in November 2011. It wasn't until a few weeks later that she learned from her commander that she would be heading to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas for the all call.

"Even though I'm a dancer, I had to sing as part of my audition," Hofreiter said. "I was nervous but hopeful. I didn't entirely expect to make it because I'd never really sang before."

Leak, on the other hand, submitted his DVD as a vocalist and sung Chris Brown's "She Ain't You."

Neither Airman knew what to expect when they, along with more than 80 other Airmen from throughout the Air Force, began their auditions at Lackland AFB.

"When you first get there, they put you through a few different audition processes," Leak said. "They take you to this big auditorium, and you have to sing the same song that you submitted on your DVD initially. It's a total of 10 days' worth of auditions where they have you dance, sing, harmonize, and they basically test your musical abilities."



Airman 1st Class Briana Hofreiter

Jonathan Leak Knowledge operations manager

U.S. Air Force photo by Chris Burch

The competition is judged on six main categories: female vocalists, male vocalists, instrumentalists, musical variety, dance and non-musical variety.

The applicants are rated by a panel of judges consisting of the outgoing Tops in Blue members. Of the more than 80 Airmen selected to attend the live audition, 35 Airmen were chosen to perform with the new group.

Starting March 18, Hofreiter and Leak, along with the rest of the cast, will begin to learn the process known as "staging."

"Staging is basically where you learn the procedures of how to set up and tear down the stage for every show," Hofreiter said. "We also have to learn the routine in that time, too. It's going to be a lot of long days."

Regardless of the challenges that lie ahead, they are excited for the opportunity presented to them to travel the world and raise the morale of the troops for whom they perform.

"I can't believe it," Leak said. "It's like living in a movie."

Hawaii Navy activities earn four CNO Environmental Awards

Navy Region Hawaii

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Out of 30 fiscal year 2011 Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Environmental Awards, four have been earned by Navy activities in Hawaii.

Two have been awarded to Pacific Missile Range Facility, one to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and one to the Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam won an award for Cultural Resources Management, Installation.

Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center Pearl Harbor Environmental Quality Team, Hawaii, won an Environmental Quality, Individual or Team Award.

Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, Hawaii won a Natural Resources Conservation, Small Installation award.

Pacific Missile Range Facility Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) Implementation Team, Hawaii Cultural, won a Natural Resources Conservation, Individual or Team honor.

The CNO Environmental Awards recognize Navy ships, installations and people for outstanding performance in promoting environmental stewardship. Environmental subject matter experts reviewed the nominations and selected winners for each of the award categories.

All CNO winners advance to the Secretary of the Navy level of competition. A ceremony honoring the winners will be held June 5 at the United States Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.

(See next week's Ho'okele for complete coverage.)



Air Force dedicates JBPHH PME Center to CMSAF James C. Binnicker See page A-2



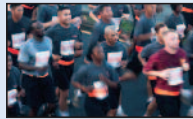
African American History Month: 'Championing the Strength of Diversity' See page A-3



Davis relieves Schappert as USS Houston commanding officer See page A-6



'Fiery Trial - Lincoln and Slavery' Part 2 See page A-8



Military members join Great Aloha Run on President's Day See page B-1



Naval clinic health promotion now offers 'Wellness on Wheels' See page B-3

African Americans in the armed services at JBPHH profiled

Story and photos by
Jazzmin Williams

Contributing Writer

In 2007, the percentage of African Americans in the Navy and Air Force were 19 percent and 14.7 percent, respectively.

Staff Sgt. Lateesha Maris, Senior Airman Charles Lejeune and Chief Builder (SCW) Howard Robinson are three service members at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam who have managed to thrive in their respective branch of service. They reflected on February as African American History Month.

"I like that it gives the world a chance to highlight and spotlight what we do, because a lot of things that we do go unnoticed," said Maris, a medic in the allergy/immunization clinic for the 15th Medical Operations Squadron.

Maris, who grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, already had some military members in her family. She says her first goal was to help people.

"When I was eight, my brother was born premature," Maris said. "The doctors ended up saving his life, and I said I want to be that person to bring that joy to a family."



Senior Airman Charles Lejeune



Staff Sgt. Lateesha Maris

After spending almost 10 years in the Air Force, Maris has had the opportunity to work in labor and delivery in Japan, gain a bachelor's degree in social psychology and even meet her fiancée.

"Enlisted people, we're doing great things," Maris said. "So when I see a young Airman, I always encourage them to do as

much as they can."

Robinson, a Navy Seabee and senior enlisted advisor for Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC Hawaii), grew up on the south side of Chicago in a single parent home. He is also the first person in his family to join the military.

"It all started from when I saw the movie 'Top

Gun," Robinson said. "I saw Tom Cruise in the white suit and I was like 'Man, I want to go into the Navy.'"

During boot camp, Robinson was chosen for the presidential ceremonial guard. For two years, he attended funerals at Arlington National Cemetery and did pass-and-review at the



Chief Builder (SCW) Howard Robinson

Pentagon for visiting dignitaries, among other duties.

His list of goals includes becoming a master chief before he retires, and to become either an FBI agent or U.S. marshal. With a Navy chief wife, two teenage sons and more than 15 years in the Navy under his belt, there is no one to hold him back, he says military or otherwise.

"I'm pretty proud of where I'm at as an African American," Robinson said. "I think African American History Month is just a time to look back, to not forget how we struggled and the things that we contributed to what a lot of people have now."

Robinson believes in utilizing mentors. His include Command Master Chief Anthony Teart and his own wife.

"She motivates me and mentors me," Robinson said. "I look up to her because she goes through the same thing I go through."

Lejeune, a dental technician with the 15th Aerospace Medicine Squadron (AMDS), was offered a basketball scholarship to San Jose State, but chose to serve in the military instead.

"When we have males in

the family, we like them to join the military," said Lejeune, a native of Stockton, Calif. "It wasn't forced on me to go into the military, but he [my father] left it in my head and gave me the idea."

The dental field was not his first choice of jobs, but once he stepped into the field, it was clear that it was what he wanted to do. After four years of service, Lejeune's long-term goal is to finish school and become a dentist in the Air Force.

"What I'm doing now, [outside the military] I would probably not get hired," Lejeune said. "Everybody is treated equally in the military. You don't feel like they're looking at you for your color. They're looking at you as a person."

Being able to transform someone with no teeth and make them look like they have an absolutely perfect mouth is part of what Lejeune listed as most satisfying about his profession. The attention to detail that is required suits him perfectly.

With a younger sister going to school to be a dental hygienist, it's possible that Lejeune's relationship with dentistry may soon become a family affair.

'Pilot for a Day': Brandon Whedbee soars

Story and photo by
SrA Lauren Main

15th Wing Public Affairs

Brandon Whedbee, an 11-year-old leukemia patient, piloted the KC-135 simulator with a calculating sense of purpose. As the plane took off and headed for blue skies, his eyes widened as he marveled at the graphic screen in front of him. He banked a hard left and looked down at the moving ground beneath him as he flew over the island of Oahu. For someone who has been through so much, flying a plane must have seemed like child's play.

Brandon was nominated by the Kapiolani Medical Center to be a part of the 15th Wing's "Pilot for a Day" program. The program nominates a child each quarter to visit Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and take a break from their treatment.

"We found out the day after



Brandon Whedbee, an 11-year-old leukemia patient plays with the controls of the KC-135 Stratotanker simulator Feb. 17 on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

Thanksgiving that Brandon had leukemia," said Ann Masang, Brandon's mother. "We initially took him into the doctor because he kept throwing up. By week three, when he was still sick, so the doctor sent us to the emergency room.

I thought, 'Well this can't be good.' I was scared."

Brandon, who is still receiving treatment for leukemia, has been counting down for the past three weeks, from when he initially found out he was going to be a

"Pilot for a Day."

"He was so excited to be here," Masang said. "On Monday, he ran up to me and told me, 'Only four more days!' He even downloaded an application on his phone so he could learn Air Force ranks and know what rank everyone was."

Following the simulator, Brandon was able to witness firsthand the power and skill of the military working dogs of the 647th Security Forces Squadron (SFS).

Staff Sgt. Larry Harris, a dog handler with the 647th SFS, gave Brandon a tour of the kennels. Harris explained the training the dogs receive and the different tasks that each of them has to perform to ensure mission success.

During the demonstration, Brandon remained cautiously along the fence and watched in awe as a dog named Aron chased down a simulated perpetrator and "made an arrest."

Today, the only dilemma Brandon had to face was deciding

which part of it was his favorite.

"I liked the simulator," Brandon said. "It's like a video game. My favorite part was flying over the other islands."

Despite a tough year filled with doctors and hospitals, the Whedbee family is thankful for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunities Brandon has been offered -- opportunities like the "Pilot for a Day" program.

"I think he had a great time today," Masang said. "We really appreciate what everyone is doing."

Capt. Chris Nini, a C-17 Globemaster III pilot with the 535th Airlift Squadron, enjoys giving kids like Brandon a chance to get away, if only for a short while.

"I think my favorite part of this is getting to show them what we do and see how they react to everything," Nini said. "It's nice to be able to give them a break from the things going on in their lives."

Air Force dedicates education center to CMSAF James C. Binnicker

2nd Lt. Jessica Rowe

15th Wing Public Affairs

The Pacific Air Forces and 15th Wing leadership dedicated the Hickam Professional Military Education (PME) Center in honor of the ninth Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, James C. Binnicker.

The Binnicker PME Center was unveiled Feb. 15 at the center's flagpole, in conjunction with the final retreat ceremony for Non-Commissioned Officer Academy Class 12-1.

"We learned about Chief Binnicker in our class, and we use his lessons in real life," said Tech. Sgt. Les Garon Ueda, NCOA 12-1 class commander. "To be part of the class that gets to dedicate this building in his honor is just an absolute privilege."

Binnicker had a successful active duty career that



U.S. Navy photo by David D. Underwood Jr.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force (retired) James C. Binnicker speaks at the Binnicker PME Center dedication ceremony Feb. 15 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

spanned more than 33 years, giving the PACAF command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Brooke McLean, much to choose from as he prepared his

comments as the presiding official of the ceremony.

McLean described Binnicker as a champion of the enlisted development arena and an Airman who

continues to make a difference today.

"Chief Binnicker is man of many talents, having held many key positions and been recognized with numerous awards and decorations," McLean said. "He never failed to make time to guide, mentor, direct and push when needed. He's still making a difference by running our Air Force Enlisted Village in Florida. We're so blessed to have Chief Binnicker as a leader in our Air Force, and it's so fitting that we rename this PME Center after him today."

In response to the honor of having the PME Center dedicated to him,

Binnicker said he was almost speechless.

"I cannot express how I feel. My name may be on that sign, and it is truly a high honor," the chief said. "But if you look really close, you will see thousands of names on that sign, as well, that have brought us here today."

The PME process was a key platform in Binnicker's CMSAF interview process, and he continues to dedicate his time to Airmen.

In 1978, Binnicker reported a 17 percent attendance for NCO development classes in PACAF, the lowest in the Air Force at that time. Today, due to his initiatives, all eligible

Airmen attend PME programs at schoolhouses, like the Binnicker PME Center, across the command.

Friends, families, colleagues and Airmen—from the most junior to most senior in rank—gathered for this special event. One member of the audience was particularly recognized.

"A young man somewhere in the audience, Eddie Chung ... I've known Eddie since 1965 when I was here as a staff sergeant," Binnicker said. "It is only appropriate that he be here today."

(Visit www.15wing.af.mil to read interview with Binnicker.)

Seven CH-53Es join ‘Pegasus’ squadron at MCBH

Marine Corps Base Hawaii,
Kaneohe Bay Public Affairs

Seven CH-53E helicopters arrived in formation to join their new unit at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay on Feb. 21.

The seven Super Stallions will become part of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 who, in September 2012, received their first four CH-53Es. They expect to receive their final Super Stallion at the end of this year, bringing their aircraft complement to a full squadron of 12.

Pegasus is the only squadron on base to transition to the CH-53Es, and they are the last heavy helicopter squadron in the Marine Corps to receive them.

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 previously flew the CH-53D Sea Stallion, which was ceremonially retired from



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. James Sauter

Seven CH-53E Super Stallions of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 “Pegasus” arrive at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, after flying from the USS Bonhomme Richard on Feb. 21. The Super Stallions flew over Kaneohe Bay in formation before permanently joining the squadron.

service Feb. 10.

The CH-53E helicopter can transport up to 55 troops or 30,000 pounds of cargo and can carry external loads of up to

36,000 pounds. The Super Stallion has a cruise speed of 173 mph and a range of more than 600 miles.

The helicopter is fitted with a

forward extendable in-flight refueling probe, and it can also refuel from a surface ship through a hoisted hose while hovering. It can carry three

machine guns operated by the air crew and mounted on the left and right sides as well as the rear tail ramp.

(See related photo on page A-5)

U.S. and Indian Navies conduct SALVEX in Hawaii

MC3 Sean Furey

Navy Public Affairs Support
Element West, Detachment
Hawaii

U.S. and Indian Navy dive teams conducted a bilateral salvage exercise (SALVEX) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam from Feb. 7 to 13.

Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One (MDSU-1), based in Hawaii, and the USNS Sioux (T-ATF-171) from the Military Sealift Command participated in the exercises.

The purpose of SALVEX12 was to enhance U.S. and Indian bilateral diving and salvage capability in the littoral environment, to improve maritime security and humanitarian assistance/disaster response capability.

“The main purpose is to conduct a diving salvage engagement with the Indian navy,” said Cmdr. Thomas Murphy, commanding officer of MDSU-1. “We want to build



Navy Diver 1st Class John Scalise discusses diving safety precautions with Indian navy Petty Officer Clearance Diver 1st Class Mukesh Singh aboard the Military Sealift Command fleet ocean tug USNS Sioux (T-ATF 171) during Salvage Exercise (SALVEX) 2012.

our interoperability with the Indian navy in support of our national security strategy and the Pacific Fleet theater security cooperation.”

During the SALVEX, MDSU-1 divers gave the Indian divers classroom instruction on how they handle salvage situations, demon-

strated various tools and techniques that they utilize, and participated in group dives.

“We’re finding out the nuances and figuring out the differences so when we do come together and work, there not any hiccups,” said Lt. Cmdr Jonathan Puglia, the operations officer of MDSU-1.

“When a real world operation goes down, it’s not the first time we’ve met. It’s not the first time that we’re getting to know how we conduct ourselves.”

SALVEX12 allowed divers from both navies to interact and share experiences and knowledge about their trade.

“They actually dive [with] a lot of the same equipment we do,” said Navy Diver 1st Class Jason Eppley. “They learn something from us, we learn something from them.”

The SALVEXs with the Indian navy began in 2005. The exercise is held periodically with each nation taking turns hosting. SALVEX 2009 was hosted at MDSU-1, while SALVEX 2011 was hosted by the Indian navy in Port Blair, India.

Joint interagency and international relationships strengthen U.S. Third Fleet’s ability to respond to crises and protect the collective maritime interest of the U.S. and its allies and partners.

Team Hickam earns top ranks

Continued from A-1

and 647 ABG commanders and were cheered on by their unit personnel as they stepped forward under the palm trees and Hawaii sun to the makeshift stage.

“It was really great to be recognized in this way,” said Tech. Sgt. Quintell Lewis, 15th Wing command post. “I have been very fortunate to have awesome mentors along the way, and I know it was their guidance that helped me achieve this honor.”

Additionally, approximately 20 teams were recognized for their performance.

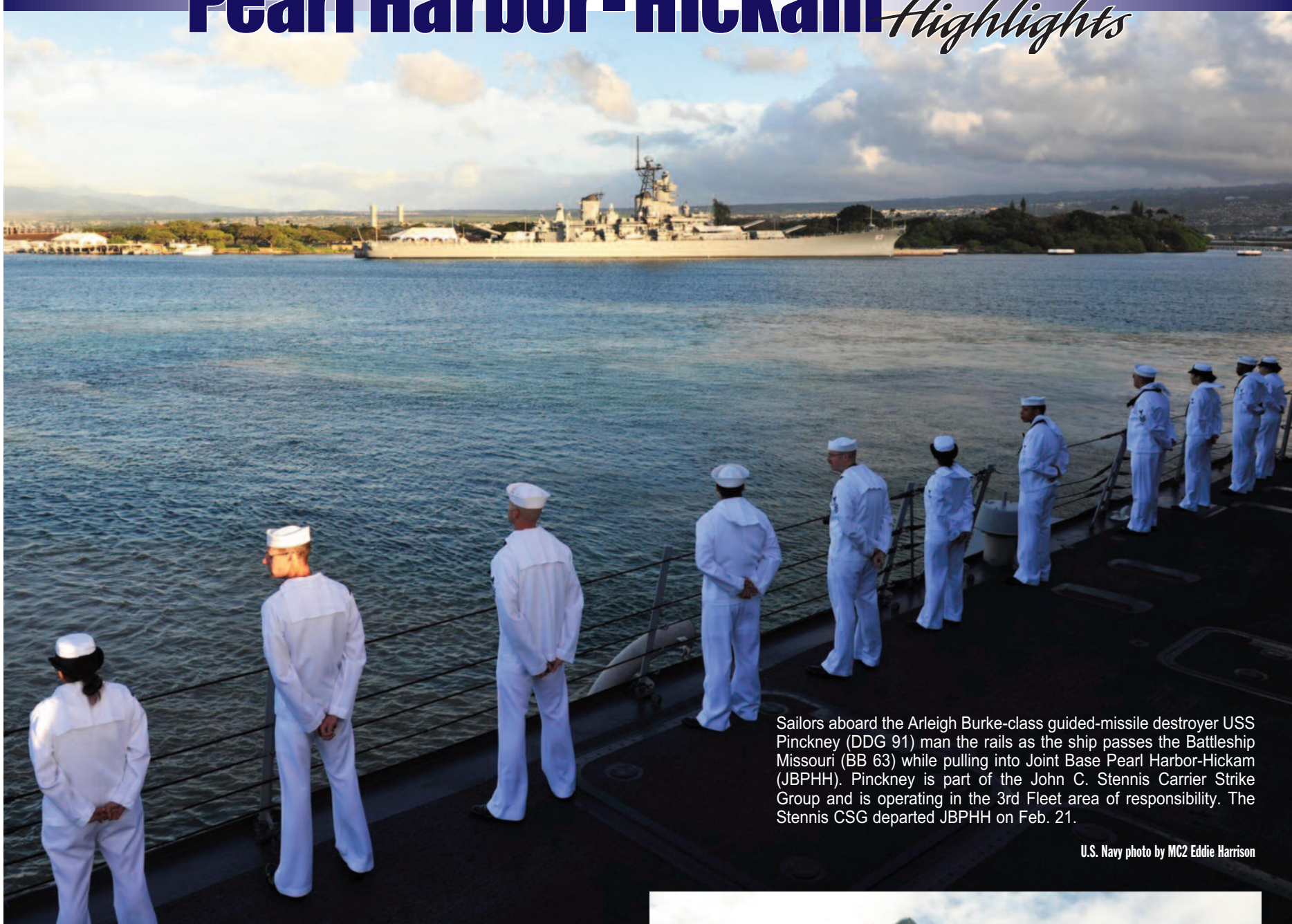
An information assurance assessment and assistance program inspection was conducted during the same time, but concluded Feb. 17. According to Carlson, the final results are still to be

determined, but leadership is expecting a positive outcome based on the initial outbrief.

Taking note of the Airmen’s skyward eyes, Barrett encouraged the formations to take a moment to watch the “air-show,” F-22 Raptors taking off on the runway in the distance and then invited commanders to allow their personnel to “pau hana” before giving his parting remarks and recognizing one other person.

“I want to take a moment to recognize Col. [Robert] Dague [15th Wing vice commander] - the best ‘CV’ in the Air Force,” he said, inviting the crowd to give Dague a round of applause. “Thank you for your leadership and, to all of you, please know that we are so proud of you all and consider it a privilege to be your leadership team here.”

Pearl Harbor-Hickam Highlights



Sailors aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Pinckney (DDG 91) man the rails as the ship passes the Battleship Missouri (BB 63) while pulling into Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH). Pinckney is part of the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group and is operating in the 3rd Fleet area of responsibility. The Stennis CSG departed JBPHH on Feb. 21.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Eddie Harrison



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Joe Kane

A CH-53E Sea Stallion from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 463 lands aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) while the ship is pierside at Naval Base San Diego. The ship is preparing to replace the amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2) as the forward deployed amphibious assault ship in Sasebo, Japan and delivered the squadron of CH-53Es to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe along the way.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Joshua Keim

Sailors aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) man the rails as the ship pulls out of joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 21. USS Stennis is currently operating in the U.S. 3rd Fleet area of responsibility on a seven-month deployment.

(Below) Sailors from the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) lead seniors in the “electric slide” during the County of Kauai’s annual Senior Valentine’s Dance Party on Feb. 10. The county’s network of senior centers holds the annual dance and luncheon in support of about 250 *kupuna* (seniors). Seven PMRF Sailors danced and shared stories at the event, emphasizing the Navy’s commitment to the community. This was the fourth year PMRF has participated. The event has been conducted annually for at least 10 years.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jay C. Pugh



A U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III from the Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) Demonstration Team performs an aerial display during the 2012 Singapore Airshow on Feb. 15. The PACAF C-17 demo team is part of the 535th Airlift Squadron and is based at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

Department of Defense photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth



(Right) A blessing ceremony for a new state-of-the-art marine science and storage facility at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Pacific Regional Center was held Feb. 21 on Ford Island. (Left to right): Dr. Jane Lubchenco, NOAA administrator; Senator Daniel Inouye; U.S. Rep. Mazie Hirono; Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie; U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa; and Rear Adm. Katherine Gregory, commander of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific; were among the dignitaries who attended the ceremony. (See story and additional photo on page A-1.)

Photo by Dennis Oda, Star Advertiser



Davis relieves Schappert as USS Houston commanding officer

Story and photo by
MC2 Ronald Gutridge

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

Cmdr. Paul Davis relieved Cmdr. David Schappert as commanding officer of Los Angeles-class submarine USS Houston (SSN 713) during a change of command ceremony Feb. 17.

The event was held aboard the former U.S. Navy Iowa-class battleship USS Missouri (BB 63) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

The guest speaker was Capt. John Russ, commodore, Commander Submarine Squadron (COMSUBRON) 15. He praised Schappert for his exceptional performance while commanding Houston, as well as the crew on their accomplishments under Schappert's leadership.

"Cmdr. Schappert and his crew have carried on their namesake's proud tradition of unwavering devotion and



Cmdr. David Schappert is piped ashore after being relieved as commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class submarine USS Houston (SSN 713) by Cmdr. Paul Davis at a change of command ceremony Feb. 17.

fighting spirit," Russ said.

"Over the past two and a half years, under Dave Schappert's brilliant leadership, his fine crew has truly demonstrated what it means for a member of our modern-

day silent service to put warfighting first, operate forward and be ready."

Schappert acknowledged that the majority of the submarine's success during his time as commanding officer

could be attributed to the crew and their hard work.

"For those who have never been to sea, please understand that submarining is a team sport. Teamwork was the central reason for

Houston's success during my time on board," he said. "For it is the Sailors that make Houston great, not the steel and technology. These men trained where others deploy, operated where others do not go, and to have been called captain by such men has been my honor," Schappert said.

Following his remarks, Schappert was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his exceptional performance as commanding officer from August 2008 to February 2012.

As Davis assumed command of Houston, he addressed the crew about the future.

"Houston is an impressive fighting machine. Forged from steel, equipped with the latest technological improvements, she is capable of taking the fight to the enemy," Davis said.

"The crew of Houston is what gives the ship its fighting spirit and what has forged her success. Shipmates, I consider it the highest privilege to

be given the opportunity to lead you and eagerly look forward to sailing beneath the waves with you."

Schappert graduated from the University of Missouri with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering in December 1991 and was commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. His sea tours include USS Baltimore (SSN 704), USS William H. Bates (SSN 680) and USS Honolulu (SSN 718). He assumed command of Houston Aug. 28, 2009.

Schappert's personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (six awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards), Navy Unit Citation and various unit and service awards.

He will report for duty to Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet, Nuclear Propulsion Examination Board.

John Finn honored as Navy names five new ships

Department of the Navy

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced the next five Navy ships: three Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers, USS John Finn, USS Ralph Johnson, and USS Rafael Peralta, and two littoral combat ships (LCS), USS Sioux City and USS Omaha.

Mabus named the three destroyers after Navy and Marine Corps heroes whose actions occurred during different conflicts which spanned several decades, but were united in their uncommon valor. The littoral combat ships were named after two American communities.

John Finn, who retired as a lieutenant, received the Medal of Honor from Adm.



John Finn

Chester Nimitz for displaying "magnificent courage in the face of almost certain death" during the Japanese attack on military installations in Hawaii.

Marine Corps Pfc. Ralph Henry Johnson was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for shouting a warning to his fellow Marines and hurling himself on an explo-

sive device, saving the life of one Marine and preventing the enemy from penetrating his sector of the patrol's perimeter during the Vietnam War.

Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Rafael Peralta was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for selflessly covering a grenade with his body to save his fellow Marines from the blast during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Finn, Johnson and Peralta have all been recognized with some of our nation's highest awards," Mabus said. "I want to ensure their service and sacrifice will be known by today's Sailors and Marines and honored for several decades to come by a new generation of Americans and people from around the world

who will come in contact with these ships."

The Arleigh Burke-class destroyers will be able to conduct a variety of operations, from peacetime presence and crisis management to sea control and power projection. All three ships will be capable of fighting air, surface and subsurface battles simultaneously. They will contain myriad offensive and defensive weapons designed to support maritime warfare in keeping with the Navy's ability to execute the Department of Defense' strategy.

"The littoral combat ship is a major part of the future of our Navy," Mabus said, pointing out LCS is fast, agile

and operates with a smaller crew and can perform operations in both shallow and deep waters.

"I chose the name for our two new littoral combat ships after midwestern cities from America's heartland, to honor the patriotic, hard-working citizens of Sioux City, Iowa and Omaha, Nebraska, for their support of and contributions to the military," Mabus said.

Sioux City and Omaha will be outfitted with reconfigurable payloads, called mission packages, which can be changed out quickly as combat needs demand. These mission packages are supported by special detach-

ments that will deploy manned and unmanned vehicles and sensors in support of mine, undersea and surface warfare missions.

Marinette Marine in Marinette, Wisc. will build the Freedom variant, USS Sioux City, which will be 378 feet in length, have a waterline beam of 57 feet, displace approximately 3,000 tons, and make speed in excess of 40 knots. Austal USA in Mobile, Ala. will build the Independence variant, USS Omaha, which will be 419 feet in length, have a waterline beam of 103 feet, displace approximately 3,000 tons, and make speed in excess of 40 knots.



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Caitlin Smith

Ensign Christopher Veenhuis shares a photo of his daughter with local children at a ceremony remembering those lost in the bombing of Darwin. Chafee is in Darwin participating in the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Darwin in World War II.

USS Chafee arrives in Darwin, Australia

USS Chafee Public Affairs

DARWIN, Australia – Guided-missile Destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) arrived in Darwin, Australia on Feb. 17 for a port visit as part of the commemoration ceremonies remembering the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Darwin during World War II.

The visit to Darwin is an opportunity for Chafee Sailors to engage with their Australian navy counterparts and to interact with

the local community. The crew is grateful to be in Darwin during this time to help honor and remember those who sacrificed their lives and for those who continue to serve today.

“It’s an honor and pleasure to be here in Darwin,” said Cmdr. Justin Kubu, Chafee’s commanding officer. “The officers and crew of Chafee are thrilled to be able to show our continued support to our brothers and sisters of the Australian Defense Forces during this time of remembrance.”

Chafee Sailors engaged in two community service events, visiting the Darwin Royal Hospital and participating in Aussie Rules Football with the Clontarf Federation. They also participated in ceremonies around the city, such as the USS Peary commemoration and the bombing of Darwin commemoration ceremony.

Chafee is on an independent deployment from its homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and is currently operating in the western Pacific Ocean.

Hawaii training credited with honing strike group readiness

Pacific Missile Range Facility Public Affairs

PACIFIC MISSILE RANGE FACILITY, Barking Sands, Kauai - The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) and the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group (JCSG) arrived at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 17 for a planned port visit. They returned home from a seven-month deployment from the U.S. 5th and 7th Fleet areas of operation which includes the western Pacific and Persian Gulf.

Ron Sakoda, Sen. Daniel Inouye’s Kauai field representative, and Clyde Kodani, Sen. Daniel Akaka’s Kauai field representative, had the opportunity to visit with Sailors aboard Stennis on Feb. 16-17 to see first-hand, the benefits of training.

“It was an experience second to none,” said Sakoda, who observed flight operations as Stennis approached Hawaii. “The Sailors were very dedicated to their work, and they bring our Navy to a higher level.”

On their way to conduct their missions in the Middle East, the strike group conducted more than 200 hours training in Hawaii waters last summer, demonstrating the value of the range complex to the Navy.

“The Hawaii Range Complex provided realistic and challenging training opportunities for our air

wing,” said Capt. Dale Horan, commander of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 9, embarked aboard Stennis.

“It allowed us to further hone our strike and close-air support skills and procedures, helping us to operate at a high level of effectiveness throughout deployment as we provided support to forces on the ground in Afghanistan and Iraq.”

The Pacific Missile Range Facility on Kauai, an element of the Hawaii Range Complex, continues to be an asset for the Department of the Navy due to the range’s ability to provide integrated range services in a modern, multi-threat, multi-dimensional environment, from space to the ocean floor that ensures the safe conduct and evaluation of training and test and evaluation missions.

PMRF has been the primary location for Missile Defense Agency testing since the 1990s and while these test and evaluation missions gather much of the spotlight, the critical training value of PMRF to U.S. and allied military forces is often overlooked. Last year alone, PMRF supported 22,337 training hours which included 788 unit training events and 640 aircraft.

The largest training exercise held in the Hawaii waters is the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) multi-national event, which has been conducted since 1971. RIMPAC 2010 exercise involved approximately 20,000 Sailors, Soldiers,

and Airmen from the joint services of 14 allied and partner countries. PMRF provided the opportunity to conduct live-fire events. This opportunity is cited as a high priority reason for many of the participating allied forces because they do not have such capability at home.

“The Stennis and the Navy provides a high level of security and protection in the Pacific Area and the U.S. no matter where they go. They are looking forward to the next RIMPAC training event because it brings their proficiency up as a real test of their capabilities,” Sakoda said.

Training opportunities benefit not only the U.S. Pacific Fleet, but also allies and friends of the United States.

“PMRF’s location in Hawaii is ideally situated to support training for U.S. naval forces transiting to the western Pacific and Indian Ocean for deployment, as well as readiness requirements for Navy and joint forces based in Hawaii. The range has capabilities to support training in all Navy primary mission and warfare areas,” said Bob Kay, PMRF’s deputy range operations officer. “PMRF not only furthers the Navy’s ability to protect and serve our nation and our allies to this intent, but also strengthens PMRF’s status as a diverse and important training and test and evaluation resource for our country.”

Hickam Communities announces pest control plan

Hickam Communities LLC

Hickam Communities announced that it has retained Ecolab to conduct regularly-scheduled perimeter treatment for pests and rodents around its homes throughout all its neighborhoods, effective March 1. “We want to proactively address pest control, rather than having residents call when an

issue or concern arises,” said Steve Quinn, director of property management at Hickam Communities. “By creating a preventive program, we can address issues that come up at an early stage.

“Getting Ecolab on board was a decision based on resident feedback and on our desire to have a long-term solution to pest control issues that come up

throughout the year. The program will provide our residents with a consistent and uniform process,” Quinn stated. Residents will see the distinctive Ecolab trucks in their neighborhoods, and if they have any questions, concerns or specific issues related to pest control, they can contact their Hickam Communities resident services team at 423-2300.

U.S. Pacific Fleet hosts CFMCC Flag Officer Course

MC2 David Kolme

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

The Naval War College conducted a Combined Force Maritime Component Commander (CFMCC) Flag Officer Course at U.S. Pacific Fleet’s headquarters at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on Feb. 9-15.

With 15 nations in attendance, this year marked one of the most diverse CFMCCs in recent years. Admirals and senior captains from Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka,

Thailand and the United States met in Hawaii to discuss topics such as command and control, multi-national operations, information-sharing, piracy and maritime security.

“The CFMCC course provides a great opportunity for partner navies to network and gain a better understanding of one another’s security challenges and concerns,” said Col. Timothy Lo, head of naval planning for the Republic of Singapore navy. “In turn, forging such an understanding builds trust and confidence, which is an indispensable commodity as we work together to address common security challenges.”

Twenty-four executive-level attendees received a

series of presentations and participated in discussions with senior admirals and subject matter experts to develop perspectives for the effective employment of maritime forces in a joint, coalition or interagency environment.

Among the U.S. speakers were the commanders of U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. 3rd Fleet, U.S. 7th Fleet, 14th Coast Guard District, and deputy commander of Pacific Air Forces.

Previous CFMCC participants from several countries, including retired Adm. Arun Prakash of India, retired Vice Adm. Yoji Koda of Japan and retired Rear Adm. Bernard Miranda of Singapore, returned to Hawaii to

share their knowledge on the practical use and implementation of lessons learned from past conferences.

CFMCC gives flag-level officers the chance to foster a network of international military leaders who can work together in support of theater and regional cooperation agreements.

Adm. Cecil Haney, who took over as commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet on Jan. 20, spoke to the students about the importance and value of the course.

“CFMCC gives senior naval officers from around the Asia/Pacific region a chance to strengthen existing or develop new relationships that help create enduring partner-

ships throughout the region,” Haney said. “It also helps these countries develop effective strategies for working together and enhancing stability, trade and prosperity across the Pacific.”

The value of these relations has been proven in recent years when the U.S. Navy and other countries have participated in exercises and humanitarian missions such as Pacific Partnership and during natural disasters such as the tsunami and earthquake that struck Japan last year.

“Time and time again, we have seen how these partnerships benefit one another during times of crisis, and forums such as the CFMCC help improve our ability to effectively

overcome these challenges through a cooperative approach,” Haney said.

The course helps improve international cooperation through open communication and mutual respect for each other. It also helps creates a comfortable forum for gaining a better understanding and appreciation of differing perspectives.

The first CFMCC Course, which focused on U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, was held in September 2006 at Newport, R.I. Since then, CFMCC has expanded to include three courses held annually in the European, Middle East and Pacific regions. The U.S. Pacific Fleet has hosted CFMCC courses each year since 2007.

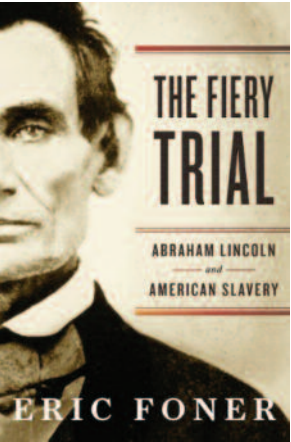
‘Fiery Trial - Lincoln and Slavery’

Book review by Bill Doughty

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

(This is the second part of the book review of “Fiery Trial – Lincoln and Slavery.” The first part was published in the Feb. 17 edition of Ho’okele, page A-3.)

Foner writes about an incident in May 1862: “After opening fire on the Confederate forces and dispersing them, the naval commander took more than 70 slaves on board. He settled them in a safe location near the coast. That same month, in one of the war’s most celebrated acts of individual daring, Robert Smalls, the slave pilot of the Confederate naval vessel ‘Planter,’ brought on board his wife, child and a dozen other slaves, guided the



ship out of the Charleston harbor, and surrendered it to the Union navy.”

On July 17, 1862, President Lincoln signed the Militia Act to recruit black Soldiers, though black service members had served with George Washington in the Revolutionary War and later at the Battle of New Orleans

in the War of 1812.

His Second Confiscation Act, which allowed for confiscation of Confederates’ property, including slaves, was a precursor to the Emancipation Proclamation. How could a nation committed to the Constitution, democratic principles and liberty tolerate the idea of people as “property”? Lincoln’s draft order reads: “All persons held as slaves with any state or states shall then, henceforth, and forever, be free.”

The ‘Fiery Trial’ describes the institutional racism of the Dred Scott decision and colonization (a proposal to deport blacks to Central America). Emancipation, itself, is revealed as being for strategic military advantage, rather than for social or ethical reasons of equality.

Foner shows how our 16th president “grew into great-

ness” with “a willingness to listen to criticism, to seek out new ideas.” Through careful research, Foner explains how Lincoln’s antipathy toward slavery deepened as the institution grew, poised to expand westward.

Foner writes: “By the eve of the Civil War, the slave population in the United States had reached nearly four million. The economic value of these men, women and children who were considered as property exceeded the combined worth of all the banks, railroads and factories in the United States. In geographic extent, population and the institution’s economic importance, the South was home to the most powerful slave system the modern world has known.”

Lincoln’s conviction evolved from expediency to passion. “If slavery is not

wrong, nothing is wrong,” Lincoln wrote.

Lincoln considered the views of thinkers and activists, supporters and rivals, like Frederick Douglass, John Stuart Mill, Salmon P. Chase, Susan B. Anthony, Charles Sumner and many others. We see the intense pressures and strong statesmanship of Lincoln and his affinity for Thomas Paine, Thomas Jefferson and Henry Clay. Like Paine, Madison and Jefferson, Lincoln penned some of the greatest passages in American history.

It was President Lincoln who said, “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” “(Let us) unite as one people throughout this land, until we shall once more stand up declaring that all men are created equal ... I leave you, hoping that the lamp of liberty will burn in your bosom until

there shall be no doubt that all men are created free and equal.”

At this moment, Sailors aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) are promoting those ideals in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

(In a separate post on Navy Reads, author Eric Foner offers his suggestions for Navy readers:

Richard N. Current, “The Lincoln Nobody Knows”

David Donald, “Lincoln” James Oakes, “The Radical and the Republican” James M. McPherson, “Tried By War”

Craig Symonds, “Lincoln and His Admirals”)

(Doughty writes the Navy Reads blog – <http://navyreads.blogspot.com/> – on weekends in support of the Navy Professional Reading Program.)



Military members join Great Aloha Run on President's Day

**Navy Region Hawaii
Public Affairs**

More than 28,000 runners and walkers traveled from Aloha Tower to Aloha Stadium in the 28th annual Great Aloha Run on President's Day, Feb. 20.

The 8.15-mile course started in Honolulu at Aloha Tower and continued down Nimitz Highway past Honolulu Harbor. It went along Kamehameha

Highway and into Aloha Stadium to the finish line.

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

The event included divisions such as active duty military, their families, reserves, National Guard, and Department of Defense civilian employees, Sounds of Freedom

(active duty military units running in formation) and others.

Navy support of the event included the Sounds of Freedom teams coordinated by MWR, an aid station located across from Halawa Gate, and the Pacific Fleet Band, who led the Sounds of Freedom Division from the staging area to the start line on Nimitz Highway near the Aloha Tower.



All-Navy bowling team aims for comeback

**Story and photos by
Randy Dela Cruz**

Sports Editor

From winning the All-Military Tournament in 2010 to its last-place finish in last year's bowl-off, the All-Navy bowling team has had its share of ups and downs in recent times.

Following its three-day tryouts at Naval Station Bowling Center (NSBC) last week, the new squad, minus its yet-to-be-named-four-women qualifiers, is loaded with enough familiar faces to evoke promise that the team could return to the winner's circle at this year's All-Military Bowling Tournament. It will be held April 3-6 at armed forces bowling centers throughout the island.

This year's tournament will kick off with the doubles competition at Hickam on April 3, continue with mixed doubles at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, singles event at Schofield Barracks, and finish up with the team finals at NSBC on April 6.

"We got some big bowlers that can really carry well when they get hot," said Cmdr. Paul Hess, Pacific Command/Joint Intelligence Operation Center (PACOM/JIOC), one of the seven men who qualified for the All-Navy squad. "It's possible. It all depends on who gets hot at

the right time."

Hess, who was among the most consistent bowlers at this year's tryouts, made the cut for the second year in a row after averaging 188.75 during the three-day, 24-game audition.

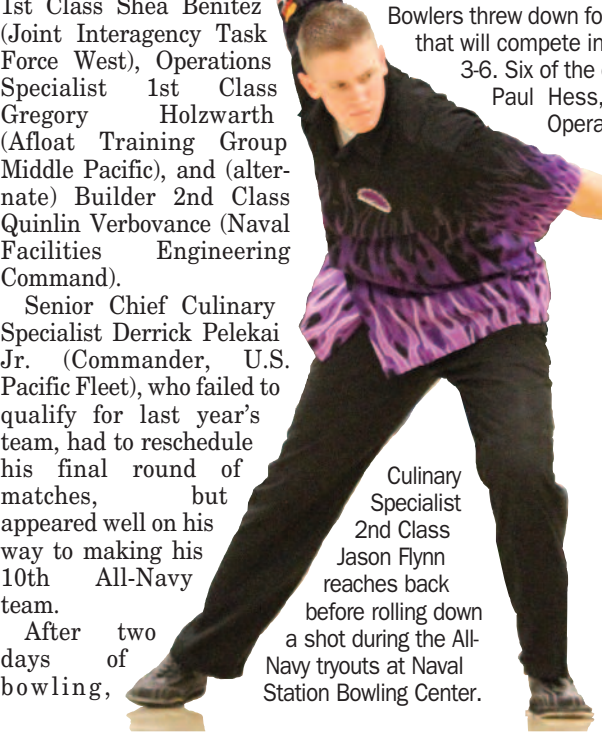
He is joined on this year's team by Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Jason Flynn (United States Pacific Command), three-year All-Navy member Yeoman 2nd Class Erik Day (Commander, Submarine Squadron One), Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 1st Class Shea Benitez (Joint Interagency Task Force West), Operations Specialist 1st Class Gregory Holzwarth (Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific), and (alternate) Builder 2nd Class Quinlin Verbovance (Naval Facilities Engineering Command).

Senior Chief Culinary Specialist Derrick Pelekai Jr. (Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet), who failed to qualify for last year's team, had to reschedule his final round of matches, but appeared well on his way to making his 10th All-Navy team.

After two days of bowling,



Bowlers threw down for three days of tryouts to earn a spot on the All-Navy bowling team that will compete in the upcoming All-Military Bowling Tournament to be held on April 3-6. Six of the qualifying members of this year's Navy team are, from left, Cmdr. Paul Hess, Cryptologic Technician (Technical) 1st Class Shea Benitez, Operations Specialist 1st Class Gregory Holzwarth, Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Jason Flynn, Yeoman 2nd Class Erik Day and Builder 2nd Class Quinlin Verbovance.



Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Jason Flynn reaches back before rolling down a shot during the All-Navy tryouts at Naval Station Bowling Center.

Pelekai led the tryouts with an average of 216.25.

While all the men's qualifying spots have been filled, the team is still looking for four women to complete the 10-person squad.

If the team's search is unsuccessful, the Navy men will be allowed to compete in the All-Military Bowling Tournament, but will be at a distinct disadvantage, as it will be challenging 10-member teams with only six bowlers.

Although this year's

Navy tryouts were without any women hopefuls, the men more than made up for their absence by battling each other for a spot on the team.

Hess, who was nursing an injured thumb on his bowling hand, said that tryouts, which required each bowler to roll eight games on each consecutive day, were grueling.

"Eight is a lot. Last year we only did six, so this old guy is beat," Hess admitted. "This (tryouts) was about keeping the ball in play, so

you have something to spare. The first day is all about scoring, but after that, it's about survival."

Day, who qualified for the previous two All-Navy squads, couldn't compete with his teammates last year due to a tight work schedule.

The veteran bowler finished third in the tryouts with an average of 178.66, and said that he is extra excited about helping his team try to win its second All-Military Bowling Tournament in three years.

"Me, personally, because I made it, but couldn't bowl because of work, I'm very motivated to come back and win this tournament," Day said. "When we won in 2010, that was a big deal. It was fun, we had a good team and team camaraderie."

Over the next few weeks, Day said the players will not only work on their game, but will also focus on bonding as a team.

If the players can do that, Day said, he believes that the Navy will have a good shot at winning it all.

"I hope so," he said. "I'm not going to predict it because I know better, but right now we got a good team. Everybody's laid back, and there won't be any individualism this year. We'll build camaraderie, and that's the biggest thing in a team event."

Logistics Readiness Squadron gets past NCTAMSPAC

**Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz**

Sports Editor

Post-player Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Eric Cotton scored 17 to help the 647th Logistics Readiness Squadron/Code 450 (647 LRS/Code 450) hold on and defeat Naval Computer Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific (NCTAMSPAC), 37-32, in a Gold Division intramural basketball game at Bloch Arena, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on Feb. 21.

Cotton tossed in eight close-range points in leading the 647 to a 14-10 lead at halftime, and then came up with several clutch baskets in the second half to help beat back a determined effort by NCTAMSPAC.

"Everything should be running through Cotton as it is. He is a good player," said 647 head coach Darrell Lester, a Department of Defense civilian and retired Air Force master sergeant. "We kind of got out of that and taking a lot of outside shots, but we worked it out."

The win improved the 647's record to a perfect 5-0 and kept the team in pace with the 15th Maintenance Squadron (15 MXS), which started off the week at the top of the heap with a mark of 6-0.



Staff Sgt. Damien Scott, 647th Logistics Readiness Squadron/Code 450 (647 LRS/Code 450) power forward, rips down a defensive rebound on Feb. 21.

NCTAMSPAC, which was coming off of a two-game winning streak, saw their record fall to 4-3.

Against the visitors from Wahiawa, the 647 struggled in the first half, but threatened to break the game open

coming out of halftime.

A swish from beyond the three-point arch by Tech. Sgt. Chris Sage opened up an eight-point lead at 22-14 with 12:34 remaining in the game.

However, after going up by 10, NCTAMSPAC began to reel in the 647 and went on a 7-2 run over the next three minutes to narrow the gap down to five at 26-21.

After a lay-up by 647 forward Staff Sgt. Damien Scott gave his team a little breathing room at 32-25, a three-point shot and two free throws by NCTAMSPAC guard Ensign Gennaro Hawkins pulled his squad to within three at 33-30 with only 1:23 on the clock.

As time wound down, Sage, who came up with a few clutch shots of his own in the second half, finally sealed the game by going two-for-two from the free-throw line to give his team a 35-30 lead.

Sage scored only three points in the first half, but the 647 shooting guard pumped in a dozen points after intermission, including seven-for-nine from the charity stripe.

"As always, Sage is a go-to man," Lester said. "He's super energetic, so he's the one that pushes the ball up the court real hard. So whenever we start to get a little tight, he's the one that kind of breaks the defense down."

Information Systems

Technician 3rd Class Marquis Perkins scored 10 points for NCTAMSPAC and along with Hawkins, who scored 11, accounted for most of the team's offense.

Perkins said that it was frustrating to come so close and not catch the 647.

"We just couldn't hit shots," he admitted. "They went 'man' on us, but we've been forced to play 'man' all year. We just started off slow and couldn't hit shots."

While NCTAMSPAC has been hovering at the .500 mark all season long, Perkins said that he still believes that the team has what it takes to ultimately challenge for the division's top spot.

"We just need better ball movement and be relaxed,"

he said. "It's pretty frustrating, but we still got time. I really believe that we have a chance to win it all. Just hit our shots, get open and play defense."

Meanwhile, Lester said that although the 647 remains undefeated, he thinks that the team isn't fully operating on all cylinders just yet.

In the meantime, the 647 coach stated that the team will have to make sure it doesn't sell any of its opponents short.

"We need to take everybody seriously," he said. "We're at about 90 percent. We're still trying to work on a good rotation. We just need to play tough defense, rebound, and we should be OK."

Air Force spouses invited to interact on March 9

Air Force spouses are invited to join the Military and Family Support Center from 7:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 9 to meet other Air Force spouses.

Spouses will participate in interactive games and activities that will help unlock the mysteries of the Air Force.

Expert presenters

and panelists will enlighten spouses about benefits and entitlements and how to adjust to the demands of military life. Free lunch will be provided.

With advance notice, free childcare may also be available. Visit the website www.greatlifehawaii.com or call 449-0300 to register.

Unbeaten Koa Kai pressures Crommelin into first defeat

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) intramural hoops squad Koa Kai raced out to a 9-0 lead and then rode the strong inside play of center Operations Specialist 3rd Class Byron Jones to defeat USS Crommelin (FFG 37), 46-37, in a battle of unbeaten Afloat Division teams at Bloch Arena, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on Feb. 18.

With the victory, Koa Kai preserved their status as the only undefeated team in the Afloat Division with a record of 4-0, while Crommelin dropped their first game of the season and saw their mark fall to 3-1.

Against the Crommelin, Koa Kai attacked from the opening tipoff with a suffocating defense that blanketed their opponents from baseline to baseline.

The strategy seemed to work to perfection as the Koa Kai held Crommelin without a basket for the first seven minutes of the game until forward Gas Turbine System Technician (Mechanical) 2nd Class Martin Houston scored on a lay-up to cut the lead down to seven at 9-2.

Koa Kai's defense also opened up the team's running game by creating turnovers that led to easy baskets.

"That's our game – points off of turnovers," said Koa Kai head coach Lt. j.g. Travis Harlow. "We use the pressure defense, that's our bread and butter. That's what we work on more than anything else. We expect a lot of good things to happen from that pressure defense, so we keep it on the whole game."

Although Crommelin managed to cut the lead down to three points after Houston finished off a basket-and-one to make it 11-8 with 8:11 before halftime, Koa Kai fought back to reestablish themselves by outscoring their foe by a margin of 10-2 over the next seven minutes and went on to hold a 23-15 advantage at the break.

While Koa Kai threatened to break the game wide open in the opening minutes of the second half,



Operations Specialist 3rd Class Byron Jones, center for USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) intramural hoops squad Koa Kai, splits the defense of USS Crommelin (FFG 37) forwards Seaman Richard Dixon (21) and Gas Turbine System Technician (Mechanical) 2nd Class Martin Houston, for two of his game-high 15 points in an Afloat Division showdown of unbeaten teams at Bloch Arena, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on Feb. 18.

Crommelin stood tough and found themselves down by only eight points with 12:40 remaining in the game, following another basket-and-one by Houston and a shot by

Logistics Specialist 3rd Class Brandon Kennard.

However, with the game on the line, Koa Kai turned to Jones, who responded by cleaning up under

the basket and throwing down huge shots in the paint.

A basket-and-one by the Koa Kai big man increased his team's lead to 13 at 35-22, then with only 3:50

Afloat Division standings (As of Feb. 21)			
	W	L	
1. KOA KAI	4	0	
2. USS HAWAII	2	0	
3. CROMMELIN	3	1	
4. O'KANE	3	1	
5. LAKE ERIE	3	1	
6. CHOSIN	2	2	
7. SANTA FE	2	2	
8. PAUL HAMILTON	1	2	
9. REUBEN JAMES	1	2	
10. OLYMPIA	0	3	
11. SEA WARRIORS	0	3	
12. SHELLZ	0	4	

left on the clock, Jones put the game on ice with back-to-back baskets and a 42-29 advantage.

For the game, Jones led all scorers with 15 points on five field goals and five free throws out of 10.

"OS3 Jones, whenever he knows we need a bucket, he makes it happen," said Harlow about Jones' nine big points in the second half. "Everybody knows that everything goes through him. He is the center of our offense. Whenever we need something, he does it."

Martin explained that with Crommelin's frontcourt battling foul trouble, Jones was just too much to handle.

The Crommelin forward also added that his team just wasn't patient enough against the Koa Kai press, but thinks that the loss may turn out to be a blessing in disguise.

"This is good for us because in '09 we went undefeated until we played Lake Erie in the championship game," said Martin, who led Crommelin with 11 points. "I'd rather take the loss now than take it in the playoffs. At least now we know we got some things to work on."

Although Harlow admits that Koa Kai still has room for improvement, he likes where the team is right now and welcomes the pressure of being undefeated.

"This feels good," Harlow stated. "We want everybody's best every week, so that when the playoffs come around, we'll be well tested."

NHCH Health Promotion now offers 'Wellness on Wheels'

Story and photo by
Don Robbins

Assistant Editor

The new Naval Health Clinic Hawaii (NHCH) Health Promotion mobile "Wellness on Wheels" van could be seen at Bloch Arena parking lot at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Valentine's Day Feb. 14, to provide metabolic testing and a "healthy heart" fair.

The event featured tables for blood pressure checks and health-related educational materials such as brochures and displays.

"We're multi-service," said Tracy Navarrete, health promotion director for NHCH. "We have all the information that we can give out to them. We want to be wellness on wheels. We want to be out there and we want to be mobile."

Information Systems Technician Jason Gatzemeyer discovered the van as he walked by it and took some brochures with him. "It's always a great idea to get health and wellness information out to the military members," Gatzemeyer said.

Displays at the van included rubber models of 1-pound and 5-pound masses of muscle, to show that maintaining strong muscles is a key to overall health. Another display depicted 1-pound and 5-pound globs of fat, representing the look and feel of body fat.

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Rory Farrell explained that the new health-service van has been in existence about a month. It can travel from site to site at multiple military bases, offering information about heart health, stress education, tobacco cessation and more.

In addition, health promotion staff members can perform an important "resting metabolic test" from a machine inside the van. The 10-to-12-minute test will tell a person exactly how many calories that person needs in a day, using an internal algorithm, taking into account individual factors such as the person's physical ailments and their prescribed medications.

"The benefit of the test is that it is not generalized. It is specific to the individual and should be the baseline



(From left) Tracy Navarrete, health promotion director for Naval Health Clinic Hawaii, staff member Linda Chamizo and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Rory Farrell demonstrate some of the displays and monitoring equipment available outside the "Wellness on Wheels" van in the parking lot of Bloch Arena on Feb. 14.

of a diet plan," Farrell said. "Within 15 minutes, we can go over the result, and what it means, whether your metabolism is fast, slow or normal. The goal is to help you meet your fitness and health goals."

The clinic staff stresses that learning to eat for his or her metabolism will free a person to leave conventional diets behind and move on to a healthy lifestyle.

Resting metabolic rate testing is also done by

appointment by the clinic.

To make it happen, attend a nutrition class at Makalapa clinic; complete metabolic testing and attend follow-up sessions with a nutrition counselor. The clinic also offers a

Return to Readiness program called "ShipShape." It is a multi-dimensional program at Bloch Arena starting March 5.

ShipShape focuses on nutrition education, increased exercise and behavior modifications that support a healthier lifestyle, including various types of workouts such as spinning and circuit training.

Aviation Support Equipment Technician 2nd Class Michael Kirby recently participated in a ShipShape session at Bloch Arena Fitness Center.

"I love this class. I've been in [it] for a couple of weeks, and I've lost 10 pounds so far. They also have a mixture of different workouts," Kirby said.

The ShipShape program consists of six weeks of classes from 7 to 8 a.m. and 2 to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday with Morale, Welfare and Recreation's (MWR) R2R and SHAPE workouts. The program is sponsored by NHCH Health Promotion and MWR Fitness.

For more information on any NHCH Health Promotion classes, call 473-

CH-53D Sea Stallion joins PAM

Pacific Aviation
Museum Pearl Harbor

Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor's (PAM) newest aircraft is a Sikorsky CH-53D Sea Stallion, S/N 157173. The CH-53 has been the Marines' heavy lift helicopter since the days of the Vietnam War.

The museum's aircraft was commissioned in December 1969 and quickly went to Vietnam. It crashed on Oct. 10, 1970 but was retrieved and placed back in service. Since then, this bird has served in most major conflicts, most recently in Afghanistan.

Until its recent retire-



Photo courtesy of Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor

ment, it belonged to Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron HMH-363 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. The squadron's nickname, the

"Ugly Angels," is a comment on the CH-53's boxy bulldog appearance.

Today, the Marines have transitioned out of most of their CH-53Ds and are try-

ing to extend the lives of the CH-53Es to stay in service until the CH-53Ks arrive sometime around 2018. The CH-53 is the largest helicopter outside Russia, yet Marines have shown that it can be rolled and even looped.

The United States Air Force has also used the CH-53 widely. In Vietnam, the HH-53B and HH-53C were the "Super Jolly Green Giants" that rescued downed air crews deep in enemy territory. After Vietnam, MH-53H, MH-53J, and MH-53M Pave Low helicopters inserted and extracted special operations forces and led the first attack in Desert Storm.

Military Saves Week fair to be held at NEX Feb. 28

In support of Military Saves Week, a Department of Defense event, the Military and Family Support Center (MFSC) plans to hold a Military Saves Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX).

Pearl Harbor Federal Credit Union is sponsoring the Radio Station 102.7 Da Bomb at the fair. Da Bomb will be located outside the NEX, and it will provide music/prizes to participants in support of

Military Saves Week.

The campaign's purpose is to develop a military command climate that supports sensible financial behavior by focusing on financial literacy education, supporting available savings products, and encouraging service members and their families to take action.

For event information about the 2012 Military Saves Week Campaign, visit the websites <http://www.militarysave.org> and www.navy.mil.

Pearl Harbor Historic Sites announce launch of new website

The Pearl Harbor Historic Sites has launched its new website, PearlHarborHistoricSites.org. The website features descriptions containing historical information, tour operation and other facts on all four Pearl Harbor historic sites and also includes a calendar of events, map and tips on how to plan your visit.

The partnership between the USS Arizona Memorial, Battleship Missouri Memorial, USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park and the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor allows the website to serve as a portal for package deals and exclusive specials, saving guests time and money.

For those interested in the whole Pearl Harbor experience the website features the new “Passport to Pearl Harbor” ticket options. The one day Passport to Pearl Harbor provides access to all primary Pearl Harbor historic sites for just \$55 per adult and \$30 per child.

A two-day Passport to Pearl Harbor is available for \$65 per adult and \$35 per child and is valid for seven days. Passport to Pearl Harbor passes include the USS Arizona Memorial Audio Tour, and admission to the USS Bowfin Submarine, Battleship Missouri Memorial and the Pacific Aviation Museum.

“No longer will guests have to visit four or more websites to get information about Pearl Harbor. PearlHarborHistoricSites.org creates a central hub for those who want to learn more about the sites and plan their Pearl Harbor experience. With all the information in one place, it takes a lot of the guess work out of planning a visit,” said Michael A. Carr, president and chief operating officer of the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

“With four historical sites for guests to explore, visitors can easily spend a full day or even two exploring the historic sites at Pearl Harbor. The Passport to Pearl Harbor gives people more flexibility to experience all the sites and offers a better value than if each site was purchased separately.”

Armed Services Blood Program to hold upcoming drives

Tripler Army Medical Center Blood Donor Center has scheduled upcoming blood drives.

As part of the Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP), the official United States military blood program, a donation serves as a vital link to military service members and their families worldwide. The drives include:

- Feb. 27, Naval Submarine Support Command (NSSC).
- Feb. 28 and March 27, at Pearl Harbor Navy

Exchange Hawaii (NEX).

- March 5 and 6, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.
- March 12 at Schofield Barracks.
- March 13, Tripler Army Medical Center Department “blood battle.”
- March 14, the Federal Detention Center

For more information, call 433-6699 or 433-6148 or email michelle.lele@amedd.army.mil

JBPHH will celebrate Women’s History Month on March 9

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam will celebrate Women’s History Month from 10 to 11 a.m. March 9 at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel.

This year’s theme is “Women’s Education, Women’s Empowerment.”

The guest speaker will be Beth Terry, a nationally recognized motivational speaker.

For more information, call 471-0229.

Soccer Tournament games to be held Feb. 25

Hawaiian Island Invitational Soccer Tournament games will be held on Feb. 25 at Aloha Stadium.

The consolation game will be held at 5 p.m. between the loser of game one and loser of game two. The championship game will be held at 7:30 p.m. between the winner of game one and the winner of game two.

All military with valid ID can receive a 15 percent off discount at the Aloha Stadium Box Office for games on Feb. 25.

For information, visit www.alohastadium.hawaii.gov

Dog trainer makes appearance at NEX

Denise Nakasato

Pearl Harbor NEX Customer Relations Supervisor

Wendy Mah, Hawaii animal behaviorist and certified pet dog trainer met with patrons at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) pet shop Feb. 15.

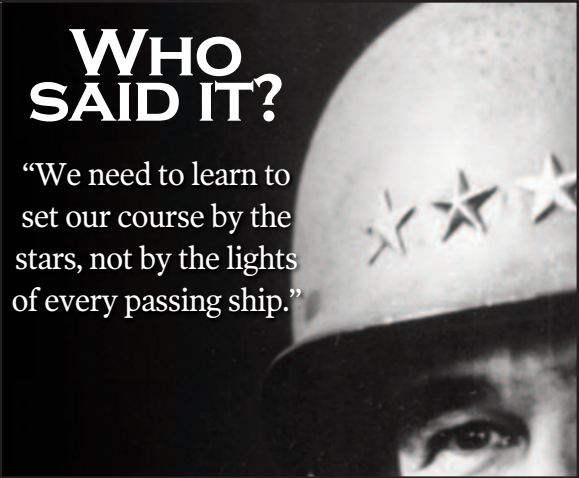
Mah has been a dog trainer for more than 25 years in Hawaii. She became a trainer because she always had a love for animals.

Mah is originally from Hawaii. And has a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s degree in animal learning psychology.

She met Dr. Ian Dunbar (founder of Association of Dog Trainers) in San Francisco, and she now teaches people to enjoy their dogs. She provides positive dog training in four different locations: Moilili at the Hawaiian Humane Society, and in the Ward, Kapolei and Kaneohe neighborhoods.

Photo by Cheryl Nakashima

Machinist’s Mate 1st Class Nicholas Luthman and his girlfriend, Paula, talk to Wendy Mah about training their dog, Shadow, at the NEX pet shop Feb. 15.



“We need to learn to set our course by the stars, not by the lights of every passing ship.”



“I refused to take no for an answer.”

Bessie Coleman

This Week’s Trivia

From February to April 2000, U.S. Air Force personnel and cargo aircraft participated in Operations Atlas Response and Silent Promise. What were the operations?



Last Issue’s Question: Impressing of American seamen into the British navy became one factor building up to the War of 1812. What did James McCulloch of Baltimore forward to Secretary of State James Monroe on Feb. 12, 1812?

Answer: James McCulloch of Baltimore forwarded to Secretary of State James Monroe proof of citizenship for Thomas Marshall, John Ridout and Jacob Bierd, American seamen impressed into the British navy. McCulloch also informed Monroe that impressed American seaman Elijah Sterling had not yet been discharged from the British navy.

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM *Maniawa Nanea* LEISURE

Morale Welfare & Recreation

NFL SPRING FLAG FOOTBALL REGISTRATION
Spring flag football registration ends today. The season runs from March to June and is for youth ages 5 to 15. The cost is \$65 per child. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com.

CATCH A FALLING STAR
There will be a showing of video footage of the Corona Project, a top-secret CIA mission supported by Hickam AFB until 1986, at the Hickam library at 6 p.m. Feb. 28. The event is free and will show actual video footage of mid-air satellite film “catches,” recently declassified photos taken from the spy satellite and more. FMI: 449-8299.

FRIENDS OF GERMAN FOOD ‘STAMMTISCH’
There will be a “stammtisch” event at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club at 6 p.m. Feb. 28. Dinner is a four-course meal. Cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. FMI: 448-2271, ext. 226.

HALF-PRICE GOLF
The Ke’aloaha Golf Course will continue its half-price golf special from Mondays to Wednesdays until the end of February. Until 3 p.m., patrons can pay for the first round and get the second for half off the . FMI: 448-2318.

PLAY UNTIL DUSK
The Barbers Point and Mamala Bay Golf Courses are continuing their “play until dusk” special until the end of February. From 1 to 3:15 p.m., customers pay for nine holes and then play as many holes as they can until the sun sets. FMI: 682-1911 or 449-2300.

OFFICERS’ CLUB LUAU
There will be a luau at the Hickam Officers’ Club on March 3 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The luau will include island arts and crafts, Hawaiian music and Chef Robert’s *kalua* pork. Cost is \$35 for adults and \$25 for children 11 and younger. There is also a \$5 members first discount for adults. FMI: 448-4608.

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT CLASS
There will be a weight management class on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Bloch Fitness Center. The class will run from March 6 to April 12. The cost is \$75 per person. FMI: register at Bloch Fitness Center front desk or 473-0793.

For more information on events, visit www.greatlifehawaii.com.

Community Calendar

February

25 ~ Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and the Hickam African American Heritage Association will hold the third annual Gospel Fest and Taste of Soul from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Hickam Main Chapel. FMI: Master Sgt. Joshalin Wilson at 449-7969.

25 ~ The Navy Supply Birthday family 5K fun run/walk will start at 7:30 a.m. at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The event will begin at the end of South Avenue. Registration is \$25 for military, Department of Defense dependents and students 18 years old and under. The cost is \$30 for all other adults. Sign up online at <http://bit.ly/Afsz8t>. Online registration closes at 10 p.m. today. FMI: Cmdr. Tim Benesh at 728-9986 or Cmdr. Donald Tyer at 473.8000, ext. 4203.

27 ~ Free “CompTia Security +” exam preparation training will be offered from Feb. 27 to March 2 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam building 1430, room 125. The training is open to military and government civilians, but it is first-come, first-served, due to limited space. Training is offered by Naval Reserve (Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) instructors. Instruction focuses on preparing students to be able to take the “CompTia Security +” exam. The exam itself is not being offered. Call PSC Eugene Tai at 512-680-6917 to register.

March

Participants will be guided through the Hickam Commissary by a Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) registered dietician each Tuesday in March at 3 p.m.. The program is open to all commissary shoppers. and will include interactive learning activities, handouts and samples. FMI: 433-4950.

The Hickam Officers’ Spouses’ Club is now accepting applications for the 2012 scholarship award program. All military dependents residing in the local area who are attending or planning to attend an accredited undergraduate and/or graduate program are eligible to apply. Specific information regarding eligibility and the forms to apply are now available on the website at: www.hickamosc.com. The deadline to apply is March 15.

Movie Showtimes



Red Tails (PG 13)

A crew of African American pilots in the Tuskegee training program, having faced segregation while kept mostly on the ground during World War II, are called into duty under the guidance of Col. A.J. Bullard.

SHARKEY MOVIE THEATER

TODAY
7:00 PM Joyful Noise (PG-13)

SATURDAY
2:30 PM We Bought a Zoo (PG)
5:00 PM Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close (PG 13)
7:15 PM Red Tails (PG-13)

SUNDAY
2:30 PM We Bought a Zoo (PG)
5:00 PM Joyful Noise (PG 13)
7:00 PM Contraband (R)

HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER

TODAY
6:00 PM The Adventures of TinTin: The Secret of Unicorn (PG)
8:30 PM Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close (PG-13)

SATURDAY
4:00 PM The Adventures of TinTin: The Secret of Unicorn (PG)
7:00 PM Contraband (R)

SUNDAY
2:00 PM The Adventures of TinTin: The Secret of Unicorn (PG)

